

# Hispanic Heritage Month



**My name is Cristina Rowley. I am half Peruvian and half American. As a child, my family moved from one country to another. I have lived in Hawaii, Peru, Massachusetts, Chile, Argentina, Virginia, and New York. My most cherished childhood memories are of living in Peru surrounded by my mother's family. I studied several languages and am fascinated with different cultures and traditions. I moved permanently to the United States in 1978 to attend high school and relearn English and have been living in this area since.**

**Growing up I felt different, not quite belonging, because I was seen as the "Gringa" when I lived in South America, and as the "Latina" when I lived in the US. It wasn't until college that I understood the dual nature of my own identity and began to embrace it and appreciate both cultures.**

**I earned a BA in Spanish and French from SUNY Oswego, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Latin American Literature from SUNY Buffalo. Professionally, I have been teaching since 1999. I taught at SUNY Geneseo for 11 years and I have been teaching at Monroe Community College since September 2010. I love teaching Spanish because it gives me the opportunity to teach students about the Spanish language and the rich and vibrant Latino culture. I'm also the chair of Department of World Languages and Cultures. I love what I do at MCC!**

**My interests are fitness, hiking, cycling, listening to podcasts (in Spanish and English), travel, and spending time with family and friends.**