

Fall 2008

Issue 12



LATIN AMERICAN & LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

Caminos

UofL's Latin American and Latino Studies and Hite Art Institute Collaborate with the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft and 21c Museum to Celebrate the Day of the Dead

November 1 - 8, 2008, the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft (KMAC) and the 21c Museum displayed altars created by UofL students and faculty members of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, the Hite Art Institute, and the Department of Fine Arts, as well as altars by other artists and community members. For the past three years, KMAC has celebrated the Day of the Dead with a joyous festival, complete with altars, entertainment, food, skull-making contests and face painting for children, and much more. In 2006 LALS collaborated with KMAC and organized a panel discussion on *El Día de los Muertos*. This year, the LALS program erected a special altar at KMAC to remember César Iván Aguilar Cano, the four-year-old Guatemalan boy whose disappearance from his house near Churchill Downs prompted a massive search that united the entire community. Christopher 2X, representative of the Cano family and founder of Fights Crimes Against Children Partnerships, arranged for Rhonda Buchanan to meet César Iván's mother Rosalina Cano Quinteros and learn more about her son. Based on this interview, LALS students created an altar that displayed César Iván's portrait and his favorite foods, drinks, and toys. In addition, LALS held a Christmas toy drive to benefit Fight Crimes Against Children Partnerships. The donated gifts will be distributed this December to children whose families have been victims of homicide.



Rosalina Cano Quinteros and Christopher 2X at altar to César Iván



Altar to Frida Kahlo

At 21c Museum, students of Christopher Fulton's Mexican Art and Architecture class paid homage to Mexican artist Frida Kahlo with an altar constructed in the form of a bed, while Gabrielle Mayer and students of the Hite Art Institute honored the women who have been murdered in Juárez, with an original installation of suitcases in the form of little altars to represent the final journeys of these victims. LALS students collaborated on these two altars. Professor Ché Rhodes, Head of the Glass Program, and his students created a unique portal for the spirits to visit us from the Great Beyond. Both the KMAC and 21C altar spaces were adorned with whimsical silk paintings created by UofL Scholar-in-Residence Luci Mistratov and her students. This collaboration between UofL and the downtown museums was supported by the College of Arts and Sciences "Arts and Culture Partnership Initiative," CODRE, the Hite Art Institute, and LALS.

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Classical Ecuadorian Guitarist Terry Pazmiño Presents “A Night of South American Guitar”

Being a native of Ecuador and having family that continues to live there, the Terry Pazmiño concert on September 25, 2008 was a nostalgic and wonderful experience for me. Mr. Pazmiño was able to capture various elements of Latin American music, from popular music to indigenous music. His skill in classical guitar and his obvious love for music allows him to evoke emotion in audiences of any nationality, taking them to the mountainous region of Ecuador and to the other Latin American regions. Mr. Pazmiño’s performance allowed my mind to travel to the scenic landscapes and the wonderful people that make up Ecuador. The next day, Mr. Pazmiño gave an interactive presentation in Spanish to a group of Spanish students, speaking about the cultural influences of classical guitar and his own life-long love of music. This event was co-sponsored by the Cultural Center, the Kentucky Humanities Council, the Kentucky Institute for International Studies, Latino and Latino Studies, and the Modern Languages Fund

– Submitted by Cynthia Martínez, LALS Graduate Certificate Student and Spanish Graduate student

Dr. Laura Reynolds Presents the 7th Annual LALS Heritage Lecture: “Fair Trade: Transforming Globalization in Latin America”

On October 1, 2008, Dr. Laura Reynolds, Sociology Professor at Colorado State University, and Co-Director of the Center for Fair and Alternative Trade Studies presented her research on fair trade to a packed audience in Chao Auditorium, and explained that it developed as part of the socially-conscious movement in Western countries to improve the wages and quality of life for farmers. Being a member of the Free Trade Organization (FTO) and carrying the free trade label helps to advertise and increase the sale of these foods in Western markets, and also ensures that farmers receive set minimum prices on produce. It also provides support for agricultural and educational projects that promote sustainable, and often organic, farming. While Dr. Reynolds admits there are some weaknesses in the FTO system, she remains optimistic that the fair trade industry will survive current economic problems and will continue to grow. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Anthropology Department, the College of Business, The Cultural Center, Latin American and Latino Studies, and the Sociology Department.

