Cultural education was the center of El Centro de Muchos Colores’ intimate conversation with Jesus “Tito” Romero and Armando “Mando” Sotelo from the film Precious Knowledge. The first Charla, or chit-chat, of the winter 2012 semester at El Centro took place January 17th with guests Tito and Mando. They are graduates from Tucson high school who joined Fort Lewis on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to educate the college about the ongoing battle to save ethnic studies classes in the Tucson Independent School District.

Their purpose in joining us was to promote Precious Knowledge, a new documentary about “disenfranchised high school students becoming academic warriors and community leaders in Tucson’s embattled Ethnic Studies classes while state lawmakers attempt to eliminate the program.”

The film showcased on Monday, January 16th, and served as the spark that ignited the courageous conversation that took place at El Centro the following day. Joined by Fort Lewis students, Durango High School students and teachers, and friends of El Centro, Tito and Mando shared their experiences participating in ethnic studies classes and the ongoing legal battles in Arizona. For Tito, the classes served as an opportunity to fully and whole heartedly engage in his high school education.

“It was the first time I read a book,” he shared.

Despite ethnic studies students in the Tucson Independent School District graduating at higher rates than students not enrolled in the classes, the school district in 2008 decided to ban the classes, leading to an outright legal battle between students and faculty in support and administrators and politicians who view the classes as “un-American.” The battle continues, and Tito and Mando are at the front lines of the conflict. They have founded a youth run organization in Tucson called U.N.I.D.O.S. in response to the ban. It is coalition of students from local Tucson high schools, alumni and community members, demanding educational human rights. U.N.I.D.O.S. seeks to protect and expand ethnic studies as well as promote diversity, justice, equality and the values of education.

Observing what Tito and Mando are doing to fight for their educational rights, participants in the charla began to question, “What can we do to protect all educational rights?” The conversation then transitioned to focus on Durango. High school students and teachers who shared their interest in creating an ethnic program.

They suggested that a Native American Studies program be implemented due to the region’s prominent Native American population.

Overall, the charla was a wonderful conversation about real issues concerning cultural education. El Centro would like to thank Tito and Mando for joining us and for sharing the film Precious Knowledge with Fort Lewis College.
In the state of Arizona, like many other states that border another country, many diverse languages are spoken. A survey conducted in Arizona in 2007 showed that 28% of Arizonians spoke a non-English language at home; 22% of that 28% were Spanish speakers.

Growing up, I was part of that 22% that spoke only Spanish in my household. However, as years passed by and as I started to attend public school I became more aware of the English language as being the “proper” way to speak for my success in this country. Speaking Spanish at school opened up the opportunity for others to criticize and humiliate me for not speaking their language. It seemed standard for the non-English speaking children to be embarrassed as a result of the language barrier.

Recently, Fort Lewis College and El Centro de Muchos Colores screened the film “Precious Knowledge” and hosted two of the actors and activists, Tito and Mando, who are extremely involved in the protest against the removal of all Latino/Hispanic studies in the Tucson area. It reminded me of my experiences growing up—something I had disregarded and dismissed from my memory. It was almost as if I was naïve to what society was creating and doing to my childhood.

In a recent “charla”, or chat, with Tito and Mando they talked about growing up in Tucson, Arizona and experiencing what I had also experienced as a child. However, the account of their experiences did not seem similar to mine. They mentioned “oppression” and “discrimination.” In my recollection, I could not identify occurrences characterized by such injustice, but was immediately reminded of my experience being forced into an English Language Learners (ELL) program. The goal of the program was to teach the English language as the dominant form of communication. Without an opportunity to choose, I was required to assimilate to what was considered the standard. Identified as unacceptable, I could not be different. My friends in kindergarten, who originally only spoke Spanish, were speaking to me in fluent English by first grade; the ELL program proved to be successful.

