Fiesta on the mesa was a success this year, serving more than 1,000 meals and attracting once again a great mixed crowd of student, faculty and staff members from Fort Lewis College and the community. With a collaborative effort between El Centro de Muchos Colores, Campus Dining Services, the Leadership Center and Facilities, this 7th annual event was the largest event yet in the history of Fiesta on the Mesa; established in 2005.

With entertainment from local bands Agrada Norteño and Mariachi Conquistador from Santa Fe, and two dance groups performing traditional Mexican folkloric dancing—entertainment kept the crowds happy for three hours straight without a lull in the action.

To tie into the Centennial Theme of our college this year, alumni Jenni and Thad Trujillo and their family shared their stories on the stage and helped us learn a little more about why they chose FLC and how they still maintain close contact with their alma mater.

The Latin American Educational Foundation is a foundation aimed at helping create and increase the educational opportunities of Hispanic students in Colorado through their scholarship programs. In their 60 years of work LAEF has awarded over 5,600 scholarships totaling over $5,000,000. This summer Marissa Molina was awarded one of 150 scholarship awarded to Colorado college students, the only Hispanic student to receive this honor from the Southwestern region of Colorado and the first student from Fort Lewis College.

The Latin American Educational Foundation is a foundation aimed at helping create and increase the educational opportunities of Hispanic students in Colorado through their scholarship programs. In their 60 years of work LAEF has awarded over 5,600 scholarships totaling over $5,000,000. This summer Marissa Molina was awarded one of 150 scholarship awarded to Colorado college students, the only Hispanic student to receive this honor from the Southwestern region of Colorado and the first student from Fort Lewis College.

**About Marissa**

I am originally from Chihuahua, Mexico where I lived for nine years before moving to Colorado in 2001. Ever since, I have lived in Glenwood Springs where I attended school and graduated High School in 2010. As a student at Fort Lewis College I am Majoring in Political Science with a minor in French, with hopes of one day completing a Master’s Degree in International Relations.

I was honored to receive an LAEF scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year for my volunteer work and leadership role with the Hispanic community in the Roaring Fork Valley. The $1,000.00 scholarship I was awarded by LAEF helps fund my education at Fort Lewis. This scholarship helps me with tuition costs and allows me the time to focus on academics and to participate in on campus activities.

http://www.laef.org
This year’s Hispanic student population is the same as last year’s at 8 percent of our total student body. The predominant major is Business for our Hispanic students and they are mostly in-state students as well. It is important to note that this Hispanic student population is significantly higher than years past when our average Hispanic population was 5.5 percent since 1995.

At el Centro we continue to hope that more Hispanic students will choose our college and be successful in their efforts to earn a degree from our college.

Reaching out to elementary students: El Centro made an all-school assembly performance for Ignacio School District in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Homecoming 2011: Club del Centro has a minor setback when their trailer broke, but they packed into the back of treasurer Adam Betancourt’s truck and still had a great time at homecoming.

Dia de Los Muertos: Club del Centro, Club Baile Folklorico and El Centro de Muchos Colores organized a great Dia de Los Muertos event with professional make-up artists to paint our faces, and great food. The altar was set up for more than a week for people.
The Real History of the Americas
By: Sam Dalgai

The Real History of the Americas takes a positive, but different, look at the history of North and South America from the viewpoints of Hispanic, African-American, Asian, and Native peoples, among many other underrepresented groups that may have a different perspective on history than what is taught in schools. Real History of Americas always includes live art, poetry, film, dance and live music. This event is a collaboration of the different groups and cultural centers at Fort Lewis College. The event is casual and visitors are welcome to come and go as they please.

Coordinator’s Corner
By: Shirena Trujillo Long
Coordinator of El Centro de Muchos Colores

El Centro de Muchos Colores is starting off to an amazing first year in our new location. With 13 student workers and interns helping us maintain a fun and friendly environment, I’m happy to say that we are still known as one of the most welcoming spots on campus!

If you haven’t seen our new home yet, please accept this as a personal invitation to stop in and meet our amazing student staff members, listen to some of the great music we have playing on the background of our new sound system, check out our gallery profiling stories of our past/present/future student, or just hang out!

One of El Centro’s most popular uses is still just a hang out place to gather and socialize in a multicultural environment. Our most popular event so far this year was Fiesta on the Mesa—held on Wednesday, Sept. 7th. In collaboration with Campus Dining, we served more than 1,000 people dinner and special entertainment that included local band Agrado Norteno, Mariachi Conquistador from Santa Fe and our two local dance groups—one from Fort Lewis and one from Del Alma. Thanks to all who helped and came to celebrate the event, which has been nominated as the National Resident Hall Campus program of the year!

