We kicked off our outreach activities this Fall with an educator workshop on Brazil. Hoping to capitalize on increased interest in this important Latin American country after the World Cup this summer, we organized an all-day workshop. The morning sessions included: Brasil 101: An Overview of Brazilian Culture, History, Language, and Education; Social and Environmental Movements in Brazil; and Experiences Abroad – A panel of exchange students sharing their experience of living abroad, both Brazilians currently studying at KU and KU students who studied in Brazil. After a delicious Brazilian lunch made by members of the Brazilian Student Association (BRASA), the workshop resumed with a screening and discussion of the documentary Waste Land. The day concluded with a viewing of select works of art in the Spencer Museum's collection, including a piece by Vik Muniz, the artist featured in Waste Land. A number of outstanding faculty and students contributed to making this workshop a success – we are lucky to have such a strong community of Brazilianists here at KU!

We are also lucky to have such strong cosponsors for many of our events. This year, for our Fall Film Festival, we teamed up with Film and Media Studies and the Center for Global and International Studies to put together the ¡Vamos! Latin American Film Festival. ¡Vamos! included films still on the film festival circuit – dramas, documentaries, action films, and comedies. The complete line up of films included: Who is Dayani Cristal? (¿Quien is Dayani Cristal?); Death of Pinochet (La Muerte de Pinochet); The Return (El Regreso); Even the Rain (También la Lluvia); The Man Next Door (El Hombre de al Lado); Chinese Take Away (Un Cuento Chino); and Xingu. This festival was made possible by financial assistance from EGARC and a grant from the New York based PRAGDA, whose mission is to "promote, disseminate, and maintain the legacy of Spanish and Latin American cinema through unique cultural initiatives." We also partnered with Centro Hispano as a community collaborator, who arranged for the delicious tamales served on our opening night!

The opening night screening of Even the Rain (También la Lluvia), was followed by a lively and interactive discussion led by Professor Bart Dean. Our closing night screening coincided with the week of events leading up to the international business conference our Center cohosted with the School of Business, "Brazil: What’s Next?" with Ambassador Rubens Antonio Barbosa. We chose to combine forces and screen the Brazilian drama, Xingu. Another highlight of the ¡Vamos! Film Festival was a Skype session with Ivan Osnovikoff, the director of Death of Pinochet, following the screening of the film.

See Outreach on Page 11
Hola a todos,

As the articles throughout this newsletter continue to demonstrate, we’ve been very busy here at the Center for Latin America and Caribbean Studies. We received Tinker funding for this year (which should continue for the next two) and the range of projects you see represented here demonstrates the breadth of interests in the region among our graduate students. Faculty also continue to shine and to inspire scholarship that makes a positive impact, not just at KU, but in the Americas and in the World. The Colombian scholar, Oscar Guardiola-Rivera’s book, What if Latin America Ruled the World? How the South Will Take the North into the 22nd Century, features a provocative title that conveys some of the possibilities Latin America offers us. Guardiola-Rivera’s perspective suggests that models of political and economic development are shifting; that cross cultural communication and streams of influence are fluctuating and that we might learn from Latin American countries, some of which are surging out of recession and incorporating popular participation in new ways. There are many other possibilities for us to continue to expand our knowledge about and understanding of Latin America and the Caribbean, and this continues to be one of the on-going goals of the center.

Although we were not successful in our recent grant applications to renew our NRC and FLAS funding, the Center will continue fostering a community of debate and dialogue among scholars and professionals from diverse disciplines which is critical to understanding world affairs and to building networks. Our 138 core, affiliated, and research faculty from 10 schools and 34 Departments study the global through the local, investigate environmental change, examine social inequalities and cultural agency, popular music and national identities, work on health care issues here and in the region, study the impact of privatization on business in the Americas, and dark earths in the Amazon (among many other intriguing topics). With fairly minimal financial support (compared to other enterprises at the university) we can continue to be a resource center, teaching Quichua and supporting Portuguese and Haitian Creole, providing outreach, workshops, curricular development, film and library collections, and cultural trunks to faculty, primary and secondary school teachers in Kansas and at regional institutions. We have some very innovative ideas for extending our teaching through developing more hybrid courses and working with the School of Education to internationalize and develop geography and dual language education in the state (Spanish-English, not Portuguese or Quichua at this point!), and I hope that the Provost will recognize the value of these projects which give us a lot of “bang for the buck” and highlight the contributions KU makes in its mission to the state and the region at many levels.

