

Fall 2015

Issue 26

LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

CAMINOS



Collaborations with Hotel Louisville and the 3rd Annual South 4th Street Day of the Dead Celebration



The fall semester got off to a great start with our first LALS event featuring UofL professors of psychology, Dr. Edna Ross, Dr. Lora Haynes, and Hotel Louisville COO, Dr. Nina Moseley, who gave an enlightening presentation on September 9th about the collaborations between UofL and Hotel Louisville entitled, “Better Living through Critical Thinking at Hotel Louisville’s Homeless Shelter.” The hotel is located on 120 West Broadway and is

owned and operated by Wayside Christian Mission. It’s the nation’s only fully operational hotel that also serves as a transitional living shelter for women and families while providing them employment at the hotel and recovery and training programs using critical thinking tools. The LALS Program wished to collaborate with Hotel Louisville, and so, we offered to erect a Day of the Dead public altar in the hotel lobby. We welcomed Hotel Louisville employees to honor their deceased loved ones by placing photos of them in the empty picture frames on the altar. At the top of the altar, we placed a photo of Mr. Kenneth Winfield, who was found unresponsive on the steps of St. John’s Center for Homeless Men on a cold morning in February 2015. Honoring the life of Mr. Winfield brought attention to the fact that the homeless community must not be forgotten, especially during the harsh winter months. We invited the Hotel Louisville employees and guests to attend the 3rd Annual South Fourth Street Day of the Dead Festival, which was held on November 6th to coincide with First Friday Trolley Hop. LALS co-sponsored the event, with the South Fourth Street Business District and the Louisville Downtown Partnership, and provided volunteers to assist with the children’s activities. UofL students, including members of the LALS Club, Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, students of Spanish, and Hite Art Institute students, helped paint faces, decorate sugar skulls, and make paper flowers. Former LALS Program Assistant and LALS Club President, Leah Dahline, is now a Spanish teacher at Presentation Academy and brought her students to volunteer as well. Participants enjoyed performances by Las Flamencas, including former LALS Graduate Certificate student Juliana Grossi, and Arco Iris Mexican folkloric dancers, among others. The retailers, such as Craft[s] Gallery, Regalo, and the Gift Horse decorated their businesses and offered unique merchandise from Mexico. Join us next year!

— Kelcey Robinson, LALS Program Assistant and Club President



Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Gustavo Arellano Gives 14th Annual LALS Heritage Lecture and Two Other Presentations



Gustavo Arellano, author of the nationally-syndicated column *¡Ask a Mexican!* and book *Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America*, visited UofL for a marathon day of three presentations on October 14, 2015. At noon, Mr. Arellano offered an advanced screening of *Bordertown*, a new animated series premiering on FOX in January 2016. Mr. Arellano explained his role as a consulting producer on the new series, offering students an in-depth look at the creative process of developing an animated series. *Bordertown* uses satire to tackle relevant social issues like racism, immigration, and deportation in the fictional town of Mexifornia. In his second presentation, “Ask a Mexican about *¡Ask a Mexican!*,” Mr. Arellano explained how his syndicated column started in the *O.C. Weekly* as a satirical outlet to counter the stereotype of the “Eternal Mexican.” The column is now syndicated in over 30 newspapers and has spawned a book with the same title. Mr. Arellano treated the packed audience to some of the funniest questions and answers from the column. Mr. Arellano put both *Bordertown* and *¡Ask a Mexican!* into perspective by saying, “Humor is an effective tool to combat hate. For the poor and oppressed, humor is of the few remaining tools that they can use.” Later that same afternoon, Mr. Arellano presented the 14th Annual LALS Heritage Lecture, “El Sur Shall Rise Again: How Latino Immigrants are Saving the South,” turning his attention to a subject he knows well, the role of Mexican food in breaking down cultural barriers. Co-sponsored by LALS, Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality (CODRE), the Liberal Studies Project, and the Cultural Center. —Michael Stevens, LALS Major

Additional Fall Co-Sponsored Events

September 28-October 2: Pride Week, Featuring Keynote Speaker Patrisse Cullors, Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter. Sponsored by the LGBT Center; Co-Sponsors: LALS (Silver Level Sponsor) and others.

September 30: Luna y Flor Workshop: Healing and Mindfulness Practices for Our Life Journey- Building Community by Gathering Stories; 12:00-1:00pm; Interfaith Center. Co-Sponsors: Hispanic Latino Initiatives, Episcopal Campus Ministry, LGBT Center, First Year Initiatives, and LALS.

October 28: Luna y Flor Workshop: Healing and Mindfulness Practices for Our Life Journey- Building Yourself by Honoring Your Past; 12:00-1:00pm; Interfaith Center. Co-Sponsors: Hispanic Latino Initiatives, Episcopal Campus Ministry, LGBT Center, First Year Initiatives, and LALS.

November 2-December 7: LALS Winter Coat Drive for Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

November 17: Teach-In: Representations of Latin@s in the US; 12:30-2:00pm; Elaine Chao Auditorium. Co-Sponsors: Cultural Center, Dept. of CML, LGBT Center, HLFSA, and LALS.

November 22: Art Can Save Your Life! Discover Your Cultural Resiliency! 1:00-4:00pm; Cultural Center. Co-Sponsors: Cultural Center, Dept. CML, LGBT Center, HLFSA, and LALS.

December 7: LALS Research Forum and Internship Poster Session; 9:00-9:50am; Stevenson 307. LALS Fall Interns: Camila Aramburu (CARE-Peru), Hayley Brown (Adelante Hispanic Achievers), Lauren Lewis (Iroquois Library), and Tyler Mercer (Doors to Hope).

