Welcome to the end of the year, but the beginning of a new El Centro. The remodeling of the union building has been under way for about a year and in August 2011, it will finally be open to everyone. Once the union is complete, El Centro de Muchos Colores will finally have a permanent home.

Our little casa will have a dance floor for our baile folklorico dancers, a small area for lounging and hanging with friends, computers for students to use. Some of our bigger attractions are a full size kitchen that will be shared with the NAC, and our display case which resides in the front of our space.

The display case will hold several different themes throughout the year for holidays and special events but there will be one main theme when these events are not happening. The main theme which will be held in the display case is called Los Hispanos of the Southwest and at Fort Lewis College: A Look at the Past, Present, and Future.

With this new space there will also be new furnishings. We hope to accomplish a new modern look as well as incorporating some of our southwest styles. Picking these furnishings to make everyone happy is going to be a difficult task but one that El Centro’s staff has helped to make sure that we get what we need as well as what we want. The main wall is painted and our display case is ready. But because we have a small space to work with we have to make sure that we get measurements as close to the real thing as possible so we can order the right size furniture and make sure there is room for the computer desks. This is another big step we have to focus on because, we do not want students feeling like they are smashed in a room. One of the big furnishings we plan on having constructed is a door which will separate the kitchen from our main space. There are a couple southwest designs in mind but deciding on one will be the toughest part. I think once the building is complete and we can move our items into the space it will actually seem real, unless the packing gets to us first!

El Centro Awaits New Home in Union

By: Felicia Trujillo

My Proposed Study of Baile Folklorico in Durango, CO

By: Melanie Ostler

Ballet Folklorico originated in Mexico as a synthesis of modern dance and a series of folk dances from the various states in Mexico. However, Baile Folklorico is active across the United States including right here at Fort Lewis College!

I have been studying anthropology and history at Fort Lewis College for the past couple of years. I am now in my last semester and a component of completing my degree includes producing an anthropological research project.

I do not have any Hispanic roots but I have always been drawn to the dynamic sense of community and lively spirit of the Mexican and Mexican-American cultures. I also am very interested in how dance can be used as an expression of identity and culture.

Combining these two interests, I have chosen to take a closer look into the story of Baile Folklorico right here in Durango. I am excited to meet with the dancers on campus and in town (that’s right we have two dance groups in our little town of Durango). I am also very interested in how Baile Folklorico has impacted the Hispanic community in Durango. My overall goal for my research is to bring Durango a new sense of our shared and diverse history.
Banquet teaches me more about MARC U* Star

By: Reanna Hoskie

I attended a dinner banquet on behalf of learning more about the MARC-U*Star Program. As I walked in, there was an elegant set up of dinner tables and a lot of familiar faces. I honestly didn’t know what to expect when I walked in. I looked down at the sign-in table and picked up my nametag. I walked over to a table and sat down. As time passed, the rest of the night was really interesting and exciting. I just kept thinking in my head all night, “I wish I knew about this program last year.”

But I also believe that there was a reason why I went besides benefiting my needs, but moreover I was thinking that it will help a lot of incoming students, sophomores and juniors that already go here but did not have a chance of hearing about this program. There were a lot of guest speakers that night and there were members of the program such as the keynote presentation Joslynn Lee, Nellie McLean and Phillida Charley.

I was really amazed with Ms. Joslynn’s presentation because it made me want to do a lot of things like continue on with graduate school and much more. After I left the dinner feeling uplifted and determined more than ever. I feel that if students that are pursuing a science major or minor should definitely take advantage of the resources here at Fort Lewis because if they don’t they might be missing out on a lot.

There has also been a program that is brand new to campus, STEM3. They provide services such as tutoring, advising, and just helping out with any questions that they can provide students with. They are located in Berndt Hall on the north side. The banquet was amazing and I hope to go to the December dinner in Fall 2011.

Freedom Writer shares powerful message to Durango community

By: Shirena Trujillo Long

Ever seen that movie “Freedom Writers” with actress Hillary Swank as the teacher who inspires a group of “unteachable, at risk” high school students to succeed in school? It’s a true story about a Long Beach High School teacher named Erin Gruwell and one of her amazing students came to Miller Middle School in Durango on Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 9.