The upcoming Waggoner Symposium (November 14th) will once more stress the diversity of our faculty, for presenters come from this office (via Peter Haney, an anthropologist who regularly teaches two of our core undergraduate courses), from Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (through Carolyn Chaboo, an etymologist who has been conducting fieldwork in Peru and training students with her grant funding) and the Law School (represented by Lua Yuille, who has a background in Latin American corporate law, immigration, and worked as a socio-economic development lawyer in the region). Please join us for this event as we continue to come together to demonstrate the impact and importance of Latin American and Caribbean Studies across the campus and in the region.

Muchos saludos desde Bailey Hall,

Jill

Faculty Meet Janet Napolitano

The Area Studies Center Directors, Chair of Spanish and Portuguese, Head of the School of Languages Literatures & Cultures, and a Professor of Chinese joined Associate Dean Marsha Hauffler at the International Relations Council Banquet in Kansas City on Wed, Oct. 22, where Janet Napolitano (now President of the University of California System) spoke and received an award.
New Student Organization Offers Graduate Students New Opportunities for Collaboration

By Marisela Chávez

Though Carolina Pardo (MSE, Education Technology), Marisela Chávez (MA, Latin American & Caribbean Studies), and Diana Restrepo (PhD, Geography) are all completing their education in different disciplines at the University of Kansas, they share a passion for academic exploration of Latin America and recognized the need for a space for graduate students who are from Latin America and/or are interested in carrying out research in Latin America to share experiences and resources.

In the spring of 2014, with the help of Danika Swanson, CLACS outreach coordinator, three graduate students from diverse backgrounds came together and began a dialogue about their experiences at KU. They extended the conversation to other students and it led to the founding of LAGO (Latin American Graduate Organization) this fall.

The group has also welcomed a number of recently arrived graduate students, who often find it challenging to connect with other Latin American students in the university. LAGO informally provides contacts and aid for these incoming students in need of advising to navigate university life in the United States.

As an organization, LAGO’s objective is to promote a closer affiliation between Latin American graduate students, the KU campus community, and the community of Lawrence by integrating efforts to achieve constructive goals. Its members seek to harness students’ academic, social, and cultural interests to create more awareness about Latin America. The aim is to promote more opportunities for collaboration, especially interdisciplinary scholarship, amongst graduate students and professors with interests in Latin America.

LAGO members have started their efforts with participation in the Latin American and Caribbean Studies booth during Hawk Week and the Festival Latino at the Johnson County Central Resource Library, and doing outreach at local schools in partnership with CLACS. In addition, every Tuesday night at 11 pm, the public can tune into Latin Lab on KJHK 90.7 FM to listen to Latin American music and other special programming, including live music, and conversations with LAGO and community members.

In November, LAGO inaugurated its roundtable discussions with Migration: Then and Now. The objective of this roundtable was to gain an understanding of multiple analyses about current immigration of Latin American populations to the United States from the perspectives of invited professionals who work or have done research on the topic.

LAGO is currently advised by CLACS core faculty member Brent Metz. The organization would like to invite all interested graduate students to contact LAGO via Facebook or through email at lago@ku.edu.

CLACS Welcomes New Office Manager

This June, CLACS welcomed our new office manager Rebecca Du-navin. Becky brings with her 30 years of experience at KU, most recently with the office of Student Involvement and Leadership. Becky serves as scheduling officer and financial liaison to the SSC, in addition to providing general administrative support and more. In her free time she enjoys reading and spending time with her family.
We would like to thank all of the Fall 2014 Merienda presenters listed below. Please visit the Merienda website under the News & Events section on the CLACS website for more information and event photos.