We’ve been so busy at El Centro this semester that I just keep telling our staff: “It will slow down soon!” But, in reality, we’re going strong with guest performances in Ignacio and Farmington for our dance group this month. And, the Real History of the Americas on Columbus Day, and a Travel to Spain night on Oct. 21, and then we can’t forget that Dia de Los Muertos is coming up on Nov. 2!

In reality, El Centro will not slow down anytime soon, and I’m actually thankful for the action and amazing diverse programming we’re continuing to provide for our students at Fort Lewis College.

Thanks so all our students who contributed to this newsletter and continue to give of their time and energy to make our organization thrive. Our 8% Hispanic student population on campus is still small in numbers, but wow—they sure have a lot of heart and a lot to give our community. So, thanks for giving, and thanks for being here at FLC and El Centro de Muchos Colores.
Have you always wanted to travel to far and exotic places, meet amazing people from around the world and be totally immersed in another culture? Then studying abroad is for you! Studying abroad is a great way to travel while still working towards your degree. A lot of people never take the opportunity to leave the country even after they graduate. So now is the ideal time to travel for all you college students: you are as attractive as you will ever be and your brain is still soft enough to cram a few new ideas into it.

So now that you’ve decided to study abroad what are your next steps? If you are looking into getting credit while abroad, keeping financial aid awards and returning to Fort Lewis, you must go through the international programs office. You will start off by taking the one-credit class GS250 -- where they will pump you full of info just like a Thanksgiving turkey. This will give you all the essential information you will need to study abroad. Any questions you have about credit transfer, financial aid, costs, programs, visas, and much more will be covered in this class.

After GS250, you will be set up to make your decision on where you want to go. This can be one of the most stressful parts of the whole process, so here are a few tips:

1. Decide what you are looking for in your study abroad experience. Do you want to learn a language or study in English? Do you want immersion into a radically different culture? Do you want to be near jungles, mountains, beaches… or all of the above? These, plus many more are the questions you need to ask yourself.

2. Once you narrow it down to certain regions, groups of countries of several different regions and/or countries, you should see if the school has a direct exchange relationship with any universities in these regions. Since college students are always looking for discounts and the cheapest options, I would recommend the direct exchange option which will most definitely be your cheapest bet. With direct exchange you will pay Fort Lewis tuition instead of paying the foreign universities international tuition, typically costing 3 arms and a leg. (If you cannot find a direct exchange school that suits your needs, don’t worry because there are other ways to sidestep the systems and pay cheap tuition. It sounds really complicated but the international programs office will guide you through this whole process; so take a few deep breaths, everything will be alright).

3. Accept that wherever you go you will always be missing out on another opportunity or amazing place. Life is long, you will eventually get to those other destinations so enjoy, make a decision, commit and fully embrace it.

Jennifer Gay (gay_j@fortlewis.edu) is the director of the international programs office and she is a fountain of knowledge when it comes to travelling abroad. She will be a very useful resource for you, if you show her that you are passionate about going abroad, she will help you make it happen! Get started early though, visas, passports and research take a while… it is never too early to start planning your trip! There are so many options if you want to study abroad, whether it be innovative months through FLC, direct exchange, direct enrollment or an international program… either way there will be something that will fit your needs, you just need to research until you find it!

I hope you all will make it abroad, happy travels everyone!

Thinking about Study Abroad? Go for it!

By: Nathan Villatoro

Nathan Villatoro travelled for his study abroad trip to Wollongong, Australia for one year in 2010.
As the 21st of June 2011 marked the first day of summer in the northern hemisphere, I experienced the first day of winter in Argentina. The leaves had changed and fallen from the trees in Buenos Aires and I was approaching the end of my semester of studying abroad at the University of Belgrano. Having accumulated a variety of memorable experiences, I was still eager for more.

In the week before finals, characterized by a distinct sense of anxiety, a group of advocates made a visit to the University of Belgrano to offer information about Argentina’s chapter of “Un techo para mi País” and the upcoming event, which would take place the weekend before finals. “Un techo para mi País” exists in eighteen South and Central American countries. The central purpose of this organization intends to increase awareness of the poverty and the social problems that exist within these countries, and to recruit young adults to collaborate and offer their support in generating solutions to these problems and to promote change.

The presentation and the invitation to build a house for an impoverished family caught my attention. It was an opportunity to connect with a different reality and a different realm of the Argentinean culture. Inspired, friends and I gathered to discuss the possibility of participating. Many, including myself, with finals around the corner, felt the burden of school weighing heavy on the mind. Ashamed to even contemplate the situation, one friend and I came to our senses. The decision was obvious—missing this opportunity did not present itself as an option.

