



Celebrating Spanish Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month honors the diverse people of Spanish-speaking backgrounds in the United States. From September 15 to October 15, a multitude of special programs, events, exhibits and Web sites celebrate the heritage, culture, spirit and extraordinary contributions of Hispanic Americans.

The celebration of Hispanic Heritage began on a national scale in 1968 with Public Law 90-498, which authorized an annual Presidential Proclamation making the week of September 15 and 16 Hispanic Heritage Week. The designated week was selected to coincide with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua's Independence Day celebrations on September 15, and Mexico's on September 16.

The 1968 Proclamation called upon the people of the United States, especially the educational community, to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities. To encourage participation, in his 1974 Proclamation, President Gerald R. Ford called for schools and human rights organizations to participate more fully in the Week. And in 1988 President Ronald Reagan repeated Ford's call for more recognition of Hispanic Americans by approving Public Law 100-402, which expanded the celebration to Hispanic Heritage Month -- to run from September 15 to October 15.

Today, more than ever, Hispanic Americans play an integral role in shaping the American experience. They serve as leaders in government, law, business, science, sports, the arts and many other occupations. The influence of Hispanic culture is reflected in every aspect of American life, from politics to education to music and television.

Some Facts....

44.3 million

The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2006, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constituted 15 percent of the nation's total population. (This estimate does not include the 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.)

About 1

... of every two people added to the nation's population between July 1, 2005, and July 1, 2006, was Hispanic. There were 1.4 million Hispanics added to the population over the period

102.6 million

The projected Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2050. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 24 percent of the nation's total population by that date.

64%

The percentage of Hispanic-origin people in households who are of Mexican background. Another 9



percent are of Puerto Rican background, with 3.5 percent Cuban, 3 percent Salvadoran and 2.7 percent Dominican. The remainder are of some other Central American, South American or other Hispanic or Latino origin. (Source: 2005 American Community Survey)

Roughly half of the nation's Dominicans live in New York City and about half of the nation's Cubans in Miami-Dade County, Fla. (Source: 2005 American Community Survey)

27.4 years

Median age of the Hispanic population in 2006. This compares with 36.4 years for the population as a whole.

107

Number of Hispanic males in 2006 per every 100 Hispanic females. This was in sharp contrast to the overall population, which had 97 males per every 100 females.

1.6 million

The number of Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002.

32.2 million

The number of U.S. household residents 5 and older who speak Spanish at home. Spanish speakers constitute nearly one in eight U.S. household residents. Among all those who speak Spanish at home, more than one-half say they speak English very well.

12%

The percentage of the Hispanic population 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2006.

839,000

Number of Hispanics 25 and older with advanced degrees in 2006

7.6 million

The number of Hispanic citizens who reported voting in the 2004 presidential election. The percentage of Hispanic citizens voting — about 47 percent — did not change statistically from four years earlier.

1.1 million

The number of Hispanic veterans of the U.S. armed forces.



National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week

A Proclamation By the President of the United States of America

Education is a fundamental part of achieving the American dream, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) help ensure that every student has the opportunity to pursue a quality education. During Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, we underscore our commitment to these distinguished institutions in their efforts to provide more Americans with the tools to realize their dreams.

The founding of many of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities over a century ago expanded the American education system and extended the opportunity of a higher education to some who had been wrongly denied access. Today, HBCUs throughout our Nation continue to be centers of quality education, advancing opportunity and inspiring individuals to meet the challenges of our time as responsible leaders.

My Administration has increased Federal support for HBCUs and remains committed to strengthening these colleges and universities. The HBCU Capital Financing Program has provided access to funds for infrastructure repairs, educational equipment, and construction of new facilities. The President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities works to help HBCUs develop new partnerships with the private sector and benefit from Federal programs to strengthen and advance faculty development and cooperative research.

We will continue to provide our strong support to HBCUs, so that every citizen can enjoy a future of hope and opportunity, and we salute these great institutions as they build on a foundation of continued success for every student.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 9 through September 15, 2007, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in respect and appreciation for the contributions these valuable institutions and their graduates have made to our country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Founded at a time when legal segregation and pervasive racial prejudice limited educational opportunities for African Americans, the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have evolved to fulfill new roles in the contemporary United States. More than 100 HBCUs today educate more than a quarter million students. About four-fifths of those students are African American but thousands of others enroll for reasons of educational quality, and for the opportunity to enjoy a unique cultural experience.