**September 11**
Norma Cantú
“Chicana Literature on the Border and a Reading from Canícula: Snapshots of a Girlhood en la frontera”

**October 2**
Viviana Greico
“The Politics of Giving in the Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata: Donors, Subjects, and Citizens”

**November 6**
Kim Morse
“It is absurd, Even Impossible, to Bring to Life a Cadaver that has Reached the Point of Dissolution: Indigenous Citizenship and the Fight for Indigenous Land Rights in Nineteenth Century Venezuela”

**December 4**
Ketty Wong
“Perceptions of Latin Music in China”

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**Faculty Updates**

**Marta Caminero-Santangelo**, Professor of English – Caminero-Santangelo was named Acting Vice Provost for Faculty Development this summer. Her key responsibilities in the position include administration of faculty programs and policies, such as new faculty orientation, the promotion and tenure process, sabbatical leave, etc. In addition, she coordinates development programs for department chairs/program directors and serves as the liaison in the Provost’s office for the Ombuds Office, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Schools of Business, Fine Arts, Journalism, Law, and Social Welfare.

**Caroline Chaboo**, Assistant Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology – Chaboo co-authored two articles. The first was “Origins and diversification of subsociality in leaf beetles (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Chrysomelinae).” in the Journal of Natural History 48(37-38): 2325-2367. The second was “Checklist of mosquitoes (Diptera: Culicidae) of the Los Amigos Biological Station, Madre de Dios, Peru.” In the Journal of Kansas Entomological Society 87(1): 92-95.

**Gregory Cushman**, Associate Professor of History – Cushman was selected as the winner of the 2014 Jerry Bentley Prize from the American Historical Association for his book *Guano and the Opening of the Pacific World: A Global Ecological History* (Cambridge UP, 2013). The Bentley Prize is awarded annually to honor the best book published in English in the field of world history. The prize will be awarded at the AHA annual meeting in January.

**Sheyda Jahanbani**, Assistant Professor of History – Jahanbani recently published two essays focusing on the global origins on the war on poverty in the United States. These essays examine how, after World War II, the U.S. took on the project of developing former colonies of Europe, including in Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. That sense of responsibility, as well as the strategies that American policymakers honed in international development projects, blossomed into a 1960s commitment along the same lines at home. The first article, “Across the Ocean, Across the Tracks: Imagining Global Poverty in Cold War America” appeared in the *Journal of American Studies*, 48(4): 937-974. The second essay, “One Global War on Poverty’ Fighting Under-development at Home and Abroad, 1964-1968” was included in a new book, *Beyond the Cold War: Lyndon Johnson and the Global Challenges of the 1960s* (2014) from Oxford University Press.

**Amy Rossomondo**, Associate Professor of Spanish – Rossomondo was awarded the John C. Wright Graduate Mentor Award this summer. The award is given in recognition of faculty who have helped graduate students make the most of their experience and opportunities at KU.

**Ketty Wong**, Associate Professor of Music – Wong travelled to Moscow in October to participate in an international symposium at the Tchai-kovsky Moscow State Conservatory. Wong discussed her Fulbright-funded research examining the popularity and of salsa and other forms of Western dance and music in China. Wong also travelled to Ecuador this past summer to be inducted in the country’s National Academy of History.
This fall brought a number of new faculty members to the University of Kansas. CLACS was fortunate enough to welcome four such faculty members as core or affiliate faculty. These new faculty members bring with them a wide variety of experiences and research interests, and we look forward to collaborating with them, as well as the contributions and conversations they will bring to the University of Kansas.

Rafael Acosta
Assistant Professor
Spanish & Portuguese
Rafael comes to KU having recently completed his Ph.D. in Romance Studies at Cornell University. He joined the Department of Spanish and Portuguese in Fall 2014. His research interests focus on a notion of Comparative Literature that uses Mexico and the United States (instead of the France-England-Germany axis) as the nexus of meaning that allows for interpretation. He studies the narratives of these countries in conjunction with other European or narrative constructs, for example, studying the kinship of Drug runner ballads and the Iliad, in order to develop a concept of an economy of honor and glory and to examine how literary representations of the Drug Lord develop notions of political legitimacy that belie social contract theories: how the Aeneid and the Trojan’s nation building narrative relates to other stateless nations idenitary narratives, specifically in the construction of Chicano Aztlan through prison narratives, or how the Cormac McCarthy’s nomad dystopias in Blood Meridian help us analyze the dangers of the territory of exception where the judiciary power carries out its functions.

