El Centro

Addressing the needs of Colorado State’s Latino Community.

Helping You Achieve Your Educational Goals.”

February: Black History Month, Birthday’s of Presidents, Composers, Authors, & Scientists, & Maybe it is your Birthday! Mardi Gras, Super Bowl, Leap Day & Valentine’s Day.

Phyllis Chacon, El Centro Graduate Assistant

I was born in Trinidad Colorado. My father’s family is Jicarilla Apache & my mother is Cherokee Indian, Spanish, Irish. I am currently completing my dissertation in Educational Leadership Renewal & Change; with a minor in Peace & Reconciliation. Also obtaining my Principal License completing an internship through Poudre school district. I have a double Masters degree in Community Counseling and School Counseling K-12, a Bachelor degree in Psychology with a minor in Outdoor Education and an Associate degree in Psychology. I received the MLK scholarship in 2008/2009. My passion is social justice & equality education for all citizens.

Graduate Watch

Who attended the Graduate Student of Color Reception & Forum on Monday February 6? Please send in your response to the event. Todos Juntos will be sending out an invitation to begin spring gatherings. Check your email for Doodle docs to find a mutual meeting time.

Next Issue: The Rising Cost of Tuition

Next month we look at the rising cost of tuition and its implications on our Latino community. If you would like to be part of the discussion send in your concerns to pcjustice@gmail.com.

“Both tears and sweat are salty, but they render a different result. Tears will get you sympathy; sweat will get you change.”

-Jesse Jackson, African-American Civil Rights Activist
El Centro Brown Bag Series
Tuesday’s at Noon

February 7th  El Centro Open House
February 14th  Valentine's Day Crafts & Cupcakes
February 21st  Financial Aid Workshop
February 28th  CommUNITY

In honor of Black History Month.
All events are scheduled in the Sala de Charla at El Centro.

Multicultural Greek Council
Schedule of Events

February 4th  NAK Party/Fundraiser
February 6th  DXN State of Honey Week
February 7th  DXN ChaCha Class
February 8th  DXN Cultural Involvement Fair
February 9th  DXN Meet & Greet with BGN
February 10th DXN Meet the Honeys

For more information regarding these events, please contact Natalie Smith at npsmith@rams.colostate.edu

Black History Month Events

February 2nd  Determined Nation Open Mic Night
February 6th  Movie: American History X
February 7th  Real Talk: Getting Caught Up
February 8th  Black Faculty/Staff Luncheon
February 9th  Daryl Davis, Journey in Ku Klux Klan
February 10th Social Issues Comedian, Tracey Ashley
February 13th Movie: Prom Night in Mississippi
February 14th Real Talk: Interracial Dating
February 15th Dynamics of Male/Female Relationships
February 16th United Men of Color Documentary
February 20th Movie: The Great Debaters
February 21st Reverend Irene Monroe, Religion and LGBT
February 22nd Women at Noon, Irene Monroe
February 23rd Malcolm X’s Daughter: Ilyasah Shabazz
February 27th Movie: The Help
February 28th Real Talk: The Help

“I don’t know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.”

-Bill Cosby, American actor and comedian.
**Roman Roots**
The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

**Valentines Galore**
Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honor remains a mystery: according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and of a third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.

Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine." Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on Eros (passionate love) but on agape (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion. Rumor has it that St. Valentine was a Priest and he defied the Emperors ban on marriages and married young people in secret.

**Note why was marriage banned?**
In 1969, the Catholic Church revised its liturgical calendar, removing the feast days of saints whose historical origins were questionable. St. Valentine was one of the casualties.

**Chaucer's Love Birds**
It was not until the 14th century that this Christian feast day became definitively associated with love. According to UCLA medieval scholar Henry Ansgar Kelly, author of Chaucer and the Cult of Saint Valentine, it was Chaucer who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance. In 1381, Chaucer composed a poem in honor of the engagement between England's Richard II and Anne of Bohemia. As was the poetic tradition, Chaucer associated the occasion with a feast day. In "The Parliament of Fowls," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are linked: For this was on St. Valentine's Day, When every fowl cometh there to choose his mate.

Read more: Valentine's Day History — Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/spot/valentinesdayhistory.html#ixzz1kJaj8TLIX

Send in your rendition of Valentine's Day! You may see your story in our next issue.

