We’re all familiar with the Mexican food at restaurant chains abundant throughout the U.S. But have you ever wondered what types of dishes are served on the small ranchitos that dot the rural landscape in much of Mexico?

A. Townsend Peterson, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Senior Curator of the KU Biodiversity Institute, and his wife, Rosa Salazar-Peterson, have written and self-published a cookbook that answers the question with a series of delicious recipes from the region of Tlaltenango, located in the southwestern portion of the Mexican state of Zacatecas. This region, where the Chihuahuan desert meets the Sierra Madre mountain range, is home to a number of ranchitos and small farming communities.

The recipes are derived from one couple – Don Tacho and Doña Ticho, who grew up in the area and married before leaving the region to live in larger cities in Mexico and the U.S. Even though the couple left their hometown, they did their best to maintain the traditions and food culture they had grown up with. The authors also sought out further information through conversations with older members of the community who had remained in Tlaltenango, and who still cook the traditional way. This includes making tortillas from scratch, making cheese from milk the families produce, and making pastries in an adobe oven in the yard.

The book features an ideal mix of salsas, sides, breakfast, lunch and main dish recipes. All recipes are listed with both an English and Spanish name, as well as a small description of the dish. One of the most informative sections is titled “The Basics.” This section includes what the authors call the generalities of Mexican cooking, and serves to highlight ingredients and techniques that many in the U.S. would be unfamiliar with, such as nixtamal, the prepared corn meal used to make tortillas, and piloncillo, a conical sugar cake that is typically boiled with water and used in syrup form or grated finely. The authors also suggest commercially available alternatives as well as suggestions on where readers might find specialty ingredients. This section was specifically designed by Peterson and Salazar-Peterson to help ease home cooks into the art of cooking Mexican ranch food.
¡Saludos desde el Centro de Estudios Latinoamericanos y Caribeños!

As you will see from the great number of activities we include in this newsletter, we continue to be busy! We have had several transitions in the office: In August we said goodbye to Judy Farmer who had been with the Center as Office manager and Accountant for 12 years. Judy joined the Shared Service Center and still works for the College doing accounting for the Interdisciplinary Programs. Ironically, perhaps, in her last summer with CLACS she took a trip to Cuba and Nicaragua, taking advantage of the ties she had developed in her time with the Center to visit the region and learn more about it. We are grateful for all the years she dedicated to the program and miss her in the office. You can visit her in the SSC over in Strong Hall.

As part of the staff transition, we now share an office manager with CREES, Anna Hurst, who is highlighted on page 3 of the newsletter. Anna has learned her job quickly and is the person to consult about travel arrangements, speakers, and ongoing activities and is the first point of contact for finance questions. Many of these will triage to Cathy Swenson-Tucker who is handling the front line in accounting for CLACS and CREES from her new digs in the SSC. Esteban also left us later in the summer as he needed to graduate earlier than he had anticipated, so we hired Erinn Taylor de Barroso to replace him as office, outreach, and grant assistant. Erinn shares 324 Bailey with Danika and Gabriel and has survived her first data-heavy grant report and has put together her first newsletter (which you are reading right now!). September and October have allowed all the new staff to settle in and we plan on their staying around for a while now.

This is our last year of the 4 year NRC grant and I have been to Washington twice to do research and obtain information for the next grant cycle. We are coordinating some of the over-arching themes with the other area centers and these are: Year 1: World health; 2: Enclaves and Diasporas (displaced ids, ethnic, cultural and religious minorities, etc.); 3. Global Grasslands and Great Plains; 4. Transnational Technology and Communications. These are broadly defined topics that each center will shape in different ways, but they allow us to work together on some of our activities as well. We do not have a deadline for the grant application yet (due to sequestration, as you can imagine), but we are making plans and welcome your ideas, input, and enthusiasm. This is a collaborative grant that benefits all the people working on our regions at KU so we depend upon your input for our collective success. “None of us is as smart as all of us.”