Nathaniel Freiburger
Visiting Assistant Professor
Sociology
Nathaniel is a sociologist whose work broadly focuses on how the things of material culture take shape within specific communities of practice. He is in the final stages of completing his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of California, Davis. He joined the Department of Sociology in Fall 2014. His research has included work on early real estate development in the U.S. focusing on the historical transformation of real estate into a commodity through the practices of both state agents and market actors. His research has also focused on the relationship between the modern state and the environment, examining the link between science and governance within a state/environment relation through specific boundary objects such as land, water, and lithium. Nathaniel's current book project continues with a focus on the artifacts of material culture, through an ethnography of lithium in the South American country of Bolivia.

Magalí Rabasa
Assistant Professor
Spanish & Portuguese
Magalí joins the faculty at KU from the University of California, Davis, where she completed her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies. She joined the Department of Spanish & Portuguese in Fall 2014. Her research interests include Latina/o and Latin American cultural studies, subaltern and postcolonial studies, media studies, ethnography, social movements, and transnational feminisms. Working from the intersection of literature and anthropology, her research and teaching bring a transnational perspective and an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the material histories and cultures of colonialism, capitalism and patriarchy in the Americas. Her current book project, The Book in Movement: Autonomous Politics and the Recycling of Books in Latin America, examines how the production and circulation of print books by and about current Latin American social movements contributes to the formation of transnational grassroots networks.

M’Balia Thomas
Assistant Professor
Curriculum & Teaching
M’Balia comes to KU from the University of Arizona, where she completed a Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching. She joined the Department of Curriculum and Teaching in Fall 2014. Her work examines the effect of discourse and language ideology on the interaction, performance and stylization of language among users (“speakers”) of English as a second or foreign language. She adopts a Bakhtinian approach to exploring these topics through the collection and analysis of an EFL narrative story presented in her doctoral dissertation, “A Dialogic Approach to Oral Narrative Storytelling Analysis in English as a Foreign Language Research”. Her interest in narrative storytelling, discourse and language ideologies is additionally expressed through various works and presentations related to themes of class, race, space and community in the areas of 1) L2 language use and 2) US undergraduate participation in study abroad.
Late last year, CLACS was awarded a prestigious grant from the Tinker Foundation to fund graduate student field research in Latin America. The grant, together with KU matching funds, provides $30,000 per year through 2016 for students to conduct short-term research in a Latin American country they have not previously been to. This summer, the first group of students was able to benefit from this grant and travel to countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru. Access to databases, historical documents and individuals in these countries provided these students with invaluable data and research experience they would have otherwise been unable to attain.

**Marisela Chávez, MA LACS**

The purpose of my month-long study trip to Brazil was to collect more information that would shed light on the social, political, and environmental dynamics of land-conflict and violence against environmental actors in the northwestern Brazilian state of Mato Grosso. I began by consulting an extensive database regarding violence over land disputes compiled by the Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT), the Catholic Church’s Pastoral Land Commission. I then conducted oral interviews and attended government-sponsored seminars and environmental movement camps to deepen my questions. In asking questions about land-conflict and violence against environmental actors, I learned the ways in which socio-political movements like the MST are appropriating environmental discourse to strengthen their agendas and change the opinions that the larger Brazilian society has formed of them. My contacts in Mato Grosso have proven to be invaluable sources of information and guidance which I will continue to build as I move forward in my research.

**David Dalton, PHD Spanish & Portuguese**

I traveled to Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and Lima to study the intersection of racial construction and theatrical performance through a mixture of archival research, observation of performances, and interviews with artists. My research had two purposes. One was to investigate science fiction on the stage, comparing the Argentine playwright Javier Daute’s *Gore* to the Mexican playwright Pedro Valencia’s *Con z de zombie*. The second was to take an ecocritical look at the Mexican Felipe Galván’s *La vida no vale nada, no vale nada la vida* and the Peruvian Wili Pinto’s theatre. Beyond my research interests, this experience also familiarized me with the distinctive racial discourses of each country, and the ways which the national theatres do (or do not) engage them. I left South America with a deeper understanding of race relations in the region, and with more knowledge of the national theatres of three key countries.

