

Spring 2011

Issue 17



Latin American and Latino Studies Celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary and Pays Tribute to Dr. Clarence Talley, Founding Member of the LALS Program



Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis congratulate the 2011 Lewis Scholars and 2011 Lewis Fellow, Dr. Mary Makris (CML), along with Dr. Clare Sullivan (CML) and Dr. Fabián Crespo (Anthropology)

LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

# Caminos

On April 6, 2011, students, faculty, staff, and community members attended the 4th Annual LALS Showcase to celebrate students graduating with LALS minors and the LALS Graduate Certificate, the 2011 Lewis Scholars and Fellows, the 2011 Panama Scholars, and LALS interns and their site supervisors. This year's celebration marked the 10th Anniversary of the LALS Program. In the fall of 2000, Dr. Joy Carew led a committee whose task was to create a Latin American Studies Program. I served on that committee, along with several other founding members: Professors Julie Bunck, Lisa Markowitz, and Clarence Talley. In the spring of 2001, the first students declared a minor in Latin American Studies. Given its interdisciplinary nature, LAS was housed under Liberal Studies, and since the program's inception, Janna Tajibaeva, Program Coordinator for Liberal Studies, has served as the LALS Program Assistant. For ten years, Janna has created our colorful *Caminos* newsletters, processed scholarships, and handled budgetary matters, among many other services. As of July 1, 2011, Janna will devote her efforts full-time to the Liberal Studies Program and the A&S Arts and Culture Partnership Initiative. The LALS program is very grateful for her many years of support and we wish her much success in the future.

At our event, we recognized six 2011 Lewis Scholars and the 2011 Lewis Fellow, Dr. Mary Makris, Professor of Spanish (CML), and the 2010 Lewis Fellows, Prof. Mary Carothers (Fine Arts) and Dr. Lisa Markowitz (Anthropology) gave fascinating presentations about their research trips to Panama and Peru. Since 2001, 93 students have studied abroad as Lewis Scholars and 12 professors have conducted research as Lewis Fellows with the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis. We also congratulated the 26 Panama Scholars who will be participating in the 9th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama this May. To date, 184 students have participated in the program as Panama Scholars. We also recognized our LALS Interns and their site supervisors, among them Dr. Whitney Nash of the Kentucky Racing Health Services Center, Marianne Semones of Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and Amy Wisotsky, who served as the site supervisor for our newest LALS internship site, Brown-Forman.

On January 28, 2011, Dr. Clarence Talley, Professor of Sociology and founding member of the LALS Steering Committee passed away, leaving a huge hole in the hearts of all of us who had the privilege of knowing him. Dr. Talley helped to create the Latin American Studies minor, the Graduate Certificate in



Dr. Clarence Talley at the 2010 LALS Spring Showcase  
Photo by Dr. Gabriela Nuñez

LALS, and the Latino Studies minor, and was very supportive of our latest development to create a major in Latin American and Latino Studies. Dr. Talley served as an integral member of our LALS Steering Committee for more than a decade, and before she became Chair of the Pan African Studies Department, his wife Dr. Theresa Rajack-Talley also served for many years on our committee. In her letter to our committee presented at our Showcase, she wrote about her husband: "His contributions to the LALS program were a demonstration of his commitment to make this world a more humane and inclusive one." We have posted a tribute to Dr. Talley on our LALS webpage and we invite faculty, students and community members to send us comments to post. We have also posted information about the scholarship created in his name. Although Clarence Talley can no longer grace us with his remarkable presence, his spirit will live on in all of us who had the good fortune of calling him a friend. I know that he touched the lives of everyone who had the honor of working with him and enriched the minds of all the students who had the privilege of taking his classes.

