The Center of Latin American Studies Celebrates 50 years in Style

This Fall the Center of Latin American Studies celebrated its 50th Year Anniversary with a wide array of events from November 18th-20th, 2011. The 50th Anniversary brought together students, faculty, alumni and Latin American organizations on campus and culminated in a three day celebration of the history, legacy and future of Latin American Studies here at KU. The theme this year was appropriately, “Latin American Studies in a Global Context: Past, Present, and Future.”

The 50th Anniversary Celebration kicked off on Friday, November 18th, 2011 with the 20th Annual Waggoner Research Colloquium. Geraldo de Sousa, Professor of English & Acting Director of the Center for Fall 2011 and Danny Anderson, Professor of Spanish & Portuguese, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences gave the introduction and welcoming remarks. The Waggoner’s featured speakers were Stephen Goddard, Associate Director and Senior Curator of Prints & Drawings, Spencer Museum of Art; Tamara Falicov, Chairperson and Associate Professor, Department of Film & Media Studies, who presented “Cine en construcción (Films in Progress): The San Sebastián (Spain) Film Festival and Its Role in Shaping Latin American Films;” and Anton Rosenthal, Associate Professor, Department of History, presented “City of Lies: Fear, Ethics and History in the Cinematic Street.”

The celebration continued with a conference on Saturday, November 19th from 8:30-5:00 that brought together current faculty and past alumni to talk about their research and the impact of Latin American Studies on their lives. Thank you to all of our speakers and chairs!

Speakers:

Leticia Arroyo Abad, Assistant Professor of Economics, Middlebury College
Marc Becker, Professor of History/Latin American Studies, Truman State University
Dr. Maria Eugenia Bozzoli, Professor Emerita & Vice Chancellor, University of Costa Rica (Latin American Studies and Globalization)
J. Christopher Brown, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Geography; Director, Environmental Studies Program, KU
Marshall Eakin, Professor of History, Vanderbilt University
Marsha S. Haufler, Professor of Art History, and Associate Dean for International Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, KU
Amanda Heter, Project Specialist at the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, KC
Brent Metz, Associate Prof. of Anthropology, KU
Matias Cifar, Associate Professor of Biology, University of Puerto Rico
Christopher M. Schumm, Vice President, Morgan Stanley, Kansas City
Elisa (Nelson) Zogbi, Democracy and Governance Officer, USAID, Washington, D.C.

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From the Director’s Desk, Spring 2012

I am back in the saddle at the Center of Latin American Studies after my Hall Center research leave in the fall. I am grateful to Geraldo de Sousa who stepped into the Director’s role in the fall and to Judy Farmer and Sydney Stone who helped to provide continuity in the office. I am very pleased to be working with Peter Haney, our new Assistant Director who comes to us with a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Texas, and to continue to collaborate with Melissa Birch, who serves as Associate Director and Director of Graduate Studies and is on loan to us from the School of Business. Melissa will be taking a well-deserved (and much desired) sabbatical in the fall and stepping down as Associate Director. I am grateful to her for her work at the Center over the last year and a half in this position, for she has great dedication to the field and has facilitated its workings in many ways. I am pleased to let you know that Tony Rosenthal from History will be stepping into the Associate Director/Graduate Director role and I look forward to working with him for the next two years.

Things are rolling around here: we are planning a fall Biodiversity photo exhibit and event at the Kansas City library cosponsored by the Pan-American Society and featuring Town Peterson as a speaker. This event will complement next year’s thematic focus which is Latin America and the Environment. Chris Brown from Environmental Studies and Peter Herlihy from Geography will be spearheading the Hall Center Seminar on this topic and Chris is creating a new interdisciplinary course on the topic for the fall. Look for these coming attractions!

In the meantime, this year’s focus on Indigenous identities brings us Quetzil Castañeda from the University of Indiana who will bring this year’s seminar to its conclusion. He will also collaborate with John Hoopes, (Anthropology), to present a public event on the Maya 2012 phenomenon, or the possible end of a “world age,” at the Lawence Public Library. And you should already have in your calendars May 10th, when we will be honoring Anita Herzfeld’s retirement also in the Malott Room, 3-5. Please plan to join us and toast Anita’s many contributions to KU during her almost 50 years here.

We have another farewell to bid to a key faculty member this semester: Jana Krentz. Jana has accepted the position of curator of the Latin American collection at Yale University; it is a wonderful offer which attests to her skill and achievements in her field. During her nearly 18 years at KU Libraries, Jana has headed the International Area Studies department and the Dept. for Spain, Portugal and Latin America. She has also served as the liaison with the Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese and the Center of Latin American Studies. She has developed and taught our Introduction to Latin American Research class for MA students and has developed a series of interactive online research tutorials. Jana has consistently served on the Executive and the Graduate Committee of the Center of Latin American Studies. She has been a fundamental figure in the success of our program and it will be very difficult to find someone to fill her shoes. We will let you know when a fiesta de despedida is finalized for Jana.

