

# The Daily Collegian

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By Geraldine Cruz-Hernandez  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Candles, marigolds and framed photographs fill an altar in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center (PRCC) as a part of a community ofrenda in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The ofrenda, a Latin American tradition, is a ceremonial altar typically set up on Nov. 1-2 for El Dia De Los Muertos (the Day of the Dead) to honor loved ones that have died.

"No matter what your background is, everyone is welcome and invited to participate," Berman said, "Everybody has people to remember."

Now in its second year, the PRCC's community ofrenda included a gratitude jar for students to write their own notes of gratitude for their loved ones.

Even for those with different spiritual beliefs, Berman said the ofrenda is a way for students to connect with their pasts.

"It's a way of remembering, honoring and celebrating folks you value who have passed on," Berman said.

For Marcus Roman, the ofrenda is a way to pay his respects to Latin American cultural icons.

"To me, it represents the impact that people in the past have in our current lives," Roman, a third-year studying finance, said. "So the ofrenda here in the PRCC, it has celebrities, it has historical political figures."

For some students, the community ofrenda has a more personal meaning. Judith Rojas, president of the Latino Caucus, said the ofrenda represents her family coming together.

"My family puts up an ofrenda for my sister, who died just a couple years ago," Rojas, a third-year studying international politics and global and international studies, said. "We usually (put out) bread and some of her other favorite candies, and things that just remind us of her, as well as flowers, (like) marigolds, which you see here at the ofrenda."



Also included in the community ofrenda are photographs of celebrities who have since died. Included are Latin American singers like Selena Quintanilla and Vicente Fernández, as well as Paul Robeson, the PRCC's namesake.

"Selena loved pepperoni pizza," Berman said. "So whenever you see an ofrenda that has Selena, sometimes there's pizza on it ... the idea is that it invites (their spirits) back."

## Inside the Ofrenda



"I believe that when you go to a predominantly white institution, sometimes it's hard to see people who not only know your culture, but also celebrate it," Lopez said.



Lopez said events like these give students the space to celebrate where they come from.

"Seeing other people with a similar background to you, who grew up in the same culture — talking the same way, dressing the same way...it allows you to recognize that within yourself," Lopez said.

"It makes people feel seen"



Berman said a gratitude jar was added to the ofrenda to make the event more inclusive. Participants are encouraged to write their own notes of gratitude for their loved ones.

"Even if you don't have those beliefs about the spiritual dimension, it's a way of honoring and connecting with your past," Berman said. "When you're putting (something) on the ofrenda, you're thinking of that person and your very personal connection."

All photos by Geraldine Cruz-Hernandez



# 'We're not getting the same opportunities'

## Hispanic students share experiences with stereotypes, finding place on campus

By Mia Debelevich  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The perpetuation of negative stereotypes about Hispanic people remains a challenge on college campuses nationwide, influencing how students experience classroom discussions, social life and their sense of belonging.

At Penn State, those challenges surface in classrooms and campus culture, where efforts to counter bias and promote inclusion are still beginning to take shape.

Maria Lopez, a third-year studying political science and economics, was born in Puerto Rico and completed twelve years of schooling in Peru before moving to North Carolina three years ago. She said she still struggles with finding her place in the United States.

"It becomes even harder when you go into a community that is predominantly white," Lopez, the justice and equity chair and a Latino Caucus representative and for the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA), said. "I love this university, but sometimes I wish I would have known more about how to adapt to an environment like this."

Lopez said Penn State being a predominantly white institution (PWI) gives her and other Hispanic students the room to bring diversity to campus, and allowing white students to hear other perspectives "enriches their experiences too."

On the other hand, being a minority at a school largely composed of white students means Lopez has experienced racism at the hands of her peers.

Lopez said during her freshman year, a white, male student insinuated that Lopez's parents were lower-class, and she



Kayla McCullough/Collegian

The front of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center on March 4, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

was a first-generation student. In reality, Lopez's mother is a chemical engineer, and her father has worked at Wells Fargo for the past 15 years.

"They assumed that my parents have no education and I came from a family who didn't have a background in education," Lopez said. "It's hard, and it was definitely a shock for me, as somebody who is so proud of where I came from, and so proud of my parents."

Lopez said her being "outsoken," because of her position of advocacy within UPUA and Latino Caucus, can make her a bigger target for microaggressions.

"Some people, once they realize that they are different, they try to hide it," Lopez said. "I fully embrace it."

Much of the issue with microaggressions and stereotypes against Hispanic people resides in social media, Lopez said,

with platforms like Instagram and TikTok allowing a space for people to share racist jokes.

When racism is phrased in a way that's funny, people then fail to realize how it deeply affects people, according to Lopez.

"There are people who simply read something on social media and decide that this is the face of Hispanic people," Lopez said. "They decide to go with it because they have no interest in learning about anything else."

Similarly, Judith Rojas, Latino Caucus' president, said social media fuels the stereotypes against Hispanic people.

"Some of the stereotypes, from what I've specifically seen, have been that (Hispanic people) work on farms, or they're just cleaners or construction workers," Rojas, a third-year studying international politics, global and international studies, economics and public policy, said. "A lot of it is just not true."

Ashly Peltroche, outreach

chair for the Latino Pre-Health Student Association, said stereotypes within the Hispanic community are often perpetuated by white students, and are "discouraging" to her when she's exposed to them so often.

"They'll use the fact that there's a low percentage of Hispanics within certain jobs," Peltroche, a third-year studying biology and neuroscience, said. "Yeah, because we're not getting the same opportunities."

Peltroche said she, as well as other Hispanic and marginalized students, don't have the same resources available to them as their white counterparts, who "don't have to go through as much of a struggle."

"A lot of people on the pre-med track are white Americans who have family members that are already doctors," Peltroche said. "It's a lot easier for them; they already have the connections."

Rojas said bridging gaps

between Hispanic students and the wider campus should involve students educating themselves and engaging in organizations that offer such opportunities.

Having different student-led Hispanic organizations on campus can help introduce previously unaware students of different cultures, according to Rojas.

"Education is the main goal," Rojas said. "I think a lot of people are more open to meeting new people, which is amazing."

When Lopez joined UPUA her freshman year, she said she saw almost nobody in the room of about 50 people who "looked like (her)."

However, she believes stepping into that space and "making her voice loud" paved the way for students in similar situations, and she would advise other Hispanic students to do the same.

"You need to join organizations like (UPUA)," Lopez said. "We need people who also represent us, and for us to then be the faces (students) will see."

Lopez said organizations like Latino Caucus and the Paul Robeson Cultural Center are spaces that do an "amazing job" eliminating cultural divides on campus. She said seeing people actively fight for the Hispanic and Latinx community to have a place at Penn State makes the school feel more welcoming.

"I believe that once you look out for (community), you can find it," Lopez said. "When you believe that you have to be what they see you as is when you stop trying to fight to be more."

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## Professor Ortega's impact

By Jonathon Chiu  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Mariana Ortega, a professor of philosophy and women's, gender and sexuality studies (WGSS), brings a unique conversation to the classroom.

