

Spring 2016

Issue 27



Michael Stevens: First LALS Student to Study in Valencia, Spain



Mike Stevens, a senior pursuing a double major in Latin American & Latino Studies and Spanish, is the first LALS student to participate in the University of Virginia's semester abroad program at the Universidad de Valencia, which began 33 years ago. Mike received an LALS Lewis Scholar Award, a CML Lewis Educational Fund Scholarship, and a UVA scholarship. Mike traveled to Valencia, Spain in early January and has spent the semester completely immersed in Spanish culture. The UVA program offers a variety of classes taught by local faculty members. Electing to take classes in business, economics, grammar, and Spanish culture, Mike has been able to develop a wider range

of Spanish vocabulary. In addition, the program facilitates a home-stay with a local Spanish family, further improving the immersion experience. The program offers a wide array of student activities and field trips, such as visits to Granada and the Alhambra, and many day trips within the Valencia city limits and province. In addition, Spanish holidays offer students free time for individual travel. Mike has visited Roman ruins at Merida, the Grand Mosque of Córdoba, the medieval city of Toledo, the Costa del Sol, and the Rock of Gibraltar for some "fish and chips." After the program ends on April 29th, Mike will set out on a five-week pilgrimage and walk the 450 miles of the Camino de Santiago. Mike is an Army combat veteran and an officer in the Army National Guard, and after graduation, plans to continue with graduate education while working for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Around the LALS offices, he is known as our Major Major! Visit our website for information about the UVA Universidad de Valencia Program.

Debra Castillo Presents the Louisville Conference Keynote Hispanic Lecture

Dr. Debra Castillo presented "Net.Art y Arte Util, Theory 2.0" at the Louisville Conference on February 19, 2016, a lecture that explored the impact of technology on our society today. She spoke about how human beings are becoming "digital subjects," given that much of everyday life is now so entrenched in online social culture, and how the digital world is transforming the arts and literature. Dr. Castillo used multiple scenarios to show how we have become dependent on technology to the point that one mundane task after another is being replaced by a technological substitute. Her lecture left me wondering: if we rely on technology for so many aspects of our lives, are humans or technology in control? This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and the LALS Program. – Neal Anthony Duffy, Spanish Major

Dr. Lisa Baldez Reflects on the CEDAW



Why hasn't the US ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)? Is it because it conflicts with our legal framework, because it is weak and wouldn't make a difference in American women's rights, or that the US doesn't ratify international human rights treaties in general? Dr. Lisa Baldez (pictured right), Professor in Government and Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Studies at Dartmouth College, discussed these ideas to a spillover crowd in Ekstrom Library on the last day of Women's History Month, March 31st. The presentation included archival pictures of instrumental individuals and the UN debates in the evolution of women's rights. Her campus visit was co-sponsored by LALS, Louisville Committee on Foreign Relations, the Department of Political Science, the

UN Association Louisville Chapter, and the Louisville Coalition for CEDAW.
– Dr. Tricia Gray, Department of Political Science

LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

CAMMINOS

Latin American and Latino Studies Alumni in the Spotlight

Roslynn Steinmetz — 2013 LALS Major



I have been accepted into the MSc in Gender Research program at the London School of Economics and Political Science, a twelve-month program beginning this fall. My main academic area of interest is in women's involvement in politics (especially formal politics) in Latin America. During my time as a U.S. Student Fulbright research grantee in Paraguay, I decided that I would like more foundation in social science research methodology and gender theory before continuing on to a doctoral program. LSE's MSc in Gender Research will provide that for me, complementing the experience I gained in Latin American and Latino Studies and Political Science as an undergraduate at UofL. A third of the program involves writing a dissertation, for which I hope to return to Paraguay and focus on studying the campaign for parity "Somos la mitad, queremos paridad" and its proposal for a law for Democratic Parity.

