

Fall 2006

Issue 8



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Comminos

Latin American Studies Focuses on Latino Issues

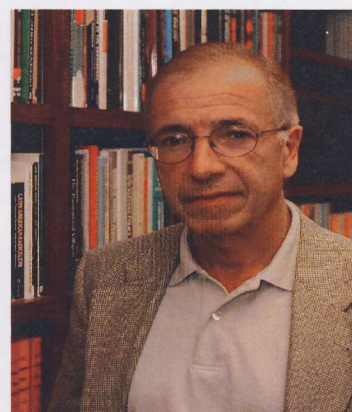
LAS Proposes a New Minor in Latino Studies

According to the 2000 Census, the Hispanic population in Kentucky was 59,939, although other sources estimated between 100,000 and 135,000. The same census counted 12,370 Hispanic residents in Jefferson County and 1,505 in Shelby County although directors of organizations that serve local Latino communities insist that these figures should be much higher. As the Hispanic population in the Louisville area continues to grow, the LAS Program is expanding its efforts to address the complex issues concerning U.S. Latinos. We are in the process of creating a new minor in Latino Studies, to be in place by fall 2007, and a new Graduate Certificate in Latino Studies, by fall 2008. We also plan to change the name of our program to "The Latin American and Latino Studies Program (LALS)" by next year.

Alejandro Portes Delivers the 5th Annual Las Heritage Lecture:

"The New Latin Nation: Immigration & the Hispanic Population of the US"

On October 16th, 2006, Dr. Alejandro Portes, Director of Princeton University's Center for Migration and Development and the Howard Harrison and Gabrielle Snyder Beck Professor of Sociology delivered the 5th Annual LAS Heritage Lecture to a large audience in the Elaine Chao Auditorium of Ekstrom Library. In his presentation, Dr. Portes gave an overview of the origins and principal characteristics of Latin American immigration and the transforming impact it is having on the fabric of the nation. He concluded by addressing the shortcomings of current immigration policy and suggesting alternative solutions to militarizing our borders. Before adjourning to a reception, with typical Cuban food prepared by Isabel Miguelez, Dr. Portes was commissioned an Honorable Kentucky Colonel. Earlier that day, he spoke in Spanish to students of Dr. Rhonda Buchanan's Spanish 355 class about issues concerning Latinos and his native country of Cuba. His visit was made possible by the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, the CML Department, LAS, the Sociology Department, and the Veritas Society of Bellarmine University.



Mexican Solidarity Network Discusses Border Issues & Immigration Rights

On Tuesday, October 17th, Mexico Solidarity Network spokesperson Celeste Escobar and Noemi Peregrino, a Eucharist missionary from Veracruz, Mexico who represents the immigrant rights organization Borderlinks, spoke to a full-house in the Elaine Chao Auditorium. The two women led students in an initial exercise to demonstrate that our country is a nation of immigrants. Peregrino explained that while immigration is an integral part of US history, it has also been a violent process. She also spoke of the problems caused by NAFTA and US immigration policies, and reiterated what Dr. Portes said in his lecture the previous day, that building a wall around our country will increase immigration rather than hinder it. The speakers focused on the "root causes" of immigration showing that crushing poverty and the ineffective economic and political policies of the US and Mexico are played out at the border, victimizing the undocumented underclass of migrants. This event was co-sponsored by LAS and Women and Gender Studies. – submitted by David Horvath.

LAS Organizes Course on US Latinos for the Veritas Society of Bellarmine

For the fourth year, the Latin American Studies Program has collaborated with the Veritas Society of Bellarmine University by organizing a Continuing Education fall course on a topic dealing with Latin American culture. This year's class focused on "Latin Americans in the United States," and featured lectures by UofL professors Manuel Medina and Rhonda Buchanan, Bellarmine professor Nelson López, and prominent leaders of the local Latino community. The Veritas Society co-sponsored the annual LAS Heritage Lecture delivered by Dr. Portes, and Veritas students attended the lecture as one of their class meetings.

