



## First Students Complete the LAS Graduate Certificate

**Paige Janes:** As I prepare to graduate in May with an M.A. in Spanish and an LAS Graduate Certificate, I realize that I came to UofL at an extremely opportune time. In the summer of 2003, during my undergraduate studies, I participated as a Lewis Scholar in the first Study Abroad Program in Panamá, sponsored by the LAS Program. Later that year, as the number of LAS minors grew exponentially, I served as the first student assistant to the LAS program. In the fall of 2004, the same year I began my Masters, LAS added the Graduate Certificate. This expansion within the College of Arts & Sciences satisfied my interests and helped to prepare me for my plans to teach after graduation. On May 13th, I will be one of the first students to graduate with the Certificate. The LAS classes that I took for the Certificate will certainly help me this summer when I travel to Costa Rica as a secondary school teacher.



**Medina del Castillo:** Mexico twice within two years! This May, I will graduate with my Masters in Political Science and a Graduate Certificate in Latin America Studies. For my internship for the LAS Certificate, I volunteered at the Oaxaca Children Grassroots Organization in Oaxaca, Mexico during the summer of 2005, working for two months as an ESL instructor and volunteer coordinator. This August, I will return to Mexico as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. At the Universidad de Colima, I will take graduate classes in Political Science and Public Administration. Because I am interested in directing an international non-government organization one day, I hope to take from this experience a true understanding of how our world works from an international perspective.



## LAS Adds a New Local Internship Site: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

**Alicia Paez:** This semester I completed an internship at CASA, a non-profit organization which places a volunteer with a child who is going through the Family Court system. Essentially, the volunteer's job is to be the voice of the child during the entire process. This internship experience has been a truly rewarding one. I have hopes of furthering my education by attending law school in the future, and interning for CASA has aided me in my field of interest. With CASA, I have had the opportunity to attend Family Court cases, shadow a social worker visiting a Hispanic family, do outreach to the Hispanic community, and become knowledgeable about all of the services available to the children going through the Family Court system. CASA really makes a difference in children's lives, and I am privileged to have had the opportunity to work with them.

## LAS Minor Completes the Internship in Mexico City

**Maureen St. George** is completing her internship at La Casa de los Niños de Palo Solo, a Montessori school in Mexico City, during the spring semester. She acts as a "guide," working with small groups of children ages three to thirteen to help them learn English at their own pace. In a progress report to her faculty advisor Dr. Clare Sullivan, she writes: "We had chorus. (I say 'we' because the first time I tried to sit in a corner and watch, but the teacher looked at me and said '*observar es participar*'.) Even the teachers participate. It's great. I love it." Maureen will return to Louisville in time to graduate this May with a Spanish major and an LAS minor.

## **Latin American Studies Spring Co-Sponsored Events**

### **Mexican Writer Cecilia Urbina Presents Keynote Spanish Address at the Annual UofL 20th Century Literature and Culture Conference**

On February 24, 2006, Cecilia Urbina, novelist and professor of the Centro de Cultura Casa Lamm gave a lecture entitled “Los temas del escritor: un mapa imaginario” about writers’ themes and motivations, and the hidden meaning in their texts, including her own. Urbina is the author of six novels and a book of literary essays. During her stay in Louisville, she also lectured to the students of Linda Roger’s Liberal Studies class, engaging them in a dialogue about the joys and challenges of writing. On previous visits to UofL, the author was named an Honorary Citizen of Louisville and a Kentucky Colonel. This campus visit was co-sponsored by the Latin American Studies Program, the Liberal Studies Program, and the UofL 20th Century Literature and Culture Conference. Submitted by Rhonda Buchanan.