As I reflect on my past, analyze the laws and regulations recently implemented in Arizona, and contemplate the new social ideas that are spreading like fire, I begin to understand why these activists are so passionate about the Latino/Hispanic studies that were taken away from them. It was not until then that I started to look at these issues through a different lens. Tito and Mando labeled the removal of these programs as oppressive. Oppression is the act of subjecting an individual or group to cruel and unjust treatment. If these new regulations are implemented, Hispanic culture will diminish ultimately. The public education of Arizona offers the government the opportunity to start eliminating culture in the state. Considering the value of education, we find that it strengthens society and inspires individuals to reach their full potential. But if this instrument (education) reaches full human potential and is affected by biases and prejudices, the products (students) will find themselves naïve to society and lacking individuality.

If you are interested in supporting the fight to save ethnic studies, please visit [http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/UNIDOS/] or [http://saveethnicstudies.org/] or feel free to stop by El Centro de Muchos Colores for more information on what you can do to help support ethnic studies in Tucson.
Senioritis:
These Are the Good Ol’ Days You Will Miss in the Years Ahead.
By: Twila Rea Begay

I pictured myself going to college, but the idea of receiving my Bachelor’s degree in April is finally becoming a reality. “What are your plans after graduation?” Many people assume after college the idea is to follow, “The American Dream”: go to college, graduate, marry, buy a house, and have children. Instead, I’m confused on which option to choose!

The reasons for following my personal dreams have been influenced by my Navajo people and my department of study at Fort Lewis College. Here, I had room to nurture my growth, expand my knowledge, and develop my relationships. In addition my character and identity have been challenged. It has been a journey figuring out myself, which I’m far from completing.

The path was never easy. Yes, I did have those days I slacked, ditched class, and most of all procrastinated. You can’t expect to be perfect in college, and that’s the beauty of it. Things are constantly changing; new knowledge is always hiding around the corner.

I have three months left to live up my senior year. I feel more muddled than ever! I am at a loss as to where to live next. Do I stay in Durango? Do I go to graduate school? Do I continue working? The endless questions are daunting and never ending. I only planned up to this point and not having a plan frightens me!

I may be walking away from the love of my life; college, but the experiences at Fort Lewis have been ingrained in me. The friendships I’ve developed continue to guide me. My family continues to be very supportive of my educational decisions. Family, friends, mentors, and professors have been and continue to be my cure for senioritis.

A few words of advice: don’t rush your college years, make mistakes if you have to, and know that at the end of your senior year you still may be asking yourself this question, “What do I really want to do in life?”

Leaving FLC, Reflections on Graduation
By: Jordan Brumley

Well, it happened. I did not mean it to or even want it to, but nevertheless, it happened: This coming April, I will graduate from Fort Lewis College in four years. Yes, this is an accomplishment to be proud of and I am taking advantage of the opportunities, but it passed so quickly I urge you all as under-graduates to take time to live the college experience instead of simply making the grades.

Every week there are more due dates and we are constantly looking to the next set of finals. We never have time to slow down and take college in. Hell, we plan our entire next semester when we are only halfway through the current one.

It is too easy to look forward to the future school while forgetting the present. We are all busy working hard today in order to pass the tests and get paid next week or even, as a work study FLC employee, next month.

Time seems to suspend itself here at the Fort with life altering events coming and going so often. I urge you not to allow yourself to be dragged through the flow of college as I did, with the single goal of completing the experience. Take time to ride the college surf and enjoy each and every moment the experience at FLC offers.

El Centro celebrates Latino College Day and Dia de Los Muertos.
Nathan Villatoro in his 2007 high school graduation gown. He wanted to walk in this April’s ceremony, but instead will travel abroad and earn his minor in Spanish.

Entering my last semester at FLC, I am experiencing some unanticipated worries and disappointments about walking in the April 2012 ceremony. After this semester I will have completed every requirement in my major as well as all of my general education and upper division credit requirements to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy.

Theoretically I could graduate, walk in the April Ceremony and get my degree, but I decided five years wasn’t long enough so I’ve recently added a Spanish minor to my degree. I am completing my minor on an exchange to Honduras in the fall semester of 2012; after which I will remain in Central America for an additional 4-6 months to participate in agricultural and English teaching programs in various Latin American countries. So, as much as I love dishing out hundreds of dollars on international flights I will not be returning just to walk and participate in the December 2012 ceremony.