The Center hosted the first annual Grad student vs. Faculty soccer match and picnic on a steamy Saturday in early September. Each side turned out an energetic team, and the students definitely dominated the faculty in the first half. After a break however, the faculty came back with more energy (and more players—outnumbering the students by 4-5 players!) so managed to hold their own. Score was kept and is forgotten. But the pleasure of the play lives on! After the game, we all enjoyed the picnic after with many fine contributions and Gabriel handling the barbecue—now we all anticipate our next match in the spring or fall of 2014! Will we be able to field equally competitive teams? Will the students still allow the faculty to add extra players to save face? Who is going to recruit the best ringers this time? Stay tuned in to find out more about this annual event and sign up to play or come to cheer!!

Keep in touch and come by Bailey to see us when you have a minute.

Hasta entonces,
Jill

A Big Thank You!

Recently, the Center had to retire the refrigerator we share with CRESS. Fortunately, Geraldo de Sousa, Professor of English and former acting director of the Center, generously volunteered to pay a “new to us” refrigerator purchased from Craigslist. We are very grateful for his generosity. Pictured from bottom left: Gabriel Racca, Erinn Taylor de Barroso, Jill Kuhnheim, Anna Hurst and Peter Haney.

Muito Obrigado Geraldo!
The Latin American Seminar explores the regional, topical, and methodological research strengths and concerns of the KU Latin Americanist faculty and graduate students. The Seminar is a key integrating component of the Center’s NRC Grant (2010-2014) strategy to promote Latin Americanist scholarship among KU faculty and graduate students.

The theme for the 2013-2014 seminar series is “Social Conflict and Resolution in Latin America.” Fall 2013’s distinguished presenters include:

- Friday, August 30th, 2013: Cassandra Mesick, Spenser Museum of Art; Martha Rabban, Humanities and Western Civilization; Matthew Pettway, Spanish, Bates College. “Panel: Social Change and Human Rights in Latin America.”
- Friday, September 27th, 2013: Lorraine Bayard de Volo, Women & Gender Studies, University of Colorado. “Gendered Rebels: The Cuban Insurrection 1952-58.”
- Friday, October 25th, 2013: Cristian Dimitriu, Philosophy. “Is the Human Rights Approach Useful to Understanding Injustices in Latin America?”

---

Center Welcomes New Staff Members

The Center has gone through a number of changes this semester, including several new staff members. We wanted to take the opportunity to introduce the new faces you might see if you stop by the office.

Anna Hurst is a recent graduate from KU in Finance and is excited to share her time as Office Manager for both the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Anna serves as scheduling officer and financial liaison to the SSC, in addition to providing general administrative support, and more. Anna wasn’t quite ready to leave Lawrence, especially after developing a serious addiction to the local coffee shops in the area, and is currently enjoying the transition from student to staff at KU.

Erinn Taylor de Barroso is a first-year PhD student in Higher Education Administration. In her role as Graduate Assistant, she does a little bit of everything, including maintaining the calendar of events, monitoring event publicity, and data collection for our grant reporting. Originally from Canada, Erinn spent a number of years in Laredo, TX, across the border from the Mexico. Erinn loves the environment at a big university like KU, and is enjoying her studies and her role at the Center.

Nich Harper is a sophomore double majoring in English and Religious Studies. Nich joined the Center as a Student Assistant this semester and is so far really enjoying it, as well as his coursework in Haitian Creole. When not manning the front desk, Nich likes to work out at the recreation center and jam with his band. He loves KU because most everyone he meets here, whether they be student or staff, are proud to be Jayhawks.

---

Facility and graduate students faced each other on the soccer pitch for the first annual student vs. faculty soccer match at “Dad” Perry Park North in early September. After the students beat the faculty, the players joined the energetic spectators for a potluck picnic lunch.

Faculty Highlight:

Ketty Wong, Associate Professor of Music

Ketty Wong, Associate Professor of Music, was awarded a Fulbright grant for the 2013-2014 academic year. She has spent the last several months in Beijing, China. She will remain in China through June 2014 to study what it means for different generations of Chinese to immerse themselves in the music and dance steps of faraway cultures.

