

Fall 2013

Issue 22



LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

Camminos

Immigration Changes the Face of the U.S. South

On October 2nd, Dr. Jamie Winders, Associate Professor of Geography at Syracuse University, presented the 12th Annual LALS Heritage Lecture, "Reforming Immigration, Re-Forming Place and Race: Latin America, the American South, New Connections," and shared her research on demographic changes in neighborhoods in the South, particularly in Nashville. Dr. Winders explained that in recent decades more Latinos have migrated to Southern cities with established communities, where white and black populations have lived for years. Assimilating into these communities has been challenging for some Latino families. In Nashville, the Flatrock Community Foundation encourages long time residents to embrace their new neighbors and create a welcome environment in which they can work and live, while at the same time preserving the traditions of those whose families have lived in the area for generations. On October 3rd, Dr. Margath Walker (pictured right) invited Dr. Winders to present a lecture on urban immigration to members of the Geography Club and LALS Club. Dr. Winders was proclaimed an Honorary Citizen of Louisville, so perhaps she will focus on the River City for her next book! Co-sponsors: Department of Geography and Geosciences, Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, Peace Justice and Conflict Transformation Program — Spencer Scruggs, LAS Minor (pictured below)



SoFo Day of the Dead Celebration



his dream. The altar was erected in an empty store front on the corner of South Fourth Street and Chestnut, an area where significant civil rights protests took place. On Friday, November 1st, (First Friday Trolley Hop Night), dozens of LALS students volunteered to paint the faces of the many children who attended the event, and help them create paper flowers and decorate sugar skulls. Entertainment included performances of flamenco by LALS Graduate Certificate student Juliana Grossi, as well as Mexican folkloric dances by the Arco Iris dance troupe. Businesses, such as Craft[s], Celebrations, and Block Party decorated their shops with dazzling displays. Thousands descended upon SoFo for this event, which is sure to become a Louisville tradition!

Since 2006, the LALS Program has collaborated with Celebrations of the Downtown Day of the Dead, for six years at KMAC and last year at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. This year we were invited to assist the businesses of the booming South Fourth Street (SoFo) with their first annual celebration of the Day of the Dead. Members of the LALS Club and the African Student Union created a beautiful altar to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and to pay our respects to local activists who shared



LALS Activities and Co-Sponsored Events

Muhammad Ali Center Focuses on Issues Concerning Education for Latinos



Claudia López, Jeanne Guerrero, and María Carter

On September 19th, I served as a panelist, along with LALS major Claudia López, for the screening of “The Graduates/Los Graduados, a two-part documentary at the Muhammad Ali Center. The first part of the series focused on issues facing Latina high school students, such as teen pregnancy, while the second, shown on October 24th, focused on issues concerning Latinos, such as gang involvement. After the screening, the panelists answered questions, such as how undocumented students can secure scholarships to attend college. I spoke about my own journey as a young Afro-Cuban American, who did not really fit in with the black culture and did not know enough Spanish to belong to the Hispanic culture either. I encouraged the parents to keep their students grounded in their culture and assured the Latino students that they have much to offer others of non-Hispanic descent. — Jeanne Guerrero, LALS Graduate Certificate Student

Empowering Women through Clean Water Filtration

Sister Lorraine Lauter, executive director of Water With Blessings (WWB), gave an informative talk on September 24th about the way in which WWB empowers women to become “compassionate agents of change in their communities.” Based in Louisville, WWB works in countries all over the world to help improve access to clean water. While it has its strongest presence in Honduras, WWB has connections throughout Latin America, as well as parts of Africa and Asia. Sister Lauter’s passion for the issue of water access was evident as she described the structure of the organization and the technology used to purify the water. The filter itself is small and easy to use. As I looked down into the bucket of (very!) dirty water she brought with her, it reminded me to be thankful that I am able to drink, cook with, and bathe in clean water every day. I was also curious to see how it would work. She shared with us a little about the technology itself and the costs involved with sponsoring a Water Woman (about \$100 provides 10+ years of clean water for more than 10 people). We got a chance to drink some of the newly filtered water and it became evident how simple the process can be. You can learn more about WWB by visiting their website: www.waterwithblessings.org. This event was organized by the LALS Club and co-sponsored by GRASS. —Daniel Runnels, LALS Graduate Certificate Student



Promoting Human Rights in the Garment Industry

On Friday, October 18th, the Department of Social Change, Anthropology, Peace and Justice Administration, and LALS sponsored a lecture on “Human Rights in the Garment Industry” in Ekstrom Library. Two workers from Alta Gracia, a factory in the Dominican Republic that produces clothing for universities across the United States, came to discuss what it is like working in the garment industry. Maritza and Yenny, two women who work in the factory, were very excited to speak to the group and, with the help of an English translator, discussed the benefits of working at Alta Gracia as compared to other factories. Some examples are that 1) it gives three times the living wage to its employees; 2) they have top-notch health and safety standards; 3) the workers have a democratic voice on the job, and 4) it is monitored by an independent labor watchdog. In addition to this, education is strongly emphasized and women do not have to fear harassment or discrimination in the work place. It was an exceptional event that showed how UofL is connected to people on a global scale and how simple actions such as “thinking before we buy” can make a world of difference. Maritza and Yenny were extremely proud to represent Alta Gracia and invited everyone to come to the Dominican Republic to see where they work, January 2—14, 2014. Well, Maritza and Yenny, I just might have to do that! For more information, email info@solidarityignite.org. — Stephanie Dooper, LALS Major

LALS Activities and Co-Sponsored Events

“Creating an Ethical Food System through Fair Trade”

