# Carta Informativa



April 2016 Universidad del Este

# **Environmental Defense and Community Engagement** Theme of the Commemoration of the 119th Anniversary of

the Birth of Jesús T. Piñero

One of the principal areas of research of the Jesús T. Piñero Library and Social Research Center is "education and democracy". A commitment to the construction of a more democratic Puerto Rico was one of the characteristics of the life of public service of Governor Piñero. And, if we look closely at the social and political processes in Puerto Rico during the past decades, we will see that in many cases the most vigorous and best known examples of the defense of democratic rights have come about as part of the work in defense of the environment and natural resources. In almost every one of the Island's 78 municipalities citizen groups have formed to work for the protection of the environment. From the defense of our public beaches, the conservation of forests and rivers, the work to insure clean air and the preservation of endangered species – all these organizations and their objectives make very clear the importance of identifying and protecting our natural resources as well as the right of Puerto Ricans to actively and conscientiously participate in processes that affect their health and well-being. It has been confirmed over and over again that the work that takes place to protect our environment is inseparable from the exercise of democratic rights.

For more than 35 years, the members of CasaPueblo in Adjuntas have worked in favor of the defense of the environment and a culture of respect, freedom and citizen participation in the central región of Puerto Ricon. This year the Universidad del Este and the Jesús T. Piñero Library and Research Center will have the honor of the participation of Mr. Alexis Massol, spokesperson for CasaPueblo, as the main speaker at the yearly activity in which we commemorate the life and work of Jesús Piñero. The event will be held on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 a.m. in the Main Hall (Salón de Actos) of the UNE. The theme of the celebration will be: *Environmental Defense and Community Engagement: The Model of CasaPueblo*.

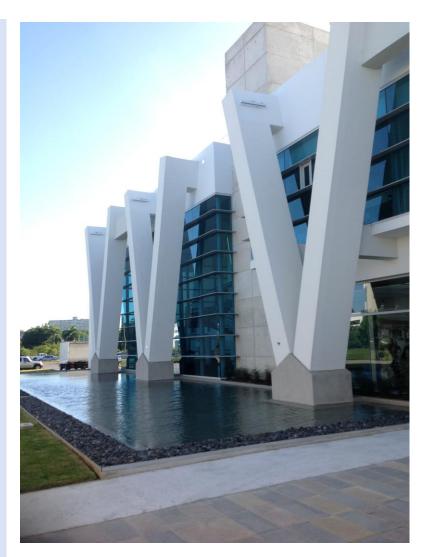
We invite our friends to be with us at this event and reflect with us on the importance of citizen participation in the defense of our environment.



Books ...

Some of the latest entries to our bibliographic collection are:

- Alvira Encarnación, Luz E. Antonio J. "Toño" González. Memorias, testimonios y documentos de la vida de un jíbaro del Barrio Frontón de Ciales. San Juan: Universidad Interamericana, 2013.
- Bhaba, Homi K. Nuevas minorías, nuevos derechos. Notas sobre cosmopolitismos vernáculos. Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI Editores, 2013.
- Bobbio, Daniela ed. Inconsciente colectivo: Producir y gestionar cultura desde la periferia. Buenos Aires: RGC Libros, 2011.
- Hernández, Carmen D. A viva voz: Entrevistas a escritores puertorriqueños. Bogotá: Editorial Norma, 2007.
- Leys, Colin, ed. Politics and Change in Developing Countries. London: Cambridge University Press, 1969.
- Lizardi Pollock, Jorge et. Al. San Juan Oculto: La ciudad antigua desde otras miradas. San Juan: Fundación Puertorriqueña de las Humanidades, 2013.
- Palomares, Andrés ed. La Casa de España en Puerto Rico: Cien años de historia, 1914 – 2014.
  Hato Rey: Publicaciones Puertorriqueñas, 2014.
- Rebollo-Gil, Guillermo. *Flores nacidas de la astucia*. San Juan: La secta de los perros, 2014.
- Valdés Pizzini, Manuel. Una mirada al mundo de los pescadores de Puerto Rico: Una perspectiva global. Río Piedras: Universidad de Puerto Rico, 2011.