**Ryan Daugherty, MA Political Science**

My research in Guatemala was the beginning of an effort to determine why political parties in Guatemala tend not to last longer than one election cycle. I went to the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamerica (CIRMA) in Antigua Guatemala. The collections I was able to search provided valuable data about political parties in Guatemala starting with the return of democracy in 1985. These collections covered parties on the right and left, the FDNG (a brief prominent left leaning party), the FRG, and some documents on the 1990 election in Guatemala. I collected numerous newspaper clippings from the archive, including, interviews with party leaders, day-to-day news on the parties in election, non-election years, and in-depth reports on the parties or leaders, as well as internal party documents such as emails, memos, and governing plans. From these documents, I hope to describe how the Guatemalan media has covered political parties since the reintroduction of democracy in 1985. I hope to take the concepts I have been using: inchoate party system and party non-system, and attempt to generalize outside of Guatemala.

**Jeff Hill, MA LACS**

On this trip I was able to travel to Tijuana, Mexico and conduct interviews with the director of the *Casa de Migrante Scalabriniana* and migrants in order to evaluate the effect of religion on each of the stages of migration. My project placed special focus on interviewing those who have been deported and are deciding whether to try to assimilate to life along the border in a city with which they are unfamiliar or remain transient with the goal of reattempting to enter into the US without documentation. I was also able to interview a few migrants who were crossing the border for the first time. From my interviews and observations, it became clear that many programs by the Mexican government have been unsuccessful in providing a space and opportunity for the reintegration of immigrants and rely heavily on non-profit and religious institutions to fill this void. The case study complements a broader thesis exploring the role of religion in each of the stages of migration and as such contributes to a growing field of research that observes the ways in which religion helps to facilitate the migration process.

![Marisela Chávez taking notes during her field work in Brazil.](image-url)
With Funding for Research in Latin America

Josephine Kapicka, MA LACS

With Tinker support, I travelled to Puerto Cabezas to begin my master’s research project on women’s and indigenous human rights, within the conditions of autonomy on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. Using the towns of Puerto Cabezas and Waspan as my research sites, I focused in how international agreements and national law are implemented in the RAAN (Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region), and how this affects modern societal structures in Nicaragua, such as grassroots community organizations, non-governmental organizations, and local law enforcement and government agencies. During my stay in Nicaragua, I visited government and non-governmental organizations concerned with protecting the rights of the citizens, and obtained documents and insight into the issues faced by people of the Atlantic Coast. I plan to further investigate the effectiveness of these community-based efforts to enforce domestic violence law on the Atlantic Coast.

Nicholas Kotlinski, MA Geography

With Tinker support I travelled to Peru to study the political ecology of African oil palm (Elaeis guineensis) plantations in the Caynarachi Valley, which serves as a nexus for both the growth of oil palm production and resistance in the name of land and environmental rights. My interviews with protest leaders, farmers, and rural residents highlight issues of effective governance, community solidarity and perceptions of environmental change caused by this new but influential commodity. I was also able to take part in a week long participatory mapping project in the native community of Alto Huaja – the preferred Kechwa name, Yaku shutuna rumy – in the province of El Dorado. Native communities in the Peruvian Amazon are often recognized by the federal government, but do not have official communal title to their territory. This experience allowed me to witness first-hand the process of native community titling while also supporting regional NGOs in their work with communities engaged in participatory mapping.

Adam Newhard, MA History

I traveled to Lima, Peru with Tinker support to study those women who were, or who claimed to be, visionaries or prophets surrounding the first American Saint Rosa de Santa Marai, and their effect on society and their communities in the vice-royalty of Peru in the early modern period. I visited and read the pertinent documents of the Archivo General de la Nación and the Archivo Arzobispal de Lima. I looked in the documents for how those women who had visions and received messages from divine sources gained the power and authority to advise and teach. At the AGN, the documents of the Inquisition were of significant value. Not only were there instances of those women who gained significant public voice through their status as visionaries or prophets, but my research at the AGN bore unexpected fruit. In addition to visionary women, I was able to view documents pertaining to those women who took active public roles as heads of their household or interceders on the behalf of neighbors and relatives. I found not only what I was expecting in women who led and instructed those around them as visionaries, but those who took up the public cause of their families and friends in financial matters.

