



## A Panoramic View of Louisville's Sister City La Plata, Argentina

On October 18th, Dr. Celeste Dalfovo, a Visiting Scientist this semester in the UofL Department of Chemistry, provided a fascinating overview of the many similarities between Louisville and our Sister City La Plata. Both are river cities that have endured floods. Their populations are similar in size and both cities enjoy celebrating their diverse cultures. Horse racing, microbreweries, and soccer are popular in both La Plata and Louisville. La Universidad Nacional de La Plata, where Dr. Dalfovo conducts research, has a similar student population and equally strong scientific reputation as UofL. At the end of her lecture, Dr. Dalfovo announced that a local artist, Sheila Smith, will be donating two of her paintings to UofL. That announcement was followed by another when Mr. Ben Ruiz read a statement by Mayor Fischer proclaiming October 18, 2017 María Celeste Dalfovo Day in Louisville!



## Annual LALS Heritage Lecture —“Cuba: Today and Tomorrow”



On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Dr. Jorge Domínguez, the Antonio Madero Professor for the Study of Mexico at Harvard University and Chair of The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, presented the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual LALS Heritage Lecture. The ambiguous title of his compelling presentation, allowed Dr. Domínguez to speak about Cuba from an academic and personal perspective, a combination that led to a truly fascinating discussion of Cuba's history in the last century and its prospective future. Dr. Domínguez included facts about Cuba's current social and economic state: the country's declining population, its inability to feed itself, its tendency to send its workforce abroad, and the current political situation following Fidel Castro's death. In spite of the sobering facts that Dr. Domínguez shared about his native country, he brilliantly maintained an undertone of optimism as he brought the lecture to a close, leaving his listeners filled with both knowledge and hope for a better future for Cuba. At his morning presentation, “A Conversation on Latin American Politics,” Mr. Ben Ruiz surprised Dr. Domínguez with a proclamation from the Mayor's Office that declared September 27, 2017, Jorge Domínguez Day in Louisville. His visit was co-sponsored by LALS, the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research; the IDEP Office; the Cultural Center Hispanic/Latino Initiatives; First Year Initiatives; the Grawemeyer World Order Awards; HLFSA; El *Kentubano*; The Liberal Studies Project; and the Dept. of Political Science. --Hayley Scholl, Spanish Major

## 6th Annual SoFo Day of the Dead Celebration



For the past 6 years, LALS has co-sponsored the Annual South Fourth Street Day of the Dead Celebration, assisting with children's activities: face painting, coloring paper puppets, creating tissue flowers, and decorating sugar skulls. We are grateful to the many awesome volunteers who helped us—the LALS Club, Dr. Buchanan's Spanish 404 class, the National Service Fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, St. Francis High School, and Sacred Heart Academy. Participants and volunteers were able to shop for authentic Day of the Dead merchandise in the decorated shops and join the incredible candlelight vigil march, led by Father David Sánchez who blessed the altars. The event featured live dancers and music, authentic Mexican food, and many other activities, and was co-sponsored by Jimador Tequila, Louisville Downtown Partnership, and *Al Día*, among others. —Taylor Bryant, LALS Major, Club President, and Student Assistant

## Updates from our Graduated LALS Majors

The LALS B.A. was approved in 2012, and as part of the Five-Year Program Review, we reached out to our alumni to learn what they have been doing since graduation. Read on!

### Kelcey Robinson



“For almost a year, I’ve been working as a Family Support Worker with the HANDS Program at Family & Children’s, which provides in-home case management and intervention services to first-time and expectant parents. I’m in my second year of the MSSW Program at the Kent School of Social Work at UofL and am currently completing my practicum at NECCO, a private foster care agency. I still volunteer with Adelante Hispanic Achievers, but I’ve recently stepped into a new role as one of their College Access Mentors, providing weekly support to mentees as I help them realize academic and personal goals. I graduated from UofL in May 2016 with a B.A. in LALS and Spanish, and so it’s important to me to use the language. Fortunately, I’m able to practice Spanish as a Family Support Worker.” —Kelcey Robinson, Former LALS Club President and LALS Student Program Assistant.

