

Fall 2007

Issue 10

**Latin American and Latino Studies Students in the Spotlight
THREE LALS STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS!**



Neil Gupta Receives a 2007 Bell Award

Neil Gupta, a Spanish major and Latino Studies minor received one of the ten Bell Awards given to outstanding volunteers in the city of Louisville this year. "The Bell Award is presented to those who have shown the true 'Spirit of Louisville' through unselfish, humanitarian service. Each year up to ten outstanding volunteers receive this award." On September 27, 2007, Neil received the Bell Award and the Mayor's Citation Award at a ceremony at the Galt House. Neil has been a contributing writer for *Hoy en las Américas*, one of Louisville's Spanish language newspapers, and has volunteered at Audubon Hospital and the Louisville Metro Office of International Affairs. He traveled to Puerto Rico this June as an LALS Lewis Scholar and volunteered at a children's hospital in San Juan. He will continue his volunteer service when he conducts his internship for the Latino Studies minor. ¡Felicidades Neil!



Laine López-Ortega is Named a 2007 Honored Volunteer for Norton Healthcare



Laine López-Ortega, was also recognized at the Bell Award ceremony on September 27, 2007 for her volunteer work at the CPA Lab of Norton Healthcare. The Honored Volunteer Program is part of the Bell Awards, WLKY-TV's Spirit of Louisville Foundation, which recognizes volunteers in the Louisville area. Laine is currently enrolled in the combined M.A./B.A. Program in Spanish and will graduate with a major in Spanish and a minor in Latin American Studies. She is pursuing the M.A. degree in Spanish, along with a Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. Laine completed her undergraduate LAS internship at the Kentucky Racing Health Services Center near Churchill Downs, and her work was so outstanding that Whitney Nash, the Director of the KRHSC requested that Laine conduct her LAS Graduate Internship there as well. ¡Felicidades Laine!

Toya Huckleby-Rodríguez Named Adelante Hispanic Achiever's Volunteer of the Year

Toya Huckleby-Rodríguez, a Spanish major and Latin American Studies minor, was named Volunteer of the Year by the Board of Directors of Adelante Hispanic Achievers, a non-profit organization chartered to provide mentoring and enrichment programming for Hispanic middle school students and their families in the Louisville area. Toya conducted her LAS Internship at Adelante Hispanic Achievers, and has continued volunteering for them. She also volunteered for the Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville's Camp Unidad 2007 Summer Program, and continues to volunteer for Adelante Hispanic Achievers. ¡Felicidades Toya!



LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

Camminos

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Latin American and Latino Studies Participates in WorldFest

On August 31 and September 1, 2007, the LALS Program participated in the annual WorldFest Festival on the Belvedere Plaza with an information booth that was decorated with colorful LALS posters and vibrant murals and scarves created especially for our program by the Russian artist and UofL Scholar-in-Residence Luci Mistratov. Adding to our colorful booth was the display of photographs and handmade items that Arezú Elias brought back from her LAS internship with Artesanías Sorata in La Paz, Bolivia. Many stopped by the booth and it was a great opportunity for LALS students and faculty to inform the community about our program. We look forward to participating in next year's WorldFest.

Dr. Manuel Martínez-Maldonado Brings Puerto Rican Culture to UofL



On Wednesday, September 26, 2007, Dr. Manuel Martínez-Maldonado, Executive Vice-President of Research at UofL, gave a fascinating presentation, "Poesía, narrativa y música en la cultura puertorriquena," which provided an overview of the literary and cultural scene of his native Puerto Rico, including readings from his own works of poetry and narrative fiction. He also spoke about the importance of music in Puerto Rican culture, particularly the music of singer and composer Sylvia Rexach. Dr. Martínez-Maldonado is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In addition to his numerous publications in the scientific field and the many administrative positions he has held as a physician-scientist, Dr. Martínez-Maldonado has published five books of poetry and a novel, and has served as a board member of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and the Board of the Corporation for Musical Art. A book signing and a reception provided by The Mayan Café followed the lecture. This lecture, sponsored by the LALS Program, was presented primarily in Spanish to a packed audience of students of Spanish, faculty and staff.

