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 2010-2011 theme on "Latin American migration to the US and Kansas" focuses on our country’s ongoing demographic transformations in which Hispanics are now the largest minority.

The issues of cultural and national identity of Latinos in the US, including their indigenous roots, and their potential citizenship and rights here raise important humanistic and philosophical questions. The seminar investigates the contradictory history of Latino migration and contributions to the US (through military service, employment, taxes, music and art).

Spring 2011’s distinguished presenters include:

Wendy Jepson, Geography, Texas A&M  
"Claiming Space, Claiming Water: Contested Legal Geographies of Water in South Texas"  
Thu., Jan. 27, 2011

Yajaira Padilla, Spanish & Portuguese  
"Illegal Art: Visual Expression and Immigration Politics in Los Angeles"  
Fri., Feb. 18, 2011

Joseph Nevins, Department of Earth Science and Geography, Vassar College  
“The Space of Global Apartheid: The Case for a Framework for Analyzing International Migration”  
Fri., Mar. 11, 2011

Lynn Stephen, Anthropology and Ethnic Studies/Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies, University of Oregon  
"Walls and Borders: The Shifting U.S.-Mexico Relationship and Transborder Communities"  
Wed., Mar. 16, 2011

Jessica Vasquez, Sociology  
"Latino Family Formation in Kansas & California: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender"  
Fri., Apr. 15, 2011

Manuel Muñoz, English, University of Arizona  
"Writing While Arizonan: Chicano Literature and Narrative Expectations"  
Wed., Apr. 20, 2011
FLAS Update

For this year’s 2010-2011 Academic Year nine students—seven graduate and two undergraduates—were awarded FLAS fellowships.

FLAS Fellowships will soon be awarded for the upcoming 2011-2012 Academic Year. Also new this year are FLAS Summer Awards, which will allow students the opportunity to study less commonly taught languages in immersion settings over the summer.

Molly Martin and Erin Sheridan, recipients of this year's FLAS award are studying Portuguese as part of their joint MBA/MA degrees in Latin American Studies.

FLAS fellowships through the Center of Latin American Studies help to promote the less commonly taught languages such as: Kaqchikel Maya, Quichua, Portuguese, Advanced Spanish and various other Latin American languages.

We begin the biannual edition of The Kansas Latin Americanist to keep pace with Latin Americanist scholarship at KU. The LAS Center has been a busy place over the past eight months as we implement our 2010-14 National Resource Center DOE Title VI Grant for enhancing and expanding interdisciplinary scholarship on Latin America at KU. After working in the Center several years without NRC funding, it has been exciting implementing a strategy we designed, and gratifying to see it work!

It is great doing so with our talented and beloved Office Manager Judy Farmer along with Anita Herzfeld and Laura Herlihy, who make the Center a vital place, a community for students and faculty alike. Equally rewarding is working with our dedicated and skilled team of student workers, including new LAS graduate students. Sydney Stone leads the group, directing many Center functions, with assistance from our “tech guy” Harley Ewing. Our dependable and welcoming front desk staff is led by our long-time undergraduate Kevin Neslage, with Stacia Gudmonson, Kim Graff, and Evie Schlifie. Our new Outreach Program is directed by Catherine Butel, working with Nancy Compier, Calvin McConnell, and Lindsay Dudley. And this semester we added the faculty support of Jill Kuhnheim, as Acting Co-Director, and Melissa Birch, as Associate Director and Graduate Adviser.

We are thrilled to see our Outreach Program’s new vitality as seen in the new K-12 teachers’ workshop on the La Virgen de Guadalupe. We are equally excited about offering new Faculty Travel Grants and Latin Americanist Research Cluster awards, with academic year and summer FLAS Fellowships for grad and undergrad students and field research grants for grad students.

We are proud of The Hall Center Latin American Seminar, which is a keystone activity in our NRC grant strategy, designed to integrate interdisciplinary teaching and research around collaboratively-identified themes. This year’s, LA Migration to US and Kansas, led by Professors Kuznesof and Marta Caminero-Santangelo, has been outstanding and other graduate seminars, workshops, two film festivals, and Merienda brown bags focus on the year’s NRC migration theme. We look forward to next year’s theme on Indigenous Peoples led by Professors John Hoopes and Brent Metz.