### Elizabeth Canafax Arnold

“I graduated in 2016 from Xavier University’s School of Nursing with a Master’s degree as a Clinical Nurse Leader. I currently work at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital where I’ve been able to apply what I learned from the LALS program to educate the nursing staff on my floor about certain beliefs and customs of our Hispanic/Latino patients. And I’ve also been able to converse in Spanish with some of the families. Currently, I’m pursuing a doctoral degree at UofL in Nursing Practice and have come full circle focusing back on the Latino population within Louisville! My DNP project investigates caregiver fatigue in the Latino population.”

### Jenni Lohrey

“After attending UofL through the UPS Metropolitan College Program, I was promoted by UPS Airlines to work in the Finance and Accounting Department of the UPS Global Operations Center. As a Senior Administrative Assistant, I’m responsible for payment and contract administration of all the hotels and transportation vendors our UPS pilots use all over the world. The LALS major was an excellent compliment to my B.A. in Spanish. Many classes for the Spanish major fulfilled requirements for LALS, and also broadened the spectrum and diversity of my educational path. It’s very easy to get wrapped up in our daily tasks, lives, and the culture of social media. Focusing your education on breaking through that societal bubble by immersing yourself in other cultures, belief systems, and values makes you appreciate your own life that much more. With the LALS B.A. degree, I was able to become a well-rounded student, but most importantly, a human being who is respectful of all other human beings, regardless of race, culture, or nationality.”

### Julia Nazarenko

“I spent all of last year in Spain, teaching English as a North American Cultural Assistant for the *Auxiliar* Program of the Spanish Ministry of Education, and upon returning to Louisville this summer, I was hired to teach Spanish at Sacred Heart Academy. The LALS program at UofL has given me the opportunity to share my cultural knowledge with my students. Most recently, my students volunteered to help with the children’s activities at the South Fourth Street Day of the Dead Celebration. I might add that for several years, my mother Angela Katz, a Spanish teacher at St. Francis H.S. and a UofL alum, has sent her students to volunteer for the festival as well. Both of us were students of Dr. Buchanan’s!”

### Kelsey Stanley

“I teach Spanish, soccer and yoga to students ages 6 weeks to 12 years at the Goddard School, a private school in the suburbs of Dallas. What I valued most from my LALS degree are the things I learned in the classroom about culture, language and activism. I loved my LALS internship with Sophie Maier at the Iroquois Library. The exposure it gave me to people from different cultures was extremely valuable to my personal growth. At work I’m always the “go-to” person when it comes to holding multicultural events and dealing with cultural issues. We have lots of students whose parents are from India, China, and Mexico, and I serve as an intermediary, helping them deal with cultural and language differences in the classroom. I’m currently working on an Alternative Teaching Certification through Dallas ISD.”

## Updates from our Graduated LALS Majors

### Chase Riddle

"I graduated in 2014 from UofL with a double major in LALS and Political Science. I am completing my final year of law school as an Aston Fellow at The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. The fellowship includes the responsibilities of property management for the Law School student housing, and mentoring the first-year law students who live in student housing. I plan to graduate in May 2018 and take the Kentucky Bar Exam in July 2018. Although I love Washington, D.C. and GW Law, I truly miss being in Louisville, and the LALS events!"

### Rosslyn Steinmetz

"I'm graduating this December with a Master of Science in Gender Research (with Distinction) from the London School of Economics and Political Science, where I studied with the support of the UofL's Mary Churchill Humphrey Centenary Memorial Scholarship. My dissertation examined the campaign for gender parity in Paraguay, which I first encountered while researching the roles and perceptions of women in Paraguayan politics as a U.S. Student Fulbright Research Grantee in 2014."

### Jessica Williams

"From 2015-2017, I worked as an English Teaching Assistant at a bilingual primary school in Madrid, Spain through the Spanish government program *Auxiliares de Conversación*. Since July 2017, I've been working as a bilingual legal assistant at an immigration law firm in Cincinnati, where I use my Spanish on a daily basis to interpret for clients and attorneys, translate documents, and help immigrants file for asylum. I'll work here until early February 2018, when I move to Brazil to begin my ETA Fulbright Grant. In Brazil, I'll be working as a teaching assistant at a public university for the academic school year."