Sometime last year while talking with Peter Herlihy, it came to our attention that we have several faculty members who work as contributing editors for the Handbook of Latin American Studies. Published by the Library of Congress and the University of Texas Press, the Handbook’s webpage describes its function this way: The Handbook is a bibliography on Latin America consisting of works selected and annotated by scholars. Edited by the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress, the multidisciplinary Handbook alternates annually between the social sciences and the humanities. Each year, more than 130 academics from around the world choose over 5,000 works for inclusion in the Handbook. Continuously published since 1936, the Handbook offers Latin Americanists an essential guide to available resources.” Bart Dean, from KU’s Department of Anthropology is a contributing editor for “Ethnology of Lowland South America” while Peter Herlihy is a Contributing Editor for Central America. Melissa Birch currently edits the section on Brazil and Political Economy: Paraguay. For a few years I edited the section on “Peruvian Poetry,” however, I currently edit the contribution on “Poetry of the Rio de la Plata region.” I know that George Woodyard edited the “Latin American Theater” section for years, and while there may be other editors at KU who haven’t come to our attention, the continued involvement of our professors in this on-going project is a tribute to our faculty’s varied expertise.

We continue to foster collaboration among colleagues at KU, with neighboring universities and community colleges, and with colleagues and communities in Latin America. Thank you for your interest in and support of our myriad activities, which appear throughout this newsletter!

Saludos cordiales,

Jill
Dr. Jorge Soberón, Professor & Senior Scientist of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (left) and Mexican President, Felipe Calderón (right)

Dr. Jorge Soberón, Professor & Senior Scientist of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology & Latin Americanist, recognized by President Felipe Calderón of Mexico

Dr. Jorge Soberón, Professor & Senior Scientist of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology was recognized on March 15th, 2012 by President Felipe Calderón of Mexico for his groundbreaking work on the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Conabio).

The ceremony took place at the Presidential Residence of Los Pinos and marked the 20th Anniversary of the creation of Conabio. In honor of this celebration awards were given to five prominent researchers who helped develop the program from the start, Dr. Soberón along with fellow researchers Arturo Gómez-Pompa, Gonzalo Halffter, Peter Hamilton, Jerzy Rzedowski, and Francisco Takaki.

In March of 1992, three months prior to the celebration awards were given to five prominent researchers who helped develop the program from the start, Dr. Soberón along with fellow researchers Arturo Gómez-Pompa, Gonzalo Halffter, Peter Hamilton, Jerzy Rzedowski, and Francisco Takaki.

The 50th Celebration Continued

The 50th Celebration concluded with a private banquet Saturday evening with musical performances by Javier Valero, Latin American Saxophonist & PhD Candidate in the School of Music and Genaro Mendez, Associate Professor of Voice, School of Music, accompanied by pianist Charles Badami, Instructor of Music, Northwest Missouri State University. The Center was honored to have Chancellor, Bernadette Gray-Little give welcoming remarks. The banquet gave special recognition to the long standing history of the Center but also to two outstanding individuals, former director and Professor Emeritus of History, Dr. Charles Stansifer, and Dr. Anita Herzfeld, Professor of Latin American Studies. The Center is looking forward to the next 50 years!
If you are still prepping your apocalypse kit for the end of the world this December you should have attended visiting professor Dr. Quetzil Castañeda’s lecture at Lawrence Public Library on April 26th. Castañeda shed some scholarly light on the Maya 2012 phenomenon.

The Lawrence Public Library teamed up with the KU Center of Latin American Studies to bring you this special public lecture. Professor Castañeda showed clips from his award-winning documentary film, Incidents of Travel in Chichen Itzá, and spoke about the Maya 2012 calendar, including the end of the 5,125 year-long cycle, astrological alignments, and the events set to occur in December 2012. The event took place in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium and had over 100 guests in attendance.

A n extensive gift of more than 20,000 Latin American books, pamphlets and papers from a KU emeritus professor will serve to deepen an already substantial collection that he helped to create.

Charles Stansifer, professor emeritus of history and a former director of the KU Center of Latin American Studies, has donated his personal collection and papers, including items from Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay and other Central and South American countries. Some books will go to the Latin American collection in Watson Library; the rarer books, pamphlets and other ephemera will go to Spencer Research Library. The collection, which Stansifer built over more than five decades, contains thousands of items.