### **Our New Home**

On December 2nd of last year, we inaugurated the new home of the Jesús T. Piñero Library and Social Research Center. We are grateful to all those who participated in the activity and those who have shown so much interest in the development of this project. We want to share with you some of the numbers that reflect the activity that has taken place these past few months:

- In February, the Reading Room received over 1,000 visitors. This Room is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday.
- The Collection received 35 donations of books and other material and 300 new titles entered the bibliographic collection and are available to the public.
- Five book presentations, five conferences and one film forum have been held.
- The archival collection was transferred from the University library to the new facilities.
- A seminar for school teachers "Key Concepts of Western History" was held with the sponsorship of the Puerto Rico Foundation for the Humanities.

We invite everyone to visit our new home and participate in the variety of activities we sponsor and utilize these new facilities.

### JOIN THE "FRIENDS OF THE PIÑERO LIBRARY" AND SHARE YOUR REASONS FOR DONATING

#### BY María Isabel De Guzmán Vendrell

We have begun the "Friends of the Piñero Library" Campaign with the theme "What moves me to donate". Perhaps knowing that the Library makes a difference in the community or that it is a place where valuable initiatives take place might motive you. The figure of Jesús T. Piñero, the first president of the Board of Directors of the UNE's predecessor the Puerto Rico Junior College, inspires usa all at the Universidad del Este. Nevertheless, in order to contribute philanthropically to this educational Project it is important to be familiar with the initiatives that are taking place and how the community has adopted this space.

During the past month of February alone, the Piñero Library received more than 1,000 visits in addition to the numerous participants in a number of special events that were held. No doubt this participation of the community in Library activities is a reflection of the same social commitment that characterized the life of Governor Piñero. The Library is a lively space in which students, faculty, researchers and the general public can participate in and benefit from the work that is carried out at the Piñero Research Center. In addition, the public can also use the Film and Oral History Collection which includes among other topics, a series of interviews dedicated to successful Puerto Rican entrepreneurs. This Collection is also beneficial for the students of the UNE's Business School. The myriad events that are held at the Library allow participants to be a part of an open dialog concerning important topics such as democracy, self-determination, the economy, culture and the Puerto Rican diaspora

The Library's Executive Director, Dr. Manuel S. Almeida, comments that: "We have already begun to make an impact in area schools. Thanks to the seminar for teachers that was sponsored by the Puerto Rico Foundation for the Humanities, we were able to promote a critical discussion of topics such as equality, freedom and democracy. Some of the participating teachers have returned to take part in other activities dedicated to similar topics. This is a motive of great satisfaction for all us and motivates us in our work."

With the goal of supporting the program of activities that Dr. Almeida comments, our donors become part of the "Friends of the Piñero Library" Campaign. This campaign will support programming as well as the conservation and expansion of the Piñero Film Collection. Our goal is to continue to expand this historically significant collection. In addition, the Piñero Library will continue to produce and distribute documentary films and publications dedicated to major social topics.

To recognize our donors' contributions we have created six distinctions on the recognition plaque in the Library lobby. These six distinctions reflect different aspects of Governor Piñero's life: Governor, Statesman, entrepreneur, film maker, citizen and leader.

For additional information concerning the "Friends of the Piñero Library Campaign" call 787-257-7373 ext. 2008 or click on the following web page:

http://www.suagm.edu/une/publicaciones/amigos\_pinero/index.html

### **TP B I B L I O T E C A Jesús T. Piñero CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN SOCIAL**

# Apríl at the Píñero Líbrary

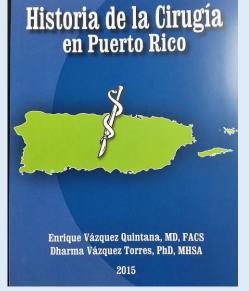
Seminar on Democratic Theory Machíavellí: The People, Freedom and Polítícs Apríl 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

**Book presentation** 

Historia de la cirugia en Puerto Rico (The History of Surgery in Puerto Rico)

> by Drs. Enrique Vázquez Quintana and Dharma Vázquez Torres

> > Thursday, April 7th 11:30 a.m. Community Room





April at Piñero House Museum

Activities in commemoration of the 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Jesús T. Piñero

#### Workshops for All Ages

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> *Working with clay* Sandra Córdoba, teacher 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 17th Constructing kites Freddy Soto, teacher 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Working with Clay for Children Sandra Córdoba, teacher 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.



## The Month of March In Review



ook presentation

*Los chinos en Puerto Rico* by José Lee-Borges



Film Fest at Piñero House Museum



Book presentation: A la vuelta de la esquina: el Proyecto Tydings de independencia para Puerto Rico y el diseño de una política colonial estadounidense by Néstor Duprey