"Dispossessed but Powerful": The Displaced Afro-Colombian so the Chocó Community

On Friday, October 19, 2007, Alba María Cuesta Arias, a Colombian community organizer and human rights advocate, told her story of displacement from the Chocó region of northwest Colombia. Alba told of being terrorized and displaced from her village with her six children. The group of displaced villagers have organized to pressure the government to assist them in returning to their village, which is still occupied by paramilitary groups. Alba's discussion was very moving and shed light on the dire situation in Colombia. All those present were urged to critically examine Plan Colombia and to encourage their representatives to support House Resolution 618, which calls for greater response from the Colombian government in the process of formulating the US-Colombian free trade agreement. Alba's visit was made possible by Witness for Peace, a broad coalition of local organizations, the LALS Program and the Department of Political Science. -- Submitted by Dr. Tricia Gray.

The LALS Program Lends a Hand on Latino Family Day at the Louisville Slugger Museum

On Sunday, October 21, 2007, students of the LALS Program and Dr. Rhonda Buchanan's Spanish 404 class volunteered at the Louisville Slugger Museum for Latino Family Day, an event which featured an exhibit to the legendary Puerto Rican baseball player Roberto Clemente, "Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente." Mika Thomasson painted the Puerto Rican flag, baseballs, and bats on the faces of the many children who attended the event, James Wilson and Josh Day assisted in the creation of hundreds of paper flowers, and LALS students Boris Yelin and Allison Thompson demonstrated and taught Latin dance lessons to an enthusiastic crowd. This bilingual exhibit runs through the end of December and is worth a trip to the Louisville Slugger Museum!



Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Dr. Dan La Botz Presents the 6th Annual LALS Heritage Lecture



On Monday, October 22, 2007, Dr. Dan La Botz, an independent scholar, journalist, and activist gave a lecture on “Latino Immigration in the Midwest: The Fight for Decency and Dignity” to a large audience in the Elaine Chao Auditorium. Focusing on the experience of Ohio immigrants, whom he had interviewed, La Botz spoke about the particular issues that Midwestern immigrants and more recent immigrants to the South have faced while establishing themselves as an integral part of our society. Earlier that day, Dr. La Botz spoke to the students of Dr.

Buchanan’s Spanish 404 class. Dr. La Botz’s campus visit was sponsored by LALS, the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, the Department of Pan-African Studies, the Department of Sociology, and the Social Change Program.

“Challenges Facing New and Established Latino Communities: A Dialogue.”

On October 23, 2007, eight panelists convened in the Elaine Chao Auditorium to discuss issues concerning Latinos in the United States, such as labor laws, educational concerns, and health and social services. Panelists included: Gabriela Alcalde, President of the Hispanic Latino Coalition; Stephen Bartlett, Coordinator of Education for Agricultural Missions; Ron Crouch, Director of the Kentucky State Data Center; Alex Hernández, Leader of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union 227; Dan La Botz,



activist and journalist; Claudia Peralta-Mudd, International Program Specialist for the Louisville Metro Office for International Affairs; Attica Scott, Coordinator for Kentucky Jobs with Justice, and Enid Trucios-Haynes, Professor of the UofL Brandeis School of Law and moderator of the panel. This event was also co-sponsored by LALS, the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, Pan-African Studies, the Department of Sociology, and the Social Change Program.