The initial idea for her Fulbright application came to her after attending a celebration of the Chinese New Year at the Lied Center. While attending the event, she met a student who said she taught salsa lessons in China. This encounter piqued her interest in the idea of salsa dancing in China, and after further research, Wong found that salsa dancing and music was growing in China.

Wong has been in Beijing since September. She had the opportunity to take Chinese and ballroom dance classes in the Chinese style. She also attended the Chinese Salsa Congress in Beijing in October. This was an important opportunity, as the winners will represent China in the International Salsa Congress in Miami. She also has met and interviewed Albert Torres, the founder of the World Salsa Congresses.

Plans for the remainder of her time include Wong continuing to observe, interview and take lessons from Chinese salsa and ballroom dancers. She also plans to meet with nightclub owners and instructors.

Wong’s interest in salsa is not new. Although her father and maternal grandfather emigrated to Ecuador from China, she grew up salsa dancing with her peers. Now, Wong noticed that the salsa dancers she has seen in Beijing take the dance style very seriously, investing time and money in learning proper technique. This differs from Wong’s previous experience, in Ecuador, where salsa dancing is much more casual.

In addition to her interest in the surge in interest in salsa dancing in China, Wong plans to explore what different dances mean to different generations. She observed that older generations of Chinese embraced ballroom dances, such as European waltzes, prior to the Communist Revolution in a similar manner as the younger generations have embraced salsa.

To prepare for her trip, Wong took salsa lessons to remind her body of the movements. She also studied Mandarin. Peking University, in Beijing, is serving as Wong’s host school for the duration her trip.

Faculty Updates

António Simões, Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese – Simoes spent the fall semester in China as a Visiting Professor for Research at Ocean University of China. Simoes is in the process of learning Mandarin Chinese to improve his understanding of language prosody. Simoes, a linguist, developed his interest in his current research in language prosody after recent research exchanges with Brazilian scholars and their use of the term to refer to the studies of language rhythm, intonation, stress and voice quality. He plans to continue this line of research in order to create more descriptive work for Portuguese and Spanish prosody.

Tamara Falicov, Chair and Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies – This fall, Falicov was named a Docking Faculty Scholar. The award, established by former Kansas First Lady Meredith Docking in 1999, honors faculty who have distinguished themselves early in their careers at KU. In addition to her research, teaching and the service requirements as chair, Falicov worked with colleagues Michael Baskett (FMS) and Maria Lourdes Cortés (University of Costa Rica) to create a faculty-led study abroad experience to Costa Rica for graduate students interested in transnational cinema. The group will travel to the University of Costa Rica in January for a week to interact with their counterparts in Costa Rica and make site visits to a film school and the Costa Rican Film Institute and attend a panel discussion with filmmakers.

Chris Brown, Associate Professor of Geography and Director, Environmental Studies – Brown published “The impact of agricultural colonization and deforestation on stingless bee (Apidae: Meliponini) composition and richness in Rondônia, Brazil” was published in Apidologie, 1-17. The article, co-authored by Marcio Luiz de Oliviera of the National Institute of Amazonian Research, was based on research conducted at 187 sample sites over a year. Brown and his colleagues found 9,555 individuals representing 98 species of stingless bees. Ten of those species were new to science.

Mariana Farah, Assistant Professor of Music – Farah was awarded an International Travel Fund for Humanities Research grant from the International Studies Office. This grant funded her trip to Brazil where she worked and performed a concert with a choir from the Universidade Estadual de Sao-Paulo – Ribeirão Preto. She also participated in the 2013 Waggoner Colloquium, discussing the international appeal of the work of Brazilian composer Ermâni Aguiar, specifically his Salmo 150.