On November 5, 2013, Dr. Sarah Lyon, Professor of Anthropology from the University of Kentucky, presented a lecture entitled "It's a Movement Not a Market: Creating an Ethical Food System through Fair Trade." She began by asking members of the audience, "what is the importance of buying local?" Her speech focused on the percentage of farmers struggling in the United States and those workers in South American countries, such as Colombia and Ecuador, who are fighting to support their families. Lyon noted that a number of companies help the relief effort here in the United States. Starbucks is one company that advertises that its coffee is a product of Fair Trade, however, Lyon revealed that only a small percentage of Starbucks coffee is obtained through Fair Trade practices, while Dunkin' Donuts practices 100% Fair Trade. When making purchases at a local store or hot spot in town, always look for the logo FAIR TRADE and help make Louisville a "Fair Trade Town" and support the growing movement for alternative economic practices that benefit farmers in Latin America and around the world! This lecture was organized by the Department of Anthropology and co-sponsored by LALS. – Kevin Reh, LALS Minor



LALS Minor Shelby Lawson Shares Study Abroad Experiences



At the Latin American and Latino Studies Club meeting on November 12, 2013 LALS Club member Shelby Lawson shared experiences about her internship in Costa Rica for RAHAB, an organization that serves victims of human trafficking. After interning in January and February of 2013, Shelby traveled to Buenos Aires where she studied at the Universidad de Belgrano for the rest of the semester. She shared photos from both of her trips, told stories of her experiences, and gave practical advice from how to obtain scholarships, to what to look for in a study abroad program. Shelby's semester abroad was supported by an LALS Lewis Scholar Award. Her presentation was a great reminder that traveling overseas during college is one of the best decisions you could ever make! – Rebecca Harrod, LALS Major and LALS Club President

12th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama

This fall the LALS Program and the Department of Communication promoted our 12th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama at three fall events: the Study Abroad Fair in the Red Barn on September 4th, the Annual Celebramos Hispanic Heritage Celebration on September 17th, which is organized by the Spanish Section of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, and a Q & A Session on November 19th that served as a reunion for the 2013 Panama Scholars. Those interested in participating in next year's program (May 5-29, 2014) had the opportunity to hear about the fabulous experiences students have had on the program and meet the instructors. The deadline for applications has been extended February 3, 2014. Apply now!



LALS Internship Poster Session Showcases Community Engagement



On November 21st, seven LALS students shared their internship posters with other students, faculty, administrators, staff and members of the community. Jeanne Guerrero, who completed the LALS Graduate Internship with Adelante Hispanic Achievers, gave a presentation on her experiences helping Latino students prepare for college. Other interns showcased their work with the Backside Learning Center, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Louisville Free Public Library, Family Community Clinic, GLOH Clinic, and the Kentucky Racing Health Services Center.

New Latin American and Latino Studies Minor Available!

As of summer 2013, the old Latin American Studies Minor and the Latino Studies Minor were merged to form a new Latin American and Latino Studies Minor. In May 2013, we graduated our first class of Latin American and Latino Studies Majors and will nearly double the number of students graduating with a B.A. in LALS in May of 2014. We also offer a Graduate Certificate in LALS. Internships are a requirement for the LALS Major and Minor and an elective for the LALS Graduate Certificate. Applications for these programs are accepted year-round. Students often choose to combine these programs with other degrees in Anthropology, Communication, History, Political Science, and Spanish, among others. If interested, contact Dr. Rhonda Buchanan for an advising appointment.

Congratulations to
Kayla Wohner
Latin American Studies
Minor
December 2013 Graduate



Join the LALS Club and Support Community Engagement!



From the South Fourth Street Day of the Dead Celebration to the Winter Coat Drive for Kentucky Refugee Ministries, the LALS Club offers opportunities throughout the semester to get involved on campus and in the community. The LALS Club provides members with information and resources on academic programs, community outreach, and study abroad opportunities. Contact LALS Club President Rebecca Harrod (pictured on right) at raharr13@louisville.edu for information. You don't have to be an LALS student to join!

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! We're about to wrap up another exciting semester for the LALS Program. We co-sponsored so many events that there wasn't enough room to highlight all of them! We were happy to support the *Fiesta Latina*, which was held at the Wesley House on September 28th, and featured two dynamic speakers, Leo Calderón and Richard Cisneros, who spoke about how Latino high school students can better prepare themselves for college. Several students who received tutoring through the Behold 1500 Latinos Program were present and received words of encouragement from Mayor Greg Fischer. LALS was included in an NSF grant application that aims to provide tutoring/mentoring in the STEM disciplines for minority students. We hope that the grant, which involves the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Math, Biology and Communication, and the School of Education, will be funded.

We also supported the 20th Latin American Film Festival, which was organized by the Spanish Section of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and featured 8 films, including one presented personally by the Guatemalan film director Rodolfo Espinosa.

La Universidad de los Lagos welcomed the first UofL student, Jerome Soldo, an LALS/Spanish double major, who spent this semester studying in Osorno, Chile. In December, Dr. Enid Trucios-Haynes, member of the LALS Steering Committee, lectured on immigration law at La Universidad de Guanajuato. We hope to continue our exchanges with UG in Mexico, as well as La Universidad de La Plata in Argentina.

Christmas came early to the LALS Program this year! I am pleased to announce that Dr. Thomas Edison, a UofL alum who received his Ph.D. from UK, will be returning to Louisville next year as a professor of Spanish with a secondary appointment in LALS. Finally, I would like to thank our LALS Program Coordinator, Senior, Natalie Schuetz (pictured above left) and our LALS Student Assistant and LALS Club President, Rebecca Harrod, for all their help and enthusiastic support of our program.

¡Felices fiestas! Rhonda Buchanan, Director of LALS



Latin American & Latino Studies



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