**El Centro Couples**

♥ Oscar and Lupita
♥ David and Janelle
♥ Reese and Amanda
♥ Paul and Laura
♥ Fernando and Eliana
♥ Darian and Brandy
♥ Jesus and Monica

Vote for your favorite couple!
Email to anthony0@rams.colostate.edu

“Don't threaten me with love, baby. Let's just go walking in the rain.”
-Billie Holiday
Written by Brandy in her own words:

My name is Brandy Elizabeth Salazar. I was born and raised right here in Fort Collins, Colorado. I grew up in a very large family I have five sisters and two brothers. Growing up, I lived around many of my cousins and friends, so I was always running around the neighborhood playing any sort of games we could come up with. School wasn't always in my sights; it wasn't until I was recommended for Upward bound my freshman year in high school that I really thought about college. After that, my life went into a different direction and I became very serious about grades and applying to universities. My first year at CSU was rough, I was not prepared to have so much independence and I had no time management skills. I knew I had the tools to be great, I just needed to change my priorities and do what I came to do. I am now a double-major in Communications and Ethnic Studies with a 3.4 GPA. This May I will be graduating and I can't believe that it has gone by so fast, I am so proud :) Graduate school is in my near future with either SAHE or Ethnic Studies, but I would like to take a year or two off of school and focus on professional development. My dream would be to take two years off while working at CSU in a position that includes working with students. Then, a few years down the road, maybe one to three years, I will begin the process of applying to grad school. Of course, all these dreams are made possible through the support of my fiancé, Darian Ortiz, who is in his sophomore year here at CSU. Five years down the road, I hope we will be married and beginning our family, along with working in jobs leading up to our careers or furthering

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Written by Ciana in her own words:

My name is Ciana Gurule’ and I am a sophomore majoring in Sociology with a concentration on Criminology and Business Management. I am originally from Denver but mostly grew up in Littleton, CO. I am an only child but I am rarely lonely due to the massive amount of cousins that I have. In high school I participated in many different sports such as Basketball, Volleyball, Swimming and Golf. Although I do not play in college I still try to participate in intermural sports to stay active. Attending college has never been an option for me because of how far my parents have come. They grew up against all odds, coming out of big families with no intention ever getting a higher education due to insufficient funds and the lack of support. Despite all of that they managed to graduate college and reach the goals that once seemed so far away. This has pushed me to do my best and come to Colorado State University. I love it here and am so glad that I chose to attend. I am also a Peer Resource Leader at El Centro. I started at the beginning of my sophomore year when I had decided that I needed to become in touch with my culture and background. A Peer Resource Leader is here to help other students with questions about academics or even life if needed but mostly just as another resource to have throughout college. Even though I have only been working at El Centro for a couple months it has been a great experience. So many opportunities have opened up for me, I have met so many new and inspirational people and I feel that it has helped me better myself as a person. I am excited to continue working here throughout my college career.
Moises Padilla
Second Year Graduate Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE)

Written by Moises in his own words:

Greetings! My name is Moises Padilla, and I am a second year graduate student in the Student Affairs in Higher Education program, also known as SAHE. I was born in Juarez, Mexico, and I grew up in El Paso, Texas, and Lexington, Nebraska. I attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Go Huskers!) and graduated with a degree in Business Administration in 2010. I came to CSU because I was very impressed with the SAHE program and met friendly people. I am currently searching for jobs in Student Affairs, and I hope to stay in Colorado for the next few years. I want to send a shout out to some of the students who have helped me as I transition into our CSU community - those are members of La Raza and my brothers from iota chapter of Sigma Lambda Beta.

“I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down...”

-Abraham Lincoln

Jennifer Nival
Second Year Graduate Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE)

Jennifer written in her own words:

I am a second year graduate student pursuing a Master’s degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education. I am originally from the Bronx, New York. I received my bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Vermont. As a graduate assistant for campus activities, I work with a diverse group of students creating awareness around diversity and social justice. My passion and interests are multicultural affairs and student programming. On my down time, I love to watch movies, listen to music, and complete puzzles. After graduation, I am looking to go pursue a position within multicultural affairs to support students of color in their development in college.
Eligibility:
Any US citizen admitted to the Graduate School pursuing a graduate degree. Applicants do not need to be a full time student to apply; however, the MLK recipient must be a full time graduate student during the two consecutive semesters that s/he receives the MLK scholarship award.

More About the Scholarship:
The Colorado State University Graduate School is pleased to announce the availability of the 2012-2013 Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship. This award will provide full support to an outstanding graduate student for the academic year (non-renewable). The scholarship is funded by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Graduate Scholarship endowment, the recipient’s college, and the Graduate School.

