

**West Chester University**

celebrates

# **Hispanic Heritage Month**

*Celebramos la Herencia Hispana*

*Integrating*

# Hispanic Heritage Month

*in the Classroom*

**Saturday, September 13, 2008**

**9:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.**

**Sykes Union Building**

# PROGRAM

<b>Registration</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
	Sykes Lobby
<b>Continental Breakfast</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
	Ballroom A & B
<b>Welcome and Overview of Program</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Dr. Martha Drobnak</b> , <i>Elementary Education Department</i>	Ballroom C
<b>Dr. Idna M. Corbett</b> , <i>Undergraduate Studies &amp; Student Support Services</i>	
<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>
<b><i>Understanding Mestizaje: Building Educational Bridges for Latino Students</i></b>	Ballroom C
<b>Johnny Irizarry</b> , Director, Center for Hispanic Excellence: La Casa Latina, University of Pennsylvania	
<p>Johnny Irizarry holds a Masters in Urban Education from Temple University and a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Philadelphia College of Art (University of the Arts). Before coming to Penn, Irizarry served as Executive Director/CEO of The Lighthouse, a 114-year-old multi-service community based Neighborhood Center. Irizarry has served as an educator in various community-based schools. Irizarry worked as Program Specialist for Puerto Rican and Latino Studies for the School District of Philadelphia's Office of Curriculum Support. He served as Executive Director of Taller Puertorriqueño (Puerto Rican/Latino arts/cultural community based center) for twelve years. Irizarry has served as adjunct instructor at La Salle and Temple University teaching Puerto Rican/Latino art and history and lectures and facilitates workshops on the development of Puerto Rican and Latino history, arts and culture, community arts, culturally inclusive education, arts education and arts and non-profit management.</p>	
<b>Concurrent Workshops A</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>#1 Follow-up Q &amp; A with Keynote Speaker</b>	Ballroom C
Johnny Irizarry, Director, Center for Hispanic Excellence: La Casa Latina	
<b>#2 An Academic Expedition for Teachers to Guanajuato, Mexico</b>	Room 255
Dr. Gail Bollin, Elementary Education Department	
<p>Interested in the backgrounds of the many Mexican children in area schools? Come learn about a WCU workshop which is offered every summer for anyone interested in better serving the needs of the growing Mexican population in our schools. Workshop participants travel to Guanajuato and are immersed in the gracious hospitality and colorful culture of Mexicans while learning about the Mexican school system. "Graduates" of the workshop will share what they have learned and describe their projects on their return.</p>	
<b>#3 The Afro-Latino Experience</b>	Room 209
Dr. Tia Malkin-Fontecchio, History Department	
<p>This workshop will expose students to the history of Afro-Latin Americans, in order to help them to better understand the diversity of their Latino students. Understanding what it means to be Latino, means understanding that the Americas as a whole shares a common history of slavery and inequality. However, it also means understanding that very different understandings about race and ethnic identity evolved in Latin America.</p>	
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>
Provided with Conference Registration	Ballroom A & B

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## Concurrent Workshops B

1:00 p.m.

### # 1 WCU Latino Student Panel: their experiences in American classrooms

Room 252

Members of the Latino American Students Organization (L.A.S.O.)

Students will share their views on challenges they faced at school as Latino(a), how it felt having to learn a new language and relating to people who didn't speak the same language as them, times they felt uncomfortable or out of place in the classroom, and whether they felt like people treated them differently.

### # 2 Tapping your Library for HHM Teaching Ideas

FHG Library 309

Mame Purce, Francis Harvey Green Library

By bringing diversity into the classroom we can demonstrate its importance to understanding oneself and one's own history. The languages, celebrations and histories of other cultures enhance our perspectives and can enrich lives in many ways. Are you interested in exploring Hispanic literature with your students? Libraries and librarians are excellent sources of information. This session provides tips for evaluating materials and websites and offers suggestions for incorporating Hispanic culture into your classroom throughout the year.

