Centro Hispano
HISPANIC LATINO CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013
FAMILY UNITS

**MI CASA** – Mentors Initiating Community Action, Support and Advocacy mentoring program

**Mi Gente** – UNCW student organization with a focus on sharing the Hispanic/Latino cultures with the community through education and celebration

**Ritmo Latino** – UNCW student organization that strives to learn more about Latino cultures through diverse Latin style dances

**Puro Teatro** – UNCW student organization that produces Spanish speaking theatrical productions to embrace the Hispanic culture through theater and language

**Centro Hispano Embajadores** (CHE) – UNCW student organization with a focus on motivating younger students to pursue a higher education

**Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association** (HFSA) – Organization that brings together faculty and staff of diverse backgrounds with the purpose of celebrating Hispanic heritage, advancing Hispanic issues in a professional setting, and supporting the growth of Hispanics in higher education

HFSA MEMBERS

**Edelmira Segovia** – Director of Centro Hispano

**Patricia Armiñana** – Spanish Lecturer

**Manuel Avalos** – Professor of Public and International Affairs

**Michael Barugel** – Career Development Counselor

**Amanda Boomershine** – Associate Professor of Spanish

**David P. Echevarria** – Professor of Economics and Finance

**Maria G. Espinosa-Hernandez** – Assistant Professor of Psychology

**Ana L. Eusse** – Program Coordinator of Centro Hispano

**Regina Felix** – Associate Professor of Portuguese

**Jorge Figueroa** – Assistant Professor of Health and Applied Human Sciences

**Marianella Jara** – Spanish Lecturer

**Gabriel Lugo** – Professor of Mathematics

**Maurice Martinez** – Professor of Education

**Chris Montero** – MI CASA Program Advisor of Centro Hispano

**Marcio Moreno** – Director of Admissions

**Ariana Mrak** – Associate Professor of Spanish

**Samuel Nevarez** – Postal Services Supervisor

**N. Eleni Pappamihiel** – Associate Professor of Education

**Michele Parker** – Assistant Professor of Education
THE VISION
Centro Hispano will be the necessary resource for UNCW to become the university of choice for Hispanic students, faculty and staff.

MISSION
The mission of Centro Hispano is to nurture students into becoming strong leaders, representative of all the core values of UNCW, through the promotion of academic excellence, cultural representation and leadership development. Centro Hispano serves as a link between students and all available resources needed for their academic growth, as well as for their development as future professionals. We focus on embracing and nurturing diversity, on student leadership development and on best practices and use of resources for academic success. Our emphasis on diversity is exemplified by our goal of increasing the representation of the diversity within the Hispanic culture through students, faculty, staff, campus events, curriculum and community engagement. Our focus on student leadership development provides students with enrichment opportunities such as leadership conferences, leadership seminars and certificates, as well as leadership roles within our campus and community.

HISTORY
Centro Hispano originated through the efforts of a distinguished faculty member who saw the need to increase diversity on campus, particularly the Latino demographic. At that time, Centro Hispano had no budget, office or staff. Today, Centro Hispano serves more than 800 Hispanic students who attend UNCW and reaches out to the local community with several initiatives, mentoring programs, cultural events and special outreach programming.
WHAT CAN CENTRO HISPANO DO FOR YOU?

Centro Hispano is a part of UNCW’s Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. Along with contributing to the diverse environment on our campus, our office also works to enhance the academic mission of the university through program offerings and partnerships with faculty and staff across campus. These opportunities are open to all; you do not have to be Latino/Hispanic to use our resources. Below are just a few examples of how we can help you.

Provide training for you, your colleagues and your staff on education and population trends regarding Hispanics/Latinos.

Recruit higher number of Latino/Hispanic students to create a more diverse student body for UNCW.

Connect you to our many student organizations such as Ritmo Latino, Puro Teatro, Mi Gente and Centro Hispano Embajadores.

Provide a mentoring opportunity with Mi CASA.

