Apache Concepts: The Hidden Mural
CHARINE GONZALES

It is often temporary art that makes the greatest social impact. The Everyday gas station located on 760 E College Drive in Durango has a community mural that changes every three to four months.

Douglas Miles, artist and owner of APACHE Skateboards, based in Arizona, visited Durango and completed the first mural painted by a Native American artist on the Everyday gas station wall. Miles painted with the help of friends, families and Fort Lewis College students.

The project began on Dec. 13, 2013 and was completed within two days. The airbrushed artwork, representing three Native American figures with smaller stencils to the lower right, was titled “Apache Concepts.”

According to Miles, the idea behind “Apache Concepts” was to expose Native American culture to Durango and “it was a chance for me to bring indigenous images through mural street art to a region (Continued on page 2)
Breaking New Ground-
The Common Ground Experience
KATE SUAZO

Common Ground is a program that takes place at FLC with the goal to give students, staff, and faculty members the knowledge and steps to bring people together. Bringing people together is no easy task. Our world is full of diverse and radically different people, that ironically has little to no indigenous imagery anywhere.

Miles has worked with multiple mediums of art, including filmmaking, graphic design, footwear, murals, public art, fine art, etc. He also has worked with different skate groups such as Volcom. Miles has been in the art world professionally for about 25 years.

“Public art is for the people,” said Miles in a phone interview. “Public art is for the community. Public art is different than having art in a gallery or a museum...public art becomes art that is also for the community, but over time can belong to the community.”

Miles had no idea he would paint a mural during his time in Durango. FLC invited Miles to an event titled Voiced Ingenuity run by the Native American Center’s Buffalo Council, which was held on Dec. 13. While Miles was on his way to Durango from the San Carlos Apache Nation in Ariz., he received a message asking if he would like to paint a mural during his visit. Miles was excited to spread his art into a new territory.

Miles is currently operating a project titled What Tribe. For this project, “I’m using social media to discuss art and community and community through art and other issues like stereotypes and natives rights. I’m not trying to be over politically correct, but I have an opinion,” Miles said.

Miles and his team of artists set up installations spreading their message of awareness and cultural outreach. Although “Apache Concepts” was not officially a part of Miles’ What Tribe collection, the mural painted on the Everyday gas station was one of many installations and murals painted by Miles around the country. Another mural is located in Los Angeles, Calif.

On Jan. 29, 2014 “Apache Concepts” was painted over with a “Lion King” mural in time for Durango’s annual Snowdown event themed “Safari So Good” for 2014. Snowdown is an event catering to multiple ages that includes a follies show, a costume party, and a town parade. Many drinking games are offered as well for those 21 years old and over.

Although Miles and Durango’s community knew “Apache Concepts” was a part of an ever-changing mural, the short-lived images raised question among students at FLC. Controversy arose over whether the “buffing” of Douglas Miles’ mural was morally correct. Sherri Willeto, a senior at FLC, said “When he was there, it just felt good. We stood up that day, and we felt good that day, and you know we had embraced each other that day as brothers and sisters. It gave everyone a sense of empowerment.”

Willeto was present during Miles’ mural painting. Willeto recognized that the mural had been painted over as she was driving to school. “I am going to miss the old mural, because I can relate more to that,” she said, “and I can feel something more with that mural.”

Miles is happy he had the chance to show his artwork on the Everyday gas station wall. When asked if Miles felt any changes could be made to the walls artwork selection steps, Miles responded “I have full respect for the curators of the wall... I think refining their process through better communication.”

After Miles completed the mural, a worldwide known online art blog titled Hyperallergic wrote a story about Miles’ project, What Tribe, which featured “Apache Concepts” of Durango, Colo. A picture showing the finished mural was published on Hyperallergic, along with a Facebook link to the What Tribe project.

Miles recognizes that street art is inevitably changing. “Street art and graffiti is revolutionary. All these different angles, you know, they are important for people to understand what makes art important, what makes artists important, why art is important to the community, and why the voice of the community is important.”
The most unique aspect of El Centro, in my opinion, is the opportunity to listen to, practice, or use Spanish through interaction. Many staff members and students who visit on a regular basis are bilingual, but that has never given off an intimidating appeal. One student on campus would come weekly to El Centro last semester just to sit and practice Spanish through authentic conversation with a native speaker.

Aside from the Spanish language, if you visit that the person sitting across the table is a human being, so the goal is to always establish common ground."

The Common Ground program was first called “Code Red,” when it was created in 2007-08 by staff members from the Division of Student Affairs. One of the main goals of Common Ground is to, "Heal and protect our campus and community from past, present, and future acts of discrimination and prejudice."

Many students who go through this training to become a Common Ground facilitator have their lives changed in some way. These quotes are all from students who have gone through the Common ground facilitator training -

- “I asked myself questions I had never asked before.”
- “We all have prejudices even though we don’t realize it.”
- “Stand up for what I believe in.”

These quotes can all be found in the Common Ground/Code Red pamphlet that is available in El Centro de Muchos Colores.

The knowledge gained throughout this program can help people live more fulfilling and more educated lives and provides them with the information to help share their knowledge with others.

To respect others and love the differences we all have is so important in today’s society. Being different may be hard, but it is beautiful, and Common Ground teaches us to see the beauty in our diversity. I highly recommend taking part in this wonderful training and doing your part to mold this school into a place where EVERYONE feels safe, happy, and has the opportunity to flourish.

For more information on this wonderful program and to learn how to get involved go to www.fortlewis.edu/diversity and go to the Common ground tab to find more information.

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Aside from the Spanish language, if you visit it, you may have the chance to participate in one of the several cultural celebrations that take place at El Centro, such as El Día de los Muertos, La Navidad, or Semana Santa. There is always delicious home-cooked and traditional snacks that accompany these celebrations, and sometimes it doesn’t even take a special event to find fresh cookies on the table or fun music playing from the speakers.

In my opinion, El Centro is worth a visit, even if it is off your daily beaten path on campus. With many students being away from their families for the first time and missing the warm cozy environment of home, El Centro is the best cure for needing a warm atmosphere where one can relax a bit on campus and be part of a fun group of compañeros.

