October is your chance to experience Latino history and culture as the MCC celebrates Latino Heritage Month. All month long we will be hosting exciting events that will not only immerse you in the celebrations and arts of Latino cultures, but also prominent speakers who will lead insightful discussions.

The celebration kicks off on Wednesday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the PAC Pavilion with the poetry event Another Type of Groove. This event brings the Nation’s top poets to Cal Poly and this month is no different. Rudy Francisco, a San Diegan poet with Belizean roots, as well as 2007 San Diego Grand Slam Champion, twice crowned San Diego Poet of the People, and current holder of the record for the most consecutive Voz Alta Poetry Slams won, will bring his award winning style to the PAC Pavilion. There will also be open mic sessions, so bring some of your own work to share if you like.

Latin Heritage Month continues on Wednesday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m. in UU 220 with a showing of the award-winning film Quinceañera. The movie takes a look at what happens when teenage sexuality, age-old rituals and real estate prices collide in Echo Park, a Latino neighborhood in transition. When the film ends, you won’t want to leave your seat, as the lead actress, Emily Rios, will be on hand to answer your questions.

The first speaker of the month will be award winning poet Luis Rodriguez, author of the best seller, Always Running, which has been banned from Santa Barbara schools because of raw and gritty depictions of gang life, violence, and sex. He will lead a discussion on his vivid memoir on Thursday, October 11 at 1:00 p.m. in UU 220.

The party continues as the MCC hosts a mock quinceañera on Thursday, October 11 at 4:00 p.m. in UU 220. This will be a chance for you to learn about and participate in the rituals of this special celebration.

The second speaker of the month will be Agustin Garcia, the founding father of Lambda Theta Phi fraternity. He will speak on the effects that Latinos have on American Society. The MCC is proud to bring you this event with the co-sponsorship of Lambda Theta Phi and the interested ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha. Garcia will speak on Monday, October 15 at 8:00 p.m. in Philips Hall.

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Culturefest 2007

The MCC, along with over 20 Cal Poly cultural student organizations, invites you to get your grub on with delicious freshly cooked ethnic foods and experience live performances and family friendly activities at the tenth annual Culturefest, a festival which aims to spread cultural awareness and promote cultural appreciation. The festival is free and will take place on Sunday, October 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Mission Plaza at the intersection of Monterey and Chorro streets. This year’s theme is “A Decade of Discovery” and the event will be the largest to date. Madeline Arcellana, Cal Poly alum, said, “It’s a culmination of months of hard work and we’re excited to share the cultural diversity of our community with others.”
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Next, join the MCC as we explore the culture and traditions of the small and beautiful country of Belize on Wednesday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. in UU 221.

¿Lotería! Come play this ancient Mexican game, which resembles bingo, and if you’re lucky, win prizes. Lotería will be happening Thursday, October 18 at 11:00 a.m. in the UU Plaza.

The MCC’s celebration of Latino Heritage Month wraps up on Thursday, November 1 at 11:00 a.m. in the MCC Lounge with a Dia De Los Muertos dedication. We will be remembering loved ones who have passed away. Bring a framed photo of a lost loved one to be honored at the MCC.

November Preview

November is another exciting month for the MCC. We will be celebrating Native American Heritage Month with great events that will bring you closer to the Native American community here on the central coast, as well as elsewhere in North America.

The MCC will be hosting events with the help of the Chumash tribe such as a presentation from the tribe’s elders and a drum circle.

Also, we will be making Native-American crafts and showing the HBO film “Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee,” which explores the impact of the United State’s westward expansion on Native American culture.

The featured poet for November’s Another Type Of Groove will be Ben Alex Dupris from the Lakota Tribe.

The MCC will also be hosting a cross cultural retreat which will give Poly students a chance to engage in an educational discourse about the role of diversity in higher education, as well as multiculturalism in personal identities.

Coffee & Careers

The MCC is proud to be a part of Coffee & Careers, six different career-focused discussions pertaining to three different communities of interest. The topics covered are relevant to each community and the discussions will help individuals achieve success in their careers.

For the LGBT community, the first discussion will be on Tuesday, October 2, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. again in the Womens Programs Office in the UU. The title of this discussion will be “Am I Willing to Separate Who I Am From My Professional Life?”

The second discussion will be on Thursday, October 25, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Womens Programs Office in the UU. The discussion “Networking Your Way to Career Success” is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The other discussion will be titled “The Real World: Becoming a Young Professional” and will be held on Thursday, November 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Discussions focusing on people of color will be held in the Multicultural Center in the UU. The first discussion is titled “Being Aware of Your Presence in the Work Environment” and will be held on Tuesday, October 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. “How to Communicate Effectively” will be the last discussion focusing on people of color and will be on Thursday, November 8, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Co-sponsors for this event include Career Services, Pride Center, Student Life and Leadership, and Women’s Programs & Services.