Ortega specializes in women of color feminisms, critical phenomenology and philosophy of race and aesthetics.

Professor Judith Sierra-Rivera, who works with Ortega in WGSS, said she first met Ortega when she was applying for a position at Penn State and found her to be brilliant, approachable and generous. The two have collaborated in graduate dissertation committees.

"I always include Mariana's books in my graduate seminars because they're very illuminative on fundamental issues and so that has translated into educating many students at the undergraduate and graduate level on feminism, but from the perspective of women of color," Sierra-Rivera said.

Sierra-Rivera said Ortega's work as an interim director of the College of Liberal Arts' Latina/o Studies department has been fundamental in strengthening the program and highlighting to Penn State the "importance of having at least a program focusing on the Latino populations in the United States."

Maddie Langlois, a student taking Ortega's PHIL 109 class, said she felt that Ortega's teaching style encouraged participation and communicated her love of philosophy to her students.

"You can tell when (professors) enjoy the material that they're teaching and even though philosophy is not something that I normally take or something that I'm normally interested in, I find myself always paying attention to her, trying to participate in class, doing my readings (and) actually immersing myself in the class," Langlois, a fourth-year studying marketing, said.

Langlois said having a wide variety of professors like Ortega is important for allowing students to feel more comfortable.

"Just speaking on (Ortega) and her personality, I think she's very welcoming and I would feel very comfortable going to her and talking about her class, talking about my interests, finding like that," Langlois said. "I think that that adds another aspect of greatness to Penn State."

Ortega said Latina philosophers were not highly recognized when she was getting her doctorate degree at the University of California San Diego.

"There was no studying of Latina theorists and so I did my degree on (Martin) Heidegger (and) on the question of self and



Geraldine Cruz/Collegian

Philosophy professor Mariana Ortega poses for a portrait in the Sparks Building on Sept. 27, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

subjectivity and then I started teaching," Ortega said. "I ended up going to a meeting where somebody shared with me a paper written by a Latina philosopher ... and I read that paper and I was quite shocked that I had not been taught anything like that where I was studying."

Ortega said she began to share the philosophical works of Latina and Black thinkers with her students and implement them in her own works after finding that they were not commonly shared throughout the philosophy world.

Ortega said though the number of young Latinas gaining philosophy degrees and going on to become philosophers has increased, it's not as much as she would like to see.

"Usually in philosophy, you have to do work on a traditional figure and then you work on less traditional figures and Latina feminists have not been traditionally understood as being main figures in philosophy," Ortega said. "Now we have Gloria Anzaldúa (and) María Lugones and those are two figures that more and more philosophers are taking seriously in terms of their theoretical input for philosophical questions."

Ortega said it's difficult to be a person of color and very aware of circumstances around her; but she's grateful to have learned from Latina and Black feminists who were thinking about these issues before her.

"I cannot imagine what it would be like to be a philosopher now without having learned from the thought of women of color and scholars of color in general," Ortega said. "I think my life would be very different and it would be very narrow and so I'm very grateful and I'm happy to be offering courses to help younger people to learn from these figures too, to this day, continue to be covered over or not taught enough."

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## Bringing Hispanic culture to Penn State

By Vida Lashgari  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

At a predominantly white institution (PWI) where Hispanic students make up roughly 8% of the population, Penn State's Hispanic and Latino community is determined to preserve culture and create a sense of home.

Hispanic students at the Penn State community come together during Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15- Oct. 15, to celebrate the traditions, food and music through an array of events. This cultural showcase, organized by student organizations and faculty, is an effort to show students the many sides of Hispanic heritage and why it should be celebrated.

As vice president of communications for PSU's Latino Caucus, Emily Sanchez said having a cultural identity at a PWI can come with some challenges, but is essential to maintain.

"My culture is part of my identity," Sanchez, a fourth-year studying communication sciences and disorders, said.

Sanchez said she's concerned with how new legislation regarding diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) will possibly impact a PWI like Penn State that already struggles with representation.

"It's important to find ways to work around things and not just completely stop the events that we're known for," she said. "I still want to keep the same events that we do, and give people the same sense of home, even though we have to change things around."

Originally from Colombia, Sanchez joined the organization her freshman year and has been on the board of the club for three consecutive years, and credits Latino Caucus for giving her a community on campus and direction for her career goals post-graduation.

"I wish more Latino or Hispanic cultures were known to be able to be celebrated during Hispanic Heritage Month," Sanchez said. "I think it's also important to have more student engagement into those things, because that's why these events are held."

She encourages all kinds of students to participate more in the events and said that is one of the ways that Hispanic culture can thrive on campus.

A. K. Sandoval-Strausz, director of Latino/a studies, is confident that Hispanic students are capable of "preserving themselves" on campus.

"It's a repetition of a very long tradition of immigrant groups, maintaining the things that were

important to their parents and their grandparents," Sandoval-Strausz said. "Whether it is in the form of music or food or religious observance, it's just a thing that sort of makes people who they are, their ethnic identities."

Hispanic students still may face difficulty in preserving a cultural identity at a PWI in comparison to other institutions, according to Sandoval-Strausz.

"The responsibility falls to smaller groups of people so they don't have quite as big, let's say, (a) likely constituency of people who are gonna celebrate with them," Sandoval-Strausz said.

He expects Penn State's population of Hispanic and Latinos to grow in upcoming years as they are largely contributing to population and economic growth in Pennsylvania.

"I hope they will feel more a part of the accepted mainstream of American society," Sandoval-Strausz said. "That they won't want to feel politically scapegoated or lied about as they often are today."

He said he's concerned about how stereotypes and "accusations" will impact the future of the Hispanic population, specifically Hispanic students, but is hopeful that future generations of students will feel accepted.

"It's important to sort of imagine a future where we are not widely misunderstood," Sandoval-Strausz said. "I think that'll be a major goal to make sure that people understand who we are and all the things that the United States depends on us for."

President of the Puerto Rican Student Association (PRSA), Larimar Rodriguez is committed to representing her culture and maintaining a "safe" community.

"A lot of the kids growing up around here or that live in different areas around here don't really have the exposure to Hispanic communities as we do," Rodriguez, a fourth-year studying biomedical engineering, said.

Rodriguez said to preserve Hispanic communities, it's essential that students embrace each other and are dedicated to learning more about one another.

Within her own club, Rodriguez is determined to make anyone who wants to join feel welcome. She said her meetings are both in Spanish and English, so that anyone can understand and contribute.

"Making sure that everybody that's part of your club remembers that they have a home," Rodriguez said. "We have a little family on campus, it reminds us of where we came from."

On campus, she hopes to see

a bigger variety of Hispanic food in the dining halls, and a bigger display of Hispanic artists in the HUB-Robeson Center.

Mary Mendoza, an assistant professor of history, teaches about the U.S.-Mexico borderlands and the history of race relations and she said it's important now more than ever to teach about Hispanic culture and its impact.

