

Spring 2015

Issue 25



LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

CAMMINOS

Spring is Celebration Time for LALS!

LALS 8th Annual Spring Showcase Celebrates Students!



Oscar León, President of Quality Leadership University in Panamá, with Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Connie Lewis



Three Generations of Panama Scholars: Lillian Stratmon, Jeanne Guerrero, and Savannah Guerrero

On April 2nd, LALS students, faculty, and staff celebrated the LALS Program. Oscar León, the President of the Quality Leadership University, congratulated the 2015 Panama Scholars who will study in Panama this May. Jeanne Guerrero will complete the requirements for the LALS Graduate Certificate in Panama and will be joined by her mother and daughter! Our generous donors, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, congratulated the 2015 Lewis Scholars and Lewis Fellow. Several Lewis Scholars could not attend because they are studying in Argentina, Chile, and Spain this semester. Students graduating with the LALS Major, Minor, and Graduate Certificate received cords and certificates, and we also recognized the LALS interns who volunteered locally at Adelante Hispanic Achievers, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and the Iroquois Library, and in Chile at the Universidad de los Lagos. Finally, the audience was treated to an enlightening presentation by Dr. Avery Kohlers, the 2014 Lewis Fellow, who spoke about indigenous rights during the Conquest.

Kudos to the LALS Steering Committee Members!

- ⊗ Thanks to Ben Ruiz (CEO Adhawks), Cinco de Mayo is now an official event of the Kentucky Derby Festival, to be held annually the Sunday after Derby.
- ⊗ Dr. Thomas Edison and Dr. Brenda Ortiz-Loyola (CML) participated in the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in a session on the Puerto Rican writer, Dr. Carmen Montañez, who teaches LALS 200: Exploring Latin America.
- ⊗ Dr. Margath Walker (Geography & Geosciences) published 2 articles and will give a paper on border theory at the LASA Conference in Puerto Rico this May.
- ⊗ Dr. Tricia Gray (Political Science) published an article on Panamanian politics in the *Bulletin of Latin American Research*.
- ⊗ Dr. Christine Ehrick's (History) book, *Radio and the Gendered Soundscape: Women and Broadcasting in Argentina and Uruguay, 1930-1950*, will be published by Cambridge UP this fall.
- ⊗ Dr. Theresa Rajack-Talley's (PAS) book *Poverty is a Person Not a Statistic: Human Agency and Caribbean Households* is forthcoming from Ian Randle Press in Kingston, Jamaica.
- ⊗ Dr. Rhonda Buchanan received the 2014-2015 Provost's Award for Exemplary Advising (Faculty Award) and was named the 2015 national NACADA Outstanding Advising Award Winner in the category of Faculty Advising.

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Gustavo Arellano Provides Food for Thought!



Gustavo Arellano, author of the nationally-syndicated column “¡Ask a Mexican!,” visited the University of Louisville on February 9, 2015 and presented a lecture entitled, “How Mexican Food Conquered America- Even Kentucky!” Arellano conducted several years of research on Mexican food throughout the United States and used this information to write his book, *Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America* (Scribner, 2013), which was the basis of his discussion. He took the audience on a wonderful journey that explored the emergence of Mexican food in the late 1800s to its explosion all over the US in recent years. *Las Reinas de Chile*, or the Chili Queens, are renowned for bringing the first Mexican dish to the US. Many people were surprised to find out that this dish was not tacos, burritos, or quesadillas, but rather *chile con carne*. He explained how the presence of Mexican food continued to grow by the decade and how the US was introduced to tamales, canned Mexican food, Taco Bell, margaritas, and much more. Nowadays, there are Mexican restaurants found in practically every city in the country, including Louisville! Restaurant owners, such as Bruce Ucán of The Mayan Café, are constantly creating new Mexican dishes to satisfy the high demand of their customers. As people continue inventing new types of Mexican food,

many wonder: what will this cuisine be like twenty years from now? Gustavo Arellano was such a hit that he has been invited back to UofL to present the 14th Annual LALS Heritage Lecture on October 14, 2015!

