

Fall 2005

Issue 6

U of L Partners with Local Organizations through Latin American Studies Internships



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Camminos

The LAS Internships provide U of L students with the opportunity to improve their understanding of Latin American societies and their linguistic skills as well. This semester students have volunteered at the Hope Clinic and the Kentucky Racing Clinic, the Louisville Free Public Library's Iroquois Branch, Adelante Hispanic Achievers, Just Solutions: Mediation Services on the Council on Peacemaking, and the Arcadia Community Center. The students comment below on their rewarding experiences:

Jami Wilson: "As a biology major, I was lucky to complete my LAS internship with two area clinics: **the Hope Clinic and the Kentucky Racing Clinic**. At both facilities I translated for Spanish-speaking patients and medical staff. Without translators, it can be very difficult to communicate certain ailments. My services helped the patients feel more comfortable with the care they received and allowed the medical staff to feel more confident in the care they provided. This internship also gave me the opportunity to improve my own Spanish-speaking skills. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found it very rewarding."

Brandi Gates: "The LAS Internship is the 'golden gate' of opportunity for students learning Spanish or Portuguese. Personally, the experience with **the Iroquois Branch of the Louisville Free Public Libraries** allowed me to improve linguistic skills, practice writing and translating and increase my confidence when conversing with native speakers. In addition, I was involved in innovative events at the library, such as the English Conversation Club, and I was exposed to the fabulous communities that serve Louisville's immigrant population. Most importantly, I made friendships that I cherish. As an intern, I was taken beyond the classroom setting into everyday life, utilizing the Spanish language every instant."

Kristin Reading: "Interning at **the Iroquois Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library** has been very rewarding. I have met interesting people, each with their own stories. Being able to help people who were once doctors, lawyers, and other professionals in their countries improve their English so that they may prosper in the United States has been the best part of the internship."

Shereese Brown: "As a Spanish major and an LAS minor, I volunteered as an intern with **Adelante Hispanic Achievers**. This organization provides a mentoring program for middle school age Hispanic students, and is designed to help Latin youth with career development and to promote the importance of higher education. Working with the Hispanic youth has allowed me to practice my Spanish with both the students and their parents. This has helped my confidence in grasping the language. Working with the students was great and I enjoyed teaching them new things and they enjoyed helping me with my Spanish. Overall my experience with the students and my internship as a whole has been very rewarding."

Alejandro Castillo Roque: "I am a visiting student from the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí in Mexico, and am completing a semester residency at UofL as a participant in the North American Peace Ambassadors Program. This semester I volunteered as an intern for **Just Solutions: Mediation Services of the Council on Peacemaking**, an organization dedicated to promoting non-violent ways of dealing with conflicts, managing change, and building community. As an intern, I participated in a five-day training session, assisted with case management, and engaged in outreach to the Latino community. From the internship I learned skills for conflict resolution and met a wide variety of people."

Kate Dennis: "My experience at the **Arcadia Community Center** was wonderful. I was involved in many aspects of the programs they offer. Working with summer camp and after school programs was rewarding because I learned a lot about myself and got to know children from different cultures. The center offers invaluable services to the immigrant communities in Louisville."

In addition to the local internships featured above, students may also complete internships abroad. During the summer of 2005, **Medina del Castillo**, a graduate student in Political Science, volunteered for the **Oaxaca Street Children Grassroots**, a non-profit organization in Oaxaca, Mexico for a Latin American Studies Graduate Internship. – submitted by Rhonda Buchanan