Manuela González-Bueno, Associate Professor of Curriculum and Teaching – González-Bueno is planning to lead a group of KU students to Cuba this summer as part of an immersion experience. The goal of the program is to assist students planning to become K-12 Spanish teachers to gain both general and topic-specific information about Cuba. Participants will learn about Cuban history, culture, and the Cuban language variety not only through on-site classes, but also through planned cultural activities such as local visits and day-trips to places of interest. It is expected that this experience will result in participants’ development of a more current and realistic vision of Cuba, free from old and biased stereotypes, and will contribute to the improvement of the U.S.
Faculty Updates Continued

Vicky Unruh, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese – Unruh presented “Perdiendo Tiempo: The work of Leisure in Cuba’s Avant-Grades” at the Latin American Studies Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C., where she also organized a breakfast with current and former students of the Spanish and Portuguese department. In addition, she published “Unpacking the Libraries of Post-Soviet Cuba” in Revista de Estudios Hispánicos 47(2): 175-198. Unruh was honored this fall with the 2013 Chancellors Club Career Teaching Award.

Peter Herlihy, Associate Professor of Geography – Herlihy, together with Jerry Dobson, Professor of Geography, won a grant through the US Department of Defense Minerva Initiative for University-led Research. The initial grant awards the pair $1.8 million over three years to advance the study, modeling and understanding of land tenure, land use, and political stability in indigenous societies in Latin America. Herlihy and his co-PI plan to develop a digital assessment of indigenous areas that display societal resilience and stability and to assess both the perturbing and stabilizing pressures imposed by governance, resource use, and other salient factors. There is possibility of grant renewal for a total of $3 million over five years.

James Moreno, Assistant Professor of Dance – Moreno travelled to Brown University this summer to participate in “Dance Studies in/and the Humanities” as part of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Summer Seminar. The seminar, a partnership between Brown University, Northwestern University and Stanford University is designed as an intensive summer seminar on interdisciplinary research and teaching in dance studies, and participation is limited to junior faculty, recent Ph.D.s and graduate students.

Brent Metz, Associate Professor of Anthropology – Metz was part of a team of researchers that received a KU Commons Seed Grant for 2013-2014. The competitive program was designed to nurture and develop interdisciplinary, collaborative research ideas at the conceptual stage, and must integrate ideas and methods from the sciences, arts and humanities. The successful proposal submitted by Metz and his colleagues was “Combining Engineering, Public Health, Anthropological, Geographic, and Film Knowledge for Sustainable Development among the Ch’orti’ Maya of Guatemala.” The interdisciplinary team includes Belinda Sturm, Associate Professor of Engineering, Natalie Mladenov, Assistant Professor of Engineering at Kansas State University, Jodi Gentry, PhD student in Engineering, Aida Ramos Viera, PhD student in Geography, and Hispano Durón, PhD student in Film and Media Studies.

Verónica Garibotto, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese – Garibotto travelled to Washington, D.C. in May to the Latin American Studies Associate to present “Rvolución y utopía: Artigas y la nueva izquierda en la cultura uruguaya contemporánea.” She also published the related article in Revista de Estudios Hispánicos 47-1, 127-149. Garibotto later travelled to San Diego in November to present “Family Narratives and Affective Creations: Iconizing Left-leaning Violence in Infancia Clandestina” at the 2013 meeting of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association.

First Year Seminars Offer Unique Teaching Experience

By Robert Schwaller
Assistant Professor of History

This fall semester I had the opportunity to teach a First Year Seminar for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LAA/HIST 177: Myth vs. History in Latin American Film and Literature). I was excited by the course because it allowed me to teach a course similar to the Freshmen Tutorial I took my first semester as an undergraduate at Grinnell College.

For this course, I wanted students to explore the relationship between myth and history using novels and films. I have used these materials for units in other courses that I have taught including the History of Modern Latin America and LAA 100 Introduction to Latin American Culture and Society courses. My goal was for students to be able to explore how artistic genres can provide a framework for interacting with history and helping to create ‘myths’ about the past. For example, students have compared Clorinda Matto de Turner’s Aves Sin Nido (Torn from the Nest) with María Luisa Bemberg’s Camila in order to examine how Latin Americans have dealt with and critiqued the social problems of the 19th century.