As a Mexican American, Mendoza advocates for a variety of perspectives in classrooms so

"It gets sort of erased from the national narrative in many respects. Latinos are both systematically excluded from being full citizens of the United States, but also how the historical narrative and the way that we talk about it perpetuates some of these ideas."

Mary Mendoza

students can learn more from their peers.

"Everybody's voice is valuable," Mendoza said.

She hopes multiculturalism continues to be celebrated throughout the year instead of having designated months.

Eduardo Mendieta, a retired professor of philosophy and a faculty member of Latino/a studies, wished Penn State "would do more."

"We're a public institution and we are supposed to serve the public and compared to other states we don't have a lot of Hispanics," he said.

Mendieta, who was born in Colombia, but grew up in New Jersey, thinks the university should place more effort in engaging students to participate in events and creating a deeper sense of community.

"Hispanic students want to blend in, and on the other hand they want to retain their identity," Mendieta.

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# 'We are one community'

## Happy Valley Latin Festival returns



Geraldine Cruz/Collegian

A community member dances at the Happy Valley Latin Festival on Fraser Street on Sept. 20, 2025 in State College, Pa.

By **Jocelyn Bilker**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Surrounded by music, food, poetry and brightly colored flags, the Happy Valley Latin Festival brought a celebration of Latinx heritage to the heart of Downtown State College for its fifth year on Saturday.

Held in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza and along Fraser Street, the free community event invited locals and visitors alike to celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of Latin American cultures.

"If you take something from today, it's that we are here together and embracing our differences, but we are only one," Ady Martínez said. "We are one community. That's what we want to invite the city into — a celebration from love."

Martínez, co-founder of the festival, said the event began as a response to the isolation many Latino community members expressed feeling in Central Pennsylvania. She said she believed a festival grounded in art, food and shared culture could bring people together.

"Each year we have more vendors," Martínez said. "In the beginning it was just two or three types of food and now we have Brazilian, Colombian, Honduran, Venezuelan and more. It's growing every year."

For many, the festival was more than just a celebration of food and music. It was a powerful affirmation of identity, visibility and belonging.

"As a minority group, it's really hard to find people like

ourselves," Abraham Hernández said. "Having this event is a great way to bring the community together."

Caliente! Dance Team performed at the festival, mixing new routines with past favorites. Despite the short time to rehearse, Hernández, a fourth-year studying finance and co-president of the dance team, said the group was excited to return.

"We're super inviting, and it's an amazing culture," Hernández said. "You don't have to be part of it to have fun and involve yourself with it."

Performances throughout the day included dance, spoken word, poetry readings, Zumba and a traditional outfit parade celebrating Latin American fashion, with each speaker delivering their words first in English and then in Spanish.

For Ciarra Minor, the festival revealed a side of State College she hadn't known existed.

"I honestly didn't know we had this much representation here," Minor, fourth-year studying biological sciences and health professions, said. "It kind of feels like I'm not in State College. It feels like stepping into someone else's world and it's really uplifting."

Minor said she was especially touched by the visible efforts to uplift communities that are often underrepresented.

"There is still a community here who wants to uplift ethnic groups, who wants to represent and showcase them, and that can be powerful for anyone," Minor said.

Abisola Abina said the energy

of the day was contagious and encouraging.

"I feel like the festival is doing a great job showcasing different cultures and attire," Abina, a third-year studying business analytics and information systems, said. "Hearing people speak Spanish poetry was just so cool to me."

The celebration included remarks from Mayor Ezra Nanes who issued an official proclamation recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month.

"We want people to feel they are seen, valued, empowered and protected," Nanes said. "I love the people, the music we get to hear; the food is amazing. It's hard to pick a single thing to spotlight but the atmosphere and the feeling of community is wonderful."

The Happy Valley Latin Festival is also the flagship event of Latin Vibe, a nonprofit launched in the wake of the festival's success to support Hispanic leadership and community programming year-round.

Martínez said the growing support for the event — including from the Borough of State College and the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau — reflects a growing recognition of the Latinx community's contributions.

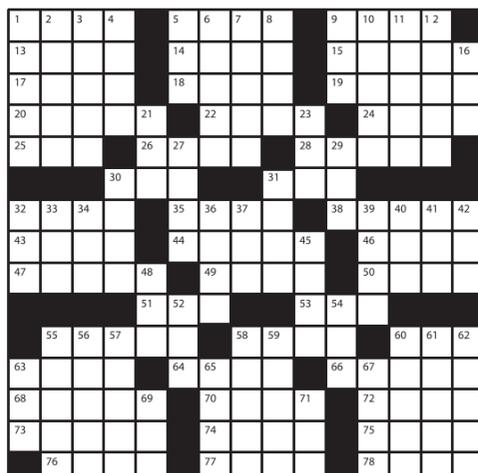
"I identified a lot of different groups of Latinos who always said that there were not enough people here," Martínez said. "The Happy Valley Latin Festival unites people as a group through art."

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# Crossword

Across

- 1 Off-pitch
- 5 Eastern discipline
- 9 Colossal
- 13 Steak order
- 14 Greek war god
- 15 Tattered Tom's creator
- 17 Yorkshire river
- 18 Annoyance
- 19 Gown fabric
- 20 Erroneous
- 22 Atlas section
- 24 Bubbly name
- 25 A Bobbsey twin
- 26 Loosen
- 28 Fat cat
- 30 Ostrich relative
- 31 Dejected
- 32 Ground grain
- 35 Barber's supply
- 38 Equine of Africa
- 43 Building additions
- 44 Young hog
- 46 Washday problem
- 47 Rome's river
- 49 Grimm beast
- 50 Garden figure
- 51 "\_\_\_ takers?"
- 53 Scamper
- 55 Ginza locale
- 58 Frigg's husband
- 60 Hosp. injections
- 63 Achilles, e.g.
- 64 Dapper fellow
- 66 Comic DeGeneres
- 68 Morocco's capital
- 70 Guitarist Lofgren
- 72 Dublin's home
- 73 Photog's request
- 74 Ballet attire
- 75 Space is their place
- 76 Buck