Latin American Studies Sponsored Events

Anthropologist Elayne Zorn

Explores Social Repercussions of Tourism

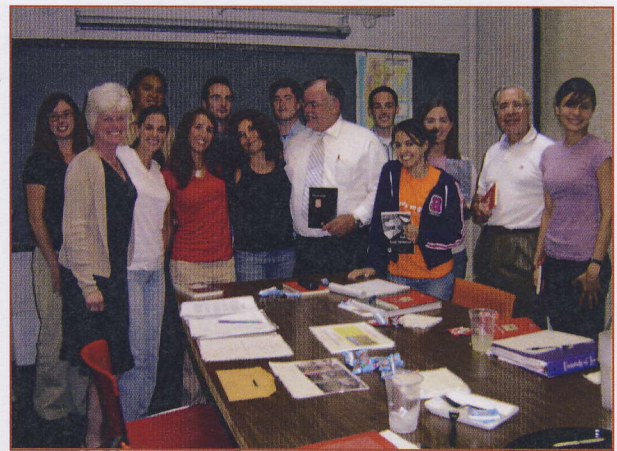
On September 21st Latin American Studies and the Department of Anthropology hosted a lunch-time panel presentation "Critical Perspectives on Tourism." Participants included U of L Professors Shawn Parkhurst and Teresa Rajack-Talley, Spalding University Professor Frank Hutchins, and Dr. Elayne Zorn, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Central Florida. Students and faculty enjoyed a delicious lunch and engaged the speakers in a lively discussion on the pros and cons of global tourism. The previous day Zorn, who has carried out fieldwork in Peru and Bolivia since the mid-1970s, presented "Weaving on the Top of the World: Textiles and Culture on Taquile Island," a wonderful lecture sponsored by the Liberal Studies Program. – submitted by Lisa Markowitz.



Rajack-Talley, Parkhurst, Zorn, Markowitz, and Hutchins.

Argentine Writer Alicia Kozameh Returns to U of L

On October 3rd and 4th the Argentine writer and political activist Alicia Kozameh visited the U of L campus. In a moving and informative manner, she spoke about her works, her years of imprisonment during Argentina's last dictatorship, and her subsequent exile to the students of two graduate and two undergraduate classes: Dr. Buchanan's "Contemporary Argentine Culture and Literature," Dr. Sullivan's "Translation Theory and Practice," Dr. Ehrick's "Introduction to Latin American Studies," and Dr. Makris' "Hispanic Contributions to the World." A lively dialogue ensued in all four classes, inspiring some of Dr. Makris' students to create poems for their class journals. Her visit was sponsored by LAS, Liberal Studies, Department of CML, the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, and the Women and Global Issues Committee. – submitted by Clare Sullivan.

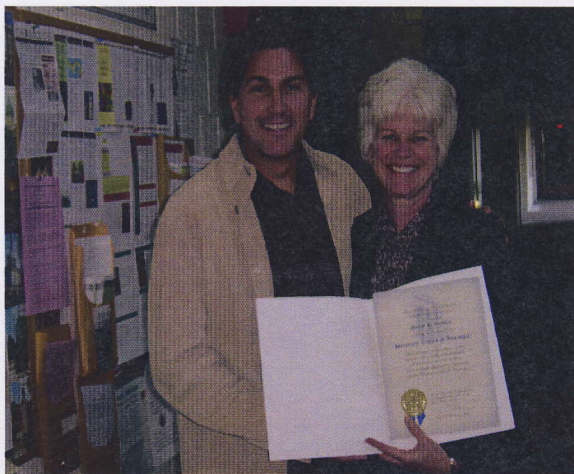


Alicia Kozameh (center) with Dr. Buchanan's students

The 4th Annual LAS Heritage Lecture

Explores Jewish-Argentine Identity

On October 17th Dr. Darrell B. Lockhart, Professor of Spanish and Director of the Latino Research Center at the University of Nevada - Reno gave a fascinating multi-media lecture on "Representations of Jewish-Argentine Identity in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture," which included photographs of Jewish *Gauchos*, clips from Argentine films, and sound bites of Yiddish tangos. Advance publicity about the lecture attracted U of L students and faculty, members of the Jewish Community Federation, several Argentines who now reside in Louisville, and other interested people from the Louisville area. Dr. Lockhart also visited two classes during his stay in Louisville. His visit was made possible by generous support from the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, the Lewis Education Fund, the Richard and Constance Lewis Latin American and Iberian Studies Fund, the Liberal Studies Program, and the Modern Languages Fund. –submitted by Rhonda Buchanan



Dr. Lockhart was proclaimed an Honorary Louisville Citizen.