The gift is the capstone of Stansifer’s long-standing efforts on behalf of the Latin American collection at KU Libraries. He served on the committee that selected and purchased the core collection in the ‘60s, a time when there were few sources of books from Central and South America in the United States. Collection-building meant traveling to those regions and bringing back the books.

“I remember going to Costa Rica with him,” said Jana Krentz, KU librarian and head of KU Libraries’ International Area Studies department. “He would pack suitcases inside suitcases for the trip down, and fill them all with books for the trip back. It was just incredible.”

“Charley brought back some of our really great collections at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, including the Lines Collection, the Casement Collection, and the Zuñiga Montúfar Collection. We went together to purchase the Flores Andino Collection,” Krentz said. “We were only able to do that because of Charley’s contacts.”

“Dr. Stansifer is a noted Central American historian, but his interests go well beyond Central America,” said Melissa Birch, associate professor of business, who collaborated with Stansifer in the Center of Latin American Studies, where he served as director for many years. “Charley was instrumental in the University’s acquisition of the Natalicio González collection and in encouraging many scholars to come use the materials. Always a Jayhawk, Charley devotes incredible energy to building bridges between Kansas, its people and its academic institutions, and all of Latin America.”

Stansifer explained how his 42-year career at KU led him to make the gift.

“During my time at KU, I have become very aware of the outstanding Latin American resources and collections held within KU Libraries,” said Stansifer. “I hope this gift will make this collection even stronger, because the libraries and its resources are vital to research, teaching and learning at KU.”
Faculty Updates

Santa Arias, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, received a Fulbright/CIES fellowship to Colombia where she is completing archival research for her book Transatlantic Reconfigurations of the Americas. As part of her fellowship, she is teaching a graduate course in the Department of Literature at the Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá) titled "Mapas, Imperios e Identidades." Last semester she published "La dialéctica de ver el Orinoco: la Historia corográfica y evangélica de la Nueva Andalucía de fray Antonio Cauín (1779)" in the book: Desplazamientos y disyunciones: Nuevos itinerarios de los estudios coloniales, (ed. Stephanie Kirk, Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana); and “Conversión, contrarreforma y negación imperial: El espacio cristiano en Del único modo de atraer a todos los pueblos a la verdadera religión,’’ in Estudios postcoloniales transatlánticos, (eds. Ileana Rodríguez and Josebe Martínez, Anthropos). Her volume Unequal Encounters: between Religion and the Rhetoric of the Law (co-edited with Raúl Marrero-Fente) has been accepted for publication by the Hispanic Issues Series. For the LASA 2013 International Congress she will serve as chair of the Colonial and 19th-century Literature track.

Gregory Cushman, Associate Professor of History, spent several weeks of his sabbatical in South America completing archival and field research for his second book The Environmental Basis of Indigenous Cosmology in the Andean and Pacific Worlds. In November 2011, he gave the keynote address, on “The Discovery and Impacts of El Niño and La Niña,” at the inaugural meeting of Mexico’s Environmental History National Network held at the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí. His article “Humboldtian Science, Creole Meteorology, and the Discovery of Human-Caused Climate Change in Northern South America” appeared in Osiris 26 (2011): 19-44. He is the co-director of the Environmental Section of LASA.

Verónica Garibotto, Assistant Professor of Spanish & Portuguese, has finished her book manuscript “Crisis y reemergencia: el siglo xix en la ficción contemporánea de Argentina, Chile y Uruguay.” The manuscript is now under consideration at a university press. She has also traveled to Argentina with NFGRF funding to look for research materials for her new project on post-dictatorial literature and film. Her article “Iconic Fictions: Narrating Recent Argentine History in Post-2000 Second-Generation Films” is forthcoming in Studies in Hispanic Cinemas.

Laura Hobson Herlihy, Lecturer of Latin American Studies, published her book, “The Mermaid and the Lobster Diver; Gender, Sexuality, and Money on the Miskito Coast” (University of New Mexico Press, 2012). Herlihy will for the third time lead the KU Center of Latin American Studies Study Abroad program to Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. The program focuses on the indigenous Miskitu language and for the second year was approved by the US Department of Education, meaning students are eligible for FLAS (Foreign Language and Studies Fellowships) grants to attend the program through the Center. Herlihy will also present the paper, “Political Autonomy, Gender Violence, and Indigenous Women’s Rights in Nicaragua,” at the 54 Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, as part of the session, “El Régimen de Autonomía de Nicaragua: Consolidación y Reforma.” Vienna, Austria, July 15-19, 2012.