Jen Rider is a visiting instructor in the Teacher Education department, as well as the coordinator for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education endorsement. Prior to Fort Lewis College, she taught high school Spanish for nine years; two years at Durango High School and seven at Glenwood Springs High School. She has completed a M.A. in Linguistically Diverse Education as well as a M.A. in Spanish Linguistics, and hopes to be accepted into NMSU’s Doctoral program this spring to begin working toward her EdD in Education, bridging the online education movement with culturally responsive pedagogy. Stop in to El Centro on Wednesday mornings between 9 to 10 a.m. to chat with Jen about the Teacher Education program or to practice your Spanish!
Misconceptions about Studying Abroad

CHANDRA REED

When I came back to college two years ago, studying abroad was not on my radar. I had just taken a seven year break from school to work and play in Durham, and my goal was to power through my remaining three years and get out ASAP. Everyone always told me studying abroad would put me behind in school and I had no intentions of staying any longer than I have to. But at the time it didn’t seem to matter any-

ways; I didn’t think I would be able to afford what I considered at the time ‘a luxury’ like studying abroad.

I had a ton of misconceptions. And I hear them every day when I am advising students for the International Programs office. Many people don’t even consider studying abroad because of their misconceptions. Having just returned from an amazing semester abroad in Costa Rica, it is now my passion to share my positive experiences, clear up these misconceptions, and encourage EVERYONE I meet to take advantage of available resources and study abroad. If I could make studying abroad a reality, you can too!

Misconception #1 “I could never afford it…”

As a girl who is constantly scraping together change to pay the bills or buy lunch I was pretty sure I would have to go deep into debt to study abroad. But after speaking with our FLC International Programs director Jennifer Gay, I realized that there is funding and support available for study abroad opportunities. Doubt invaded my positivity several times as I filled out the applications. “People like me don’t get grants to study abroad”… “My chances are probably pretty slim”… But 7 months later, and after a lot of hard work, the results of the scholarships came in and I had racked up $6,000 in scholarships to travel and study abroad. I had been working hard to save money for the trip, (remember- even though it is out there, you can’t depend on scholarship money) and also had several grants, scholarships, and subsidized loans unrelated to studying abroad, so the combined funds sat comfortably in my bank account, waiting to be spent on plane tickets, tuition, surf lessons, etc.

Misconception #2 ”I might fall behind in school…”

If you take classes that don’t apply to your major or too few classes at any school, you are going to fall behind. That being said, you don’t have to do that to study abroad! Many schools will have a program that you can afford, but not offer the type of classes that you need. In these cases you need to remember my motto: “Those who are flexible shall not be bent out of shape”. I did not end up studying at my first choice of schools, or second or third. I realized I was picking schools that were 1) out of my price range or 2) didn’t offer the types of classes I needed. So, I became more flexible with my choices. I looked at schools in non-English speaking countries, and eventually I found a perfect match. I took 18 credits and some major required classes while living the “Pura Vida” lifestyle in Costa Rica. Not only did I stay on track in school, but I gained valuable experience at an internship I was placed in through my study abroad provider and became conversationally fluent in Spanish!

Misconception #3 “Studying abroad is a luxury”

Studying abroad is not a luxury. In fact, many people argue that it is a NECESSITY. Studying abroad keeps American workers competitive by creating employees who are flexible, multilingual, and have an understanding of global conditions. Encouraging this type of travel also helps banish a type of unfounded fear that is rampant in our society and perpetuated by biased news reporting. Rick Steves, a writer for USA TODAY believes, “Students who travel learn that fear is for people who don’t get out much. And they learn that the flip side of fear is understanding”. This type of understanding is much needed as our students graduate college and become mayors, senators, and someday presidents. Steves also notes the importance of study abroad opportunities for students from poor socioeconomic backgrounds:

Four out of every five first-year students aspire to study overseas. But at any given time, only about 2% of students are able to. Educators are particularly concerned that the lack of opportunity for students from poor socioeconomic backgrounds will cause a “global divide” between students who’ve benefited from a global education … and those who haven’t. And students for whom foreign travel is not easily affordable are the ones who benefit most from the experience.

It’s up to us to banish the ignorance and fear that has crept through television screens into the minds of the American populace. It’s up to us to go check out the rest of the world, to gain perspective societally and personally. We are the generation that will change global communication. And by “us” and “we” I don’t mean just the people who have financial support for their education.

Whether you realize it or not, you are able to create this kind of experience in your life. There are people who want to help you accomplish experiences like this, and there are employers who are looking to hire well-traveled, multilingual individuals with strong ‘real-life’ experience. It’s never too early to start planning your study abroad experience so please come talk to me or another advisor in the International Programs office ASAP!

Chandra Reed is an advisor in the International Programs office located in Jones room 106. She holds open study abroad Q&A sessions in El Centro from 1:20-2:20 every Wednesday. Please feel free to e-mail her with any questions at ccreed@fortlewis.edu.
Tamales Thru Time
DEVIN MUÑOZ

If you have ever been in my position you may have thought that tamales were a Mexican pastime that was in a sense brought over from Spain with many other edible things. However, I was surprised to discover that tamales originated from the Mesoamericans long before the arrival of the Spanish, and have survived all the years in Mexican history. In Pre-Colombian time there were many different variations of tamales with many fruits, veggies, and meats, such as turkey, dog, rabbit, frog, corn, squash and beans, honey, etc. Names for tamales also differed between civilizations such as “tamalli” in Nahuatl and “walt” in Mayan.

The use for tamales could be called the Mesoamerican “sack lunch,” as they were for hunters or travelers to carry a meal without worry of dirt or bugs. Tamales would also be used in celebrations of gods and offerings to those gods. When Spanish settlers came and spread, the idea of tamales for religious celebrations did as well setting traditions of tamales made especially during holidays or special occasions. From their beginnings these indigenous creations have spread down Central America, to the east in the Caribbean and Cuba, north to the U.S., and many more places.

Names for variations of tamales include nacatamales in Nicaragua, bollo or dukunu in Belize, humita in Peru, Argentina, Ecuador, and Chile, hallacas in Venezuela, tolmenses in Colombia, tamal en cazuela in Cuba, paiame in Saint Lucia, pastel in Trinidad and Tobago, blue drawers in Jamaica, pasteles in Puerto Rico, and just tamales with different fillings, toppings, wrappings, and flavors in many other places.

Fateful Journey: How Translating in Ecuador has Provided Priceless Insights
NOAH GARCIA

I never thought that my life would draw so much meaning from the places I have traveled to. Yet, with every new adventure and journey, I realize that without the eye opening experience of travel, the meaning it provides is impossible to ignore. The places I go and the people I meet illustrate walls of life that never cross my mind and in doing so they have opened so many doors for me.

My latest travels have been through the student organization Village Aid Project, formerly known as Engineers without Borders, at Fort Lewis College. With this program, I traveled to Ecuador to implement sanitation systems in a remote village high in the Ecuadorian Andes. It was there that so much of my inspiration and motivation toward engineering thrived and grew in a way that surprised me and left me wanting more.