Last fall’s Waggoner Research Colloquium was exceptional bringing together distinguished KU natural and social scientists to reflect on biodiversity in Latin America; unfortunately coincident with the memorial honoring our deceased distinguished colleague, George Woodyard. This spring the Center is doing a research symposium with colleagues at the University of Costa Rica.

We are also all thrilled to have visiting Fulbright Scholar and Anthropologist Silvia Gonzalez from the Natural University of Honduras with us in the Center. We'd like to brag about our new LAS website that has become an exciting and ever-more interactive platform. We want everyone to know that the new Model Organization of American State seminar is a marvelous new addition to the Center’s course offerings. And also, that we all enjoyed sharing a fun fall picnic at Clinton Park in downtown Lawrence.

We look forward to seeing you at the LAS springtime get-together at the same spot, and we appreciate your support of the Center and Latin Americanist community on campus.

Sincerely,

Acting Co-Directors Peter Herlihy & Jill Kuhnheim

From the Director’s Desk...
Welcome to Visiting Fulbright Scholar

The University of Costa Rica & The University of Kansas Symposium: The Many Contexts of Space

The Office of International Programs and Center of Latin American Studies at the University of Kansas, together with the Oficina de Asuntos Internacionales y Cooperación Externa and the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales at the University of Costa Rica, are sponsoring the symposium “The Many Contexts of Space in Central America” that will take place at the University of Costa Rica in the Social Sciences Auditorium on March 21st to 23rd of 2011.

The many “contexts of space,” identified by their geographic, symbolic, environmental, political, and social dimensions, include concerns related to borders, discrimination, identity, environment, immigration, indigenous populations and afro-descendants. The event brings together 20 scholars from UCR and KU that represent different disciplines and understandings of “human space.”

The conference is the Center’s effort to reinvigorate an important and historic University of Kansas/University of Costa Rica collaboration and oldest extant study abroad program in the United States. A publication will follow the symposium involving even more faculty.

LAS Acting Director Herlihy and Undergraduate Director Herzfeld traveled to San José, Costa Rica, October 27 to October 31 to organize the conference working with UCR colleagues, Director of International Programs Sittenfeld, Dean Enriquez and Geography Directors Vargas and R. Castillo.

The symposium will have many distinguished presenters from both Universities. Participants from KU include, A. Townsend Peterson, Biodiversity Institute, who will present, “Changing Risk of Disease Transmission with Changing Climates”; John Hoopes, Department of Anthropology, who will present “Space and Scale in the Archaeology of the Caribbean Lowlands of Costa Rica”; and Barney Warf, Department of Geography, who will present “Using Networks to (Re)Conceive Spatiality in Central America,” who will all present on the 21st of March.

On the 22nd of March, six presenters from KU will share their work. Peter Herlihy, Department of Geography, will present “Titling Horizontal Spaces of Indigenous Communities in the Rainforests of Central America and Mexico”; John Kelly, doctoral student in the Department of Geography, will present “Land Ownership and the Production of Water”; and Anita Herzfeld, Center of Latin American Studies, will present “El espacio y la globalización en el contacto de lenguas: el criollo Limoñense en hispanohablante Costa Rica.”

Other presenters on the 22nd of March include: Jill Kuhnheim, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, who will present “Una poética de las márgenes urbanos al fin del siglo 20”; Tamara Falicov from the Department of Film Media Studies, “Central American Spaces of Audiovisual Financing and Collaborations: Programa Ibermedia and Cinergia”; and Hispano Duron, doctoral student in Film Media Studies who will present “The Broken Silence: Contemporary Film in the Central American Space.”
Facility Highlight:

Dr. Tanya Golash-Boza, Assistant Professor, Sociology and American Studies

I spent fourteen months traveling between Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and Jamaica in an effort to understand processes of reincorporation for people deported from the United States. I was able to conduct this research with funding from the Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Award and the University of Kansas General Research Fund. In each country, I met government officials, academics, community workers, and deportees and asked them to help me to understand how deportation had affected them and their countries.