*Cecilia Urbina and Rhonda Buchanan*

### **Elín Luque, Professor of the Centro de Cultura Casa Lamm, Presents a Lecture on a Popular Mexican Art Form**

On Monday, February 27, 2006, Professor Elín Luque, from the Centro de Cultura Casa Lamm in Mexico City, returned to the University of Louisville for a second time and delivered a lecture on the process of conducting research related to exvotos, entitled “Documentos para la historia del arte de México: los exvotos pictóricos de la Virgen de la Soledad en Oaxaca.” This popular art form was developed in Mexico during colonial times, and now every major church in Mexico holds a personal collection of these pieces. Elín Luque has dedicated a great part of her academic career to unveiling these hidden treasures and publishing her findings. Students from several Spanish classes attended Professor Luque’s lecture, which offered a panoramic view of the exvotos and detailed the process involved in cataloging the pieces in the Chapel of the Virgin of La Soledad in Oaxaca, Mexico. The students enjoyed her magnificent lecture on



this fascinating topic. Professor Luque’s campus visit was made possible by support from the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, the Latin American Studies Program, the Art History Department, and the Spanish Club. Submitted by Manuel Medina.

### **Cultivating Equality in Brazil: The Landless Rural Workers Movement**

On February 28th, a representative of the largest social movement in Latin America, the Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST) visited the UofL campus. Andreia Ferreira, coordinator for Political Education in the State of Santa Catarina, gave a provocative and timely talk about the history and current work of the MST, which has won land titles for over a quarter of a million poor families in Brazil. In her lecture, Ms. Ferreira explained how MST members strive to develop sustainable socio-economic models as alternatives to current forms of globalization. Ms. Maria Arroyo of the Presbyterian Church USA graciously translated. LAS students, as well those enrolled in Lisa Markowitz’s Anthropology of Social Movements class, and Christine Ehrick’s Modern Latin American History classes attended and enjoyed delicious Brazilian pastries prepared by Anthropology major Alice Regneri. The Latin American Studies Program was delighted to co-sponsor this event, along with the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities Dissent Series, The Social Change Concentration, the Undergraduate Council, and the Department of Anthropology. Submitted by Lisa Markowitz.

## **Latin American Studies Sponsored Events**

### **Claudia Gómez Haro, Director of the Centro de Cultura Casa Lamm, Lectures on Africa's Presence in Contemporary Cuban Art**



On Tuesday, February 28, 2006, Dr. Claudia Gómez Haro of the Centro de Cultura Casa Lamm in Mexico City gave a lecture entitled “La presencia de África en la plástica cubana contemporánea,” which was translated to English by Dr. Clare Sullivan. In a slide presentation, she demonstrated how African traditions and beliefs have influenced the contemporary artistic scene in Latin America. A wide range of students attended her presentation, including Dr. Christopher Fulton’s art history class. During the reception that followed, students and faculty had the opportunity to speak to Dr. Gómez Haro about her work. This event was co-sponsored by the Lewis Educational Fund, the Modern Languages Fund, the LAS Program, the Art History Department, the Humanities Doctoral Program, the PAS Department, and the Spanish Club. Submitted by Clare Sullivan.

*Claudia Gómez Haro with Elin Luque (on right).*

### **LAS Co-Sponsors the Spanish Club's Celebration: A Moment in Latin America**

On Thursday, April 20, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the SAC's Multi-Purpose room, the Spanish Club will celebrate the end of the spring semester with musical and dance performances, including a group from the Music School, the Spanish Club Dance Group, and a Latin combo from Ft. Knox, among others. Latin American cuisine will be catered by Amerimexico and Havana Rumba. Admission is \$2 at the door. For more information, contact Jami Wilson at [jlwils05@louisville.edu](mailto:jlwils05@louisville.edu) or 502-457-7806, or Dr. Sullivan at [clara.sullivan@louisville.edu](mailto:clara.sullivan@louisville.edu). Co-sponsored by LAS, Provost for Diversity and Equality, RSA, Red Barn, and SAB.

### **Exciting New Exchange Programs with Brazil and Mexico**

As part of its new international programs, the College of Arts & Sciences has added São Paulo, Brazil and Mexico City to the list of places where our students will be able to study and conduct internships. The program at the Universidade Estadual do Estado de São Paulo (UNESP) will allow students from both institutions to spend time abroad taking classes in a partner institution, and will also include faculty exchanges and other opportunities for our students and faculty. Dean Blaine Hudson met with the President of UNESP last December to sign a formal academic agreement. The first students should arrive from Brazil in the fall of 2006, and UofL students will participate in the first Study Abroad Program in São Paulo in the summer of 2007.