Maria Reyes spoke to a crowd of more than 100 people, including Fort Lewis College students from the Department of Education and El Centro de Muchos Colores – both sponsors of the event who helped bring Maria to town.

“I love Durango!” she said. “I’m definitely coming back to vacation here with my family.”

Reyes came to the area after an invitation from a Miller teacher who welcomed her to the stage after showing the ABC primetime special that Maria and other Freedom Writers from her high school were featured in. After the clip, Reyes took the stage that Wednesday afternoon and students were treated with an entertaining and meaningful lesson.

She began by telling her story about being a third-generation gang member who was labeled so many things in high school: “at-risk, remedial, poor, troubled, unteachable,” she said. The labels and her lack of potential made her a defiant student who tried harder to make her teacher angry than impressed with her abilities.

Then a young teacher named Miss Gruwell started teaching her freshman English class, and this woman had a lasting impact on Reyes’ and more than 150 other student’s lives. Miss Gruwell never gave up on Reyes and encouraged her to write in a journal just like Anne Frank and the class read this diary and many other books that related to themes more relative in this troubled teens’ worlds.

In the Freedom Writers book that 10 years ago published these student’s journals, Miss Gruwell writes: “I asked, ‘how many of you have heard of the Holocaust?’ Not a single person raised their hand. Then I asked, ‘how many of you have been shot at?’ Nearly every hand went up. I immediately decided to throw out my meticulously planned lesson and make tolerance the core of my curriculum.”

So, with assigned reading like the Diary of Anne Frank and other stories about children who grew up in war—like these students and their gang wars—the students started connecting to reading and writing and improving their grades in school.

“I started reading at first out of vengeance to prove my teacher wrong!” Reyes said. “I was always fighting something and I just thought that Erin would be like every other teacher before her.”

Although Maria Reyes was jumped into her first gang at age 11, she was the first in her family to get out of it too. She is the first in her family to earn a college degree and is thinking of going to earn a master’s degree in urban education.

Her message to students that day was that “You can be different,” she said.

“The moment I dared to do something different, I started saying to myself ‘Today, I’m going to try to do better than yesterday.’”

Reyes signed books after her speech and made a note especially for El Centro de Muchos Colores students as she thanked us for helping her come to Durango.

She wrote: “Dear El Centro--- may you always dream BIG dreams!” signed Maria Reyes.

El Centro has a copy of her book and more information about the Freedom Writers at our office, open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday in the center of Reed Library. For more information, contact (970) 247-7654.
My name is John Gonzales and I am a work study student at El Centro de Muchos Colores. I am from Highlands Ranch, Colorado and I also play football for Fort Lewis College. This story is about one of my great duties that I do while I work at El Centro. The word “dishes” can be a great word to hear or one of the worst words to hear depending on the context. Here is an example for you; “I just made some enchiladas and green chili. Let’s get some dishes out and eat all this food!” That is the good version of the word dishes. Now here is the bad version; “That burrito sale went great! Geez, we dirtied a lot of dishes doing that. John, wash all of them before you’re done working.”

As you can see, the spectrum of the word dishes as I have found out since I have started working at El Centro. I love eating all the great food we make, but the whole washing all of the dishes by hand is definitely the opposite of my favorite thing to do. This is how we do it in our makeshift kitchen. Basically how it goes is you fill up this big red bucket with dishes and haul it all the way to this backroom in the library. You are then in this small room that is nearly outside the library so it can be a little chilly some days. Then you walk up to this little sink that barely can fit half these dishes under it in the first place and turn on the water. Once the water is on, you must find your “trusty” sponge and the dishwashing soap that we provide but everyone in the library uses.

The dishwashing soap is unique and makes me laugh sometimes because one of the library staff wrote a note on the bottle that says, “Please use sparingly, you do not need that much of this to clean. This can be used to clean birds in the gulf that have gotten oil on them and can clean their feathers off, so please use sparingly.” After reading that the other day I couldn’t help but laugh. I’m glad this helps birds get cleaned but I’m sorry Ms. Librarian I don’t think our bottle of soap in Durango is going to the gulf to clean oil off birds anytime soon. Oh the joys of getting to wash the dishes.

Now back to the dish washing process. Once you have put your dishwashing soap on the dirty dishes (used sparingly for the birds), you scrub rigorously until clean. Once all have been cleaned you must dry them and put them in the bucket and lug them all the way back to El Centro. That is a pretty long walk with a bucket full of dishes, let me tell you.