Complement the academic mission of your class by partnering with you to develop co-curricular activities (e.g., speakers, films, roundtable discussions) that will further your students’ depth and appreciation of topics covered in classes

SUPPORT YOUR RESEARCH THROUGH:

- Networking with other universities as part of the Consortium of Hispanic/Latino Higher Education Professionals.
- Connecting you to faculty and staff interested in your research areas.
- Providing you with materials. Our office has books and movies on Hispanic/Latino culture and issues, available from our lending library.

These are just a few of the resources Centro Hispano has to offer. Please contact us at centrohispano@uncw.edu or 910.962.7785 for more information, to share ideas or to partner with our office.
ORGANIZATIONAL TABLE

**Centro Hispano Director:** The director of Centro Hispano facilitates the Centro Hispano team, which consists of one program coordinator, one mentoring program advisor and four student assistants. Centro Hispano includes Hispanic cultural literacy, heritage and demographic workshops, community outreach, Hispanic faculty and staff network, opportunities for bilingual students, culturally focused pre-college advising, professional networking and student resources including study area, cultural library and student organizations.

**MI CASA Program Advisor:** The role of the MI CASA program advisor is to lead high school students into post-secondary education and support Centro Hispano’s programming. Responsibilities include managing all recruitment efforts for MI CASA mentors and mentees, including coordinating efforts with staff and students at participating high schools, and coordinating UNCW mentor recruitment efforts on campus. Additional responsibilities include curriculum planning for mentors and mentees, mentor training, community service development and individualized college/career planning for multiple cohorts.

**Centro Hispano Program Coordinator:** The Centro Hispano program coordinator works with the director of Centro Hispano to provide assistance in research, planning, development and implementation of student programming in response to student and university needs. In addition to the campus community, the program coordinator coordinates with the local and regional community in programming academic, cultural and social events linked to the mission of Centro Hispano. Daily tasks include managing, promoting and leading activities, as well as referring students to additional supports in the areas of admissions, financial aid, registration, residence life, student center, outdoor facilities and other administrative units dedicated to student services.
**MI CASA (Mentors Initiating Community Action, Support, and Advocacy)** mentoring project at the University of North Carolina Wilmington is an innovative program designed to provide access to higher education to Hispanic/Latino high school students in North Carolina.

The goal of this two-year program is to identify high achieving Hispanic students from local high schools who wish to further their education at universities like UNCW. During this college preparatory process, high school mentees and UNCW mentors foster a stronger sense of community.

MI CASA's mentoring project involves UNCW faculty members, as well as graduate and undergraduate scholars. The program is designed to encourage the highest level of education for selected Hispanic high school sophomores who demonstrate promise, determination, discipline and need. MI CASA serves as a comprehensive support program that provides mentoring, college preparation seminars, tutoring, community service and cultural enrichment activities in order to help high school mentees become compelling candidates for college admission and scholarship awards.

**FALL SEMESTER**
- Mentor Training
- College Application Assistance
- SAT Prep
- Seahawk for a Day
- Holiday Fiesta

**SPRING SEMESTER**
- MI CASA Academic Day
- FASFA Informational Day
- Community Service Day
- Leadership Ropes Course
- MI CASA Professional Panel Day
- Awards Recognition

**CONTACT**

**Program Advisor:** Chris Montero  
**Phone:** 910.962.2631  
**Email:** micasa@uncw.edu

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**Mi Gente** at UNCW is an organization that exists to unite students of Hispanic heritage while at the same time inviting interested students of ALL backgrounds to learn about Hispanic/Latino cultures. In this respect, Mi Gente not only strives to bring awareness of the Hispanic/Latino community to the broader campus but also to foster cultural understanding among its own members.