I would love to celebrate my last semester at FLC with my classmates by putting on that gown (mind you, one of the few times it’s socially acceptable for me to wear a dress in public), walking across the stage, receiving the fake diploma and snapping a few photos. Being the first one to graduate from college in my family, I know my parents and sisters would love that too… However Fort Lewis has just adopted a strict new policy on graduating seniors under which I am not permitted to walk because I will not have my minor completed.

If I really wanted to walk in April 2012, I could drop my minor and continue my Spanish education unaffiliated with FLC, however if I do this I will stop receiving financial aid and my student loans will cease being deferred as well. Both these stipulations are financially crucial for my Latin American journey to happen. So if I really want to walk, my only option is to participate in the April 2013 ceremony, which would hardly have the same significance since I’d be graduating with a community which I have been removed from for a whole year. It would be like throwing a Christmas party in February; by that time I’m already getting ready for president’s day making Kennedy cakes and Hoover honeybuns.

Being a student of philosophy I understand that there are policies and thresholds in place for good reason. For example, it may be alright for a mother to steal a loaf of bread to feed her starving family but as a general principle stealing cannot be permitted for a community to thrive. Along those lines, I’m assuming that the graduation police won’t bust in and shut down the ceremony if I’m permitted to walk this spring, but they have to draw the line somewhere. Otherwise-- we’ll have sophomores and freshmen walking in the ceremony, next grandma Wilma and Uncle Leo who never even graduated high school will be walking and finally we’ll see Victor the non-aggressive giant panda from Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo being herded across the stage to be recognized as an FLC graduate. So if you don’t want to be graduating alongside giant black and white members of the ursidae family, contact your local senator to ensure I do not walk this spring!

I can’t help being a little bitter about the whole situation. I had not foreseen myself or my family caring about walking as much as we do now. We downplay it a lot because it is a purely symbolic ritual but it would be nice to have that capstone, explicitly celebrating my undergraduate college experience with my classmates. Heed my advice all ye non-graduated scholars: If you do not care about walking, don’t underestimate how badly your family, who has supported you financially and emotionally through your college years, wants to see you walk across that stage. Don’t count on being an exception to a rule… and that goes for anything you care about.

At the end of the day I feel OK about not walking this spring if it ensures that my Latin American Odyssey will happen. As for this spring’s ceremony on April 28 2012, if there is a masked streaker spraying liquid cheese into the crowd… it is not me.
Living With a Disability
By: Laurel Reinhardt

Nobody could have predicted it would happen. I was purely enjoying life and looking forward to what the future held – but in an instant my life changed.

On July 16, 2010, a remarkably beautiful and seemingly perfect summer day, friends and family gathered to share a good-humored and delightful occasion together. Over the course of the evening, many laughs were shared as a result of an assortment of creative and ambitious activities. Rooting from the nature of our competitive character and athletic adeptness, I initiated a pick-up basketball game with nine of my closest friends – the majority being male. Always eager to engage in the exhilaration, I was never one to shy away from the intensity of a competition. I later came face-to-face with the consequence of that zeal when my head hit the concrete after stepping in front of a player in an attempt to play defense.

Everyone paused in utter fear of what happened, but after little delay, I regained my composure, stood up and expressed that I was fine and wanted to continue. With a gracious and genuine attempt to dissuade me, I disregarded the plausible seriousness of the event by convincing every one of my wellbeing. The game continued. Twenty minutes following the first blow, I tripped backwards over a player’s foot, which caused me to fall and strike my head against the shed behind the basket.

Every day after, regretting what happened, wanting to change the past, I experienced nauseating headaches, ringing in my ears, sleeplessness, extraordinary fatigue and the incapacity to participate in life as I had before. After days of waiting and months of testing, the doctors finally declared a Traumatic Brain Injury—a result I would accept over any alternative—which would force me to step down from my position as the captain and as a crucial player on the Fort Lewis Women’s soccer team. I wanted nothing more than to step back out on that field with my teammates wearing my Fort Lewis Jersey, but the opportunity was taken from me. I was torn to pieces as I walked away, being forced to leave my potential as an unfinishing project and being forced to withdraw from the side-by-side battle with my teammates, but I had no choice. I realized that it was not a matter of being tough, but rather a matter of health.

