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Promoting Latinidades

OLAS has long been a beacon for promoting the rich diversity encompassed within *latinidades* – cultural experiences, traditions, and resistance histories that define the Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino identities. Through its events, the organization reveals the complexity beneath the Latino umbrella, celebrating the diversity of traditions while fostering connections that include often-overlooked communities, languages, and cultural expressions.

Delving into the profound cultural significance of traditions like Día de los Muertos and engaging in creative endeavors, such as co-producing versions of popular Latino shows with the SU-TV club, reflect OLAS's dedication to highlighting the vibrancy and complexity of Latino cultures.

These efforts build bridges across differences, ensuring that all voices, from Indigenous to Afro-Latino, are part of the conversation. OLAS does not just enhance campus life – it weaves *latinidades* into the very fabric of the university community.



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OLAS Dance Nights, for instance, have been more than social gatherings; they invite participants to explore how music serves as a form of cultural resistance and storytelling. From New York salsa to Afro-Colombian cumbia, Chicano corridos, and Caribbean reggaeton, each rhythm carries histories of resilience and transformation. Similarly, *Sobremesas*, shared meals at local Latino restaurants, immerse participants in the flavors of Latin America while supporting small businesses, and fostering connections in Spanish, bridging cultures across the table.

Collaborations with groups like the Caribbean Student Association and Model United Nations at multicultural fairs and festivals further highlight the intersections within *latinidades*, blending fun with critical reflection. Panels, cinema discussions, and open mics on immigration and civil rights spark conversations that extend beyond campus, linking the stories of marginalized populations to broader societal movements.



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1. OLAS Cookout, OLAS executive board, from left to right: Thomas Zinzi, Angela Cordoba-Flores, Camila Esquivel-Goelkel, Kelly Martinez, Theo Rafael Marroquin-Gamez, Abigail Osorio-Torillo, and Oscar Hernandez, Salisbury University, September 19, 2024
2. OLAS and SU-TV collaboration: *Sabado Gigante Show*, from left to right: Vicky Vazquez, Noelia Arce, Camila Esquivel-Goelkel, Oscar Hernandez, Edwin Menjivar, and Daniel Cruz, Salisbury University Studios, October 13, 2022
3. Día de los Muertos Arts and Crafts, Salisbury University, Blackwell Hall, October 20, 2022
4. OLAS and Model United Nations collaboration: Open Mic, April 25, 2023
5. Sobremesa: Spanish conversation, OLAS members and Dr. Corinne Pubill at El Primo Taquería, Salisbury, MD, September 22, 2021
6. Sobremesa: Spanish conversation, OLAS members and Spanish professors (from front to back: Belgica Nina Valdes, Dr. Corinne Pubill, Dr. Sally Perret, and Dr. Ricardo Vazquez) at Plaza Tapatía, Salisbury, MD, December 7, 2023
7. Thomas Zinzi, OLAS vice president, teaching cumbia during a Dance Night, Salisbury University, April 1, 2024



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7