

9-2024

El Centro Newsletter (Sept 2024)

Bryan Ramirez

University of South Carolina - Upstate, ramireb@email.uscupstate.edu

Mariana Bakhoun

University of South Carolina - Upstate, mbakhoun@email.uscupstate.edu

Araceli Hernández-Laroche, Ph.D.

University of South Carolina Upstate, hernan49@uscupstate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/el_centroreports

Publication Info

2024.

This Newsletter is brought to you by the South Carolina Centro Latino at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newsletters & Reports by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact digres@mailbox.sc.edu.

El Centro

VOLUME 03
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

WELCOME TO USC UPSTATE!

In this edition of *El Centro Newsletter*, we'll be highlighting some important news and resources for all students, especially our first year and transfer students! Take a glance inside if you're looking to get involved in our community or just want the latest news on campus! If you would like to be featured in our newsletter, please reach out to our editorial team at the end of this edition. Thank you!

Pictured below: Latina Voices & Leadership class, first day.



Lauryn Sanchez, Mariana Bakhoun & Bryan Ramirez welcome students at the Multicultural Mix & Mingle.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

41 MILLION NATIVE SPANISH SPEAKERS IN THE UNITED STATES

“Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together” is this year’s Hispanic Heritage Month theme. Vista Higher Learning, who invited El Centro back in April to present strategies on advocacy and multilingualism to a national audience, highlights the following about this year’s theme:

“With more than 41 million native Spanish speakers in the country, Spanish is not only a means of communication, but also a manifestation of culture, history, and resilience. In a context where the pioneers of change are shaping the future, preserving and promoting the language becomes crucial to keeping cultural roots alive, while also driving innovation and inclusion...language emerges as a key tool for bringing communities together and acts as a catalyst for change. Language, particularly Spanish, has been and continues to be a fundamental part of Hispanic identity in the United States.”

Source: VHL Blog

Janeth Tamayo, owner of Mezcal Taberna Mexicana in Downtown Spartanburg, is one of our pioneras. Mezcal offered a free Inaugural Latin Fest on September 14, 2024. We danced the night away and even watched Canelo!



SPOTLIGHTS

USC UPSTATE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

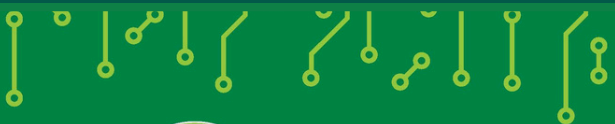


**Georgia McClintock, MS –
Career Counselor, Office of
Career Management**

“Empowering the next generation of Latino innovators – because in tech, our culture and creativity are our greatest assets.”

Be sure to sign up for her **Tech Talk** events and come network with tech companies in the Upstate!

Need career advice? Reach out!
gmcclint@uscupstate.edu



Career Management
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE

TECH TALK

LATINOS IN TECH
Wednesday, Sept. 25 | 2 – 4 p.m.
HEC 2031

FEATURING



Delaney Suarez '23
Computer Information
Systems



Mateo Lopez '24
Interdisciplinary Studies
with a concentration in
Information Management
and Systems

LATINOS IN TECH

Week 4 of Tech Talk is focusing on **Latinos in Tech!** This event is organized by **Georgia McClintock** and aims to provide our Latino and Latina tech students with a new view on their impact in technology. Please come out on **September 25th from 2pm-4pm** and attend this event to network with our tech community at USC Upstate!

For more information, please contact:
gmcclint@uscupstate.edu



JOHN & KELLY SWIFT EL CENTRO SCHOLARSHIPS



"It became important to us in the next phase of life to find some way to impact lives," John Swift said.

"We both put ourselves through college. We decided we wanted to find a way that we could help kids who want to pursue higher education."

Full story:

<https://uscupstate.edu/el-centro-receives-50k-gift-for-scholarships-and-support/>

EL CENTRO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

LUCILA CABALLERO

"I am deeply grateful to El Centro for awarding me this scholarship. As an international student from Peru with aspirations to become a lawyer and a certified court translator and interpreter, this support significantly reduces the financial stress associated with international tuition. El Centro's unwavering dedication to helping me and the Latino community in the Upstate is truly inspiring. This scholarship not only empowers me to focus on my studies and future career, but also reinforces my commitment to giving back to the community that has supported me so passionately. Thank you, El Centro, for making my dreams more attainable and for your support."