I chose these four countries as my research sites as they figure among the ten countries to which the United States sends over 90 percent of all deportees. In 2010, the United States deported nearly 400,000 people—more than it has deported ever before in history.

The research trip was highly successful. Overall, I conducted 157 interviews with deportees and witnessed the landing and processing of several planeloads of deportees. My research has allowed me to understand two key findings.

First of all, Dominicans and Jamaicans are nearly always deported as a consequence of their interactions with law enforcement officials. In contrast, Brazilians and Guatemalans tend to be deported after being apprehended by immigration officials. This finding is important insofar as it indicates immigration law enforcement affects different national origin communities in distinct ways. Secondly, in-country characteristics are very important for deportees’ reincorporation. In Guatemala and Brazil, the lack of a stigma attached to being a deportee facilitates deportees’ reincorporation. These countries stand in contrast to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, where deportees are heavily stigmatized and it is very difficult for them to gain societal acceptance or employment. As I continue to write about the experiences of deportees, I will build on these initial findings to tell a more comprehensive story about the life trajectories of deportees.

Faculty Updates

Stuart Day, Chairperson and Associate Director of Spanish and Portuguese, recently finished a special edition of the Mexican theater magazine Paso de Gato. Other recent research includes chapters/articles on Federico Gamboa, “Performing the Portirato: Federico Gamboa and the Performance of Power”; Sabina Berman, “Similia similibus curantur: La exhumación de lo real en Backyard de Sabina Berman”; Vicente Leñero, “Transposing Professions: Vicente Leñero and the Politics of the Press”; and a piece based on interviews with Sabina Berman and Jesusa Rodriguez, “It’s My National Stage Too: Sabina Berman and Jesusa Rodríguez as Public Intellectuals.” This topic—public intellectuals in Mexico—is the subject of an edition Day is working on with a colleague.

Tamara Falicov, Associate Professor and Chair of Film and Media Studies was invited as a visiting professor to teach a twelve hour course on Latin American audiovisual industries at the Universidad de Medellin, Colombia for a new MA program in Cultural Industries in November. She published the book chapter, “Migrating from South to North: The Role of Film Festivals in Funding and Shaping Global South Film and Video.”

Greg Elmer, et. al, Eds. Locating Migrating Media, Lexington Books, and a short essay on the Uruguayan film "Whisky" (Rebella and Stoll) for the book "The Ten Best Latin American Films of the Decade" edited by Carlos Gutierrez, New York: Jorge Pinto Books. She received an NEH University Professor Summer Institute grant to spend one month in Sao Paulo, Brazil to study Portuguese and Brazilian urban fiction and film. She also gave a talk at LASA this year on "Argentine Cinema and the Crisis of Audience" in October in Toronto, Canada.

Paul Sneed, Assistant Professor of Brazilian Literary and Cultural Studies, Co-Founder of the Two Brothers Foundation/Instituto Dois Irmãos. Professor Sneed was invited to visit The Butler School of Music at the University of Texas-Austin November 30-December 1st to give a lecture titled "ONG-Açã: Rio’s NGO’s in Contemporary Brazilian Music and Film" and to teach lecture in a course on Brazilian music about baile funk music in a Rio favela.

Charles Stansifer, Professor of History Emeritus and former Director of The Center of Latin American Studies published a new book titled "The University of Kansas and the University of Costa Rica: An Extraordinary Relationship," published in English and Spanish in October 2010 by the University of Costa Rica Press. Co-authored by Maria Bozzi of the University of Costa Rica. The books are on sale at the KU Bookstore.

Deportees exiting the airplane after being sent to their countries of origin.

Dr. Charles Stansifer with his book, "The University of Costa Rica: An Extraordinary Relationship"

Emily Tummons, Lecturer in Latin American Studies has been teaching Kaqchikel Maya for 3 1/2 years as a GTA. In Fall 2010, she successfully defended her
linguistics masters thesis, "Positional Roots in Kaqchikel Maya." This semester marks her first one as a KU lecturer. In the fall she also added a fourth Kaqchikel class. Now the linguistics-based "Structure of Kaqchikel Maya" is offered each semester, where students may learn the phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic characteristics of Kaqchikel. This class is offered in addition to the existing three levels of Kaqchikel Maya, where students may gain a practical command of the language.

