

Spring 2008

Issue 11

Latin American and Latino Studies Inaugurates an Annual Spring Showcase



LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

Camminos

On Wednesday, April 9, 2008, the LALS Program held a celebration to honor and thank students, faculty, departments, administrators, staff, the LALS Committee, and our generous donors Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis, whose collaborative efforts have contributed to the growth and success of our program. Since 2000, when Dr. Joy Carew headed a committee to create Latin American Studies, the program has grown rapidly and now offers a minor in Latin American Studies, a minor in Latino Studies, a Graduate Certificate in LAS, local and foreign internships, an annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, the Lewis Scholarships and Fellowships to support travel abroad, and numerous cultural events. In 2002, the first two students graduated with an LAS minor, and since then, over fifty students have completed the minor and more than a dozen have pursued the Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. By next year, we hope to congratulate the first group of students graduating with the Latino Studies minor at our 2nd Annual LALS Spring Showcase.



Richard and Constance Lewis with some of the recipients of 2008 Lewis Awards

This celebration provided the opportunity to recognize those undergraduate students who have completed the LAS minor in the fall of 2007 and the spring of 2008, as well as graduate students who have completed the LAS Graduate Certificate. It was also very exciting to present certificates to the thirty-three Panama Scholars who will be participating this May in the 6th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, and to recognize those LALS students who completed internships this year. This year we were pleased to add the Casa Latina and La Casita Center to our list of local internship sites. We are very grateful to the site supervisors for their guidance and support of our students. We were also happy that Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis could be present as the nine 2008 Lewis Scholars were recognized and received their certificates. Our 2008 Lewis Fellow, is Dr. Clare Sullivan, Assistant Professor of Spanish, who will be traveling to Spain to complete her project on "Teaching Translation." Last spring we initiated a lecture series to feature the professors who have been awarded the Richard and Constance Lewis Fellowship. This year, our guest speaker was Dr. Gregory Hutcheson, Associate Professor of Spanish and recipient of the 2006 Lewis Fellowship. In his engaging lecture, "Counter-Tourism in Córdoba," Dr. Hutcheson shared his insights into the ways that Spain's Islamic past is accommodated in contemporary Spanish culture. With the inauguration of our LALS Spring Showcase, the Lewis Fellow Lecture will be presented each year as part of our celebration. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the faculty and community members of the LALS Committee for all their support. – Submitted by Rhonda Buchanan

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events



“Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Policy, Practice and Activism”

On January 25, 2008, Dr. Tom Hansen, spoke to students and faculty on “Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Policy, Practice and Activism.” Dr. Hansen is the Director of the Mexican Solidarity Network, which is a US-based organization that supports grassroots international alliances to promote democracy and economic and political justice through activism and study abroad programs. Dr. Hansen spoke about the history of immigration patterns and US immigration policy. He argued that reforms need to target the most significant sectors of immigrants, such as better regulation of agricultural production and granting amnesty to undocumented immigrants. Dr. Hansen brought to light many important points surrounding these debates and engaged in a lively discussion with the audience. His visit was sponsored by LALS and the Department of Political Science. - Submitted by Dr. Tricia Gray

Film Director Christopher Moore presents his Documentary Film on Hugo Chávez



Traveling from the shantytowns of Caracas to tiny pueblos in the Amazonian frontier, the film *¿Puedo Hablar? May I Speak?* undertook the grandiose task of taking the cultural pulse of a nation during a contentious election year. Using the seemingly harmless question, “What is Venezuela to you?” as a segue for meaningful discourse; the creators of the film opened the Pandora’s Box of passion, politics and polarization that is modern day Venezuela. As the son of a Venezuelan immigrant, the movie stirred long forgotten memories of a childhood trip to a mysterious nation full of hypnotic rhythms, exotic foods, and tropical breezes. With the opportunity to speak after the screening with one of the film-makers, Christopher Moore, I learned that my father’s homeland is under the spell of a charismatic president whose own democratic, populist rhetoric contradicts his authoritarian policies and power plays. I left realizing that the region’s mystery continues to fascinate and educate me in ways I’m still discovering. The screening was sponsored by the LALS Program, the Honors Program, the McConnell Center, the Institute for Democracy and Development and the Department of Political Science. – Submitted by Antonio Carpio, LAS Minor and Spanish Major.

