Utilization of La Casita

The total number of visitors was 8,344.

La Casita’s main visitors are juniors and seniors. This year showed an increase in graduate student visitors as well as faculty. A solid number of community visitors also stopped by La Casita. A focus for next year will be on outreaching to first year sophomore students.

There was a First-Year Florida course and a Latino/a Politics & Public Policy course taught in the conference room and those served as good ways to bring new people to La Casita.

57% of students who visit La Casita come to print, followed by hanging out and for meetings. About 26% come for studying and programming.

2014 Vision
The Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures, also known as “La Casita,” is a hub of information for Hispanic-Latino students, both undergraduate and graduate, as well as faculty and staff. La Casita seeks to provide various campus and community events in order to bring students, faculty, staff and community members together. Students also receive mentoring and guidance in a safe and productive environment. La Casita is a welcoming and educational “home away from home” where students learn, socialize and build relationships in order to support and positively impact lives.
Big things are happening at La Casita!

- Great renovations—new technology, floors, furniture and a completely different look. Shows an investment in the space and students!
- Celebrating 20 years at UF—had a spring 2014 speaker series and other events!
- The Latino-Hispanic Organization of Graduate Students (LOGRAS) was formed!

Where we’ve been and where we’re going

La Casita continues to provide UF students with services like: free coffee and tea, printing (up to 10 pages per visit), and a home-away-from-home! We’re open 9 AM—9 PM M-Th and 9 AM—5 PM on Fridays.

La Casita educates and advocates for an on behalf of Hispanic/Latino/a students and community through programming efforts.

In 2013-4, La Casita focused on it’s 20th Anniversary events that highlighted the diversity of Hispanics and Latinos/as and remembering the history of La Casita through alumni and current students.

Future plans include preparation for the move to the Reitz Union, producing more research and expanding our online presence.

From the Director

There have been many changes at La Casita in 2013-4. Besides the renovations, students returned to campus to find that I had been hired. Like most, students were weary of change which led to some mixed emotions from them. In picking up where the previous Director left off, I kept much of the same schedule, signature programs and tried to build relationships with student leaders, faculty, staff and community leaders so I could provide the best services possible. I did initiate a handful of new ideas and those were well received. I brought together graduate students and Hispanic/Latino/a faculty and staff that had never visited La Casita. I also emphasized the connection between La Casita and academic departments.

The year ended with two victories for me: the completion of my PhD in Race & Ethnicity Politics from UCLA and the opportunity to teach Latino/a Politics at La Casita during Summer A! It was a rewarding year at La Casita! I’m grateful for the warm welcome and the great year!

Go Gators!

In solidarity,
Dr. Olivia Garcia