



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Special edition in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

BY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND BELONGING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Valeece Simmons-Davis, SoTL
Gabriela Silvestre, EDL
Francisco Usero-Gonzalez, SoTL
Ashely Volkmer-Picket, COE

INSPIRING TALKS

Dr. Helen Berg
Associate Dean of Student Success & Partnerships, Professor

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SHSU?

This is my 19th year.

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S CULTURAL TRADITIONS OR CUSTOMS FROM YOUR HISPANIC HERITAGE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

I grew up in Mexico City, and my family is still there. I am bilingual and bicultural. I still hold most of my cultural traditions and customs. I have also added some USA cultural traditions and customs.



Dr. Berg is the first Latina Associate Dean in COE. As an HSI, her leadership has been widespread across the college and university as well as the community.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC BOOKS OR LITERATURE FROM HISPANIC AUTHORS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR PERSPECTIVE OR THAT YOU'D RECOMMEND FOR OTHERS TO READ?

Cien Años De Soledad by Gabriel García Márquez, *La Casa De Los Espíritus* by Isabel Allende, and *Como Agua Para Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel.



Mariachi

Angel of Independence

CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME HISPANIC MUSIC, ARTISTS, OR FILMS THAT YOU ENJOY AND THINK OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

I love all Mariachi, bolero, and recently some reggaeton. *Amores Perros*, directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu. *Como Agua Para Chocolate*. *El Laberinto del Fauno*, directed by Guillermo del Toro. *Roma*, directed by Alfonso Cuarón.



INSPIRING TALKS

Tanya Duran
Graduate Assistant, COE

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SHSU?

I obtained my bachelor's degree in animal science with a minor in wildlife management in 2021 from SHSU. I am currently pursuing a master's degree in biology with a concentration in agriculture.

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S CULTURAL TRADITIONS OR CUSTOMS FROM YOUR HISPANIC HERITAGE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

I'm a first generation Mexican-American and was born and raised in Southern California. Living in a heavily Hispanic community allowed me to celebrate my culture often. My earliest memories of this involve celebrating my quinceañera.

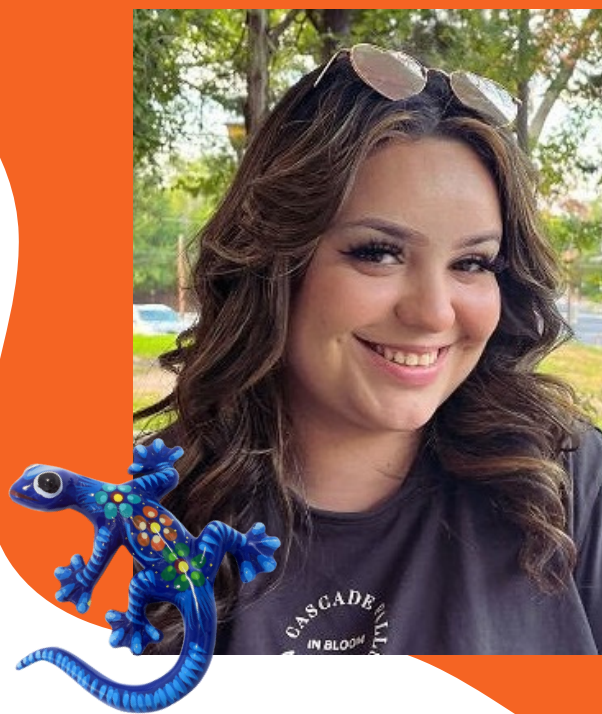
Another tradition that I hold especially close to my heart is celebrating birthdays. Without fail, every birthday morning I would wake up to my parents singing, "Las Mananitas." Being so far away from them has been difficult, but having them call in just to sing to me makes my birthday so special!

Holidays are also a big celebration. Putting up the Christmas tree before Thanksgiving is a must! One thing I especially love about the holidays is the food. I love tamales, and during the holidays we form an assembly line at the dining table and get to making! I personally love masa (dough) and will over stuff the tamales (haha, sometimes they will not close). We also celebrate Dia de Los Muertos every year. Now that I am away from home I keep the tradition alive by creating an ofrenda (alter) in my home.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME HISPANIC MUSIC, ARTISTS, OR FILMS THAT YOU ENJOY AND THINK OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

I listen to a variety of music, but I always find myself coming back to Latin music. Listening to it reminds me of my family and fills my heart with joy. The music also reminds me of fiestas (parties) and other special events. Latin music has always been a big part of my life.

