



On April 5th, students, faculty, and community members gathered in the Shumaker Research Building for the annual celebration of graduating LALS students, interns, Panama Scholars, and Lewis Scholars. This year's program was extra special as we celebrated 15 years since the first UofL student, Jenessa Bryan, graduated with a minor in LAS. Latin American Studies was created in 2001 by a committee of professors, which included Dr. Rhonda Buchanan, who was named Program Director in 2002. The program

was housed under Liberal Studies for ten years until 2012, when a BA degree in LALS was approved. Dr. Buchanan thanked Dr. John Hale, Director of Liberal Studies, for his support and Dr. Janna Tajibaeva, who for 10 years did double-duty serving as the Program Coordinator for Liberal Studies and LALS. The name of the program was changed to Latin American and Latino Studies in 2007 and the program now offers three academic programs: an LALS Major, Minor, and Graduate Certificate. Since 2002, 191 students have graduated with degrees in LALS. Many of these students have participated in the Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, co-sponsored by LALS and the Department of Communication. Since 2003, 333 students have traveled to Panama as Panama Scholars. And since 2001, 194 students have studied abroad in Latin America or Spain as Lewis Scholars and 21 professors have conducted research projects abroad, thanks to the tremendous generosity of our wonderful donors, Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis, pictured above with Raven Byars, a 2016 Lewis Scholar who gave a fantastic presentation about her semester in Lima, Peru.

Community engagement has always been the cornerstone of the LALS Program and an LALS internship is a requirement for undergraduates and an elective for graduate students. Most students conduct the internship in Louisville at an organization that serves the local Latino community, but some opt to volunteer abroad. Mr. Ben Ruiz, a long-standing member of the LALS Steering Committee and recipient of numerous awards for his service to the Latino community, introduced the 2016-2017 LALS interns to the audience and recognized the site supervisors from Adelante Hispanic Achievers (AHA), Doors to Hope, Kentucky Racing Health Services Center, and Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

Mara Maldonado, Director of AHA, surprised Dr. Buchanan with a Certificate of Appreciation for sending LALS interns to Adelante since the inception of that program 11 years ago. The surprises continued when Ben Ruiz presented Dr. Buchanan with the Commission of Kentucky Colonel in recognition of her contributions to the university and the community in the 15 years she has served as LALS Director.



Dr. Fernando Operé Presents a Poetry Recital and Lecture



On February 9th, students of Dr. Buchanan's SPAN 405 Introduction to Literary Analysis class had the pleasure of listening to the Spanish poet Dr. Fernando Operé, from the University of Virginia, talk about the value of poetry and recite poems from his many volumes of poetry, including his latest book, *Liturgia del atardecer*. Dr. Operé expressed with passion the importance of art and the courage it takes to choose to be positive rather than accept the easy path of destruction. I was impressed by his words "cuando creamos, crecemos," "when we create, we grow."

Dr. Operé also expressed the importance of travel and showed us various destinations that provided inspiration for his poems. He told us that one of the greatest values of poetry is that it raises questions that cause reflection and evaluation. It was a pleasure to have such an engaging and intriguing speaker in our classroom. —Raven Byars, LALS Major

After his morning poetry recital, Dr. Operé presented a lecture, co-sponsored by the Cultural Center's Hispanic Latin@ Initiatives, on "Captives: Ignored Protagonists of the History of the Americas," the topic of his most recent scholarly book. Dr. Operé shared stories of captives from Canada to Patagonia and made an interesting point that many of the captives did not wish to return to their homes when given the option to do so, particularly women who experienced a new wave of freedom while living among indigenous people. Dr. Operé also encouraged students to consider participating in UVA's Study Abroad Program at the Universidad de Valencia. LALS students have already done so and received scholarships. Check out the website for more information: <http://valencia.virginia.edu/> —Taylor Bryant, LALS Major

LALS Interns Volunteer at Doors to Hope and Adelante Hispanic Achievers



As an LALS intern for Doors to Hope, I perform an array of services for this non-profit organization, located near campus. This spring semester, I have provided after school tutoring, mentoring, and homework help for Latino students ranging in age from 4 to 10 years old, as well as supplementary English language assistance for children and adults. I have built an incredible bond with this caring Latino community and love giving back to their community, particularly by working with the children. This internship has also given me a GREAT opportunity to practice my Spanish speaking and comprehension skills! I couldn't ask for a better group of students and will miss them when the internship ends this month.

— Taylor McKnight, LALS Minor

As an intern for Adelante Hispanic Achievers, I tutored students at Lassiter Middle School in math, science, and language arts. On Saturdays, I worked with high schoolers, accompanying them on visits to universities and informing them about financial opportunities available to Latino students in the form of grants, scholarships, and financial aid. Not only have I helped with their academic preparation, I have also created a great bond with all these students. Most feel comfortable asking me for advice on just about anything; I loved the feeling that this has given me, knowing that I am needed and looked up to as a role model. I appreciate that I was able to share with these students my own story of how I achieved my goals and am now about to graduate from UofL. I am so grateful for the inspiring students I tutored and mentored. I know they will become everything they aspire to be! —María Gómez, LALS Minor



Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

LALS Club Assists Doors to Hope for the Mayor's Give a Day



MAYOR'S WEEK OF SERVICE
APRIL 15-23, 2017

Since 2014, the University of Louisville's Latin American and Latino Studies Program has been providing Doors to Hope with LALS interns and student volunteers who work with children on homework and reading skills, and with computer and English as a Second Language classes for adults. Doors to Hope has personally touched my heart in a big way. As the LALS Club President, LALS Student Program Assistant, and future LALS intern, I have been



volunteering with Doors to Hope since October 2016. I would not have known about this awesome way to give back to the community if not for the recruitment of volunteers for Doors to Hope by Dr. Rhonda Buchanan, the LALS Program Director.