Dr. Phyllis Zatlin Presents “In Theatrical Translation, There is No Lack of Conflict”



Dr. Phyllis Zatlin

On February 22, 2008, Dr. Phyllis Zatlin, Professor of Spanish and Coordinator of the Translation and Interpretation Services at Rutgers University, presented the keynote Spanish lecture of the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900. She spoke about the nuances of theatrical translation to the students, professors, and members of the community. After highlighting the fact that translation is “not easy,” Dr. Zatlin shared anecdotes and stories of her experiences and the challenges that she has faced as a translator. She talked about finding the word “foxy” (fox), as a translation to “zorra” in Spanish, as well as the other subtleties that she has come across in over twenty years of working in this area. Dr. Zatlin has written many books about theatrical translation, in addition to having translated many plays that have appeared onstage. She shared the difficulties of maintaining a literal translation, the importance of adaptation, and different scenarios in which she has been challenged as a translator. Her presentation was intriguing as she shared the different “shades” of theatrical translation. This event was sponsored by the LALS Program and the Louisville Conference.– Submitted by Neil Gupta, Latino Studies Minor and Spanish Major

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events



Social Justice and Engaged Scholarship Symposium

As an architect from Ecuador, and graduate student in the Department of Sociology, I looked forward to attending the Social Justice Symposium on April 3-4, 2008. For me, the mission of an architect goes beyond building physical spaces, to building communities with and for people. As I attended the sessions of the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research Symposium, I was encouraged to know that other professionals, in different areas of knowledge, work towards improving the life of diverse groups of people. Analyzing the factors that perpetuate inequality and proposing ideas and practices to remedy it is not an easy task. In the plenary lecture, "Social Justice and the Engaged University," Dr. Steven Rosenstone spoke of the present crisis of access to higher education and gave concrete examples of ways in which students, faculty, and departments can make a positive difference on campus and in our community. I believe that all the participants in the symposium shared a common goal: the motivation to make scholarship an instrument to promote a more just and inclusive society. – Submitted by Lorena Toro, LAS Graduate Certificate and M.A. in Sociology

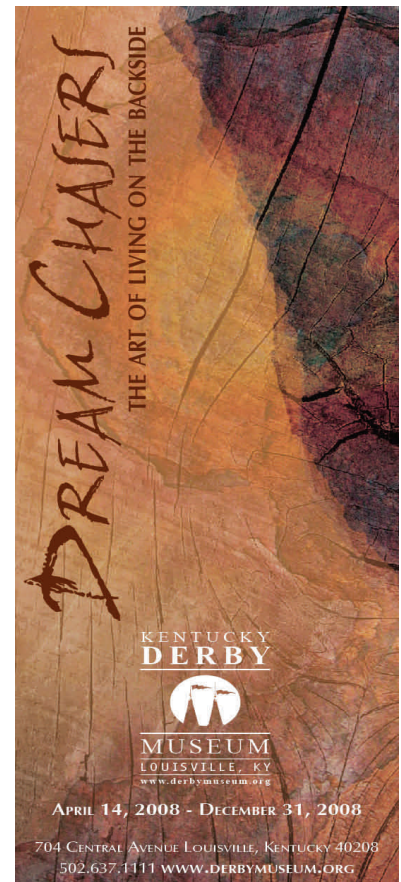
Painting by UofL Scholar-in-Residence Luci Mistratov