Later in the semester, students will compare Luis Puenzo’s La Historia Oficial with Carlos Gamorro’s Open Secret to examine how Argentines have attempted to understand the Dirty War of the 1970s and 80s. The course culminated with individual projects that asked students to develop their own comparison between two works of film or literature from Latin America. I have been very happy with the course and the unique experience of teaching a First Year Seminar. I strongly encourage other faculty interested in developing new and unique courses to consider proposing a FYS.
This year, the Center is supporting two Latin Americanist Research Clusters. These dynamic groups of students and faculty use Center funds for research and events related to common themes or regions. Their activities range from foreign fieldwork to university archival research and small conferences.

The award supports the activities of a collaborating group of professors and students. Applications are received each year from dynamic interdisciplinary groups of KU researchers and students who focus on a common research theme or region and form a nexus of scholarship and scholarly activity ranging from foreign field research in Latin America, to university archival and lab work, mentorship, seminars, and coursework.

This year, the clusters supported focused on two very different themes: MERCOSUR (the Southern Cone Common Market) and Early Modern Globalizations in the Iberian World.

At a conference held in September, KU faculty from the MERCOSUR cluster and distinguished visitors shared current research on the organization and how it has affected the environment, business, migration, foreign policy and income distribution in the region. Organizers of the conference were Melissa Birch, associate professor of business; Chris Brown, associate professor of geography and director of the Environmental Studies Program; Elizabeth Kuznesof, professor of history, and Gary Reich, associate professor of political science.

The conference, participants explored the complex issues facing the MERCOSUR countries, and moved beyond the limitations of research based in single countries and the perspectives of single disciplines.

Invited scholars included:
- Jeffrey Cason, Edward C. Knox Professor of International Studies and Politics, Middlebury College
- Kregg Hetherington, assistant professor of anthropology, Concordia University
- Gabriel Ondetti, associate professor of political science, Missouri State University.

The second research cluster, organized by KU faculty members Santa Arias, Associate Professor of Spanish and Robert Schwaller, Assistant Professor of History, met in a series of series of roundtable discussions entitled “Early Modern Globalizations in the Iberian World.” The first two roundtables were held in October and November. The third roundtable will meet in February.

Through these discussions, the group developed interdisciplinary perspectives on the following themes: colonial subjectivities, the conquest of space and nature, and religious interactions from the 15th to the 18th centuries. Focus on these three themes allowed participants to reflect on the experiences of Amerindian and African peoples who were incorporated through evangelization, labor, slavery and immigration into Iberian colonial projects; gendered subjectivities in colonial society, the nature and historical development of the Inquisition; and the significant role of mapping and travel for imperial expansion and the violent conquest of nature and indigenous societies.

Organizers of the Early Modern cluster will host a conference on the same topic in late Spring 2014. At this event, distinguished scholars from other institutions will join KU faculty and graduate students to further discuss these topics and explore potential future research collaborations.
Matthew Pettway Visits Spanish & Portuguese

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese served as a temporary home for Matthew Pettway, the 2013 Langston Hughes Visiting Professor.

As part of Spanish and Portuguese, Pettway taught two courses – one each at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His undergraduate course, titled Contemporary Cuban Culture: Race, Gender and Musical Politics, focused on Cuban culture from the jumping off point of El Período Especial (The Special Period), or the time period immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Pettway's graduate course offering, titled Representing Blacks in Cuban Literature: From the Colony to the Revolution, examined the shifts in the representation of African descendants in Cuban literature.

Pettway is an assistant professor of Spanish at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. His research focuses on Cuban cultural studies, hispanophone Caribbean literature and 19th century Latin American letters. Prior to joining the faculty at Bates College in August 2010, Pettway earned his doctorate in Hispanic cultural studies at Michigan State University. At Bates, he teaches intermediate Spanish language, literature and composition courses and a multigenre survey of Spanish-American writing. He also teaches a course on 20th century Spanish Caribbean narrative and a senior seminar on the representation of blacks in the history of Cuban letters.