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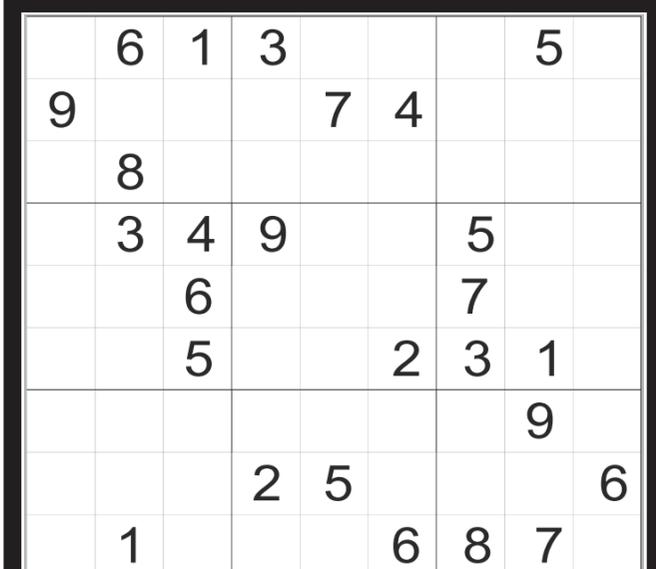
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- 78 Passed with flying colors
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- 16 Soak flax
- 21 Bubble source
- 23 Gasteyer of Mean Girls
- 27 "Phooey!"
- 29 Wood-shaping tool
- 30 Choice word
- 31 Cicatrix
- 32 Bumped into
- 33 Quarterback Manning
- 34 Priestly garb
- 36 Greeting at sea
- 37 Captain's journal
- 39 Panache
- 40 Auction action
- 41 Genetic initials
- 42 Bank letters
- 45 TV's Hatcher
- 48 Unit of hope?
- 52 Silent assent
- 54 Arles article
- 55 League members
- 56 Elliptical path
- 57 Eucalyptus eater
- 58 Intense hatred
- 59 River feature
- 60 Hipbone-related
- 61 Sonnets and such (Abbr.)
- 65 Golden rule word
- 67 Siberian river
- 69 Two-year-old sheep
- 71 Bright star

Down

- 1 Glower
- 2 Actress Dern
- 3 Torcher's misdeed
- 4 Adolescent
- 5 Pound sound
- 6 Mountain nymph
- 7 Bas-relief medium
- 8 Italian wine region
- 9 Consume
- 10 Before bob or line
- 11 Eskimo hut

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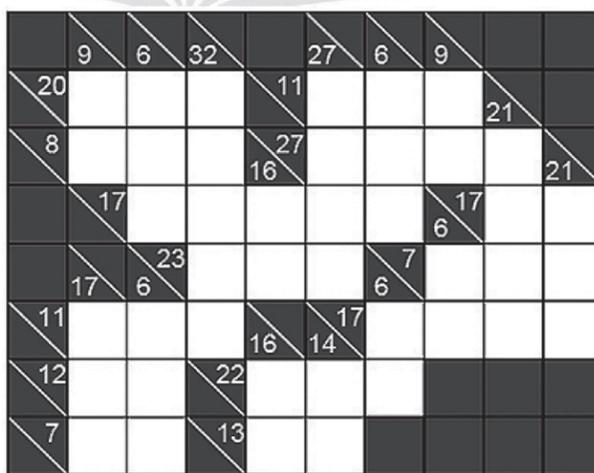
# WORD SEARCH

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- Bad Bunny
- Boricua
- Brasca
- Caliente
- Caribbean
- Chicano
- Chile
- Comunidad
- Costa Rica
- Dolores Huerta
- El Salvador
- Freditas
- Guatemala
- Heritage
- Honduras
- Ivy Queen
- Juanas
- Latin Vibe
- Mexico
- Orgullo
- Peru
- Rumba
- Samba
- Soul
- Spain
- Zumba

# Kakuro (Cross Sums)

The rules are easy to learn: A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it. A number below the diagonal line is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it. You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit may be used only once in any sequence.



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# Ready for reggaeton?

Artists to listen to during Hispanic Heritage Month

By **Ashlyn Kafer**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Hispanic Heritage Month is designed to celebrate and highlight the contributions of Hispanic and Latin Americans throughout American history by appreciating their lives, work and culture from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 each year.

This appreciation is done through a variety of mediums, including music. Connecting people through sound, feeling, culture and movement make Hispanic and Latin artists increasingly influential.

From sultry ballads to high-spirited club music, there are many artists that represent the various facets of Hispanic and Latin culture through their varying sounds and community work outside of their careers.

## Bad Bunny

Bad Bunny has risen in popularity, becoming the second-most streamed artist on Spotify to date and the first to have an entirely Spanish album reach No. 1 on the Billboard 200 in 2020.

With his "reggaeton" sound, a genre combining Spanish hip-hop and reggae, Bad Bunny's work is upbeat and danceable. The artist also uses his music to engage in activism around Puerto Rico and elsewhere, encouraging natural disaster relief, governmental reform and more.

The Puerto Rican singer released his sixth studio album in January 2025, "Debi Tirar Más Fotos," reaching No. 1 on the Billboard 200 after only five days.

## Shakira

This Colombian artist makes it known that her hips don't lie.

Releasing music for nearly three decades, Shakira has established herself among Latin artists as a powerhouse vocalist and standout dancer.

Producing music in both English and Spanish, Shakira uses a combination of pop, alternative and rock sounds to unite audiences across the world. She

additionally uses her influence to engage in philanthropy, promoting education equity and labor rights.

Currently touring for her album "Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran," Shakira continues to captivate audiences with her unique vocals, variation in genres and intense choreography.

## Enrique Iglesias

Son of popular Spanish singer Julio Iglesias, Enrique Iglesias has made his own mark on the music industry with his pop and guitar-centric music.

Releasing music since 1995, Iglesias garnered immense support in Portugal before going global, reaching millions of sales off of his first album. The combination of his "boy band" cadence and typically uplifting tone contributed heavily to his rapid rise in popularity during the early aughts.

With many songs featuring artists like Pitbull, Ludacris, Usher and more, Iglesias' legacy remains as a chart-topper and one of the most influential Spanish artists.

## Peso Pluma

Peso Pluma is a modern trailblazer, often given credit for spreading Mexican-style music globally through an emerging genre deemed "corridos tumbados."

Corridos tumbados combines elements from traditional storytelling ballads and hip-hop or rap to welcome fresh ears into a deep rooted history of storytelling and culture cultivation. This style has become immensely popular in the United States, emulating rappers like Tupac or The Notorious B.I.G.

Pluma's raw vocals, genuine love for music and disparate melodies have captured audiences across the globe, launching Mexican music into the limelight while commemorating Mexican tradition.

## Selena

A Mexican-American singer, often referred to as the "Queen of Tejano Music," Selena was beloved by her fans and revered as an icon in both the music and fashion industries during her early 2000s career.

Selena grew up speaking English but singing in Spanish, learning in the style of "tejano" music, which combines influences from both Mexican and Texan cultures. Selena's silky tone and strong vocals blend seamlessly with her backtracks to create an all-encompassing musical experience.

Though Selena died in 1995, her music continues to carry on her influence and legacy.

## Luis Fonsi

Primarily known for his song "Despacito" that topped charts and stormed radio stations throughout 2017, Luis Fonsi has been an industry powerhouse popularizing reggaeton across cultures for over two decades.

His rich and sultry vocals pair with romantic ballads or are variegated to fit traditional pop standards, appealing to a variety of audiences and making his music appropriate for a myriad of occasions.

Fonsi has continued to write Puerto Rican-influenced music since 1998, maintaining his position as a household name across Latin-America and the globe.

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## ‘Celebration of rhythm, pride, legacy’

Students told the Collegian what Hispanic Heritage Month means to them

### Alexa Sanchez Perez

Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of rhythm, pride, and legacy. It’s about honoring the traditions that raised us, from the pulse of merengue to the stories shared in every meal and phrases passed down. Our culture doesn’t just survive; it shines and teaches the world how to feel. This month is more than a celebration, it’s a declaration that we are here, we belong and continue to shape the world around us.



