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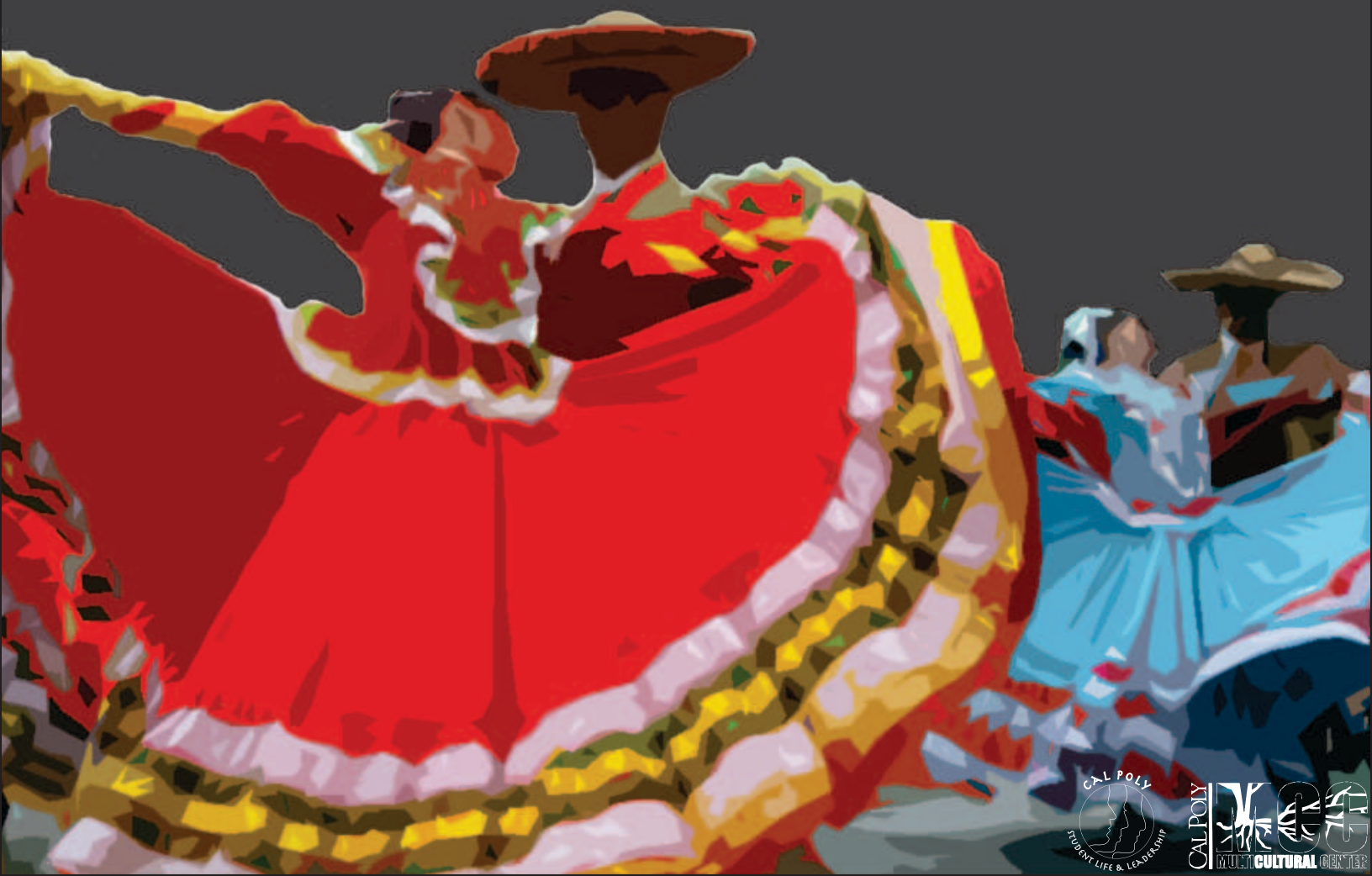
October 2010

Volume 3

Issue 6

Celebrate

Latino Heritage



Meet the 2010-2011 MultiCultural Center Staff



Top Row (L to R): Devon Buddan, Renoda Campbell, Marille Cuison

Middle Row (L to R) Ryan Santillian, Michelle Fox, James Rymel, Garrett Runck

Front Row (L to R): Emily Long, Elizabeth Graham

Not Pictured: Manuel Basaldua, Jonathan Kim, Shauna Kimball, Isabel Montenegro, Collin Tateishi

