

Spring 2004

Issue 3



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Latinos

Latin American Studies Offers A New LAS Graduate Certificate in the Fall of 2004

In February 2004 the College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Assembly unanimously approved the Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. This Certificate allows graduate students to enhance their major area of study with a specialized concentration on Latin America. This interdisciplinary program, housed in the Liberal Studies Program, offers students a wide range of courses in Anthropology, History, Pan-African Studies, Political Science, Spanish, and Women's Studies, among

others with a significant Latin American content. The 15-hour Certificate may be completed as a "stand alone" program or in conjunction with another graduate program.

The Latin American Studies Graduate Certificate will meet the demands of graduate students enrolled at UofL who are interested in increasing their knowledge of Latin America and applying that knowledge in tangible ways in the workplace and in volunteer services in the community. It will also help students to develop the tools for

interpreting the complexities of various socio-political developments and the complex cultural symbols of Latin America. This program should be of interest to students in numerous fields, including Anthropology, Creative Arts, Education, the Health Professions, History, International Business, Journalism, Justice Administration and Law, Pan-African Studies, Political Science, Social Service Administration, and Spanish and Portuguese. If interested, please contact Dr. Rhonda Buchanan.

Four LAS Minors Complete Latin American Studies Internships in the Spring

As part of the Latin American Studies minor at UofL, students are required to complete an internship providing them an opportunity to utilize their language skills and work one-on-one with the growing Hispanic/Latino community in Louisville. This spring **David Baumann** interned for **Kentucky Refugee Ministries**, a local organization that assists newly arrived political and economic refugees from all over the world. David worked with the Cuba program doing clerical and translation work, escorting Cubans to medical and other appointments, and interpreting for them. David says of his experience: "This internship has helped me to practice Spanish while giving me experience working in a non-profit organization. It is also a great opportunity to help refugees on a practical, day-to-day basis."

Meredith Ferguson has spent the semester helping to organize and run the English Conversation Club and the

Bilingual Spanish-English Café at the **Iroquois Public Library** in South Louisville. The Conversation Club matches new immigrants from all over the world with English-speaking volunteers and the Bilingual Café allows both participants to teach and learn from each other. "I have had infinite opportunity to speak and practice [my] Spanish," says Meredith, "and it has been a rewarding experience for me getting to help people here in Louisville."

Lastly, both **Betsy Berns** and **Sean Deskins** interned with the **Hispanic/Latino Coalition**. Betsy worked closely with Center Director Gioconda Guerra, helping to organize the Center's career fair and working with children during women's group meetings. "The internship at the Hispanic/Latino Center has been enriching thus far," Betsy says. "Through regular participation I have been able to practice my Spanish and learn more about the His-

panic/Latino community in Louisville. The employees and volunteers around the center are truly great people. They are very active in the community, providing needed services and support." Sean Deskins' work with the Coalition focused on supporting the Coalition's lobbying effort for Senate Bill 170, which would allow those without a Social Security number to obtain a driver's license in Kentucky. "My internship with the Hispanic/Latino Coalition has been a very valuable experience," Sean reports. "I have been able to see on a first-hand basis some of the needs of the Hispanic/Latino community in Louisville. I have also been able to build strong relationships with many leaders in the community." These are only a few of the many exciting and rewarding opportunities available to Latin American Studies minors. For more information, visit "Latinos in Louisville" on the LAS webpage.

Latin American Studies Presents the 2004 Lewis Scholar and Lewis Fellow Awards

With the generous support from the Richard and Constance Lewis Travel Fund and additional support from the Liberal Studies Program, seven students were named the 2004 Lewis Scholars. Two students will be headed to Mexico this summer, **Laura Barclay**, a Political Science major with a double minor in History and Spanish will study in Guanajuato, Mexico, while **Paige Janes**, a Spanish major, will study in Morelia, Mexico. Two Anthropology majors will participate in UofL's Portugal Program on an archeological excavation near the medieval city of Castelo de Vide. **Jacqueline Meier**, who has a double major in Anthropology and Spanish, will spend the summer in Portugal, and **Vanessa Smolenski** will stay on beyond the summer months to study at the Universidade de Lisboa in the fall. Two other students will apply their Lewis Scholarships to semester-long study abroad programs in Spain during the fall of 2004. **Kelly Buntain**, an Anthropology major with a double minor in Spanish and Religious Studies will study in Sevilla, while **Jessica Sanders**, a Philosophy major with a minor in Spanish will study in Granada. Finally, **Tim Moran**, who majors in English with a minor in Latin American Studies, will be returning to Panama after participating in the 2003 UofL Study Abroad Program in Panama. This summer he will complete his internship for the LAS minor by working at the UofL campus in Panama City. The 2004 Lewis Fellowship was awarded to **Dr. Lisa Wagner**, Assistant Professor of Spanish, who will conduct research this summer in Buenos Aires on *las Madres y las Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo*.

