

Spring 2005

Issue 5

## The Latin American Studies Program Announces an Exciting New Program: The Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies

We are now accepting applications for the Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies, an interdisciplinary program that provides a specialized concentration on Latin America. This program, housed within the Graduate School, offers students a wide range of course options that examine Latin American societies from the perspective of their history, literature, art, culture, and political, economic, and social structures. This certificate may be completed as a “stand alone” program, or may be pursued in conjunction with other graduate programs, in which case course work toward the graduate certificate in LAS may also count toward a graduate degree.

The minimum requirement for completion of the LAS graduate certificate is 15 credit hours, 9 of which must be taken at the 600 level. Of the 15 required credit hours, students should take courses with a substantial Latin American content from at least 3 different disciplines, such as, Anthropology, Art History, History, Humanities, Linguistics, Modern Languages, Sociology, Pan-African Studies, Political Science, Portuguese, and Spanish, and Women’s and Gender Studies, among others. Students must meet a minimum language requirement of 3 hours of Spanish or Portuguese at the 200 level or above, or demonstration of equivalent language proficiency. Students may also complete an internship to fulfill the curriculum requirements.

To be accepted into the LAS Graduate Certificate Program, students must meet the standard criteria for general admission to the University of Louisville Graduate School. 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 and abroad. Please visit the LAS webpage at [www.louisville.edu/a-s/cml/las](http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/cml/las) for specific instructions on how to apply on-line. For more information, contact Dr. Rhonda Buchanan, and make an appointment for advising.

### 2005 Lewis Scholars Represent U of L in Four Spanish-Speaking Countries

On Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> five students will be recognized as Lewis Scholars at the Student Awards Convocation. Thanks to the generous support of Richard and Constance Lewis, students may enhance their knowledge of Hispanic culture and practice their linguistic skills in a foreign immersion experience. This year the recipients include four undergraduate students: **Jamie Izlar**, (Mexico), **Jacqueline Meier**, (Argentina), **Morgan Taliaferro** (Argentina), and **William White** (Spain), and one graduate student: **Phil Thornberry** (Costa Rica). ¡Buen viaje a todos!

### Lewis Fellows Travel to Argentina and Central America

**Dr. Lisa Wagner**, a Spanish professor in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, was awarded the 2004 Lewis Fellowship to conduct research on Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In July, Professor Wagner traveled to Buenos Aires, where she met the President of Las Madres, Hebe de Bonafini, and was granted an extensive interview with Las Madres’ spokesperson, Juanita Pargament. Through this interview, she learned about the activities of Las Madres as a vital human rights organization in contemporary Argentine society. In addition, Professor Wagner was able to experience first-hand the social activism of Las Madres when she participated in their weekly Thursday afternoon march.

The recipient of the 2005 Lewis Fellowship is **Dr. Michael Fowler** of the Political Science Department. He is investigating the effect of extensive narcotics trafficking on five Central American countries, including Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. As he undertakes this project on “Central American Narcotics Trafficking and Corruption,” we wish him well, and hope that he will return safely to Louisville so that he may share his findings with the U of L community.



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

# Colmillos

## News from the North American Peacebuilders

LAS minors **Jamie Izlar** and **Elizabeth Walter** are among the first cohort of students participating in the prestigious North American Peacebuilders program, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education. During the spring semester, Jamie is studying at La Universidad de Colima and Elizabeth at the Universidad de San Luis Potosí. Here's the latest from Mexico!



**Jamie L. Izlar**, a 2005 Lewis Scholar, writes: “¡Saludos desde Colima! Being integrated with Mexican students has really had a huge impact on my Spanish-speaking skills, as well as given me a deep appreciation for Mexican culture. I am in classes Monday through Friday, and have the privilege to intern at the Congress of the State of Colima throughout the week. I absolutely love my internship! Some of my responsibilities are to attend the weekly deputies’ meeting with the deputies of Colima and assist with the upcoming elections. During spring break I went to Mexico City for a conference on the electoral system in Mexico, which has helped me develop my thesis on the Mexican legislature post-2000. Before I complete my stay here, I plan to travel to Michoacán, up north to Chihuahua, and finally down south to Veracruz and Chiapas with my *compañeros!*”

**Jamie Izlar at the Congress of State of Colima.**

**Elizabeth Walter**, a 2003 Lewis Scholar, writes: “ I’m taking three classes, working at the State Commission for Human Rights, and loving living abroad. At my internship, I work with lawyers in the penitentiary division. We are in charge of investigating complaints made by prisoners all over the state. It has been an eye-opening experience! Here in my city, I have gone salsa dancing, been a guest on a radio show called “Abriendo fronteras,” and gone to my first bullfight. I was also serenaded by mariachi singers for my birthday. After traveling to Mexico City and the Yucatan during spring break, it’s back to the books and my research on a small town close to San Luis that is protesting the entrance of a Canadian company that wants to re-open a mine. I am sure I will have many more adventures before the semester is over!”

- Submitted by Dr. Gregory Hutcherson

## Annual U of L Study Abroad Programs in Panama - May 2005 and May 2006

Nineteen students are headed to Panama on May 5, 2005 to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual U of L Study Abroad Program, directed by Dr. Manuel Medina and Dr. Carmen Cedeño. All students have received financial support from a number of sources, and sixteen students have received College of Arts and Sciences Panama Scholarships, and will participate in this immersion program as Panama Scholars. ¡Buen viaje a todos!

