

Spring 2009

Issue 13



## Meet the Valuable Members of the LALS Staff!

On December 18, 2009 **Laine López** received her M.A. in Spanish with an LALS Graduate Certificate, after completing her B.A. in Spanish with an LALS Minor. Less than a month later, she joined the UofL staff with a joint appointment as the Program Coordinator for Latin American and Latino Studies and The Cultural Center. Although she works 50% of her time for each organization, the Cultural Center and the LALS Program share a common mission to celebrate diversity, and we look forward to collaborating together on many joint ventures, particularly on outreach to Latino students. Ms. López also serves as the Assistant Director of LALS's Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, and has been instrumental in the administration of the program. Thanks to Ms. López, LALS is now on **Facebook**, and we welcome everyone to become our "amigos"!



Janna Tajibaeva and Laine López

Since the inception of Latin American Studies in 2000, **Janna Tajibaeva** has served as our Program Assistant, in addition to her duties as Program Coordinator for the Liberal Studies Program and also her work with UofL's Arts and Culture Partnerships Initiative. Last year she assisted the LALS Program with our Downtown Day of the Dead Celebration, which took place at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft and 21C Museum. Ms. Tajibaeva creates our colorful *Caminos* newsletter, the annual Panama brochures, the artistic flyers that announce LALS events, the certificates to congratulate our Lewis and Panama Scholars and the LALS Graduates, and the program for the Annual LALS Spring Showcase. She also handles our budget and makes certain that the Lewis scholarship and fellowship funds are dispersed properly. She does all this for the LALS Program and much more while pursuing a Doctorate in Humanities! – Submitted by Rhonda Buchanan

## Latin American and Latino Studies Celebrates 2nd Annual Spring Showcase



Neil Gupta and Ryan Jones

There was much to celebrate in the hour-long LALS Spring Showcase, which took place on April 8<sup>th</sup> in the Belknap Research Building. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the community gathered to honor the 2009 Lewis Scholars and Fellow, the 2009 Panama Scholars, our LALS Interns, and the graduating LALS Students. We were especially pleased to recognize Neil Gupta and Ryan Jones the first students to graduate with the new minor in Latino Studies. Both have been accepted into the UofL Medical School and Neil has been awarded the 2009 Woodcock Medal!

Congratulations to Neil and all our graduates!

We were also excited to announce a name change for our LAS Graduate Certificate, which reflects our focus on Latino issues. As of this summer, we will offer a Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Latino Studies. The Showcase also provided the opportunity to express our appreciation to the directors of organizations who supervise the LALS interns. This spring two new local internship sites were added to our growing list: Adhawks Advertising and Public Relations, whose CEO Adolfo (Ben) Ruiz is also a valuable member of the LALS Steering Committee, and Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking, directed by Marissa Castellanos. We also celebrated our collaborations with the Kentucky Derby Museum, the Louisville Slugger Museum, the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, and 21C Museum. Our program concluded with presentations by two Lewis Fellows, Dr. Christine Ehrick and Dr. Clare Sullivan. On a personal note, I was very happy to have the opportunity to thank Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis for their generosity, and to express my heartfelt gratitude to the LALS faculty, students, and staff, and to the members of community who support our program. – Submitted by Rhonda Buchanan

## Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

### UofL's Executive Vice-President of Research, Dr. Manuel Martínez-Maldonado, Delivers the Keynote Hispanic Lecture at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900



Dr. Martínez-Maldonado with Dr. Buchanan's Spanish 355 Class

In his presentation, “La literatura puertorriqueña de cerca y de lejos: visión de los últimos 25 años, Dr. Martínez-Maldonado spoke of the clashes of cultures in his professional life as a scientist and writer, as well as the theme in Puerto Rican literature of a shared national identity. He also addressed his personal experience moving from his native home and the challenges that he, like many of his compatriots, must face after an extended absence from the island. His creative writing has been instrumental in defining the ex-patriot condition that he shares with the millions of Puerto Ricans living in the US. Dr. Martínez-Maldonado also gave a lecture about his poetry to the students of Dr. Rhonda Buchanan's Spanish 355 class, Reading Hispanic Texts – Submitted by Derek Falk, LALS Graduate Certificate Student