That Friday evening, with a few belongings in hand, my friend and I traveled to the planned meeting place, which was the courtyard of a notable military establishment. Upon arriving, we were overwhelmed by the crowd. We discovered later that eight hundred participants, ages eighteen to twenty-five, were in attendance. After confirming our presence with the event facilitators. The large crowd was divided into different neighborhoods within the province of Buenos Aires. Each group was designated a name significant to the “precaria” or unstable situations found in so many societies. Our group was designated “agua potable” or potable water. From the moment we stepped onto the bus to travel to our “barrio” or neighborhood in La Plata, Argentina, we were a family. Each participant expressed such passion for what they were doing and each remained benevolent and genuine.

In the three days following the commencement of the construction event, our group of forty participants and facilitators divided into even smaller groups of four and worked together “con ahínco,” with diligence, to construct homes for several families. It is difficult to find the words to accurately describe the experience. In my lifetime, I have been in contact with a variety of impoverished societies and situations, but this experience remained unique. I had never built a relationship with a family in this situation or been able to connect so closely to their living conditions. The families lived in ramshackle homes, sharing one room to sleep in, and at times, one bed. They endured cold nights together, and fought to keep the rains from flooding their homes.

During the construction, it rained without mercy. Nevertheless, when we arrived to continue working on our homes each morning, the people, exhausted from fighting the rains, looked at us through tired eyes, welcomed us with open arms and astounding compassion. I was especially astonished with our family: Ruth’s family. Ruth, a single mother with three young boys, ages six, eight, and twelve, offered insurmountable kindness to us and projected a tremendous and authentic joyful energy. They made us feel at home—they made us feel as if we were a part of their family. We certainly did not go hungry while we were there. We were provided with incredible home-cooked meals and freshly brewed yerba mate, a traditional Argentinean drink. Amidst her cooking, Ruth would join our team in digging holes, pounding in nails, and carrying panels. She is a strong woman to say the least and has an enormous heart.

Monday evening, upon finishing the structure, we joined the family in celebrating their new home. Not a single eye was dry—they were filled with tears of joy. As I observed what we accomplished, I realized only devoting a moment of my time created an opportunity to give a family the world, a new start, and a new perspective on the rain. As the construction project came to an end throughout the province of Buenos Aires, two hundred homes had been constructed for two hundred impoverished families.

After that weekend, I finished school, and remained so captivated by the experience, that I returned to visit the family twice more before traveling back to my home in Colorado. I returned once to help paint their new home and a second time to introduce the family to some of my best friends. Returning the second time, I only expected to pass around a gourd of Argentina’s traditional yerba mate, but when we arrived, my expectations could not withstand the meal they provided for us. Ruth and her boys prepared us a traditional Argentinean “asada” or barbeque. As we sat down to eat more food than we could fit in our stomach’s Ruth expressed, in Spanish of course, “This is how it should be, one big family, and Laurel, if you ever need a place to stay for when you return to Argentina, our house is always open to you.”

A family that had closed to nothing offered me the world.
I recently ventured into María’s Bookstore, on Main Street, looking for a good read and came across *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. A bookmark stuck out from its pages, designating it as an employee favorite and I couldn’t help but leafing through it. After reading the first few pages, I sat down to read a little more, and soon I was completely engrossed in the short stories that unfolded colorfully before my eyes. Cisneros is a wonderful storyteller, using vivid imagery to create a world in which I could easily imagine myself.

As a child I was an avid reader, but now I rarely read for pleasure because I am one of those people who can’t put a good book down once I start reading it. This simple fact makes reading for pleasure a dangerous undertaking since once I begin reading a book I find it nearly impossible to quit before reading it from cover to cover. I nearly did that very thing while sitting in María’s bookshop -- the shop keeper coming by occasionally to see what I was up to. About an hour after I first arrived in the book store I realized it was really time to leave, but not without checking out other books by Sandra Cisneros.

The stories in *The House on Mango Street* are told from the perspective of Esperanza, the oldest daughter in the Cordero family. The name Esperanza means *hope* and this little girl’s deepest desire, her hope, is to someday live in a real home. When the Cordero family moves to the house on Mango Street, Esperanza is disappointed with the lackluster of her new home, yet the house becomes the setting for numerous childhood stories.

This is my final year at Fort Lewis College; I plan to graduate in April with a Spanish Language Degree, which I hope to use in the future. With all the scholastic reading I have done these past four years of college, I am relieved that some things never change. Thankfully, I can still pick up a book and become lost within the pages. My recent discovery of Sandra Cisneros and her beautiful writing has sparked my curiosity and encouraged me to explore other Chicano Literature.