Ginett Pineda, PhD Spanish & Portuguese

As a Tinker recipient, I was awarded funding to investigate Inti Raymi (Festival of the Sun)’s indigenous ritual practices in Ecuador, a region that was part of the heart of the Inca Empire. I was particularly interested in the place of the natural world in this indigenous ritual. My main inquiry was to answer if there was still remnants of an eco-spiritual connection with the pachamama (mother earth), and if they are transmitted through their songs. My research started in the capital of Ecuador, Quito. There, I visited the oldest library of the country Biblioteca Ecuatoriana Aureliano Espinosa Pólit with the intention to review newspapers and magazines that will allow me to understand the contemporary indigenous Ecuadorian society and what role, if any, nature and its preservation have in their communities. In addition to this library research I observed and documented on video the Inti Raymi festival celebrated at the ruins of Ingapirca in the province of Cañar, nine hours away from Quito. Being able to document this festival and link contemporary practices with those documented in archival sources will enable me to view the festival and its themes of care for the earth, purity, and pollution from a long-term perspective.

See Tinker on Page 9
Fall Calendar Highlights

The fall semester was a busy one here at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. We were fortunate enough to partner with a number of organizations and departments on campus to host a variety of events.

We kicked off the semester in August by working with the other Area Studies Centers to host a Hawk Week Welcome Event. We provided paletas to those stopping by in order to beat the heat, and several area dancers were kind enough to agree to participate, demonstrating capoeira, samba and salsa, as well as traditional dances from Colombia.

CLACS Assistant Director Pete Haney picking up paletas for our welcome event.

September brought the first of the lectures in the Department of Anthropology’s Human Migration Lecture Series. A number of CLACS-affiliated faculty members participated throughout the semester, including William Woods, John Hoopes, Rafael Acosta and CLACS Assistant Director Peter Haney. The university also welcomed Johnathan Katz, a renowned author and journalist who focuses on Haiti, as part of the series.

We were fortunate to partner with the Lawrence Public Library to host human rights activist and attorney Jennifer Harbury for a community lecture focusing on the current child refugee crisis in South Texas. Harbury, who lives and practices in South Texas, spoke about the poverty, violence and suffering being experienced in Central America that has led families to send their children to the United States as unaccompanied minors, and how the problem is linked to U.S. policy.

September and October also saw the return of the Latin American Cinema Festival of Kansas City. Five films were screened in Overland Park, and two KU faculty members, our director Jill Kuhnheim and Film and Media Studies’ Tamara Falicov, hosted discussion panels after two of the films.

CLACS also twice welcomed unionized workers from Latin America who spoke about the difficult working conditions workers often face in their industries. In late September, two women from Alta Gracia, a living-wage, union-made apparel factory visited campus through the Solidarity Ignite speaking tour. In October, a former flower worker and current labor organizer, as well the leader of Cactus, a Colombian advocacy organization, spoke about the Colombian flower industry as part of the Witness for Peace speaking tour. Both events were held at and with the support of Ecumenical Campus Ministries (ECM).

November saw a busy semester winding down. First, an international business conference titled Brazil: What’s Next? took place at the Edwards Campus. Rubens Antonio Barbosa, the former Brazilian ambassador to the U.S., gave the keynote address. Also in November, CLACS hosted the 23rd annual Waggoner Research Colloquium.

Graduate Student Wins National Book Collecting Contest

Katya Soll, Ph.D. candidate in the Spanish & Portuguese department, travelled to Washington, D.C. in October to accept the top award in the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest, sponsored by the Library of Congress.

Soll initially submitted her collection to the Snyder Book Collecting Contest here at KU, and won the graduate division. The books and plays that make up Soll’s collection are being used for Soll’s research into how theater has been an important tool for citizens to protest, process and recover from years of dictatorship in South America’s Southern Cone.

Soll purchased her first book in the collection, “La Señora Macbeth” by Griselda Gambaro, in 2004 on a study abroad trip to Argentina. Although Soll wasn’t fluent in Spanish at the time, the author’s name was one that she recognized, and it appealed to her affinity for Shakespeare.