Daniel Runnels — 2014 LALS Graduate Certificate

I'm a Ph.D. student in Hispanic Literatures with a minor in Critical Theory at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. In 2014, I completed my M.A. in Spanish and graduate certificate in Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of Louisville. I'm thankful for my time at UofL and wonderful professors and mentors who prepared me for doctoral study. One of the projects I'm working on deals with conflicts between indigenous groups and the Evo Morales administration in Bolivia. Specifically, I'm writing about the "plurinational state" and populism, taking as my starting point a book by current Vice President Álvaro Garía Linera called *Geopolítica de la Amazonia*. As I work on this project I fondly remember the two summers I spent in Panamá with the UofL Panama program, especially the visits to the Emberá community. Best of luck to those going on the trip this summer – I know you'll enjoy it!



Lauren Lewis—2015 LALS Minor



I feel so very proud to say that I am a graduate of UofL's Latin American and Latino Studies Program. Since graduating in December 2015, I have been working as a part-time Admissions Counselor in the UofL Office of Admissions, and have also been preparing to be a guest speaker at the 2016 i2a Critical Thinking Institute, where I will talk about my experiences using the Paul-Elder critical thinking framework in my LALS internship at the Louisville Free Public Library—Iroquois Branch. In the fall of 2016, I will begin my graduate studies, earning my Master of Education in Counseling and Personnel Services, with a specialization in College Student Personnel (CSP). I am thrilled about this opportunity and plan to continue my education in Latin American and Latino Studies by earning the LALS Graduate Certificate, in addition to my CSP degree. I have been blessed by the LALS program and the loving faculty and staff, and I am more than happy to be staying

around a little while longer! — Lauren Lewis graduated with an LALS Minor and Spanish major, and at commencement, she proudly wore her 2015 Homecoming Queen crown!

Latin American and Latino Studies Alumni in the Spotlight

Shelby Lawson—2014 LAS Minor



Hello, LALS Students! My name is Shelby Lawson and I am a recent graduate from the University of Louisville. In my senior year, I had a lot of trouble deciding what career path to choose and how to use both my Spanish and Business majors. I originally applied for teaching jobs in and out of the United States and decided to do Teach For America for two years in Southern Texas. The biggest reasons I moved to Texas were to help students, learn more about Latino culture, practice my Spanish, and enjoy the warm weather! My experience in TFA has provided me all of those things and so much more. I have learned to lead (even when my followers are opposed to doing work), organize (my room is another story), time manage (it's all about balance), and publicly speak (everyday for 8 hours). These skills have prepared me to be an ETA Fulbright where I will continue working in the high school classroom in Indonesia.

The TFA experience has been instrumental, and my Spanish and LAS background has played a huge role in my success here in the Valley. I strongly encourage you to find a career choice where you can stay active in the Latino culture and language and start looking for ways to apply it outside of the classroom. This is where your learning and experience will really thrive. You never know where it will take you. Enjoy your time in the LALS program and make the most of your relationship with Dr. B! She is really well-connected, a hard worker, and will do anything for her students. You have such a resource in her! Best of luck!

Erica Summe—2011 LAS Minor

After graduating in the spring of 2011 with a Latin American Studies minor and double major in Political Science and Spanish, I served as an ETA Fulbright Fellow in Mendoza, Argentina. This past summer, I spent 6 weeks in Baños del Agua Santo, Ecuador, volunteering for La Biblioteca Arte del Mundo, a small non-profit organization that runs an afterschool art program and library for kids ages 6-12 in the town. The organization also hosts other community events, fundraising events, and occasional bonfires. It was a wonderful volunteer experience and a great opportunity for me to refresh myself with speaking Spanish again. The photo is of me on the swing at La Casa del Arbol, a popular tourist site in Baños.



As for my current position, my official title is Global Public Sector Associate at Grant Thornton, but currently I am contracted to work with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) under the Department of Homeland Security. I work under the Chief of Accountability helping to build a performance management framework to make sure CBP is operating with integrity and efficiency. In simple terms, CBP is responsible for moving people and goods across international borders, while also protecting against national security risks. Much of what CBP does is along the US-Mexico border with facilitating trade and travel, but also stopping illegal goods from entering the country. It's definitely been an interesting job and learning experience for me, one that has allowed me to put my Spanish to good use!

