

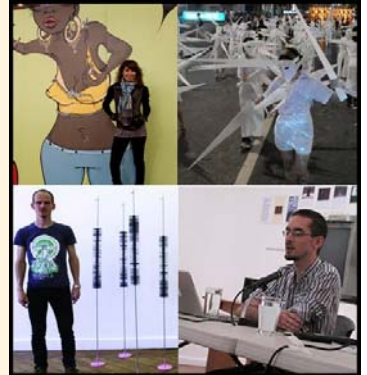
Spring 2012
Issue 19



LALS Collaborates with Art Exhibits on Campus and in the Community

Contemporary Art Viewed from a Caribbean Perspective

On February 2, 2012, LALS co-sponsored a panel discussion in the Elaine Chao Auditorium with Caribbean artists Blue Curry, Marlon Griffith, Sofía Maldonado, and Nicholas Laughlin, who served as a moderator. The artists discussed the exhibit "Into the Mix" at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, which sought to define Caribbean identity outside of folksy norms and to promote Caribbean art with unrestricted labels. This new generation of Caribbean artists discussed how the internet functions as a boundless exhibition space allowing for a bigger audience and also digital archiving of their work. In addition to using unconventional art spaces, such as the internet, these artists create their art using non-traditional media, such as tires, beads and cardboard boxes. The panel discussion addressed the cultural complexities of Caribbean stereotypes and sought to identify what it means to have cultural authenticity in an area as diverse as the Caribbean. The exhibit, on display at KMAC from February 4 to April 14, 2012, was also co-sponsored by LALS. --Kelsey Stanley, LAS Minor



Clockwise from Top Left: Sofía Maldonado, Marlon Griffith, Nicholas Laughlin, and Blue Curry from the "Into the Mix" exhibit. Photo courtesy of KMAC.



Mexican Culture is Showcased in Two Campus Exhibits



"Untitled" by Harold Winslow

On March 6, three UofL professors participated in the symposium "Sanctuaries of Promise: African Americans in Mexico, France and Russia," in conjunction with the Hite Art Institute's exhibition, "Harold Winslow: Una visión de la mexicanidad," in the Belknap Gallery. The panelists included Dr. Nefertiti Burton, who spoke about the experiences of African-American writers and artists in Paris, Dr. Joy Carew, who focused on the experiences of Langston Hughes in Russia in the 1930s, and Dr. Christopher Fulton, who spoke about the works of Harold Winslow (1918-2002), an African-American artist who traveled to Mexico in 1940 and spent a lifetime there developing an original style that reflects the culture of Mexico. The audience was invited to a reception at Schneider Hall to see original works by Harold Winslow, and a second exhibit, "The Ritual Masks of Michoacán." The exhibits and symposium were co-sponsored by the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, the Department of Fine Arts, the Hite Art Institute, the LALS Program, the Department of Pan-African Studies, the Theatre Arts Department, and the Kentucky Institute for International Studies. --James Bryant Scott, LALS Graduate Certificate Student



A Ritual Mask of Michoacán

Harold Winslow, and a second exhibit, "The Ritual Masks of Michoacán." The exhibits and symposium were co-sponsored by the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, the Department of Fine Arts, the Hite Art Institute, the LALS Program, the Department of Pan-African Studies, the Theatre Arts Department, and the Kentucky Institute for International Studies. --James Bryant Scott, LALS Graduate Certificate Student



Traditional Art of Panama is Celebrated in "Molas: Art to Live On"