My symptoms persisted for more than a year. Beyond the challenges I faced in leaving some important ambitions behind me, I encountered tremendous frustration in school. For the first time in my life, I was struggling to keep up, to absorb information or even to complete tasks. I made every effort I could to ignore the truth. The work was arduous and slow. Fatigue plagued me. Countless tears moistened my eyes. I felt deprived of life and did not know what to do. I was without everything that I worked for and everything I knew. Noticing my iron-will state, the neuropsychologist advised me to slow down. The only way I would heal was if I let myself heal and rest by reducing any physical and mental strain. I had to allow myself to ask for help.

I finally let my guard down. I informed my professors about the hindrance on my ability to perform and function as I had before, I worked up the courage to contact disabilities service for additional advice and I began to make slow steps in restoring my health. It was a process that was trying yet humbling. I now have gratitude for the experience. It allowed me to step into the shoes of those who face these struggles every day and called upon me to approach life gracefully but also with determination to live fully and exuberantly.

In a matter of minutes, my life changed, but left me looking back as a stronger and more conscious individual.

Currently an employee at Wolf Creek as well as El Centro, Laurel, with her roots in Pagosa Springs, is passionate about skiing, hiking, rafting and any other challenging and rigorous activities. She has several ambitions, many of which encompass traveling, adventuring and teaching abroad. In addition to this, she is studying to be a teacher in her last year of undergraduate education. She plans to earn a degree in Spanish and K–12 education with an endorsement to teach bilingual education. She will begin her student teaching at an international baccalaureate world school in Fort Collins, Colorado. She looks forward to what the moment holds and what the future will bring.
As a little girl I traveled in campaign trails alongside my dad, always admiring his oratory and leadership skills from the sidelines. He was my biggest inspiration and I knew that one day I wanted to be like him – little did I know that my opportunity would come during college as a student senator.

At the end of last semester, when nomination packets for student senate elections were released I knew that this was the chance I had been waiting for. I enthusiastically filled out the paperwork and campaigned on various locations on campus—the student union forum and on Facebook. Shortly after, I was elected as a student senator. Initially, I was nervous and skeptical. I had never been in a leadership position like this before and I wasn’t sure how to best serve the interests of my peers.

I have served as a senator for only a month and I have already been faced with making unpopular decisions and it has not been easy. As I came back to school to assume my new role as senator my dad advised me to keep an open mind when making decisions and to remain objective when evaluating and analyzing a problem. I have taken his advice very seriously and I have carefully considered the decisions I have had to make so far. Having to make decisions that have immediate and significant impacts for the students at FLC has been a tremendous learning experience, one that has and will continue to shape the type of leader I become in the future.

For the first time in my life, I am not just a passive observer of the decision making process around me but a very active one. Seeing the difficulties one faces when having to take a stand on an issue makes me respect and understand the democratic system a lot more. This experience has been nonetheless very enjoyable and motivating; I have the pleasure of working with a driven and determined group of students whose mission is to make a positive impact at our college. My goal as a student senator was not only to represent a part of the minority student population, but also contribute to the diverse mix of ideas and perspectives of our student government.

I am very thankful that the students of Fort Lewis College have given me this great opportunity to represent them. We have a diverse student population and I think it’s important that it be represented in our student government. We are all students here and all of our opinions matter.

Today, I recognize that this opportunity is helping boost my confidence and skills as a leader that were often suppressed during my high school years simply because I was a Hispanic student. I am learning to embrace my bilingual skills to become a versatile leader that can act as a liaison between cultures. I am determined to use those experiences when my voice was silenced and my leadership questioned, to create cultural understanding and empower the Hispanic community.

Originally from Mexico, Marissa Molina is a currently a sophomore who came to study political science at Fort Lewis College from the Roaring Fork Valley. She is one of three registered Hispanic students who has served on the Associated Students of FLC senate table since 2005.