## "Transplanted Roots": A Sculpture for the LALS Tranquility Garden



Marie-Elena Ottman was one of the first three students to graduate in May of 2017 with the new MFA degree, and will complete the requirements for the LALS Graduate Certificate in May of 2018 when she participates in the 16th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, the country of her roots. For nearly two years, she pursued the dream of creating a sculpture for the LALS Tranquility Garden that would reflect her interest in the theme of origins, and it's ready to hang now!

Marie-Elena explains the inspiration for this sculpture, "Transplanted Roots"/ "*Raíces transplantadas*" in the following manner:

"This work is a collaboration with LALS students and women from Doors to Hope, where I conducted my LALS Graduate Internship. The sculpture references a vine, specifically the tropical Liana vine, which rises from the ground and climbs upwards towards the sun, bracing itself on the trees for support. The women designed the vine patterns to represent the journey to their new home. Some of the women are from Mexico, and coincidentally, we used colorful nautical rope *hecho en México* to create the patterns! Similar to the Liana vine, the women depend on each

other as a means of support, and though they are from different countries, they have formed a bond through their common journeys. The mosaic patterning and colors reflect the various communities that unite as one while still retaining their own roots. They also resemble the colorful *mo-las* made in Panamá, my native country."





## LALS Internship Research Forum

On December 4, 2017, LALS Fall Interns Megan Lenahan, (AHA), Andre Rochet (KRHSC), and Raven Byars (KRM) gave presentations on their internships and research papers to site supervisors, administrators, faculty, and students.

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### Apply Now for the 16th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama



The deadline for application to the Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama has been extended until February 1, 2018. The program begins with classes on the Belknap campus May 2-3, 2018, and after celebrating Derby, participants travel to Panama on May 7th and return on May 26th. No payments due until March. Panama Scholar Awards, Communication Awards, and other scholarships are available. Visit

[louisville.edu/latinamericanstudies/panama-program](http://louisville.edu/latinamericanstudies/panama-program) for more information and to download an application. The Panama



## Desde los Cuatro Caminos



## From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! The fall semester is nearly behind us, and as we prepare for holiday festivities, it's a wonderful time to celebrate the LALS Program as well. We just completed an extensive Five-Year LALS Program Review of our B.A. degree, which was approved in July of 2012. Although it required many hours to complete the review, it was truly a blessing to be able to reach out to each one of our LALS graduates and receive feedback about the LALS major. They've provided lots of ideas for the next five years of the program. I invite you to read some of their comments on pages 2 and 3. I'm so very proud of all of them, and of the many LALS minors and LALS Graduate Certificate students who have graduated with degrees from our program. Please visit our website to read their stories in "Alumni in the Spotlight"!

We ended the year with our Annual Winter Coat Drive for Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and are so grateful to the many people at UofL for their generous donations. KRM is one of our LALS internship sites and the staff was overjoyed to see the huge pile of donations. I'm sure they will be appreciated by the newest members of our Louisville community.

And speaking of generosity, words cannot express our appreciation to LALS Graduate Certificate student, Marie-Elena Ottman for the extraordinary gift she delivered to the LALS Offices on December 6th, a sculpture for the LALS Tranquility Garden entitled "Transplanted Roots"/"Raíces transplantadas"! For nearly two years, she and I discussed the idea of creating a sculpture that would grace the garden and also reflect the theme of roots, which is near and dear to Marie-Elena's heart given she was born in Panama. See photos and the story of our collaboration with Doors to Hope on page 3. You're all invited to the LALS Tranquility Garden Party for the big reveal in the spring! In the meantime, it's on display in the LALS Resource Center in Stevenson 401, inspiring students as they study there for their finals!

Finally, I'd like to thank Dean Kimberly Leonard, the LALS Steering Committee, and our LALS Club President and Student Assistant Taylor Bryant for all their support. ¡Felices fiestas y un próspero año nuevo!, Rhonda Buchanan, LALS Director



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