### Service Learning Fair Offers Opportunities for UofL Students to Volunteer!

On Wednesday, March 25, 2009, LALS participated in a Service Learning Fair in Humanities Rm. 300, along with the Office of Service Learning, International Studies Abroad, and several organizations from the Louisville Metro area, which have served as LALS Internship Sites, such as Adelante Hispanic Achievers, Arcadia Community Center, and the Klein Family Learning Center. Under the direction of Dr. Gregory Hutcheson, Spanish Graduate Teaching Assistants from the Department of Classical and Modern Languages helped to organize this event to raise awareness for our students of the many community organizations that serve the needs of our local Hispanic community and the many opportunities available for volunteers with Spanish-speaking skills. Already putting our purpose into practice, Jordan Andrew, a student who recently applied to the LAS minor and is passionate about horses, was able to set up an LAS internship with the Klein Family Learning Center on the Backside of Churchill Downs that very day! The event was so successful that we plan to make it an Annual Service Learning Fair.

– Submitted by Cynthia Martínez, LAS Graduate Certificate Student

### Film Screening of Anayansi Prado's *Children in No-Man's Land* Raises Questions about the Plight of Undocumented Youth

In watching the screening of Anayansi Prado's provocative film *Children in No-Man's Land*, on March 23, 2009, I was overwhelmed by the multitude of children who attempt the border crossing into the US in hopes of a better life. Prado's documentary focused on the journey that two young cousins made from Puebla to Chicago. The first time they attempted the crossing to join their mothers, they were detained by immigration officers. After they were released, they risked their lives a second time and finally made it to Chicago, but after a few months they became dissatisfied with life in the US and wanted to return home. This left me perplexed and questioning their reasons for crossing the border and the significance of their voyage. Questions like these are what engaging documentaries should elicit, and Prado's documentary did just that. This screening, which was co-sponsored by LALS, the English Department, and the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, prepared the UofL community for the campus visit of Anayansi Prado two days later.

– Submitted by Sheila Bates, LAS Minor

## Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

### The Annual Minx Auerbach Lecture in Women's and Gender Studies Presented by Panamanian Film Director Anayansi Prado



Dr. Nancy Theriot with Anayansi Prado

In her lecture, “Insider/Observer: The Immigrant Experience through the Lens,” documentary filmmaker Anayansi Prado presented clips from her films *Maid in America* and *Children in No-Man’s Land*, and spoke of her desire to expose the human side of the immigrant experience, one that goes beyond the stereotypical images of border crossings portrayed by the media. For example, her first film highlights the similarities between working mothers in the US and the domestic help they hire to care for their children. Both groups of women must make difficult choices about their roles as mothers and breadwinners of the household. Her second film portrays the bittersweet reality that immigrant families must face when their fantasy of the American dream does not live up to their expectations. This lecture, which took place on March 25, 2009 at the Speed Art Museum Auditorium, was co-sponsored by WGST, LALS, and the Commonwealth Center for Humanities and Society.

– Submitted by Lorena Toro, LAS Graduate Certificate Student

### The History Department’s Annual Gottschalk Lecture Presented by Dr. Alan Knight Poses the Question “Why Was There No “Scramble for Latin America (1850-1930)?”

On March 30, 2009, Dr. Alan Knight, Professor of History of Latin America at Oxford University, presented the Annual Gottschalk Lecture in which he discussed why there was no scramble for Latin America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as there had been for Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. A specialist in Mexican history, the next day Dr. Knight lectured to the students of Dr. Christine Ehrick’s HIST 332 class about Mexico’s situation during the post-WWII era, particularly about how the PRI (Partido Revolucionario Institucional) came to power and the subsequent social and economic consequences of this political party’s control. Dr. Knight sprinkled both lectures with humor while still delivering a clear, concise and informative message. His campus visit was co-sponsored by LALS and the Cultural Center