**Ketty Wong-Cruz**, Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology, won the prestigious Casa de las Américas Musicology Award 2010 with her book manuscript "La música nacional: Identidad, mestizaje y migración en Ecuador." The book will be published by Casa de las Américas and will be released on April 2012. The Ministry of Culture of Ecuador, Erika Sylva, consecrated Professor Wong for this international accomplishment on December 28, 2010. Professor Wong presented a conference paper and participated in a round table discussion in the Second International Congress of Musicology in Loja, Ecuador (Nov. 29–Dec. 3, 2010). The Ministry of Culture and the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja hosted the event, which gathered scholars from Spain, Cuba, Venezuela, Uruguay, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, and Ecuador. Professor Wong also conducted a 32-hour workshop on ethnomusicological research methods at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Quito (Dec. 18-23). This workshop is part of the MM program at the Universidad de Cuenca, where Professor Wong and her colleague Professor Paul Laird (KU School of Music) participate as guest instructors.

**Biography: Professor Dr. Jill S. Kuhnheim**

Professor Jill S. Kuhnheim, has her academic base in the Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, but is working as Acting Co-Director of Latin American Studies this spring.

She will be Chairing the Undergraduate Studies committee, which will be working on developing the Latin American indigenous nations minor, the capstone course, revising the major and recruitment. She is the contact person for Brazilian Portuguese activities, for Spanish Instruction, and for collaboration with Medical School in LAS and is working to ratify governance policies for the program. Her areas of research are all in Spanish America and include contemporary Southern Cone poetry, gender, and cultural studies; she is stretching her expertise this semester and offering a new course on Spanish for Health Care Professionals.

**Biography: Dr. Melissa Birch**

I came to KU first in 1987 to give a lecture and use the Spencer Library’s rare book collection which houses the personal papers of Juan Natalicio Gonzalez, a Paraguayan writer and politician in the first half of the twentieth century. I joined the tenured faculty at the University of Kansas in 1997 as associate professor and Co-Director of the School’s Center for International Business. My position in the Business School was funded, in part, with seed money from a previous Title VI national resource center grant so I am very pleased to have an opportunity to give back something to the Center now, serving as the interim Associate Director.

My research focuses on the challenges of management in the emerging economies of Latin America. I have published in both the U.S. and Latin America on topics including public sector management, privatization, and regional integration. Recently, I have become very interested in the power of business to promote peace in post-conflict situations and in social entrepreneurship, the use of business principles to solve social problems. With the help of this NRC grant, I plan to develop a graduate course on social entrepreneurship that I hope will be of interest both to students of Latin American Studies and Business. I teach courses on International Business and Business in Latin America at the KU School of Business and have taught other courses including Macroeconomics for Managers and Corporate Strategy. I have been the Director of the KU CIBER since it was established in 1999 and have directed other grant-funded projects from the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. State Department. In 2004 I was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to teach and conduct research in Paraguay.

Before coming to KU, I taught at the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia for more than ten years. I am a member and past president of the Business Association of Latin American Studies, a lifetime member of LASA, a Contributing Editor for Brazil and Paraguay to the Handbook of Latin American Studies, and a member of the Editorial Board of the Latin American Business Review. I am an active member of the Kansas Paraguay Partners and have had the chance to travel to many countries in Latin America for research, conferences, or consulting.
Acting Director of Latin American Studies Wins Woodyard International Educator Award

Peter Herlihy, Acting Director of The Center of Latin American Studies and an Associate Professor of geography at the University of Kansas, is the recipient of the 2010 George and Eleanor Woodyard International Educator Award.

The award recognizes faculty on the Lawrence campus who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in strengthening KU’s international dimension in curriculum development, study abroad programs, relationships with international partner institutions and collaboration with international colleagues in significant research and publications.

Since his arrival at KU in 1993, Herlihy has immersed himself in international scholarship. He became acting director of the Center of Latin American Studies this fall after serving as associate director since 2005. His colleagues note his creation of relationships between KU and universities and institutions in Central and South America, including the American Geographical Society Bowman Expeditions, which train geographers through extensive foreign travel and data collecting. Graduate students appreciate his instilling in them a professional commitment to having international careers through research and language proficiency.