Anita Herzfeld, Professor of Latin American Studies, (together with Prof. Peter Herlihy, KU, and Prof. Carmen Camaño, UCR) were guest editors of the latest issue of the Revista “Reflexiones” de la Facultad de Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad de Costa Rica. This particular publication was devoted to some of the papers presented at the Space Symposium held at the UCR in October of 2011, also organized by the above mentioned faculty members. She was also one of the organizers of the 50th anniversary of the existence of the Center of Latin American Studies, held at KU in November of 2011. During March 2012, Herzfeld will chair a “Mesa Temática” on contact languages at the meeting of the local ALFAL(ieto) to be held at the University of La Plata from March 20th to 23rd and will also present a paper in that symposium. She is currently organizing a panel on Contact Languages for the 53rd International Congress of Americanists to be held in Vienna next July, where she will read a paper. She will also be participating in the 15th Mediterranean Studies Association meeting to be held in Pula, Croatia (May 29th-June 3rd), where she will read a paper entitled “The Morphology of Lunfardo, the popular speech of Buenos Aires, Argentina.”

Jana Krentz, Head Librarian of International Area Studies department, has accepted the position of curator of the Latin American collection at Yale University. Jana serves as KU’s Head of the Dept. for Spain, Portugal and Latin America, and as the liaison with the Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese and the Center of Latin American Studies. She teaches more than 70 instruction sessions a year, and has developed a series of interactive online tutorials. She also teaches a graduate seminar for the Center of Latin American Studies.

Donna Luckey, Prof. Emerita of Architecture. Luckey recently traveled to Costa Rica, and was hosted by various Architecture Faculty at UCR and Percy practices architecture in Costa Rica. Luckey donated many maps, plans, and drawings collected from the United Fruit Company/Banana Company of Costa Rica during her research efforts in the 1980s and 1990s. The reception in Costa Rica of her materials and photos was very positive, with talk of a possible exhibit in Golfito at the Cultural Center sometime in the future.
The Center of Latin American Studies welcomes Dr. Peter Haney as the newest member of the LAS staff. Dr. Haney started as the Assistant Director this Spring and has taken over the role of Undergraduate Advisor for the Center’s growing undergraduate program. Dr. Haney has taught at the University of Texas at Austin, Colorado College, Pikes Peak Community College, and Colorado State University-Pueblo. His principal area of research and teaching is ethnic Mexican history, culture, and performance in what is now the southwestern United States.

He has published in such journals as Language and Communication, Pragmatics, The Journal of Linguistic Anthropology, and The Journal of American Folklore. His work is scheduled to appear in the forthcoming Routledge Companion to Contemporary Anthropology and in the fourth volume of essays from the U.S. Latina and Latino World War II Oral History Project. He has also consulted for public history projects related to his work, including the 2004 PBS documentary Visions and an exhibit on the carpa (“tent show”) in Texas at the Hertzberg Circus Museum in San Antonio, Texas.

Brent Metz, Associate Professor of Anthropology, presented “Ch’orti’ Mayas in Northwestern El Salvador? Misadventures & Revelations in Surveying Indigeneity & Mestizaje” at LASA’s 2nd Ethnicity, Race, & Indigenous Peoples Conference in San Diego, CA on Nov. 3, 2011. He also led an Engineers Without Borders professional team to eastern Guatemala in November 2011. He will continue to guide this group over the next 5 years, including on a trip this May and June. He plans to run his applied anthropology field school to Honduras again in January 2013.

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh, Associate Professor of Sociology was awarded the 2012 Del Shankel Teaching Excellence Award, which was presented by Professor Del Shankel at the 2012 Jayhawk Senior Banquet at Allen Field House on April 29th, 2012.

Yajaira M. Padilla, Associate Professor of Spanish & Portuguese, was awarded a Visiting Fellowship by the Institute for Humanities Research at Arizona State University for Spring 2012. During her fellowship, she conducted research for her second book project tentatively titled “Central Americans in the US: The Politics of Belonging and Non-belonging,” that focuses on how Central Americans negotiate their “undesirability” as citizen-subjects of the United States. Her first monograph, “Changing Women, Changing Nation: Female Agency, Identity, and Nationhood in Trans-Salvadoran Narratives” is due to be published by SUNY Press in June 2012. This book, the first to focus on Salvadoran and Salvadoran American literature, proposes gender as an invaluable lens for examining the interrelated histories of women’s participation in national and transnational endeavors and that of a changing Salvadoran (trans)nation.

Anton Rosenthal, Associate Professor of History, published his article, “Radical Border Crossers: The Industrial Workers of the World and their Press in Latin America” in Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe, 22:2, Julio-Diciembre, 2011. He also co-taught the University Honors Commons Course in Spring 2012 on "The Visual City" with Catherine Preston, Associate Professor of Film Media Studies.

