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Leadership

Since its founding, OLAS members have elected mostly women to serve as president of the executive board, establishing a tradition of support for female leaders. The opportunities provided through OLAS have also empowered students and allowed them to develop skills in leadership, communication, and management that are essential for their professional futures.



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“OLAS inspired me to work with first-generation students, students whose first language is Spanish and who come from low-income families ... and now I am in a position to help those Latino students as an academic advisor at Johns Hopkins University ... and it makes me so proud that they can see someone who looks like them in this position!”

– Karla Chicas, Interview, March 2024



2 Photo has been altered to protect individual's privacy

The women who have led OLAS have not only contributed to the well-being of the community and the preservation of culture but have also emerged strengthened and equipped to face challenges in their careers and other areas of life.

Diana Cordoba, María Díaz, and Nelcy Ávila have established careers as educators. Others, like Ginger Danser-Mena, are following in their footsteps. OLAS alumni and presidents include lawyers like Pamela Correa, public relations specialists like Jasmine Lopez, and many more. These women found a platform for personal and professional growth in OLAS, contributing to their future success.

The strong support of female leadership in OLAS and the commitment to community and culture have made OLAS an exemplary organization that continues to inspire and shape future generations of socially conscious and dedicated leaders.



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1. OLAS presidents, from left to right: Angela Cordoba-Flores (June 2024), Vanessa Reyes-Umanzor (June 2023-December 2023), Joan Valdes-Reyes (September 2022-June 2023), Jasmine Lopez (January 2024-June 2024), and Walter Arias (member). Center for Student Involvement and Leadership showcase, September 2, 2022
2. Pinehurst Elementary School: Students and OLAS mentors day visit to Salisbury University, May 16, 2019
3. María Diaz (president, far right) and other OLAS members, Salisbury University, Guerrieri Student Union, c. 2011
4. Diana Cordoba (founder), Angela Cordoba-Flores (OLAS president), and Dr. Carolyn Lepre (University president) at Festival Latino, Salisbury University, October 5, 2024
5. Dr. Corinne Pubill, Ginger Danser-Mena, and Karen Jimenez at the 33rd Annual Conference of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Chicago, IL, October 2019
6. Students Ginger Danser-Mena and Karen Jimenez at the ¡Adelante! Leadership Institute, Chicago, IL, October 2019
7. OLAS members: from left to right: Karen Jimenez, Ariela García Queche, Karla Chicas, Alexander Guzman, and Nelcy Avila, c. 2018



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