



LA CONFERENCIA

Vivir Mi Vida

MARCH 24TH-26TH, 2023



CAROLINA
LATINX CENTER

LA CONFERENCIA 2023



DAY 1

Friday, March 24th, 6:00pm-8:00pm



SOCIAL GROUP NETWORKING

Fedex Global Education Center Lobby

We will be kicking off the weekend with an opportunity to network with other conference participants and local professionals. There will also be a chance to ask any remaining questions about the rest of the weekend. Light refreshments will be provided.

Saturday, March 25th , 9:30am-10:00am

DAY 2

OPENING SESSION

Student Union Auditorium Room 2401

Bienvenidos to day two of La Conferencia! We are going to start the day with a welcome from the Carolina Latinx Center Director, and will be sharing a little more about the theme for La Conferencia: Vivir Mi Vida.



Concurrent Morning Sessions A | 10:20am-11:00am

SUPPORTING MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES IN SPEECH THERAPY

Amy Munekata / Content Area: Academic / Room 2423

While the Latinx and bilingual populations continue to grow throughout the country, access to therapy services for these populations continues to lag behind. The goal of this presentation is to highlight the areas of need, discuss ideas to improve access and educate about the role of therapy for themselves and family members.

KEEPING NUESTRA COMUNIDAD CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS

Dominique Ospina / Content Area: Giving Back & Identity / Room 2420

A discussion on how to find your purpose, cultivate it, and utilize it everywhere you go. Especially when sustaining and strengthening nuestra comunidad. Learn about the importance of elevating the wealth of knowledge

Morning Session A Descriptions Continued on Next Page



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DAY 2

Concurrent Morning Sessions A | 10:20am-11:10am

LA AVENTURA DE VOTEMOSNC AND TECHNOLOGY

Oscar Romero / Content Area: Giving Back / Room 3409

Civic engagement is paramount for Latinés to continue thriving in NC and beyond. It's also a way for people to learn about ways they can continue to give back and also work in this space in nontraditional roles that we don't hear about as we're growing up. As an undocumented immigrant in the US with DACA, Oscar will share what his journey has been with a specific project, VotemosNC, nonprofits, and technology to empower Civic Engagement in NC and beyond for the Hispanic communities we want to support.

Concurrent Morning Sessions B | 11:20am-12:10am

PLANNING FOR YOUR GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION

Erick Diaz & Sasha Pellerin / Content Area: Future Planning / Room 3409

Applying to graduate school is tricky. It requires plenty of work, but also an understanding of unwritten rules that many first-generation students do not have access to. Our team helps first-gen students navigate these unwritten rule with confidence and while centering their first-gen identity.

HERE TO LEAD: A CHARLA ON IDENTITY AND PURPOSE AT CAROLINA

Kevin Ortiz / Content Area: Future Planning & Identity / Room 2423

Listen to a personal journey of a DACA MBA candidate at UNC. Over the past two years at UNC, he has worked in partnership with the Carolina Latinx Center, the UNC Kenan-Flager Business School, and other Carolina partners in elevating the Latinx agenda at UNC. The session will be a reflection on what has been accomplished and what's to come regarding the Latinx community.

COCIDO: A THIRD CULTURE KID'S JOURNEY THROUGH FOOD

Bryan Mejia / Content Area: Identity / Room 2420

This presentation will be a story of migration, a mix of cooking inspiration, memoir, and poetry. Understand what it means to be a third culture kid as it relates to "Ni de aquí, ni de allá." Understand the connection food has in defining what "home" is. For the cooks and non-cooks, we will put radical joy in the process of cooking.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH | 12:40PM-1:40PM

DE ESTO SÍ SE HABLA:

A KEYNOTE PANEL ON MENTAL HEALTH WITH LATINX THERAPISTS



CAROLINA AGUILAR, MARISOL PEREZ, DR. JUAN PRANDONI, DR. ALEXANDRA CALIX-HUGHES

Our committee decided on our theme, *Vivir Mi Vida*, because we wanted to spend the year focusing on how we, as Latinx people, are living our lives in the present. We overcame the pandemic and are now trailblazing new paths for ourselves and our communities every day. From having more candid conversations with our families to embracing our imperfections, all of our new strides are connected directly to our mental health.

Previously considered a taboo topic, we are taking this opportunity to have an honest conversation with Latinx counselors about the state of Latinx mental health and how we can continue to push the boundary to live fuller more empowered lives. We no longer want mental health to be something we whisper about - instead, *de esto sí se habla!*

MEET THE PANELISTS



CAROLINA AGUILAR

MA, LCMHC, TRCC

Originally from Peru, Carolina is fluent in Spanish and English, and earned her Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary. Carolina is a member of the American Counselors Association (ACA) and the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC). She currently offers bilingual therapeutic services in Chapel Hill, NC.

MARISOL PEREZ

LCSW

Marisol is a New York City native and relocated to North Carolina in 2017. She earned her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from New York University. Marisol graduated from the City University of New York, Herbert H. Lehman College where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Marisol is the owner of Peaceful Counseling and Therapy.