Paul Sneed, Assistant Professor of Spanish & Portuguese, wrote two articles, “Learning in Community Encounters: Lessons from the Favela” and “Dark Encounters in Tourism and Journalism in the Pacification of Rocinha Favela,” and part one of a book manuscript on community-based learning in popular culture and everyday life in the squatter town of Rocinha, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He gave an invited talk on non-profits in favelas in contemporary film and screened his documentary at the University of Missouri. He also organized a panel for LASA on favelas in film (for which he’ll present a paper on favela funk in film). His second documentary, Encontros, is in post-production. After collaborating on a story on the police pacification of the Rocinha favela in Rio with CNN International’s Back|Story, he was interviewed on air. He continues to work with the Two Brothers Foundation, an NGO based in Rio (www.2bros.org), as Contact for Researchers and Service Learning.

Jorge Soberón, Professor & Senior Scientist of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology was recognized by President Felipe Calderón of Mexico for his groundbreaking work on the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity. The award was given to Dr. Soberón along with fellow researchers Arturo Gómez-Pompa, Gonzalo Halffter, Peter Hamilton, Jerzy Rzedowski, and Francisco Takaki in honor of the 20th Anniversary of Conabio. Dr. Soberón also co-led the 2012 Model Organization of American States Delegation along with Professor Melissa Birch. The delegation, representing Paraguay traveled to Washington D.C. April 2nd-7th, 2012.

Charles Stansifer, Professor Emeritus of History, and a former director of the KU Center of Latin American Studies, has donated his personal collection and papers, an extensive gift of more than 20,000 Latin American books, pamphlets and papers. See article on pg. 4

Ketty Wong, Assistant Professor of Music, attended the presentation of her book “La música nacional: Identidad, Mestizaje y Migración en el Ecuador” at the Casa de las Américas in Havana on March 23, 2012. Her book manuscript received the Casa de las Américas Musicology Award in 2010 and part of the award is the publication of the book.
KU Students Helping Honduras

By Carly Adams, Co-Founder
Student Helping Honduras, KU Chapter

It all started out as just an idea between two friends; get on a plane, travel to a developing country, volunteer and make a difference. Yet, this past winter break, it became a reality for Carly Adams, from Sedgwick, KS and Jenna Olitsky, from Leawood, KS, both juniors, through an organization called Students Helping Honduras (SHH). Adams found the organization through MTV Real World’s Mike Ross, who had recently returned from a trip through SHH. After discussing it with Olitsky, they were both in, the only two from KU to go, for the Winter II session.

Through SHH, Adams and Olitsky were placed with a team of thirteen others, from Illinois, Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and Puerto Rico. They were among the 190 volunteers to go down for the one-week stay in El Progresso, Honduras, volunteering at various sites to build or reconstruct elementary schools in rural areas. Adams and Olitsky worked on Primavera Elementary School, located twenty minutes outside El Progresso in the mountains.

As a team, SHH worked to build three classrooms that were weatherproofed and sustainable. The days were long, but the trip was not all work. During breaks volunteers would play with the school children, learn Spanish, play soccer matches, go to the beach, and bond with fellow group members. The trip was a lot of hard work, but an extremely rewarding and memorable one.

Adams and Olitsky, came back to KU after their trip and co-founded KU Students Helping Honduras, along with Alissa Anderson, junior from Derby, KS and Rachelle Friedman, sophomore from Overland Park, KS. Laura Herlihy, lecturer in Latin American Studies, and expert in the Honduras and Nicaragua area will be their faculty advisor. The four hope to build up the organization, with people who are enthusiastic about helping the villages around El Progresso, through awareness, fundraising, volunteering, or all the above. If interested in joining or wanting to receive more information you can email KU SHH at: KUstudentshelpinghonduras@gmail.com

Dr. Anita Herzfeld’s Retirement Reception

The Center will be hosting a retirement reception in honor of the distinguished career of Dr. Anita Herzfeld, Professor of Latin American Studies. As a member of KU’s Faculty for nearly 50 years, Dr. Herzfeld has continuously been a pioneer for Latin America and an advocate for student education and travel. Anita has impacted both students and faculty alike in the many positions she has held over the years, some of which include Director of Study Abroad and Director and Advisor of Undergraduate Studies for the Center of Latin American Studies. Both inside the classroom and out, Dr. Herzfeld has had an incredible influence on students’ lives, evidenced through her unwavering support, good humor, and the deeply-felt concern expressed for all her students. In honor of this amazing woman, a reception will be held in the Malott Room of the Kansas Union on May 10th, 2012 from 3-5pm.

A fund in honor of Dr. Herzfeld has been set up at KU Endowment to help sponsor undergraduate students who wish to study abroad. See more about this fund on p.12.