### Elizabeth Mejia

It highlights the rich traditions passed down through generations and how these customs connect us. Although there are some cultural differences we are able to connect through shared experiences—whether it’s enjoying a favorite cultural food, listening to similar music, or dancing to Latin rhythms. These commonalities help build a strong sense of community, offering support to one another, especially in spaces where we are a minority. Ultimately, Hispanic Heritage Month serves as an opportunity to share the unique perspective of growing up Hispanic with others and raise awareness about our experiences.

### Sergio Veleccio

*Correction: An earlier version of this edition incorrectly attributed a contribution on page 4 to Sergio Pérez-Limón. It has since been updated to correctly attribute the piece to Sergio Veleccio. The Collegian apologizes for this error.*

This month to me is a month of celebration of my cultural heritage. Being the first person in my family to soon be completing my bachelor’s, it’s exciting to be setting an example for Latinx students. I want everyone to know that no matter what barriers are put in front of us we can achieve our dreams and bring about a brighter future for our people. I am proud to be a Peruvian and Uruguayan American coming from an immigrant family who has supported me through it all. During these tough times I believe it is important now more than ever to look out for one another and support fellow Latinx & marginalized students in whatever area that may be.

### Judith Rojas

For me, Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to appreciate my culture and share it with my peers. Celebrating HHM on campus allows me to embrace and build a strong Latino community while sharing my culture with the surrounding communities. It reminds me of how rich our culture is and makes me reflect on how much we have grown. I’m really proud of how far we have come as Latinos, breaking barriers in higher education and claiming the space that is needed during this time.

### Ashly Paulino

I am proud of Hispanic culture and how it’s fundamentals of nurturing for family and community has given me power. Being a child of immigrant parents born in the Dominican Republic, my privilege overwhelms me, and I hope to pour it out for the glory of others. This month is a reminder of the beauty Hispanic culture embodies and how we can learn from each other to progress as a whole.

### Leslianne Terrero-German

Being a part of such a diverse and loving community has really shaped me as an individual. This month is a celebration of resilience, both individually and amongst our community, creativity, and the deep-rooted traditions that have shaped not only families and neighborhoods, but a lot of our society. The vibrant music and flavorful cuisine along with powerful storytelling and activism, Hispanic culture is filled with passion and pride. I’m proud to be part of a heritage that values family, hard work, and community.

### Nia Sosa Abreu

During one of the most tense moments for the Hispanic community, this month is the most important time to celebrate Dominican culture and share it with the Penn State community. Our culture reflects the joy and resilience of our people, and as President of the Dominican Student Association, I aim to provide a space where students can have pride and feel connected to their culture, their home away from home. Hispanic Heritage Month is a constant reminder of why it is important to preserve and fully embrace our culture and put simply, our heritage.

### MY VIEW | Elbia Vidal

## Reflecting on the legacy of Latin America

To be Latino is to carry with us more than a single language, tradition or memory. We come from cultures and histories larger than ourselves, legacies that existed long before we were born and that will continue long after we’re gone.

Our identity is never simple because it’s the result of centuries of survival, resilience and celebration.

Wherever we go, our culture goes too — carried in our accents, our music, our food and in the stories passed down by our families.

Latin America itself was born of collision and mixture — Indigenous nations who resisted colonization, Africans who brought traditions across oceans under unimaginable conditions, Europeans whose arrival forever altered the land and later immigrants from Asia and the Middle East who wove their stories into the continent’s fabric.

We’re a people of intersections. To be Latino is to recognize our very existence reflects both survival and celebration, the ability to endure hardship while refusing to abandon joy.

When I think about these stories, I often think of my great-grandfather, who escaped war in the Middle East and found ref-

uge first in Ecuador, and later in my family’s hometown of Piura.

His journey was not one of choice, but of survival — leaving behind a land torn apart by violence, carrying with him only memory, hope, and the will to rebuild.

In Ecuador, and then in Peru, he created a new home, one where his traditions could coexist with those of his neighbors.

**“To walk through any Latin American country today is to see that survival turned into beauty.”**

**Elbia Vidal**

Even far from the land he once called home, my great-grandfather found ways to merge his past with his present.

He changed his surname to match that of his neighbors, as if to stitch himself into the tradition of his new community.

He began tasting new recipes, learning local dances and embracing the rhythms of Ecuador and later Peru.

Yet he never abandoned the music of his homeland — instead, he blended it with the

sounds around him, creating a harmony that belonged to both worlds.

His love for cooking, a passion rooted in both memory and discovery, was passed down to his children.

That is why my grandfather, even today, finds joy in the kitchen. This is a living reminder that culture doesn’t disappear in exile, but expands, adapts and continues.

That story isn’t just his; it belongs to all of us who come from Latin America.

Our families carry with them memories of escape, of battles survived, of homes remade.

What my great-grandfather passed down to us was not only a story of loss, but also of resilience. His migration reminds me that our Latinidad is not fragile — it’s rooted in the ability to turn suffering into strength, displacement into belonging.

In celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, I also celebrate him and all those who crossed borders and oceans so that we could stand here today, proud of who we are.

We are celebrating survival: the survival of Indigenous peoples who refused erasure, the survival of Africans who transformed pain into culture, the survival of immigrants who crossed borders in search of dignity.

Latin America was forever changed in 1492, when Spanish ships arrived on Caribbean shores. What followed was not simply an encounter, but a violent conquest that reshaped

entire continents.

Indigenous civilizations — from the Mexico to the Inca, to the countless smaller nations across the Americas — saw their lands seized, their temples destroyed and their traditions suppressed under colonial rule.

Yet even under the weight of swords and crosses, Indigenous peoples resisted.

To walk through any Latin American country today is to see that survival turned into beauty.

Our nations remind the world that even after massacres and oppression, people can rise, create and celebrate.

That’s the essence of Latin America: a region that took its history — both its pain and its joy — and transformed it into one of the richest cultural legacies on Earth.

Our heritage is not a distant history we read about in books; it lives inside us.

It lives in the battles fought by our ancestors, in the languages we speak, in the recipes we inherit and in the pride we feel even when far from home.

To be Latino is to know we carry with us both the wounds and the victories of our people. It’s important to remember we’re part of something larger — a collective story written across generations and nations.

**Elbia Vidal** is a columnist and part of the newsletter team for The Daily Collegian. They are a fourth-year studying sociology and digital and print journalism. Email them at [ekv5127@psu.edu](mailto:ekv5127@psu.edu) or follow them on X @[elbia\\_vidal](https://twitter.com/elbia_vidal).

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## From Bolivia to Happy Valley

Fencer Carlos Fernando Chacón is 'doing what every coach dreams of'

By Andrew Mercer  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Balancing academics with NCAA Division I Athletics isn't an easy task, especially when you're a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in finance. Carlos Fernando Chacón does it through "discipline, faith and resilience."

