

Spring 2014

Issue 23

## LALS Program Welcomes Three New Faculty Members!

### Dr. Thomas Edison



Dr. Thomas Wayne Edison is originally from Louisville, Kentucky. He received his B.A. and M.A. in Spanish from the University of Louisville and a Ph.D. in Latin American Literature from the University of Kentucky. He comes to us from Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland, where he is a Professor of Spanish and Chair of World Languages. A former Fulbright Scholar, Edison has published articles on Afro-Caribbean culture and is currently researching Afro-Caribbean spirituality in cinema. Dr. Edison frequently lectures on African influenced cultures in the Americas and how they are manifested in identity and artistic expression. Dr.

Edison will join the faculty of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages in July of 2014, and will have a secondary appointment with the LALS Program. He will teach LALS 310 Introduction to Latin American Studies in the fall and LALS 319 Latin American Folklore and Legends in the spring of 2015. In addition, Dr. Edison will serve as the Director of the Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama and the Faculty Advisor to the LALS Club.

### Dr. Brenda Ortíz-Loyola

Also joining us from the state of Maryland is Dr. Brenda Ortíz-Loyola, who holds a Ph.D. in Hispanic Languages & Literatures from University of California, Los Angeles, an M.A. degree in Spanish from the University of Akron, Ohio, and a Juris Doctor from the Universidad de Puerto Rico. Her research and teaching interests include: women writers, early feminist movements, race, gender, social class and national identity, and the representations of space in Caribbean literature. Her current research explores the relationship between feminist and nationalist movements in the Hispanic Caribbean. She is also working on a project that analyses the representation of marginal spaces and its inhabitants in Puerto Rican literature. Dr. Ortíz-Loyola is currently a Visiting Professor at Loyola University in Baltimore and will join the Department of Classical and Modern Languages in July of 2014, with a secondary appointment in LALS. In the spring of 2015, she will offer LALS 680 Issues in Latin American and Latino Studies.



### Dr. Carmen Montañez



Dr. Carmen Montañez is Professor Emeritus of Spanish at Indiana State University. Dr. Montañez received an M.A. degree in Spanish from the University of Louisville and a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Kentucky. Before coming to the United States, she received a Juris Doctor degree from the Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico. Dr. Montañez is also a writer of novels and short stories, and has published critical books and essays on Caribbean literature and culture. Her novel *Pelo bueno, pelo malo* was nominated for the 2006 Premio Sor Juana and her short story collection, *Las divas de mi barrio*, was named one of the top ten bestsellers in Puerto Rico in 2013. In the fall of 2014, Dr. Montañez will teach a new distance ed course for the LALS program, LALS 200-50 (CD1) Exploring Latin America through Caribbean Narrative Fiction, and in the spring of 2015, she will offer the same course with an emphasis on Latino/a Narrative Fiction.

LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

# Caminos

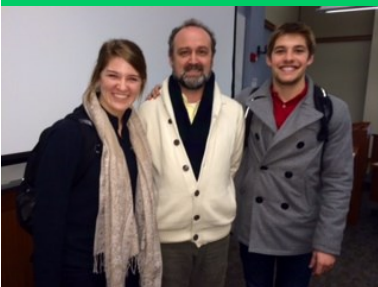


## Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

### A.C.E.S.: Black and Latino Symposium

On Friday, February 14, 2014, the LALS program co-sponsored the Annual A.C.E.S. Black and Latino Student Symposium, with speakers in the morning and the screening of an Oscar-winning documentary *Inocente*, which tells the story of a young undocumented artist who overcomes the challenges of homelessness to pursue her dreams. In the afternoon, Dr. Anne-Marie Nuñez, from the University of Texas at San Antonio, gave one of the keynote speeches, “Beyond Wrongdoing and Rightdoing: Cultivating Authenticity in Learning to Work for Social Justice,” which focused on how authenticity and identity shape educational opportunities for Latinos in the United States. Dr. Nuñez included many details about her personal life, growing up with a German/Hispanic family, and described the adversities she has faced as a woman of mixed heritage. — Lauren Benz, Spanish Major and 2014 Panama Scholar

### Exchange Opportunities with La Universidad de Los Lagos in Osorno, Chile



On February 17, 2014, Dr. James Park Key, Director of the Center for the Study of Local and Regional Development (CEDER) at the Universidad de Los Lagos in Osorno, Chile, gave a public lecture on “Mapuche Poetics and Chilean Cultural Politics Post Return to Democracy.” Dr. Park Key works closely with the Mapuche indigenous tribe and focused his lecture on the effect of the Pinochet regime in Chile, the current support for culture in the country, and ways the government is helping preserve this indigenous culture. Dr. Park Key, a UofL alum, also encouraged students to study in Osorno, especially given that our two universities, UofL and UdeLL, signed an exchange agreement last year. Jerome Soldo (pictured right), an LALS major and Lewis Scholar, spent the fall of 2013 in Osorno, and before Dr. Park Key spoke, gave a brief presentation about his experiences there, as well as a much longer presentation on March 20<sup>th</sup> at an event sponsored by the LALS Club. I plan to follow in his footsteps and conduct an internship and research project in Osorno in May. As a sophomore, I am beyond excited to travel to Osorno as a Lewis Scholar, where I will have the opportunity to collaborate on a research project concerning the education of Mapuche children. — Stephanie Dooper, LALS Major (pictured left)