I finished *The House on Mango Street* just the other day and am on my way downtown to pick up *Caramelo*, another book by Cisneros I am certain to enjoy. All that remains is finding the Spanish translation!

**A Little bit more about Chicana author Sandra Cisneros**

Sandra Cisneros was born in Chicago in 1954 - the third child and only daughter in a family of seven children. She studied at Loyola University in Chicago where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English and later at the University of Iowa earning a M.F.A. in creative writing in 1978.

She has been a teacher, a counselor and an author, earning numerous awards for her work including the “Before Columbus Foundation’s American Book Award” in 1985 for her book called *The House on Mango Street*. Other works include *Caramelo*, and *The Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*. Her books have been translated into 14 different languages including most recently Greek, Iranian, Thai and Serbo-Croatian.

More information about Cisneros can be found at [www.sandracisneros.com](http://www.sandracisneros.com).
Conflicto del Beagle
By: Candiss White

Last year I visited Southern Chile and Argentina’s Patagonia. My travel companion, Nick March, and I spent multiple days exploring the wild Tierra del Fuego. Tierra del Fuego is where Charles Darwin studied biodiversity and evolution in the early 1830’s during the Voyage of the Beagle where his ships sailed through the Beagle Channel. After Darwin’s exploration, The Beagle Channel, Strait of Magellan, and the Drake Passage that were once unexplored became the source of conflict between Chile and Argentina.

Chile y Argentina son dos países en América del Sur. Ellos comparten una frontera que mide 3,300 millas de largo norte al sur. El Conflicto del Beagle comenzó cuando los dos países pelearon sobre las islas de Tierra del Fuego y otras partes de Patagonia. Las islas tienen El Paso de Drake, el canal de Beagle, y al Estrecho de Magallanes, explorado por primera vez por Charles Darwin. Estos canales permiten a los barcos pasar desde el Océano Pacífico al Océano Atlántico. El conflicto comenzó en 1904 con las primeras reclamaciones oficiales de la Argentina sobre las islas que siempre han estado bajo control de Chile. Este conflicto llevó a los dos países cerca de una guerra en 1978 (Lindsley).

El 20 de febrero de 1978, Argentina y Chile firmaron un acuerdo en Puerto Montt, Chile. Luego, del 8 de enero en 1978, los dos Estados firmaron el Acta de Montevideo que solicitan la Santa Sede para que actúe como mediador para resolver conflictos entre Chile y Argentina en la región sur. Luego el 23 de enero de 1984 los dos países firmaron una declaración conjunta de paz y amistad propuesto por el papa, John Paul II (“Reports Of International Arbitral Awards” 53-264).

Hoy, la relación entre los dos países ha mejorado (“Global Insider: Chile-Argentina Relations”). En 2005, la película chilena, Mi Mejor Enemigo fue puesto en libertad. La película recrea la historia de un simple enrolado a finales de 1978 cuando ambos países estuvieron al borde de un guerra. Durante la década de 1990, bajo la presidencia de Carlos Menem en Argentina y Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle en Chile, dejaron todas sus diferencias y ambos países comenzaron a trabajar juntos, tanto económica como militarmente. La política se ha resuelto, pero la gente de los dos países tiene desde hace mucho tiempo renacer. Al viajar a la Patagonia, oí varios cuentos de la batalla por el Canal de Beagle y muchos argentinos todavía lo llaman sus tierras. Los dos países siguen están cerca geográficamente, pero es una buena cosa que están separadas por los Andes.

Fort Lewis College student studies in Spain this semester
El Centro Staff Report

Student Brian Albo, a local Durango High School graduate, is studying abroad in Spain this semester and has been keeping El Centro staff and students up to date on his adventures in the country with his new blog. Albo received financial assistance to make this study abroad trip happen and, we’re excited to share his news with you and all our readers. Please visit his blog at: www.brianleéalbos.blogspot.com.
“Do something that you like.”
Passion was the key focus of El Centro de Muchos Colores’ intimate conversation with Dr. Vicki Ruiz of UC-Irvine.
The very first Charla, or chit-chat, this fall at El Centro took place September 26th with guest Dr. Vicki Ruiz. Dr. Ruiz is a Chicana scholar with her focus centered on women in Latin American and Mexican-American history. She is the dean of Humanities at UC-Irvine with a Ph.D. from Stanford.
She attended our Charla with an open mind, and with students from the Ethnic Families and Cultures class in attendance; there was hardly a quiet moment. After hearing her family’s background, her mother dropping out of school at age 13 to support her family and her husband from the Salinas Valley in California having to leave home in order to finish school, the conversation took a turn toward Ruiz’s own motivation for staying in school in order to gain her Doctorate.
“I was passionate. Going to grad school was a huge deal for me. I love history and I was going to pursue it no matter what. I didn’t care what anyone else said.”
And she did just that. Ruiz graduated with her Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1982 and has continued to accomplish a great deal of goals, including publishing over 10 books, becoming the Dean of Humanities at UC-Irvine, and one of her favorites, creating the Hispanic Mother Daughter Program at Arizona State University. The program aimed to serve Hispanic mothers and daughters, teaching them a variety of topics including basic subjects like English, bonding activities, and life skills.
“It was such a great program. A third of the mothers we served ended up going back to school,” said Ruiz.
Her biggest struggle in her long career has not been taken seriously. Ruiz knows the struggle well though, as being taken seriously as an accomplished Chicana scholar leaves plenty of room for misgivings. Her final piece of advice was clear and concise.
“You can’t control what someone else thinks of you, you can only control what you think of yourself.”
It was truly a great experience and El Centro would really like to thank Vicki Ruiz for her participation in the Charla.

