Hispanic, Latino students celebrate heritage month

BV KATIE O'HARA Collegian Staff Writer

Hispanic and Latino students will celebrate their diversity this month as Penn State recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month.

The month will bring together the campus' 13 Hispanic and Latino student groups and will feature activities and events that highlight the diversity in the students' cultures and countries.

All students are encouraged to take advantage of these activities and cultural programs, said Cynthia Roman, president of Sigma Iota Alpha Sorority Inc., Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

"We want people to learn about our culture," Roman said. "In our culture, the groups have a lot of diversity.

Sigma lota Alpha hosted its first event Friday. "Viernes Gigante" was a variety show filled with contests and games that explained different areas of Hispanic culture.

"Throughout the year, people aren't aware of what is happening in Hispanic countries," Teresa Perez, Latino Caucus treasurer, said. "This helps make them aware.'

guage but have many differences.

same language, but at the same munity are excited about is the each culture," Roman said. "But Children, which will be from 1 that's the beauty of it - we're always learning from one another.

this month's activities. One event



Collegian Photo/Lee A. McMahon

Cristina Gonzalez (senior-biology) presents a "commercial break" during "Viernes Gigante," a remake of a popular Spanish variety Roman said Hispanics and show Friday night in 111 Wartik. The show was sponsored by Latinos share the Spanish lan- Sigma lota Alpha Sorority Inc., Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

"We're all united through the members of the Hispanic com- communities, Roman said. time there's different aspects to Hispanic and Latino Festival for p.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center.

The festival will feature face Members from Hispanic and painting, games, clowns and a Penn State and State College place," Galvis said.

Latino Caucus secretary Jamie Galvis said when she came to Penn State, the number of cultural groups for her to become involved with made her feel confident.

"It made me feel like a Hispan-Latino groups are involved with play. The event is open to the ic may become a member in this

PSU, Michigan State to draw blood

By ROBIN SMITH Collegian Staff Writer

Before Penn State and Michigan State compete on the gridiron, they will face off in the blood-bath known as the fifth annual Penn State-Michigan State Blood Donor Challenge.

Today, the first of 15 blood drives will be held at Simmons Hall. Locations will change from day to day, and coordinators hope to see more than 2,000 students donate during the next 12 days.

The winning school will be announced in a special ceremony during the Nov. 28 game. Penn State has won the last three challenges.

Penn State faces an obstacle this year because of HUB renovations. In past years, blood drives at the HUB have been especially productive because of the number of donors attracted, said Edwin Chan, drive coordinator of the Penn State

Student Red Cross Club. However, their football game falls near the construction has displaced those HUB drives.

"We'll attract less walk-in donors," he saiu.

The challenge was created as a way to prepare for the final six weeks of the year, a time when fewer people donate blood because tions. of the holidays, said Connie Schroeder, campus coordinator for American Red Cross blood services

Penn State's goal of 1,830 pints of blood will offer a two-day supply for 85 regional hospitals.

"To me, the winners are the people who get the blood," Schroeder said

The challenge was developed 15 years ago between Penn State and its football rival, the University of Pittsburgh.

The series ended when Penn State joined the Big Ten and Michigan State was chosen as Penn State's new competitor because by area businesses.

end of the season and the schools have similar demographics.

In addition to university competition, honors are awarded to campus organizations that compete in three categories - small groups, large groups and greek organiza-

"(Because of the competition) we got a few hundred pints that we wouldn't have had," Schroeder said.

In addition to demonstrating school spirit, participation in the challenge allows students to learn about their health and save lives. Schroeder urged first-time donors and people who are unsure if they meet donation requirements to come to the drives.

The challenge is a community effort involving various student groups and area businesses.

Most of the food and raffle prizes given to donors are donated



Collegian Photo/Manoj S. Kalava

Dance of the poet

Tejaswini Rao and her troupe perform a dance drama Saturday at the Schwab Auditorium. The drama featured classical dance styles of South India and portrayed the life of a famous poet.