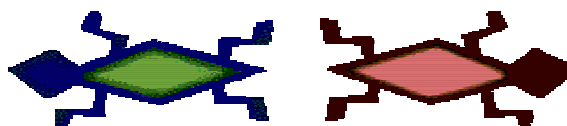
University of Louisville's 2nd Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama

Nineteen students will participate in UofL's 2nd Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama City from May 13-June 11, 2004, directed by Professors Lisa Wagner and Manuel Medina. This year's program features intensive language and culture classes that will count towards the Spanish major/minor and the Latin American Studies minor. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in many exciting cultural excursions and activities. The College of Arts & Sciences and the Institute for International Development have awarded eighteen \$1,000 scholarships to students participating in the 2004 Panama Program. These generous contributions have made the 2004 Panama Program an attractive, affordable opportunity for students to engage in intensive language study and participate in a truly multi-cultural experience! In August we will begin promoting the 3rd Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama and there will be many opportunities for scholarships announced during the fall semester. Visit the LAS website for more information!



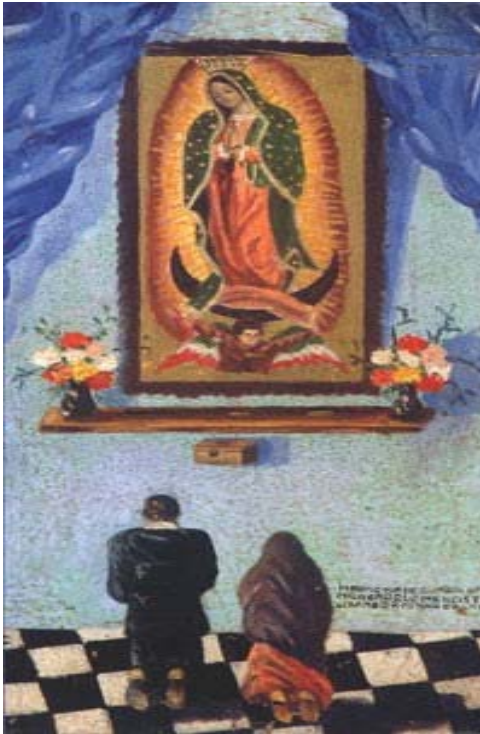
UofL Students Participate in the 1st North American Peacebuilders Program

The North American Peacebuilders Program, under the direction of Dr. Mike Fowler of the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution, has selected four UofL undergraduates to participate in the first round of student exchanges among six North American universities in 2004-2005. Traveling to Mexico in the spring of 2005 will be **Elizabeth Walter**, a Spanish major, and **Jamie Izlar**, a Political Science major and Theatre minor. Both are veterans of UofL's 1st Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama. Students chosen as North American Peacebuilders enroll in a core course in conflict resolution prior to their departure. While in residence at their host institutions, they take coursework with the local student population and participate in an internship related to peacemaking and conflict resolution. Funded by the governments of the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, the North American Peacebuilders Program is the first of its kind in North America. Congratulations to both Elizabeth and Jamie for being our trailblazers in Mexico!



Latin American Studies CO- Sponsored Events - Spring 2004

The Mexican Art of Giving Thanks



Two Mexican art historians from Mexico City, Michele Beltrán and Elin Luque, delivered presentations on the *exvotos*, Mexican pictorials of religious pop art, during their visit to UofL on February 8-10, 2004. The main lecture gathered together an audience of over one hundred students, and faculty from many disciplines within the College of Arts & Sciences, including Art History, Humanities, Latin American Studies, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Spanish. Michele Beltrán's lecture and visual images familiarized the audience with the history, meaning, and role of the *exvotos* in Mexican culture since the late 19th century. Elin Luque spoke in Spanish on the topic of the *exvotos* in the Basílica de Guadalupe to the students of Dr. Manuel Medina's Spanish 403 class, Foundations of Latin American Identities and Nationalisms. Beltrán and Luque's lectures and presentations explained the cultural and historical role of *exvotos* as creative representations of miracles in Mexican daily life. The very successful lectures ignited interest in a topic until then foreign to many students, faculty, and members of the community.