### Mariana Bermúdez Presents the Hispanic Keynote Lecture at the Louisville Conference

On February 21, 2014, the Mexican poet and author Mariana Bernárdez presented the Keynote Hispanic Lecture, “Esteros: poética de la tensión,” at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900. Bernárdez, a professor of literature and creative writing at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, Mexico, is the author of many collections of poetry and critical essays. During her lecture, Bernárdez read a poem from each of her books, revealing certain aspects of her personal life. Bernárdez’s poetry focuses on the human condition and during her presentation, she asked the audience such questions as, “What is poetry?” and “How do we look at the world?” Through her readings and dialogue with the audience, Bernárdez opened the minds of those present and encouraged us to think of the multiple ways of admiring and exploring the world in which we live. This lecture was co-sponsored by the LALS Program, the CML Department, and the Louisville Conference. — Jenni Lohrey, LALS Major

### The Future of Race Relations in Cuba

Dr. Gisela Arandia Covarrubia, Director of the Concha Moco Yu Yoruba Culture Center of the UNEAC (Cuban Union of Artists and Writers), presented a lecture on March 25, 2014 on race and racism in Cuba, and focused on how the struggle against racism must be seen as a global phenomenon in which many factors intervene and play an important role, including long-standing historical attitudes toward race, dating back to the Spanish Conquest. Even though racism is a commonly discussed topic in the United States, it can be a challenge to address such issues in Hispanic-American countries, including Cuba, where historically racism has not been viewed as an existing problem. According to Dr. Arandia Covarrubia, the Afro-Cuban communities still live in poverty without access to power, and therefore, lack influence in the main sectors of society. As a native Cuban, I was really excited to meet Dr. Arandia Covarrubia and to hear if my personal experiences related to what she had to say about race relations in Cuba. This lecture was co-sponsored by the LALS Program and the IDOP Office. — Amanda Coca-Venegas, LALS Minor



### LALS Program Participates in Mayor’s Week of Service



From March 17 to April 21, 2014, the LALS Program collected household items to donate to Kentucky Refugee Ministries, an organization where our LALS interns volunteer each semester. Generous donations of kitchen and bath items filled one of the LALS offices and were delivered to KRM for Cuban families who come to Louisville to begin a new life here.

## Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

### Justice for Chiapas



Azalia Hernández, from the Fray Bartolomé Human Rights Center, came to campus to speak about the human rights situation in the indigenous communities of southern Mexico, specifically in the state of Chiapas. Hernández shared some ways that the Center has helped the marginalized indigenous communities, who have been the victims of many injustices, including assassinations and the confiscation of their native lands. This presentation on the human rights abuses in southern Mexico was eye-opening and informative about the ways that people from all different backgrounds are working together to combat injustice. This event was sponsored by the Mexico Solidarity Network, Department of Anthropology, Latin American and Latino Studies, Department of Political Science, and the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research. — Rebecca Harrod, LALS Major

### LALS Alumni News



#### **Yoel Castillo Botello and Joel Castillo Díaz (LAS Minor and LALS Graduate Certificate)**

Yoel graduated in 2010 with a B.A. in Spanish and a minor in Latin American Studies. After completing the M.A. at Georgetown University, he is now pursuing a doctoral degree in Hispanic Literature and Cultural Studies there. Last fall, he studied and taught courses at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, and will return there to participate in the Festival Internacional de Teatro. Yoel's father, Joel Castillo Díaz, graduated in 2013 with an M.A. in Spanish and the LALS Graduate Certificate. Since then, he has been teaching Spanish classes, from beginning to advanced levels, at Bellarmine University and also puts his native Cuban Spanish to good use at the Frazier Rehab Center, where he is employed.



#### **Akash and Neil Gupta (Latino Studies Minors)**

Akash, a 2012 graduate with a double major in Biology and Spanish and minor in Latino Studies, is currently a second year medical student at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Akash has spent the past two summers volunteering at the Kentucky Racing Health Services Clinic as a translator for Hispanic patients, as well as helping to take histories on patients and conducting laboratory tests. This year, Akash also volunteered with the medical student-run HOPE clinic and will start clinical rotations this July. Akash was a member of the Brown Fellows Program and GEMS program at UofL. His brother, Neil, a 2009 graduate with a major in Spanish and minor in Latino Studies, graduated from UofL School of Medicine in May 2013 and is currently a first year resident in Yale's Internal Medicine Residency Program on the primary care track. He frequently uses his Spanish skills to see patients in New Haven in clinics and the hospital. Neil was also a member of the GEMS program.



