

Fall 2004

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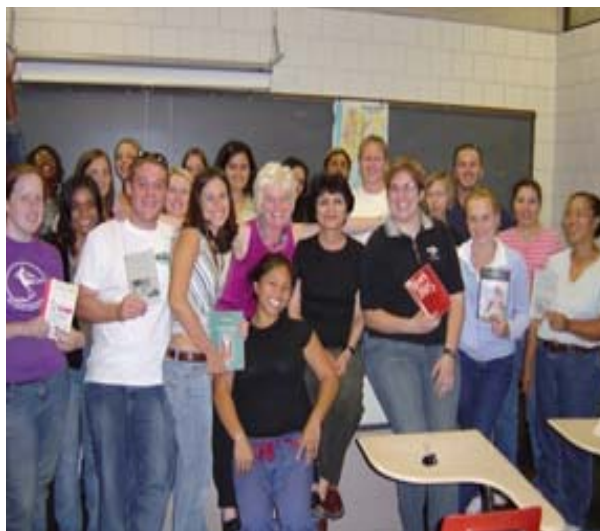
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Colmillos

Latin American Studies Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

Latin American Studies Sponsors Campus Visit of Argentine Writer Tununa Mercado

On September 23, 2004 the Argentine writer Tununa Mercado gave a public lecture entitled “*Memoria, exilio y escritura*” in the Ekstrom Library Auditorium. In attendance were U of L students, faculty and members of the community, including several native Argentineans who were particularly moved by the author’s observations about



the dictatorship of 1976-1983 and the impact it had on those citizens, like herself, who were forced to live in exile. The day before the lecture, Mercado visited the students of Dr. Rhonda Buchanan’s Spanish 404 class, Cultural and Literary Perspectives on Modern Latin America. While Dr. Buchanan showed slides of the author taken in her native city of Córdoba, and in Buenos Aires, where she now resides, Mercado commented about the photographs and then responded to questions from the students who had read some of her works. This was a thrilling way to

bring literature to life for them. The author’s campus visit was co-sponsored by the Department of Classical and Modern Languages. — Rhonda Buchanan

3rd Annual LAS Heritage Lecture: “From Serfdom to Secretary of State in 36 Years: Ecuador’s Indigenous Rights Movement”

On October 13th, Dr. Lynn Meisch, Professor of Anthropology at St. Mary’s College of California, told the story of the indigenous peoples’ civil rights movement in Ecuador to a packed audience in Ekstrom Library Auditorium. Her lecture, featuring her own stunning slides (shot over twenty years of fieldwork), recounted the course of social change over the past forty years. After the lecture, the audience enjoyed conversation and Cuban appetizers provided by Mambo Cuban Restaurant. During her two day visit to Louisville, Dr. Meisch also gave fascinating slide/



lecture presentations to the students of Dr. Rhonda Buchanan’s Latin American Culture class, Dr. Manuel Medina’s Spanish 201 class, and Dr. Lisa Markowitz’s Introduction to Latin American Studies class. Dr. Meisch’s campus visit was sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, Liberal Studies, and the Veritas Society of Bellarmine College. — Lisa Markowitz

Latin American Studies Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

Mexican Author Juanita Garcíagodoy Prepares Students for “El Día de los Muertos”

In the week leading up to U of L’s 4th Annual Living la Vida Loca Festival, Latin American Studies and Classical and Modern Languages hosted a visit to U of L by Juanita Garcíagodoy, Professor of Hispanic Studies at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and author of *Digging the Days of the Dead: A Reading of Mexico’s Días de Muertos*. On October 28th, Dr. Garcíagodoy presented an illustrated lecture on “Life-Death Duality: Ancient and Contemporary Philosophy and the Days of the Dead.” Here she posited that the coexistence of life and death is a universal concept in traditional societies and offered piquant readings not only of altars, but of the scenes of *calaveras*, animated skeletal figures, that adorn store fronts throughout Mexico in the weeks prior to celebration of the *Día de los Muertos*. On October 29th, Dr. Garcíagodoy conducted a hands-on workshop at which a spirited group of students decorated sugar skulls, made *papel picado*, and planned several of the altars that would become the centerpiece of the Living la Vida Loca Festival the following Monday. The workshop was sponsored by the Spanish Club and the Student Government Association. — Gregory Hutcheson.