Latin American Studies Sponsored Events

U of L's XI Annual Latin American Film Festival Draws a New Audience

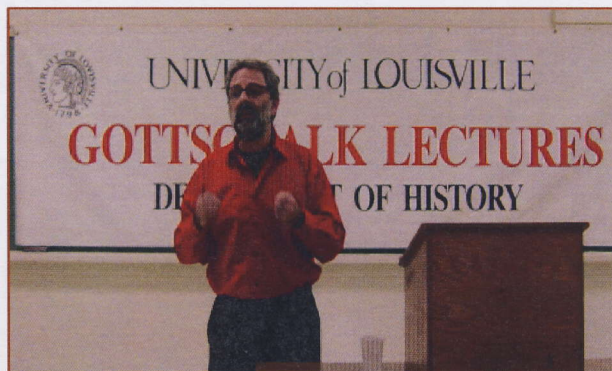
On five Thursday evenings this September and October, the XI Latin American Film Festival featured notable, contemporary films from Argentina, Uruguay, Spain, Brazil, and Mexico. Professors from the Department of Classical and Modern Languages provided the audience with brief introductions to the films, and an informal discussion over refreshments took place after the viewing. For the first time, this year's festival was formally recognized as a culturally diverse event on campus. Students taking a Cultural Diversity (CD) course at U of L received credit for attending the festival, which enjoyed larger student audiences than ever before! This year's festival was made possible by the generous contributions from the Modern Language Fund, the Lewis Fund and the Latin American Studies Program. - submitted by Lisa Wagner

Living la Vida Loca 2005: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage

On November 2, 2005, The Day of the Dead, the Spanish Division of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages held the 5th Annual Celebration of Hispanic Heritage at the Red Barn. Decorated altars reflecting the Mexican tradition of celebrating *El Día de los Muertos* were erected in memory of the victims of Hurricane Katrina and US soldiers who perished in Iraq. To commemorate the 4th Centenary of *Don Quixote de la Mancha*, professors and students dressed in traditional costumes representing characters from Miguel de Cervantes' famous novel. The whole event was spiced by guitarists, singers, and flamenco, salsa and Mexican folkloric dancers, and the aroma of delicious *empanadas*, *arroz con pollo*, and *pan de muertos*. Submitted by Carmen Cedeño.

The Annual Gottschalk Lecture Focuses on the History of Immigration in Latin America

On November 14th the Department of History and the Latin American Studies Program were honored to host Dr. José Moya, Professor of History and distinguished scholar at UCLA and Barnard College. Dr. Moya lectured first in Dr. Buchanan's Contemporary Argentine Culture and Literature class on Argentine economic development, past and present. Later that afternoon, Dr. Moya presented the History Department's 2005 Gottschalk Lecture, speaking on the topic of "Migration and Modernity in the Western Hemisphere," an engaging and insightful lecture on the role European immigration played in shaping 19th century modernity in the Americas. The event was well-attended by both students and faculty, and was followed by a wonderful reception and a continued discussion of the issues raised by Dr. Moya's presentation. Submitted by Christine Ehrick.



2005 Lewis Scholars Report on their Foreign Adventures



Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis

Thanks to the generous support of the Richard and Constance Lewis Scholar Awards, six U of L students (five undergraduates and one graduate) participated in Study Abroad Programs in Latin America and Spain, and one U of L faculty member, Dr. Michael Fowler of the Political Science Department, conducted research in Central America. Jamie Izlar's experience in Colima, Mexico as a North American Peacebuilder was featured in our spring 2005 newsletter. The other five students completed programs during the summer of 2005, three in Argentina, one in Costa Rica, and one in Spain. The following comments were taken from the final reports the Lewis Scholars made to the Lewises:

Natalie Biesel - La Universidad del Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina

"Being from a small town and from a family with not a lot of money or education, this trip has been, more than anything, an eye-opener to a different culture and lifestyle. Although I was raised thinking that countries like Argentina are only places you see pictures of, I now know the world is completely open and accessible. I never thought in my life I would have this opportunity, and thanks to the Lewis foundation, I'm going to make sure it won't be the last."