This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Department of Anthropology, the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, the Liberal Studies Project, and the Office of Diversity & International Affairs. — Kaila Westover, LALS Minor

Dr. Deborah Vargas Explores Musical Sociality and Queer Latinidad



On February 20th, 2015, Dr. Deborah Vargas, Professor of the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Riverside, presented the Woody Guthrie Lecture as part of the Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of US Popular Music. In her insightful lecture, Dr. Vargas spoke about what the musical figure of *las cantineras* may offer popular music studies and the lasting impact they have had on Mexican culture. She also evaluated the role influence that the *cantineras*, the music of the cantina, and dance have had on Latin American culture and sexuality. Dr. Vargas incorporated song excerpts into her presentation in order to demonstrate the ways in which *la cantinera* is far too often viewed as a subject of blame by *macho* men. The *cantineras* often went to the *cantinas* to escape the daily household routines. They spent time away from their families in order to discover themselves, however, to quote Dr. Vargas, “*Las cantineras* always know when to leave the *cantina* before others leave them.” This lecture was co-sponsored by the LGBT Center, Latin American and Latino Studies, the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, and the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies.

—Lauren Barringer, Spanish Major

Latin American and Latino Studies Co-Sponsored Events

A.C.E.S. (Academic. Culture. Engagement. Social Justice.) Black & Latino Student Symposium

On Thursday, February 26th, students, faculty and staff listened to two inspirational keynote speakers, Dr. Mistalene Calleroz White, Dean of Academic Support Services at Spalding University, and Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, Director of the Center for Higher Education Enterprise at The Ohio State University. Other sessions focused on the symposium's central theme of empowerment through education. This year's symposium certainly fulfilled the mission of the A.C.E.S. KY: Black & Latino Student Symposium "to increase awareness, and to create a dialogue among students, faculty, administrators, staff and the larger community regarding issues that impact Black and Latino students' accessibility to and success within educational systems." The Symposium was co-sponsored by the Department of Pan-African Studies, A&S Center for Academic Advising & Student Services, Latin American and Latino Studies, International Diversity & Engagement Programs, Hispanic Latino Faculty Staff Association, and the Liberal Studies Project.

Dr. Michael Handelsman Presents the Hispanic Keynote Lecture on Ecuadorian Literature

On February 27th, Dr. Michael Handelsman gave the Hispanic Keynote Presentation for the Annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture, entitled "Reading Literature from the Center of the World: The Elusive Case of Ecuador." Dr. Handelsman is a Professor of Spanish at the University of Tennessee and has a passion for Ecuadorian literature, but he also spoke about Latin America as a whole. His presentation explored the impact of colonization on the mindsets of those in Latin America and how that has affected Latin American literature. Dr. Handelsman suggested thinking locally in order to act globally. He spoke about the importance of reading local and less commercialized authors in order to have a more accurate perspective of Latin American literature. After the presentation, there was an interesting discussion about living well not living better, Ecuador's treatment of intellectuals, and how to demonstrate the value of literature to the public. — Alice Darling, LALS Major



Dr. Michael Handelsman

Day of Dignity: Building Community & Enhancing Cross-Cultural Understanding

On February 28th, the Latin American and Latino Studies Club participated in the Day of Dignity, an event organized by the Muhammad Ali Institute and the Muhammad Ali Center, to celebrate the diversity of Louisville and to network with various organizations around the city. The event featured access to the Ali Center, live entertainment, dance lessons, exquisite international food, family activities, community resources, and health services. The event was free with a donation, which benefited Kentucky Refugee Ministries and Catholic Charities. —Kelcey Robinson, LALS Major, LALS Program Assistant, and LALS Club President

Other LALS Co-sponsored Spring Events



LALS Graduate Certificate students Carol Fields, Mishael Garcia Reyes, and Johanna Hribal celebrate Carnival!