“The selection committee chose Professor Herlihy from a pool of remarkable nominees,” said Juliet Kaarbo, director of faculty programs for International Programs.

Past recipients of the award (formerly known as the Provost’s Award for Leadership in International Education), including five other Latin Americanists are Elizabeth Kuznesof, history, (2009); Ed Canda, social welfare, (2008); Bill Tsutsui, history (2007); John Head, law (2006); Anita Herzfeld, Latin American Studies (2005); Marsha Haufier, art history (2004); Garth Myers, geography and African and African-American studies, and Robert Timm, ecology and evolutionary biology (2003); Melissa Birch, business, and Diane Fourny, French and European studies (2002); Judith McCrea, art (2001); Leo Villalon, political science and African and African-American studies (2000); and Tom Mulinazzi, civil, environmental and architectural engineering, and Charles Stansifer, history (1999).

George Woodyard Remembered

The Center of Latin American Studies expresses our deepest condolences to the Woodyard family for the loss of George W. Woodyard, a long time distinguished faculty affiliate of The Center.

He taught at KU from 1966-2005. He was designated as a professor emeritus in 2005.

He was known worldwide for his pioneering work in international and Latin American studies. His civic accomplishments included his work in organizing and developing the first Sister Cities Committee for Eutin, Germany, and Hiratsuka, Japan, as well as serving 40 years as the editor of The Latin American Theatre Review, which he founded.

He was a supporter of The Center for many years and will be missed.

New Book Club

A new weekly book club will meet to discuss the works of Robert Bolaño an award winning Chilean author and poet. Please contact Veronica Garibotto in the Span. & Port. Dept. for more details at v867g341@ku.edu.
New LAS Seminar:  
Model OAS

The Center of Latin American Studies is offering a new course, Model Organization of the American States (MOAS), this Spring 2011 semester. This course is designed to give students a hands-on experience in resolving real issues facing the Americas and is open to both graduate and undergraduate students. The Organization of the American States (OAS) developed a Model OAS to promote democratic values among the youth of the Hemisphere by familiarizing students, faculty, and academic institutions of the Americas with the work of the OAS and its member states, as well as with the Organization’s role as the premier political forum in the Hemisphere.

What is unique about this course is that the current OAS agenda issues requires an inter-disciplinary approach. Therefore, different professors or experts present on a given area related to their expertise. Peter Herlihy is the faculty advisor for the MOAS Seminar and the Center Outreach Coordinator Catherine Butel provides important administrative support. Another exciting element of the MOAS Seminar is from March 29th –April 2nd. ten of our KU delegate students will participate in the Washington MOAS, in Washington D.C. The Washington MOAS is a simulation of the proceedings of the actual Organization of the American States. Each attending university will represent a country. This year KU is representing Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Roughly 30 universities from the United States and Latin America actively participate in the Washington MOAS and our Center looks forward to participating in this annual event!

Our Lady of Guadalupe Workshop Brings K-12 Teachers from Across the State

On December 4th, the Center for Latin American Studies hosted a workshop for K-12 educators titled, “La Virgen de Guadalupe: Cultural and Educational Significance.” KU professors spoke to local primary and secondary school teachers about the history of the Virgin of Guadalupe and her vast influence across Latin American nations. This was the first major outreach event for the Center’s new Outreach Coordinators, Catherine Butel and Nancy Compier, who were hired in the fall.

The Virgin of Guadalupe is said to have appeared to Juan Diego, an indigenous peasant, in Mexico City on December 12th, 1531. Since then, she has become the patron saint of Mexico, one of the most revered saints in all of Latin America, and a cultural symbol of the blending of Spanish and indigenous cultures in the new world.