Ana María Shua Delivers Keynote Spanish Address at the 20th C. Literature Conference: "Narrativa argentina en la posdictadura"

On Friday, February 27, 2004, the Argentine writer Ana María Shua presented the keynote lecture in Spanish during the 32nd Annual 20th Century Literature Conference. Her lecture on the topic of Argentine narrative after the dictatorship was co-sponsored by the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and the Latin American Studies Program, and was attended by many conference participants, UofL faculty and students, and members of the community. During her stay in Louisville, the author also spoke to the students of Dr. Rhonda Buchanan's Spanish 302 classes about her fiction. To date, she has published more than forty books in nearly every genre, including novels, short stories, short short stories, poetry, theater, screen plays, children's fiction, books of humor and Jewish folklore, and essays. This was the author's second visit to the UofL campus. During her first visit in 1995, she was named an Honorable Kentucky Colonel, and this visit she was proclaimed an Honorary Citizen of Louisville, which was granted with the understanding that she return often to our fair city.



Judy Veramendi Presents "Scenes from *The Empty Chalice: The Life and Poetry of Delmira Agustini*"



For the first time, the Spanish section of UofL's 20th Century Literature Conference offered live theatre in addition to scholarly presentations and creative readings. Two actors, María Chrysanthou and Oswaldo Calderón, presented scenes from Professor Judy Veramendi's drama, *The Empty Chalice: Life and Poetry of Delmira Agustini*, a one-act play based on Veramendi's novel. *The Empty Chalice* is inspired by the life of the Uruguayan poet Delmira Agustini (1886- 1914), who produced astounding original poetry despite living in a repressive time and place for women. Her promising career was cut short at the age of twenty seven when her estranged husband murdered her and then killed himself. An enthusiastic audience comprised of students, faculty, conference participants, and community members enjoyed the scenes from Veramendi's play and her presentation of the research she conducted on Agustini's life during her Fulbright Fellowship in Montevideo.



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An Invitation to Minor in Latin American Studies

Are you intrigued by Latin America? Trying to become more internationally aware? Want to know more about the home countries of many new Kentuckians? Interested in adding a distinctive credential to your degree? Then consider declaring a minor in Latin American Studies! This inter-disciplinary program, housed within the Liberal Studies Program, draws upon faculty expertise across the university, including Anthropology, Art History, History, Music, Pan-African Studies, Political Science, Portuguese and Spanish, and Women's Studies, among others. The LAS minor encourages students to combine on-campus course work with study abroad programs and internships in which students may develop their Spanish or Portuguese language skills and apply classroom knowledge in cross-cultural settings. Moreover, the LAS Program will inaugurate a Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies this fall. Consider making Latin American Studies part of your undergraduate or graduate academic program. Visit the LAS webpage to see the list of course offerings for Fall 2004.

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! As my second year directing Latin American Studies comes to a close, I am excited to report that the program is expanding rapidly. In December 2002 **Janessa Bryan** was the first student to graduate from UofL with a minor in LAS, and **Constance Garvey** followed in December 2003. Since then, the program has grown to include about twenty minors, several of whom will be graduating in 2004. Nearly a dozen students have expressed interest in pursuing the new Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies which will be in place officially in the fall of 2004.

In the meantime, nineteen students are awaiting the date for their May 13th departure to Panama, where they will study for one month with Dr. Lisa Wag-

ner, Director of the UofL 2nd Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, Dr. Manuel Medina, Assistant Program Director, and Professor Ricardo Acosta, who will teach a course on Panamanian culture. I hope that they will enjoy the program as much as the thirty seven students who participated in the program with me and Dr. Wagner last year. ¡Buen viaje!

I welcome everyone to visit the LAS webpage for the electronic version of this newsletter and additional information about our program and sponsored events, and wish everyone *un verano fabuloso*, a fabulous summer,

*Rhonda Buchanan,
Director of Latin American Studies*