Attending Fort Lewis has meant more to me than coming to an out-of-state college away from the people I knew in New Mexico. It meant a place where I could really explore in the true sense of the word. It was the apparent support of this kind of exploration that first drew me to Fort Lewis College. In addition, I learned about the Village Aid Project (VAP) and envisioned myself getting involved. I imagined so many possibilities as a future engineer who already had so much passion for travel; I saw so much room for valuable yet priceless opportunities to discover in the context of my future profession.

I took advantage of the opportunities I saw and before I knew it I was taking my first engineering class and looking into VAP at the college. Before too long I came to the conclusion that I would have to wait a year or two before I could get involved, as incoming freshmen rarely travel their first year. The year went by and all of a sudden it was time for advising for second semester. I walked into my advisor’s office a little nervous as it would be my first time advising with a professor at the college. My advisor was Dr. Don May from the Engineering department who also happens to be the professional lead for VAP. So I came in and sat down and we went through the motions of advising. Once it was done he took a final lasting glance at my schedule, which contained upper division Spanish classes and said something along the lines of, “Noah, do you speak Spanish fluently?”

To which I replied, “Well, yes I would say I do.”

For those who don’t know about tamales, they are made with masa, a dough usually made of corn, and then filled, folded, wrapped in corn husks or banana leaves, depending where, and boiled. You do not eat the husk as it is used only as a wrap during the boiling process and as a protective shield for what is about to be enjoyed; the filling and soft corn masa.

You can take these tasty treats on the go with you or have them for any meal of the day. You can add your own filling from cheese, meat, fruit, jellies, chilies, and so on. Spice depends on you if you want it hot or not, just add it with the filling. Tamales look to be in our future for many years to come and cross many cultures and borders. So go enjoy a tamale or make your own with your new food history. For those uneasy or want to know more on how to make them come to a tamale making workshop on April 11th.
He then asked if I was interested in going to Ecuador and being a translator for one of the projects they were doing over the summer of 2013. I was in complete shock that this dream I had put on hold was presenting itself to me. I told him that I needed time to consult with my parents but I wouldn’t let anything stop me from following through. So in a flurry of planning, decision making, training and excitement I was done with freshman year and I was boarding a plane to Ecuador.

Once we landed my responsibilities as a Spanish translator skyrocketed. I became a bridge between two worlds, one of which I was just as new to as the others. I took my charge eagerly and full of excitement. For the next two weeks, I translated for the project along with another girl in the group. The process was so fascinating and new to me. I got a glimpse of what delegating is like in remote places without any established infrastructure. The people I met gave me perspectives that I never will forget. Being in such an isolated village is unlike anything that people living in “developed” countries have ever experienced and the hospitality that the villagers showed was unparalleled. Being in that environment made me feel like a sponge and I was absorbing everything I could. The weeks flew by and before I knew it I was in a cab heading back to the airport. Despite the truly horrifying driving done by the taxi driver, I made it safely there and was soon on my plane.

Riding in an airplane has a way of giving a person time to reflect on and process an experience. I was suddenly removed from my surroundings and I could think about the journey that had just unfolded and concluded. I felt different sitting in that airplane. I felt a deep sense of purpose. It transcended the act of providing aid to those in need. It felt like a deeper connection. I believe it was a sense of fulfillment knowing that the true sharing of two unknowns had just occurred and that people from worlds away can still relate despite the mountains between them. It felt like a connection that could be the key to change. After all, how can one person truly understand another without relating on a personal level? My conclusion is that it cannot be done without a truly open mind, an open heart and a willingness to set aside petty differences and look at the bigger picture. I believe that by traveling, I have seen a glimpse of what it is to share this openness with others and in that, I feel my life has been given direction.

Senioritis- How to Avoid it

NEKAI EVERSOLE

Whether in high school or college, senioritis is a real ailment that haunts the best (and worst) of us. Senior year sneaks up, like the asteroid does to Earth in Armageddon. You’ll know who caught senioritis in astronaut school, for the procrastinators got sucked out the window or missed the landing mark. But for now, let’s start small before you can make your way to becoming a blossoming thriving student and person here at Fort Lewis.

A few events and mindsets are all it takes to flip a student’s college career from doing well or decently so, to being floored and overwhelmed. When overwhelmed with so much to do, often times it seems best to do nothing except sleep, eat and Netflix. A huge thing I’ve seen students of all years and levels struggle with is time management and procrastination. This scoundrel of reality helps us discover play should follow work, but often times we NEVER learn.

Now, when you combine procrastination with legal drinking age, a night might start out as an innocent dinner or few games of pool. But on the back of your mind is a ten page paper due tomorrow that you don’t want to finish. So what, you’ll just wake up early tomorrow. So this night out might lead to drinks with some attractive ladies which leads to heavier drinks (that you’re paying for) and eventually a night of streaking and perhaps, but hopefully not, detox. You won’t be waking up early after a night like this, and now your paper’s late, your pockets are empty of all belongings you carried to town for a dinner; cell phone, wallet, money in wallet, and even shoes if you go heavy enough.

Now combine procrastination, being 21, and Snowdown, as well as a disappointing Superbowl, and you have a recipe for losing motivation to do anything. It’s not until you’re dejectedly lying in bed that you realize, I forgot to do laundry, I had math to do as well as study for a chemistry exam tomorrow, and I think my dog’s still tied up next to Cuckoo’s. Tears fill the eyes, but it can all wait ’til tomorrow! Sparky will be alright for a night. False. Growing up is about sticking to your priorities to further
grow, and mistakes are alright along the way, but it's how we learn from these that defines us.

There are some things that might help with growing in an age where the world only speeds up, and the first thing is obviously not to catch senioritis or procrastination fever. A great way to not put off studying for exams is to get a start to solidify some of the vast information thrown at you into your noggin. A tactic that helps me remember material from lecture is to go over the direct notes I took for 30 minutes to an hour right after class. A rule of thumb that's somewhat of a generalization for college is to study two hours a day for every hour of class time. Understand though, that this isn't true for all classes as some require 3-4 hours, whereas others need about 30 minutes, or less a day.

Something else that helps me with procrastination is organization. Planners are useful, but personally I like to have nicely organized workspaces and materials, like binders with tabs and folders for projects, or even have files into proper folders on computers. Senioritis is also highly fueled by alcohol and marijuana, so while festivities and substances are fun sometimes, they can seriously alter one's ability to perform to their highest potential. Everyone remembers that kid in the dorms freshman year who partied his way out of school and back into his parent's basement after just one semester. Don't be this kid.