LAS Collaborations with the Community and Abroad

Latin American Studies Goes to the Racetrack

This summer the Kentucky Derby Museum and the Klein Family Learning Center on the Backside of Churchill Downs teamed up with the Latin American Studies Program on a project called "Art and Culture of the Backside," which will result in a cultural exhibit featuring artwork by workers of the Backside, scheduled to open in April of 2008 and run through December. This year's team consists of six LAS students (Nathan Bird, Caroline Conner, William Lacap, Sarah Oesterly, Laine Ortega, and Maria Taylor), two UofL professors (Rhonda Buchanan and Lisa Markowitz), three museum curators (Jay Ferguson, Toni Lynn Giffin, and Brenda Kiefer), and Jennifer Hoert, Director of the KFLC. The center provides a number of services, including ESL classes, training related to the horse industry, preparation for securing a driver's license and US Citizenship, and art classes to Backside workers, who are predominantly Latinos. Two students pursuing the LAS Graduate Certificate are serving as volunteer interns at the KFLC this semester and have this to say about their experiences:

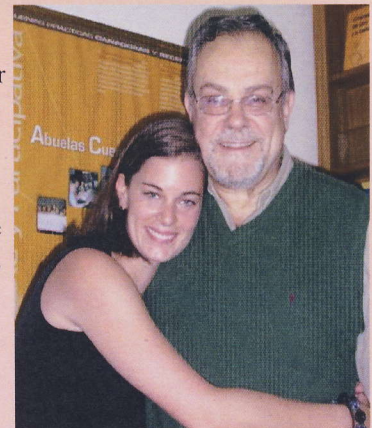
"I have been volunteering at the KFLC on the Backside at Churchill Downs. While there, I have tutored many of their students in English (ESL). Most of them live and work on the Backside and have come here with little formal education. However, they have a strong will to learn and many can speak English with some ease. I am also collaborating with the "Art and Culture of the Backside" exhibit at Churchill Downs in which several artists of the Backside are being interviewed to fully understand their cultural backgrounds, daily experiences on the Backside and the specifics on their artwork. My experience thus far at the KFLC has been one of great pleasure and learning. Not only have I established a rapport with many of the students, but I have also learned who comprises a major part of the Hispanic community here in Louisville." - **Nathan Bird**

"My internship at the Klein Family Learning Center has not only allowed me to practice my Spanish language skills in the community and utilize my skills as a librarian, but also to form relationships with patrons of diverse cultural backgrounds. Working in conjunction with the KFLC and the Kentucky Derby Museum on the "Art and Culture of the Backside" exhibit has given me the added experience of collaborating with a group to interview artists about the diversity of the working environment at Churchill Downs." - **Maria Taylor**

Students Complete LAS Graduate and Undergraduate Internships in Argentina and Bolivia

Caroline Conner Volunteers in Resistencia, Argentina

"This past summer I had the opportunity to travel to Resistencia, Argentina, where I worked for two months as a volunteer LAS Graduate Intern for the Mempo Giardinelli Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes literacy and social services for those in need in the Chaco Province. I was lucky enough to live with a wonderful family and had the pleasure of working with some of the kindest and accepting people I have ever met. While there, I visited various local libraries and Children's Dining Houses, which allowed me to experience even more of the daily life of the people of Argentina. I did not speak any English for the entire time I was there, which was great for improving my Spanish. I made friendships that will last the rest of my life. I cannot imagine not having gone to Argentina and missing out on one of the most memorable experiences of my life. Many thanks to all those who helped me with this endeavor, specifically Dr. Rhonda Buchanan." (Caroline with Argentine writer Mempo Giardinelli.)