He is currently engaged in a book-length project, “Afro-Cuban Literature in a Society of Dead Poets: Race, Religion and Ritual in the Age of Revolution.” The project is an analysis of the politics of race and religion in the poetry, narrative, correspondence and trail records of Juan Francisco Manzano and Gabriel de la Concepción Valdés, the most prolific black literary writers in colonial Cuba.

In addition to his teaching duties, Pettway delivered a campus-wide symposium in October relating to his book-length project, as part of the Bold Aspirations Visitor and Lecture Series.

The Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship was established at the University of Kansas in 1977 in honor of the African-American poet, playwright and fiction writer who lived in Lawrence from 1903 to 1916. The professorship brings a prominent or emerging minority scholar to KU for one semester each year. Candidates are selected after a call for nominations from academic departments or units and a lengthy review process the year prior to each visiting professor’s fall one-term appointment.

We would like to thank all of the Fall 2013 Merienda presenters listed below. Please visit the Merienda website under the News & Events section on the CLACS website for more information and event photos.

Thank you:

Fall 2013 Schedule:

September 12  Judith Ancel
October 10   Diego Teo
November 7   Valerie Mendoza
December 5   Lia Southern

The Center’s Merienda lectures, which were held on the second Thursday of each month during the Fall 2013 semester, provide an opportunity for invited students, faculty, community members and visiting scholars to share their experiences and research in Latin America. The speakers represent a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds. Presentations typically last 40-45 minutes and allow for audience questions at the end. A simple lunch of rice and beans is served. Mériendas take place in Bailey Hall, Room 318 from 12:00-1:00pm.

Matthew Pettway, 2013 Langston Hughes Visiting Professor. Pettway spent the fall semester visiting the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
Mexican Human rights activist Francisco Cerezo visited KU this October to discuss how policies in the United States play a role in the increased violence, militarization and political repression currently being experienced in Mexico.

Specifically, his lecture, "Drugs, Guns, and US Policies in Mexico: Lessons from the Mexican Human Rights Organization Comité Cerezo" focused on the Merida Initiative, a partnership between the United States and Mexico designed to fight organized crime and associated violence. Cerezo argued that while the U.S. has been funneling money into Mexico to fight the drug war, the funds have been used for other purposes. Instead, he said, Mexican police and military have received extra training and gear, and have used that to silence the voices of protestors and activists. Thousands of Mexicans have been killed, imprisoned or gone missing since the drug war began in the early 2000’s.

Cerezo founded Comité Cerezo in 2001 after the arrest of three of his brothers - Alejandro, Héctor and Antonio. The men were student activists, and were subsequently sent to a maximum security federal prison. The brothers were incarcerated for over seven years, suffering physical and psychological torture during that time, while the family members and allies that made up Comité Cerezo fought for their liberation.

Since the release of the Cerezo brothers, the organization has continued to promote and defend the human rights of victims of political repression in Mexico. Comité Cerezo also conducts workshops for training and strengthening the knowledge of human rights defenders.

The talk, held October 29 at Ecumenical Campus Ministries, was brought to KU by Witness for Peace, an organization committed to supporting peace, justice and sustainable economies in the Americas by changing U.S. policies and corporate practices that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Center, as well as HWC’s Peace & Conflict Studies program. Cerezo also spoke earlier in the day to Marike Janzen’s Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies class.

Two University of Kansas graduate students have received Fulbright-Hays International Education grants to complete dissertation research in Latin America.

Josh Homan, a PhD candidate in cultural anthropology, and Jacob Longaker, a PhD candidate in political science, are the first KU students to receive the competitive award since 2010.

Longaker’s work is on the representation of marginalized groups, especially gender and sexual minorities in Latin American public policy. His dissertation focuses on understanding the relationship between the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) social movement, institutions, and public policy in Brazil.

Beginning in January 2014, he will conduct one year of fieldwork in São Paulo, Goiás, and Rio de Janeiro. Previously, he completed five weeks of M.A. fieldwork on non-discrimination policy in São Paulo, funded in part by the Oppenheimer Memorial Scholarship.