Dr. Laura Herlihy, Lecturer in the Department of Latin American Studies, opened the workshop with a lecture on pre-Hispanic Mexican mother-goddesses and how Guadalupe was in many ways a continuation of the veneration to them. Dr. Santa Arias, Associate Professor of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, then lectured on the colonial literary texts, such as the Nican Mopol, on Guadalupe. Dr. Sandra Zimdars-Swartz Professor and Director of the Humanities and Western Civilization program, followed with a lecture on veneration to the Virgin Mary and her appearances today. She included many examples of local instances in Kansas. Dr. Ben Chapel, Assistant Professor of American Studies concluded the workshop with a lecture on urban art and culture and how the Virgin of Guadalupe and other religious symbols and Latino women are depicted in art forms, such as graffiti and low riders. The Virgin of Guadalupe workshop was well received, and it will become an annual offering of the Center’s Outreach Program.

Members of the 2011 MOAS seminar representing Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

2011 MOAS Delegates
General Committee
Jorge Soberón
Christopher Santee
Grant Melin

1) Juridical and Political Affairs
Molly Martin
Molly Hartz
Christian Jansen

2) Hemispheric Security
Stacey Burton
Andrew Bailey

3) Management & Civil Society
Erin Sheridan
Weston Vice
Ruby Montoya

4) Administrative and Budgetary
Kevin Neslage
Garrett Andrew Page

Info. Officer
Calvin McConnell

Administrative Support
Catherine Butel

Faculty Advisor
Peter Herlihy
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 presenters from the Fall 2010 semester listed below. The topics presented ranged from Medical Tourism to Pre-Columbian Villages and brought attendance levels to an all-time high. The Spring 2011 schedule will be just as exciting. Please visit our website: http://latamst.ku.edu/news-events/meriendas.shtml for more information and event photos.

Spring 2011 Schedule:

January 27  Kiran Jayaram
February 3  Erin Sheridan
February 12  Hispano Duron
February 17  Mara Aubel
February 24  Emily Tummons
March 10  Pedro Dos Santos
March 31  Emilia Barbosa
April 7  Clarice Amorim
April 14  Veronica Garibotto
April 21  Javier Valerio
April 28  Silvia Gonzalez

Fall 2010 Schedule:

Sept 2  Barney Warf
Sept 9  Anthony Goebel
Sept 16  Summer Marvin
Sept 23  Gary Reich
Sept 30  Martha Rabbani
Oct 7  Andrés Lira-Noriega
Oct. 21  Emilia Barbosa
Oct 28  Elizabeth Kuznesof
Nov 4  Sydney Silverstein
Nov 11  Regan Postma
Nov 18  Adam Benfer
Dec 2  John Hoopes

Latin American Film Festival

Every semester, the Center of Latin American Studies holds a film festival to showcase different aspects of Latin American culture and history. In the fall, documentaries are shown, and in the spring, feature films are presented. For Spring 2011 the Center has chosen four intriguing and award-winning films. *Secreto de sus ojos* (The Secret in Their Eyes), an Oscar-winning Argentinean crime thriller from 2009. *El Camino* (The Path), not available for purchase within the U.S., is an

Latin American Studies Students Named Global Scholars

Fifteen sophomores at the University of Kansas have been named Global Scholars. They were selected for their demonstrated interest in global and international studies, plans for studying abroad and potential for continued high academic achievement and leadership.

The new program is coordinated by Juliet Kaarbo, director of faculty programs for International Programs.

Each student will participate in a three-hour seminar taught during the spring semester; be paired with a faculty mentor with similar interests for the remainder of his or her undergraduate studies; and present research on global and international studies during the spring semester of his or her senior year.

The first Global Scholars will complete an interdisciplinary seminar called, “Truth in a Global Society,” taught by Brent Steele, associate professor of political science, and will receive a $1000 scholarship to be applied toward a KU-approved study abroad program.

2011 Global Scholars from Latin American Studies include:

Jeff Miller, sophomore in LAS and Anthropology from Lawrence, KS

Sarah Stern, sophomore in LAS and Journalism from Lawrence, KS

Latin American Film Festival

For Spring 2011 the Center has chosen four intriguing and award-winning films. *Secreto de sus ojos* (The Secret in Their Eyes), an Oscar-winning Argentinean crime thriller from 2009. *El Camino* (The Path), not available for purchase within the U.S., is an
acclaimed film about a young girl’s migration from Nicaragua to Costa Rica.