As the 2005 group prepares for their departure, the Latin American Studies program is planning the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, tentatively scheduled for May 3 to June 1, 2006. Next year’s program will be directed by native Panamanian Dr. Aristófan Cedeño, who will teach Spanish 323/599 Spanish for the Workplace, a course that will provide students with the opportunity to visit local businesses and organizations. Students may earn up to 6 hours of credit, which may be applied toward the LAS minor, the LAS Graduate Certificate, and the Spanish major and minor. Other courses that will be offered include: Spanish 321: Conversation, and Modern Languages 313/551: Panamanian Culture, taught by a local Panamanian instructor.

Scholarship opportunities will be available during the fall 2005 semester. The program cost (TBA - 2004 Program Cost was \$2700) includes round-trip airfare to Panama, excursions, housing in Panama City, tuition, and much more. Contact Dr. Aristófan Cedeño ( aris.cedeno@louisville.edu) or Dr. Rhonda Buchanan to get your name on the list of 2006 participants!

## Latin American Studies Sponsored Events



### "Exile Dreams, Exile Loss: The Grammar of Contested Memory in Selected Literature of Hispanic Diasporas"

Dr. Mary S. Vásquez, Professor of Spanish at Davidson College, and founding editor of the journal *Letras Peninsulares*, was the keynote speaker at the 33rd Annual Twentieth-Century Literature and Culture Conference, on February 25, 2005. In her lecture she spoke about works by Ramón J. Sender, Rafael Alberti, María Teresa León, Gustavo Pérez Firmat, Roberto Fernández, Esmeralda Santiago, and Pablo Medina, among others. Dr. Vásquez concluded her outstanding presentation by saying that "Exile moves along the borders of gain and loss, the frontier of affirmation and denial, rage and longing. [ . . . ] Exile, like love, is always singular, unique." Her words touched the hearts of the many native Spanish-speakers present in the audience, including the organizer and chair of the keynote lecture, Dr. Aristófañes Cedeño, a native of Panamá. This event was sponsored by the Latin American Studies Program, the Twentieth Century Literature and Culture Conference, and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages.

On March 28, before a packed house in Ekstrom Auditorium, historian

## Latin American Studies Inaugurates Celebration of Women Lecture Series

Ericka Verba kicked off the LAS Program's Celebration of Women lecture series with a talk entitled "Chilean Artist Violeta Parra's Legacy in Words and Images." Known as the mother of the "*nueva canción*," or "New Song" movement, which emerged in Latin America in the 1960's, Violeta Parra was also the first Latin American woman to have a solo show at the Louvre in Paris. Dr. Verba, a musician and a history professor at California State University Dominguez Hills, captivated the audience with her multimedia presentation on Parra's music, painting, and tapestry work. Verba is currently working on a biography of Violeta Parra, whom she first became interested in when she was an undergraduate. Following the talk, the audience enjoyed a spread of fabulous food provided by the Cuban restaurant Mambo. Thanks to all who attended, and to Ericka Verba for making our first annual Celebration of Women lecture such a success! Sponsored by Latin American Studies, the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, the History Department, and the Women and Global Issues Committee of the Commission on the Status of Women.

- Submitted by Dr.Christine Ehrick



Mambo Owner Javier Cendejas, Ericka Verba, and Rhonda Bu-







**LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE  
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**Final Spring LAS Co-Sponsored Event: "A Moment in Latin America"**

The U of L Spanish Club and the Latin American Studies Program invites you to an end-of-the-year fiesta, "A Moment in Latin America," on Friday, April 29, 2005 at the Red Barn. Dinner begins at 7:30, with food provided by Mambo and Los Aztecas. Come join us for authentic Latin American food, music, dancing, and fun! Tickets cost \$10 and are available in Hum. 324. Please contact Dr. Clare Sullivan for more information at:

[clara.sullivan@louisville.edu](mailto:clara.sullivan@louisville.edu)

*Desde los Cuatro Caminos*

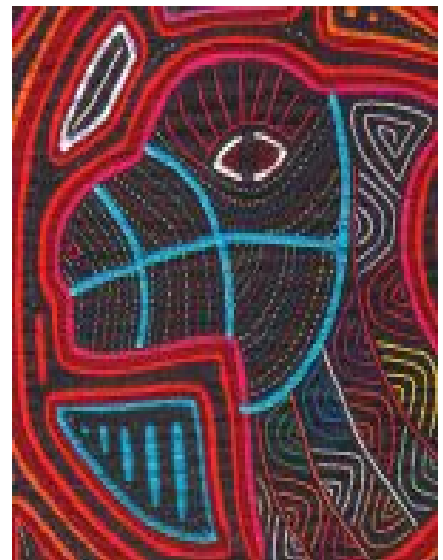


*From the Crossroads*

¡Saludos amigos! As I end my first term as Director of the Latin American Studies, I am pleased to report that our young program is thriving and growing each semester. Since 2002, the number of undergraduates who have declared a minor in Latin American Studies has increased from two students to over twenty. At the December commencement, I was proud to recognize that several of the graduating seniors were LAS minors who had also participated in the Panama Study Abroad Program. Our third group is headed to Panama the first week of May, and students have expressed interest in participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Program in May of 2006. This spring the LAS Graduate Certificate Program was approved officially by the Board of Trustees, and several graduate students have applied already! Also we inaugurated a new lecture series to coincide with International Women's Month in March, an Annual LAS Celebration of Women Lecture. In addition, we have increased the number and variety of local and foreign internships organizations that provide students the opportunity to work closely with members of the Hispanic community. With Derby Day around the corner, I'm pleased to announce that we are in the process of setting up an internship with the Kentucky Racing Clinic, and we hope to add new outreach opportunities with emphasis on the legal profession, social and health services, and international business.

Have a fabulous summer,

Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American Studies



¡Feliz Derby!