

Fall 2010

Issue 16



LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

COMINOS

LALS Collaborates with the Hite Art Institute on Three Spectacular Exhibits

This fall LALS co-sponsored three exhibits at the Hite Art Galleries in Schneider Hall. The first was an exhibit of contemporary codices by Brian Nissen, who presented the annual LALS Heritage Lecture. Nissen moved from his native England to Mexico as a young man and his encounter with pre-Hispanic cultures has had a significant influence on his works. If you missed this exhibit and the one displayed in the Rare Books Department of Ekstrom Library, you may see his works at www.briannissen.com. The second exhibit, "El grabado mexicano," co-sponsored by the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, featured a collection of engravings that depicted the struggle for Mexican independence in 1810 and key figures from the 1910 Mexican Revolution. This exhibit was organized by the Kentucky Institute for International Studies and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Alfredo Zalce to celebrate the Mexican bicentennial and centennial of the Mexican Revolution. The third exhibit showcased photographs from the Impacto Project taken by children from Bocas del Toro, Panama who were trained by Prof. Mary Carothers and three UofL student interns: Samantha Grose, Nicholas Linares, and Rosslyn Steinmetz. In addition to the exhibit of photographs, Prof. Carothers and students of her Photographic Presentations class installed a Day of the Dead altar entitled "Transitivo" to remember the many workers who perished while constructing the Panama Canal. Luci Mistratov also created a silk painting for the exhibition. Each exhibit had a grand opening with receptions offering authentic Mexican and Caribbean food to the many students, faculty, staff, and members of the community who came to view the works. LALS is indebted to the Hite Art Institute, our Community Partner Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, and the UofL departments who supported these exhibits (see articles pages 2 and 3 for details).

LALS Celebrates the Day of the Dead with Altars at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft and on Campus

This year a team comprised of 25 students, faculty, and community members helped to erect the LALS double altar at KMAC to remember the victims of the Haitian and Chilean earthquakes. Plans for the construction of the altar and fund raising efforts began in early spring 2010 soon after the earthquakes hit. LALS is grateful for the support we received from the Haitian community, particularly from Michelle Randolph, French teacher and Chair of Meyzeek's World Language Department, and Violine Antoine, UofL Fine Arts student, as well as Dr. Whitney Nash, Director of the UofL Ky Racing Health Services Center and Natalie Witherspoon, both of whom traveled to Haiti on humanitarian missions. We also appreciate the assistance we received for the Chilean side of the altar from native Chilean Dr. Herbert Maguire and his wife Zonia, Peter Furlán, and LALS alum Erin Grace, who experienced the earthquake first-hand while she was in Concepción as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. Nearly 2000 people came to the Downtown Day of the Celebration at the KMAC on November 5, 2010. Many thanks to the LALS students, UofL Bonner Leaders and Golden Key Honor Society members who volunteered that night to help with activities for children and to serve the delicious food from Los Aztecas restaurant, and to Luci Mistratov for creating the beautiful triptych of silk paintings for the altar.



LALS also collaborated with the Fine Arts Department on the "Transitivo" installation in Gallery X of Schneider Hall, providing financial support and models for the body prints that represented the spirits of the departed canal workers. In addition, LALS offered assistance to Dr. Tricia Gray's Political Science class to erect an altar in honor of Archbishop Oscar Romero (see article p. 3) at the campus celebration of the Day of the Dead in Ekstrom Library, organized by the Spanish Section of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages. LALS would like to acknowledge the support we received from Brown-Forman for the installation of this year's Day of the Dead altars.



Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

“Salsa in the Infield” at Churchill Downs Attracts a Diverse Crowd

On September 16th, Independence Day for several Latin American countries, Churchill Downs opened the Infield to a festival designed to unite people from the community and the Backside workers and their families in a celebration of Hispanic culture. “Salsa in the Infield” was a wonderful event full of culture and interaction. Students from the LALS Program had the very unique opportunity to see different aspects of Latin American culture while interacting with members of the community and professionals in many different fields. The event featured Latin American food, dance, music, information booths, and much more. It was truly a wonderful event, and for its first year, it was very impressive. I look forward to the opportunity to participate again next year and to witness the growth of this festival of culture and community! LALS was just one of many co-sponsors. --Megan Reeves, LAS Minor

Author and Activist Binka Le Breton Lectures on “Brazil: Globalization, Human Rights, and Sustainability”

On September 30th, the Department of Political Science, Latin American and Latino Studies, and Brazilian Studies co-sponsored a lecture by Binka Le Breton who addressed the issue of Brazil’s present-day form of slavery, as well as the country’s future sustainable development. Although globalization has improved Brazil’s world standing, it has also increased practices of cheap and slave labor, the downside to Brazil’s boom. Le Breton described to the audience her interactions with slave owners and gunmen, and her dangerous excursions through the Brazilian Amazon to help some workers escape to freedom. These experiences are highlighted in Le Breton’s book, *Trapped: Modern Day Slavery in the Brazilian Amazon*. -- Erica Summe, LAS Minor