“I ended up loving it and did a rough translation for my mother and sister,” Soll said. “It represents a starting point for me in getting interested in Spanish theater and what I do now.”
Tinker (continued from page 7)

Courtney Sánchez, PhD Film & Media Studies

With Tinker support I traveled to Buenos Aires to study Argentine silent film of the early twentieth century, with the goal of documenting films ignored by traditional Eurocentric narratives of film history. I was able to view numerous documents that were invaluable to my research at the Museo del Cine. I spent six days in the archive looking through files, selecting relevant items, taking notes and making copies; I then used non-archive days to advance my research by translating and annotating my copies, meeting with other film scholars, visiting places like the Carlos Gardel Museum and the Biblioteca Nacional, and watching films. I also left the archive to visit sites in Buenos Aires that were important for the city’s filmic history, and reached out to other scholars to supplement my independent archival work. The knowledge I gained and personal connections forged during my time in Argentina will be invaluable resources for continued academic inquiry and my scholarly development.

Ximena Sevilla, PhD History

With Tinker support I spent five weeks in Ecuador visiting the Archivo Nacional del Ecuador and the Aurelio Espinosa Pólit library. In addition, I contacted scholars in order to participate in academic meetings and workshops, and I travelled to Kichwa-speaking communities. In this research my aim was to gain knowledge about the colonial historical events that can explain the ecological and cultural connection between Kichwa-speaking communities from the Ecuadorean Amazon and the Upper Amazon region of Peru. I was glad because I had the chance to examine historical manuscripts and rare books that can only be found in Ecuador. In the archive I explored all the documents that I could find in the boxes categorized by the name indígenas starting from 1579 to 1926, and also documents recorded as tierras in the Amazon region.

Through this research I have identified valuable primary sources, made contacts with colleagues, and begun relationships with indigenous communities in the region.
Undergraduate Highlights

By Peter Haney

The accomplishments of students in the CLACS undergraduate program continue to impress us. Major Kate Sopcich, who is currently finishing a semester abroad in Santiago de Chile, informs us that she has landed an internship with Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), a noted Washington research and policy think tank focused on the Americas. CLACS alum Trent Boultinghouse ('12), also had an internship there after graduating and before moving on to his current position with the Department of Defense. Current majors and minors should take note of this. According to Kate COHA’s director has good things to say about the program out in Kansas that is sending him talented graduates. For her part, minor Alexa Zepp is in Quito, Ecuador with the IES program there. Both of these students are on student initiated programs, which are a great way to augment KU’s already strong study abroad options in the Americas.

Right now, our other majors are all on campus, including former FLAS fellows Gus Bova and Cassie Osei who have returned from abroad. Gus is volunteering with Centro Hispano while finishing his BA in Latin American & Caribbean Studies and reports he has been thinking about Americorps after graduation. Cassie, for her part, is applying to graduate programs in History as she completes a double major in History and Latin American & Caribbean Studies. Also back from abroad is minor Meaghan Palmer, who is continuing with Quechua as she finishes a BA in human biology. You can see her close encounter with one or our camelid cousins further on in this newsletter. In the Spring, Owen MacDonald will leave us and head to Brazil for a semester in Florianopolis. Owen and Janelle Fox together form our “dynamic duo” of fearless front desk assistants, and they’ve done a great job on CLACS flyers and LACS major outreach this Fall. We’ll miss Owen around the office in the Spring, but we wouldn’t want to hold him back.

Some of our students are finding applications for Latin American & Caribbean Studies right here at home. One such student is Joey Hentzler, who spent the summer as an intern with the Margie Wakefield campaign and since worked for the political consulting firm Kansas Grassroots. Another is Patricia Solís, who made the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences honor roll after transferring to KU from JCCC. She has just started a Field Interviewer position with New Jersey-based Mathematica Policy Research. Mathematica has included Kansas City among sites where it is investigating the effects of supportive programs on birth outcomes of high-risk Spanish-speaking mothers. Congratulations to all our students on their accomplishments. Here’s hoping they’re not too busy to stop and smell the flowers before winter takes them all. Is there news on your end? Send it our way.

Owen MacDonald, Latin American & Caribbean Studies major and CLACS front desk assistant at our Hawk Week Welcome Event.