Life As a Student Senator Has Provided New Experiences and Perspectives
By: Marisa Molina

Baile Folklorico News
By: Kathy Smith

Baile Folklorico welcomes our new members Candiss White, Denise Espinosa, Wendy Dougan, and Bany Inone. The new year is starting off great with our bake sale success, our fantastic new t-shirts, and even a possible enrichment course beginning this semester. We will be having our fundraiser Feb. 29th 5:00-7:00. Tickets are available, we asking for a ten dollar donation. We will be serving enchiladas, rice, beans and horchata, as well as Flan. We would like to thank Tequilas and Tacos Nyarit for the providing the food. We are looking for volunteers including: Cooks, decorating, set-up, Door people & Ticket people. Please email us times and availability so we can schedule this. Thank You!
It’s so fun to be pregnant at El Centro this semester! I’m in my sixth month with plans to have a baby boy in May who will complete our Long family package as he joins my husband Clay, and our 3½ year-old daughter named Lastani.

The fun part about this pregnancy is how involved and excited my student workers have been about the changes in our El Centro familia. The constant pats on my belly, the sweet questions about how I’m feeling, not to mention the fact that they are all trying to help me name this boy! Adam is sure his name will be Adam—and while I love this student dearly, I’ve told him the name of our new baby will definitely be a family name!

My staff members have slyly pried out of me one possible name – Luciano – and their curiosity about the meaning of the name took them to a baby naming website where they told me that Luciano is from the Latin name Lucien which means “the light.” It’s also a very Hispano name with lots of significance in my family – and thanks to their help – I now understand the roots of this special name. It’s so fun to be pregnant at El Centro!

As our El Centro familia grows, I’ll be taking my maternity leave in August and have recently hired our ballet folklorico dance instructor Jennifer Cossey to be my interim coordinator in my absence. Jennifer will be working part-time from August through October to help manage the student staff and El Centro programming in my absence – and we couldn’t have found a better person fit for this job! As an FLC graduate, Jennifer used El Centro as a student and proudly brings her Mexican-American roots, language and identity, into our center. She will continue her work part-time as a KDUR radio station office manager and instruct the ballet folklorico dance group next semester. Please join me in welcoming her this fall!

I hope you enjoy reading the newest issue of La Movida this semester as it’s peppered with great articles from our student staff members and other contributors from around campus.

You’ll see many stories related to graduation and I must point out that we’re saying good-bye to several long-time employees at El Centro this April: Jordan Brumley, Twila Begay, Melissa Smith, Sharina Ramsey-Adams, Sam Dalgai, and Nathan Villatoro who will graduate in December and Monica Roybal who graduated in December. Congratulations to all our successful graduates and thank you so much for your service and contributions to El Centro de Muchos Colores! You’ve all earned a special El Centro stole that you can proudly wear on graduation day! I’ll miss you, but look forward to seeing your amazing next steps into the real world!

Experience Skiing in South America

By: Candiss White

Winter is upon us in full force. By now, most of us have been up to a local resort or visited our favorite backcountry stash at least once this year. To some people – this ritual is what brought us to Fort Lewis College in the first place. For me, it’s a combination of a love of snow and mountain culture mixed with beautiful scenery and friendly faces.

Yep, we’ve got it made here on the home front and it doesn’t take long to realize what we have once we begin to travel. Where else do you get such a great mix?

Choosing to leave Durango, however, I found one option while visiting South America last year that may be worthy of a ski vacation. If you are one of those people who can’t accept the change of seasons or maybe you caught the bug and just can’t shake it, grab your gear and head to San Carlos de Bariloche in Argentina for the summer, which is winter for South America.

Bariloche is a small city nestled in the foothills of the Andes and boasts one of the biggest ski resorts in South America. With close to 70 miles of trails, there is plenty of terrain to satisfy anyone. Après ski, or more appropriately despues del esquí, was a lot of fun as well. Bariloche offers lots of restaurants, cafes, and chocolate shops to try out, along with all the amenities to keep you comfy during your stay. Of course Bariloche isn’t the only ski town around, Argentina and Chile both have a high concentration of resorts scattered along the Andes Range offering deep costal snow on one side and champagne powder on the next with the average lift ticket topping out at $35 a day. Are you sold on some new summer vacation plans? Head on down to practice Spanish, ski in another continent, and experience South American mountain life for yourself. It is guaranteed to be an experience you will never regret.
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 tandem snowboarding and spending time with friends and family. She loves outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking, camping, and playing Frisbee, speaking Spanish and cooking! “I very much enjoy the people here. Everyone is always welcoming and generous at El Centro. People are always welcoming and generous at El Centro. I’m from Durango and since graduating high school has lived in Colorado, Nevada, and California. I made my way to Durango 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 rafters, exploring trails, snowboarding, or clinging to rock faces somewhere in or around Durango. El Centro has become her home base on campus and she recommends that everyone stop by to say hello, orHola, or bonjour.