Even though this diagram says otherwise, the truth about college though, is that you can achieve good grades and still have the time of your life, especially since there are many more ways to have fun than simply drink and smoke. If you're going to though, moderation is key, as is time management. For more study tips, visit www.studytips.org and remember what you're actually here to accomplish!

Honors Program
MANUEL CHAVARRIA

What does it take to be in the John F. Reed Honors Program?

For many students, being in the Honors Program means being smart or highly intellectual. However, the program doesn't ask that particularly. As long as you want to succeed in your studies and have determination, you can be a part of the program.

The Honors Program challenges students to look beyond their discipline of study and extend their knowledge by looking at issues and ideas from different points of view.

Students are also asked to expand their experiences by incorporating other disciplines in their exploration of ideas and problems. Learning what scholarship looks like outside their field of study by participating in extracurricular activities that will engage them in the community and help develop strong, dependable, and creative citizens.

My own experience in the Honors Program has been great. The honors classes I have taken are structured in a fun, creative, and intellectual way in which the entire class have deep conversations about assign readings. Several times the conversations are started by students who analyzed a particular reading and asked questions that relate and can apply to other students' disciplines.

Obtaining a minor in Rhetoric of Inquiry through the John F. Reed Honors Program can be done within a four year college career. For example, in order to get your bachelor's degree, you must take certain amount of elective courses. The honors courses can be count as both elective credits and honors credits. There is a requirement of taking certain amounts of honors credits to obtain the minor; however using elective credits as both elective and honors credits you can do two things at once and graduate with a minor.

For more information regarding the John F. Reed Honors Program, please visit www.fortlewis.edu/honors.

Westernization: The End of Arranged Marriages
SANDRA LOERA

The Western world is considered to be modern. Its ideas, beliefs, and values have expanded almost everywhere. The majority of people in the world are exposed to the way things are done in the West. Many people, including those from highly traditional cultures, are adopting Western values. Consequently, cultures are transformed into a mixture of traditional and modern beliefs.

The findings of Alledorf's (2013) study are a clear example of the influence of Western ideas on traditional cultures. In the past, arranged marriages were the rule in many parts of Asia; now they are the exception. People's attitudes about love-based marriage have changed and this marrying for love is now widely accepted. As people are getting more educated and more exposed to technology and foreign influence, traditional cultures are changing. Many people, especially the young, perceive what is modern as good. They imitate and adopt "modern" values in order to fit in and to adapt to the modern world. The concern with the gradual change of traditional cultures is that they may be getting an erroneous message that their values and beliefs are not as good as those of Western cultures. People from traditional cultures who are exposed to the "modern world" might consider Western values to be better than the values of their own culture. It is hard to determine if this is good or bad. The adoption of Western ideas can be a two-edged sword. It might lead to progress, but it can also promote the loss of traditional values.

In the West, there has been wide criticism of
arranged marriages, but they might not be as bad as many people think. Regan et al. (2012), compared four specific relationship outcomes in love marriages and arranged marriages of Indian-American participants who reside in the United States. These four outcomes are: passionate and companionate love, satisfaction and commitment. The results showed that at least for Indians living in the United States, there is no difference in relationship outcomes between the two types of marriage. Nonetheless, divorce rates are generally higher for love-based marriages than those of arranged marriages; this suggests that arranged marriages might be more advantageous than love marriages. However, Westernization is changing family behaviors. Today, arranged marriages are not as predominant as they were in the past. The practice of love marriage is spreading throughout the world and it is reaching cultures in which arranged marriages are the tradition. The study conducted by Allendorf (2013), showed that some people from traditional cultures prefer love marriages because they believe that they are better than arranged marriages. Some of them have the misconception that love marriages last longer and that their divorce rates are lower than those of arranged marriages. They are not aware that the evidence on divorce rates contradicts this belief.

The issue of arranged marriages is a perfect example of how the interaction between cultures leads to change. It is obvious that Western ideas are widespread. Many people place a higher value on them than on the values of cultures that differ from the modern world. As a result, people might adopt these values and leave behind their traditional beliefs. The transition from traditional to modern values seems to be easier and faster than the transition from modern to traditional beliefs.

Change is inevitable, but I wonder if the exposure to and the adoption of Western values puts at risk traditional cultures. Is Westernization imposing the belief that traditional cultures’ values, beliefs and traditions are not worthy? These issues should be explored more in depth in order to help us understand how they are affecting people around the world. That way we might have a better understanding of how to combine tradition with modernity while at the same time ensuring cultural diversity.

“I CHANGED MY MIND”
SANDRA CHIHUAHUA

The average freshman has a hard time adjusting to the new surroundings and different people. It’s not easy approaching new faces and greeting them without knowing if you will get the same warm feeling you got back home. It’s hard walking into a class thinking that you’re the new person and not be able to experience the same atmosphere and reunification with your old friends that you’ve experienced every year in high school after a long summer. One important thing that every freshman needs to take into account is that it is okay to sit alone in the cafeteria, to walk around alone, to be shy their first day of classes, to be afraid of being the new kid, and that it’s okay to make and break friendships the first couple of months in college. Yup, this pretty much sums up my first couple of weeks of college. This is my story...

My name is Sandra Chihuahua. I’m a first time freshman in college, but luckily my high school offered dual credit classes that permitted me to graduate with enough credits to be considered a sophomore. I come from a small town in New Mexico. It’s probably bigger than Durango, but it is still really small. My town is a very friendly town. My best friends all moved away from our home town. We wanted a taste of different environments. I’ve learned that it’s very hard to keep long distance friendships. I was the last of all my friends to leave. I don’t know why Colorado feels the need to start school so late, much less during Labor Day weekend? Anyways, the point is, I came to Fort Lewis College thinking “This is going to be awesome!” I already knew a guy that lived 35 minutes away from Chihuahua with family in New Mexico.
my home town. His name is Augustin Caraza but we all call him Junior for some reason. He is from Eunice, NM. I didn’t know him very well, but in the back of my head I had the mindset that he would help me out. I ended up living in Crofton Hall, and Junior came to visit me and he greeted my parents in Spanish! Hours had passed by and orientation was taking place during that time. I didn’t attend to orientation because I was far too scared to meet new people. I decided to walk back to my room and unpack all my belongings. My parents had left me to fend for myself.

As hours passed by, I was growing tired of being bored. I decided to walk around and see if I could make one friend to eat with. My earphones were in my ears to make myself look “cool.” Now that I look back, I probably didn’t look very approachable. After walking in the sun for about an hour, I walked under a tree and began to tear up. I was so sad that I failed my mission to find one friend to share a conversation with. I decided to call the only other person I knew: Junior. I began to complain to him in a saddened tone that I hated Fort Lewis that I didn’t want to be here, etc. I feel bad for him because he barely knew me, and there was not much he could do about the situation because he had a girlfriend who was filled with jealousy at the thought of her boyfriend meeting some girl from back home. During this time, I really just wanted to go home and forget this experience and pretend that it was all a bad dream. I wanted all this to be over. There was no one in this school that could make it better.