Manuel Basaldua

Diversity Advocate
Graphic Artist

Elizabeth Graham

Diversity Advocate
Native American Heritage Series

Garrett Runck

Diversity Advocate
Newsletter Editor

Devon Buddan

Diversity Advocate
Latino Heritage Series

Jonathan Kim

Diversity Advocate
Diversity CORE
Asian/Pacific Islander
Awareness Month

James Rymel

Culturefest Chair
USFC Advisor

Renoda Campbell

Coordinator of MultiCultural
Programs and Services

Shauna Kimball

Diversity Advocate
Black History Month

Ryan Santillian

AmeriCorps Program Assistant

Marielle Cuison

Diversity Advocate
Another Type of Groove

Emily Lou Long

Diversity Advocate
Diversity CORE

Collin Tateishi

Diversity Advocate
Asian/Pacific Islander
Awareness Month

Michelle Fox

Diversity Advocate
Cross Cultural Meetings

Isabel Montenegro

Diversity Advocate
Latino Heritage Series

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Club Spotlight: Latinos In Agriculture

Latinos in Agriculture's mission is to firstly promote the College of Agriculture to the Cal Poly community as well as encourage minority students to be more involved with the college. Secondly, Latinos in Agriculture's mission is to promote higher education in general, to minority high school students. I got the chance to speak with some club members at their booth at WOW Club Showcase as well as sit in on their first meeting. They are active in the Cal Poly Agriculture Department and consistently put on events to further the betterment of students and the influence of the department at Cal Poly.

Latinos in Agriculture, or LIA for short, has events that range from local, on campus events, to participating in conferences all across the country. Held at Farmer's Market in SLO, Farm City Nights is one event that is put on for the community. LIA provides small pumpkins and paint for young children to decorate their own jack-o'-lanterns. One of their biggest events also serves as outreach to new members. "26 Hours" is an event held in March for high school students interested in Agriculture. It gives the high school students an opportunity to live "twenty-six hours in the life of a college student." LIA hosts approximately 80 students and takes the students around Cal Poly, the Agriculture Department and different classes, to give them a taste of what to expect at Cal Poly and as an agriculture major. The goal of "26 Hours" is to promote higher education to minority students, especially those who have never thought about going to college. LIA also participates in the annual Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) conference. MANRRS is a national society whose mission is to promote academic and professional advancement by empowering minorities in agricultural and its related fields. Latinos in Agriculture has competed and has placed First in MANRRS's various competitions in research and public speaking. LIA also holds its own "Cluster Meetings" in conjunction with MANRRS. The club coordinates workshops, lectures, local industry tours and other professional events for the Cluster Meetings. Other chapters of MANRRS affiliated clubs from schools like UC Davis, CSU Fresno and various community colleges in California are invited to Cal Poly to participate in LIA's Cluster Meeting. LIA members are always busy with new events but never seem to stop loving what they do for the college, community and the profession.

Although it may seem that Latinos in Agriculture is only about the profession, it is still a close-knit group of approximately twenty members who have fun outside of meetings and events. By considering themselves "a home away from home" for students, LIA strives to support students both professionally and personally. It's a place where faculty advisors and older members are eager to foster new members' growth in and out of school. Latinos in Agriculture is a welcoming group who wants all students to find a place where they can belong. I asked their president, Michelle Jimenez what people might not know about LIA but should—"You don't have to be Latino, or even a minority to join. You don't even have to be an agriculture major to join either. We want to promote diversity, so everyone is welcome."

LIA meets on Mondays at 6pm in Building 10, Room 100

Contact: Michelle Jimenez [President] mkjimene@calpoly.edu



Club Spotlight: Imagen y Espíritu Ballet Folklórico de Cal Poly



Baile Folklórico literally meaning “folkloric dance” is a general term for the local folk dances of different areas of Mexico. Each locality of Mexico has its own style or “region” of folk dance. International influences range from Germany, to Spain and Africa depending on what part of Mexico the specific region originates. It is a vibrant and expressive art form that Imagen y Espíritu Ballet Folklórico de Cal Poly has brought to our campus and community for the past twenty years. I had the chance to interview them at their weekly practice.

Imagen y Espíritu’s mission is to promote Latino culture on and off campus through their preservation of the Mexican tradition of baile folklórico. They persevere to encourage Latino pride while continuing to remember their own heritages. The group of twenty members from all dance experience levels and backgrounds meets each week to practice different regions for various performances.

Imagen y Espíritu has small performances throughout the year at public and private venues. Their largest event is Mexico de Noche. It is held during the weekend of Open House in Spanos Theatre. Mexico de Noche is a culmination of several of the region’s the club had practiced all that year. Alumni of the club also come back to San Luis Obispo to perform along side the current members for the event.