Kate Sowada

An exhibition featuring Kuna molas from Panama was on display at the Water Tower, March 4 to April 13, 2012. The Kunas are the largest indigenous group in Panama and the women are known for the beautiful handiwork of their molas, which are part of their traditional dress. Different forms of appliqué have emerged to meet the interests and demands of collectors and tourists. As a result, tourist molas are produced specifically for sale and demonstrate how the molas have evolved into a primary source of income for the Kuna. The molas displayed in this exhibit were loaned by Panama Scholars who participated

in the May 2011 Panama Program and by Dr. Rhonda Buchanan who created the study abroad program in 2002. As the curator for this exhibit, I asked each of the donors to describe why they chose to purchase each of their molas, and their responses provided insight into their experience as a scholar and tourist in Panama. This exhibit was inspired and supported by the Lilialyce Akers Travel Award through the Women's and Gender Studies Department and the Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama, offered by the LALS Program and the Department of Communication. It was co-sponsored by the LALS Program, Hite Art Institute Curatorial Studies, the Department of Fine Arts, Louisville Area Fiber and Textile Artists, and the Louisville Visual Arts Association. --Kate Sowada, LALS Graduate Certificate Student

LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

Camminos

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events



Students from Panamá studying at UofL celebrate *Carnaval Around the World 2012* with LALS.

LALS Celebrates Carnaval in Panamá

On February 21, 2012, the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, along with professors and students from a variety of different language and cultural programs on campus hosted the annual event, *Carnaval Around the World 2012*. Students were invited to taste some of the festive international foods and talk with professors and students about how Carnaval is celebrated in different countries. The LALS Program was one of the co-sponsors and its booth featured Carnaval in Panamá. Berta Calvert, Director of the 2012 Study Abroad Program in Panama, and about a dozen Panamanian students enrolled at UofL volunteered at the LALS booth and talked to students about the unique ways that carnaval is celebrated in their country. Appalatin and the UofL Brazilian Jazz Ensemble provided live music while other groups from outside of the area showcased the rich traditions of a variety of communities through dance performances. Students were given the opportunity to see their name written in Arabic, Chinese, or Russian characters and some booths allowed students to make their very own traditional handcraft. Information on various academic programs was available, as well as brochures about numerous study abroad opportunities. --Brittany Stevenson, LALS Graduate Certificate Student



Ivón Gordon Vailakis Presents “Geografía y poesía,” the Spanish Keynote at the 40th Louisville Conference

On February 23, 2012, Dr. Ivón Gordon Vailakis, a native of Quito, Ecuador and Professor of Spanish at the University of Redlands, captivated the audience with a reading of poems from several of her award-winning collections. Given that I’m half Ecuadorian and half American, for me personally, this was a great delight to listen to Professor Vailakis read her poetry and speak about the inspiration from which she creates her work. The poet explained that even though she migrated to the United States at an early age, she remained true to her Ecuadorian heritage and prefers to write poetry in her native Spanish tongue. I particularly enjoyed her spirited reading of such poems as “Mi palabra,” “Mi madre,” and “La tierra.” In the latter poem, Vailakis spoke of the beauty of her native homeland of Ecuador and the importance of nature as a theme in her works. --Alexander Taylor, LAS Minor



Lola Alvarez Bravo,
La Madre Matiana (1935)

Dr. Eddie Wright-Ríos Lectures on the Photography of Lola Alvarez Bravo

On Wednesday, March 7, 2012, Dr. Edward Wright-Ríos, Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, delivered a public lecture entitled “Picturing the Prophetess: Gender, Piety and Portraiture in Revolutionary Mexico.” The lecture focused on a group of unpublished photographs taken by Lola Alvarez Bravo. One image in particular has sparked the attention of Dr. Wright-Ríos, a photograph called *La Madre Matiana*, which features a carnival fortune-teller mannequin surrounded by a group of men on a busy street. It is the curious title that interests Dr. Wright-Ríos, a reference to the legend of an 18th century religious visionary who foresaw the coming wars for Independence and the Revolution as religious retribution for the country’s impiety. The image by Alvarez Bravo is just one pop culture reference that invokes the *Matiana*, part of a litany of historical allusions to the prophetess from the 19th and 20th Centuries, many of which will be discussed by Wright-Ríos in his upcoming book on the ways in which gender, piety, and politics are embodied by the legendary figure and her reappearances. This event was co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, and LALS.