I love classical boleros, salsa, bachata, and Mariachi. When I'm feeling in the mood to listen to more upbeat music I enjoy reggaetón and mainstream artists like Bad Bunny, Snow Tha Product, and RBD. My mother and I love "Amor Eterno" by Rocio Durcal - it's a beautiful song about loss and love. Another song that I highly recommend is "Sabor A Mi" by Eydie Gorme & Los Panchos. It's a love song that my grandmother used to always sing. Listening to it never fails to remind me of her.



My family has always been a musical one. I play the alto saxophone, my father plays the guitar, and my sister plays the drums. My father has even had the opportunity to play with Santana! Latin music will always remind me of family and home.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PART OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY, AND HOW DO YOU SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING HISPANIC CULTURE?

Celebrating your culture allows you to connect with yourself. I am blessed to say I had the opportunity to explore my culture through music, art, history, and tradition.

I am passionate about giving others that same opportunity. As a Fellow of Minorities in Natural Resource Conservation, it is my goal to see more minorities in the workplace. I hope to create a community that nurtures our differences and embraces them.

I am a proud Latina and embrace my culture to the fullest extent. I aspire to help others do the same.



INSPIRING TALKS

Lidia Irene Gutierrez
Graduate Program Associate
COE Grad Hub

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SHSU?

I've been working at COE Grad Hub for a year.

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S CULTURAL TRADITIONS OR CUSTOMS FROM YOUR HISPANIC HERITAGE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

One tradition that I will always cherish is when I had my quinceañera. This is a special celebration marking a girl's 15th birthday, where she transitions from childhood to womanhood. I just remember thinking that the colors, the decorations, the food - none of it mattered. What mattered to me was how the whole family gets together at these celebrations and makes a big deal to make the quinceañera feel special.

Another tradition that my family participates in that means a lot to me is Dia De Los Muertos. This is a Mexican tradition to remember and honor loved ones who have passed away. Our house will forever have an ofrenda, but it's this time of year where it gets decorated with our family's photos and their favorite foods/snacks. It's beautiful to see how the family never forgets one another.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME HISPANIC MUSIC, ARTISTS, OR FILMS THAT YOU ENJOY AND THINK OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

I've been listening to a lot of 'mainstream' music as of lately, like Peso Pluma, Grupo Frontera, Karol G, and Becky G. Though, I think for Hispanic Heritage Month, it's important to remember the old bands. So personally, I would recommend listening to Ramon Ayala, Los Socios Del Ritmo, Los Tucanes De Tijuana, Los Kumbia Kings, Vicente Fernandez, Juan Gabriel, and Intocable.



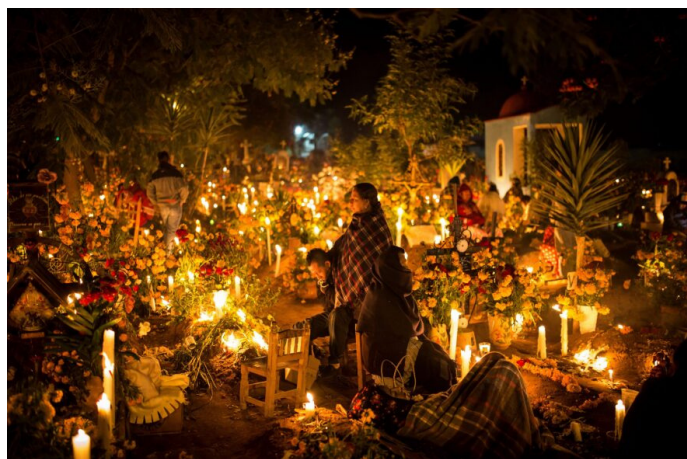
Los Kumbia Kings



Ofrenda

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PART OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY, AND HOW DO YOU SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING HISPANIC CULTURE?