Internationally Renown Artist Brian Nissen Presents the 9th Annual LALS Heritage Lecture



On October 6th, Brian Nissen presented “Caves, Codices, and Comics: Drawing Stories, Painting Words” to a packed audience in the Elaine Chao Auditorium. Nissen incorporated hundreds of images in his presentation about the history of narrative art and the symbiotic relationship between writing and drawing, showing examples of cave paintings, Egyptian murals, Chinese scrolls, and Meso-American codices, and such contemporary forms as graphic novels, comics, tattoos, and graffiti. Two remarkable exhibits of Nissen’s contemporary codices, inspired by ancient Mayan and Mixtec codices, were displayed at the Hite Art Gallery in Schneider Hall and the Rare Books Room in Ekstrom Library. During his two visits to campus, Nissen visited several Fine Arts classes and also spoke to the students of Dr. Christopher Fulton’s Mexican Art and Architecture class and Dr. Rhonda Buchanan’s

Introduction to LALS class. Nissen’s lectures and exhibits were co-sponsored by LALS, the Department of Fine Arts and the Hite Art Institute, the Rare Books Department of Ekstrom Library, the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, the Department of English, Liberal Studies, and the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft. --Kathryn Sowada, LALS Graduate Certificate Student

Collaborations between UofL and the Universidad de Guanajuato Continue with a Campus Visit by Dr. Luis Felipe Guerrero Agripino

On October 20, 2010, Dr. Luis Felipe Guerrero Agripino, Rector of the Guanajuato Campus of the Universidad de Guanajuato returned to Louisville to present a lecture on “The Challenges of the Mexican Judicial System” at the Brandeis School of Law. Dr. Guerrero Agripino spoke in Spanish to UofL students, faculty, and members of the community who were interested in learning about the Mexican penal code and issues concerning public safety in Mexico today. Former UofL School of Law alum Ellie Kerstetter served as his interpreter. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to hear him speak twice in the same day, first in my Introduction to LALS class about the Universidad de Guanajuato, and immediately afterwards at the luncheon/lecture, which was co-sponsored by the Brandeis School of Law and LALS. Authentic Mexican food was provided by Los Aztecas Restaurant. --Christopher Swift, LAS Minor



Dr. Guerrero Agripino named

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events



Anayansi Prado (left) with UofL Panamanian Students

LALS and Fine Arts Celebrate the Impacto Project on Panamanian Independence Day

Gallery X of Schneider Hall filled with people at 4:30 p.m. on November 3, 2010 for a celebration of the 107th anniversary of Panama's independence from the Republic of Gran Colombia. Community members and students, including students from Panama and Panama Scholars who have studied in the country, crowded into the gallery to see the exhibit. Three walls featured photographs taken by Panamanian children and the UofL student interns who taught them photography skills as part of the Impacto Project last June. The other wall featured "Transitivo," a memorial dedicated to the estimated 25,000 to 30,000 men who lost their lives while constructing the Panama Canal. A reception catered by Cocos

Lokos Restaurant followed the gallery talk by Panamanian filmmaker and founder of the Impacto Project, Anayansi Prado. As one of the Impacto student interns, I am honored that LALS and the Fine Arts Department collaborated to create such a beautiful exhibit to share the work of the children of Bocas del Toro. The event was a wonderful tribute that demonstrated how important Panama is to the LALS community. The event was co-sponsored by the Hite Art Institute, LALS, the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, the Honors Program, and the Departments of Fine Arts, Classical and Modern Languages, Women's and Gender Studies and Communication. Lewis Scholarships and Fellowships supported travel to Panama. --Rosslyn Steinmetz, LAS Minor

Archbishop Romero is Remembered during the UofL Day of the Dead Celebration

During the Day of the Dead campus celebration, students from the LALS Program collaborated with Dr. Tricia Gray's Political Science 370 class to construct an altar for the 30th anniversary of the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated in 1980 while conducting mass in El Salvador during the country's civil war. He remains an icon for El Salvador because of his liberating theological ideals and his support for the poor during the many years of violence and unjust conditions. The altar was a wonderful representation of Latin American culture and received third place in the Altar Contest at Ekstrom Library, which was sponsored by the Spanish Section of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages. --Maggie Whittle, Latino Studies Minor