Above: Volunteer students from across the country help build schools through the Students Helping Honduras Program in El Progress, Honduras.

Dr. Brent Metz leads Anthropological Field School in Honduras

In January of 2011 Dr. Brent Metz, Associate Professor of Anthropology, led two teams with a total of 14 students to conduct research for two weeks with the indigenous Ch’ortí’ Maya population in Honduras. An Environmental team of 7 students tested for water contamination and conducted a household survey of basic health needs in 3 communities, totaling about 160 houses, and a Business/Social Science team of 7 students analyzed and enhanced tourism potential for the Consejo Nacional Indigena Maya Ch’ortí de Honduras (CONIMCHH). The team also produced a website for CONIMCHH (http://www.conimchh.org/)

Dr. Brent Metz plans to run his 2-credit applied anthropology field school to Honduras again in January 2013 at a projected cost of about $1,200. and will travel to eastern Guatemala on a similar project partially funded by a Center of Latin American Studies Cluster Grant this summer.

Dr. Herzfeld (far right) with the Grupo de Kansas in 1970 heading to Costa Rica through the long standing partnership between KU and UCR.
For the second year in a row the University of Kansas joined universities from throughout the hemisphere to participate in the 2012 Model Organization of American States (MOAS). The weeklong conference, similar to Model UN, takes place in Washington, D.C. and brings together students from Latin America and the U.S. to engage in a realistic and academically challenging diplomatic experience. This April, more than 370 students from 34 universities participated along with faculty advisors who served as observers.

Throughout the model, students represent diplomats from OAS member states and follow parliamentary procedure to debate and approve resolutions dealing with current issues on the Inter-American agenda. Model OAS works closely with the OAS Department of International Affairs to offer a unique opportunity for students to learn about the OAS and its mission, its member states, and the important issues that face the Hemisphere. The model is even held in the Hall of the Americas at OAS Headquarters and is attended by ambassadors and the OAS Secretary General.

This year’s delegation was especially proud when one delegate, LAS MA student Jorge Soberon, was elected to serve as Secretary General for next year’s 2013 Washington Model OAS. Soberon, spoke in the Hall of Americas before all the delegates and won one of the most important positions in the entire model, beating five other candidates for the position. He stated: “Indeed, this is a prestigious win for me as a student and future diplomat, but also brings the highest position of the WMOAS to KU, my alma mater. It is the best way I can say thank you to my university and my professors. Without them, and the support of my outstanding delegation, we would not be talking about it.”

The 2012 delegation completed a semester-long course to prepare for the conference and also managed to raise over $2,000 from private donors and businesses in the community to partially fund the trip to Washington, DC. The students held a fundraising event at the Replay Lounge in historic downtown Lawrence and auctioned great prizes from local businesses such as Goldmakers, Jefferson’s, Cupcake Construction, Mark’s Jewelers, Chipotle, Waxman Candles, and Liberty Hall. The 2012 Delegation would like to thank everyone for their support!

This year’s delegation represents Paraguay, which was particularly fortunate as Kansas and Paraguay have a long standing relationship through the Partners of the Americas program which established the Kansas-Paraguay association in 1968. The delegation, consisting of 10 students, also benefited from the presence of three Paraguayan students who are currently studying at KU and could bring their first-hand knowledge of Paraguay to the project.

News From Outreach

The Center of Latin American Studies outreach accomplished a lot this past year. The mission of outreach is to promote the learning about Latin America to K-12 educators, community colleges, and to the general public. To meet each of our mission areas outreach hosts a variety of events over the course of the year. Recently LAS Outreach has hosted two K-12 teacher workshops, in the Fall, a workshop on Paraguay with help from the Kansas Paraguayan Partners and the KU Paraguayan Student Association and in the Spring, another on the topic of African Diaspora in Latin American Workshop.

Other upcoming projects in the works for Outreach are a week long Dia de los Muertos event in the Fall of 2012 in partnership with the Tonantzin Society of Topeka, Washburn University, the Mexican Consulate of Kansas City, and the Children’s Discovery Center of Topeka. We will be hosting a one day symposium on Health in Latin America on campus in September with a variety of speakers and posters. Other upcoming K-12 and community college workshops will be on the Peruvian Amazon co-hosted with the Spencer Art Museum in June and a joint area studies workshop led by Latin American Studies in the spring of 2013.

Additionally, outreach provides free online and material resources for teachers, community college professors, and public organizations. Some of our online resources include the El LASO (Latin American Studies Outreach) digital newsletter that provides a thematic, multimedia look into the latest research and news on Latin American Affairs, as well as, resources to help teach about a given theme. Outreach also has ten cultural trunks divided into different regions and countries of Latin America available for check out and free mail delivery. The cultural trunks may also be viewed online through the Latin American Studies website. Online Spanish language learning materials will soon be added to the Latin American Studies website in partnership with the KU Department of Spanish and Portuguese Acceso project.

