Welcome new and returning Latino Living Center (LLC) residents! We are looking forward to building a community with you and assisting in your adjustment to Cornell.

The Latino Living Center came about through student activism 20 years ago when on November 17, 1993 Latino students took over Day Hall, the main administrative building on campus. This was in response to the vandalism done to a work of Latino artist Daniel Joseph Martinez (pictured at the bottom of this page). The creation of a Latino Living Center was one of the last of the nine demands these students mandated from the administration.

The LLC was originally located on Cornell’s west campus before moving to its current home in Anna Comstock Hall in August 2000. Many murals in the original building were carved out of the walls and installed in the suites of the new LLC, truly bringing Latino history at Cornell to every corner of the building. The LLC houses 57 students including two RAs. Our students are a mixture of Latino backgrounds and non-Latinos who are interested in learning more about Latino culture.

The LLC is located on Cornell’s north campus at 520-522 Thurston Avenue and is a short walk from the main campus. We are also located right across the street from Risley Residential College for the Creative & Performing Arts, home to our nearest dining room. The common space in the LLC includes a main lounge with a TV, study lounge, two kitchens, a computer lab, library, and laundry facilities.

There is almost always something going on in the building, and with our suite style layout and many facilities there is always a place to hang out or get work done depending on a student’s need at the moment. In this letter you will find more information about what we do in the LLC along with our values as a community.

We can’t wait to meet you in the Fall 2014 as you begin a new chapter for yourself!
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The LLC is one of the major hubs of the Latino Community at Cornell. In addition to the programs and events planned by the LLC staff and residents, the LLC plays host to many weekly events and meetings of different students groups and ensembles from the Latino community. Below are four of our traditional programs.

Café con Leches, or “Cafés” as they are commonly referred to as, occur every Friday night at the LLC. They feature diverse program topics and there is always promise of a great discussion and a great cup of café! The picture above features one of our Cafés in action.

~ COMO COUNCIL ~

Como Council is the LLC’s Hall Council. Como Council is named after the LLC’s mascot, a tiger named “Como” (you can see him hanging out on our sign to the right). Community members can provide input on programs they would like to see and offer suggestions for making the LLC a better place.

~ COMMUNITY BOOK READ ~

Every semester the LLC selects a book for a book discussion group. Past books include Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and Pablo Freire’s *Pedagogy of the Oppressed.*

~ FACULTY FELLOW ~

Faculty fellow dinners have taken place for as long as anyone can remember on Tuesday nights from 5:30pm-7:00pm. They take place in the Tammany dining room at Risley Dining, which is just across the street from the LLC. Dinners are hosted by our Faculty Fellows Deb Castillo, Pilar A. Parra, and Hector Velez (pictured at left). See below for a photo of students enjoying dinner.
THE LLC COMMITS TO THESE VALUES TO GUIDE OUR DECISIONS AND BEHAVIOR

MAINTENANCE OF HISTORY AND LEGACY
In existence since 1994, the Latino Living Center strives to continue our history as a program house on campus, as well as the histories of our diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We actively strive to create a legacy of what we are and what we represent.

RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUALS
We are focused on the sharing and teaching of Latino cultures, fostering an environment of appreciation and teamwork in which residents are involved. We recognize the diversity of our cultures, races, and national origin. We treat each other with respect and dignity, valuing individual and cultural differences. We communicate frequently. Listening to each other while respecting our personal and political positions. We give individuals the authority to use their capabilities to the fullest to educate themselves completely. Our environment supports personal growth and continuous learning for all people.

DEDICATION TO EDUCATION
We are focused on providing education in both an academic and non-academic atmosphere; strengthening communication skills. Promoting leadership and advancing the development of well-rounded individuals through comprehensive programming, high quality living standards and self-governance.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY
The Latino Living Center is more than just a place to live. It is a community and a family. Much like a real family, we are not a homogeneous group. We are all unique people with distinct goals and beliefs which can be openly voiced in a setting which nurtures individuality. We build enduring relationships through understanding and appreciation of our similarities as well as our differences. We honor our role as a resource for the greater Latino community while maintaining our primary focus on our residents and their interests.

TEAMWORK
We encourage and value both individual and group achievements. Our strong affiliation to each other extends to being responsible and caring partners in the community of the Latino Living Center where we live and work.

WE’RE HERE TO HELP YOU!
There is a dedicated staff in the LLC who coordinates programs and supports our residents. An RHD, two RAs, and multiple student staff members all work together to create an enriching living and learning community.

What is an RHD?
The Residence Hall Director is a full-time, live-in staff person. The RHD is responsible for the long-range planning as well as day-to-day operation of the building. The RHD handles disciplinary situations, and works in the department of Residential Programs. The RHD has a Master’s Degree in Student Affairs and is available for counseling, advising, information on the LLC, or anything else. The current RHD is Angel Keen.

What is an RA?
The RAs are live-in student staff members who have been trained in various resources on campus, educational programming, different types of counseling, and crisis management. The LLC has 2 RAs and you may go to either of them if you have questions or problems. There is an RA on call every night of the week and on the weekends to respond to any emergencies in the building. The RAs will be some of the first people you meet upon moving into the LLC. They are here because they care about you and want your experience to be as successful and positive as possible. This year’s RAs will be Julissa Sanchez (jms839@cornell.edu) and Amy ElSAyed (ame86@cornell.edu).

Student Staff Workers
The LLC has three student staff members: the Program Assistant, Media Coordinator, and Office Assistant. Student staff members are great resources for anyone who wants to do any kind of activity or program at the LLC.

OUR FIRST EVENT
The first event at the LLC is one of our largest: Our Bienvenidos BBQ on August 29. There is great free food and an opportunity to learn about clubs and organizations that are eager to meet you!

A SAMPLE OF THE MANY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AT CORNELL:
- Cuban American Student Association (CASA)
- Friends of Farmworkers
- La Asociacion Latina (LAL)
- Latino Ivy League Delegates
- Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA)
- Quisqueya Dominican Students Association
- Sabor Latino Dance Ensemble
- Sangre Taina: Puerto Rican Student Association (PRSA)
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)

GREEK LETTER ORGANIZATIONS:
- Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc
- Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity, Inc
- Lambda Pi Chi Sorority Inc
- Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc
- Omega Phi Beta Sorority Inc
- Sigma Lambda Upsilon Sorority, Inc