The third film in our Spring series will be a Portuguese language film titled *O Ano em Que Meus Pais Saíram de Férias* (The Year My Parents went on Vacation), about the political strife of Brazil during the 1970’s and our final film will be *Paraiso Travel* (Paradise Travel), a haunting story of immigration from Columbia to New York City.

Each film showing features a keynote speaker who gives background surrounding important themes in the films.

The fall film festival was a huge success and showcased four documentaries, including *The Take*, *Buena Vista Social Club*, *Letters from the Other Side*, and *South of the Border*, a recent release on El Salvador from Academy Award winning director Oliver Stone.

Emily Hastings, a sophomore from Wichita, believes a film festival like this is so important for University students to see. “Because the world is becoming more of a global community,” Hastings said, “it is good to understand where people come from.”

The film festival is free and open to the public. This Spring semester films will be shown in the two different auditoriums: Stauffer-Flint 100 and Strong 330 at 7pm. Please make sure to check the website for more information!

---

**2010 Waggoner Research Colloquium**

Dr. Waggoner was Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1954 until 1975, when he became the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. During his tenure, Dr. Waggoner founded the College Honors Program and established educational ties with universities in the Caribbean and in Central and South America. He was presciently concerned with international programs and development and was instrumental in bringing many of the key Latin Americanists to KU who have helped make our programs distinguished.

The conference, held on Friday November 12th, 2010, included a distinguished interdisciplinary panel on the theme of “Conservation and Biodiversity Knowledge in Latin America...crossing disciplinary, political and biogeographic boundaries using scientific and customary understandings,” followed by a reception with wine and hors d’oeuvres.

This year brought together the talents of a wide range of interdisciplinary KU faculty with presentations from Joane Nagle, University Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director of the C-Change IGERT Program who presented, “Climate and Borders: Climate Change, Monarch Butterflies, and Local Economies in Mexico.” A. Townsend Peterson, Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology presented, “Building the Library: Five Centuries of Exploration of Mexican Bird Diversity and Distributions.” Gregory T. Cushman, Assistant Professor of History presented “The Road to Survival Leads South: The Latin American Roots of the Land Ethic” and Jorge Soberón, professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology presented, “The Prism of Knowledge. Mexico and its Biological Nature.”
Graduate Student Snapshot

Maraci G. Aubel, MA candidate in Latin American Studies, won a Tinker grant last summer that allowed her to travel to several parts of Brazil where she conducted research from May 21 to July 1st, 2010. Her research focuses on how the newly implemented affirmative action policy in higher education is impacting Afro-descendant women in Bahia, Brazil, a state where 80 percent of the population is Afro-descended.

She interviewed forty female students, those who entered university through affirmative action as well as those not covered by affirmative action. She is currently in the process of analyzing her data to determine the effectiveness of affirmative action policy at the state university in creating educational opportunities and reducing the social, racial, and economic inequality among Afro-descendant women in southern Bahia.

Maraci teaches Portuguese, and in September 2010, she presented the paper "Affirmative Action and Black Women’s Empowerment in Brazil" at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Convention in Raleigh, NC.

Undergraduate Student Highlights

By Anita Herzfeld, Undergraduate Director and Adviser

There is no doubt that people and things have changed since I started teaching at the University of Kansas some 50 years ago. Yes, you are right, "50 years, you say?" Yes, I cannot believe it myself—50 years. How come time has elapsed so rapidly is nothing but a mystery to me. True, at times I "commuted" between Latin America and the U.S. by studying, teaching, researching or lecturing in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, Panama, Mexico, Washington D.C., and visiting all the other Latin American countries, but I always set anchors at KU. Why, you ask? Well, because in between all those trips during all those years, it has given me great joy to encounter some wonderful people in my classes and in advising sessions. That has not changed in all this time and this year has been no exception in terms of the quality of students I have come across. Even though I have had less time to devote to "chatting" to get to know my advisees because I taught four classes, I did meet some great "kids."