Latin American Studies continually strives to form partnerships with other organizations. We look forward to meeting new teachers and involving a variety of groups to promote learning about Latin America.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at our KU address: lasoutreach@ku.edu.

Graduate Snapshot: Latin American Studies MA Student wins Brazilian Apprentice!

Jana Correa, Masters student in LAS and former KU volleyball player won the Brazilian version of Apprentice (O Aprendiz) on December 21st, 2011. Correa, originally from Manaus, Brazil attended KU for both her Undergraduate and Graduate career studying Business and Latin American Studies.

Correa was involved in many activities at KU including KU volleyball and the Brazilian Student Association (BRASA) of which she was president during the 2010-2011 year. Correa was accepted to be a contestant on the Brazilian television show last summer and competed against sixteen contestants, and in the end won out.

For winning the show, Correa received about $800,000 USD, a new car, a painting by Brazilian artist Romero Britto valued at about $50,000 USD and a one-year contract for a new job. Congratulations JANA from everyone in Latin American Studies!!
Merienda Brown-Bag Lectures

The Center's Merienda lectures, held most Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters, 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. Meriendas take place in Bailey Hall, Room 318 from 12:00-1:00pm.

We would like to thank all the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 Merienda presenters listed below. Please visit our website under the News & Events section for more information and event photos. Thank you:

Fall 2011 Schedule:
- Sept 8: Anita Herzfeld
- Sept 15: Linda Lee
- Sept 22: Francisco Robles
- Sept 29: Cristian Dimitriu
- Oct 6: Tiffany Creegan Miller
- Oct 13: MOAS Merienda
- Oct 20: Betty Wong
- Oct 27: Patricia Foxen
- Nov 3: Edma Delgado
- Nov 10: Brent Metz
- Nov 17: Laura Herlihy
- Dec 1: Andrew Hilburn

Spring 2012 Schedule:
- Feb 2: Jill Kuhnheim
- Feb 9: Bill Woods
- Feb 16: Stacey Burton
- Feb 23: Bart Dean
- March 1: Andrew Hilburn
- March 8: Arnobio Morelix
- March 15: Michelle Johnson-Motoyama
- March 29: Emilia Barbosa
- April 5: Paul Sneed
- April 12: Robert Castillo
- April 19: Peter Haney
- April 26: Javier Valerio

Every semester, the Center of Latin American Studies holds a film festival to showcase different aspects of Latin American culture and history. For Spring 2012 the Center chose three award winning films that spanned the Latin American hemisphere. Each film features a keynote speaker who gives background surrounding important themes in the films.

Our first film, A Better Life, premiered at Liberty Hall!

Monday, April 9th, 2012
A Better Life:
98 minutes, 2011. Demian Bichir, plays a gardener in East L.A. who struggles to keep his son away from gangs and immigration agents while trying to provide the opportunities he never had. A touching, poignant, multi-generational story about a father's love and the lengths a parent will go to protect his family. Bichir's role was nominated for 'Best Actor' at the Oscars. Shown at Liberty Hall (644 Massachusetts St., Lawrence, KS) at 7pm. In English. Introduction by Professor Ruben Flores of American Studies.

Tuesday, April 17th, 2012:
Nostalgia de la luz (Nostalgia for the Light)
90 minutes, 2011. Master filmmaker Patricio Guzman, travels to the Atacama Desert, the driest place on earth to capture the melding of two worlds: the celestial quest of the astronomers and the earthly one of the women. Astronomers from all over the world gather here to observe the stars, and where the harsh heat of the sun keeps human remains of political prisoners, “disappeared” by the Chilean army intact after the military coup of September, 1973. So while astronomers examine the most distant and oldest galaxies, surviving relatives of the disappeared search, even after twenty-five years, for the remains of their loved ones. Shown at Stauffer-Flint 100 at 7pm. Spanish with English subtitles. Introduction by Pablo G. Celis Castillo, Spanish & Portuguese GTA.

Thursday, April 19th, 2012
La teta asustada (Milk of Sorrow)
94 minutes, 2009. Director Claudia Llosa’s stark meditation on a grim period of South American history between the years 1980 and 2000. Fausta has fallen ill with a disease passed down from mother to daughter through breast milk. But Fausta's affliction isn’t biological; it strictly affects Peruvian women who were raped or abused during those two terrible decades of persecution. While those days are long gone, Fausta stands as a living reminder of the horrors that once plagued her country. After Fausta's mother dies, she sets out to discover her own path to freedom. Shown at Stauffer-Flint 100 at 7pm. Spanish with English subtitles. Introduction by Pablo G. Celis Castillo, Spanish & Portuguese GTA.