Their alumni continue to come back to practices to help teach new regions as well as preserve Imagen y Espíritu’s presence at Cal Poly. Silvia Aldana, Imagen y Espíritu’s current coach is also an alumna of the club. Anyone one can join, even if they have no dance experience. Silvia and the more experienced members never hesitate to take time to help out the new, less experienced dancers in the group. Imagen y Espíritu takes pride in teaching the knowledge and traditions of baile folklórico. They see it as doing their part in preserving their own heritage.

Imagen y Espíritu is a creative and welcoming group of students who want to promote not only Mexican culture, but also diversity as whole. I asked them what people don’t know about Imagen y Espíritu but should--Silvia said, “People assume that it’s just a ‘Mexican hat dance,’ but it really isn’t. There are so many diverse influences to each of the regions.” And their president Stephany Martinez added, “You don’t have to be Mexican, or even Latino to join, and you don’t have to have any experience either.”

Imagen y Espíritu practices on Mondays 8-10pm in Building 05, Room 225

Contact:

grupo-folklorico@calpoly.edu

Website:

www.calpoly.edu/~grupclub/



Another Type of Groove

Matt Blesse



Matt Blesse is a spoken word poet, activist, and educator from the small California mountain paradise of Truckee. A member of two national poetry slam teams, Matt was the Grand Slam Champion of the city of San Francisco in 2008 and placed 3rd in 2009 at the National Poetry Slam. He has toured and taught cross-country for universities, festivals, non-profit trainings, artist collectives, and poetry venues, but still finds the most rewarding audiences to be the youth he works with in his current home, the Bay Area. There he teaches under the Lyrical Minded 415 program and is an active community organizer. He believes spoken word poetry is, at its most basic level, a conversation and, in the larger sense, a movement. As such, he seeks to keep his art relevant to and reflective of his experiences with oppression and transformation.

Chumash Auditorium __Wednesday 10/06/10 __7:30pm-10pm

A Message from the Newsletter Editor

As the summer waned and the school year quickly approached, I realized not only did I need to get ready for my upcoming classes but also figure out what clubs I wanted to interview for the MultiCultural Center Newsletter. To be quite honest, I had no personal affiliation with a cultural club or organization and had no clue where to start. The closest I have gotten to participating with a cultural organization on campus was planning a "Cultural Inclusion" program in the residence halls in my time as a Resident Advisor. How was I to decide what club deserved to be in the newsletter? Would it come down to who was the biggest and most influential? Should I try and hunt down clubs that were so inconspicuous that only the club members knew about it? I still haven't really decided on an exact formula other than my own curiosity.

Being the Newsletter Editor is no longer just a job that I simply execute to make my deadlines and earn some extra money. It has become an opportunity for me to learn about what Cal Poly has to offer. It has become an opportunity to discover and learn more about different cultures, customs, and hopefully some really good food. It has become an opportunity to make new friends that I otherwise would have never met. I hope the newsletter will be as fulfilling for everyone who reads it as much as it is for me to create it. If you would like your club or organization spotlighted in the MCC Newsletter please feel free to contact me.

Garrett Runck
Newsletter Editor
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LATINO Heritage Series

MOVIE: MOTORCYCLE DIARIES SHOWING
OCTOBER 4TH, 2010 FROM 7-9:30PM UH ROOM 204(EAST WING OF CHUMASH).
GREAT MOVIE THAT TAKES YOU ON A JOURNEY THROUGH LATIN AMERICA
WITH CHE GUEVARRA, A WELL KNOWN REVOLUTIONIST WHO IS KNOWN FOR
HIS EFFORTS IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

DISCUSSION: SB1070 BILL ON OCTOBER 11TH, 2010,
4:00P-6:00P, THE DEBATE/DISCUSSION ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ARIZONA
BILL SB1070. COME AND GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BILL
AND HEAR..SHARE YOUR OPINIONS IN AN OPEN-MINDED ENVIRONMENT.
LOCATION: UH204(EAST WING OF CHUMASH)

LOTERIA! BINGO, MEXICAN STYLE ON NOVEMBER 2ND, 2010 UH PLAZA
FROM 11:00A-12:00P. WIN PRIZES, HAVE FUN, AND LEARN A LITTLE BIT OF
SPANISH TOO!

LATINO PRIDE FASHION SHOW ON OCTOBER 27TH
FROM 7-9PM UH 220. COME AND SEE HOW DAL POLY CELEBRATES AT OUR
1ST EVER FASHION SHOW. SEE TRADITIONAL CLOTHING FROM MEXICO,
BELIZE, HONDORAS, EL SALVADOR, GUATAMALA, NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA,
AND PUERTO RICO. THERE WILL BE GREAT MUSIC, FOOD, AND CLOTHES!



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