JUAN PRANDONI

PhD, LPA, HSP-PA

Juan Prandoni was born in Argentina and moved to Winston-Salem when he was 10. He did his undergraduate studies at UNC-Chapel Hill and then entered UNC-Greensboro's Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program. Juan enjoys working with adolescents, adults, and their families in a culturally responsive manner. He is an Associate Training Director at El Futuro outpatient clinic.

ALEXANDRA CALIX-HUGHES

PhD, MSW, LCSW

Dr. Calix-Hughes attended Louisiana State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, and Masters of Social Work degree. She then went on to earn her Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She has her own practice, New Spring Counseling, PLLC.





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DAY 2

Concurrent Afternoon Sessions A | 1:50 pm-2:40 pm

LA MADRE DEL MARICON: QUEER LATINX FAMILY IN THE HOUSE OF IMPOSSIBLE BEAUTIES

X. Ramos-Lara / Content Area: Identity & Academic / Room 2420

While scholars have written on the ballroom scene and its historical impact on queer identity formation and performance, not enough attention has been paid to the impact of family building on queer and Latinx literature outside of a conversation surrounding Paris Is Burning (which is well-known to be rife with controversy). By particularly centering a novel like *The House of Impossible Beauties* in the presentation, I am giving voice to a queer Latinx epistemology created outside of a queer academic context with basis in a queer reality.

GENERATION 1.5 IMMIGRATION YOUTH FROM EL SALVADOR

Josue Daniel Cordova / Content Area: Academic / Room 3409

As the number of foreign-born students from Latin American countries integrates into our school system, schools require a better understanding of the lived experiences of newly arrived students in school classrooms. Particularly conflict-affected children and adolescents and how school systems can elevate their lived experiences through the application of a framework across the state.

A HEALTHY MONEY MINDSET

Alzebeth Scialabba & Jennifer Bollman / Content Area: Future Planning / Room 2423

Many young people understand the importance of having a budget, but struggle to know where to start and/or fail to hold themselves accountable to their financial goals. During our session we will talk about some of the constant themes that may be holding back members of the Latinx community from realizing the potential of their financial freedom and how to overcome them.

LA CONFERENCIA 2023

*STILL HAVEN'T HAD THE
CHANGE GET YOUR HEADSHOT
TAKEN? GO TO ROOM 2423!*

DAY 2

Concurrent Afternoon Sessions B | 2:50 pm-3:40 pm

MY JOURNEY DE FE: A DISCUSSION ON EVOLVING FAITH THROUGH A LATINE PERSPECTIVE

Quinny Sanchez Lopez & Elaine Utin / Content Area: Future Planning / Room 2420

This session will be a discussion between two friends who are continuing to evolve their faith identity. They will touch on themes of intersectionality and the decolonization of evangelical faith. Participants will hear from the facilitators about their experience and will be invited to explore the impacts of their religious and cultural upbringing with each other.

NAVIGATING UNDERGRAD AS A LATINX STUDENT AT UNC-CH

Erika Munguia, Rosa Elias, Aislin Saray Sanchez, José Camacho, Julian Bailon / Content Area: Academic & Future Planning / Room 3409

The academic experience of all students at UNC is shaped by multiple factors, an important one for Latinx students is identity. This session hopes to provide guidance to first and second-year Latinx students who are interested in business, and/or want to go to law, medical, or dental school. You will hear four unique experiences from current UNC students.

Closing Session | 3:50 pm-4:00 pm

REFLECTIONS FROM LA CONFERENCIA

Student Union Auditorium / Room 2401

We will gather one last time before we dismiss. Los felicito on making it to the end! La Conferencia is just a starting place. Join us for the closing session to learn how else we can stay in touch and continue to connect with one another.

Sunday, March 26th , 12:00pm-3:00 pm

DAY 3

CONFERENCIA SOCIAL

Carolina Latinx Center Lawn

We will wrap up the weekend at our very special Carolina Latinx Center. You will have one last chance to connect with one another. There will be food and games. We will have the opportunity to reflect on our weekend.





LA CONFERENCIA

Vivir Mi Vida

PURPOSE

To provide a space for Latinx students, staff, and faculty to network and create a discourse about access, social development, education, positive communication, and cross-cultural understanding in a Latinx-centered setting in North Carolina.

We aim to develop this into a space for people to convene annually to have critical dialogue, and exchange of information in order to empower the next generation of Latinx thinkers.

ABOUT THE HOST

The Carolina Latinx Center provides students, faculty, staff, and our community the opportunity to explore Latinx cultures, histories, and traditions and to use that understanding to work across racial and ethnic communities in North Carolina, the country, and the world.

For faculty, staff, and students who are engaged in research, teaching, and/or service related to Latinx communities and issues, the Center connects them both with one another and with community partners.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

We could not do this work alone! Thank you so much to our sponsors for helping us host the first in-person iteration of La Conferencia.

STUDENT LIFE & LEADERSHIP

SLC



ALPACA
PERUVIAN CHARCOAL CHICKEN

CONTACT US

Have any questions or want to get involved in the future? Reach out to us via email at clc@unc.edu.



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