I'm Mexican, so being a part of the Hispanic community means to always honor traditions, customs, and family. It is important to celebrate because it means that we can show our roots, our people, our food - our culture and celebrate it. We can give an opportunity for people to learn more about who we are, what we offer, and the contributions that we have made to society. It's a month for us to be proud of our accomplishments and to be proud of where we've come from.



Day of the Dead

INSPIRING TALKS

Valeria Faz Magby
Bilingual Education Student &
BESO President

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SHSU?

I have been at SHSU for four semesters including this semester and the summer semesters. I have thoroughly enjoyed the learning I've obtained here!

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S CULTURAL TRADITIONS OR CUSTOMS FROM YOUR HISPANIC HERITAGE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

Some of the traditions we have are birthdays. We strive to celebrate each member's birthday with whatever food they want to eat that day! Another tradition we have is Christmas and New Year. We always celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve in the evening and open presents close to midnight. We also light fireworks on both the 24th and the 31st at midnight! I keep these traditions sacred in my heart and plan to do them with my future family as well.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME HISPANIC MUSIC, ARTISTS, OR FILMS THAT YOU ENJOY AND THINK OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

Some music I recommend is from an up-and-coming band called Grupo Frontera. They are from the Valley of Texas and are making it big! A film I'd recommend watching is *Stand and Deliver*, which came out in 1988. Such a good movie about Hispanics/Latinos pushing the educational expectations of society!

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC BOOKS OR LITERATURE FROM HISPANIC AUTHORS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR PERSPECTIVE OR THAT YOU'D RECOMMEND FOR OTHERS TO READ?

I wish I could recommend one! I haven't been able to sit and read a book in a good while.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PART OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY, AND HOW DO YOU SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING HISPANIC CULTURE?

For me, being a part of the Hispanic community means that I can celebrate and carry on traditions that my family creates so that I can celebrate them with my future family. Being a part of the Hispanic community in the US also means that I can communicate with more than one area of the population, thanks to my ability to be bilingual. Hispanic culture is big, especially in the state of Texas. With the ever-growing Hispanic/Latino population, celebrating our culture not only during Hispanic Heritage Month but every day by being able to live it without limitations is extremely important to me. I hope to continue to do so and help others understand the importance of Hispanic heritage and its impact on the community.



INSPIRING TALKS

Dr. Cynthia Martinez-Garcia
Professor, Educational Leadership

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SHSU?

I have been employed at SHSU in the Department of Educational Leadership for the past 16 years. During my employment at SHSU, I have served as the Principal Program and Practicum Coordinator and as an Assistant Department Chair. Right now, I am a Professor and am serving as the Doctoral Director for Educational Leadership Program and as the Superintendent Program & Practicum Coordinator

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S CULTURAL TRADITIONS OR CUSTOMS FROM YOUR HISPANIC HERITAGE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

I am a second generation Mexican American who was born in Illinois and am a first generation college graduate. I am the youngest of eight children. Both of my parents were first generation Mexican Americans who were born in Texas.

An important part of my life as a young child and adolescent was attending La Palma Baptist Church in my hometown, San Benito, TX. My mother was a devoted Christian who loved to minister and talk to others about God and salvation. With her faith, positive outlook, and love, it came easy for her to be my greatest supporter and encourager in my life. She often told others that I was very independent and how proud she was of me. Her strong admiration and conviction in me gave me the confidence to know that I could achieve anything that I set my heart and mind to do if I kept true to my faith and put forth the required dedication, determination, and drive to achieve my goals.

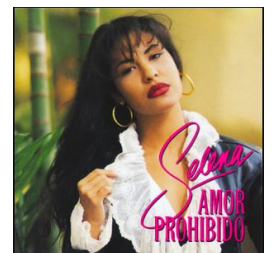
As a young child and adolescent, I remember my mom cooking some delicious traditional Mexican meals such as caldos (soups) made with chicken and beef shank, homemade mole with many ingredients, carne guisada, and large breakfast meals on weekends for her family. My mom also made a variety of hot sauces to add additional spice and flavor to our meals. My family enjoyed eating fresh corn tortillas with our meals from the local tortilla factories. On weekends, we enjoyed eating some pan dulce from La Especial Bakery, which is well known in our hometown, and hot La Popular-Traditional Mexican chocolate during the wintertime.



CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME HISPANIC MUSIC, ARTISTS, OR FILMS THAT YOU ENJOY AND THINK OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

I encourage others who have not heard Selena Quintanilla-Perez and Carlos Santana's music to check their music out. Selena Quintanilla-Perez was a Texas native and was a singer known as the Queen of Tejano music. Her music was influenced by her Mexican roots. She has many songs that I enjoyed listening to such as *Amor Prohibido*, *Como La Flor*, and *Dreaming of You*.

When I was 18 years old, I went to Carlos Santana's concert in Corpus Christi. This concert experience was amazing. I have enjoyed listening to his music for the past four decades. His songs, *Hold On*, *The Game of Love* with Michelle Branch, and *Corazon Espinado* with Mana are some of my favorites.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PART OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY, AND HOW DO YOU SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING HISPANIC CULTURE?

It is important to celebrate our Hispanic culture, but more importantly, as a professor in higher education, I think Hispanics need to be better represented in higher education graduate and doctoral programs. As a Hispanic, I think we need to encourage other Hispanics to set high goals and expectations for themselves. Also, we need to serve as mentors and advocates for other Hispanics and underrepresented groups in higher education.

INSPIRING TALKS

Dr. Gabriela Silvestre
Clinical Assistant Professor, EDL

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SHSU?

I started working at SHSU in January, 2019. I joined the Department of Educational Leadership as a Graduate Coordinator of the MA in Higher Education Administration Program and as a Clinical Assistant faculty.

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S CULTURAL TRADITIONS OR CUSTOMS FROM YOUR HISPANIC HERITAGE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

As you know, our people and communities are diverse, and we constitute a diverse group within ourselves. I also came as a student to study in the US and had to go through visa and immigration processes. So, many of my cultural traditions may look and sound different from others who self-identify as Latine/x/a/o.

One of the most important traditions to me and my family here is about food. Since I am originally from Argentina, I tried to maintain the culinary traditions and have learned how to cook the dishes that are typical from our cuisine. I had to learn to make many dishes that I would have never imagined I would have to learn! I always remember what Gabriela Garcia Marquez said, "The first thing you miss while in exile is the food and the music." And, there is really so much truth about this!

My family and I here in the US celebrate Christmas in true Argentinean style. Thus, we open gifts right after 12:00 a.m. on December 25th. We always divide gifts, unwrapping in two parts and opening another set of them after brunch on December 25th.

I maintain drinking the Argentinean tea, mate, which is also very typical. I believe that these small things and practices keep me grounded.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME HISPANIC MUSIC, ARTISTS, OR FILMS THAT YOU ENJOY AND THINK OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

I love many Latino singers and musicians. Some of them are Selena (forever!), Carlos Santana, Gato Barbieri (jazz), Mijares, Luis Miguel, Shakira, and Soda Stereo, among others.

In terms of films, there are so many works, and it is difficult for me to point to one director who I could really identify as representative of Hispanic experiences. However, I think there are some works by Alfonso Cuaron I would include in the list.



I also want to recommend the documentary by our very own Elisa Salem Hermann, whose work titled, "Undocumented: A Dream of Education," is fantastic!

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC BOOKS OR LITERATURE FROM HISPANIC AUTHORS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR PERSPECTIVE OR THAT YOU'D RECOMMEND FOR OTHERS TO READ?

Here in the US, I consider the following authors very important as both Chicana/o Latine/o/a representatives: Erika Sanchez (*I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* and *Crying in the Bathroom*), Sandra Cisneros (*The House on Mango Street*; *Martita, I Remember You*; and *Caramelo*), and Julia Alvarez (*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, *Before We Were Free*, and *In the Time of the Butterflies*).

Before I recommend the obvious, which is to read the authors from the Latin-American Boom (Boom Latino-Americano) and the magic realism by authors such as, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Alejo Carpentier, Mario Vargas Llosa, Julio Cortazar, among others, to me one of the best authors with international/global impact is Jorge Luis Borges. I have been reading Borges' work since I was 15 years old, and he still is a master in the literature and has impacted the works of many authors beyond even Latin America.