-- Submitted by Rhonda Buchanan

# Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

## Dr. José David Saldívar Presents Two Keynote Lectures at the 39th Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900



Dr. José David Saldívar with one of his former students,  
Dr. Gabriela Nuñez

Dr. José David Saldívar, Professor of Comparative Literature at Stanford University, presented the Spanish Keynote address, “The Outernational Origins of Chicano/a Literature” on February 25, 2011. In this presentation, co-sponsored by the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, LALS, and the Louisville Conference, Dr. Saldívar discussed the anti-imperialist writings of the seminal Chicano scholar, Américo Paredes, when he was stationed in Japan as a journalist for the U.S. army during WWII. The following day, Dr. Saldívar presented “Conjectures on Americanness and Junot Díaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*,” the Closing Keynote, which was co-sponsored by the English Department, LALS, and the Louisville Conference. His reading of the Pulitzer Prize winning novel focused on the novel’s copious footnotes to rethink Díaz’s conception of “fuku” within a theory of planetary world literature, or Americanness. This concept, Saldívar suggests, is one that we today know as globalization, but is transnational, cutting across the American hemisphere, and can function as a way to critically study colonial power in the

past and in the future. It was a joy for me as one of Dr. Saldívar’s former students to introduce him to UofL. It continues to surprise me that although he is such a celebrated scholar whose work has changed the fields of American Studies, Border Studies, and Chicano Studies, he is so easily approachable and sincerely engaged in his students’ work and ideas. When I was leaving graduate school, I expressed to him that I was grateful for his generosity—his time, his feedback on my work, and his supportive words about my potential as a future researcher and professor — and he responded that it was important to prepare a healthy number of professors-in-training who will continue the work in Latino and Ethnic Studies. That conversation made it clear to me that he is not only interested in his own academic achievements, but also heavily invested in the future of the field. – Submitted by Dr. Gabriela Nuñez

## LALS Celebrates Carnaval, Panamanian Style!

On Mardi Gras, March 8, 2011, in the Humanities Quad, the Department of Classical and Modern Languages hosted UofL’s first ever “Carnaval Around the World Celebration” to display the beauty and pageantry of how carnaval is celebrated not only in the United States but also worldwide. The participants, many of whom were dressed in native carnaval garb and others with colorful masks and beads, welcomed the hundreds of visitors who included students, staff, professors and well-wishers that came through every hour to partake in the festivities. The event featured flamenco dancing by Camino Flamenco and live entertainment by Appalachian. Martial arts demonstrations and a Chinese performance were also part of the day’s festivities. Palates were enticed with mouthwatering delicacies from Brazil, Latin America, China and Russia, to name a few. While admiring the host of beautiful display boards that depicted photos and information about carnaval celebrations around the world, those present had their names written in Chinese and Arabic. The LALS booth featured books, video footage from Carnaval in Las Tablas, the capital city of Los Santos province in Panama, and recitations of *copla* verses celebrating the two rival streets in Tablas: *Calle Arriba* and *Calle Abajo*. We would like to extend a special thanks to Spanish Professor Berta Calvert and students Nicolas Lu and María Carolina Candanedo for sharing with such enthusiasm how Carnaval is celebrated in their native Panama. – Submitted by Nicola Whitley, LALS Graduate Certificate Student



Panamanians Prof. Berta Calvert, Nicolas Lu, and María Carolina Candanedo at the  
LALS booth with LALS students, Natalie Schuetz and Lauren Weaver

## The 17<sup>th</sup> Latin American Film Festival: Crossing Borders/Border Crossing Features a Campus Visit by Guatemalan Film Director Mario Rosales

On Thursday, March 10, 2011, the 17<sup>th</sup> Latin American Film Festival, presented by the Spanish Section of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, with support from the Ekstrom Library, the Office of International Diversity and Outreach Programs and LALS, culminated with an exclusive film screening of *El regreso de Lencho*, followed by a discussion with the director Mario Rosales. The following day at the Cultural Center, Mr. Rosales spoke about his experience shooting this controversial film in Guatemala and the dangers he risked making a film that documents state persecution and graffiti art resistance in postwar Guatemala. The film is scheduled to be released soon, but in the meantime, viewers may watch a trailer at: <http://www.elregresodelencho.com/>. Other films shown in the Elaine Chao Auditorium during the months of February and March were *Paraíso Travel* (Colombia), *La ciudad* (USA), and *Las cartas de Alou* (Spain). -Submitted by Natalie Schuetz, Latino Studies Minor



# Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

## LALS and the Hite Art Institute Co-sponsor “Feminist Art in Mexico: Paula Santiago and the Abject Body of the Nation,” a Lecture by Jamie Ratliff

On March 23rd, Jamie Ratliff, a UofL Doctoral Student in Art History and LALS Graduate Certificate, gave a presentation on her research about Paula Santiago's art as it comments on Mexican society's portrayal of women and the female body. Santiago's sculptures are related to two categories of art that developed over the past forty years: feminist interventions in bodily discourse and psychoanalytic contributions to abject art. In the lecture, Ratliff traced the history of the image of the female body in Mexican visual culture, noting its objectification and symbolic interpretations, both positive and negative. After establishing this context, she showed and analyzed the works of Santiago, who uses unconventional media, including her own blood and hair, to make hollow, garment-inspired sculptures that draw attention to the female body while underscoring the dehumanization and invisibility of women. The result is visually arresting and thought-provoking, and made all the more significant by Ratliff's interpretation. This lecture was co-sponsored by LALS and the Hite Art Institute and attended by faculty and students of Spanish, LALS, and Fine Arts. -- Submitted by Jhalak Dholakia, LAS Minor.



Paula Santiago, Ch'ulel (Soul), 2000

## LALS Interns Share their Experiences at the “Conversations on Community Engagement Series”

On Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dr. Rhonda Buchanan was the guest speaker for the “Conversations on Community Engagement Series,” which was sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Community Engagement and held in Ekstrom Library. After providing an overview of the LALS internships, Dr. Buchanan invited the following five LALS interns to speak about their internships and the mutual benefits of volunteering for organizations that serve the local Latino community: Tyler McChane and Natalie Schuetz (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana), Nicola Whitley and Megan Reeves (Kentucky Racing Health Services Center), Sarah Arenas (Americana Community Center) and Hannah Joiner (Kentucky Refugee Ministries). Dr. Dan Hall, Vice President of the Office for Community Engagement, remarked afterwards: “I was really impressed by the richness of the learning experience through these internships and the impact each of you is making in the community and in the lives of so many throughout our community.”

## Dr. Renee Campbell Commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Louisville Clothesline Project



Clothesline Project Display in the Red Barn at the International Women's Day Celebration

On March 28, 2011, Dr. Renee Campbell, the President of Wesley House Services and a founding mother of the Clothesline Project in both Louisville and Ghana spoke with inspiring and empowering words in a lecture that was “A Celebration of Advocacy and Healing for Women.” An approved domestic violence and abuse therapist, and alum of the Kent School of Social Work, Dr. Campbell founded the Clothesline Project with seven other women in Louisville 20 years ago to make the community aware of the widespread abuse of women and give victims of abuse a voice. One in three females and one in eight males are abused before the age of 18, often by someone who is familiar to them,

rather than a stranger. The Project consists of small group sessions in which victims are given the opportunity to decorate a t-shirt and talk about their experiences, if they wish. In each session a licensed, experienced therapist is present in order to promote a safe environment. This lecture was accompanied by two Clothesline Project displays, the first at the Red Barn for International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and the second in the Ekstrom Library Auditorium, March 21-28<sup>th</sup>. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Campbell conducted a therapeutic decorating session in the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice in Ekstrom Library. In her lecture, which was co-sponsored by the Kent School of Social Work and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Dr. Campbell spoke about how abuse affects Latinas in the United States. The Wesley House, which she directs, is located on Preston Highway, a corridor where a large population of Latinos reside. Through her work at the Wesley House, Dr. Campbell has found that many Latinas are victims of abuse because they do not know how to navigate the system in the U.S. and because they are often threatened with deportation. She explained that Latina victims of abuse are hesitant to talk about private matters, but fortunately, the Clothesline Project offers them support and encouragement throughout their healing process. — Submitted by Brittny Schadler, LAS Minor