Dr. Knight with Dr. Ehrick’s History 332 Class

– Submitted by Allison Chesser, Latino Studies Minor

### Collaborations between LALS and The Cultural Center

The Cultural Center, under the direction of Michael Anthony, co-sponsored the 2008 LALS Heritage lecture in October, and joined LALS in co-sponsoring the 2009 Gottschalk Lecture in History. This semester LALS co-sponsored three International Teas on January 22nd, February 26, and April 2nd at the Cultural Center, providing lunch and an hour of stimulating conversation. The Cultural Center would like to reach out to students from all ethnic backgrounds and invite them to visit this new institution, which celebrates the diverse cultures of our campus community. On Labor Day weekend, LALS and the Cultural Center will participate in WorldFest. Please visit our booth!

—Submitted by Laine López

**2009 Graduate  
Certificate in LAS**

Judith Friedrich  
Erin Grace (Dec. '08)  
Laine López (Dec. '08)  
Judy Martí  
Jessica Ratliff Oney  
Lorena Toro



**2009 LAS Minors**

Sheila Bates  
Selene Black  
Tiffany Evans (Dec. '08)  
Jacob McConnell  
Sarah Oesterly  
Emily Rigdon



**2009 Lewis Scholars**

Steven Alcorn, Argentina  
Brittany Cecil, Spain  
Lauren Hendricks, Belize  
Jessica Harman, Belize  
Meagan Holtgrave, Spain  
Erin McCoy, Panama  
Jamie Ratliff, Mexico  
Michael Razeq, Spain  
Aubrey Woolley, Mexico

**2009 Lewis Fellow**

Dr. Gabriela Núñez,  
Assistant Professor  
of English  
“Mexican Detective  
Novels & Social Inequality”  
—Brazil.



***¡Buen Viaje 2009 Panama Scholars!***

On May 7, 2009, sixteen UofL students will be leaving Louisville to participate in the 7th Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, along with the Program Director, Berta Calvert, and Communication professors Joy Hart and Kandi Walker. During this month-long program, students will earn six UofL credit hours by taking courses on Panamanian Culture, Intercultural Communication, and Spanish language classes at the Quality Leadership University. They will also enjoy excursions to the Panama Canal, the Emberá Community in the Gamboa Rainforest, and many more activities during their free time. We wish them a great trip and invite students to consider applying to our 8th Annual Study Abroad Program.

***Desde los Cuatro Caminos***



***From the Crossroads***

*¡Saludos amigos!*

As another semester comes to a close, and graduation is upon us, I would like to extend my congratulations to our LALS Graduates. This spring we continued our collaboration with Louisville Fire and Rescue, the Louisville Metro Department of Protection, and UofL's Department of Justice Administration. Working with Sgt. Salvador Meléndez, we hope to secure funding to offer Spanish for First Responders to the new class of Rookie Firefighters. The semester is not yet over and we are already gearing up for the fall! We will be participating in the activities promoted by the Book-in-Common Initiative by co-sponsoring the campus visit of Luis Alberto Urrea, award-winning author of *The Devil's Highway*, as well as the campus visit of Alex Rivera, director of *The Sleep Dealer*, a political satire film about the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition, LALS will participate in the Latino/Multicultural College Fair, to be held on campus in October, by providing student mentors for the visiting middle and high school students who will attend the event. Once again LALS is collaborating with the UofL Arts and Culture Partnerships Initiative on the 2009 Downtown Celebration of the Day of the Dead. We will partner for the third time with the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, and we will also assist UofL physics and biology students with their creation of altars to Galileo and Darwin, which will be displayed at the Louisville Science Museum. Please be sure to check out our webpage for a complete calendar of events. We need volunteers to help us in the fall! I wish everyone a fabulous summer after such a long and cold winter,

Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American and Latino Studies

**Latin American and  
Latino Studies**

**College of Arts and Sciences  
Humanities Building 329C  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, KY 40292**

**Phone: (502) 852-2034  
Fax: 502-852-8885  
rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu  
[http://louisville.edu/  
latinamericanstudies](http://louisville.edu/latinamericanstudies)**

**Join LALS on Facebook!**