I want to specifically highlight that now we are seeing the emergence of amazing autoras (female writers) from Latin America who are reaching success throughout different continents - for example, Mariana Enriquez, Samantha Schweblyn, Fernanda Ampuero, Gabriela Cabezón Camaras, Selva Almada, and Dolores Reyes. They receive awards continuously, and they represent a new distinctive set of voices in the literature.



INSPIRING TALKS

Dr. Franciso Usero-Gonzalez
Assistant Professor, SoTL

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SHSU?

Since August 2022 - one year and few months.

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S CULTURAL TRADITIONS OR CUSTOMS FROM YOUR HISPANIC HERITAGE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

My name is Francisco (Paco) Usero-González, and I hail from the quaint, rural town of Tocina-Los Rosales in Seville, Spain. From a tender age, my life has been entwined with the rhythmic heartbeats of traditional music. At the age of five, my mother enrolled me in flamenco lessons, opening up a world rich with fervent strums of guitar and soul-stirring dances that continue to resonate within me.

One cherished tradition from my town is la verbena, a celebratory gathering held in the main square to mark the harvest season. Usually tethered to religious saint days like San Isidro Labrador and Virgen de Fátima (Virgin of Fatima) in Los Rosales and Día del Señor (The Day of the Veracruz) in Tocina, these festivities exemplify the tight-knit community spirit that I hold dear. Similarly, la feria is another profound cultural festivity, illuminating our towns with vibrant casetas (tents), twinkling lights, and the merry tunes of la copla, along with other Andalusian-flamenco music genres like rumbas and sevillanas.

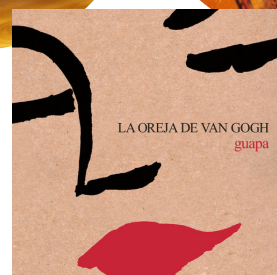
The mystical allure of La Semana Santa in Seville is an experience etched in my memory. The scent of blossoming orange trees intertwined with the solemn incense from the churches creates an enchanting atmosphere. I have tender memories of my mother taking us - my siblings and me, along with my cousins - to witness the pasos (the religious processions). Later in my life, I joined a music band that played Semana Santa music to pasos. I played the saxophone. I really remember those days with joy, even sometimes I pretend playing some of those beautiful songs with my fingers, like I have a saxophone with me. As family gathered, our elders would share enthralling stories of their youth or tales about our town's history. Their narratives, often seeming like fairy tales, were not only a conduit to the past but valuable life lessons, making those moments incredibly precious. Moreover, the sense of extended family within our community is a hallmark of my Hispanic heritage.



For instance, my neighbor Maria was akin to a grandmother to me. During a trying period when my mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis when I was seven, our neighbor Carmen, fondly referred to as la tata, became a nurturing figure in my life. Similarly, another neighbor, Ana, became like a sister to me.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME HISPANIC MUSIC, ARTISTS, OR FILMS THAT YOU ENJOY AND THINK OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

Hispanic music - I like flamenco, all palos (styles of flamencos), but I need to tell you that I can't sing. My mom used to be a professional singer; now she's retired. Even if I can't sing really well, I really enjoy singing and dancing rumbas, salsa, and many other styles. As you can see I love music; music has been part of my whole life, so I love classics as Manuel de Falla, Granados, Albeniz. And at the same time I like my parents' period songs in the 70s and 80s. Later in my life other Hispanic artists like David Bisbal, La Oreja de Van Gogh, La Quinta Estación, Shakira, JLo, Pitbull, Enrique Iglesias, and many more came to my life. And even I enjoy when foreigners sing in Spanish like ABBA, Raffaella Carrá, or Gypsy Kings. In flamenco, because if my mom reads this, I need to mention Camarón de la Isla, Rocío Jurado, Lola Flores, and now, currently, La Niña Pastori and Rosalía.



ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC BOOKS OR LITERATURE FROM HISPANIC AUTHORS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR PERSPECTIVE OR THAT YOU'D RECOMMEND FOR OTHERS TO READ?

Growing up, my home was always filled with books, thanks to my mom's avid reading habit. My early childhood was colored by the whimsical tales of Gloria Fuertes, whose amusing poems and stories were also part of the mass media back then. As I matured, I delved into Spanish literature, exploring classics like *El Lazarillo de Tormes*, *Don Quijote* by Miguel de Cervantes, and the touching *Platero y Yo* by Juan Ramón Jiménez. Later, I became enamored with the works of Federico García Lorca, a truly gifted artist.