Retrato de la Doncella Guadalupe
By: Brenna Brown
This is a portrait of a humble and sweet Mexico City librarian. She is a woman who works with history and the arts. The artist changed the traditional formal manner of the portrait because he did not want to show the glittery, traditional portraits of women of that time. The books in the portrait are relevant to her history and culture. This painting was painted in 1993 and the text at the bottom tells about who she is and, where and what she does for a living.
J. Michael Walker has been featured in some of the following magazines: The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Financial Times of London, and El Universal. J. Michael Walker was born in Arkansas (date unknown). He went through Mexico when traveling to Los Angeles. He is chicano and is married to Mimi, a woman whom he fell in love with when he was in Mexico. He has lived in Los Angeles for many years and still lives there to this day. Walker is a well-known artist and writer. His works are mainly focused on Latin American countries he has visited. They are also women-centric (women centered). He has collaborated in over a hundred different art exhibitions.
The old, grey-haired, fair-skinned man watches me step out of my black car with black tinted windows with black hip-hop blaring from my speakers, rockin’ a hoodie, baggy jeans, and white sneakers. He fears the illegal, alienated, violent, drug dealing, death serving, anti-social villain that my brown skin has come to symbolize. He doesn’t realize that I went to law school with his son, who saw me as a radical, socialist, Marxist-inspired ideological monster who sought to deprive him of the wealth daddy taught him he is entitled to, an in the process strip him of his bible and his rifle too.

But fuck it right? At least homey ain’t his best friend, who took one look at me and thought “Affirmative Action” Now that shit’s taxing on my brain as I struggle to maintain and restrain my inclination to blow up when wing-tipped and bow-tied racists assume that the best compliment they can pay us is to patronize the few of us they educate in school and label us “exceptions” to the rule.

Yet, as I revel in this endless fight and celebrate bankrupt notions of black love and brown pride, a painful tide of reality washes my pro-brownness onto shore, tolling my soul once more as I reflect on childhood homies shouting “Sellout” all because a motherfucker sought to bail out of a lifelong sentence of political exploitation by embarking on what would become my miseducation.

Suddenly, I come to a revelation. Though in sum there are many elements to me, I am ultimately none of what they see. I. Myself. Me— am the only entity that can define who and what I am. At my core I am my art, and through these lyrical journeys I reconnect with a heart and soul once lost.

See I’m a rebel with a cause, pushing forward without a pause, who through poetry and prose makes you question what you know, re-evaluate what you heard, and struggle to find the strength you need to battle political villains throwin’ body blows like they were trying to beat Muhammad Ali in the Thilla in Manila.

I am an intellectual guerilla with gorilla-like tendencies to stomp out political inconsistencies that are propagated by the propaganda machine we know as the U.S. media. I am who I am.

Adrian Molina is a poet, activist and hip-hop artist from Denver, Colorado who visited El Centro de Muchos Colores and Fort Lewis College on Monday October 10th.
Getting to know your El Centro staff

Shirena Trujillo Long was born in Price, Utah and raised in Farmington, New Mexico with her two siblings. She has lived in Durango since 1996 and has been the work-study supervisor at El Centro since 2005. She is full of energy and channels that energy both indoors and outdoors. She enjoys cross-country skiing and running. “I love playing in the woods and deserts!” she said. She has been working here since the fall semester of 2005 when the new position was created. Don’t mistake her for just any ordinary person, she claims to have a hearty appetite. The way her tummy says full is “Never!” Her favorite food is beef enchiladas and she loves her husband’s “famous margaritas with salt.” Speaking of food, her favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, because of the food, family and celebration of being thankful for what you have. She loves working here at El Centro because of the people she works with and the students who bless her with their knowledge and talents.

