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SELIG DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN SPORT AND SOCIETY



"POMP" AND HIS CIRCUMSTANCES

**ADRIAN
BURGOS**

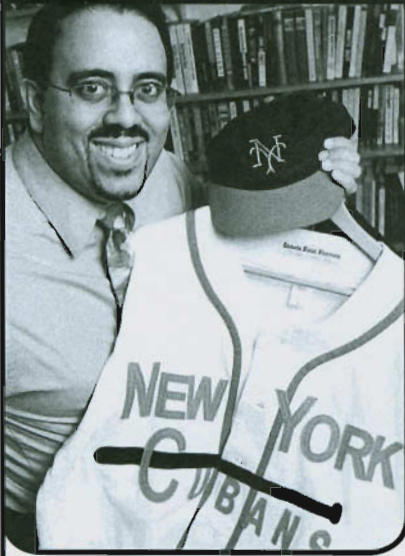
JANUARY 27, 2011

**How One Negro League Owner
Changed the Face of Baseball**

AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY OF SPORT AND SOCIETY

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Professor Adrian Burgos

Adrian Burgos joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UICU) faculty in 2001 and is currently professor of history in the Department of African American, Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Latino/a Studies. Prior to UICU, he taught at Michigan State University and James Madison College.

He received his undergraduate degree from Vassar College and his PhD at the University of Michigan.

Burgos is the author of *Playing America's Game(s): Baseball, Latinos and the Color Line* and co-author of *Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues and the Story of African American Baseball*. He is co-editor of *Beyond el Barrio: The Politics of Everyday Life in Latina/o America* and a journal contributor and speaker on the cultural implications of baseball and sports in America.

As a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame Screening and Voting Committees, Burgos participated in the special election of Negro League and Pre-Negro League Candidates. He also consulted on the development of a permanent exhibit on the history of Latinos in baseball at the Hall of Fame.

Alejandro (Alex) Pompez

Born in 1890 in Key West, Florida, Alejandro (Alex) Pompez owned a cigar store, was a numbers runner and worked for mobster Dutch Schultz, although this latter employment was not by choice. He also was one of the most influential and visionary owners, executives and scouts in baseball history.

Pompez discovered his love for baseball when his newly widowed mother took her children back to her Cuban birthplace in 1902. He returned to the United States in 1910 and moved to New York City a year later. With his passion for the sport, eye for talent and ability to make connections and close deals—in English and Spanish, Pompez became the link between white baseball, Negro baseball and Latin players from the Caribbean nations.

Pompez joined and remained with the New York Giants organization for 25 years and was able to witness the integration of baseball and to watch many of the players he discovered go on to all-star careers in the big leagues.

The players Pompez signed to contracts during his career include the Alou brothers—Felipe, Matty and Jesus—Orlando Cepeda, Willie McCovey, Tony Oliva, Juan Marichal, Manny Mota and Minnie Minoso.

Pompez died in 1974. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006.

The life of Alex Pompez, his place in baseball history and his impact on the assimilation and acceptance of non-whites in sports are not only dramatic, they are critical to understanding the changing racial perceptions of American society in the first half of the 20th century.



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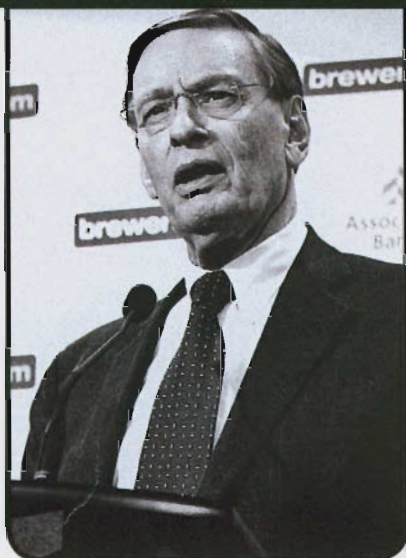
Allan H. (Bud) Selig

Allan H. (Bud) Selig ('56 BS L&S) is the ninth commissioner of Major League Baseball. Selig earned his UW-Madison degrees in history and political science and was, at one time, an aspiring history professor.

A successful Milwaukee, Wisconsin businessman, Selig is the former owner of the Milwaukee Brewers professional baseball team. He is credited with bringing baseball back to Milwaukee in 1970. Selig became acting baseball commissioner in 1992 and officially assumed the post in 1998.

In 2010, he established the **Allan H. Selig Chair in History** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The distinguished Selig chair will support a new faculty position focusing on teaching and research related to the development of professional sport in its larger national and social contexts, including race, gender, labor relations, "mass culture," economic organization and how sports both influence and reflect broad social change.

The Selig Chair and related programs like the Selig lecture will allow the UW-Madison to play a key pioneering role in the emerging scholarly field of American sports history.



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Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Departments of History, Afro-American Studies Chican@ and Latin@ Studies Program and Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies.

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