At this point the negative thoughts were cluttered in my head and could not be discarded. The best advice I received from Junior at that time was to just talk to someone…so I did. When I walked back to my dorm I was thinking to myself, “My goal is to make one friend.” When I walked up the stairs to my room I saw a door at the back corner opened. I decided to walk inside and greet the girl. She willingly agreed to have dinner with me. It was nice finally making one friend to socialize with. Then after that I made another friend as well. Before I knew it, it was a group of all of us hanging out. I thought everything was going to be fine after that but I was wrong.

The last week of September was probably the most stressful week of my life. I had lost all the friends I had made, the school had messed up my financial aid, and worst of all I had lost my first work-study job on campus! Everything was so crazy. I called my mom every two minutes crying to her. She really couldn’t do anything but she was trying really hard to try to fix everything for me. At this point, I wanted to drop out of college because I didn’t feel that it was fair to be stress-

![Chihuahua with friends at Latino Advocacy Days in Colorado Springs.](image)

![Chihuahua with Junior Caraza in El Centro de Muchos Colores.](image)

ing out this much. Before I knew it October arrived, which meant, “A new month-new me.” By this time I had made the drastic decision to move away to another college closer to home. I had personal reasons as to why I wanted to go, but the decision was made. I applied to University of the Southwest and got accepted. They were literally waiting for me to show up. It’s funny how things happen actually, the only friends I had at that time were Junior and his girlfriend Meryl Ramsey. They were so welcoming and I can honestly say they helped me a lot during the beginning of the year. Later, I come to find out that my financial aid was fixed and that was something that was frustrating me for a long time. Then, out of nowhere, I met a sweet guy in my music class. His name is Alexis Rodriguez, and he was the easiest friend I ever made. I later came across another girl named Zaira Chacon, who is actually a senior this year. We all travelled together to Colorado Springs, and before I knew it, we all became best friends.

Thanksgiving week came along and I was overthinking my “leaving situation.” I began to ask myself these questions: “Do I want to leave Durango? Should I leave? Should I throw away all these new friendships that I’ve made? I’m happy now, should I still leave?” At this time the last thing I wanted to do was leave. I had already told everyone that I was going to leave…did that mean I had to leave? One of the most important lessons I learned during my first semester of school was that it is okay to change your mind once, twice, and even ten times. The only person that will have to live with the consequences is you! And I’m happy with my choice. I’ve made so many friends, and I couldn’t be happier. This year I’ve gotten more involved in El Centro, and my friends visit me there to all hang out. Things fall apart to only fall back together and for that I’m very grateful.

I hope you enjoyed my story! I also want to take a moment and thank all my friends here at The Fort for everything they’ve done for me! I’m glad I stayed.
Find Your Strengths- Take the StrengthsQuest
SAMANTHA GARCIA

When you hear the word strength what first comes to mind? Most would probably say the gym, weight lifting, or maybe even muscles. But the type of strengths I’m referring to are much more personal. The StrengthsQuest assessment is a tool used all over the nation to provide individuals with the opportunity to develop ones strengths by building on what they do best. The assessment takes about 30 minutes, but the results can last a lifetime. After taking the assessment you receive a carefully compiled list of the five top strengths that make up who you are and can be used to empower you to succeed.

Personally, I had an amazing and eye opening experience from taking the StrengthsQuest and participating in a fun workshop afterwards. When I first came to college last semester I had no idea what I wanted to major in or even what I found interesting. I had taken the assessment during one of my freshman seminar classes and at first I wasn’t impressed. The strengths I received didn’t seem like me at all, at the time. I wanted to understand why I received the results I did because personally I never expected those types of results. I researched each one of my strengths after the assessment and my eyes opened to the possibly of these strengths actually being connected to me.

My strengths are input, harmony, connectedness, empathy, and achiever. My top five strengths are diverse but are related to me completely. When I analyzed my strengths, I was able to fully understand why I’m in college. Following the assessment you are provided with actions steps for development and suggestions about how you can use your strengths to achieve career, academic, and personal success.

Many people take the assessment and don’t get the experience others like myself did, but it’s okay to take this questionnaire and not feel any different or have any sort of different idea of the major or career path you may be looking towards. I still find this assessment an excellent one to take and I highly recommend it. I first came into college with the Sociology-Criminology option as my major, and I was set on graduating with that degree. After this assessment, I was presented with different career paths that I never even considered, but am now planning on majoring in. I was shown that with my particular arrangements of strengths I would be best fit in a career towards psychology, counseling, teaching, or therapy. Interestingly enough, I was taking my Psychology 157 course that I have to take in order to graduate and I realized that this is what I want to do. Positive psychology is the career path I am looking towards and I can honestly say that if it were not for taking the StrengthsQuest assessment, I may have not been so inspired to change my major.

Ballet Folklorico
CIARA CAREY

Ciara Carey is the president of Club Ballet Folklorico de Fort Lewis College.

From then to now, Club Ballet Folklorico de Fort Lewis College has increased participants and performances significantly since its inception seven years ago and is now actively fundraising for future events to extend their knowledge and create more displays of cultural diversity on and off campus.

Ballet Folklorico first started unofficially at Fort Lewis College in 2007 by Durango native Melisa Smith who was the instructor and organizer. When Melisa was younger she was in a dance group, then known as Ballet Folklorico de Durango and was a program of a nonprofit Latino advocacy group for students called DLEC (Durango Latino Education Coalition).

When she came to school at the Fort she wanted to keep dancing and recruited three other participants to join. The dance group became a Registered Student Organization in 2009 when Melisa’s younger sister Kathy Smith was a freshmen and became president of the Ballet Folklorico de FLC.

The group grew from four participants to eight core students in the dance group. Also, Jennifer Cossey was a volunteer dance instructor and helped the group with learning more dances and is now able to get a stipend since 2010.

Today, Ballet Folklorico de FLC has about 12 core members in the group and it is still growing. Anyone who wants to join the group or watch practices are welcome to join. Practices are held every Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. in El Centro, ground floor of the Student Union.

There is a wide range of experience within the group with students who have been dancing since they were toddlers to beginners who just started. Everyone is helpful and encouraging to each other when learning new dances.
Club Ballet Folklorico has now performed at more than 40 campus and community events since 2010. In order to get dresses and be able to have shoes for our dancers are doing a lot more fundraisers.