Jacqueline Meier - La Universidad del Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina

"My experience in Argentina has changed my entire life. I now am interested in pursuing studies in Latin America or joining the Peace Corps in order to spend more time there. Buenos Aires was so comfortable that I felt as though I could move there today and never regret it. It fostered learning more about Spanish and it was because I loved the city so much that I was enthused to study even harder. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to study in such a wonderful place due to the funding I received."

Morgan Taliaferro - La Universidad del Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina

"It was challenging, and at times frustrating, trying to find my way around the city. I felt like I didn't know any Spanish because the Argentine accent is so distinct and different from what I had learned in the university. However, I always welcome a challenge. In addition to my everyday encounter with Spanish speakers, I was also in class for five hours, five days a week. Furthermore, my host family refused to speak any English to me in the house. Because of all this, my language skills have improved tremendously."

William White - KIIS Program in Madrid and Segovia, Spain

"Besides the excursions and classes that were a part of the KIIS program, I sought out various opportunities to improve my linguistic and cultural knowledge. During our first week in Madrid, we lived in a college dorm where many students were still finishing their final exams before their summer vacation. During this time, I met and conversed with numerous native students and was able to spend most of my time in Madrid with them. The funds that I received from this program allowed me to learn about multiple aspects of the Spanish language and culture. I am confident that with this knowledge I will be better prepared to continue my studies of the Spanish language and history of Spanish-speaking countries."

Phil Thornberry - La Universidad de Costa Rica in San José

"The primary goal of the trip was to study Latin American Linguistics and Latin American Literature. I went to the University of Costa Rica, and according to most people you speak with there, it is the premier university in Central America. I attended classes from 8 in the morning until about 2 in the afternoon, just in time for the daily afternoon shower. Unfortunately, I visited Costa Rica during the rainy season and every day around 2 or 3 the clouds would move in and soak the city for a good while. That's why the drainage ditches in the streets are about two and a half feet deep. You have to watch where you walk!"

Apply Now for the 4th Annual U of L Study Abroad Program in Panamá! - May 3 to June 1, 2006

This year all courses offered during the 4th Annual U of L Study Abroad Program in Panamá will be taught by native Panamanians. The Program Director, Dr. Aristófanés Cedeño will teach Spanish for the Workplace and the Community, Ms. Berta Calvert, the Assistant Director, will teach Spanish Conversation, and Mr. Ricardo Acosta, a local professor, will offer a course on Panamanian culture. Students may earn up to six hours of credit, which may be applied toward the LAS minor or LAS Graduate Certificate, and the Spanish major and minor. With its enriching excursions, this program offers students an extraordinary opportunity to explore Panamá, sample its food, meet its people, and enjoy the country's natural beauty. Financial support is still available!

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! It has been another productive semester for the Latin American Studies Program. Many undergraduate students declared the LAS minor this semester and several graduate students decided to pursue the new LAS Graduate Certificate. Our 2005 Panama Scholars and Lewis Scholars returned from their study abroad programs in August with exciting reports about their enriching experiences. Dr. Michael Fowler, the 2005 Lewis Fellow, completed his fellowship project on the impact of narcotics trafficking in five Central American countries. During the summer months, several new LAS internship sites were established to expand the opportunities for our students to serve the members of the Hispanic community in the Louisville area. This newsletter features an article on the many ways the LAS program is creating partnerships with the greater Louisville community. I hope you will enjoy reading the students' comments about their internships. This edition of our newsletter also highlights the six events co-sponsored by the LAS Program.

As the semester comes to a close, I am looking forward to a sabbatical leave during the spring, when I plan to finish an NEA translation project and a book on contemporary Argentine fiction. Although I will travel to Argentina at the end of April, I will continue to handle LAS business through email, phone calls, and regular hours at the LAS office. Please contact me to learn more about what our fabulous program can offer you.

Felices fiestas,

Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American Studies


**Latin American
Studies**

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

Latin American Studies
College of Arts & Sciences
Humanities Building 329C
University of Louisville

Phone: (502) 852-2034 or (502) 852-0502
Fax: 502-852-6888
rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu

www.louisville.edu/a-s/cml/las