



Raul Orlando conducted a classroom lecture/workshop in the fall of 2003 and 2004 at the University of Houston Central Campus of the African American Studies Department. The topic of the workshop was a contrast of the development of the African culture as it occurred in Latin America and in the United States of America. Particular attention was paid to how the African element has influenced Latin American culture, music and dance, as well as to the intimate relationship these three elements share.

The engaging presentation of the cultural and historical circumstances that led to the development of several types and styles of dances and music was highlighted by a demonstration of some of the dances. The attending student body actively and enthusiastically participated in the demonstration. The extensive background information provided by Raul enabled students to obtain a more complete and accurate understanding of the dynamics of various styles of Latin American dance and how they intertwined within the indigenous social structure.

Raul is an energetic, vibrant and knowledgeable individual. All material that he presented is scholarly and empirical, easily capable of modification for any group. My students found his flair for teaching dance and its cultural components, coupled with his charismatic personality, to be outstanding features for a guest speaker for the class.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carole Poindexter-Sylvers".

Carole Poindexter-Sylvers