Former UofL Alum, Dr. Carmen Montañez Lectures about her Native Puerto Rico



On Friday, November 12, 2010 Puerto Rican author Dr. Carmen Montañez presented a lecture on "Puerto Rican Culture and Identity" to students of Dr. Rhonda Buchanan's Introduction to Latin American and Latino Studies class and to other interested students, faculty, and staff. Born in Puerto Rico, Montañez is a Professor Emeritus of Spanish at Indiana State University and a Visiting Professor at UofL this semester, teaching a course on Caribbean Literature and Culture in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages. Covering everything from Puerto Rico's racial

composition to the evolution of its popular music, Dr. Montañez charismatically delivered her comprehensive lecture with a fascinating combination of images, music, and dance moves. She is one of many guest lecturers who provide UofL students with a diversity of perspectives. Her lecture was co-sponsored by LALS and the Department of Pan-African Studies and Caribbean Studies. --Eric Kleppe, Latino Studies Minor

LALS Establishes a New Internship Site and Initiates a Campus Recruitment Program with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana

This summer the LALS Program teamed up with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana to help promote the BBBS Hispanic Initiative, a campaign to recruit more Spanish-speaking Bigs and Littles for their various mentoring programs. In many cases, the parents of a Hispanic/Latino Little do not speak English and so it is crucial that the child be paired with a "Big" who is able to communicate in Spanish. Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to work as the first LALS intern at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana and it has been a fantastic experience! I have translated documents from English to Spanish to help facilitate the enrollment process for Hispanic and Latino families, attended recruitment events, and created a recruitment campaign to get more UofL students involved. After my internship ends this December, I will continue participating in the Campus Recruitment Campaign as part of my duties as the LALS Program Coordinator! Check out the LALS Webpage if you would like to volunteer!
-- Natalie Schuetz, Latino Studies Minor

Apply Now for the 9th Annual UofL Study Abroad Program in May 2011!

Next year's Study Abroad Program in Panama, sponsored by LALS and the Department of Communication, begins on May 3, 2011 with classes on the Belknap Campus, May 3-5th. We travel to Panama after Derby on May 9th and return on May 31st. Native Panamanian Berta Calvert, the 2011 Panama Program Director and Dr. Rhonda Buchanan, the Assistant Panama Program Director, will offer courses in Spanish. Dr. Al Futrell, Chair of the Department of Communication will offer a class on Intercultural Communication. The \$3500 program fee includes 6 credit hours, airfare, ground transportation for sponsored excursions, housing at the Las Vegas Hotel Suites, and organized excursions to the Panama Canal, the Presidential Palace, the Emberá Indigenous Community in the Gamboa Rainforest, two days at the Decameron Beach Resort, and much more! Applications are available on-line. All participants will receive Panama Scholar Awards. Communication students are eligible for funding from the Department of Communication. Visit the LALS webpage for information about additional scholarship opportunities and to view photos from last year's program. An informational session will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2010 in Humanities 300 from 9:00-11:00a.m.

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos!

The fall semester began with two exciting announcements about LALS made by Dr. James B. Hudson, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, during his annual State of the College Address: 1) by the fall of 2012, students will have the opportunity to declare a B.A. in Latin American and Latino Studies; and 2) by the fall of 2011 LALS will have new office space in Stevenson Hall. None of this would be possible without the support that LALS receives from the Dean's Office and the many departments that collaborate with our program. This semester has been packed with activities and many artistic events. I would like to express my appreciation to Prof. John Begley, Curator of the Hite Art Galleries, for his outstanding work mounting our three exhibits. In the summer of 2009, I met with Professors Begley and James Grubola, Chair of the Department of Fine Arts, to discuss the possibility of collaborating with the Hite Art Institute on several exhibits with a Latin American theme. They graciously granted space in not one, but all three galleries in Schneider Hall. I just love it when a plan comes together, but the real reward was seeing the looks of awe on the faces of those who visited the exhibits. I would also like to thank our LALS Community Partner, the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, who supported these exhibits, and Brown-Forman for their generous contribution to our Day of the Dead altars. I am very pleased to announce that LALS has created a new internship site at Brown-Forman, and we continue to collaborate with our most recent internship site, Big Brothers Big Sisters, with a campus recruiting campaign. Collaborations between UofL and the Universidad de Guanajuato, which were initiated last fall, continued with the second campus visit of Dr. Luis Felipe Guerrero Agripino, Rector of the UG- Guanajuato Campus. Plans are underway for UofL faculty to visit UG, and we hope to send LALS students to study and conduct internships in the beautiful and tranquil city of Guanajuato soon. I would like to invite everyone to visit the LALS webpage and click on Photo Gallery to see images of our many fall events.

Happy Holidays! ¡Felices Fiestas!

Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American and Latino Studies



Latin American & Latino Studies

Please join our Facebook group and/or follow us on Twitter!



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