- Submitted by Sarah Oesterly, LAS Minor and Spanish/Fine Arts Major



*Laura Reynolds
with Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis*

Film Director Simón Sedillo Lectures on the “Effects of Globalization in Oaxaca, Mexico”

On October 10, 2008, human rights documentary filmmaker Simón Sedillo gave a dynamic presentation on the effects of globalization on indigenous communities in Oaxaca and on immigrant communities in the United States. Sedillo, who resides in Oaxaca, has focused this international tour on deepening the understanding of how free trade policies were enacted and how they have been maintained -- and who stands to benefit from them. The presentation was highlighted by full-length films and clips shot and edited by women and children of indigenous Oaxaca. This event was co-sponsored by the Anthropological Student Association, the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, Latin America and Latino Studies, the Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Student/Farmworker Alliance.

– Submitted by Aramie Vicoria, Anthropology and Biology Major; Spanish and Social Change Minor

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Pulitzer-Prize Winner Junot Díaz Captivates a Standing-Room Only Audience in Chao Auditorium



Junot Díaz

As part of the Anne and William Axton Reading Series, the English Department, with the co-sponsorship of Latin American and Latino Studies, hosted writer Junot Díaz for a public reading on October 23, 2008. His numerous literary awards for his collection of short stories *Drown* (1997) and novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007) include: the 2008 Pulitzer in fiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lila Acheson Wallace Readers Digest Award, the 2002 Pen/Malamud Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Rome Prize and the 2007 Sargant First Novel Prize. Díaz, who teaches creative writing at MIT, read from his novel and answered questions about the writing process, his ghetto-nerd protagonist, the legacy of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, and his resistance to be defined as the voice of Dominican America. As part of his visit, Díaz also shared his experience and expertise by leading a Master Class in the English Department and discussing student-writing samples. – Submitted by Gabriela Núñez

¡Viva el cine! The 14th Ibero-American Film Festival Takes Place at UofL and Bellarmine University

On October 23-25, 2008, students and community members had the opportunity to view six foreign films from six different countries, including Spain, Colombia, Chile, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Argentina. The festival was organized by the Spanish Section of UofL's Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Bellarmine University's Department of Global Languages and Cultures, with support from *Al Día en América* Spanish Language Newspaper, Latin American and Latino Studies, the Lewis Education Fund, the Modern Languages Fund, and the Spanish Club.

Day of the Dead is Celebrated at the Ekstrom Library Auditorium and the Red Barn

On November 3, 2008, the Spanish Section of the CML Department hosted its Annual Celebration of the Day of the Dead, with support from *Al Día en América*, Brazilian Studies, LALS, the Modern Languages Fund, and the Spanish Club at the Red Barn. Entertainment was provided by flamenco dancer Graciela Perrone, Arco Iris Latino, and Spanish major Patrick Hughes. The audience also enjoyed a lunch of *empanadas*, *arroz*, and *pan de muertos*. In addition, the winners of the Day of the Dead Altar contest were announced. Of the 18 altars, which were on display the week before at the Ekstrom Library, Miluska Hall's Peruvian altar "Tantawawas" was awarded first place. This year, an altar-building contest for local Mexican restaurants was organized by Spanish Professor Manuel Medina and Miguel Lagunas, and among the eight restaurants that participated, "Los Cántaros," took first place.