Leah Dahline—2013 LALS Major



Since graduating from UofL with a BA in LALS and Spanish, I decided to continue my education and have completed the MAT program also at UofL. I currently teach Spanish at Presentation Academy and utilize the community connections I gained through Dr. Buchanan and my experiences with LALS. I've had class speakers from Americana, KRM, La Casita, Adelante, and study abroad programs. We are currently completing a project with KRM for the Mayor's Give a Day. Apart from teaching Spanish, I also enjoy teaching piano and coaching the Pres swim team. I hope to continue the community outreach in my classroom and keep traveling to bring world experiences to my students!

2016 Lewis Scholars and Fellow

Raven Byars: Peru
 Carrie Hall: Spain
 Lucas Jean-Marie: Spain
 Ayesha Singh: Spain
 Michael Stevens: Spain
 Logan Zechella: Mexico
 Dr. Theresa Keeley: Nicaragua



Congratulations to Dr. Rhonda Buchanan for receiving the NACADA National Outstanding Advising Award and the NACADA Region 3 Excellence in Advising Award for the State of Kentucky!

LALS Graduating Students

LALS Majors
 Kelcey Robinson



LALS Minors
 Beth Cushing
 Stephanie Dooper
 Alison Greer
 Taylor Parker
 Jerome Soldo



LALS Graduating Students

LALS Graduate Certificate
 Camila Aramburu
 Francisco Javier Bonilla-García
 Carol Fields
 Shaina Finney
 Mishael García-Reyes
 Sarah Slates



2016 Panama Scholars



Makenzie Ackermann
 DeKoda Battoe
 Hannah Bloomingburg
 Max Brown
 Jessica Carver

Vivian Doza
 Seth Drake
 Olivia Eurek
 Alec Farrell
 Kathy García

Tiffany Hippe
 Madison Holman
 Kayla Kress
 Theresa Men
 Melanie Mullins

Kylie Nethers
 Art Parola
 Yusra Shabbir
 Jasmine Thomas
 Bianca Velez

Madison Wills
 Wylie Wolfson
 Anoa Zakee

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

Saludos amigos! We're about to put another academic year behind us and have so much to be grateful for and to celebrate in the LALS Program. On April 6th, we held our 9th Annual LALS Showcase and showed our appreciation to our generous donors, Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Constance Lewis, and celebrated the 2016 Lewis Scholars and Lewis Fellow, LALS Graduates, our LALS Interns, and the Panama Scholars. Congratulations are in order to LALS Minor Jerome Soldo, for receiving the David Hershberg Award as the outstanding graduating Spanish major, and to LALS minor Stephanie Dooper, who was named a Princess of the Kentucky Derby Festival Court, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the community. Three professors and 23 students will be headed to Panama on May 9th, the day after the Cinco de Mayo Celebration at 4th Street Live, the last event of the Kentucky Derby Festival. LALS is a co-sponsor and we're recruiting volunteers! We ended the semester the morning of April 18th with the LALS Internship Research Forum and Poster Session, at which seven LALS Spring interns gave insightful presentations about their volunteer work for Adelante Hispanic Achievers, Doors to Hope, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Kentucky Racing Health Services Center, and the Louisville Free Public Library—Iroquois Branch. Later that same day, members for the LALS Club met to weed and plant flowers in the LALS Tranquility Garden. It's blooming now!

For this newsletter we reached out to several LALS alumni for news. We're so proud of all of them, and also of LALS Major and army veteran Major Mike Stevens, who is the first LALS student to participate in the semester-long Study Abroad Program in Valencia. Read on the first page what our "Major Major" has to say about his experience in Spain. Although the spring semester is nearly over, I welcome students to come and see me over the summer for advising. It's my favorite part of directing the LALS Program! Finally, I would like to thank Natalie Schuetz, LALS Program Coordinator, and Kelcey Robinson, LALS Program Assistant and Club President, for all their help this year.

¡Feliz verano! Rhonda Buchanan, LALS Director



Latin American & Latino Studies



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