

Hispanic Heritage month in full swing

□ Fashion shows, talent shows, parties and educational programs are all rolled into one for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Jeremy Rottgen

The Gator Times staff

Hispanic Heritage Month gives all students and members of the community the opportunity to engage in and learn about Hispanic customs and traditions.

Sept. 15 marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, with events taking place from Sept. 18 to Oct. 25.

The title for this year's Hispanic Heritage Month is "Latin Soul," and the motto is "Nuestras Presencia (Our Presence)."

The Hispanic Student Association has been putting together the events since early last summer. Elizabeth Garcia, president of the

Hispanic Student Association, would like to promote the enlightening aspect of Hispanic Heritage Month so crucial to its existence.

"This gives Hispanic students and members of the community the chance to participate in traditional activities, and non-Hispanics enjoy it too," Carolina Garcia Gonzalez said. Gonzalez spoke about her life during the opening ceremony on Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Reitz Union auditorium. Gonzalez was born in Havana, Cuba, and immigrated with her family to the United States. She now lives in South Beach and writes mystery novels.

Stina Schoneck, public relations director of the Hispanic Student Association, encourages students to take advantage of the scheduled events.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is not just for Hispanic students," Schoneck said. "It's a great way to educate the student body and community."

The IDEAL Communication workshop in the Reitz Union and "Cultura," a convention fea-

turing multi-cultural exhibits, will be on Sept. 27.

Gator Nights will also be involved with Hispanic Heritage Month by having Comedy Night on Friday, Oct. 5 and will be showing "Before the Night Falls" in the Reitz Union Theatre from Sept. 26 to Oct. 1. On campus, "Stand and Deliver" will be shown throughout October on WUFT television.

"It's a really good opportunity because it provides education and entertainment for the community, students, faculty and staff," said James E. Scott, the vice president for the Division of Student Affairs. "In a large part, a university provides the opportunity to learn about different cultures and people of different backgrounds and experiences."

The Hispanic Student Association will be holding a Mr. and Miss Hispanic Student Association pageant in the Reitz Union's Rion Ballroom on Oct. 7 at 6 p.m.

For more information, go to the Hispanic Student Association's website: <http://grove.ufl.edu/~hsau/>.



Photo: William C. Tanner

Guest speaker and author Carolina Garcia-Gonzalez spoke last Tuesday night in the Reitz Union Theater for the opening ceremony of Hispanic Heritage Month 2001.

Volume 3 Issue 12

September 27 - September 30, 2001