--Jamie Ratliff, LALS Graduate Certificate Student

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Luz Rivera Martínez Lectures on “Urban and Rural Social Movements in Tlaxcala”

On March 8, 2012, International Women’s Day, Luz Rivera Martínez of the Consejo Nacional Urbano Campesino (CNUC) spoke in passionate Spanish about her work as the lead organizer of this Grassroots organization in Tlaxaca, Mexico. Tlaxaca is the smallest state in Mexico and among the most active in the fight against capitalist driven infrastructural development and its adverse effects on local communities. Rivera Martínez explains that as a result of NAFTA, people live “with difficulties, with pain, and a will to live and face the disrespect of those who seek to oppress them.” The CNUC has fought against the exclusion of lower class workers from the economic benefits of tourism and they have protested the distribution of transgenic corn seeds as dangerous to the long history of native corn that have been cultivated for generations in Mexico. In general, the CNUC responds to the needs of the community by directly asking them how they feel, what they want, and what they need. By uniting people and building hope, the well-being of the people, the communities, and Mexico is guarded. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Mexico-US Solidarity Network, the Department of Anthropology, and LALS, among many others. --Lauren Weaver, LAS Minor



Luz Rivera Martínez
with Diora Colepaugh



Norma Ramos
with Robin Valenzuela

Norma Ramos Lectures on “Trafficking in Women”

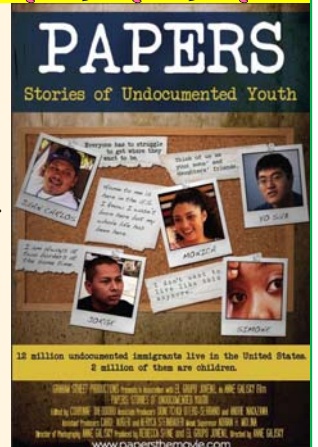
On March 22, 2012, the Annual Minx Auerbach lecture in Women’s and Gender Studies featured social justice advocate Norma Ramos, who is also the executive director of CATW (the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women), an organization that advocates against the sexual exploitation of women. In her lecture, Ramos asserted that prostitution is *not* the “oldest profession” but rather the oldest *oppression*, given its historical linkage to impoverished women from lower social strata in particular. In her words, prostitution is “a function of a lack of choice,” and as such, she advocated for a definition of human trafficking that would equate prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, and mail order bride selling with sexual

exploitation. Ramos also discussed the causal factors that prompt commercial sexual exploitation. She alleged that the increasing availability of pornographic imagery to younger and younger audiences forms a powerful sexual socialization mechanism that distorts male sexuality. As a caseworker and advocate for victims of human trafficking locally, as well as a co-chair on the Louisville Metro Human Trafficking Task Force, Norma Ramos' lecture was particularly enlightening for me. --Robin Valenzuela, LALS Graduate Certificate Student



Screening of Documentary Film “Papers” Promotes the Dream Act

On April 5, 2012, the LALS Program joined the Brandeis School of Law and UofL DREAMERS Chapter in the campus screening of “Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth.” This documentary film illuminates some of the insurmountable struggles that undocumented children and their families face in the United States, in particular, the legal obstacles that make it difficult for children of immigrant families to continue their education beyond high school. The UofL DREAMERS Chapter supports the Dream Act, students rights, and promotes higher education and immigration policy changes. For more information, please join our Facebook group, “Kentucky Dream Coalition (UofL Chapter).” --María Karen López, LALS Graduate Certificate Student and President of the UofL DREAMERS Chapter



2011-2012 LALS Graduates

Latin American Studies Minors

Jhalak Dholakia
 Kathryn Hassett (Dec. '11)
 Opal LaVon
 Tyler McChane (Dec. '11)
 Alexander Taylor
 Lauren Weaver