Upcoming this semester, the dance group will host our first dinner and a show Tuesday, Feb. 18, and plan on having a second on Tuesday, March 4th. This year we are doing a lot of fundraising to be able to go to the annual Asociacion Nacional De Grupos Folkloricos (ANGF). ANGF is a conference that happens every year in June/July.

By going to this conference, it allows returning group members to grow and have the chance to learn from the instructors from Mexico while also getting to know more about the culture. Going to this conference will help launch our new mentor program and would enable our FLC students to teach the youth in Durango about the culture of Folkloric dance. In addition to our fundraising, the group is also preparing grants for extra help. The dream is to send at least six dancers to the ANGF conference this summer.

For more information please visit www.fortlewis.edu/elcentro, or call El Centro at (970) 247-7654.

**Club del Centro**

**HOPE CRESPO**

This school year, I was elected to be the vice president of Club del Centro. Although I was reluctant to go into this position, I had support and help from the President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the club.

Club del Centro is a level two registered student organization on campus. Our goal is to promote Hispanic culture through the means of food, social interaction, and education. All these aspects make this club a unique gem on campus. We cater to all students and have many cultures represented in our club events; even though Hispanic culture is our roots. This year is mostly new, but this has allowed us to get some great new ideas for events, and new perspectives on the club's operations.

Our club is always in collaboration with other registered student organizations on campus as well as community organizations. So far this year we have had several successful club dinners where club members come together in El Centro de Muchos Colores and cook meals together, eat together, and use this time to get to know one another. Along with club dinners, we have raised money in our first burrito sale. One of the biggest events we had this year was our Havana Night’s club party. This party was a hit with Club del Centro members, El Centro work study staff, and Ballet Folklorico members. We had a DJ to play music, Cuban food, and yummy desserts catered from the Yellow Carrot. Our most recent trip was our winter retreat to Pagosa Hot Springs for some group bonding and relaxing time.

We are always looking for new members to come make friends and explore Hispanic culture with fun activities and an open mind! Some of our upcoming events in February and March include; weekly Thursday meetings, burrito sales, Skyfest on Feb. 22nd, Viva Vegetarian night on Feb. 27th, Columbian dance workshop on March 6th, and hosting a Latina comedian.

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**Trouble**

**EMILIO DIAZ**

Emilio Diaz submitted this story to La Movida from an assignment in his creative writing course. Diaz is secretary of Club del Centro.

My mom once told me, “Girls who hike their skirts up that high are just asking for trouble, you hear?” That was the last time I was her little girl. It’s funny how everything played out, how and why I left home and where I’m sitting at this exact moment.

Mom was hardly mom, sometimes mom was Katie, sometimes mom was Aunt Cecil and more often than usual, mom was Grandma Louise, but regardless, Mom was right about one thing, and I guess you could say that I found my trouble.

Trouble never appealed to me, I wasn’t trying to be bad and I hardly considered myself an abomination in God’s eyes. I wanted to be a good girl, a glamorous girl, like the girls on T.V., the ones with beautiful hair, the ones with eyes that gleamed like diamond dust. Yeah, that was gonna be me, but getting out of Kansas was hard, I mean shit, getting out of that trailer park was hard enough, but I decided it was time. I was fourteen with the face, legs and attitude of an eighteen year old, with the dreams and hopes of a six year old and with the knowing and understanding of a newborn baby. Of course, I hardly gave a sh*t about any of that then, all I wanted was to get out, to leave that sh*tty “home,” to leave the smells of booze and my mom’s cheap perfumes, to leave the sweaty ugliness of the guys my mom would bring home with her, to leave the noises they made together; crystal clear radio waves set to the f***ing and regretting station.

I had to leave, but figuring out where I would go was hardly important at the time. So I did it. I had one bag, one jacket, some heels Katie bought down at the Payless in Wichita, a carton of cigarettes that I stole from Randy’s porch, a picture of me and Grandpa John-ny from my second grade Christmas concert, and an unopened fifth of Jack I figured I could trade for some food or a place to sleep. And I was off; hell I swear I saw the sun come out, bright and shiny, the angels rejoicing my name as I made my way down highway 45.

Everyone, and I mean everyone used to tell me I was the spitting image of my momma when she was...
my age. I never knew what to say after that: Thank you? F*** off? I mean look at where her looks got her. Talk about classy, the lady never cooked or cleaned, the only time she'd tidy up a bit was when one of her "friends from the bar" came over to pass out on top of her. We had nothing, we came from nothing, but God be damned if her hair wasn't fixed or her face not plas- tered with foundation. Mom always told me that if she had seen me with any kinda makeup on, she'd beat my ass even if it was in front of the entire congregation 'cause she didn't want a hussy for a daughter. She used to call it "whore paint," she'd say. "Indians got their war paint and hussies got their whore paint," I guess you could say that momma was always ready for battle.

Growing up in the Midwest you're pretty limited with having something to believe in, you have Jesus, school (nothing past twelfth grade, unless you were a guy with a football scholarship), and for us girls, being a homemaker. I never really understood why Mrs. Warren called it that, I mean it's not like they actually made the home, all they did was clean and cook in it and chase screaming babies around in it, staying up real late for your husband to come home with booze on his breath and his zipper unzipped. I called it prison and most girls I knew were waiting anxiously in line for their life sentence. But not me, hell I did whatever I could to stand out, to be different, to let people know that I was more and I wanted more and I made damn sure they knew it too.

When I was younger I used to watch my momma get ready. As soon as I'd hear the bathroom door squeak I'd run into her room. She'd be sitting there with rollers in her hair, Loretta Lynn blaring from the radio. She'd sit and stare at herself in the mirror, some- times for ten minutes, not applying any whore paint, just sitting there embracing her vanity, remember- ing, still drunk and stumbling with one earring on. That night she stared at herself and a single tear that looked like diamond chain, dripped down her unmade face, I remember it so vividly because for the first time in my young life she looked alive and I don't recall ever see- ing her look so beautiful. My knowing that momma felt anything made me realize that even the most beautiful of creatures still have hell raging inside of them. But that was then, when I was still her little girl and when not everything I did pissed her off. Those were the days when the guys she'd bring home would call me cutie or darling instead of showing me their hard days when the guys she'd bring home would call me not everything I did pissed her off. Those were the days when I was still her little girl and when I strayed, I mean hell, I knew that what I had become, who I used to get there and where I am right now couldn't be further from anything Father Wallace would approve of. Momma always stressed the impor- tance of god, she'd always tell me that everyone has to believe in something, even a young girl who knows the world like she knows her own pockets has to be- lieve in something. And I guess you could say that I do, I do have something to believe in, but he sure as hell ain't sitting with me right now.