**ANNUAL EVENTS**
- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
- Immigration and Immigration Law Presentation
- The Future of Our Undocumented Youth

**CONTACT**

**President:** Ingrid Moreno  
**Email:** icm1139@uncw.edu
Ritmo Latino is a UNCW organization dedicated to the dance culture of Latino America. Students strive to learn more about Latin cultures through diverse Latin-style dances such as Bachata, Cumbia, Merengue, Salsa and Banda. Join Ritmo Latino for a good time learning many Latin dances.

**ANNUAL EVENTS**
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Artist in Residence Co-Sponsorship
- UNCW Intercultural Festival
- UNCW Health Festival
- Azalea Festival
- UNCW Dance Marathon

**CONTACT**
- **President:** Marlene Zarate
  **Email:** mz9869@uncw.edu
- **Vice President:** Emily Magdalena
  **Email:** emj7262@uncw.edu

Puro Teatro is dedicated to the development of Spanish-speaking theater productions and artistic development, on and off campus. Our student-run organization is open to anyone; however, full membership is limited to UNCW students. Producing one theatrical production per academic year in the Spanish language, we work with students who have limited knowledge of the Spanish tongue.

**ANNUAL EVENTS**
- “Que Pasa con el Azucar?”
- “El Espejo”
- “Los Castigados”
- “El Clérigo Embriagado”

**CONTACT**
- **President:** Stephanie Chismar
  **Email:** sjc8506@uncw.edu
- **Vice President:** Jenna McPherson
  **Email:** jlm8952@uncw.edu

Centro Hispano Embajadores purpose is to motivate young students to pursue a higher level of education and to positively influence their communities through their contributions and achievements. Embajadores focuses on informing Latino/Hispanic youth about various post-secondary education opportunities while fostering leadership development within the Embajadores student membership.

**HIGH SCHOOLS VISITED**
- North Brunswick High School
- New Hanover County Schools
  (MI CASA participants)
- Pender County Schools
  (MI CASA participants)
- Duplin County Schools

**MIDDLE SCHOOL VISITED**
- D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISITED**
- Bladen Lakes Primary School

**CONTACT**
- **President:** Chris Montero
  **Email:** monteroc@uncw.edu
**FALL SEMESTER**

We welcomed 150 Hispanic first-year students and 100 Hispanic transfer students. Our fall 2012 totaled 798 Hispanic students (including 46 graduate students).

**AUGUST**

*Día de Bienvenida/Day of Welcoming* (Aug. 19): Incoming Hispanic students were invited to attend a bilingual information session. Academic and student affairs presented and light refreshments were served. “Raise Your Flag” social event followed at Sharky’s Game Room where students attached their names to their heritage country’s flag.

**SEPTEMBER**

*Spanish Club Film Festival:* UNCW was awarded the $1,000 PRAGDA Film Festival Grant, sponsored by the Department of Education of Culture of Spain. Five films were featured at Lumina Theater throughout Hispanic Heritage Month. Additional financial co-sponsors included ACE, Department of Film Studies, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Department of International Studies, Office of International Programs, UNCW Spanish Club and Women’s Studies and Resource Center.

*MI CASA Mentoring Program:* We welcomed Cohort 3 (current high school juniors), and reconnected with Cohort 2 (current high school seniors), for our third year of academic mentoring. Each of the 19 high-school students was paired up with a UNCW student mentor.

*Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 1–Oct. 15):* We kicked off celebrations with a cultural fair at the amphitheater during the day (Sept. 14), followed by a Salsa Dance Fiesta at the Warwick Center ballroom at night. The Department of Tourism of the Dominican Republic sponsored the event, contributing $1,500.

**OCTOBER**

*UNC Hispanic Faculty Forum (Oct. 6):* UNCW helped organize this historic event hosted at NCSU. Seven UNCW faculty attended the event, a first of its kind. UNCW is set to host the 2013 forum.