## 2011 LALS Graduates

### Latin American Studies Minors

Steven McDonald (Dec. '10)  
Jesse Payne  
Michael Razeeq  
Megan Reeves  
Alex Riedinger  
Brittney Schadler  
Erica Summe



### Latino Studies Minors

Sarah Arenas  
Maggie Whittle  
Jenna Williams

## LALS Graduate Certificate

Sheila Bates (Dec. '10)  
Kathryn Dennis (Dec. '10)  
Tara Metts (Dec. '10)

Abby Corbett  
Ryan Hite  
Erin McCoy  
Patrick Ridge



## 2011 Lewis Scholars



Jhalak Dholakia, Panama  
Alexandra Farrell, Spain  
Valerie Gibbs, Spain  
Akash Gupta, Guatemala  
Eric Riedinger, Spain  
Lauren Weaver, Nicaragua

## 2011 Lewis Fellow

Dr. Mary Makris,  
Department of Classical and  
Modern Languages  
“Multiculturalism and  
Diversity in Contemporary  
Spanish Children’s  
Literature” (Spain)



## **LALS Assists Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana with a Campus Campaign**

As Louisville’s Latino community continues to grow, non-profits such as Big Brothers Big Sisters are working to extend their services to the nearly 40,000 Latino residents in the area. Through their Hispanic Mentoring Initiative, BBBS is reaching out to families and volunteers, many of whom are unaware of the services that they provide. Thanks to the LALS internship program, I have had the opportunity to become involved in this work. While interning at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana, I have gained valuable experience by applying my Spanish skills and learning about Latino culture and the challenges that face immigrants to Louisville. In addition to volunteering at the BBBS office and area churches, such as St. Rita’s, I have also worked with Dr. Buchanan and Natalie Schuetz, UofL’s first BBBS intern, on a UofL campus recruitment campaign. With so many bright and enthusiastic students, our campus is full of potential. We’d like to use that to make a positive impact on our community by encouraging individual students and student groups to volunteer. Visit the LALS webpage and click on BBBSKY to see how you can get involved! — Submitted by Tyler McChane, LAS Minor

## *Desde los Cuatro Caminos*



## *From the Crossroads*

*¡Saludos amigos!*

It’s hard to believe that the LALS Program is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Our 4th Annual LALS Spring Showcase provided the perfect opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made over the past decade: the creation of the LALS minors and LALS Graduate Certificate, the expansion of our community engagement locally and internationally, the success of our Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, and the many accomplishments of our students. For example, Erica Summe has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to Argentina, following in the footsteps of Boris Yelin (LAS Minor, Class 2010), who is currently completing a Fulbright in Argentina. Cynthia Martínez (LALS Graduate Certificate 2010) just learned that she has been granted a Fulbright Fellowship to teach English in Brazil next year. Brittney Schadler was selected for Teach for America’s outreach program to Appalachia, and Jenna Williams received a fellowship from Illinois State University for the Peace Corps Masters International Program. Congratulations to all our students! There is not enough space here to mention all the honors and awards that have been bestowed upon our students, but I invite everyone to visit our website and read about LALS Students in the Spotlight and our Alumni News.

At our Showcase, we also celebrated the life of Dr. Clarence Talley, who helped to create our program and supported each stage of its development. His spirit will be with us as we establish a B.A. degree in LALS, which we hope to offer students by fall 2012.

I am very excited to report that LALS will have its very own office space on the third floor of the newly renovated Stevenson Hall. We hope to move in before classes begin in August, and we invite everyone to stop by and visit us. Now that the semester is nearly over, it’s time to get ready for our 9th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, which I will be directing with assistance from Dr. Al Futrell. We leave for Panama with 26 students, right after Derby, which allows time for everyone to place their bets!

Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American and Latino Studies

“Like” our NEW LALS Fan Page on Facebook! Please visit the LALS webpage for more information.



Latin American & Latino Studies

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