Where to Apply:
You may access the formal Call for Applications and Nominations, criteria, and application at the Graduate School website: http://www.graduateschool.colostate.edu/financial-resources/scholarships.aspx.

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend.”
-Martin Luther King, Jr

Department of Defense

The DoD Centralized Intern Program is a 10 week paid summer internship for post secondary (college) students from two and four-year accredited institutions of higher education. The internship opportunities are located in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area. Participants will receive a weekly stipend and round-trip transportation to the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area. Participants will be provided assistance with temporary housing arrangements on an as needed basis.

The DoD Centralized Intern Program integrates academic theory with workplace experience that may serve as a pipeline to student employment programs and entry-level employment opportunities. The program allows students to gain valuable work experience, understanding of DoD operations and increased professional networks.

Participants selected to participate in the program must be U.S. citizens, be enrolled in a 2 or 4-year accredited institution of higher education, and have a grade point average at a minimum of 3.0 on a 4 point scale.

More info at www.goDefense.com
Wood Carvings of Baby Jesus and The Three Wise Men: A Spanish Tradition Alive in Puerto Rico
By: Rocio Velez-Pesante
January 2012

January 6th of every year, most Latin American counties celebrate the day of the Three Wise kings. This celebration came to our country with the Spanish conquistadores “around the XVII century” (pag 124). The Spanish taught some Puerto Ricans how to wood carve saints and The Three Wise Men to have in their catholic churches. Since then Puerto Ricans have not stopped carving and this Spanish tradition has become part of our cultural heritage.

The night before The Three Wise Men’s Day, I used to go and look for a long type of grass that grows in Puerto Rico. I would cut it and put it in shoe box under my bed with a bowl of water. I would also tie some of that grass with knitting string to take with me that other day to my grandmother’s house. No grass or water for the camels of The Three Wise Men’s, and you had no gifts. A parade would also pass thought the streets with The Three Wise Men giving out candy. The whole neighborhood would gather with their children to see this. This celebration has always more fun that Christmas, as we do not accustom to leave cookies and a glass of milk to Santa Claus and risk the ants coming inside of the house to eat them. Plus, why waste cookies and milk for coffee in the morning? Still today the day of The Three Wise Men is the most celebrated holiday in Puerto Rico. It was not until my teenage years that my father became a certified artisan that woodcarved The Three Wise Men. Since then the pieces of wood and the wood carving in the house became something common. I am surrounded by all the beautiful wood carved pieces of a long Puerto Rican tradition. I have observed my father’s work for years, and many times I have tried unsuccessfully to learn how to wood carve without cutting my fingers and immediately giving up. Wood carving requires an artistic passion, patience and love for tradition.

Hector E. Velez- Irizarry is my father, and he has been a wood-carver for the past 7 years, but a true artist all his life. He sits in his house in Añasco, Puerto Rico, carving cedar wood with such agility that it might seem like soap what he is carving. The little pieces of wood fly off with the warm winds of the coast, carving thoughtfully every piece.

One day I asked my father why he became interested in wood carving and he told me: “I became interested in woodcarving as a way for me to expand my artistic abilities. Later on I realized how interesting it was to convert my drawing and other ideas into a 3D form. Now days I woodcarve everyday. I always try to do many pieces in a traditional way. A lot of little details that makes woodcarving them, part of this countries tradition.”

Woodcarving of The three Wise Men will never disappear as long as there are collectors and people who value their traditions. As long as we have that, the traditions of the three wise men will not die.

Our own Rocio who’s home is in beautiful Puerto Rico will be spending the spring semester in Cuba. She will be sharing this experience with us and sending news from the region. If you have questions, if there is anything in particular you would like to hear about please send your inquiry to pcjustice@gmail.com. We will try to get them posted in the next issue.

Rocio is a Senior majoring in Spanish, and international studies.

Rocio in her Native Puerto Rico
Do you speak Spanish? Are you interested in working and living in another country? While many students aspire to gain international work experience, it can be difficult to figure out exactly where to start. This is just one of many reasons that students apply to volunteer for the Peace Corps.

Started in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, the Peace Corps has seen an unusually large number of volunteers from Colorado State University. In fact, CSU ranked No. 6 on the 2012 Top Peace Corps volunteer-producing colleges and universities in the graduate school category, and No. 13 in the undergraduate large school category. These students come from a variety of educational backgrounds, including graduates from the colleges of Agriculture, Liberal Arts, and Natural Resources.