The film festival is free and open to the public. Please make sure to check the Film Festival Webpage for next semesters films!
Student Awards & Updates

Student Awards
FLAS Fellowship Awardees

Graduate Academic Year Recipients
Lindsay Dudley, MA LAS (Quichua)
Phillip Duncan, PhD Linguistics (Quichua)
Francisco Enciso, MA LAS (Portuguese)
Joshua Homan, PhD Anthropology (Quichua)
Lisa Scrivener, MA LAS & MBA (Portuguese)
Heather Wehr, MA Anthropology (Kaqchikel)
Melanie Wetzel, MA LAS (Kaqchikel)

Summer Graduate Recipients
Edna Delgado, PhD Candidate Spanish & Portuguese (Nahuatl)
Chih-Hsiang (“Terry”) Hsieh, PhD Linguistics (Quichua)
Ariana Toth, MA Geography at Western Michigan University (Miskitu)
Melanie Wetzel, MA LAS (Miskitu)

Summer Undergraduate Recipients
Fisher Adwell, Anthropology (Quichua)
Zach O’Bea, LAS (Portuguese)
Devin Gerling, Anthropology & Spanish (Miskitu)
Jordan Sparrow, LAS & Co-Major Global and International Studies, Minor Brazilian Studies (Portuguese)
Samantha Spurlock, French & Linguistics (Miskitu)

2012 Latin American Field Research Grant
David Cooper, MA Sociology

Graduate Academic Year Recipients
Taylor Tappan, MA Geography
PhD Linguistics, received honorable mention by the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award.

Francisco Enciso, MA LAS, Incoming Latin American Studies Master’s Students for Spring 2012!


Jacob Rapp, PhD Spanish & Portuguese, Distinguished Service Award

Bailey Reimer, junior in American Studies, Linguistics and minor in Latin American Studies named to KU chapter of Mortar Board.

Jorge Soberón, MA LAS, participated in the 2012 Model Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. Soberón represented the University of Kansas as lead delegate for Paraguay in the General Committee. Soberón had the great honor of being elected to the prestigious Secretary General position for next year’s MOAS 2013.

Summer Undergraduate Recipients
Fisher Adwell, Anthropology (Quichua)
Devin Gerling, Anthropology & Spanish (Miskitu)
Jordan Sparrow, LAS & Co-Major Global and International Studies, Minor Brazilian Studies (Portuguese)
Samantha Spurlock, French & Linguistics (Miskitu)

April 12th Pan American Day in Kansas City

The City Council of Kansas City, MO has recently honored the founding of the Pan American Association of Kansas City (PANAM-KC) by declaring April 14th, 2012 as Pan American Day, and April 16-21 as Pan American Week. Pan American Day, April 14th, has become one of the significant anniversaries of the Continent and recognizes that Kansas City enjoys citizens who originated from all countries of the Americas. In recognition the city will honorarily name Grand Boulevard as the Grand Boulevard of the Americas and will display OAS member nations flags along the boulevard. A ceremony attended by City officials, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, diplomats, guests, and citizens of the KC area will enhance the community’s knowledge of the overall significance of the countries of the Americas to the United States. The City Council is looking forward to evolving into an internationally recognized city in the Americas.

Undergraduate Highlight:
Sarah Stern, Latin American Studies & Journalism, was selected as one of the top 10 college women of 2012 by Glamour. An avid photographer, Stern has used her skills to capture the massive annual Carnaval Encarnaceno. Sarah also became the first American to dance samba in the carnival (pictured below) and was honored to meet Paraguayan President, Fernando Lugo while dancing!

A Portuguese speaker as well, Stern traveled to Brazil last summer, to photograph Rio de Janeiro. While there she got the crew out of a sticky situation by walking up to a gang lord who’d taken a camera from her partner and negotiated, in Portuguese, for its return. Her shots from the trip will be published in a large-format book and featured in a special collection at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Stern is also the recipient of the 2011 Kansas-Paraguay Partnership Special Merit Scholarship, and has spent the Spring 2012 semester studying in various parts of Paraguay. While there she’s working with microloan recipients at a social entrepreneurial nonprofit in Paraguay.

Stern was also named to the KU chapter of Mortar Board.
Why give to the Center of Latin American Studies?

By giving to LAS, 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 of Latin American Studies

- Supports the development of new courses about Latin America, faculty and student research travel for study of Latin American languages and research topics.
- 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.
- Visiting scholars, lectures series and field trips

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

- Undergraduate or graduate 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). 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 abroad 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

Your gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law

Thank you for your support!