Two books that left a lasting impression on me are *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende and *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Their narratives offered a profound glimpse into human emotions and societal dynamics.

Now, as an educator, I enjoy recommending Spanish comics like *Mortadelo y Filemón* and *Super Lopez* to young learners. They offer a fun, visually engaging way to help students embrace the Spanish language, much like how my early readings shaped my love for literature.

As I said before, I am from Sevilla, and I can't leave this section without saying the names of Becquer and, of course, the famous poet Antonio Machado. One of Machado's famous poems is *Caminante, No Hay Camino*, with its well-know line, "Caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar" (Traveler, there is no path, the path is made by walking), that encapsulates a beautiful perspective on forging one's path through life.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PART OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY, AND HOW DO YOU SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING HISPANIC CULTURE?

Being part of the Hispanic community is a rich tapestry of heritage, memories, and emotions. My roots in Tocina-Los Rosales, Seville, instilled in me a deep appreciation for our vibrant traditions and shared stories. What's always struck me is the instant bond formed with fellow Hispanics from diverse backgrounds, a unique camaraderie underpinned by our shared language and culture.

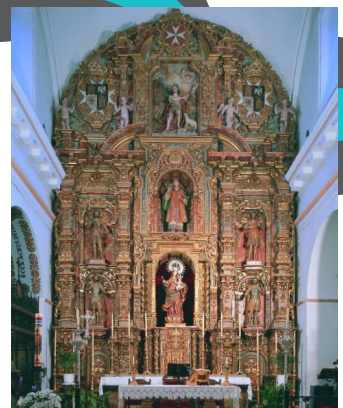
Living in Texas has amplified this connection. The robust Hispanic presence here is a testament to our culture's resilience and beauty. My current role as an assistant professor at Sam Houston State University, a Hispanic-serving institution in Texas, allows me to contribute and expand upon the richness of bilingual Spanish-language education. By nurturing this linguistic and cultural bridge, I hope to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for our heritage in younger generations and the broader community. Seeing the Hispanic culture flourish and resonate with so many here fills me with immense pride. It's a testament to the strength, resilience, and beauty of our people (*gente*) and our familia. In every laughter, story, and shared moment, I feel the essence of "Orgullo Hispano" - the pride of being Hispanic.



DR. USERO-GONZALEZ WAS PRIVILEGED TO MEET WITH DOLORES HUERTA THIS MARCH IN PORTLAND DURING THE NABE CONFERENCE



San Vicente Mártir Parish Church



INSPIRING TALKS

Dr. Mayra Vargas
Clinical Assistant Professor, SoTL

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SHSU?

I am currently embarking on my second year as a clinical assistant professor in the School of Teaching and Learning.

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S CULTURAL TRADITIONS OR CUSTOMS FROM YOUR HISPANIC HERITAGE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

One cherished family tradition that has deeply influenced my Hispanic identity and, in turn, fostered my resilience, was visiting extended family during holiday breaks and throughout the summer. This tradition was rooted in familismo, a core value that encouraged close-knit family bonds and strong connections. These visits allowed me to engage with my relatives at a profound level, as the extended periods spent in their company facilitated a deeper understanding of their lives and experiences. As I look back, the tradition of visiting aunts, uncles, and grandparents in my parents' native country gave me experiences that have significantly shaped the person I am today. It allowed me to forge enduring connections with people and situations, enhancing my resilience and adaptability in facing life's challenges.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME HISPANIC MUSIC, ARTISTS, OR FILMS THAT YOU ENJOY AND THINK OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

Growing up, I listened mainly to Spanish music, from hip hop to nortenas (country music). These are a few music artists and films that I've enjoyed and believe others should explore: Marco Antonio Solís, Joan Sebastian, Los Cardenales de Nuevo Leon, and Shakira. If you enjoy Charlie Chaplin, then you will enjoy Cantinflas films. Charlie Chaplin once said Cantinflas was the greatest comedian alive; therefore, a must-watch.



ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC BOOKS OR LITERATURE FROM HISPANIC AUTHORS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR PERSPECTIVE OR THAT YOU'D RECOMMEND FOR OTHERS TO READ?