Reaching Greater Heights **IN ALICANTE** **BRITTANY VALENCIA**

“I am incredibly grateful for the El Centro Scholarship; it has been an incredible blessing. I achieved a lifelong dream to study abroad in Alicante, Spain, which greatly benefited my academic and personal education. I arrived excited by Alicante’s vibrant culture, friendly locals, and amazing landscape. Thanks to the scholarship, I could fully engage in the Spanish language and culture. My academic journey was helped by El Centro Scholarship!”



SUPPORT EL CENTRO WITH DONATIONS!

Please donate at: <https://uscupstate.edu/give/>.

Choose “other” and write in “El Centro.”

El Centro is immensely grateful to John and Kelly Swift for establishing El Centro Scholarships! Your donations provide opportunities for our first generation students! Any amount is appreciated and all donations are tax deductible!

Welcome to USC Upstate **NEW DIRECTOR**

The Center for Africana & African American Studies has a new director!

DR. MARLON SMITH

Assistant Professor
Interdisciplinary Studies

Dr. Marlon is from Texas and has family roots in Panama! ¡Habla español! He is a Black Intellectual Scholar by training with a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies. His work focuses largely on the Black Radical Intellectual Tradition beginning with 19th century Black Prison Radicals such as Nat Turner. **LASO students welcome him below!**



Reaching Greater Heights ¡BIENVENIDO!



DR. RAMON LOPEZ

El Centro would like to welcome Dr. Ramon Lopez, our new USC Upstate assistant professor in political science!

UofSC System Collaborations

LEGACY AT USC

El Centro is honored to collaborate with **Dr. Raymond Torres** and **Dr. Lenny Sánchez** from UofSC. They both visited Spartanburg this summer with their daughters!

FATHERS & DAUGHTERS

We will be announcing an invitation to participate in an inaugural Southeast Hispanic and Latino Higher Education Summit (April 2025, Columbia). Maria Martin, Executive Director of PASOs at the Arnold School of Public Health at UofSC, is collaborating too on this historic summit.



Dr. Raymond Torres, Professor in the School of the Earth, Ocean and Environment at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, is the previous chair of the USC Latino & Hispanic Faculty Caucus. His daughter, **Anna Torres**, is a first-year Master of Public Health student at USC's Arnold School of Public Health, with a focus on Global Health.

"I am keen on examining the social, cultural, and economic factors that contribute to health inequities to better support underserved communities."

Dr. Lenny Sánchez, Faculty and Program Chair of Language and Literacy Education, Chair of the USC Latino & Hispanic Faculty Caucus, is Co-Director of Bilingualism Matters @ USC. His daughter, **Lauryn Sanchez**, is a new Spartan and is already actively involved with El Centro. Dr. Sánchez is featured below with Chancellor Bennie Harris, Alex Sánchez (student who spoke Spanish at Convocation), Provost Pam Steinke, and El Centro's Director.



Keeping Up With Our **FALL EVENTS**



“Recognizing Your Voice: Embracing Your Experience,” panelists: Itzel Tello Lennon, Yasmin Juarez Carrera, Lety Arnold, Paula Garcia, Nora Curiel, and El Centro’s Director, Dr. Araceli Hernández-Laroche.

9/18

RECOGNIZING YOUR VOICE: EMBRACING YOUR EXPERIENCE

9/25

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: A LATINA’S VIEW ON LANGUAGE ACCESS

10/2

GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO DREAM AS AN IMMIGRANT

10/30

FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES FROM SPAIN AND LATIN AMERICA

Join us!

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES:

A LATINA'S VIEW ON LANGUAGE ACCESS

Speaker:
JEANNETTE HOUCHENS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
LATINA VOICES & LEADERSHIP
OPEN CLASSROOM SPEAKER SERIES

Event also counts for the El Centro Public Scholars Program.



JEANNETTE HOUCHENS

Jeannette Houchens is the Founder and President of HIT Services, LLC, a SC certified court interpreter (English <->Spanish), and American Translators Association Certified Translator (English > Spanish). She is originally from Colombia and promotes language access to connect communities.

All invited. No registration needed. Refreshments served.



DATE
25 SEPTEMBER 2024

TIME
5 - 6:15 PM

LOCATION
HEC SMITH BOARDROOM (2086)



GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO DREAM AS AN IMMIGRANT

SPEAKER:
GHISELA ELJACH

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
LATINA VOICES & LEADERSHIP
OPEN CLASSROOM SPEAKER SERIES
EVENT ALSO COUNTS FOR THE EL CENTRO PUBLIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM.