LALS Students Participate in the Annual Celebration of the Day of the Dead

On November 2, 2007, the Spanish Division of the Classical and Modern Languages Department presented the annual celebration of *El Día de los Muertos* in the Red Barn with a performance by the dance troupe *Camino Flamenco*, which featured two talented LALS students, Christina Smith and Yoel Castillo-Botello. The audience also enjoyed traditional Mexican dances performed by *Arcoiris Latino* and introduced by Miguel Lagunas. In addition, students of several Spanish and Latin American and Latino Studies classes erected altars in Ekstrom Library Auditorium for the entire UofL community to see, including altars dedicated to the memory of those immigrants who lost their lives crossing the U.S. border with Mexico, the hundreds of women killed in Ciudad Juárez, the victims of the Brazilian airline crash, a tribute to Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and to Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, a loving homage to three Spanish students’ grandparents who passed away this semester, and many other unique altars.

Clayton Eshleman, Award-Winning Poet and Translator Lectures at UofL

On Wednesday, November 28, 2007, Clayton Eshleman presented a lecture to a packed house in the Bingham Poetry Room on his award-winning bilingual edition of poetry by the Peruvian poet César Vallejo. Eshleman’s monumental 2007 translation of Vallejo’s *Complete Poetry* marks the first time that all the poetry of a great Latin American poet has been collected in a single bilingual volume by a sole translator. Eshleman is the author of over fifty books and chapbooks of poetry and four collections of prose. He received the National Book Award for his translation of Vallejo’s *Complete Posthumous Poetry* and the Landon Translation Prize for his translation of Vallejo’s *Trilce*. The graduate students of Dr. Clare Sullivan’s translation class attended the lecture and benefited greatly from the presentation. The event was co-sponsored by The Department of Classical and Modern Languages, the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, the Commonwealth Center for Humanities and Society, and the Anne & William Axton Reading Series.

The LALS Program is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 Lewis

Scholar and Fellow Awards:

2008 Lewis Scholars

Sheila Bates – Mexico

Sarah Becker - Spain

Erin Grace - Panama Internship

Brett McGrath - Guatemala

Whitney Nash - Belize

Alex Riedinger –Spain

Emily Rigdon -Peru

Nichole Sonderman –Honduras

Jharin Stowers –Spain

2008 Lewis Fellow

Dr. Clare E. Sullivan,
Classical and Modern Languages,
“Translation Education” -Spain

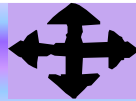


Apply Now for the Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama!

Are you looking for an opportunity to speak Spanish, experience Panamanian culture, and earn up to 6 credit hours toward your degree? The 6th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, from May 1-31, 2008, is the ideal summer program for you! The program costs \$2985 and includes round-trip airfare, housing at a centrally located hotel, 6 credit hours, service learning activities, and much more. Applications for the program and the Panama Scholar Awards are available at the Latin American and Latino Studies Office (Humanities Bldg. 329C) and the Communication Department (Strickler Hall 310). The application deadline is January 14, 2008. For more information, contact the Panama Program Director, Berta Calvert at 270-872-5768 or bacalv01@gwise.louisville.edu

The Latin American and Latino Studies Office is located in the Bingham Humanities Building RM 329C. Please contact Dr. Buchanan at rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu for advising or other matters, and visit our LALS website for a complete list of courses offered in 2008, and for the latest news and updates.

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

!Saludos amigos! As you can see from this edition of our newsletter, the fall semester was a very busy one for the Latin American and Latino Studies Program. In addition to the many events we co-sponsored, we also promoted our 6th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, which is collaborating for the second time with the Department of Communication. It's not too late to apply!

I am also pleased to announce that many students have declared the new minor in Latino Studies, and a steady stream of students have applied for the minor in Latin American Studies and the LAS Graduate Certificate during the summer and fall months. New LALS internship sites have been added at La Casa Latina and La Casita Center, and plans for others are underway, as we continue to expand our outreach to the community.

Congratulations to all of our December LALS graduates and to our award-winning LALS students. We have added a page to our LALS website called “LALS Students in the Spotlight,” and would love to hear from our current and past LALS students.

!Felices Fiestas! (Happy Holidays!),

Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American and Latino Studies



**Latin American and
Latino Studies**

**LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO
STUDIES AT UOFL**

**Latin American Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
Humanities Building 329C**

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

<http://latinamericanstudies.louisville.edu>