All of it seemed so right, I was ready for what- ever would come my way. Little did I know that four states and six years wouldn't get me away from unhap- piness, in fact when I reached my destination, I real- ized that even though I left, trouble would always have his grasp on me.

Sitting here now, still pretty in the face, my legs longer than ever, I admit that I brought myself to my own destruction. All of the "I love you," the lips on my neck, the hands on my waist, the eyes that met mine, none of it could take me back. I was an unsatisfied girl who is now f***ed beyond be- lief. Waiting for my name to be called, some- thing I know all too well. The nurses look at me then at each other as if saying, "Look, it's her again". My wandering ways, my inability to care. My lust for different skies and sights got me where I am now. When I finally hear my name being called I can't help but picture my mom, hearing her words, seeing the smoke escape her lips, I think about her absence from my life. You know she always said that God hates the ugly and the bible says that God condemns the vain and selfish. Walking down the dim hallway I can't help but think... well where the fuck does that leave me?
The Day I Almost Died
ANDREA DALLA

What would you do if you woke up one day not knowing where you were, only to find out that you were in the hospital—in ICU—and had been in a coma for three weeks? Well, this is my story.

Almost nineteen years ago, on April 28, 1995, my boyfriend and I were headed to Farmington to see a REO Speedwagon concert. It was a great night and a great show. All had been fairly un-eventful. The next morning we were headed to the store and to do some errands. All of the sudden, I had to pull my car over and throw up. We were right in front of Albertson’s on the highway and I was too sick to drive. I thought I must have the flu.

My boyfriend drove us home and laid down on the kitchen floor heater vents with a big blanket over me. All through the night I continued to have “flu like” symptoms with massive vomiting, hot and cold flashes, etc. I slept in the kitchen on top of the heater vents that night. Unknown to me, my dad was having some really bad feelings that something was very wrong with me. He kept calling to check on my condition. When morning came, my boyfriend, Howard said that my lips were blue and I was talking nonsense. My dad was still calling and by this time he was insisting that I be taken to the Emergency Room. Howard did everything he could to get me dressed and into the car.

When they brought me into the ER, I had absolutely NO heart beat and get a pulse. They later worked on me non-stop for three weeks I was released from physical therapy. Within another five years, with the rejection factor.

The doctors were frantically trying to figure out what had caused this and what might cure it. They tested me for everything they could possibly think of from hanta virus to AIDS to paraquat (they thought maybe I had smoked some marijuana that had been sprayed with the deadly pesticide). Nothing panned out. During this period, they decided to go into the main veins in my legs and found many large blood clots there. They were concerned that these clots would break loose and go to my heart and kill me. They took me into surgery and implanted a Greenfield filter just before my heart. Now if any of the clots did break loose they would be caught by the filter and not make it to my heart. I found out later that while I was in my coma, I had a heart attack and a stroke!

Later, after I had recovered, I was told that after I had been in a coma in ICU for about twelve days, my body finally began to produce the specific antibodies it needed to fight whatever infection was going on inside of me. They ended up calling the whole incident a myocardial infarction which is a generic term for an unknown virus attacking my heart pump. After waking up from the coma, my muscles were so atrophied that I couldn’t even walk to my porta-potty a few feet from the bed without getting massive Charley-horses. They started me out on physical therapy—at first only walking a few feet a day.

My kids were only five and seven years old at the time—in kindergarten and second grade. During this whole time the grade school they attended had really been doing everything they could to help my kids—and to try to prepare them in case I didn’t make it. I remember one of the first times they came in to visit me….they were just being kids-playing/arguing with each other. It stressed me out so much! I truly wished if I would EVER be able to singlehandedly care for them again! It all seemed so unmanageably stressful, but everything began to come back very soon.

One week after waking up from the coma, I was ready to go home from the hospital. Within another few days the kids were back home all the time and within three weeks I was released from physical therapy.

Before this incident, I was pretty mixed-up about what things were really truly important in life. I had always been very concerned about material possessions and had not given a lot of thought to the things in life that REALLY are important and irreplaceable; such as family, friends and relationships. It finally hit me then that my priorities had been screwed up and that as long as we had life and health and each other—anything was possible. It ended up being a positive life-changing experience that I have always felt so blessed to have been able to have realized somewhat early in life.
My name is Noah Garcia. I was born and raised in northern New Mexico near the banks of the Rio Grande. I am currently studying engineering here at Fort Lewis and have been fortunate enough to be a part of Village Aid Project-Engineers without Borders with whom I had the opportunity to translate for an engineering project in Ecuador over the summer; the experience changed my life. I plan on traveling to Nicaragua again over the summer. Here at El Centro, I am a Spanish tutor and work-study staff member. I love travel, tradition, speaking Spanish and hearing people's stories.

My name is Tina Zuniga and I am a junior at Fort Lewis. I self-identify as both Hispanic and White. I have a major in Sociology-Ethnic Studies with minors in both Pre-Law and Spanish. I am originally from Los Lunas, NM and came to the Fort as a new freshman three years ago. I began working at El Centro my first semester and have been working here ever since. El Centro has served as my home away from home during my time at FLC and I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to work here. After I graduate, I plan on attending either law school to obtain a Juris Doctor or graduate school to obtain a Master's Degree in Public Policy. I'm passionate about advocating for the advancement of Hispanics in education and other related areas and I would like to pursue a career in this field sometime in my future.

I am Sandra Loera. I am a senior at Fort Lewis College pursuing a career in psychology, possibly with a focus on positive psychology. After I graduate, I will take a year off and prepare to go to grad school. I am originally from Mexico. I came to the United States, specifically to Eagle, CO, eight years ago and last year I moved to Durango. El Centro has provided me the opportunity to embrace my Mexican heritage through dance, which is one of my biggest passions. El Centro has also given me the opportunity to be exposed to other cultures and to teach others about my own culture.

My name is Samantha Garcia and I was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I am a freshman at Fort Lewis studying psychology and working at El Centro. The scenery, community, and the friendly people in the town and at school have made my love for Durango grow so much stronger this past year. I'm so thankful that I was able to attend Fort Lewis, because this is an experience I will never forget.

My name is Hope Crespo. I am a 21 year old Fort Lewis college sophomore from Durango, Colorado. I am a psychology major and art minor in the hopes of pursuing a career in art therapy. I am involved with El Centro de Muchos Colores as a work study student, a new Zumba instructor, co-treasurer for Ballet Folklorico, and the vice president of Club de Centro.