Sharina Ramsey-Adams, or known as Sharina “2” around El Centro is a local Durango native who has been working here since fall of 2008. She enjoys spending time with her son and looks up to her mother. Her favorite thing about El Centro is the friendly people, the good food and the awesome music.

Candiss White was raised in Arkansas and since graduating high school has lived in Colorado, Nevada, and California. She made Durango her home to attend FLC for a major in Psychology and a minor in Spanish. When she is not doing homework, she can find her out on the river guiding rafts, exploring trails, snowboarding, or clinging to rock faces somewhere in or around Durango. El Centro is her home base on campus and she recommends that everyone stop by to say hello, orHola, or bonjour.

Mexican Springs, New Mexico is home to Twila Begay. Always actively involved, Twila enjoys playing volleyball or riding horses when she has spare time. She may be a big helping hand, but if you catch her eating pork tamales with green chili, chocolate ice cream and grapefruit juice than it’s best to let her eat. She has been currently working here for 2 semesters, saw a flyer posted for an employment, and was went to see Shirena. What she likes about El Centro is being around Hispanic speaking individuals and the people are always welcoming and generous at El Centro.

Me llamo Nathan Villatoro y me gusta bailar. I was born in the suburbs of Denver and came down to Durango to escape the sleepless plaza infested suburbia. I am in my last year at the fort studying philosophy, and afterwards I’m going to bum around and travel with a intimate love playing ultimate Frisbee, speaking Spanish and cooking!

My name is Catalina Esquivel and I was born in Washington state. This my first semester working at El Centro de Muchos Colores and my fourth year at Fort Lewis College. I’m majoring in accounting with a minor in Spanish. After I graduate, I hope to become a CPA and be employed in an accounting firm. I enjoy tutoring and helping other students understand and succeed in any possible way. In my free time, I like to watch movies, go shopping, and attend sporting events.

My name is Adam Betancourt. I am an Arizona native and a second year student here at Fort Lewis College. My major is International Business with a Spanish minor, and even though that sounds like an extensive major I would love to widen my business degree into a second minor in entrepreneurship. My interests vary widely from loving to run trails in the mountains and traveling to enjoying a day at the mall. Here on campus I choose to focus more on being involved and having a voice in all I’m involved with. I am an active member of Front Row Artstries, Dance Co-Motion, PRISM, a board member for the Financial Allocation Board, the treasurer of Club Del Centro, and the Spanish tutor coordinator for El Centro de Muchos Colores.

My name is Tina Zuniga and I am a freshman this year at Fort Lewis. I am from Los Lunas, New Mexico and have lived in NM my whole life until now. I am a multicultural student, as my father is Mexican-American and my mother is White. My planned major is Sociology with a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies. I became a work-study student at El Centro and a member of Club del Centro, along with helping out with the radio program Centrovision, this fall and I love them all. El Centro is a great place to make friends, eat good food, or get studying done. It is like a home away from home and I am really fortunate to have found that here in Durango.

Laurel Reinhardt grew up in Pagosa Springs, Colorado where she developed the passion for exploring the wilderness doing wilderness things, such as skiing, rafting, and hiking. She is in her element when she is on an adventure. In addition to this, Laurel is studying Spanish and Secondary Education at Fort Lewis, which associates with her other passions: traveling and spending time with people from different cultures, and providing others with a meaningful educational experience. Working in El Centro has been a tremendous experience for her. It has been an opportunity for her to be a part of a distinct campus community, which is characterized by a very warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Candiss White was raised in Arkansas and since graduating high school has lived in Colorado, Nevada, and California. She made Durango her home to attend FLC for a major in Psychology and a minor in Spanish. When she is not doing homework, she can find her out on the river guiding rafts, exploring trails, snowboarding, or clinging to rock faces somewhere in or around Durango. El Centro is her home base on campus and she recommends that everyone stop by to say hello, orHola, or bonjour.

My name is Donna Adams, or known as Donna “2” around El Centro is a local Durango native who has been working here since fall of 2008. She enjoys spending time with her son and looks up to her mother. Her favorite thing about El Centro is the friendly people, the good food and the awesome music.

Mexican Springs, New Mexico is home to Twila Begay. Always actively involved, Twila enjoys playing volleyball or riding horses when she has spare time. She may be a big helping hand, but if you catch her eating pork tamales with green chili, chocolate ice cream and grapefruit juice than it’s best to let her eat. She has been currently working here for 2 semesters, saw a flyer posted for an employment, and was went to see Shirena. What she likes about El Centro is being around Hispanic speaking individuals and the people are always welcoming and generous at El Centro.