I'd like to recommend *Cien Años de Soledad* by Gabriel García Márquez. What makes this recommendation even more interesting is that I was introduced to this work by someone who isn't of Hispanic descent. Witnessing their enthusiasm for the book was a motivating factor that pushed me to read this book.

Growing up as a Hispanic individual, I had the privilege of being deeply connected to my cultural and linguistic roots. This strong connection served as a solid foundation as I entered the American education system, where I began to embrace the English language and the broader American culture. Unlike some of my Hispanic peers who grappled with decisions regarding preserving their cultural and linguistic heritage, I found myself in a relatively comfortable position.

However, this book led me to adopt a new perspective and role as an older Hispanic. I believe that we, as older members of the Hispanic community in the US, have a responsibility to provide our children with experiences and an environment that fosters a strong connection to their cultural and linguistic roots and family history. This will enable them to navigate the complexities of cultural identity and heritage with confidence and pride, just as I have been fortunate to do. In essence, *Cien Años de Soledad* not only influenced my literary tastes, but also spurred a commitment to preserving and sharing the rich cultural and linguistic heritage that defines Hispanic identity.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PART OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY, AND HOW DO YOU SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING HISPANIC CULTURE?

As previously mentioned, as an older Hispanic in my community, I believe that it is my responsibility to provide our community with experiences and celebrations that support their cultural and linguistic identity. In celebrating our Hispanic culture, we can be the role models students need in preserving their family's culture and language.



Dolores Huerta

Co-founder of the United Farm Workers Association, **Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta** is one of the most influential labor activists of the 20th century and a leader of the Chicano civil rights movement.

Huerta received an associate teaching degree from the University of the Pacific's Delta College. Huerta briefly taught school in the 1950s, but seeing so many hungry farm children coming to school, she thought she could do more to help them by organizing farmers and farm workers.

In 1955 Huerta began her career as an activist when she co-founded the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization (CSO), which led voter registration drives and fought for economic improvements for Hispanics. She also founded the Agricultural Workers Association. Through a CSO associate, Huerta met activist César Chávez, with whom she shared an interest in organizing farm workers. In 1962, Huerta and Chávez founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), the predecessor of the United Farm Workers' Union (UFW), which formed three years later. Huerta served as UFW vice president until 1999. Despite ethnic and gender bias, Huerta helped organize the 1965 Delano strike of 5,000 grape workers and was the lead negotiator in the workers' contract that followed.

Michals, Debra. "Dolores Huerta." National Women's History Museum. 2015. www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/dolores-huerta

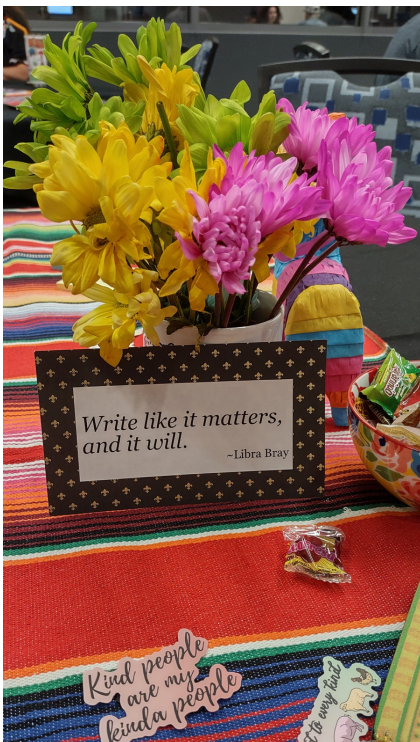
Huerta received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award in 1998 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012. As of 2015, she was a board member of the Feminist Majority Foundation, the Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America, and the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation.