Chacón is a saber on Penn State's fencing team holding bachelor's degrees in finance and economics while running two independent companies.

The La Paz, Bolivia, native is a 5-year member of Penn State Fencing as well as the captain of the Bolivian Senior National Fencing Team since 2022.

He posted a 6-7 record in his true freshman season and went 20-18 as a sophomore before redshirting as a junior in 2023-24. Chacón returned to the strip the following year, placing 22nd in saber at the NCAA Mid-Atlantic/South Regionals.

"Coming to Penn State was always a dream," Chacón said. "So I said that when I finished high school, I'm going to either Penn State or Notre Dame, and Penn State was the first one."

Fencing wasn't always Chacón's primary sport — he was originally a boxer. He put a lot of time into the boxing ring in his youth, until fencing slowly became his most beloved passion.

What first brought him into the world of fencing wasn't a left hook or an uppercut, but his family. His cousin, Mariana Pino, was finding success on the international level, winning a South American Championship in women's foil. Chacón took an interest in her sport, and decided to try it out for himself.

"I always had family interaction with fencing — I walked with (Mariana) to a fencing practice and bonded with the coach," Chacón said. "Even though it wasn't my favorite sport yet, I started doing it, and eventually realized that I had more opportunities in fencing than in boxing, especially because of the research on



Esteban Marengo/The Daily Collegian

Saber Carlos Fernando Chacón faces off against a Wagner Saber during a fencing meet hosted by Penn State in the multi-sport facility.

fencing in Bolivia."

His athletic prowess propelled him to take home a multitude of awards, from Penn State and Bolivia alike. Chacón was recognized through the Penn State Athletics State of Excellence award, and was the back-to-back recipient of the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies

**"If you don't run and jump, it might be too late if you try to do it later."**

Carlos Fernando Chacón

Award for Best National Athletes in 2023 and 2024.

"When I was trying to rebuild the culture of Penn State Fencing, (Fernando) was exactly what I was searching for," coach Matteo Zennaro said. "His attitude was great. He was really straightforward, he knew what he wanted to do and was very

serious about fencing."

In summer 2025, Chacón was named the Smeal College of Business's student marshal. He was encouraged to apply through a letter sent by his academic advisor, and when he was offered the award Chacón said it was a "humbling experience."

"Fernando never gives up," Zennaro said. "When you are like this in your studies, you are like this in everything. He's always trying to do his best. He puts 100% of himself in everything."

Chacón is the co-founder of two Latin American companies: Golden Jaguar Mining and Prospera FinTech.

As a teenager in 2020, Chacón interned with Banco Mercantil Santa Cruz, a mining company in Bolivia, believing that it would be an office job in finance. However, the internship took place in the mining town itself. During his month there, he noticed that mining companies in the country didn't have the market information to see the best prices for their product.

Golden Jaguar was the solution to the problem. In 2021, Chacón partnered with an older cousin to create an algorithm to tell gold mining companies the top price on the market at the particular moment.

Prospera FinTech, on the other hand, is different. Originally established as a way to bridge connections between struggling small-medium enterprises and investors, the company expanded to financial education due to a particular interest in the Mexican credit crisis. Chacón's second start-up teaches financial education to the youth in order to lower interest rates, and systematically build strong credit scores.

"I have tremendous faith in all those ventures, and that's why I decided to take the leap of starting them," Chacón said. "If you don't run and jump, it might be too late if you try to do it later."

Chacón strives to manage his time effectively in order to run both businesses and remain committed to his studies.

"Time management takes time to get used to, but I think that you have to accept that you're going to have to sacrifice something," Chacón said. "You only have 24 hours in a day. Fencing and academics were always a priority, so when I started with Prospera and Golden Jaguar, sleep was one of the things that I had to sacrifice the most."

As captain of Bolivia's national team, Chacón's leadership taught him to not only keep himself

steady under pressure but also guide younger fencers. At Penn State, coaches and teammates see him as a role model through his preparation and communication.

"Part of the role that I took to Bolivia as the national captain started at Penn State," Chacón said. "The leadership skills that I try to promote with my national team — I learned them here."

In the Paris 2024 Olympic Qualifiers, Chacón fell in the quarterfinals. The score was tied, 14-14, and he lost to a red card.

"It was one of the hardest losses in my career," Chacón said. "But it taught me that maybe it wasn't my time yet. It was hard because I had to move to a new country for 5-6 months. But I don't regret it, it helped me understand myself more, my abilities and what I truly want."

Chacón is currently training to qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, his second-ever attempt.

"(The Olympics) is one of his last dreams not yet accomplished," Zennaro said. "I can see Fernando working very hard for it because he wants to reach every dream he has. As a team, we want to help him."

When Balazs Kurucz, the saber assistant coach was asked to describe Chacón in three words, he said "commitment, communication and hard work."

"It's an honor to coach a student-athlete like Fernando," Kurucz said. "He's definitely a good role model for the younger fencers."

Chacón said he hopes to be remembered by his teammates for the ways he's tried to make their experiences at Penn State better, just as he remembers those who've impacted him.

"You have to be responsible, you have to be smart and be able to manage your time in the best way possible," Zennaro said. "What (Chacón's) doing is exactly what every coach dreams of."

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## Sebastian Delacruz's path to Penn State

By Noah Aberegg  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Defender Sebastian Delacruz, born in Weston, Florida, is one generation removed from Venezuela — a heritage that influences many aspects of his life both on and off the field.

"I grew up in a place where a lot of Hispanics reside," Sebastian said. "Just to see, even though I'm in America, what it's like growing up in Hispanic culture is just amazing. People really care for each other, family gatherings, stuff like that. It's a nice, loving culture."

Sebastian's Hispanic roots stem directly from his family's journey, which has seen immigration through multiple generations.

"We're a family of immigrants, so it's kind of challenging," said Ernesto Delacruz, Sebastian's father. "I was born in Venezuela, my wife was born in Venezuela, my parents are originally from Spain."

Growing up not far from Miami, Sebastian was surrounded by soccer and started playing at the age of four after his parents signed him up.

Coach Jeff Cook said the team recruits internationally with the goal of attracting top-tier student-athletes from around the world. He emphasized the value these athletes bring to the program, not just in skill, but in how they contribute to an enriching team environment.

"Soccer is a global game," Cook said. "It's one of the great unifying forces in our society and our world."

As his career kicked off at an early age, his love for the game was evident right away as it continued to grow to a higher level.

"He shows a passion for it. He never complained about going to practice," Ernesto said. "That was his escape. When he feels stressed or needs to take some time, he grabs a ball and goes to the soccer field by himself and dribbles the ball and practices by



Courtesy of Steven Walter | Penn State Athletics

Defender Sebastian Delacruz (24) stands on the pitch during the Penn State men's soccer game versus Mercyhurst at Jeffrey Field.

himself."

While Sebastian's soccer career started off on a high note, he quickly encountered many setbacks, including tearing his ACL his senior year of high school.