Living la Vida Loca 2004: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage



On November 1st at the U of L’s Red Barn, the Spanish Division of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages celebrated the 4th Annual Festival, Living La Vida Loca: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage. Traditional altars adorned with photographs, “*pan de muertos*” and other foods, flowers, candles, sugar skulls, incense, toys, and other symbolic offerings were erected by the Spanish Club, Dr. Christine Ehricks’ History of Mexico class (see photo), and Dr. Manuel Medina’s Spanish 201 class, with the collaboration of Mr. Miguel Lagunas of the Latin American Club of Louisville. Other altars reflected global events, for example, Dr. Rhonda Buchanan’s Latin American Culture class created a tribute to the US soldiers who lost their lives in Iraq, and Dr. Lisa Wagner’s Spanish 201 class created an altar honoring the *Madres de la Plaza de Mayo* and the victims of Argentina’s last dictatorship. The festival featured a number of exciting performances, including flamenco dancing and singing by Graciela Perrone, accompanied

by Gareth Jones on guitar. This lively act was followed by a spicy mix of tropical dances performed by U of L students Tara Shelton, Jared Hickey, Melanie Cambron, and Balbino Paralta. Willie Rodríguez, from Mambo restaurant, performed a medley of Latin American songs, followed by Latin dance demonstrations and lessons by professional dance instructors Héctor Falú-Mendoza, and Christy Byers and Andy Blair. Dr. Carmen Cedeño’s students served the hungry crowd *empanadas* and *arroz con pollo* prepared by the Spanish professors and local restaurants Mambo and the Mayan Gypsy. The festival came to a rousing finale with a poetry recitation by the students of Dr. Gregory Hutcheson’s Spanish Conversation class, who joined Melanie Cambron and the rest of the crowd in a Conga line to close the event. The festival was sponsored by the Modern Languages Fund, the International Center, the Latin American Studies Program, the Spanish Club, the Lewis Fund, and the Latin American Club of Louisville. — Carmen Cedeño

Snapshots of Memory: The 10th Annual Latin American Film Festival

During October and November 2004, the Spanish Section of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages presented the 10th Annual Latin American Film Festival. Entitled “Snapshots of Memory,” the festival included five films, which explore how past experiences and relationships shape the present lives of the main characters. Each film was presented by a Spanish professor. Following each showing, audience members engaged in a brief discussion of the film and gathered for refreshments. The film festival provides an opportunity for individuals from the U of L campus and the Louisville metro area to experience Hispanic language and culture and cultivate a sense of community. The 10th Annual Latin American Film Festival was sponsored by the Modern Languages Fund, the Lewis Fund, the LAS Program, the International Center, and the Ekstrom Library. — Lisa Wagner

Lewis Scholar Timothy Moran Recommends LAS Minor Program

I feel fortunate to be writing to everyone with the great news of my upcoming graduation from U of L this December with a Bachelors of English and a minor in Latin American Studies. I will take only a moment to explain how my transition out of college life will be aided by my studies in the LAS program. My experiences include traveling abroad twice to Panamá: once for a study abroad program and a second time to complete the internship requirement for the LAS minor by working at U of L's campus in Panamá as a Lewis Scholar. These trips were exciting and have become invaluable to me because of the friendships I have made and what I learned about Panamá and myself. The experiences and skills the LAS minor offers to students can assist them in landing a job in many different markets. In fact, my LAS background and Spanish skills have helped to secure an internship with a local publisher, Sarabande Books. During my interview, Sarabande's Editor-in-Chief Sarah Gorham expressed to me satisfaction in both my office experience abroad and my skills in Spanish, and told me each was a deciding factor in her decision to hire me for the position. My pleasure in receiving the position increased when I learned that they plan to publish a bilingual anthology of contemporary Mexican and American poetry, and I will be able to work on this project. I hope other students take advantage of the opportunities the LAS minor offers. — Timothy Moran.

