Bienvenidos!

Welcome to La Casa de Español!

We are thrilled to have you be a part of La Casa de Español – Regent University’s first residential language community.

We are excited about what the Lord will do in each of your lives, as you are a part of this learning community. I am confident that, as you immerse yourself in the wonderful language and culture of the Hispanic world, the Lord will continue to transform and equip each of you for service and leadership in His Kingdom.

Bendiciones para cada uno de Ustedes.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño, Ph.D.
Dean
School of Undergraduate Studies
Program Offerings

The program of La Casa de Español provides several opportunities through which students can immerse themselves in the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. Each of these opportunities focuses on various aspects of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture and provides a holistic learning experience for students in the program. Students will participate in the following offerings of La Casa de Español to receive two elective credits per semester:

1. Weekly “family-style” dinners throughout the academic year
2. Eight mini-courses addressing various aspects of Hispanic culture, such as: Music, Cooking, Literature, Christmas Traditions, etc.
3. Service-learning experiences involving local Hispanic churches and outreach organizations
4. Attendance at eight worship services in local Hispanic churches and congregations
5. Cultural experiences involving festivals, museums, artistic performances, and films
6. All Spanish Hours in the Village apartment seven days a week
7. Weekly one-hour group discussions of world events and culture related to particular Spanish-speaking countries or world regions
8. Participation in the residential community blog
9. Oral proficiency assessment
10. Optional service and cultural immersion trip to a Spanish-speaking country

Program Description

La Casa de Español is Regent University’s first residential language community. As such, it provides a unique opportunity to a select number of students to immerse themselves in the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Students living in La Casa de Español share a common residential experience and are required to participate in a learning-focused program and activities that will enhance their knowledge and understanding of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture.

- $1,600 per semester (plus an additional $30 application fee)
- $55 Oral proficiency interview fee (language testing)
- Optional, spring-break travel expenses

An online application form can be found on Regent University’s web page under “Undergraduate” “Academics”. Application deadline for the 2013-2014 academic year: February 22, 2013
Program Goals and Learning Outcomes

The program of La Casa de Español is characterized by a holistic environment that blends knowledge, skills, and character development to foster a greater understanding of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. The following goals and outcomes will guide La Casa de Español:

Goal 1: Enhance Language Competence for Students

Outcome 1: Non-fluent students will improve their oral proficiency in the Spanish language by at least one sublevel of the ACTFL Proficiency Rating Guidelines for Speaking.

Outcome 2: Students will apply their Spanish language skills through intentional reading, viewing and listening opportunities within the community.
- Spanish reading material in residence and/or University Library
- Planned interaction with local Hispanic communities, churches, and organizations.

Outcome 3: Students will apply their Spanish language skills through Spanish-only conversation within the residence.
- Only the Spanish language is to be used in the common living areas of the residence.
- “Family” meals – at least twice per week.

Goal 2: Enhance Students’ Global Competence

Outcome 4: Students will experience and reflect on Hispanic culture through intentional cross-cultural activities.
- Mini-courses on cooking, fine arts, traditions, literature, etc.
- Local cultural activities associated with Spanish language (concerts, exhibits at museums, festivals, etc.)

Outcome 5: Students will experience life and culture in a Spanish-speaking country through one substantial travel experience during the year.
- Trip to Spain, Central America or South America.

Outcome 6: Students will examine political and cultural events and conditions in the Spanish-speaking world.
- Organized weekly discussion about world events from Spanish-speaking countries or regions of the world.

Goal 3: Strengthen Students’ Christian worldview

Outcome 7: Students will apply their Christian leadership skills in service opportunities at local Hispanic churches and community associations.
- Volunteer service projects assisting the local Hispanic population.

Outcome 8: Students will reflect on the influence of Spanish cultural and language experiences on the shaping of their character.
- Four substantive journal posts and participation in the residential community’s blog during each semester in the program.

Outcome 9: Students will apply their Christian worldviews through living and learning experiences within a Christian community.
- Spanish devotionals in La Casa de Español as well as worship and service in local Hispanic churches.
La Casa de Español
Faculty and Staff
2013–2014

Gerson Moreno-Riaño, Ph.D.
Dean
School of Undergraduate Studies

Frieda Brinkmann
Faculty Director
Associate Professor of Spanish
School of Undergraduate Studies

Araceli Sally Martínez
Language Community Resident Assistant
School of Government

Adam Williams
Associate Director for Residence Life and Community Honor
Student Housing

Jocelyn Dean
Assistant Director for Housing Administrative Operations
Student Housing
Regent University
Spanish Residential Language Community Agreement
2013-2014

Entry Requirements: This program is for full-time, undergraduate students, between the ages of 18 and 24, who have studied the Spanish language for a minimum of one academic year or three years in high-school. Native speakers and heritage speakers are also welcome to apply.

La Casa de Español – Regent University’s Spanish Residential Language Community at the Regent Village – is designated for students who are dedicated to grow in their oral proficiency in the Spanish language and understanding of Hispanic culture. Students living in La Casa de Español share a common residential experience and are required to participate in a learning-focused program and activities that will enhance their knowledge and understanding of Hispanic language and culture. At the very minimum, residents of La Casa de Español agree to participate in or perform the following basic requirements:

1. At least two “family-style” dinners on a weekly basis
2. Eight scheduled mini-courses addressing various aspects of Hispanic culture for the academic year (or four per semester)
3. At least four scheduled service-learning experiences for the academic year (or four per semester)
4. At least six scheduled attendances at local Hispanic churches for worship (or three per semester)
5. At least six scheduled cultural experiences for the academic year (or three per semester)
6. Speak and interact only in Spanish – in the common areas of the residence.
7. Participate in 75% of weekly one-hour group discussions of world events related to particular Spanish-speaking countries or regions of the world (roughly 24 discussions over 32 weeks or 12 per semester).
8. Reflect upon and write about their experiences in La Casa de Español through La Casa de Español’s blog and in their SPAN 200 or 205 course journal.
9. Non-fluent speakers will enroll in Spanish 210 and 211 or Spanish 310 and 311 during their residence in the Casa de Español.
10. Complete a final cultural project as a course requirement to receive academic credit for participation in the program.

Students must participate in these activities in order to remain a resident of La Casa de Español and to receive four elective credits for the academic year. The primary responsibility for enforcement of the above requirements shall rest with the Residential Language Resident Assistant (RLRA) and the Program’s Faculty Director. Violations of the La Casa de Español program guidelines will be handled as follows:

Students who fail to participate in the above minimum level of participation in a semester and/or refuse to participate in the Spanish language will be reassigned to another residence hall, if available.

"I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this La Casa de Español Housing Agreement, and all the rules and regulations of Regent University, as well as the TERMS OF CONTRACT FOR ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING. I understand that this agreement shall remain in effect throughout my residency in La Casa de Español residence. I may terminate my participation in this agreement by moving to other housing if such is available. If no other housing is available, I agree to abide by this agreement until such time as I can move to other housing. I understand that violation of this agreement may result in administrative or judicial action which may include a reassignment to other University housing, if available, or my being required to reside off-campus."

Student Name (please print) __________________________ ID Number __________________________