Events

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FACULTY WRITING RETREAT

On September 22, 2023, the Faculty Development and Mentoring Committee successfully inaugurated their autumn faculty writing retreat. Notably, the occasion also featured vibrant celebrations in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Mark your calendars for the upcoming virtual writing retreat, scheduled for October 27, 2023! Your participation is eagerly anticipated. Register for one or both sessions.



bit.ly/3Zlpeqj
9 AM - 12 PM



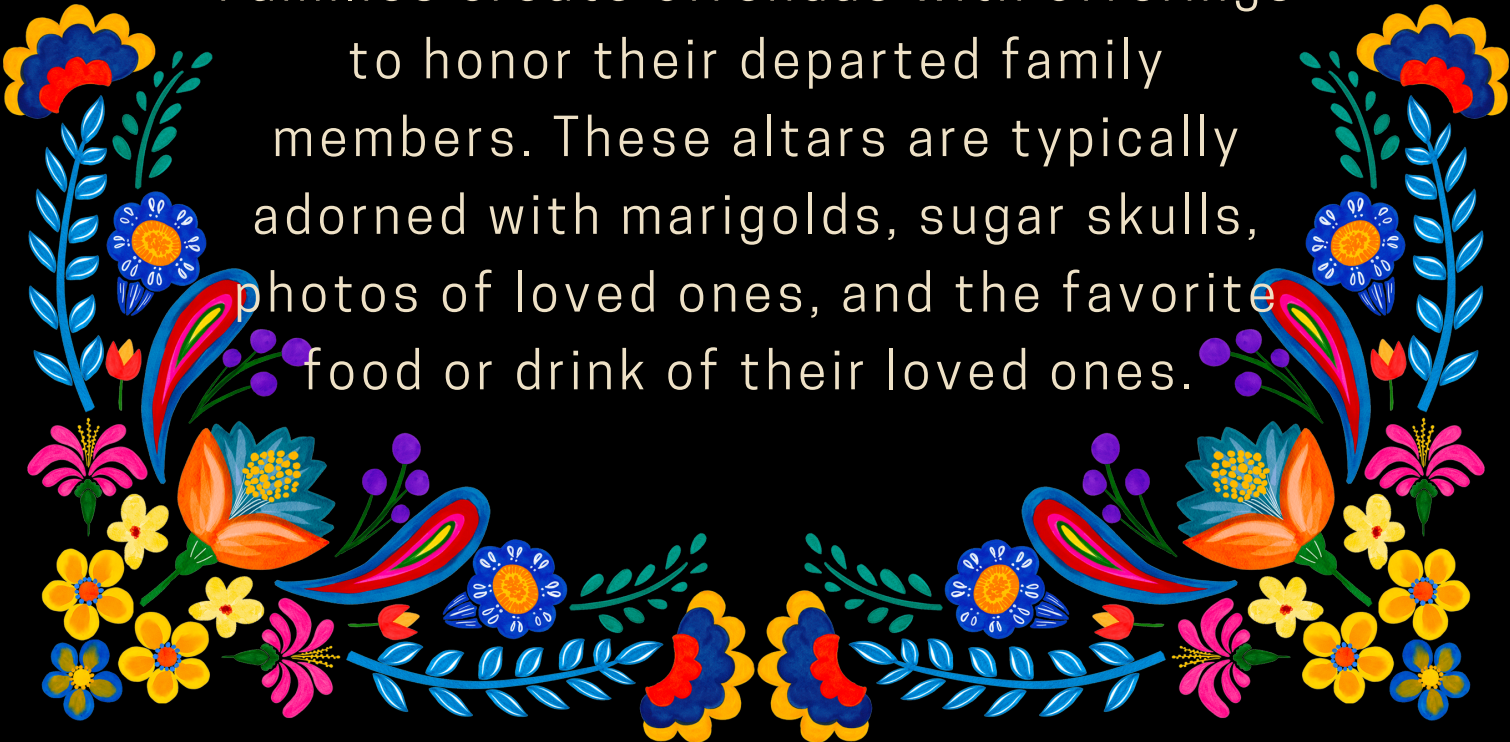
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WHAT IS DIA DE LOS MUERTOS?

Dia De Los Muertos or Day of the Dead is a Latin holiday meant to honor the memories of passed loved ones. It is traditionally celebrated on November 1st and 2nd.



Families create ofrendas with offerings to honor their departed family members. These altars are typically adorned with marigolds, sugar skulls, photos of loved ones, and the favorite food or drink of their loved ones.



HELP US CELEBRATE

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

DAY OF THE DEAD

An ofrenda (altar) in TEC 279 will be available soon through Nov. 3rd. We invite you to honor and celebrate the lives of your departed loved ones by adding their photos to the ofrenda.