My name is Nekai Eversole. Navajo-Apache Native American through my mother and of Scottish-Swiss descent from my father. I’m interested in all forms of sciences and am always questioning how the world could be better. My major is Environmental Biology, but I’m also fond of Geology, as one of my favorite past-times is exploring mountains and natural wonders, viewing the flora and fauna of this beautiful region.

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My name is **Sandra Chihuahua** and I am Hispanic. I am from Lovington, NM. I am currently a freshman. I live in Crofton, so visit me! I am part of the Matachines group here at El Centro (a dance group). Come check us out! My friends and family are usually the people I spend most of my time with. I wasn’t too sure about Fort Lewis College when I came because I was homesick, but now I don’t want to leave. I plan to stay here for another year and a half, and then head off to Texas Tech University for Law School. I hope to make more friends and continue loving this college.

I am **Chandra Reed**, a non-traditional senior at Fort Lewis. When I am not studying biology I am making delicious Mexican food in the cultural kitchen of El Centro and the Native American Center, or playing guitar in a punk band.

My name is **Charine Gonzales**, a freshman at Fort Lewis College. My hometowns include San Ildefonso Pueblo & Santa Fe, New Mexico. Aside from working at El Centro, I like to go running, play bass guitar, and take photos. I also like to write and spend time with my family and friends.

My name is **Manuel Chavarria**. I am a junior studying Exercise Science, exercise physiology option with a minor in Rhetoric. I grew up in Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua, Mexico and moved to Leadville, CO when I was ten years old. I am a member of Club del Centro, National Society of Leadership and Success, and the John F. Reed Honors Program. My interests are soccer, baseball, fly fishing, snowboarding and fitness.

My name is **Andrea Dalla**, a 5th generation Durango native. I attended Pueblo Community College for two years and now I am a junior here at Fort Lewis College. Sociology is my major and psychology is my minor. I hope to be able to get my Masters in Social Work and then counsel juveniles and/or people reintegrating into society after being in prison. I have always been a single mother of two, Bryan who is 26 and Jessica who is 24. I enjoy volunteering for The Women’s Resource Center as well as other local organizations.

Hello! My name is **Kate Suazo** and I am a freshman here at FLC. I am a psychology major and I live in the Bader/Snyders. I love to laugh and have a fun time! I am originally from Bernallillo, New Mexico and I love my home! I love the outdoors, baby animals, and the stars! I love working at El Centro and cooking for the students. Music is my life and I love all kinds of different music. One secret about me is I jam in my car to “Make a Man Out of You” from Mulan.

I am **Adam Betancourt**, an Arizona native and a senior at Fort Lewis, studying Business Administration. My last semester, I have decided to do things that I might miss upon leaving Durango. Even though it is not certain where I am going next, I have dedicated this semester to ski as much as I can and to spend my time with friends. This summer will be dedicated to Upward Bound, running as many trails as I can, and floating down the Animas on all the sunny days. I have lived in Durango for four years, and I will miss this town and the many friendships I have developed here. One in particular is Shirena Trujillo Long; a person who I look up to and a person that has been there for me since the first day I arrived to campus. My heart will always be in Durango and Fort Lewis College!
Hey there, my name is Magaly Torres. I am a sophomore in the Athletic Training program and was born in Denver, Colorado. My father’s family originates from Mexico and my mother’s family originates from around the south of Colorado. I have no siblings and grew up not learning Spanish. I consider myself Hispanic even though I have heard many people consider those who can’t speak Spanish, non-Hispanic. I am currently studying World History to become a teacher in high school. I have been to ten countries in my life and speak Japanese and a little Spanish. I was drawn to El Centro because I didn’t know much of my Hispanic heritage other than I knew I was considered one. I wanted to see and experience a culture that I had otherwise not known about.

Hello my name is Devin Muñoz. I am a junior at Fort Lewis College and was born in Denver, Colorado and have lived there until I was 18 years old when I came down here for school. My father’s family originates from Mexico and my mother’s family originates from around the south of Colorado. I have no siblings and grew up not learning Spanish. I consider myself Hispanic because of my parents and family even though I have heard many people consider those who can’t speak Spanish, non-Hispanic. I am currently studying World History to become a teacher in high school. I have been to ten countries in my life and speak Japanese and a little Spanish. I was drawn to El Centro because I didn’t know much of my Hispanic heritage other than I knew I was considered one. I wanted to see and experience a culture that I had otherwise not known about.
Ballet Folklórico live performance for Real History of the Americas event on October 14th.

Coordinator Shirena Trujillo Long poses with classic Spanish novel La Casa de Mango Street.

Student workers Manuel and Sandra pose for a photo in El Centro.

Brian Alba and Manuel Chavarria paint the mural in Spring 2013. Come see the finished mural if you haven’t already.

Magaly and Dabney staff the El Centro information table at Skyhawk Saturday.

Tina Zuniga and Ashley Nicole hug it out at the Club del Centro burrito sale.

Students participate in Día de los Muertos 2013.
Latino College Day
Saturday, February 15th, 8 am to 4 pm
El Centro
(Visit El Centro for more information or www.fortlewis.edu/elcentro)

Dinner & Show: Ballet Fólklorico Performance
Tuesday, February 18th, 5-7 pm
Student Union Ballroom

Fiesta Friday: Taco Night
Friday, February 21st, 5 pm
El Centro

“Cracking the Codes” Film and Discussion
Tuesday, February 25th, 12-2 pm
El Centro

Viva Vegetarian Night
Thursday, February 27th, 5-7 pm
El Centro

Fiesta Friday: Movie & Popcorn Night
Friday, February 28th, 6 pm
Center of Southwest Studies

Dinner & Show: Ballet Fólklorico Performance
Tuesday, March 4th, 5-7 pm
Student Union Ballroom

Colombian Dance Workshop
Thursday, March 6th, 5-7 pm
El Centro

Fiesta Friday: Live DJ, Dance, and Food!
Friday, March 7th, 5 pm
El Centro

Fiesta Friday: Game Day
Friday, March 14th, time TBD
El Centro

Fiesta Friday: Movie & Nachos Night
Friday, March 21st, 6 pm
El Centro

Fiesta Friday: Tamale Workshop
Friday, April 11th, 10-5 pm
El Centro

Fiesta Friday: Cascarones Egg-Making Workshop
Friday, April 18th, 12-2 pm
El Centro

“Cinco de Mayo: La Batalla” the Movie
Friday, April 18th, 6 pm
El Centro

End of Year Fiesta Cookout
Friday, April 25th, time TBD
El Centro

Graduation
Saturday, May 3rd, time TBD
Whalen Gymnasium

For more information contact
El Centro at (970) 247-7654 or visit us in the Student Union room 40 (Ground Floor)