Me llamo Nathan Villatoro y me gusta bailar. I was born in the suburbs of Denver and came down to Durango to escape the sleepless plaza infested suburbia. I am in my last year at the fort studying philosophy, and afterwards I’m going to bum around and travel with a intimate love playing ultimate Frisbee, speaking Spanish and cooking!

My name is Catalina Esquivel and I was born in Washington state. This my first semester working at El Centro de Muchos Colores and my fourth year at Fort Lewis College. I’m majoring in accounting with a minor in Spanish. After I graduate, I hope to become a CPA and be employed in an accounting firm. I enjoy tutoring and helping other students understand and succeed in any possible way. In my free time, I like to watch movies, go shopping, and attend sporting events.

My name is Adam Betancourt. I am an Arizona native and a second year student here at Fort Lewis College. My major is International Business with a Spanish minor, and even though that sounds like an extensive major I would love to widen my business degree into a second minor in entrepreneurship. My interests vary widely from loving to run trails in the mountains and traveling to enjoying a day at the mall. Here on campus I choose to focus more on being involved and having a voice in all I’m involved with. I am an active member of Front Row Artstries, Dance Co-Motion, PRISM, a board member for the Financial Allocation Board, the treasurer of Club Del Centro, and the Spanish tutor coordinator for El Centro de Muchos Colores.

My name is Tina Zuniga and I am a freshman this year at Fort Lewis. I am from Los Lunas, New Mexico and have lived in NM my whole life until now. I am a multicultural student, as my father is Mexican-American and my mother is White. My planned major is Sociology with a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies. I became a work-study student at El Centro and a member of Club del Centro, along with helping out with the radio program Centrovision, this fall and I love them all. El Centro is a great place to make friends, eat good food, or get studying done. It is like a home away from home and I am really fortunate to have found that here in Durango.

Laurel Reinhardt grew up in Pagosa Springs, Colorado where she developed the passion for exploring the wilderness doing wilderness things, such as skiing, rafting, and hiking. She is in her element when she is on an adventure. In addition to this, Laurel is studying Spanish and Secondary Education at Fort Lewis, which associates with her other passions: traveling and spending time with people from different cultures, and providing others with a meaningful educational experience. Working in El Centro has been a tremendous experience for her. It has been an opportunity for her to be a part of a distinct campus community, which is characterized by a very warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Candiss White was raised in Arkansas and since graduating high school has lived in Colorado, Nevada, and California. She made Durango her home to attend FLC for a major in Psychology and a minor in Spanish. When she is not doing homework, she can find her out on the river guiding rafts, exploring trails, snowboarding, or clinging to rock faces somewhere in or around Durango. El Centro is her home base on campus and she recommends that everyone stop by to say hello, orHola, or bonjour.

Mexican Springs, New Mexico is home to Twila Begay. Always actively involved, Twila enjoys playing volleyball or riding horses when she has spare time. She may be a big helping hand, but if you catch her eating pork tamales with green chili, chocolate ice cream and grapefruit juice than it’s best to let her eat. She has been currently working here for 2 semesters, saw a flyer posted for an employment, and was went to see Shirena. What she likes about El Centro is being around Hispanic speaking individuals and the people are always welcoming and generous at El Centro.

Me llamo Nathan Villatoro y me gusta bailar. I was born in the suburbs of Denver and came down to Durango to escape the sleepless plaza infested suburbia. I am in my last year at the fort studying philosophy, and afterwards I’m going to bum around and travel with a intimate love playing ultimate Frisbee, speaking Spanish and cooking!

My name is Catalina Esquivel and I was born in Washington state. This my first semester working at El Centro de Muchos Colores and my fourth year at Fort Lewis College. I’m majoring in accounting with a minor in Spanish. After I graduate, I hope to become a CPA and be employed in an accounting firm. I enjoy tutoring and helping other students understand and succeed in any possible way. In my free time, I like to watch movies, go shopping, and attend sporting events.

My name is Adam Betancourt. I am an Arizona native and a second year student here at Fort Lewis College. My major is International Business with a Spanish minor, and even though that sounds like an extensive major I would love to widen my business degree into a second minor in entrepreneurship. My interests vary widely from loving to run trails in the mountains and traveling to enjoying a day at the mall. Here on campus I choose to focus more on being involved and having a voice in all I’m involved with. I am an active member of Front Row Artstries, Dance Co-Motion, PRISM, a board member for the Financial Allocation Board, the treasurer of Club Del Centro, and the Spanish tutor coordinator for El Centro de Muchos Colores. 
About Club Baile Folklorico

Club Baile Folklorico is a dance group that embraces Hispanic culture through dancing traditional Mexican Folklore. We want to provide opportunities for students to learn how to dance and perform these traditional dances on campus and off campus. We also want to provide opportunity for students to travel around the United States and Mexico to learn different styles of Folkloric dancing from different regions of Mexico through workshops.