Waggoner Research Colloquium Focuses on Pedagogy

The Waggoner Research Colloquium was inaugurated in 1992 by past CLACS Director, Dr. Elizabeth Kuznesof. Latin Americanist faculty and graduate students affiliated with the Center have gathered each fall semester to celebrate the ongoing creation of scholarship about Latin America by KU faculty. The format usually includes an interdisciplinary panel on a particular theme, followed by a reception with wine and hors d’oeuvres.

This year’s Waggoner will be held on November 14. The theme is “Teaching as if North were South: Latin Americanist Pedagogy for the Midwest.” Now it’s 23rd year, the Waggoner will bring together three scholars from a variety of fields to discuss the teaching of Latin America at KU. Each panelist will share their thoughts. The panel discussion is followed by a short question and answer session.

The panel participants and their presentation titles are:

- Lua Yuille, Associate Professor of Law, Bringing the Outside In
- Caroline Chaboo, Assistant Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, KU and the World: Biodiversity Research as the Base for Student Engagement with Latin America
- Peter Haney, Assistant Director, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Latin Americanist Pedagogy for a Well-Managed Liberation
Journalist Focuses on Haiti in Humanities Lecture
By Tony Rosenthal

Award-winning journalist Amy Wilentz spoke on "Haiti: Tragedy and Hope" as part of the Hall Center for the Humanities Lecture Series on November 3, 2014. Wilentz has been reporting on Haiti for over two decades for publications such as The Nation, The New York Times, and The Huffington Post and she teaches in the Literary Journalism program at U.C. Irvine. Her most recent book, Farewell, Fred Voodoo: A Letter from Haiti, received the National Book Critics Circle Award in Autobiography. Through interviews with political leaders and residents of shantytowns, she explores the issue of economic dependency, the legacies of slavery, revolution and military occupation, and how knowledge about Haiti is constructed by journalists and aid workers. On the day after her lecture, the Hall Center also hosted "A Conversation with Amy Wilentz," moderated by Kiran Jayaram, who received his master's degree in Latin American Studies at KU before completing his Ph.D. in applied anthropology at Columbia University.

Outreach (continued from page 1)

Our outreach department is also partnering with the other Area Studies Centers at KU on two exciting new joint initiatives. The first, World Wednesdays, offers local educators a way to bring global competencies into the classroom at all grade levels and across all curriculum areas. On designated Wednesdays throughout school year, we are hosting one-hour, hands-on lessons on language and culture from our different world areas. We chose Wednesdays to align with Lawrence teachers' in-service days. Conveniently held at the Lawrence Public Library, the goal is to give teachers the basic information and the resources they need to turn around and teach covered topics to their students. Our center kicked off the inaugural World Wednesday session with an overview of Día de los Muertos in advance of the holiday.

The second joint outreach initiative is our Postcards from Abroad Series. Postcards from Abroad is a 60-second radio spot broadcast twice weekly (on Saturdays at 1:04 pm and on Wednesdays at 8:58 pm) on KANU, the flagship station of Kansas Public Radio. The series features content provided by each of our international area studies centers: Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Center for East Asian Studies, Center for Global and International Studies, Kansas African Studies Center, and the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies. Every "postcard" gives listeners a brief and enticing glimpse of each center's respective cultures from the contemporary to the ancient, from the exotic to the familiar. Randi Hacker, the voice of Postcards, likes to call it "quirky news within a historical context." All of the postcards from Latin America and the Caribbean are available as podcasts on our website. We are always looking for new ideas for these postcards, so please share your ideas for good postcard topics!

A snapshot of the Postcards from Abroad available on the outreach website.

CLACS Outreach Coordinator Danika Swanson recently attended a Día de los Muertos event at the ArtLab Family Day at the Mulvane Art Museum in Topeka. She shared information and artifacts related to the holiday from the one of the center's Culture Trunks on the topic.
Giving to Latin American & Caribbean 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 & 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, monthly 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 for Latin American & Caribbean 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 & Caribbean Studies website (http://latamst.ku.edu/giving-program). 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 & Caribbean 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 Fellowship 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.

Anita Herzfeld Study Abroad Award for Latin America: Donations help build a fund which helps sponsor undergraduate students who wish to study abroad.

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

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Thank you for your support!