Despite receiving several offers to play collegiately, Sebastian took a gap year to focus on his recovery before opening up his recruitment again.

"Whatever we do, we need to do our best and we need to do it with passion," Ernesto said. "We want to do things right and be honest and give the best of ourselves no matter what life throws at us."

Sebastian recovered from his injury and earned a spot in the MLS Next league, where he participated in showcases and played hard with colleges watching.

One of the schools that watched him was Penn State, where Sebastian ultimately landed in the fall of 2024.

"We're very happy to have Sebastian as part of our program," Cook said. "Those values of hard work and commitment are really showing with the progress he's made."

Many of those traits have been passed through the Delacruz family after generations of

immigration, forcing them to start from scratch and work hard.

"(My parents) came here and they gave me and my brother a life that we appreciate. It's been awesome," Sebastian said. "We grew up in a great place and are both chasing our dreams now."

After making the Nittany Lion squad, the Weston native reflected on his path to Division I soccer despite his setbacks and adversities.

"It was tough for me getting to where I am today, it wasn't handed to me," Sebastian said. "Persevering, working hard and not giving up (got me here). A lot of people told me I was never going to be here. Here I am."

In his first season playing in Happy Valley, Sebastian only recorded a combined 40 minutes through four games as he got adjusted to the program and took everything in from the sidelines.

"Sebastian has learned to accept what life throws at him and has managed to do his best," Ernesto said. "He's maturing a lot and he continues in that process to become a better person."

Despite his limited action in Year 1, Sebastian appreciated the opportunity to play at Penn State after everything he'd gone

through.

"Making my first collegiate debut is something I've been thinking about," Sebastian said. "My family came, my mom and my brother were there from

**"Soccer is a global game. It's one of the great unifying forces in our society and our world."**

Jeff Cook

Florida. It was huge."

After the less-than-ideal freshman campaign, Sebastian put in the hard work and effort over the summer months as he prepared to take on a bigger role in Year 2.

"He had a good spring last year and a good preseason," Cook said. "You've got to show up everyday and play to a high standard to hit your goals. I see that growing in Sebastian."

Sebastian watched from the bench through the first four games of the 2025 season. However, he stepped up and recorded a career-high 22 minutes in the team's 5-0 shutout against Mercyhurst.

"It's awesome to just put on this jersey and represent this school," Sebastian said. "(My teammates) want to fight for each other. We want to play for each other. Seeing the boys do well and seeing the program do well is what drives me."

Three weeks later, Sebastian made his second appearance of sophomore year, and despite playing less minutes than the first game, made a strong impact in his team's success.

"The next step for him is consistency," Cook said. "We see flashes of really inventive play. He's a very good attacking player, and that's something he has to embrace. He created good offensive pressure (against Robert Morris), and just to do that again and again and again is critically important."

While Sebastian hasn't earned any league honors or made the front page with big-game highlights, his presence at a Division I school is what others recognize after his athletic hardcomings early on. However, Cook sees improvement in him day after day that will continue to grow his career in the last two-and-a-half years at Penn State.

"Like any proud dad, I love him," Ernesto said. "He's a great little man and I know he's going to continue working hard and achieve his dream, because that's what he's always done."

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# Caliente Dance showcases Latin culture

By Jocelyn Bilker  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

At the heart of Penn State's vibrant dance scene, one group moves with rhythm, passion and purpose: Caliente! Dance Team. A student-run organization, Caliente is more than a performance group. It's a family rooted in culture, built on community and driven by a shared love of Latin dance.

"Caliente was founded in 2014 ... but when I joined my freshman year (in 2021), there was a shift of leadership where I took part as the president," Abelardo Sobarzo said. "I had to kind of build it from the ground up."

What started with just a few members has since grown into a thriving team of nearly 30 dancers. Nicole Guzman remembers what it was like when she joined during her sophomore year.

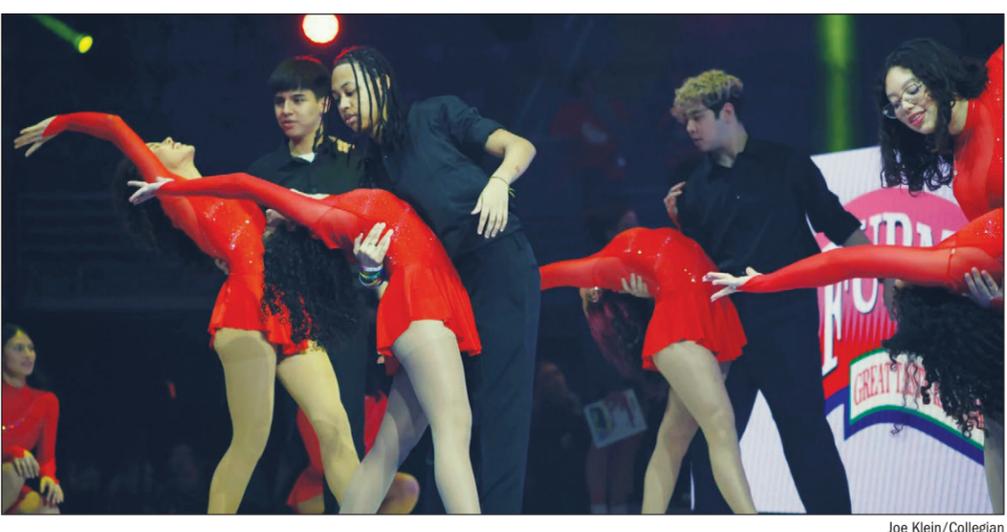
"There were three people," Guzman, a fourth-year studying finance and the club's current co-president, said. "We just kept growing it and developing it. The whole purpose was to create a community ... we're all passionate about dancing and our cultures."

While Caliente proudly reflects Latinx identity, the team welcomes dancers from any background. According to Guzman and Abraham Hernandez, the only requirement is dedication.

The group focuses on a wide variety of Latin dance styles like the salsa, merengue, bachata, cumbia and reggaeton, along with region-specific choreographies crafted by members from across Latin America.

"We usually focus on those dances because they're traditionally what Spanish dances are," Guzman said. "Specifically merengue and bachata are really core to Spanish culture."

Hernandez, a fourth-year studying finance and the club's other co-president, said diversity



Joe Klein/Collegian

Caliente Dance performs during the 53rd THON in the Bryce Jordan Center on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

of style allows students to connect more deeply with their heritage or discover new aspects of it.

"When they played cumbia ... I really resonated with it," Hernandez said. "My parents are from El Salvador and that was the moment I knew I wanted to join."

Beyond campus, Caliente has made a name for itself through community engagement, with public classes and performances throughout State College.

"We've done performances that are available for people just part of the community here," Sobarzo, a fifth-year studying informatics and former president of Caliente, said. "The most recent one we did was the Happy Valley Latin Festival ... it's honestly been an honor to help people see and experience the culture."

Building chemistry within the team takes work, especially when dancers have different levels of experience. Some members grew up in competitive dance; others learned from family parties.