The club meets every Wednesday from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

For more information about Club Baile Folklorico, please contact:

Kathy Smith, President/Chair: ksmith1@fortlewis.edu
Deanna Ulibarri-Vering, Vice President: duling@fortlewis.edu
Katey Redmond, Treasurer: coremmond@fortlewis.edu
Advisors: Shirena Trujillo Long & Jen Cossey

Club Del Centro

Club Del Centro is a place to experience and learn more about the Hispanic culture here on campus. It also provides links not only here on campus but in the Durango community. It’s also a place to just relax and have fun! We as a club want to promote Hispanic cultures through events, programs and food, as well as create opportunities for people interested in Hispanic culture, and connect with the Durango community while promoting pride amongst our community members. This year’s officers are as follows:

President-Sharina M. Ramsey-Adams (smramseyadams@fortlewis.edu)
Vice President-Ashlee Albrecht (aalbrecht@fortlewis.edu)
Secretary– Susannah Granitto (sjgranitto@fortlewis.edu)
Treasurer– Adam Betancourt (abetancourt@fortlewis.edu)

Meetings for the club are currently being held weekly, Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 in El Centro. Anyone is welcome to drop by and see what Club Del Centro is all about!!

Get Involved

New Building
Jordan Brumley

ALEGRE (Lively)
ALFOMBRA (Carpet)
ALMACENAMIENTO (Storage)
ARTE (Art)
BRILLANTE (Bright)
COCINA (Kitchen)
COLORIDO (Colorful)
COMPUTADORA (Computer)
ESCRITORIO (Desk)
ESPACIO (Space)
ESPEJO (Mirror)
IMPRESORA (Printer)
MESA (Table)
MUEBLES (Furniture)
NUEVO (New)
PLATOS (Dishes)
SILLA (Chair)
SOCIALE (Social)
TELEVISIÓN (Television)
El Centro Events

What are you good at? Strengthsquest Workshop
Wednesday, Oct. 19; 3-5 p.m.
Location: El Centro/Rio Grande Conference Room

Travel to Spain Night!
Friday Oct. 21 4 p.m.—7 p.m.
Come travel to Spain with stories, photos, and food from the country’s diverse regions and people.

Dia de Los Muertos Parade/Fiesta
Wednesday, Nov. 2; Time TBD
Location: El Centro

Latino College Days on Skyhawk Saturday
Saturdays, Nov. 12 and Feb. 18; 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Location: FLC campus

Cinco de Mayo in Durango
Saturday, May 5, 2012;
Location: Downtown Durango

Spanish lunch hours
Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 with Laurel

Spanish Drop in Tutoring Everyday!
Free tutoring available to all level Spanish classes.
Monday 12-1, Tuesday 1:30-2:30, Wednesday 10:15-11:15, Thursday 12:30-1:30, Friday 10-11.

Faculty Hours at El Centro
• Janine Fitzgerald is here on Tuesday at 3:00 PM
• Les Sommerville is here to help all chemistry needs Wednesday 10:15-11:15 AM
• Chiara Cannella (9-10 AM) and Dr. Jennifer Trujillo (10-11 AM) will be here Friday for all your interdisciplinary and Teacher Education needs

For more information contact
El Centro at (970)247-7654 or www.fortlewis.edu/elcentro
Visit us on the ground floor of the Student Union (rm. 40)!

“La Movida”

A Fort Lewis College Student Publication

Editors……. Adam Betancourt
Jordan Brumley
Sharina Ramsey-Adams
Shirena Trujillo Long

Writers……. Adam Betancourt
Brenna Brown
Candiss White
Catalina Esquivel
Jordan Brumley
Laurel Reinhardt
Marissa Molina
Melissa Smith
Nathan Villatoro
Sam Dalga
Shirena Trujillo
Susannah Granitt
Tina Zuniga
Twila Begay

Graphic Designers………
Adam Betancourt
Jordan Brumley

La Movida is a student-run publication for El Centro de Muchos Colores published each semester. El Centro is the Fort Lewis College Hispanic Center geared toward promoting Hispanic pride and awareness, increasing Hispanic student enrollment, and retention rates.

La Movida welcomes submissions at any time. All submissions should be sent to Shirena Trujillo Long at long_s@fortlewis.edu.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of El Centro de Muchos Colores or of Fort Lewis College.

For questions or comments please contact El Centro de Muchos Colores, located room 40 of the Student Union Building or can be reached at: (970)247-7654.