The exchange program with the Centro de Cultural Casa Lamm in Mexico City will target students in Art History, Fine Arts, the Social Sciences, and the Humanities, particularly the Humanities Doctoral Program, and provide research and internship opportunities for both students and faculty. Dean Hudson and Dr. Gomez Haro, Director of Casa Lamm, signed an agreement in February 2006, and plans are underway to begin exchanges soon. Students in the LAS program will benefit greatly from both of these new exchange programs. Submitted by Manuel Medina.

### **Panama Scholars Embark on the 4th Annual UofL Study Abroad Program in Panama**

Thanks to generous support from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Institute for International Development, 21 UofL students will participate as Panama Scholars in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spanish Immersion Program in Panama, May 3 to June 1, 2006. Dr. Aristófanés Cedeño, who had originally accepted the position of 2006 Program Director, has received a prestigious fellowship from the American Council on Education and will not be able to direct the program; however, Dr. Manuel Medina has graciously agreed to take his place and will be assisted by Mrs. Berta Calvert, a CML Spanish lecturer and native of Panama. At the final orientation meeting, which will take place on April 17, 2006, students will receive their Panama Scholars Certificates and learn useful information to prepare them for this unique educational experience. Submitted by Rhonda Buchanan.



**LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE**

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This summer our website  
will change to:  
<http://latinamericanstudies.louisville.edu>

**LAS Classes Summer and Fall 2006**

Summer 2006

**ANTH 314** Mexican Gulf Coast Cultures  
**LAS 400** LAS Internship  
**LAS 681** LAS Graduate Internship  
**SPAN 323/634** Spanish for the Workplace

Fall 2006

**ANTH 325** Latin American Societies  
**ANTH 338** Anthropology of Refugees  
**HIST 333/WGST 333** Latin American Women  
**HIST 534/612** U.S. & Latin America  
**HIST 535/611** History of Mexico  
**LAS 310/POLS 370** Intro to LAS/  
Comp. Political Dev. In Latin America  
**LAS 400** LAS Internship  
**LAS 681** LAS Graduate Internship  
**LING 690** Theories of Culture  
**PAS 505** The Black Atlantic  
**PAS 532** Slave Trade and Slavery  
**SPAN 404** Cultural-Literary Perspectives  
on Modern Latin America

**Congratulations LAS Graduates!**

LAS Graduate Certificate



(Spring '06)  
Medina del Castillo  
Paige Janes

LAS Minors

Jessica Abati (Sp'06)  
Shereese Brown (F'05)  
Kate Dennis (Sp'06)  
Alicia Paez (Sp'06)  
Brandi Gates (Sp'06)  
Kristin Reading (F'05)  
Jessica Sanders (Sp'06)  
Maureen St. George (Sp'06)  
Jami Wilson (Sp'06)



*Desde los Cuatro Caminos*



*From the Crossroads*

¡Saludos amigos! There is a lot of news to report from the Latin American Studies Program this semester. Even though I've been on sabbatical, I can assure you that I haven't "gone fishing." In fact, I've dedicated Wednesdays to LAS matters this semester, and many students have come by for advising and the program continues to grow, as do the numbers of LAS graduates each year. Our first two students to complete the LAS Graduate Certificate, will be graduating this May, (see article on page 1) and a third, Caroline Conner, will graduate in December after completing an internship in Argentina.

There was a flurry of activity at the end of February with three lectures presented by professors from the Centro de Cultura Casa Lamm and another by a representative of Brazil's Landless Rural Workers Movement. After several years of planning, two new international exchange programs will be available to UofL students and faculty, one in Mexico City with the Centro de Cultura Casa Lamm, and the other in São Paulo, Brazil with the Universidade de Todo o Estado São Paulo, (UNESP). These programs were initiated by Professor Manuel Medina, who provides details about them in his article on page three. LAS students will soon have opportunities to study abroad and complete internships in Mexico and Brazil, and faculty will soon be able to conduct research there.

And speaking of foreign travels, I'm off to Argentina at the end of April for a two-week trip to present my translation of *The Entre Ríos Trilogy* with the author Perla Suez. Although I'll miss Derby this year, I will be back in time to see our LAS students graduate at the May 13th commencement.

*Feliz primavera (Happy Springtime),*

*Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American Studies*