- Carnival around the World: February 17; 11:00-1:00 in George J. Howe Red Barn.
- LALS/Disability Resource Cookout: March 26; 11:30-1:00 in Stevenson Hall Lobby.
- Taste of Diversity: April 6; 11:00-1:00 in Strickler Hall Lobby.
- "We Question While We Walk..." Mexico-US Solidarity Network: April 17; 9:00-9:50 in Davidson 206.
- Kentucky Refugee Ministries Donation Drive: April (Mayor's Give a Day of Service).
- Kentucky Derby Festival's Cinco de Mayo Celebration: May 3; 2:00-9:00 at 4th Street Live!
- LALS Tranquility Garden Party: May 4; 12:30-2:00 on west side of Stevenson Hall.

2015 Lewis Scholars and Fellow

Sarah Baer: Ecuador & the Galapagos Islands
 Elizabeth Combs: Spain
 Jessi Dietrich: Spain
 Alicia Humphrey: Chile
 Diana Lalata: Spain
 Haley Massad: Chile
 Justin Rimmell: Spain
 Madeleine Sexton: Spain
 Sydney Voss: Costa Rica
 Ian White: Argentina



Dr. Brenda Ortiz-Loyola: Cuba

LALS Graduating Students

LALS Majors

Jenni Lohrey*
 Chase Riddle*
 Jessica Williams



LALS Minors

Kristen Connors
 Christin Redmond*

*Graduated in December 2014

LALS Graduating Students

LALS Minors

Amanda Coca Venegas
 Doss Dunn
 Orlando González



LALS Graduate Certificate

Johanna Hribal



2015 Panama Scholars



Judson Adams
 Mycala Baker
 Lauren Benz
 Hayley Brown
 Raven Byars
 David Cissell

Jourdan Farris
 Mishael García-Reyes
 Jeanne Guerrero
 Savannah Guerrero
 Maxwell Haddad

Davelle Heath
 Thomas Lawrence
 Joshua Lawson
 Allison Mayes
 Tyler Mercer

Alieshia Nunnally
 Vanessa Pfeffer
 Jordan Ringham
 Kelcey Robinson
 Pedro Sibiea

Ayesha Singh
 Donté Smith
 Bethany Stopher
 Lillian Stratmon
 Tavi Wallace

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! Spring has finally arrived and the LALS Tranquility Garden we planted last fall is starting to bloom. We'll have our official unveiling on May 4th, right after we celebrate Cinco de Mayo at 4th Street Live, the Sunday after Derby. Stop by and see us at the LALS booth! We've also established a new local internship site for the LALS Program at Doors to Hope, an organization that provides tutoring, mentoring, and ESL classes for Latino families. Members of our LALS Club have been volunteering there for a year, so it was time to make it an official LALS internship site. Information is available on our website. It's conveniently located near campus at Holy Name Church, across from the Patterson Baseball Stadium. Volunteers are needed and welcome. This would be a great way to practice Spanish over the summer.

On May 6th, our 13th class of Panama Scholars will be headed to La Ciudad de Panamá, where they will take LALS, Communication, and Spanish classes, not to mention salsa lessons! Among them is Kelcey Robinson, the LALS Program Assistant and LALS Club President. We're counting on her to post lots of photos on our LALS Facebook page! Our 2015 Lewis Scholars will soon be on their way to Ecuador, Spain, and Costa Rica. Dr. Brenda Ortiz-Loyola, the 2015 Lewis Fellow, will conduct research in Cuba. ¡Bien viaje a todos!

Graduation is around the corner and I look forward to seeing all the LALS students walk across the stage wearing their LALS cords! Natalie Schuetz, our LALS Program Coordinator, Senior, (creator of our colorful *Caminos* newsletter) and I hope you will visit the LALS offices during the summer, or send us news to post on our website and Facebook Page. I'm available for advising all summer long! Enjoy the summer months! ¡Feliz verano!
 Rhonda Buchanan, LALS Director



Latin American & Latino Studies



Latin American and
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