"I think that's what makes it more special," Guzman said. "Some of us are Hispanic and

(learned to dance) growing up ... You kind of just develop it naturally when you're around it so much."

To foster connection, the team constantly rotates partners during practice.

"Sometimes it can be a little awkward," Hernandez said. "But because of that, you're forcing them to meet one another ... and it just creates this nice sense of community."

Selena Rivera said that sense of community is what pulled her in during her freshman year.

"It became so important to me because it's really very welcoming," Rivera, a second-year studying architecture and the group's treasurer, said. "It's not only a place to showcase our culture but also a place to grow ... we all help each other out, and it truly is a family."

The team practices four times a week and is continuously pushing to improve, both artistically and structurally. With a full executive board managing everything from choreography to budgeting, the group members are deeply

passionate and the organization runs well, according to Guzman.

"It's very time-consuming," Guzman said. "But I love it ... we see that (our dancers) love and care about it too."

Caliente's first-ever showcase, held last year, marked a milestone.

"It truly came out to be stupendous," Rivera said. "Everybody locked in. Everybody put in their best effort. It really marked how much we had grown."

Looking ahead, the team hopes to gain even more visibility and one day go competitive.

"We want to expand in the community, create more awareness and more exposure," Hernandez said. "The ultimate goal would be to become a competitive dance team."

Whether the team is performing in front of hundreds or sharing a laugh at a social, the mission remains the same.

"It's always going back to how we used to do it growing up," Guzman said. "The music we heard, the dances we learned. Culture and identity are at the center of every performance."

As for the leadership behind Caliente, they're proud of the performances and what the group has become.

"We cannot do this alone at all," Guzman said. "It's the entire board and all the dancers together ... I just couldn't be more proud of where we are today."

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Geraldine Cruz/Collegian

Members of Caliente Dance perform during Noche Latina at Alumni Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center on Feb. 15, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

# Must-reads for Hispanic Heritage Month

By Ava Krysko  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

One of the best ways to celebrate other cultures is through literature — from memoirs to fictional short stories, books can lead you to the most fascinating places.

This list features five books that are essential reads during Hispanic Heritage Month, and are so good that you won't be able to put them down.

Another great feature of these books is that they can be found at the Pattee and Paterno Library, so no worries about locating or having to spend money on them.

## "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros

"The House on Mango Street" was written by Sandra Cisneros, whose parents were born in Mexico, but Cisneros herself was born in Chicago and the story is based on her childhood.

"The House on Mango Street" is a story about Esperanza Cordero, a Latina 12-year-old growing up in an impoverished neighborhood of Chicago. The book is told in first person and in the literary style of vignettes, which are short, descriptive passages.

This book deals with heavier topics such as poverty, and was even banned in many areas of the United States due to its examination of mature themes. Regardless, this book explores identity in such a beautiful way that it's definitely worth the read.

## "My Broken Language: A Memoir" by Quiara Alegria Hudes

If nonfiction is more up your alley, then "My Broken Language: A Memoir" may be the selection for you.

Written in 2021 by Quiara Alegria Hudes, this book follows Hudes through her identity journey in her West Philly Puerto Rican neighborhood.

Hudes uses language as a means to take readers through the events of her life, from her cousin's struggle with sobriety to her decision to attend Brown University for her MFA in playwriting.

Besides writing a memoir, Hudes has many accomplishments, including being a playwright and producer and winning a Pulitzer Prize for her play "Water by the Spoonful."

## "I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" by Erika L. Sánchez

Although this book technically falls into the genre of young adult, it's a very powerful novel that works for any age.

Told through the perspective of Julia Reyes, a Chicago high school student, "I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" explores themes of family and loss, as Julia makes her way through grief during adolescence. This book will have you laughing one second and ugly crying the next, which makes it quite the ride.

Sánchez published the novel in 2017, and wrote it because she wished she could've had a book like it growing up. "I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" was a 2017 finalist for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

## "LatinoLand" by Marie Arana

For those wishing to learn more about rich Latino history and culture, "LatinoLand" can fulfill that desire.

"LatinoLand" gives readers an insight into Hispanic life in America, as the book spans all the way

from 1492 to today, covering the most important facets of Latin history.

The latest of Marie Arana's books, "LatinoLand" explores the importance of representation of Latino culture through countless interviews of people from the community. This book also delves into Arana's personal life and experiences as a Latina.

Although "history" books can often be deemed boring, this book uses interviews and people's real-life experiences to help draw the reader in and keep them there.

## "Catalina: A Novel" by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

Last, but certainly not least, is "Catalina," a novel that is sure to become someone's next favorite read.

A National Bestseller, "Catalina" follows a year in the life of college student Catalina, who immigrated to the United States from Ecuador as a child.

It explores her coming-of-age story during a tumultuous year, in which our protagonist is faced with many tribulations and fears centered around uncertainty.

Cornejo Villavicencio herself was born in Ecuador and moved to the U.S. at age five. She based some of the events in "Catalina" on her teenage years growing up in New York City.

"Catalina" was long-listed for the National Book Award for Fiction in 2024, and offers readers a provocative fictional read to delve into this Hispanic Heritage Month.

Overall, these five books will certainly give any reader an amazing insight into Hispanic Heritage Month. So pick up a book today — it all starts just one page at a time.

To email reporter: [apk6215@psu.edu](mailto:apk6215@psu.edu). Follow her on X @avakrysko.



Geraldine Cruz/Collegian

A community member poses for a photo at the Happy Valley Latin Festival on Fraser Street on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025 in State College, Pa.

## THIS WEEK IN HAPPY VALLEY

### MONDAY, OCT. 6

- Yoga & Meditation: Noon–1 p.m. at 232 HUB
- Allen Street Jam: 3-7 p.m. at Allen Street

### TUESDAY, OCT. 7

- Shinrin-Yoku, Forest Bathing: 4–5:30 p.m. at Hartley Wood, Arboretum (must register online)
- Gretel & Hansel screening: 6–9 p.m. at 104 Pasquerilla
- For the Glory Talent Show: 7 p.m. at Schwab Auditorium

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8

- Feed The People Market Stand: 1:30–6 p.m. at HUB Main Lounge Table #5
- Best of Penn State Carnival: 1-5 p.m. at HUB Lawn

### THURSDAY, OCT. 9

- Women's Ice Hockey vs. St. Lawrence: 6 p.m. at Pegula Ice Arena
- P.O.C. Pep Rally: 3-10 p.m. at 018 HUB Robeson Center

### FRIDAY, OCT. 10

- Men's Ice Hockey vs. Clarkson: 7 p.m. at Pegula Ice Arena
- CSGD 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: 4-11 p.m. at 122 HUB-Robeson Center
- Alumni Ice Cream Social: 1-3 p.m. at Hintz Alumni Center
- Homecoming Parade: 6 p.m. on Campus and in Downtown State College
- Guard the Lion Shrine: 7 p.m. at Lion Shrine

The Collegian is collecting student perspectives on how COVID-19 has impacted our generation. Scan the QR code to take our short, anonymous survey and help us tell the story.