### # 3 Hispanic Cultural Beliefs and Values: their influence on the transition to elementary school

Room 209

Nelly Arévalo, Maternal Child and Health Consortium

Cultural beliefs and values can impact the way in which Latinos perceived, seek and received education. This workshop will provide an overview of key cultural concepts such as family, discipline, religion, respect, trust and *personalismo*. Discussion will focus on helping teachers understand these values and become more culturally accessible to the Latino community.

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## Concurrent Workshops C

2:15 p.m.

### # 1 Hispanic/Latino: which one?

Room 252

Dr. Linda Stevenson, Political Science Department

Which one of the following items would you order if you had to choose one in "Latin" restaurant: *mofongo* or *nopales*? Understanding what it means to be "Hispanic" or "Latino" is a fluid process of individual and collective definitions and redefinitions of the personal and political choices of how one self-identifies relative to race, culture, nation and allegiances thereof. In this workshop we will discuss where these terms come from and how they have evolved. We will also discuss how a teacher's sensitivity and good humor about these shifts and changes can invite and affirm differences and similarities across our students' varied backgrounds in any classroom, and beyond.

### # 2 Bringing salsa, merengue, samba y mariachi into your Curriculum

Room 209

Dr. Marc Jacoby and Dr. J.C. Dobrzelewski, Applied Music Department

*Sofrito* is the term for the base vegetable flavoring of many Latin American dishes. Its combination of onions, garlic, and peppers forms the *rue* that becomes the foundation for the dish's main ingredients. Percussion and dance combine to form the *sofrito* of many styles in Latin music. It reflects the ongoing influence of the folkloric traditions that is uniquely Latin-American (*mestizaje*) with its assimilation and integration of Spanish culture with that of the Mestizo and African. Today's presentation will attempt to de-mystify many of the styles, high-lighting the commonalities and differences that make up the rich fabric of Latin-American music.

### # 3 Piñata Making with Local Mexican Experts

Ballroom A & B

Ms. Loretta Perna and Kennett High School Students, Kennett School District

The "Piñata Making" workshop will be facilitated by a small group of high students in the "WIN" program of Kennett High school. It will begin with a brief history of the piñata, followed by a demonstration of the basic steps to making a piñata. Audience participation will be encouraged.

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## Closing

3:15 p.m.

Building Bridges across Cultures – Interactive Exercise & Raffle

Ballroom C

Concluding Reflections and Evaluation



## Hispanic Heritage Month Organizing Committee

Linda Stevenson & Idna M. Corbett, Coordinators

John Baker	Stephanie Reid
Amy Corado	Awilda Reyes
Peggy Hill	Teresa Ryan
Tammy Hilliard-Thompson	Melanie Soto
Karen Jaffe	Barbara Schneller
Oné Pagán	Dave Timman

*Special Thanks To...*

### The following West Chester University organizations and offices contributed to the success of this conference:

- Strategic Planning and Resources Council (SPRC)
- Undergraduate Studies & Student Support Services
- Department of Elementary Education
- Department of Political Science
- Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Office of Social Equity
- Sykes Student Union

## Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time of year designated to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States, and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture in the U.S.. Official “Hispanic Heritage” celebrations first began in 1968, initially for a week, designated by President Lyndon B. Johnson, then expanded to a month in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan. The 30-day period starts on September 15 in commemoration of the Independence days of five Latin American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), with two other countries celebrating their anniversaries on September 16 and 18 (Mexico and Chile, respectively). The month ends shortly after October 12, Columbus Day, as it is known in the U.S., or “Día de la Raza (the Day of the Race),” referring to the beginning of a new race of people that began with the colonization that followed Columbus’ arrival.

Given the growing number of Hispanics in the U.S., in southeastern Pennsylvania, and on our campus, as well as the increasing influence of Hispanic culture in the U.S. in general, West Chester University is proud to take advantage of this official designation to join in the celebration and affirmation of Hispanic culture in 2008.