



# SOMOS CMU

THE LATINE FACULTY & STAFF ALLIANCE

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 | January - March 2024 | ERG YEAR 2

Carnegie Mellon University  
Latine Faculty & Staff Alliance

## NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome back to all of our colleagues!

2024 is now in progress, full speed ahead and CMU's Employee Resource Groups are also engaging our membership and the CMU community with opportunities to showcase our diversity and importance to the campus community in a variety of ways.

For some time, LFSA has worked to highlight and share the life experiences of our members and have this reflected in our events and work. Now we are joined by our family of ERGs, including the LGBTQIA+ Faculty and Staff Alliance, Neurodiverse Faculty and Staff Alliance, Sankofa - Black Faculty and Staff Alliance and our Veterans Alliance, in collaborating on such an event: *World Storytelling Day, 2024!*

The CMU ERGs will be hosting a "Tell Your Story" workshop and a World Storytelling Day event:

**CMU ERG World Storytelling Day: "Building Bridges"**  
**Wed Mar 20, 2024 4:30PM - 6:00PM**  
**Hunt Library: Studio A (HL 106B)**

Haven't joined our group yet? If you're a Latine/a/o/Hispanic member of the CMU faculty or staff, reach out and join your colleagues as we build community within CMU. Have something to share with our fellow CMU Latines? Send mail to [latine-employee-resource-group@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:latine-employee-resource-group@andrew.cmu.edu).

**Join our ERG and check out our partner ERGs!**  
**Join today!**

## Building Bridges World Storytelling Day! Wednesday, March 20th, 2024

We will be including micro stories or excerpts of short (long form) stories to include in our WST 2024 event!

We will be sharing with all of our CMU ERGs in an event about raising our voices, telling our stories and building bridges within our ERG community.

## Storytelling Workshop Thursday, March 14th, 2024

Building on the LFSA Stories Initiative, we will be offering a workshop to all ERG members who want to tell their stories. Excerpts can be presented at our World Storytelling Day Event!

# World Storytelling Day 2024

**Building Bridges: Join us, tell your story and help build a bridge to connect us all.**

“The older I got, the more vital my understanding of my roots became,” says Yazmin Peña, Document Manager in the Office of International Education and LFSA Co-Lead. “I take a lot of pride in my heritage as an adult, something that I didn’t always have as a child. Growing up, I was surrounded by other Dominicans/Dominican-Americans and I took for granted the sense of community that it brought until I moved here (Pittsburgh) and had to seek out other Latinos. I love connecting with people who all have one thing in common but wildly different stories.”

Yazmin, like other leaders in our collective employee resource groups, believe that establishing this deep sense of belonging starts at being able to connect with others and share these experiences. The “Building Bridges” theme is a great opportunity for ERGs to highlight those important experiences.

## About World Storytelling Day

Every year on March 20th, World Storytelling Day celebrates the art of oral storytelling. It’s also a day for people around the globe to listen and tell stories in as many languages as possible. Many of us go throughout the day engaging in oral storytelling without even realizing it. Have you ever made up a bedtime story for your children? Have you ever told a friend about your most embarrassing moment? What about recounting a childhood memory with a sibling? These are all examples of oral storytelling.



Pittsburgh loves its bridges and together we can forge new ones! Photo Credit: goodfreephotos.com

## CMU ERG World Storytelling Day: “Building Bridges”

**Wednesday, March 20th, 2024**

**4:30PM - 6:00PM**

**Hunt Library: Studio A (HL 106B)**

Snacks and beverages will be provided.

## A message from the Latine Alliance Co-Leads

It is our pleasure to serve as co-leads for our ERG, establishing the framework for what we hope will be an organization that will exist to welcome Latine and Hispanic members of the CMU community, as well as our allies, for years to come. In many ways, our ERG exists to establish community but also embody that which is important to us collectively.

If you're not yet a member, join! If you're a current member, share your ideas with us as we continue to build community. You play a vital role in helping shape future initiatives by becoming involved, providing your feedback and inviting others to join us. Your support means everything! ¡Gracias!

**Yazmin Infante Peña and Christian Olmeda**  
Latine Faculty and Staff Alliance ERG Co-Leads

**ALL ERG WORKSHOP EVENT**

**BUILDING BRIDGES:**

**TELLING  
OUR  
STORIES**

**CELEBRATING WORLD STORYTELLING DAY 2024**

We'll be facilitating a storytelling workshop in preparation for World Storytelling Day! This workshop will provide basics, quick techniques and approaches to capturing your experiences and sharing them in short story form. We are uniting with our greater ERG family for this workshop and event celebration.

**Join us for a brief storytelling workshop!**

**ERG Storytelling Workshop**

**Thursday, March 14th, 2024**

**12:00 Noon - 1:00PM**

**Cohon University Center - Danforth**

**Conference Room**

**Don't miss any of our events! Join our ERG and check out our partner ERGs!**

**[Join today!](#)**

# IN THE LOOP

*Spring Carnival*

& REUNION WEEKEND

**ERGs @ Carnival 2024!**

**April 12th, 2024 11:30AM -1:30PM**



## **CMU Hispanic-Latino Alumni Association @ Spring Carnival!**

**JOIN HLAA ON SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2024 FROM 9AM-12PM IN THE DANFORTH CONFERENCE ROOM, COHON UNIVERSITY CENTER.**

**DON'T FORGET TO RSVP!**

## **Student Leadership, Involvement, and Civic Engagement (SLICE): Calling on faculty and staff as student organization advisors!**

Our students would benefit from an advisor on campus who can offer an unbiased perspective and steer them in the right direction as they tackle new problems or have internal disagreements. We don't anticipate advisors being called on very often due to students balancing many priorities.

For many students leading our Latinx/Hispanic organizations, an executive board position opens up their first opportunity to gain leadership, collaboration, and other soft skills. Students of color and of different backgrounds often face unique challenges where a role model can positively impact the way they see themselves and approach challenges. **Interested?** Reach out to **Sammie Walker Herrera** at [sammie@cmu.edu](mailto:sammie@cmu.edu) for more info.

## **TERTULIAS IS BACK!**

Starting March 14, the Hispanic Studies program will host Tertulias, informal conversation gatherings, on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Humanities Commons (MLRC) in POS 343. Please invite any colleagues or students who might be interested in practicing or using their Spanish skills

## **Did you know?**

**CMU offers faculty and staff excellent employee-exclusive discounts and benefits? Visit the [University Discounts](#) page at:**

**[cmu.edu/hr/work-life/discounts/index.html](http://cmu.edu/hr/work-life/discounts/index.html)**



## **Tartan Salsa**

**Have you always wanted to dance salsa or bachata?**

Join the Tartan Salsa Club or Tartan Connect! Learn from Sammie Walker Herrera, who serves as instructor and promoter for the club.

**[www.tartansalsa.com](http://www.tartansalsa.com)**