Latino Studies Minors

Akash Gupta
 Eric Kleppe
 Natalie Schuetz (Dec. '11)



2011-2012 LALS Graduates

LALS Graduate Certificates

Cassandra Book
 Eve-Lynn Graham
 Kate Hubert
 Hannah Joiner
 Jamie Ratliff
 Maggie Roll
 Jessica Ronald
 Kate Sowada
 Nicola Whitley
 Robin Valenzuela
 Sandra Vera (Dec. '11)



2012 Lewis Scholars

Teresa Cox, Cuba
 Taylor Forns, Panama
 Maria Gimbel, Peru
 Lindsey Hastings, Panama
 Caroline Holtgrave, Peru
 Stephanie Leonard, Chile



2011 Lewis Fellow

Dr. Fabián Crespo,
 Department of Anthropology
 "Genes and Fossils: An
 Introduction to Human
 Evolution" (Argentina)

2012 Lewis Fellow

Dr. Enid Trucios-Haynes,
 Brandeis School of Law
 "Formal and Informal
 Migrant Networks: Post 9/11
 Connections between Guanajuato
 and the US" (Mexico)

Study Abroad Program in Panama Celebrates Its 10th Year

The 10th anniversary of the Study Abroad Program in Panama was celebrated at the 5th Annual LALS Showcase on April 4, 2012. Oscar León, President of the Quality Leadership University in Panama City, which hosts the program, presented the 2012 Panama Scholars with certificates, and the honor of Kentucky Colonel was bestowed upon him at the event. Dr. Rhonda Buchanan organized and directed the first program in 2003, and since then, 210 students have studied in Panama. For the past six years, the Department of Communication has collaborated with the program. This May, 24 students will travel to Panama with Berta Calvert, Program Director and Spanish instructor, Robert Paris, Assistant Program Director and Spanish instructor, and Dr. Al Futrell, Chair of the Department of Communication. We are grateful to QLU for its support over the past decade and look forward to sending students to Panama for many years to come!



2012 Panama Scholars with President Oscar León of the Quality Leadership University in Panamá

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos!

As the semester winds down, the LALS Program is making one last push to answer Mayor Fischer's call to "Give a Day of Service" to our community. In fact, we've been giving a semester of service! In February, we supported the Big Brothers Big Sisters' annual fundraiser event, Bowl for Kids' Sake, and formed an LALS Team. Natalie Schuetz was the UofL student who raised the most funds. This month, we are collecting school supplies for the BBBS Backpack Drive and also for victims of the March 2nd tornadoes. We're accepting donations through April 30, 2012 at the LALS Offices in Stevenson Hall. On April 17, 2012, three LALS students participated in the Undergraduate Research & Community Engagement Symposium and highlighted their rewarding medical internship experiences in Louisville and abroad: Naseem Ansari (Ky Racing Health Services Center - Churchill Downs, Jhalak Dholakia (Universidad Latina -Medical School in Panama), and Akash Gupta (Children's Aid Mission International in Guatemala).

Our students have been such "busy bees" volunteering in the community that last month we created an LALS Club, whose main focus will be service to the local Latino community. It's open to everyone, so please join the LALS Club and help us create a buzz!

This semester the proposal for the new BA degree in LALS has passed several stages of review and approval, with just a couple more to go! We hope to have the new major in place by August of 2012— just in time for the fall semester! We look forward to working with the Kentucky Educational Alliance Team on the 55,000 Degree Initiative, specifically the goal for 1500 Latino students to earn degrees by the year 2020.

Congratulations to all our graduating students and best wishes to all for a great summer, Rhonda Buchanan, Director of Latin American and Latino Studies



Latin American & Latino Studies

Latin American
 and Latino Studies Program
 College of Arts and Sciences

Offices: Stevenson Hall 304, 305, & 306
 University of Louisville
 Louisville, KY 40292

Phone: (502) 852-2034
 Email: rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu

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