Homan has already travelled to Iquitos, Peru, to begin preliminary fieldwork researching the social life of the Pastaza Quechua. His research investigates the interplay between information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as two-way shortwave radio and satellite telephony, and the everyday lives of the Inga Runa, a group of approximately 1,200 indigenous Quechua speakers living along the Pastaza and Huasaga rivers in the northwestern Peruvian Amazon. He previously received a FLAS award through CLACS to study Quechua.
Graduate Student Highlight:

Josie Kapicka
MA student in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Josie Kapicka moved to Lawrence this fall to begin the MA program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. A native of Charleston, SC, Josie attended the College of Charleston.

Her undergraduate institution is one of a few in the country that offers a study abroad program to Cuba. In 2012, Josie spent a semester at the Institute of Philosophy of Havana, studying Spanish, political science and social movements. This transformative experience allowed Josie and her peers to interact with Cuban university students, visit the Cuban parliament and participate in an excursion to Playa Girón, known in the U.S. as the Bay of Pigs. Josie helped produce a video about her experience for the for the institution’s Study Abroad program.

Josie completed her undergraduate studies in Latin American and Caribbean Studies in 2012. She minored in Spanish.

In choosing the graduate program at KU, she hopes to gain a better understanding of the region she fell in love with during her undergraduate studies.
Outreach Activities
By Danika Swanson
Outreach Coordinator

It has been a wonderfully busy semester in the Outreach Department.

Some of the highlights this semester include our two Educator workshops. The first workshop, Murals, Prints, and Portraits: Kahlo Rivera and Beyond, took place in August and drew participants from across the state and even a few out-of-state educators! This workshop provided an overview of the Kahlo, Rivera, and Masterpieces of Modern Mexico exhibit at the Nelson Atkins Museum and offered a chance for participants to explore the related works of print at the Spencer Museum of Art. Educators also learned about the cultural and historical context of these works, as well as ways to bring the topics covered into their classrooms.

The second workshop was also held in collaboration with the Spencer Museum of Art and was centered around Artist-in-Residence Diego Teo’s exhibit at the Spencer. This workshop provided an overview of the Kahlo, Rivera, and Masterpieces of Modern Mexico exhibit at the Nelson Atkins Museum and offered a chance for participants to explore the related works of print at the Spencer Museum of Art. Educators also learned about the cultural and historical context of these works, as well as ways to bring the topics covered into their classrooms.

Other Outreach activities included several opportunities to send speakers to various classroom and community events. Professor Ruben Flores visited Labette Community College in Parsons, KS to speak on a panel for their Community Cinema event and graduate students Tiffany Creegan Miller and Mara Aubel participated in the Multicultural Story Time at the Lawrence Public Library, sharing stories in Kaqchikel Maya and Portuguese, respectively. The Center was also present at several schools’ Culture Fairs.

And, as usual in the fall, we had a number of classroom visits and lots of outreach centered on Día de los Muertos! The Center partnered again this year with the Tonantzin Society in Topeka to bring Mexican Art expert Gregorio Luke out to speak about Día de los Muertos.

Finally, we were thrilled to be able to partner with the Lawrence Public Library to hold a book club discussion on Junot Diaz’s latest bestseller, This Is How You Lose Her, in advance of his visit to Campus for the Hall Center Lecture Series. The book club discussion was led by English Professor Marta Caminero-Santangelo, whose areas of research are U.S. Latino/a literature and issues of race, ethnicity, citizenship, human rights and 20th-Century American Women’s Literature. It was a great discussion that provided excellent insight into book and enriched the experience of attending Diaz’s on campus lectures the following week.