Once in El Centro unload the dishes and put them all back where they belong. After working here for fall semester and now winter semester I have learned to become a great dishwasher. My experience influenced what I said to my mom after I got home from winter break. She asked me “What did you learn in college?” I replied “How to wash dishes.” Thank you El Centro!
We are all striving to be someone, accomplish something and find a balance between the relationships we have with the ones we love and the ones we may not know but have an interconnected relationship with by way of a common place like college. As an intern with Code Red I was introduced to the Resolution for Respect and signed my name right smack in the front of the banner because of its strong values and the message of respecting ourselves, each other and the community we reside in. Later I was introduced to Code Red’s version of the document titled, Striving for Common Ground and I was very pleased with the progress our Fort Lewis community of students, staff and faculty had accomplished with producing this creed. I was able to work with one particular student who was one of the driving forces behind getting the document read and seen by the student body and after he graduated my supervisor and I decided to continue the work and get the document officially supported by the student senate and other organizations at Fort Lewis. I was able to continue the survey poll by attending primarily freshmen composition courses and gain feedback from students by an overall rating scale. The overall rating was satisfactory and I presented this information alongside the former student coordinator and my supervisor to the student government. The senate approved the resolution to endorse and support Striving for Common Ground and we will display our banner at our upcoming event, Empower the Dream, Inspire the Change at the end of the month. My work still continues as far as getting the document into every orientation packet, at convocations, and Code Red events. I will also continue to collect data from students to gain perspective on the document and to strive to find the balance between myself and the entangled relationships around me.
A Day in the Life of a Chicana

By: Jordan Brumley

Senioritis

By: James Martinez
As the winter semester continues, scholarship opportunities begin to arise. This time is essential for all students to apply for what is literally FREE money. Many students are not aware of the scholarships that are available, so I want to take a moment to mention the El Centro de Muchos Colores book scholarship. The El Centro book scholarship is for $500 and is renewable each year for up to four year. The scholarship requires an essay submission to respond to the following prompt: Please tell us about your personal cultural and ethnic identity and explain why you would bring a diverse set of opinions to Fort Lewis College to help enrich our campus and fulfill the College’s commitment to enroll and embrace all cultures and all people. Below is a portion of my personal essay, which I wrote in regards to one of the requirements to apply for the book scholarship.

My name is Adam Betancourt, and my background roots way back to France, Spain and Italy. However my grandparents are from Mexico and being raised in a Hispanic family I have learned many cultural things including the language. In fact Spanish was my first language, and it was not until the first grade that I learned English completely. I was born and raised in Arizona, where the majority of the population I grew up with spoke only Spanish. It was easy for me to communicate with my friends because I too only spoke Spanish, but then we started school we slowly realized that we needed to assimilate to this language in order to be successful. Of course we had no idea what success was at the time, but knowing only Spanish we were placed into ELL (English Language Learner) courses that were behind the curriculum that the other English speakers were learning. I felt a bit out-casted by the fact that I was placed and grouped with only Spanish speakers. Having this sense of not being able to fit in because of my language forced me to integrate to this completely new language. Through the process I remember my grandparents telling me that I was speaking Spanish really weird. I used to be able to pronounce words really well and roll my “r”s without trouble. It wasn’t until I started high school that I realized that I had lost much of my Spanish.

Coming here to Fort Lewis College, I had in mind what many incoming freshmen have in mind: I wanted my college experience to be the life of the party and to just have a great memorable time. I clearly remember searching for a Work-Study Program job the second I arrived on campus, but I was not interested in working in the food department, or as an assistant in an office, or as a librarian, so I continued searching. Later that week, after finally learning how to check my Fort Lewis College email account, I checked my email and there it was — along with all the other unread messages — an invitation to this place called El Centro de Muchos Colores. The invitation was to come in and check out the place and on the bottom of the email it also stated that Work-Study Program positions were available. Not only did I not know what El Centro de Muchos Colores was, but I also did not know how they had received my email. However I decided to go into El Centro de Muchos Colores, regardless if I knew what it was. Once there, I realized that this place was a resource center for all students but the focus was to retain Hispanic students.

