

For Immediate Release
August 18, 2011

UF Professors Author Book on Challenges Faced by Unauthorized Immigrants

Gainesville, FL - *Living "Illegal," The Human Face of Unauthorized Immigration* offers the first on-the-ground, in-depth account of the challenges faced by unauthorized immigrants and by those who share their neighborhoods, workplaces, schools and communities. Based on the often harrowing personal stories of unauthorized immigrants in the United States, *Living "Illegal"* addresses the myths and misconceptions around immigration, offering clear explanations for the influx of immigrants in recent decades.

After years of work in immigrant communities, co-authors Friedmann Marquardt, Steigenga, Williams, and Vásquez are able to provide a rich portrait of the tensions that emerge in local communities where immigration patterns have caused rapid growth and ethnic diversification. From Jessica Colotl, a typical hard-working college student who faces deportation after a minor traffic infraction, to Padre Jaime, a Mexican priest who awakens a multicultural spirit in his parish that nearly doubles its congregation in five years, the authors show that many immigrants share a simple desire to live the American dream.

Living "Illegal" uncovers hopeful new opportunities for inter-ethnic engagement between immigrants and native-born, and reveals some of the creative solutions that religious groups and advocates have used to both solve these community problems and enrich life in America for us all.

Marie Friedmann Marquardt is a scholar-in-residence at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, GA. Timothy J. Steigenga is a professor of political science and chair of social sciences and humanities at the Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University. Philip J. Williams is the director of the Center of Latin American Studies at UF. Manuel A. Vásquez is a professor of religion at UF.

Founded in 1930, the mission of the UF Center for Latin American Studies is to advance knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean and its peoples throughout the hemisphere. With over 170 faculty from colleges across UF, the Center is one of the largest institutions for interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach on Latin America, Caribbean, and Latino Studies.

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