Isabel Arezú Elias Volunteers in La Paz, Bolivia

"It was the best decision for me to do my LAS Internship and Independent Study for Anthropology in La Paz, Bolivia because working with Dianne Bellomy and the artisans at Artesania Sorata and with the orphaned children at the Hogar Jose Soría was the most rewarding experience of my life. This trip allowed me to spend two months in the place that I consider my home. I left La Paz many years ago, and although I have returned often to spend vacations there, this time I was functioning like a native *Kolla*. I went to work everyday, went home for lunch, had tea at 5pm, and enjoyed dance practice afterwards. I felt like I lived there again, like I belonged there. I am grateful for the LAS Lewis Scholar Award and the Akers Travel/Research Award for the Study of Women and Global Issues that made this trip possible." (Photo shows Arezú participating in a street festival in La Paz)



Latin American Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Living la Vida Loca: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage



On November 2, 2006, The Day of the Dead, the Spanish Division of the CML Department held the 6th Annual Celebration of Hispanic Heritage at the Red Barn. Entertainment was provided by Cherie Lanier of the Elite Training Academy, who taught Salsa Casino Rueda to audience members, including the Holy Cross Spanish class of Clinton Craddock, a former Spanish major. Christina Smith, a Spanish graduate student, and the three members of her new flamenco troupe, thrilled the audience with *sevil-lanas* and *bulerías*. Beautiful music was performed by Aire Andino, a trio of musicians from Peru and Ecuador: Penélope Quesada, Mario Cárdenas, and Fernando Moya. The program ended with charming Mexican dances performed by the children of the Arco Iris Latino dance troupe. There was also a costume competition with a tie for first place between Professor Carmen Cedeño, who dressed as her famous namesake, and Joshua Hamilton, dressed as Emiliano Zapata. Altars were erected to the memory of CML Professor Howard Altman, our dear Spanish student Ed (Eduardo)

Kuster, Steve Irwin the Crocodile Hunter, and Latino soldiers who sacrificed their lives in Iraq. This event was made possible by *Al Día En America* Spanish Newspaper, Brazilian Studies, the CML Department, the Ekstrom Library, the International Center, LAS, the Louisville Latin American Club, and the Spanish Club.

Day of the Dead Event at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft

On Friday evening, November 3rd, LAS co-sponsored an event at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft to commemorate the Day of the Dead and the culmination of the *Life InSight: The Human Experience* exhibit at the museum. Rhonda Buchanan moderated a panel discussion that featured an altar created by University of Kentucky artist Arturo Alonzo Sandoval, entitled *To Honor Those Who Came Before*. Before the artist explained the significance of his *ofrenda*, members of the panel, which included Manuel Medina, Miguel Lagunas, and Jacobo Aragón, spoke of the traditions of the Day of the Dead and the altars erected to commemorate that holiday. Alonzo Sandoval, who was born in New Mexico and served in the Vietnam War, explained each aspect of his fascinating installation, which was designed after the traditional Mexican *ofrenda* and offers a tribute to his ancestors, victims of war and nuclear radiation, and AIDS victims worldwide. (Panelists pictured: Rhonda Buchanan, Miguel Lagunas, Arturo Alonzo Sandoval, Manuel Medina, and Jacobo Aragón).



UofL's XII Annual Latin American Film Festival and the Latin American Jewish Film Festival

The XII Annual Latin American Film Festival, organized by the Spanish section of the CML Department, featured six highly acclaimed films from Latin America and Spain, as well as a special week-long festival showing five films that highlight the Jewish diaspora in Latin America and showcase Latin America's rich diversity. One film in particular, *Novia que te vea*, is based on the novel of the same name by Rosa Nissán, a Jewish-Mexican writer who was a Spanish keynote speaker for UofL's Annual Literature and Culture Conference. After each viewing, professors from the CML Department provided brief introductions to the films, and the audience participated in informal discussions over Cuban refreshments prepared by Isabel Miguelez. The festivals were funded by the *Al Día En América*, Brazilian Studies, Ekstrom Library, Latin American Studies, Lewis Education Fund, Lotsa Pasta, and the Modern Languages Fund. Once again, this year's festival was recognized as a culturally diverse campus event, allowing students enrolled in CD courses to receive credit for attending. Both festivals enjoyed diverse audiences of students, faculty and staff, and members of the Louisville metro community. – Submitted by Lisa Wagner.