We welcome additional ideas for outreach activities, and we are always looking for affiliated faculty and students who are interested in working with us as an Outreach speaker or contributor. You can contact us at lasoutreach@ku.edu.
Undergraduate Highlights

By Peter Haney
Assistant Director

Our undergraduates are a special source of pride for all of us at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and we are particularly proud of our Fall 2013 graduates. LACS majors Emily Carpenter, “Nick” Johnson, Zach O’Bea, and Gena Pollack will all be leaving KU for greener pastures, as will LACS minor Devin Gerling. Devin and Zach both had FLAS fellowships during their time at KU, and Zach has been hard at work finishing the political science side of his double major after returning from a year in Brazil. Another FLAS fellow, Noemí Martínez, finished her major coursework in the Spring and then went to Brazil on a FLAS fellowship during the summer. She will formally graduate with departmental honors in December. Several of our students are either abroad this semester or making plans to go abroad in the Spring. Kate Sopcich, a summer FLAS fellow, plans to head to Chile in the Spring after spending this past summer in Nicaragua with Prof. Laura Herlihy’s Language and Culture in Puerto Cabezas program. It’s hard to imagine a better overview of the contrasts within the region we call Latin America. Gus Bova remains in Ecuador as a FLAS fellow, where he is studying Quichua at the Pontifica Universidad Católica del Ecuador.

We hear good news from alumni of our undergraduate program. Brett Lathrop ('13) is a retail sales manager for General Mills Foods in Redondo Beach, California. He is applying his knowledge of Latin American Studies to the marketing of food products to supermarkets that serve populations of Latin American origin in that area. After graduating in the summer, Jeff Miller ('13) has been here in Lawrence and is learning toddler Spanish in his capacity as an ESL paraprofessional for the preschool program at Kennedy Elementary. Sarah Stern ('13) for her part, is doing well as an account executive for the Jeffrey Group in Miami, an advertising agency that serves clients all over the Western Hemisphere, and Ashley Cotton ('13) has begun graduate study in political science at Texas A&M-Commerce. After a year-long stint at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, Trent Boultinghouse ('12) has moved to a long-term position at the Pentagon, while Jordan Sparrow ('12) remains in Costa Rica as the country director for Walking Tree Travel and continues his regular blog posts about his “vida tica.” We hope to hear from more of you soon!

Congratulations to our all our Fall 2013 graduates!
Giving to Latin American Studies

By giving to LACS, you contribute to Latin American academic activities, community outreach, special guests and cultural events and student research like that described in the preceding pages of our newsletter.

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

- Supports teaching and learning about Latin America on campus and travel to the region for research and study by students and faculty.
- Disseminates knowledge of Latin America through academic conferences, seminars, weekly brownbag Merienda lectures, cultural performances, museum exhibits and cultural celebrations.
- Organizes teacher workshops to help Kansas educators incorporate Latin American languages and cultures into their classroom curriculum.
- Sponsors visiting scholars, lectures series and field trips

Donations to the Center of Latin American Studies may be used for:

- Undergraduate study abroad scholarships
- Research or conference travel for students or faculty
- Public programs such as conferences, lectures, exhibits and performances
- *The Latin Americanist* Newsletter

You may give online by visiting the “Giving” page on The Latin American Studies website ([http://latamst.ku.edu/about/giving/index.shtml](http://latamst.ku.edu/about/giving/index.shtml)). Online giving is secure, speedy and simple. Click the area you would like to support and you will be redirected to the website of KU Endowment, the non-profit fundraising organization that supports KU.

**Latin American Studies Contingency Fund:** Donations help fund undergraduate or graduate study aboard scholarships, research or conference travel for students and faculty, public programs such as conferences, lectures, exhibits and performances, and the Kansas Latin Americanist newsletter.

**Stansifer Fund:** Initially endowed by Professor Emeritus Charles Stansifer, this fund awards support to graduate students planning to complete a doctorate in the study of Middle America (defined as Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean). Fellowships are granted on a competitive basis.

**In honor of Anita Herzfeld:** Donations help to build a scholarship fund which will help sponsor undergraduate students who wish to study abroad.

If you wish to send a donation by mail, please contact us at:

Center of Latin American Studies
The University of Kansas
Bailey Hall, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Suite 320
Lawrence, KS 66045-7574

Thank you for your support!