Dream Chasers: The Art of Living on the Backside

In the summer of 2006, the LALS Program answered the call for help from the curators of the Kentucky Derby Museum and the Klein Family Learning Center to collaborate on a project that would feature the art and culture of those working on the Backside of Churchill Downs. We established an internship at the Klein Family Learning Center, and students volunteered with ESL classes, art classes, the organization of the KFLC Library, and other activities. These students, as well as several other LALS students, formed a team that conducted interviews with the workers on the Backside, and then transcribed the tapes. Some of the interviews were conducted in Spanish and then translated to English so that quotes could be incorporated in the exhibit. We worked with the curators and the KFLC for nearly two years, and on April 14, 2008 several of the LALS students who collaborated on the Dream Chasers exhibit and I attended the gala opening, and we were thrilled to see the end result. The experience has been a rewarding and enriching one for all of us, and one which we hope will lead to future collaborations that will enable us to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our community. I would like to thank the curators for the gracious acknowledgement to the LALS program, which included photos of the LALS students who interviewed the artists and collaborated on this project:

Nathan Bird - Graduate Certificate in LAS; M.A. in Spanish
Caroline Conner - Graduate Certificate in LAS; M.A. in Spanish
William LaCap - Graduate Certificate in LAS; M.A. in Spanish
Laine López-Ortega - LAS Minor; Spanish Major; presently Graduate Certificate in LAS; M.A. in Spanish
Sarah Oesterly - LAS Minor; Anthropology and Art Major
Mary Santo - LAS Minor; Spanish Major
Maria Taylor - Graduate Certificate in LAS; M.A. in Spanish

- Submitted by Rhonda Buchanan



The exhibit runs from
April 14 - December 31, 2008

**LAS Graduate
Certificate 2007-2008**

Carol Reiner
María Taylor
Lorena Toro



**LAS Minor Graduates
2007-2008**

Antonio Carpio
Toya Huckleby-Rodríguez
Laine López-Ortega
Robin Malony
Juanita Scott
April Smith
Tiffany Traugher Campbell
Carmen Waga
Christá Whaley

2008 Lewis Scholars

Sheila Bates, Mexico
Sarah Becker, Spain
Erin Grace, Panama
Brett McGrath, Guatemala
Whitney Nash, Belize
Alex Reidinger, Spain
Emily Rigdon, Peru
Nicole Sanderman, Honduras
Jharin Stowers, Spain

2008 Lewis Fellow

Dr. Clare Sullivan,
Assistant Professor
of Spanish
“Teaching Translation,”
Spain



The Communication Department Joins LALS for the 6th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panamá

¡Viva Panamá! The 2008 LALS Panamá Program will take place from May 1st until May 31st under the direction of Berta Calvert, a



UofL Spanish Lecturer and native Panamanian, and two professors from the Communication Department, Joy Hart and Margaret D’Silva. This year, thanks to the generosity of the College of Arts and Sciences, 33 students will be participating in the program as Panama Scholars. We will take courses in Panamanian culture, Spanish, and Intercultural Communication, volunteer for community service projects, and enjoy planned excursions in the area. Working as the Student Assistant to the LALS Program this year, I have taken an active role in promoting the program, and I feel so fortunate to be included in this group. I know that the experience will be an invaluable addition to my university classroom education. As a non-traditional student, with children attending high school and college, I am amazed and so excited that I am able to participate in this year’s program. With our world becoming smaller and more interconnected, I know how

important it is to discover and learn about other cultures, and learning first-hand is the only way to truly appreciate the differences and the similarities between us. – Submitted by Mary Santo, LAS Minor and Spanish Major

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! Springtime has arrived in Louisville, and with Derby just around the corner, I would like to invite everyone to visit the Kentucky Derby Museum to see “Dream Chasers: The Art of Living on the Backside,” an exhibit featuring beautiful artwork by employees of the Backside. Over the past two years, our LALS students collaborated with the curators of the Ky Derby Museum and the director of the Klein Family Learning Center, interviewing artists, transcribing the interviews, and translating those that were conducted in Spanish, to include in the exhibit. Several of these students conducted internships at the KFLC on the Backside.

This spring, the members of the LALS Committee decided to combat the “Kentucky Budget Blues” with a grand celebration of our students and all those who have supported the LALS program over the past eight years. So many people attended this year’s event that there was not even a tostito left from the delicious reception, which was prepared for us by The Mayan Café. We plan to make the LALS Spring Showcase an annual event, and next year we’ll be sure to triple the food order!

I wish everyone a lovely spring and a fantastic summer,

Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American and Latino Studies



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Latino Studies**

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