While the first HBCU was founded in Philadelphia in 1837, black colleges made their strongest mark in the American South after the Civil War and especially after the introduction of legal segregation. With African-American students barred from white schools and universities throughout the South, private institutions were founded to meet the demand for education among descendants of former slaves. Funding often came from northern religious denominations and from the contributions of southern African-American religious congregations. In later years, successful HBCU alumni have contributed financially to their alma maters.

EDUCATING FUTURE LEADERS, ROLE MODELS

HBCUs played many vital roles within the African-American community. One was to supply future leaders, role models and ultimately a black elite capable of challenging segregation, discrimination and lack of opportunity — among them Thurgood Marshall (Lincoln University and Howard University Law School) and the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. (Morehouse College). Another was to offer remedial education to students who had been limited to inferior grammar schools. These colleges thus sometimes performed double duty: readying some students for higher education and then affording them college-level instruction. The nature of that instruction was also the subject of debate, with some, like Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington, arguing for a curriculum centered on practical skills and others for studies grounded in broader intellectual development.

For much of their history, HBCUs were necessary because African Americans were generally barred from white public universities. In 1890, Congress required states either to admit blacks to their existing [land-grant universities](#) (schools founded or expanded on federal lands donated to the states for that purpose) or to establish separate ones. Many southern and border states chose to establish separate black land-grant schools, but these typically were under-funded and often educationally inferior. Private HBCUs thus remained a key African-American resource.

The desegregation of American universities after the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 introduced new challenges. The nation's leading institutions increasingly have competed to attract the most talented black students while publicly funded community colleges and formerly all-white state universities have emerged as popular options.

FULFILLING NEW ROLES IN U.S. EDUCATION

HBCUs nonetheless have continued to thrive. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, specifically recognized their importance. Greater public funding has improved faculties, libraries and other physical plant. Many HBCUs have broadened their curricula and expanded their nonminority enrollment. Highly regarded liberal arts schools like Spelman College in Atlanta are ranked among the nation's finest and still are considered prime training grounds for future African-American leaders. Every president since Jimmy Carter has signed an executive order implementing measures

to strengthen the nation's HBCUs. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan expanded and consolidated these efforts into the *White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities*, a government-wide effort to reinforce educational excellence in the nation's HBCUs. Under President Bush, the White House initiative is housed within the U.S. Department of Education.

The Department of Education reports that the nation's 105 HBCUs are divided about equally between private and public institutions, although the latter tend to be larger, and enroll about twice as many students. In 1999, historically black colleges and universities awarded 24 percent of all baccalaureate degrees earned by African Americans nationwide. The majority of the nation's 105 HBCUs are located in the southeastern states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The International Day of Peace



The International Day of Peace, established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly, was first inaugurated on the third Tuesday of September, 1982. Beginning on the 20th anniversary in 2002, the UN General Assembly set **21 September** as the now permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

In establishing the International Day of Peace, the United Nations General Assembly decided that it would be appropriate

"to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as of the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways... (The International Day of Peace) should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."

The Assembly's resolution declared that the International Day of Peace

"will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our Organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the Organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace. May this Peace Day indeed be a day of peace."

This Month in U.S. History

September 3, 1833 - The *New York Sun* newspaper first appeared, marking the beginning of the 'penny press,' inexpensive newspapers sold on sidewalks by newspaper boys. The paper focused on human interest stories and sensationalism and by 1836 was the largest seller in America with a circulation of 30,000.

September 5, 1774 - The First Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia with 56 delegates, representing every colony, except Georgia. Attendants included Patrick Henry, George Washington, Sam Adams and John Hancock.

Birthday - Film producer Darryl F. Zanuck (1902-1979) was born in Wahoo, Nebraska. He co-founded Twentieth Century Studios, which later merged with Fox. His films included the first sound picture *The Jazz Singer*, and also *The Snake Pit* and *The Grapes of Wrath*.