Being a Hispanic student and walking into this resource center that focused on pleasing my needs made me feel really important. During that same instance I heard a voice speaking Spanish softly but energetically to me, it said “hola bienvenido a El Centro de Muchos Colores, como estas?” The voice was that of Shirena Trujillo Long, the coordinator of El Centro. I didn’t have much to say back, so I replied to her question but I replied to her in English. She quickly asked if I knew Spanish, since I did respond to the question in English. I was embarrassed to tell her how I was at one point fluent in Spanish, but she understood and we shared stories. We talked for quite awhile and lastly I mentioned to her how I was interested in the Work-Study Program position.

I walked out of there knowing that El Centro de Muchos Colores was the place I wanted to work at, and by the following Monday I was employed at El Centro de Muchos Colores. Since then, I have been able to not only practice my Spanish but also help those who are in my same position as I was. Each day, I strive for El Centro de Muchos Colores’ goal to retain Hispanic students. I do so by establishing relationships with those who I assist with questions on their Spanish homework. Essentially my goal is to be a stepping-stone to those in search of their true identity, and if their identity does consist a bit of Hispanic in it I will be more than pleased to help, just like El Centro de Muchos Colores helped me.

By: Adam Betancourt
From the age we can walk, from a time when we can barely talk; up until the time when we can no longer walk and have too many things to say, we are bombarded with facts. Facts about history. Facts about grammar. Facts about the environment. Cold hard facts about how we are ruining our planet, about the ways in which it is falling apart right in front of our eyes. It seems that all too often we find ourselves to be hopeless. We see so many problems with the world and just don’t seem to know where to start when it comes to fixing it. We all want to help, but none of us seem to know where to start.

While I was participating in Study Abroad to Costa Rica last semester, a series of disasters took place due to extensive—and abnormal—amounts of rain. There were a number of floods, landslides and rivers that took out entire communities. Roads were closed, ambulances called, lives were lost and houses were washed away. But there is something amazing about this disaster—out of all this despair came hope.

So many people were in such desperate situations that entire communities were forced to unite. In La Carpio, the slum where I spent several months teaching English as a Second Language, almost 200 people were displaced. This meant that at three in the morning, in the pouring rain and pitch black, people were pulling men, women and children up a hill that is steeper than you could walk up while dry. This was an effort to save their lives from the rapidly rising river below.

In another community that I visited, the river had risen so much that it literally took away a paved road and several houses. That river is now twice as wide as it was months ago. The entire community—including the people who lived on the level above the river—was down by the water’s edge trying to help fix all that had been lost. Though in reality, they could only do so little, their support and presence spoke volumes.

Walking through these streets I couldn’t stop thinking about how these people don’t deserve this. These communities are generally low income and filled with Nicaraguan immigrants who illegally entered Costa Rica with the hope of finding higher paying jobs and a better life. They have come so far; they’ve built their houses from nothing and created a life there—it’s astounding to witness the aftermath of it all taken away in a matter of hours. I was a witness to something that simply isn’t fair. Can’t the suffering of the world be spread around a bit? These people barely had enough food to eat in the first place. They were lucky to have a shelter over their heads. And now, now they have nothing. It was all washed away. The river took away so much of what they had, but even such a disaster couldn’t take away their hope, their fight for a better life and their willingness to help one another in times of need.

Ariel Mallett is a Sophomore at FLC, she spent Fall semester 2010 living in Costa Rica with an American program called Global College of Long Island University. While in Costa Rica she studied Spanish among other topics and taught English as a Second Language in La Carpio, a slum in the capital of Costa Rica, San José.

The word “esperanza”, or hope, is seen behind a group from La Carpio, the kids are playing games while the adults meet with government representatives. In this meeting community members were informed that they would be given three months to find a more suitable place to live. Suitable meaning anywhere but along the river bank, however it is the poorest of families who live near the river bank (where the houses were destroyed by the rising water) because that is the cheapest housing in La Carpio. The government would be providing each family with rent for those three months in hopes of encouraging these families to permanently move to more suitable living quarters. The issue with this proposal being that once those three months of government funded rent ran out, the families would no longer be able to afford the “more suitable living quarters” and would thus return to living alongside the river.