*Community Outreach Event at Landfall (Oct. 20):* Danny McComas, N.C. House of Representatives (District 19) and highest ranking Hispanic political figure in the state, was thanked for his service. Attending were the consul general of Mexico in N.C.; Wilmington’s mayor; the director of Hispanic and Latino Affairs for the Office of the Governor and Safety Committee Representative for the Governor’s Advisory Council for Hispanic and Latino Affairs; Edward Graham and Antonio Puente, UNCW professors; Jeff Widdison, an immigration attorney; the director of Hispanic Affairs at Brunswick Community College; a Verizon Wireless human resources representative; UNCW Hispanic faculty, alumni, students and staff.

*Multicultural Networking (Oct. 17):* UNCW Career Services hosted a co-sponsored multicultural professional networking night. Members of the Latino Alliance of Southeastern North Carolina and Centro Hispano student leaders attended.

*Dali Quartet Residency (Oct. 25):* UNCW Presents and Centro Hispano co-sponsored performances of the Dali Quartet. Events included a family concert at D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy, a dance workshop at UNCW’s amphitheater and an evening concert with members of the Latino Alliance of Southeastern North Carolina.

*Centro Hispano Embajadores (Oct. 30):* This new student organization was approved with a mission to motivate young students to pursue a higher level of education and to positively influence their communities through their contributions and achievements. CHE completed five visits to local public schools and two college fairs.

**NOVEMBER**

*Día de los Muertos (Nov. 1):* Students set up a traditional altar in memory of lost loved ones (a traditional Mexican holiday) with traditional face painting done by students.

*Hispanic Student Recruitment Fairs (Nov. 10):* UNCW Office of Admissions sponsored registration and transportation to the El Centro Hispano de Durham College Fair and the Soy un Líder College Fair at Guilford College. UNCW Centro Hispano staff and students represented our university.

*MI CASA Seahawk for a Day (Nov. 12):* MI CASA high school mentees spent the day auditing UNCW classes. Members of the Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association, the Centro Hispano Advisory Board, UNCW faculty and UNCW student mentors hosted high school students in their classes (based on students’ career interests). The event closed with a social at Sharky’s, followed by a motivational talk with the associate provost for diversity and inclusion.
José Galvez; Al Norte, Al Norte (Nov. 14–15): Hosted by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and co-sponsored by Centro Hispano. For more than 10 years, José Galvez has documented Latino life and culture in the United States in black and white images and revealing the diversity and strength of this state's growing Latino community. Exhibit of his work has been held at the North Carolina Museum of History.

SPRING SEMESTER

This semester we welcomed our spring admission Hispanic Seahawks!

JANUARY

Meet UNCW Hispanic/Latino Faculty (Jan. 27): Centro Hispano hosted an open forum for students to meet with UNCW Hispanic/Latino faculty and staff to learn more about their backgrounds and decisions to pursue their field of study.

FEBRUARY

Growing Up Latina (Feb. 4): In collaboration with the Women's Studies and Resource Center, author Rosie Molinary spoke about her upbringing in two different cultures. Rooted in the work and lessons from her book Hijas Americanas, this presentation revealed how Latinas coming of age in America reconcile the messages they receive in their homes, with the messages they receive outside their homes, in order to find themselves. The presentation included an explanation for the motivation of her book, the research process and a reading. A book signing followed.

Love in the Time of Cholera (Feb. 12): To celebrate International Week, Centro Hispano presented the film Love in the Time of Cholera, based on the book of the same name written by Colombian author and Nobel Prize for Literature recipient Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

La Vida No Es Facil (Feb. 14): Directed by UNCW faculty member Maurice Martinez, the documentary follows the lives of three undocumented high school students living in North Carolina as they begin the next step in their lives after completing high school.

CONTRA-TIEMPO Residency (Feb. 11–23): Non-profit, Los Angeles-based, activist dance company CONTRA-TIEMPO joined UNCW for two weeks as they performed at local schools, community centers and delivered a final performance. The CONTRA-TIEMPO residency was presented by the UNCW Office of Cultural Arts as part of its Artist in Residence Program. The project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and North Carolina Arts Council. Support was also provided by Target.