2006 Lewis Scholars

Mehera Baugher - Portugal
Amy Bennet - Spain
Susan Brittain - Mexico
Emily Clausen - Spain
Isabel Arezú Elias - Bolivia
Stephanie Moses - Costa Rica
Sarah Oesterly - Spain
Andrea Roser - Portugal
Sheryll Sison - Spain
Christopher Wicke - Spain

2006 Lewis Fellow

Dr. Gregory Hutcheson - CML Department
"Contemporary Spanish Encounters
with Al-Andalus"

Spring LAS 2007 classes

ANTH 314 New World Empires
ANTH 333 Globalizing Inequalities
HIST 533 20th Contemp. L.A. -WR
HON 436 US-L.A. Relations-WR
LAS 400 LAS Internship
LAS 680 Issues in L.A. Studies
LAS 681 LAS Graduate Internship
LING 690 Metaphors of Cult. Comm.
ML 260 HON: Hisp. Contribut.-HCD1

Graduated LAS Minors

Alicia Paez (Sp'06)
Michelle Cook (F'06)



Spring LAS 2007 classes

PAS 510 Religions of the Black World
POLS 563 Women in Dev. Countries
SPAN 355 Reading Hispanic Texts
SPAN 403 Found L.A. Nat. & Identity
SPAN 524 Intro to Hispanic Linguistics
SPAN 624 Studies in Hispanic Ling.
SPAN 644 Origin & Dev Hisp. Culture
WGST 558 Women in Dev. Countries

LAS Graduate Certificate

Zahir Munim (Sp'06)
Caroline Conner (F'06)



Apply Now for the 4th Annual U of L Study Abroad Program in Panamá! - May 3 to June 1, 2007

This year native Panamanian Berta Calvert will serve as the Panama Program Director and Joshua Hamilton as the Assistant Program Director. They will teach two Spanish classes, and Ricardo Acosta, a local Panamanian professor and UofL alumnus, 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 the LAS Graduate Certificate, and the Spanish major or minor. With generous support from the Office of the Provost and the College of Arts and Sciences, twenty eligible students will receive Panama Scholar Awards of \$1000 each. For information, contact Berta Calvert at bacalv01@gwise.louisville.edu or Rhonda Buchanan at rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu.

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! There are many exciting developments on the horizon for the LAS Program, including a name change that will reflect the important place that Latinos in the United States have had in our program since its inception in 2000. Back then, Dr. Joy Carew directed an interdisciplinary committee whose mission was to create a Latin American Studies Program that would promote an understanding of the complex issues and realities of the diverse Hispanic cultures in Latin America and the United States. As a member of that committee, I remember that we wanted to be certain that our students had the opportunity to increase their knowledge about Hispanic culture, not only in Latin American countries, but also in the United States. For this reason, we created a service learning component for the LAS minor, with the idea that students could volunteer as interns locally or abroad. Since I became Director of the LAS Program in 2002, fourteen internship sites have been established for our undergraduate and graduate students to serve Latino communities in the Kentuckiana area, and we will continue to add new sites. In addition to the internships, the LAS program has been proud to sponsor events over the past five years that have celebrated the rich heritage of Latino communities, and this fall is no exception.

Statisticians project that by the year 2025, one in four people living in the US will be of Hispanic descent. As the local Hispanic population continues to grow, the LAS Program is taking measures to meet the needs of Latinos in our community and to increase the number of Hispanic students at UofL.

Felices Fiestas (Happy Holidays!),

Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American Studies



Latin American Studies

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