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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-Reanna Hoskie (rhoskie@fortlewis.edu)
Vice President-Felicia Trujillo (ftrujillo@fortlewis.edu)
Secretary-Sharina M. Ramsey-Adams (smramseyadams@fortlewis.edu)
Treasurer- Ashlee Albrecht (gaalbrecht@fortlewis.edu)

SACNAS supports Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in science research, leadership, and teaching careers at all levels. SACNAS advances students to gain the prerequisites for achieving success at the highest levels for science. SACNAS engages in building size, capacity, and diversity of the U.S. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) workforce that has been identified as key to the future economic development and human wellbeing of the nation. SACNAS innovates inclusive society of scientists working on a national scale to promote graduate science education within the Native American and Hispanic/Chicano communities. FLC students charted a local chapter of this National Chapter in spring semester 2010. Our advisor Les Somerville will be available every Monday in El Centro from 12:15-1:15.

President-Reanna Hoskie (rhoskie@fortlewis.edu)
Vice President-Theresa Rodriguez (trodriuez@fortlewis.edu)
Secretary-Treasurer-Ashlee Albrecht (albrecht_ashlee@yahoo.com)

If you have any other questions or just want to learn more about any of these clubs, stop by El Centro!
New Officers added to Club Baile Folklorico!!!

By: Deanna Ulibarri-Vereng

New officers, new dresses, and new events!

Recently, Club Baile Folklorico has added two Fort Lewis students to their family. Deanna Ulibarri-Vereng, who now is the club’s Vice President, and Katy Redmond who holds the position of our treasurer, are now a part of the Baile Folklorico officers! The remaining officers are; Kathy Smith as President, Sharina Ramsey-Adams as Secretary, and Shirena Long as the Club’s Advisor.

If you are a fan of Baile Folklorico, or are interested in watching us, be sure to come and support us at these local upcoming events!

- Saturday February 19, 2011 at 12:00 for Multi-Cultural Preview Day at Fort Lewis College!
- Saturday February 26, 2011 at 12:00 in The Leadership Conference
- Tuesday April 19, 2011 at 12:15 Methodist Church in Town!

If you have any questions, feel free to call El Centro at 247-7654. Or, email Kathy Smith at kmsmith@fortlewis.edu

MLK Day a success at FLC

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day March was a success, followed by the open mic session where many students, staff and faculty had an opportunity to share what MLK Day means to them. Overall, the event was a success, and we look forward to next year’s March.

Centennial Wordsearch

Jordan Brumley

E E S D S R S R E D Y N S N H N
E S O S R H A N E G I D N I I E
D T E U A R I P O D E U S E M E
A E D E R R O N N S N T N N U O
R A O F U R D O E R O E N O S E
O N L U T E E I N R I L R D I S
R O L E L D A C I C C N L P C A
U O E R U G C A I I C I F P E A A
A N H T C C R R S R D I R S B R
N X E E I O S B O U A E O F C A
D E S C R I M E N A R S G U P R
T E R B G E A L I R T O E O O
N O I C A T N E S E R P E R N L
C S S S E T E C A D I S S S A P
G C A S E P A S I A P C S O T X
B D S E R A I B M A C D O C T E

Agricultura- Agriculture
Aprender- Learn
Belloso- Beauty
Cambiar- Change
Celebracion- Celebration
Deporte- Sport
Discriminar- Discrimination
Escuela- School
Estudiante- Struggle
Explorar- Explore
Fuerza- Fort
Historia- History
Herencia- Heritage
Indigena- Native
Música- Music
Progresa- Progress
Representacion- Representation
Snyder- 1st Dean
Sueroeste- Southwest
Tradicion- Tradition
La Movida
“The Movement”
A Fort Lewis College Student Publication

Editors……..Adam Betancourt
Felicia Trujillo
James Martinez
Shirena Trujillo Long

Writers…….Adam Betancourt
Ariel Mallett
Deanna Ulibarri-Vering
Jordan Brumley
John Gonzalez
James Martinez
Jessica Martinez
Melanie Ostler
Shirena Trujillo

Graphic Designers………
James Martinez
Felicia Trujillo
Adam Betancourt
Ariel Mallett

La Movida is a student-run publication for El Centro de Muchos Colores published semesterially. 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. 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. El Centro is located at 156A Reed Library and can be reached by phone at 970-247-7654.