September 8, 1900 - A hurricane with winds of 120 mph struck Galveston, Texas, killing over 8,000 persons, making it the worst disaster in U.S. history. The hurricane and tidal wave that followed destroyed over 2,500 buildings.

September 9, 1776 - The USA came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies to the United States.

September 12, 1953 - John F. Kennedy, 36, married Jacqueline Bouvier, 24, in a ceremony before 750 invited guests at St. Mary's Church in Newport, Rhode Island, conducted by Archbishop Richard Cushing of Boston.

Birthday - American Olympic athlete Jesse Owens (1913-1980) was born in Oakville, Alabama (as James Cleveland Owens). He won four medals in track and field at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, defeating Nazi athletes. Nazi leader Adolf Hitler stormed out of the stadium rather than present the medals to Owens, an African American.

September 13, 1788 - The U.S. Congress chose New York as the federal capital of the new American government.

September 14, 1975 - Elizabeth Ann Seton became the first American saint.

Birthday - American novelist, historian and social critic, James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851) was born in Burlington, New Jersey. Best known for *The Last of the Mohicans*.

September 16, 1620 - The *Mayflower* ship departed from England, bound for America with 102 passengers and a small crew. The ship weathered dangerous Atlantic storms and reached Provincetown, Massachusetts on November 21. The Pilgrims disembarked at Plymouth on December 26.

September 16, 1908 - General Motors was founded by entrepreneur William Crapo "Billy" Durant in Flint, Michigan.



September 16, 1976 - The Episcopal Church in the U.S. approved the ordination of women priests and bishops.

September 18, 1947 - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.

September 22, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in territories held by Confederates as of January 1, 1863.

September 24, 1957 - President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to enforce racial integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Birthdays - American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota (as Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald). Best known for *This Side of Paradise*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Tender Is the Night*.

Birthdays - Puppeteer Jim Henson (1936-1990) was born in Greenville, Mississippi. He created the Muppets, including Kermit the Frog, and Bert and Ernie, entertaining and educating generations of American children via the daily TV show *Sesame Street*.

September 25, 1690 - The first American newspaper was published. A single edition of *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick* appeared in Boston, however, British authorities considered the newspaper offensive and ordered its immediate suppression.

Birthdays - American writer William Faulkner (1897-1962) was born in New Albany, Mississippi. Best known for *The Sound and the Fury* and *The Reivers*.

September 26, 1960 - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Many who watched were inclined to say Kennedy 'won' the debate, while those who listened only to the radio thought Nixon did better. Nixon, who declined to use makeup, appeared somewhat haggard looking on TV in contrast to Kennedy.

September 27, 1964 - After a 10-month investigation, the Warren Commission Report was issued stating a lone gunman had been responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 23, 1963. Warren Commission Report online at the University of Rostock

September 29, 1789 - Congress created the United States Army, consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.

September 30, 1955 - Actor James Dean was killed in a car crash in California at age 24. Although he made just three major films, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *East of Eden* and *Giant*, he remains one of the most influential actors.

Birthdays - American writer Truman Capote (1924-1984) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana (as Truman Streckfus Persons). He took the last name of his stepfather, becoming Truman Capote. Best known for *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *In Cold Blood*.

New American Corner coordinator

The AC coordinator position has been taken since September by a graduated student from the UTA English Teaching Program. Loreley Parra Valcarce, is the second coordinator this place has chosen. From the very beginning, she has been working for the Corner. First as an assistant, now, as coordinator, she attends to the UTA and local community needs. Experience is one of her strengths. She has participated in every day tasks and events offered by the AC.