I am happy to report that many of the students had exciting experiences abroad. To highlight just a few, take Allison Cumbow, for instance. She spent a semester in Argentina, where we often met for dinner, and now that she has graduated, she writes from the Ukraine that she is happily doing a Peace Corps stint there! Not a minor feat, I would say. But then, Jeff Miller has done no less by first winning...
derful surprise it was for me to discover that **Mariana Nieto** (whose little three-year-old daughter Bianca once corrected her mother when she told Bianca that she was “a special girl,” by remarking “Mother, everybody is special!”) is in Buenos Aires as I write. And then, it will be a special pleasure to welcome **Scott Montana** and **Zach Muskin** there, if they call me during the spring semester. Hope they take tango lessons while they are there!!

Of course, my life wouldn’t be the same had I not met **Ignacio Carvajal**, **Rachel Bohn**, **Christina Garcia**, **Jessie Anderson**, **Katherine Moneymaker**, **Aubrey Peters** and **Marc Lyon** in class. All of them were exceptional students, who either graduated already or will be graduating at the end of the spring or fall semester this year. I wish them all the very best in whatever they decide to pursue when they leave KU. I hope they will stay in touch and visit frequently when they are in the area.

Talking about visitors, last year I was delighted to welcome three wonderful friends from the past on campus—**Jim Finch** and his wife, who live and work in New York City after spending some time in Brazil, and **Charles Exdell** who is doing very interesting work with an NGO in Brazil as well. It was great fun to go over our common memories from the past and gather new information on their excellent life experiences in the present. I am very grateful for their visits, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

My final note has to be dedicated to two special students and new friends—I have thoroughly enjoyed having **Zac O’Bea** in class during the fall semester—he was one of the most “illuminated faces” of all, and I am quite delighted to know that he has obtained a prestigious internship for the summer. My congratulations go his way, hoping that I will see him again next academic year. On the other hand, it will be difficult to be at KU in the future without having **Kevin Neslage** around, as he is graduating in May. In all these years of teaching—in addition to his being an excellent student and a great worker and team-player at the office—I have found him to be the most caring, the most concerned, the most gracious, well-mannered and helpful young man I have ever met. **Kevin** has been there for me, ready to cooperate whenever I have needed a hand. I have always wanted to congratulate his parents for the incredible job they have done in producing such a unique human being. I wish him the most successful of futures since he deserves nothing but the best.

I cannot thank all my students enough for having enriched my life. It is indeed rewarding to witness their growth and heartwarming to know about their happy lives. To all of them, my heartiest congratulations on their accomplishments and great plans for the future. I hope they do not forget to drop by if they are ever in the neighborhood, we would definitely love to see them all again! All my best and love to all.

---

**Former Student Teaches English Abroad**

*By Harry Swartz, B.A. Spanish*

Since July 2010 I have been living and teaching English in Ovalle, Chile as a volunteer with **Programa Inglés Abre Puertas**, an initiative of the Chilean Ministry of Education and the United Nations Development Programme. I was assigned to a semi-private colegio (pre-K through 12th grade) about 7 hours north of Santiago in a largely agricultural zone. Ovalle sits in a semi-arid valley between the Andes and the coastal mountains, and is a city of around 100,000.

I teach a wide range of students, from 3rd grade through 12th grade, with around 40 students in each class. I teach in conjunction with a native Chilean English teacher, though we work independently in different classrooms and rotate “smaller” groups of 20 students in 45 minute blocks of time. Lesson planning, classroom management, and explaining grammatical concepts that I myself don’t always understand have been considerable challenges at times, but I am learning as I go and having a good time doing it.

Besides teaching I have been trying to travel around the region and the country when I can and take in as much Chilean culture as possible. I have been practicing Spanish with colleagues and my host family and learning the local language, Chileno. With its quirky *tu* conjugation (¿Cómo estás? ¿A dónde vas?), more *chilenismos* than I can count, and a tendency not to pronounce many consonants, Chilean Spanish has been quite an adventure for me.

Though teaching has been a lot of work and required more energy than I had anticipated, the students and school community have been incredibly welcoming and kind to me, and have made this experience very worthwhile. I will continue teaching through the end of the school year in November, and will return to begin the new school year in March.
Why give to the Center of Latin American Studies?

By giving to CLAS, 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.
- Promotes 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.

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

- Undergraduate or graduate study abroad scholarships
- Research or conference travel for students and 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.

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.