GHISELA ELJACH

GHISELA ELJACH IS THE FOUNDER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF INSOUTH MAGAZINE, CEO / PRESIDENT OF EG LATIN MEDIA, AUTHOR OF *UNA HISTORIA PARA CONTAR, VIVENCIAS DE UNA INMIGRANTE* AND BOARD MEMBER OF THE UPCOUNTRY HISTORY MUSEUM.

ALL INVITED. NO REGISTRATION IS NEEDED. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



DATE
2 OCTOBER 2024

TIME
5 - 6:15 PM

LOCATION
HEC SMITH BOARDROOM (2086)



CULTURAL FUSION **FROM THE MARGINS TO MAINSTREAM**
4 SEMINARS
DIVERSITY DILEMAS **BEYOND TACOS AND TEQUILA**



Marilyn Harris

Dr. Delores Dacosta

Sofia Castro

Yair Ortiz



Dr. Caballero-Garcia will share examples of how feminist authors, activists, influencers, singers, and different experts from Spain and Latin America express themselves.

All invited. No registration needed.

South Carolina Centro Latino
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE

FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES FROM SPAIN AND LATIN AMERICA

DATE
30 OCTOBER 2024

TIME
5 - 6:15 PM

LOCATION
HEC SMITHBOARDROOM (2086)



- Speaker: Dr. Begoña Caballero-Garcia.
- Professor of Spanish Studies, Wofford College.
- Hosted by South Carolina Centro Latino as part of its 'Latina Voices & Leadership' Open Classroom Speaker Series.
- Event also counts for the El Centro Public Scholars Program.

CONECTA BUSINESS EXPO 2024

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, BLUFFTON, SC

El Centro's Director is a Guest Seminar Speaker alongside Dr. Frank Rodriguez, who serves Beaufort County School District and was recently named the South Carolina 2025 Superintendent of the Year.



South Carolina Centro Latino
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE

EL CENTRO

Public Scholars



Are you interested in learning about the growing Hispanic & Latino communities in South Carolina, developing leadership skills, and focusing on career readiness?

Join El Centro Public Scholars!

Open to all majors!

Questions?

Contact: sccl@uscupstate.edu



El Centro Public Scholar Benefits



Develop your leadership skills.



Build community!



Recognition at graduation with cords.



Connect with civic leaders and mentors. Find internships!



Graduation fiesta!



Catalyst for entering graduate or professional school.



Receive references for jobs and graduate school from El Centro's directors.



Networking opportunities!

El Centro Public Scholar Pathway



**Attend five or more El Centro events.
Volunteer at two El Centro events.
Present on lessons learned.**



**Sign up for El Centro's Monthly Newsletter:
<https://linktr.ee/southcarolinacentrolatino>.
Follow us on social media to keep up with our events!**

OR: Take at least one Latinx elective course with El Centro's Director (Taught in English; complete digital final project in English or Spanish).



**SPAN 344: Latina Voices & Leadership
SPAN 345: Latinx Studies
SPAN 364: Latino Cultural Outreach
SPAN 365: African Caribbean Studies**

No pre-reqs, adapt these courses to your major or future career.

***Any Translation and Interpreting classes count too!**



Use Your Power! VOTING 101



National Voter Registration Day was a success! Scan the QR code below to check your voter registration status! Hosted by the Office of Service Learning and Community Engagement (Civic Engagement Program).

Thank you for stopping by El Centro's table to register to vote!



THANK YOU / GRACIAS

Thank you for reading our newsletter and your support. Visit [El Centro's Scholar Commons](#) for our last newsletter. We look forward to meeting our readers in person and welcoming you all to El Centro. El Centro is for everyone so please share this with anyone who wishes to be a part of our community. Be sure to follow us on social media and subscribe to our monthly newsletter to join us on our journey to greater heights.

- El Centro Newsletter Team



DOWNLOAD OUR LAST EDITION

VOLUME 01
AUGUST 9, 2024

El Centro NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to the second edition of our monthly newsletter! Thank you for coming back to read our alumni, faculty, and student spotlights, recruitment updates, El Centro Scholarship story, and news. Please share your suggestions for our September newsletter. Know someone who is planning to join USC Upstate? Introduce them to El Centro!



ALICANTE, SPAIN

USC Upstate students visiting La Vila-Joiosa and its beautiful beach. Chocolates Valor was a special treat too! Summer 2024