“It has been a great pleasure to be considered and positioned in such place, the experience and connections gained are uncountable. Lots of ideas are starting to gain strength and solidity, so for us presenting good ideas is essential for the continuation and solidity of the AC”

*Loreley Parra Valcarce
American Corner Coordinator*

Webcasts in the American Corner

This is an opportunity to watch on-line discussions with experts in a number of different topics. Read the comments of the expert and send them questions in real time. It works a lot like a normal chat room. This is a good opportunity to broaden your horizons and practice your English! For detailed information on webchats, check out the webpage at <http://webchat.state.gov/>. **Remember** that if you cannot enter the webchat at the actual time that is listed, you may go to the website at anytime to read the transcripts of previous webchats. Some upcoming webchats are:

**Federal Trade Commission and Intellectual Property Rights-
Armando Irizarry (September 10th)**

**Influences of Hispanic Society and Culture in the United States-
Pilar O’Leary (September 11th)**

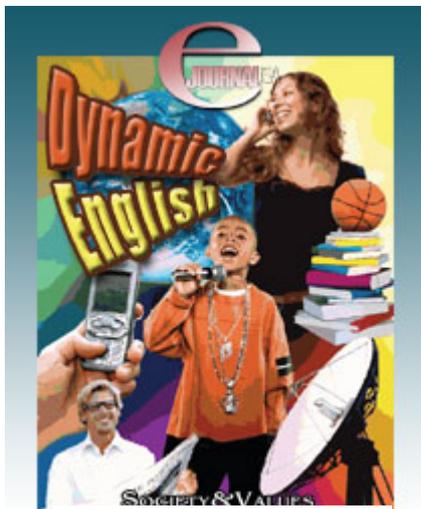
**The Fight against Human Trafficking: A discussion On International cooperation Efforts,
Challenges and Achievements (September 25th)**

Ejournals

The Bureau of International Information Programs of the U.S. Department of State publishes electronic journals in five thematic areas under the *eJournal USA* logo -- Economic Perspectives, Global Issues, Issues of Democracy, Society and Values, and Foreign Policy Agenda -- that examine major issues facing the United States and the international community as well as U.S. society, values, thought, and institutions.

One new journal is published monthly in English and is followed by versions in French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Selected editions also appear in Arabic, Chinese, and Persian.

Dynamic English



August 2007 edition

This edition of *eJournal USA*, "Dynamic English," discusses forces that shape and change everyday English. From cultural and international influences, such as words that come directly, or in a changed form from another language, to popular media, including movies, music and sports, to changes arising from technological developments, the authors present examples of ways English changes daily. Other articles describe the process of language change, and tips for deciphering slang.

You can download Adobe Acrobat (PDF) version

Upcoming: "Reducing Hunger Around the World "
Publication Date: Sept 19



Book of the Month

How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents by the author Julia Alvarez

In America, the Garcia girls try to assimilate into the mainstream by ironing their hair, forgetting their Spanish, and meeting boys unchaperoned. Through it all, they remain caught between the old world and the new. With zestful humor and rare insight, Julia Alvarez evokes the uncertainties and joys of belonging to two distinct cultures in a buoyant novel full of irrepressible spirit.

American Corner Hours

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays:
8:30-13:00 / 15:00-19:15

Tuesdays, Fridays:
8:30-13:00 / 15:00-21:00

Contact US!!

Email: americancorner@uta.cl

Telephone: 205929

Or Come to See Us on the Second Floor, Library anexo, Saucache Campus.

In September, We Celebrate...

Hispanic heritage Month

Labor Day – Sept.3rd

Patriot Day – Sept.4th

National Day of Prayer and Remembrance – Sept.7th to Sept.9th

National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week – Sept.9th to Sept.15th

International Literacy Day – Sept.8th

Sixth Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks – Sept.11th

International Day of Peace –Sept.21st

National Book Festival – Sept. 29th

Current American Corner Activities

Fun & Game in the Rincón Infantil:

10:30 -11:00 /16:30 - 17:00

English Conversation Hour: Thursdays from 11:30 - 12:30. Fridays from 18:00 - 19:00

(All are welcome!)

Sources

Spanish Heritage month:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2005/Sep/06-87873.html>

<http://www.census.gov/>

National Historically Black Colleges and Universities:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/09/20070905-6.html>

<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2005/Sep/26-256508.html>

International Day of Peace:

<http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/>

<http://iec.state.gov/>

US History:

<http://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/september.htm>

Webcasts:

usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/upcoming.html

Ejournal:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0807/ijse/ijse0807.html>