Rodrigo Lopes Speaks on "Rebuilding Local Food Economies" in Brazil

On November 5, 2008, Rodrigo Lopes, of Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (MST) presented a lecture on MST's mission to combat the Agro-Industrial Model currently in use in his country. Following this model, a limited number of crops are grown in great quantity for large-scale, export, resulting in the extinction of thousands of species of plant life. Through his interpreter, Stephen Bartlett, Lopes explained that the MST supports growing food for local markets, and views food as a resource that should benefit all of humanity, not a commodity to be traded for profit. This lecture was co-sponsored by Agricultural Missions, Brazilian Studies, Community Farm Alliance, Grassroots International, LALS, Political Science Dept., and World Hunger Year. - Submitted by Sarah Oesterly, LAS Minor & Spanish/Fine Arts

UofL Alumnus Carmen Montañez Lectures on “Ritos y mañas en la novela caribeña”

On November 18, 2008, Dr. Carmen Montañez, Professor of Spanish at Indiana State University, returned to UofL, where she received her M.A. degree in Spanish, to present a lecture on the presence of rituals in Caribbean narrative fiction. Students of Rhonda Buchanan’s graduate class on Latin American and Latina Women Writers had the opportunity to ask the author questions about her novel *Pelo bueno, pelo malo*, which they had read, and about her creative process. Present in the audience were the Puerto Rican author and UofL Executive Vice-President of Research Dr. Manuel Martínez-Maldonado and his wife Nívea, who enriched the dialogue with their insightful observations. This lecture was sponsored by the Latin American and Latino Studies Program.

Apply Now for the 7th Annual UofL Study Abroad Program in Panama! - May 7-June 5, 2009

2008 Panama Scholar Michael Razeeq recommends that students apply for the following reasons: “During one month abroad, I had experiences that most people will never know in their lifetime. Exploring a new culture, dancing with indigenous peoples, black sand beaches and all-inclusive resorts, feeding wild monkeys in the jungle, riding a *Chiva*, and much more. The amazing thing about the Panama Study Abroad Program is that with the freedom students have, everyone I went with had different experiences. Whether tanning on the island of Taboga, walking through paradise in Boscas del Toro, or going to Club Guru for the night, every day was an adventure. Not only that, every day was something new. I would encourage any student to participate in the Panama Study Abroad Program. Total Program Cost of \$3666 includes: 6 hrs. of tuition, transportation, lodging, excursions, and more. For more information, visit the LALS Website.

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos!

This semester has been a whirlwind of activities and events for the LALS Program, filled with rewarding community collaborations. LALS was thrilled to participate once again with the KMAC on their annual Day of the Dead Celebration, and to assist the 21c Museum with its first *Día de los Muertos* exhibit. I would like to extend special thanks to Peter Morrin, Chair of UofL’s Arts and Culture Partnership Initiative, for inviting LALS to participate in this downtown celebration, which promises to be even larger next year. And while I’m on the topic of LALS museum collaborations, it’s not too late to see the marvelous exhibit “Dream Chasers: The Art of Living on the Backside,” on display at the Kentucky Derby Museum through December 31, 2008.

This semester, the LALS program was a co-sponsor for the Cross Cultural Connections: African-American and Hispanic/Latino Relations Conference, a series of three monthly sessions organized by the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission. LALS will continue to participate in the long-range goals of this initiative to identify and address the needs of our diverse community. Another exciting LALS outreach project, which is currently in the planning stages, is the implementation of Spanish language training for our city’s First Responders. This is a collaboration with UofL’s Department of Justice Administration, the Louisville Metro Department of Protection, and Louisville Fire and Rescue. I look forward to telling you more about these efforts in our spring issue of *Caminos*. In closing, I would like to congratulate our December LALS graduates and wish everyone *¡Felices fiestas!*

Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American and Latino Studies

LALS Graduates—December 2008

Tiffany Evans—LAS Minor

Erin Grace—LAS Graduate Certificate

Laine López—LAS Graduate Certificate



**Latin American and
Latino Studies**

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AT UOFL LOUISVILLE**

Latin American and Latino Studies
College of Arts & Sciences
Humanities Building 329C
University of Louisville

Phone: (502) 852-2034 or (502) 852-0502
Fax: 502-852-6888
rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu

<http://louisville.edu/latinamericanstudies>