MARCH

The Deportee's Wife (March 18): Giselle Stern Hernández, a Mexican-American writer, performer and questioner, presented her struggles as her husband was deported from Chicago back to Mexico in April 2001. She performed her one-woman show and lectured at three separate classrooms in the Departments of Social Work and Foreign Languages and Literatures and the Honors College.

Multicultural Employee Panel (March 20): UNCW students had an opportunity to learn best practices from diverse local professional in several areas including engineering, communications, health care and law.

N.C. Society of Hispanic Professionals — Educational Summit (March 22): The summit is the largest educational conference in North Carolina for middle and high school Hispanic students. More than 10,000 students from schools in more than 50 counties throughout North Carolina have participated in the annual summit initiative since 2000.

American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education — AAHHE Conference (March 28–30): Our Centro Hispano director and MI CASA program advisor attended the annual conference that focuses on the advancement of Hispanic/Latinos in higher education. Discussed were best practices for student recruitment, retention and graduation, as well as faculty recruitment, retention and progression into leadership.

APRIL

Annual Phone-Jamming Nights (April 1–30): As a recruitment effort, our students, faculty and staff shared the load and called our newly admitted incoming first-year students. In collaboration with the Office of Admissions, we have the tradition of welcoming them and extending our support as a part of the Centro Hispano family.

Pender High School Career Fair (April 5): Centro Hispano participated as a UNCW resource and shared details of college planning, college admissions and career planning. Pender High School is a rural, low-income and very diverse school. They are one of three Pender County schools participating in the MI CASA Program.

Memoria y Resistencia (April 11): Cristina Cabral from North Carolina Central University discussed her poetry, which illustrates her life as an Afro-Uruguayan female. Cabral was the guest speaker at the first UNC Hispanic Faculty Forum (2012).

Día de Los Libros (April 23): In collaboration with Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the Latino Book Club, students from a local elementary school were invited to participate in a bilingual book reading followed by student activities.

Appalachian State Hispanic Symposium (April 19): UNCW’s associate provost of diversity and inclusion and Centro Hispano director were invited to share best practices with a newly formed Appalachian@'s group at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

Successful Latinos Reception (April 23): UNCW Centro Hispano recognized the academic achievements of Latino students who have reached a significant milestone in their lives. Latinos are the largest and fastest growing minority group in the U.S., but still hold the least number of university degrees. A national educational goal is to increase the number of Latino students applying, attending, and completing degrees in higher education. The graduates celebrated at this program are now role models of successful Latinos and are available to the community as examples in conveying the message that “Yes, we can achieve an education and succeed.”

Centro Hispano Beach Photo Shoot (Apr. 26): Student leaders and UNCW Office of University Relations photographer came together for a morning of sunshine at Wrightsville Beach in order to help us launch our new brochures. Students were encouraged to wear their UNCW, UNCW Latinos or UNCW Amigos T-shirts.

MAY

Friends of UNCW Grant Award Reception (May 7): Centro Hispano was a recipient of the Friends of UNCW Grant. With the award, our office will be able to purchase a much-needed display board and portable display banner for our many marketing needs (recruitment, fairs and representation opportunities).
LATINO ALLIANCE

The mission of the Latino Alliance of Southeastern North Carolina is to build a stronger network among people and organizations that serve the Hispanic/Latino community in the region, and to empower local citizens and organizations that serve the Hispanic/Latino community by creating positive change in areas of education, business, health care, safety and community building.

ACTIVE ORGANIZATIONS

UNCW Centro Hispano
New Hanover Smart Start
El Puente
Law Offices of Helen Jugovic
Verizon
Centro Latino/Amigos International
Domestic Violence Shelter
Coastal Horizon’s Clinica Latina
Catholic Charities
Office of Juan Santos
Jeffrey Widdison, Immigration Attorney
America’s Tax Service