2nd Annual University of Louisville Study Abroad Program in Panamá



Dancing with the Emberá Tribe

In May of 2004, nineteen students participated in the 2nd Annual U of L's Study Abroad Program in Panamá directed by Dr. Lisa Wagner and Assistant Director, Dr. Manuel Medina. Students received six credits towards their major/minor in Spanish or their minor in Latin American Studies. This immersion program facilitated language practice, as students were able to use their language skills in authentic situations. "I used more Spanish the first night when going through customs than I ever had before," said Jamie Crouse, a Spanish minor. Outside of the classroom, students engaged in a number of exciting program excursions, including a canoe trip to visit the Emberá Indians, a visit to the Presidential Palace, and an overnight stay at the fabulous Decameron beach resort. These experiences highlighted important parts of Panamanian culture and allowed students to interact with native Panamanians in a variety of settings. Senior Spanish minor Cynthia Ailiff commented: "my favorite part was our day trip visit to the Emberá Indians, who are skilled boaters, talented artists, and very friendly people who cooked some delicious fish for us." The U of L Study Abroad Program in Panamá provides students with valuable international experience and has encouraged many students

to seek additional educational, professional, and volunteer opportunities abroad. "I would love to continue to study abroad, perhaps for a longer time in the future," said sophomore program participant Elizabeth Tewes. Spanish major Aletha Maupin stated: "my experience in Panama helped me to develop my skills of oral and written Spanish and I feel incredibly more comfortable using the language than I did before leaving. These experiences will undoubtedly benefit me in my future career and dealing with people of other cultures and speakers of the Spanish language." Eighteen students who participated in the 2004 Panamá Program received College of Arts and Sciences Panama Scholarships. "I feel this is a program that truly enriches the lives of everyone who participates in it. I want to thank you for the aid and opportunity to participate in such a program and hope to see continued support in this area," said Latin American Studies and Spanish minor Amy Oliver. — Lisa Wagner

Apply Now for University of Louisville's 3rd Annual Study Abroad Program in Panamá - May 2005!

Applications for U of L's 3rd Annual Study Abroad Program in Panamá are available now. Dr. Manuel Medina will direct the 2005 program and Dr. Carmen Cedeño will serve as the Assistant Program Director. Financial support is available from a number of sources, such as the Modern Languages Fund, the Lewis Education Fund, the International Center, and the College of Arts & Sciences Panama Scholarship. Applications for the Panama Scholarships are available now. Students may earn up to six credit hours toward the Spanish major/minor and the LAS minor from the following courses: Spanish 321 Conversation, Modern Languages 313/551 Panamanian Culture, and Spanish 599 Panamá : From Past to Present. All classes are taught at the U of L campus in la Ciudad de Panamá. What a fabulous way to learn and enjoy an unforgettable study abroad experience at an affordable price of \$2700! Program costs includes round-trip airfare to Panama, all ground transportation expenses for excursions, lodging, tuition, and much more. For more information, please visit the LAS webpage. — Carmen Cedeño



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UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE**

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**Are You Interested in a Latin American Studies Minor or in the New
Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies?**

Then contact Dr. Rhonda Buchanan, or any of the members of the Latin American Studies Committee: Professors Julie Bunck, Aristófanés Cedeño, Carmen Cedeño, Christine Ehrick, Tricia Gray, David Horvath, Gregory Hutcheson, Lisa Markowitz, Manuel Medina, Theresa Rajack - Talley, Robert St. Clair, Clare Sullivan, Clarence Talley, and Lisa Wagner. Contact information is available on the LAS website. The Latin American Studies Office has moved from Gardiner Hall 304 to Bingham Humanities 329C.

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! This has been a whirlwind semester for the Latin American Studies Program. We co-sponsored five events this fall that celebrate the diverse culture of Latin America. Details may be found in this issue. I am also pleased to announce that after more than a year of evaluations by numerous university committees, on November 3, 2004 the U of L Faculty Senate approved the new **Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies**. The final step is approval by the Board of Trustees and then the certificate will be in place officially in the spring of 2005. This 15 hour interdisciplinary program, housed in the Graduate School, offers students a wide range of classes with a significant Latin American content. Students may choose to take classes from the following programs: Anthropology, Art

History, History, Humanities, Linguistics, Modern Languages, Pan-African Studies, Political Science, Portuguese, and Spanish, and Women's and Gender Studies, among others. This exciting new certificate will offer students the opportunity to increase their knowledge of Latin America and apply that knowledge in tangible ways in the workplace and in volunteer services in the community. I would love to tell you more about this personally, if you are interested. Best wishes for the last few weeks of the fall semester.

Felices fiestas,

Rhonda Buchanan
Director of Latin American Studies