December 10: Luna y Flor Workshop: Healing and Mindfulness Practices for Our Life Journey- Building Strength by Respecting Our Bodies; 12:00-1:00pm; Interfaith Center. Co-Sponsors: Hispanic Latino Initiatives, Episcopal Campus Ministry, LGBT Center, First Year Initiatives, and LALS.

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Statement on the Presidential Photo Controversy at the University of Louisville

Since it was established in 2000, the Latin American and Latino Studies Program at the University of Louisville has been dedicated to educating the campus and the community about Latin America and Latinos in the United States and to fostering a general climate of diversity and tolerance on campus. As with other groups and individuals who have worked so hard over the years to create an inclusive, tolerant, and diverse climate on campus, we were dismayed and disheartened by the recent incident in which President Ramsey and members of his staff were photographed wearing stereotypical “Mexican” costumes.

Although we do not believe the President, his wife, or staff were motivated by deliberate ill-will, the insensitivity or lack of awareness these actions suggest, as well as the subsequent media coverage, has nevertheless damaged the university’s image and undermined the good work that LALS and many other groups and individuals on campus have done over the years to foster appreciation of cultural diversity.

While we do not believe this incident should be taken lightly, it is also an opportunity to further our efforts in shaping current discussions about ethnic stereotyping and unintentional racism and their impact on our communities, and on immigration and related policy debates. Education about these issues is particularly important at UofL, given the growing Latino presence on our campus, in the city of Louisville, and the state of Kentucky.

We call on President Ramsey and the university administration to follow apologies with concrete actions, including campus and community conversations. We echo the demands of other campus groups (including the Hispanic and Latino Faculty and Staff Association and the Hispanic Latino Initiatives of the Cultural Center) in asking for dedicated scholarships for Latino students, hiring of additional Latino faculty and staff, and increased diversity and cultural awareness training for faculty, staff, and administration. The Latin American and Latino Studies Program stands ready to assist in this effort.

Further, we call on the University and the College of Arts and Sciences to follow through on longstanding promises and make funds available for at least two faculty hires in Latin American and Latino Studies (one in humanities, one in social sciences). We also propose the creation of a spring semester lecture on Latino issues, co-sponsored with HFLSA and dedicated to discussing topics such as immigration, Latinos and higher education, and the history of Latinos in the U.S. We call on all faculty, staff, and students interested in these and other projects to join us in helping to create a campus where faculty and staff representation, as well as cultural and educational programming, fully reflect the dynamic and diverse student body at UofL. In this way, this unfortunate incident can be an opportunity for education and progress towards greater diversity on campus and beyond. - **The LALS Steering Committee, submitted November 16, 2015**

El Sueño Centenario Kentucky Latino Scholarship Fund



In June 2015, Mr. Ben Ruiz, CEO of Adhawks and member of the LALS Steering Committee, established the Louisville Latino Council to bring together organizations who assist the local Latino community, including LALS. At the council’s inaugural meeting, Mr. Ruiz announced the LLC’s first initiative: El Sueño Centenario (100 Dreamers) Kentucky Latino Scholarship Fund and its goal of increasing the number of Kentucky Latino students in higher education by granting 100 students a \$1,000 scholarship annually. The goal is to raise \$100,000 from 100 businesses by asking them to contribute \$1,000 each towards El Sueño Centenario Kentucky Latino Scholarship Fund-100 Dreamers. Other donations are also welcome. Donations can be made and students can apply at <http://www.100dreamers.org>.

Special thanks to Mr. Ben Ruiz for all that he has done for El Sueño Centenario, as well as the LALS Program!

Study Abroad in Panama!

Now accepting applications for the
14th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama!

 May 3-28, 2016 

Deadline extended to February 1, 2016

Applications may be found on the LALS website:

<http://louisville.edu/latinamericanstudies>

Scholarships Available! Apply Today!

In October, LALS received the Adelante Hispanic Achievers' Champion of Diversity Award!



Congratulations! ¡Felicidades!

Graduating Students

LALS Minors:

Lauren Lewis
Greter Sierra
Kaila Westover



LALS Graduate Certificate:

Jeanne Guerrero (August 2015)



Dr. Rhonda Buchanan was presented the 2015 NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) Award for Outstanding Faculty Advising, on October 4, 2015, at the national conference in Las Vegas!

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! For the past six months, “move on” has been a personal mantra as I prepared to downsize to a smaller house. The move was stressful, but provided the opportunity to donate books, household items, and clothing to many of the organizations that serve as LALS internship sites. A donation to Hotel Louisville of my entire collection of Oprah’s inspirational *O Magazine*, dating back to 2001, led to discussions of how LALS could join the many UofL departments and organizations who collaborate with this unique hotel, which also serves as a homeless shelter. In late October, we erected a public Day of the Dead altar in the hotel lobby and were so pleased that the employees embraced the idea of remembering their departed loved ones by placing photos and mementos on the altar.

The big move for me occurred around Halloween, in the midst of the controversy sparked by the presidential photo. Like other organizations on campus, the LALS Steering Committee discussed ways in which this unfortunate incident could become a stimulus for positive change on our campus. For example, since 2007, our LALS Strategic Plan has called for two faculty positions for our program. In addition, Mr. Ben Ruiz, CEO of Adhawk, Inc. and a long-standing member of the LALS Steering Committee, established the Sueño Centenario Latino Scholarship in the month of October, and has already raised nearly \$20,000. This new scholarship will contribute to the call for increased financial aid for our growing Latino student population. As we enter this season of gratitude and forgiveness, students, staff, and faculty of the LALS Program are poised to help President Ramsey and the UofL family “move on” and begin the new year with a spirit of collaboration and hope.

¡Felices Fiestas! Rhonda Buchanan, Director of LALS



Latin American & Latino Studies



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