Shaina Ramirez-Adams, or known as Shaina “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. She is taking this semester off of classes at FLC, and will graduate at the end of August after a trip abroad to Costa Rica. Candiss White was raised in Arkansas and since graduating high school has lived in Colorado, Nevada, and California. She made her way to Durango 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 rafters, exploring trails, snowboarding, or clinging to rock faces somewhere in or around Durango. El Centro has become her home base on campus and she recommends that everyone stop by to say hello, orHola, or bonjour.

My name is Jordan Brumley and I am a senior here at Fort Lewis College. I was born in Colorado, and raised in Haiti where my family currently lives. I have played soccer and worked at El Centro for my whole college career, and love them both. I am an exercise science major and will be graduating in May after presenting my research project on ankle bracing. I also became a Code Red facilitator in Sue Kraus Compassion and Stereotyping class last winter.

My name is Dustin 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 working 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 distinctively different community, which is characterized by a very warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Susanah Granito is a Colorado girl, originally from the front range and now currently residing in Durango, CO. Susanah is passionate about people and loves to connect with those around her, contributing in whatever small way she can. Outdoors is where she feels most at home, whether in the desert canyons of Utah or the Colorado high country, she is an avid snowboarder, hiker, biker, and all around mountain-woman. At El Centro de Muchos Colores Susanah has found her niche tutoring Spanish language and helping students through Club del Centro. Now in her final year here at Fort Lewis, Susanah is grateful to be part of such a dynamic team of incredible individuals.

Melisa Smith, pronounced Me-lee-sa, is a local Durango girl andprendidio who has a younger sister. She’s very welcoming upon first meeting her and she brings warmth. Therefore it is appropriate that her favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, not only that but her birthday is just around the corner of Thanksgiving. During her spare time she works and sleeps, or she eats her favorite foods, including pizza, Mexican food and basically “any yummy food.” Many may know this, but she has been working student at El Centro de Muchos Colores here for 3 years. Melisa knew Shirena since her high school years and when she found out she was awarded work-study, and she knew exactly where to work; El Centro.

I’m Brenna Brown and I’m from Durango. I graduated from Ignacio High School and I was in the TRIO programs Upward Bound and Talent Search, while I was in high school. I am now a junior, studying history and Spanish. I love to go snowboarding and traveling. I have been to Bolivia, Mexico, co, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador. My family has been here since before Durango was established. I am a Durangoan through and through.

Keshi Horn a’kwuyew’i ho’ Sleshina, elahwa. Hello my name is Sam Dalguai. I am from a small town called Rabbit Flat, New Mexico. I am Dinéh (Navajo), but was raised around Pueblo and Apache influences while growing up. I am a fifth year student, majoring in In- terdisciplinary Studies at Fort Lewis College. I am focusing on being a primary education teacher.

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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.

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Keshi Horn a’kwuyew’i ho’ Sleshina, elahwa. Hello my name is Sam Dalguai. I am from a small town called Rabbit Flat, New Mexico. I am Dinéh (Navajo), but was raised around Pueblo and Apache influences while growing up. I am a fifth year student, majoring in In- terdisciplinary Studies at Fort Lewis College. I am focusing on being a primary education teacher.

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 working 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 distinctively different community, which is characterized by a very warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Susanah Granito is a Colorado girl, originally from the front range and now currently residing in Durango, CO. Susanah is passionate about people and loves to connect with those around her, contributing in whatever small way she can. Outdoors is where she feels most at home, whether in the desert canyons of Utah or the Colorado high country, she is an avid snowboarder, hiker, biker, and all around mountain-woman. At El Centro de Muchos Colores Susanah has found her niche tutoring Spanish language and helping students through Club del Centro. Now in her final year here at Fort Lewis, Susanah is grateful to be part of such a dynamic team of incredible individuals.

