

June 2009

Dear Latino Living Center Residents,

On behalf of the Latino Living Center Residential Programs staff, Facilities staff, the Faculty Fellows, and myself, I would like to officially welcome you to the Latino Living Center, which is a culturally themed Program House focusing on Latino heritage. Ben Meoz will be your Residence Hall Director (RHD) for the upcoming academic year. He is full-time professional staff member with Campus Life Residential Programs and this will be his first year as the RHD of the Latino Living Center. He is truly excited to be working with all of you this year. The Latino Living Center will offer you a unique on-campus living situation for you since a common bond of appreciation for the values of Latino heritage: respect for individuals, a dedication to education, a commitment to community, and the importance of family, link residents.

I know that some of you have lived on campus at Cornell previously but more than likely you are a curious first year or transfer student so I wanted to provide some basic information about how the staff and the RHD support the community throughout the academic year. As a full-time live-in member of the Campus Life Residential Programs staff, the RHD is responsible for the administration of and community building within the Latino Living Center. This includes working with the two Resident Advisors (RAs) in striving to provide each of you with educational and social initiatives geared to support your out-of-classroom experience. The staff seeks to maintain a fun and cohesive living environment within the complex while promoting a just community and respect for individuals, which includes enforcement of building and campus policies. The two RAs (Stephanie and Christine) live within the house and are readily available to provide assistance and support to every student. Stephanie and Christine arrive on campus before the halls officially open to prepare for your arrival and receive training on everything from community development to conflict mediation. The RAs are crucial in helping create an environment that is challenging, friendly, and safe, so please work with them to help create an excellent community.

Residents of LLC are encouraged to become aware of and discuss the numerous issues facing Latino communities in the United States and throughout the world. This interaction between first-year, upperclass students, and faculty often results in long-lasting mentor relationships. Programs and activities supplement these mentorships by helping students balance their studies with social activities. Residents are involved in organizing the Center's events by working collaboratively with the Como Council, staff, faculty, and the Latino Studies Program. The Café Con Leche weekly discussion series, annual retreats, community dinners, intramural sports clubs, and Hispanic Heritage Month festivities are some of the traditional events. While dances, movie nights, faculty dinners, and various celebrations including Dia de los Muertos and the Day Hall Takeover Commemoration Week are scattered throughout the semester.

As you begin to think about the fall semester, I would like to invite each of you to become an active member of the House leadership group, Como Council. It really is the best group to get involved with as they make the decisions regarding all of the Latino Living Center's programming and activities. Some other leadership opportunities include the Residential Student Congress (RSC) or Peer Review Board (PRB). The RSC is always looking for new members to help with programmatic initiatives and PRB serves as a first level disciplinary review board for all of the residential communities on campus. Just remember that no matter how hectic or involved you become, you must join the Faculty Fellows for a meal in Risley's Great Hall (just across the street), go to a Café Con Leche, try to organize a Community Dinner or Movie Night, and participate in the Como Council.

It's going to be a fun and exciting year at Cornell, and in the Latino Living Center. I sincerely hope that you are excited too! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Latino Living Center via e-mail at llc-info@cornell.edu.

Sincerely,

Elaine K. Bushey
Interim Residence Hall Director
Latino Living Center

Opening Day

First-year and transfer students should plan to move in to their residence on Friday, August 21, 2009. Due to the large number of students checking in to North Campus, West Campus residence halls and Program Houses on that day, students assigned to those communities are given a move-in time based on the first letter of their last name:

A-G 8:00am-11:00am

H-O 11:00am-2:00pm

P-Z 2:00pm-5:00pm

In order to facilitate a smooth move-in experience for everyone, students who arrive early will not be able to check in before their assigned move-in time. If you cannot check in during your move-in time, please contact the Housing Office ahead of time at housing@cornell.edu.

What to Bring...

What will my room include?

Your room will have a twin bed, desk, desk chair, desk lamp, bureau, and wastebasket for each occupant. These must not be removed from the room. The furniture provided meets most students' needs, and it is best not to duplicate those items or bring large furniture. The windows have drapes, shades, or blinds. Your residence hall [service center](#) can give you more information on furnishings and measurements.

What additional items should I bring for my room?

It's a good idea to check with your roommate(s) before the academic year begins so you don't duplicate items, but some general suggestions include: sheets and bedding that fit an extra-long twin bed, a pillow, towels, a container to hold/carry toiletries, storage crates, clothes hangers, a sewing kit, office supplies, envelopes, a UL-approved outlet strip with breaker switch (extension cords are prohibited), an alarm clock, your computer (if you have one), a stereo (or speakers for your iPod), a fan, a floor lamp. Thermostatically controlled appliances are allowed (i.e. popcorn poppers, coffee pots, automatic toasters) but must be operated in your residence hall kitchen.

What size linens and bedding will fit my bed?

Residence hall mattresses are 8" thick by 36" wide by 80" long -- that's extra long -- and regular twin size sheets will not fit. You may purchase extra-long twin sheets at your regular shopping center, or you can take advantage of Cornell's optional linen purchase plan. More information about the linen plan will be available in the "Your Housing Assignment" packet that you will receive, but in the meantime you can visit www.rhl.org/cor for more information.

Can I have a refrigerator in my room?

Many students find it convenient to have a small refrigerator in their rooms. You may either bring your own (assuming it does not draw more than 3 amps [300 watts] to start and 1.5 amps while running) or Campus Life can help you rent one. Information about refrigerator rental is included with the "Your Housing Assignment" mailing. You may also order a refrigerator by visiting www.campusspec.com or by calling 1-800-525-7307.

Is there anything I should NOT bring with me?

Yes, as a matter of safety there are a few items that you are NOT allowed to have in your room: extension cords, "spider" lamps, any lamp (particularly a halogen lamp) that requires a bulb greater than 150 watts, appliances not controlled by thermostats, candles, incense burners, microwave ovens, cinder blocks. Additionally, weapons and firearms must be registered and kept with Cornell University Police and may not be kept in residence halls.