While the application process is competitive, those with a basic level of Spanish or higher are already a step ahead of the game (basic level would include either four years of high school Spanish or two years of college level). Highly sought applicants include those with Spanish or French who are studying either agriculture or natural resources. Peace Corps volunteers are placed where their skills most closely match the needs of the countries. Volunteers served for a term of 27 months, and benefits include the ability to defer student loans for that period, free medical and dental care, travel and a readjustment allowance upon returning home.

“The real benefits are the personal growth that takes place in volunteers who serve and integrate into other cultures. There’s no other opportunity like this anywhere,” said Doug Johnson, CSU campus recruiter.

In its 50-year history, the Peace Corps has sent more than 200,000 volunteers to 139 different countries. Today, the Peace Corps serves more than 75 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East.

If you have any questions about the program or application process, visit the CSU Peace Corps office in Laurel Hall on the Northeast corner of the Oval, or email Doug Johnson at pcorps@colostate.edu.

Pingree Park Mountain Campus Employment "Spend Your Summer in the Rockies"

Live and work in a beautiful mountain valley for the summer and/or fall season at the Pingree Park Mountain Campus. Be part of a small community of staff working towards a common goal. Enjoy the mountain lifestyle – hiking, fishing, mountain biking, trail running and rock climbing. Positions are available in Dining Services, Office/Store, Housekeeping, Labor Crew, Delivery Driver, Challenge Ropes Course Facilitator and Eco-Week Instructor.

COMPENSATION: All positions receive approximately $8.79 per hour. Housing is provided to full time employees at no charge. First year full time employees will have a $17/week meal deduction.

EMPLOYMENT DATES: Our season of operation runs from Mid-May until Mid-October. We typically hire CSU students for the summer (Mid-May to Mid-August), and recent graduates and non-students for the fall (Mid-August to Mid-October). Some employees are hired to work the full season (Mid-May to Mid-October).

RELEVANT WORK/LIVING INFORMATION: The Pingree Park Mountain Campus is located 53 miles west of Fort Collins, and is situated at 9,000 feet in a beautiful mountain valley on the northern boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park. The campus serves as the site for the Warner College of Natural Resources academic field programs NR 220 and F 230 and as a conference center for educational groups of all ages. Pingree Park is remote and the conveniences of the city, including daily contact with friends, cell phone service and reliable internet are left behind. All employees live in housing provided by the University and NO pets are permitted. A position at Pingree Park combines the positive attributes of summer camp work and on-campus employment. The staff develops into a team that works and lives together through the season. Most employees work a 35 – 40 hour work week, and everyone gets two days off each week. At Pingree Park, all employees are expected to take ownership in the well-being of the campus, its community and stewardship of the natural environment.

HIRING CRITERIA: Hiring will be based upon experience in related work situations, living experiences, and personal interest. We believe strongly in the “team” concept and the ability of applicants to work and live well with others. We are looking for employees who are comfortable working and living in a remote area. Inclusion of one written reference is strongly recommended, but not required. Individuals will be selected for an interview through a screening process. Job offers will be made in late March for summer employment and Mid-July for fall employment.

HOW TO APPLY: www.pingree.colostate.edu Application available online and in PDF format. Contact us at 970-491-4747.
El Centro is one of the seven diversity centers at Colorado State University. A marker of efficacy for a diversity center is student outreach (attendance). On average, El Centro receives 55 students per day. This AMAZING number is evidence of the dedication of the staff and community of El Centro. The El Centro Staff hope to receive even more student engagement… So…

February Birthdays

Phyllis Chacon  February 8
Zulema Sierra  February 21
Oscar De La Hoya  February 4
George Romero  February 4
Ida Lupino  February 4
Charles Darwin  February 12
Abraham Lincoln  February 12
Galileo  February 16
Buffy S. Marie  February 20
Sidney Poitier  February 20
Roberto G. Bolanos  February 21
Andres Segovia  February 21
Chopin  February 22
George Washington  February 22
Edward J. Olmos  February 24
To name a few

DON’T BE SHY, STOP ON BY

Editor-in-Chief: Phyllis Chacon
Doctoral Candidate Education Leadership Renewal & Change: Peace & Reconciliation

Editor: Vanessa Villegas Selwyn
Doctoral Program Molecular Cellular & Integrated Neuroscience

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