Melisa Smith, pronounced Me-lee-sa, is a local Durango girl and prendidio who has a younger sister. She’s very welcoming upon first meeting her and she brings warmth. Therefore it is appropriate that her favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, not only that but her birthday is just around the corner of Thanksgiving. During her spare time she works and sleeps, or she eats her favorite foods, including pizza, Mexican food and basically “any yummy food.” Many may know this, but she has been working student at El Centro de Muchos Colores here for 3 years. Melisa knew Shirena since her high school years and when she found out she was awarded work-study, and she knew exactly where to work; El Centro.

I’m Brenna Brown and I’m from Durango. I graduated from Ignacio High School and I was in the TRIO programs Upward Bound and Talent Search, while I was in high school. I am now a junior, studying history and Spanish. I love to go snowboarding and traveling. I have been to Bolivia, Mexico, and now I’m focusing on being a primary education teacher.

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Club del Centro Makes Changes

By: Susannah Granitto

The winter semester is now underway and Club del Centro is proud to announce that several of the officer positions have recently changed. Sophomore Adam Betancourt is now President of Club del Centro, freshman Tina Zuniga is Vice President and sophomore Adonis Trujillo is now Treasurer. And myself—a senior this year—am still Secretary for the club and am thrilled to be part of another exciting semester!

I would like to invite any and all who are interested in joining Club del Centro to our meetings on every other Thursday evening at 5:00 p, in El Centro de Muchos Colores. We will be planning events to put on as a club and would love to hear your suggestions for possible upcoming events. Come join in the fun and share in the excitement of Club del Centro!

Since attaining the status of a Level 2 Registered Student Organization this past fall, Club del Centro has had the pleasure of partnering with other clubs on campus to bring you multicultural events such as Salsa Making Night, Travel to Spain Night, and Cultural Food Days. Most recently Club del Centro partnered with Well-PAC and the Health Center to put on the Healthy Food Fiesta, which was an event, intended to raise diabetes awareness among students on campus. More than 75 people came to this event and the food was gone within 40 minutes—so we know it was a success for everyone involved!

More fun is on the way this February; Club del Centro will celebrate Día de la Amistad at El Centro on Feb. 14th, a Burrito Sale on Feb. 16th and other great events will be announced soon, so keep an eye out for them and be sure to stop by to give your input. Hope to see you there!

For more information about Club del Centro, stop by our El Centro office located across from the bookstore in the ground floor of the student union, or e-mail our club president at abetancourt@fortlewis.edu.
El Centro Events

Baile Folklorico Dance Classes
Every Wednesday from 3:30-5 pm
Location: El Centro

Dia de La Amistad-Day of Friendship Event
Tuesday, February 14th from 11:30-1 pm
Location: El Centro
Bring a friend and enjoy great food and camaraderie with El Centro friends and family!

Charla with Elder in Residence
Wednesday, February 15th 11-2 pm
Location: Native American Center

Burrito Sale
Thursday, February 16th 8-11 am
Location: El Centro

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

FAFSA Filling-Out Workshop
Saturday, February 18th 2-4 pm
Location: Reed Library computer labs

Baile Folklorico Dinner and Show
Wednesday, February 29th 5-7 pm

Burrito Sales
Thursday, March 22nd and April 12th 8-11 am
Location: El Centro

End of Year Party
Thursday, April 5th 5-7 pm
Location: El Centro

Durango Unido | Unify Durango
Saturday, May 19th All Day
Location: Buckley Park
Join us for a community wide celebration bringing all local cultures together with dance, spoken word, live music, food, fun, and games for all ages.

Faculty Hours at El Centro
- Les Sommerville is here to help with your chemistry needs Mondays 12:15-1:15 PM
- Chiara Cannella will be here Friday 9-10 AM for all your interdisciplinary and Teacher Education needs

For more information contact El Centro at (970)247-7654 or www.fortlewis.edu/elcentro

La Movida

“The Movement”
A Fort Lewis College Student Publication

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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.