The LALS Program focuses on learning about the diverse people, culture, history and politics of Latin America and Latinos in the U.S. One of the courses for a major, minor, or graduate certificate is an internship, and many students choose to volunteer at Doors to Hope. An important part of our program is giving back to the local Latino community. Since I have been volunteering, many of my friends, fellow club members, and service fraternity brothers have joined me and have been just as blessed by the dedication and love that goes into this amazing program. On April 21st, the LALS Club, Alpha Phi Omega-Delta Theta Chapter, and a group from the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth will converge at Doors to Hope to participate in the 2017 Mayor's Give a Day of Service. We invite others to join us at from 9:00 to 5:00 at Doors to Hope, located at 2914 S. Third Street in Louisville, across from the James Patterson Baseball Stadium. If you have free time this summer and would like to volunteer, please contact Lorena Miller, Director of Doors to Hope, at lorena@doorstohope.com. Volunteering here has been the highlight of my college experience and has given me the opportunity to practice Spanish and learn more about Hispanic culture. I highly encourage all to get involved. You don't need to speak Spanish to do so! For more information, visit www.doorstohope.com.

— Taylor Bryant, LALS Major

Farewell to Natalie Schuetz, LALS Program Coordinator, Senior

As the semester comes to a close, it is time to bid farewell to Natalie Schuetz, who has served as the LALS Program Coordinator, Senior since July 2012, and as the LALS Program Assistant from August 2009 until June 2012. Natalie graduated in the fall of 2011 from UofL with a triple major in Spanish, Communication, and Humanities and a minor in Latino Studies. A former Panama Scholar, Natalie created all the publicity for the Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama and maintained the LALS website and Facebook page. She also created all of the LALS event fliers, calendars, and our colorful LALS *Caminos* newsletters. This past year she did triple duty and served as Program Coordinator for LALS, MEIS, and PJCT!

With her fondness for travel, Natalie has landed the perfect job as an Executive Travel Assistant for The Society of International Railway Travelers in Louisville. We wish her well as she trains to become a Certified Travel Advisor and thank her for her many years of service!



2017 Lewis Scholars and Fellow

Shannon Barnes: Costa Rica
 Kyle Hornback: Costa Rica
 Kayla Kress: Spain
 Megan Lenahan: Costa Rica
 Taylor McKnight: Spain
 Dr. Lara Kelland & Francisco Javier
 Bonilla-García: Puerto Rico



LALS Graduating Students

LALS Majors

Alice Darling
 Carlos Felico-Garrido
 Vivian Doza (Dec. 2016)
 Michael Stevens (Aug. 2016)

LALS Graduate Certificates

Tiffany Hippe
 Maggie Whittle Madrick

LALS Graduating Students

LALS Minors

María Gómez
 Carrie Hall
 Alicia Humphrey
 Mariah Levine
 James Logan Zechella
 Hayley Brown (Dec. 2016)
 Art Parola (Dec. 2016)



2017 Panama Scholars



Amala Ankem
 Colin Beach
 Taylor Bryant
 Christopher Clark
 Molly Emdee
 Joseph Henry

Bridgette Mack
 Zane Meiners
 Mary Mitchell
 Natasha Mundkur
 Sarah Nicholas
 McClain Owens

Nely Sepulveda
 Kiara Seth
 Juliana Spanova
 Colton Stinger
 Alison Turner
 Karla Wilder

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

Saludos amigos! This year marks the end of fifteen years of service as the Director of the LALS Program, and looking back I must say that the greatest joy for me has been serving so many wonderful students. It's the most rewarding part of my job to advise them when they first begin one of our degree programs and finally see them graduate with LALS cords around their necks at commencement, often Panama Scholar cords as well. At this year's Commencement we will be celebrating the achievements of all our LALS graduating students, with special kudos going out to LALS major Alice Darling, recipient of the Phi Beta Kappa Award, LALS minor Mariah Levine, recipient of the David Hershberg Award as the outstanding graduating Spanish major, Logan Zechella, recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship to Colombia, and LALS Graduate Certificate student Tiffany Hippe, recipient of the award given to the Outstanding Student graduating with an MA in Spanish! Also congrats to our LALS alums: after completing a Fulbright in Indonesia, Shelby Lawson has just accepted a position as the Research Coordinator of the Fulbright ETA Coordinator in Indonesia, and Orlando González has been accepted into Officer Candidate School and hopes to be commissioned an Officer in the KY Army National Guard! On May 8th, 18 new Panama Scholars will be heading to Panama, the day after the Cinco de Mayo Celebration at 4th Street Live. Even though she'll be leaving for Panama the next day, Taylor Bryant, our enthusiastic LALS Club President, is organizing a small army of volunteers to assist with the many activities planned for the Cinco de Mayo celebration, the last event of the Kentucky Derby Festival, held on Sunday, May 7th. At 3pm, the recipients of the Sueño Centenario 100 Dreamers Latino Scholarships will be recognized. LALS is proud to have assisted with the scholarship initiative, which was organized by Ben Ruiz, a valuable member of the LALS Steering Committee who has made it possible for the LALS Program to be a part of so many community engagement projects over the years. I wish all our students and Natalie Schuetz, our LALS Program Coordinator, much success as they begin a new chapter in their lives. I hope you will keep in touch.

¡Muy buena suerte! Rhonda Buchanan, LALS Director



Latin American & Latino Studies



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