

LAVC One Book One College



Speaking Engagement via skype by *How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* author **Julia Alvarez!**

Wednesday, April 25, 11:30-12:45
Monarch Hall in the Campus Center Bldg

**Free Pizza at the conclusion of the
event for attendees!**

About Ms. Alvarez:

Born in New York City in 1950, Julia Alvarez's parents returned to their native country, Dominican Republic, shortly after her birth. Ten years later, the family was forced to flee to the United States because of her father's involvement in an underground plot to overthrow the dictator, Trujillo.

Her first novel, *How the García Girls Lost Their Accent* (1991), received considerable attention and won a PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for excellence in multicultural literature. Alvarez has won numerous awards for her work, including the Pura Belpré and Américas Awards for her books for young readers, the Hispanic Heritage Award in Literature, and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature. Most recently, she was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama.

Alvarez has taught English and creative writing at every grade level from elementary school to senior citizens' centers. In 1997, Alvarez founded Alta Gracia, a sustainable farm in the Dominican Republic that produces organic coffee and also serves as a literacy center. She currently lives in Vermont, where she is writer in residence emeritus at Middlebury College.

She continues her work with young people through her many workshops and readings throughout the country as well as in the Dominican Republic, where she is on the advisory board of Mariposa Foundation, an organization which promotes education and training for young girls in order to break the cycle of generational poverty. She is also a founder of Border of Lights, a movement of Diaspora Dominican-Americans, Haitian-Americans, and supporters, working to foster peace and solidarity between two neighbor countries, traditionally in conflict, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals needing sign-language interpretation, assisted learning devices, large prints, Braille materials, or any other accommodations should contact lewismv@lavc.edu by April 11.

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