#### **Leah Dahline (LALS Major, LALS Program Assistant and LALS Club President)**

Since graduating in May 2013 with a double major in LALS and Spanish, I have used my skills in two different positions as an ESL teacher and now as a translator. I began teaching ESL in August of 2013 for South Harrison Community School Corp, where I attended school in Corydon, IN. I assisted with the learning of about 50 students, most of Latino origin. I had a wonderful challenge of assisting two newly arrived 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Mexico who found the immersion challenging and frustrating at times. Thanks to a recommendation from Dr. Buchanan, I was offered a position in November with Interactive Media Lab, a one source for all things multimedia that provides services in web design and development, application development, video production, audio engineering, and event planning and production. My position involves translating scripts from English to Spanish, some voiceover recordings, and helping with Spanish editing for projects. I'm so

thankful to have had the experiences at UofL in both my Spanish and LALS programs that prepared me for these positions. Now I'm looking to return as a student at UofL to work on my Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and become a Spanish teacher.

## Lewis Scholars and Fellow

Michael Billingsley: Spain  
Stephanie Dooper: Chile/Spain  
Jessica Williams: Spain  
Chloe Zoeller: Argentina



Dr. Avery Kolers: Spain  
Department of Philosophy  
"From Vitoria to Locke: The Emergence  
and Suppression of Indigenous Rights"

## LALS Graduating Students

### Majors

Elizabeth Canafax  
Rebecca Harrod  
Claudia López  
Julia Nazarenko  
Matthew Smith



### LALS Minors

Taylor Forns  
Lindsey Hastings  
Rachel Hugenberg  
Shelby Lawson  
Spencer Scruggs  
Christopher Swift  
Kayla Wohner\*  
\*Dec. 2013 Graduate

## LALS Graduating Students

### Graduate Certificates

Juliana Grossi  
Meredith Maple  
Manuel Nieto  
Daniel Runnels



### Latino Studies Minors

Olivia Reed  
Bethany Welch

## 2014 Panama Scholars

Karen Battoe  
Lauren Benz  
Angela Carlson  
Amanda Coca-Venegas  
Elizabeth Cushing  
Alice Darling  
Andrew Dennis  
Jessi Dietrich  
Jesse Graves

Alex Haydon  
Temis Jiménez Anaya  
Lauren Lewis  
Tyler Mercer  
Rupika Narain  
Katia Saunders  
Samantha Schaefer  
Lauren Schmitt

Greter Sierra  
Courtney Smith  
Stephen Smith  
Cassidy Teague  
Makayla Uebelhor  
Kate Vance  
Kaila Westover  
James-Dean Wood

## Desde los Cuatro Caminos



## From the Crossroads

¡Saludos, amigos! After a long, cruel winter, we are happy Spring has sprung in Louisville! We've been cleaning out our closets and cabinets to donate items to Kentucky Refugee Ministries to help newly arrived Cuban families. LALS co-sponsored many events this spring, including the Annual Carnival Celebration, organized by the Spanish Section of the CML Department, and others mentioned in this newsletter. On April 1st, we held the 7th Annual LALS Spring Showcase and celebrated our graduating students, the 2014 Panama Scholars, LALS Interns, and Lewis Scholars and Fellow. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis, whose generosity has enabled 113 students to study abroad as Lewis Scholars since 2001, and 16 professors to conduct research abroad as Lewis Fellows. We hope students and faculty will travel to Osorno, Chile to study and conduct research at the Universidad de los Lagos, one of UofL's international partners. Soon after Derby Day, 25 students will travel to Panama to participate in the 12th Annual Study Abroad Program, co-sponsored by LALS and the Department of Communication. In May, we will graduate our second class of LALS majors, with five students receiving the B.A. in LALS. Olivia Reed and Bethany Welch will be our last two students to graduate with the Latino Studies minor, given that the two minors have been combined into one LALS minor. In addition, six students will graduate with the LAS minor, and four graduate students will receive the LALS Graduate Certificate.

The LALS Internship Poster Session was held in conjunction with the LALS Showcase, and highlighted the contributions made by our four spring interns: Elizabeth (Liz) Canafax, Jenni Lohrey, Claudia López, and Spencer Scruggs. Mara Maldonado, Director of Adelante Hispanic Achievers, came to the event and presented Liz, Spencer, and Jeanne Guerrero (Fall 2013 LALS Intern) with framed certificates to show her appreciation for their outstanding service to AHA's Latino middle school students. On April 15th, our LALS interns shared their internship experiences and related critical research papers at a public LALS Research Forum.

I invite you to visit the LALS website and Facebook Page. We love to hear from our LALS alumni and have included stories from several of them in this issue. As you will see, LALS is a family affair, and we are thrilled to add three new faculty members to our extended family. Many thanks to Natalie Schuetz, the LALS Program Coordinator, Senior and Rebecca Harrod, the LALS Program Assistant and LALS Club President, for all their help this year.

Have a wonderful and warm summer,  
Rhonda Buchanan, LALS Director



Latin American & Latino Studies



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