The mission of the Latin American Graduate Organization (LAGO) is, “To promote a closer affiliation among graduate students from Latin America or interested in doing research in Latin America, the KU community, and the community of Lawrence.”

In a 2013 meeting in the Burge Union, founding members Carolina Pardo, Marisela Chávez and Diana Restrepo decided that KU needed a space in which graduate students interested in Latin America could share experiences and resources. Since then the organization has grown by leaps and bounds, and has become much more than originally imagined. For Latin American graduate students LAGO is a support system where they share pointers on how to navigate the University’s administrative structure. For North American scholars who specialize in the region, it offers an informal space to discuss research. Through its meetings and public programming, LAGO builds connections at KU among faculty and students who are involved with Latin America and bridges the gap between the Lawrence and KU communities.

There is great diversity within the group, as members come from many countries and disciplines. At any given meeting, you’re likely to meet someone from Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica and the United States. Members come from disciplines like Economics, Anthropology, Educational

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LAGO Brings Cultura to KU

Josie Kapicka
Program Assistant

Members of LAGO gather with Andean multi-instrumentalist Amado Espinosa and dancer Karen Lisondra after the group’s Earth Day concert at the Commons on April 22nd. The organization seeks to build camaraderie in the community through cultural programming.
From the Acting Director’s Desk

The word of the year for the Center is flux. Jill Kuhnheim stepped down from the directorship in January, and was succeeded by Santa Arias. When Santa left for her year of sabbatical in July, I returned to the Center to serve as acting Director. Previously, I was Associate Director in 2001-05 and 2007. Dean and fellow Latin Americanist, Danny Anderson, left KU in the spring, and KU chose psychologist Carl Lejuez to replace him. More recently, Provost Jeffrey Vitter announced that he is also leaving KU. The Center is in its first full year without the Title VI National Resource Center grant from the Department of Education, and the KU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences must cut nearly 4% of its budget due to state fiscal problems. Meanwhile, student numbers are down in nearly all of the College’s majors, including ours, as the trend of students moving to professional schools (Business, Engineering, etc.) started during the 2008 Recession continues.

Hard times? Actually, the Center is vibrant and well-positioned to emerge stronger than ever thanks to your support and ideas. While the Center has lost some staff, including a permanent Office Manager, Graduate Coordinator (except for me), and Outreach Assistant, our core staff of Dr. Pete Haney (Assistant Director), Cathy Swenson-Tucker (Financial Manager), and Danika Swanson (Outreach Coordinator) have worked tirelessly to keep the Center rolling along while also being innovative. Danika had her second baby, Mirabel Swanson, in April, and not to be outdone, our Latin American & Caribbean Librarian, Betsaida Reyes, gave birth to Severino Desarle in September. The contributions of temporary Office Manager Chad O’Byhim, Program Assistant Josie Kapicka, and student worker Owen MacDonald have also been essential. If you notice the Center’s posters and messages looking slick this year, you have Chad’s graphic skills to thank. As Acting Director, I have been fortunate have such a devoted team in front of me, as well as the counsel of Santa from Europe on critical matters.

One way the KU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences has been inventive is to create a new Institute for Global and International Studies. It’s aims to support KU’s area studies centers by combining the efforts of staffs with the goal of enabling greater cross-regional faculty and outreach collaboration. The Centers will maintain their identities and missions, while having opportunities to interact and collaborate more with the other centers.

The Center also welcomed fresh faces into its fold this year: University Foundation Professors Cecilia Menjívar and Victor Agadjanian of the Department of Sociology; Joo Ok Kim and Chris Perreira Department of American Studies; and Cécile Accilien of the Department of African and African American Studies. Cecilia and Cécile are already contributing directly to the Center by serving on our Executive and Graduate Committees, respectively. Jorge Soberón and Ben Sikes of the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology have also graciously joined the same respective committees. While we celebrate the addition of these colleagues, we also mourn the loss of Bill Woods, a giant in Geography whose archeological research on anthropogenic soils in the Amazon was internationally renowned and highly awarded.

Having no Title VI funding does not mean the Center has no external funding. We are currently in the second year of a three-year Tinker Foundation grant to fund graduate student research. This past summer, eight students conducted research south of the border with Tinker funds, and this winter another ten will travel with Tinker funds as well. We will hold another Tinker competition in the spring of 2016 for summer 2016 research. And thanks to Santa’s vision and grant writing prowess, the Center received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and American Library Association to produce public programming in connection with the 2013 PBS documentary Latino Americans: 500 Years of History during the month of April, 2016. In partnership with KU’s Libraries, the Tonantzín Society of Topeka, and the Lawrence Public Library, CLACS will organize a number of public events in Lawrence and Topeka, including exhibits, film screenings, an educator workshop, and a lecture series, and an oral history project.

Tumultuous times reveal the strength of any institution, and I am happy to say that many professors, students, and other supporters have stepped up to offer creative suggestions for recruiting more students, nurturing more community, and raising funds. In my one year as acting director I will not be able to do justice to them all, but I am particularly interested in something I know a little about: field schools. The Center has always prided itself on offering immersion experiences to students that often serve as more of a foundation to their careers than classroom teaching. The Center has been very fortunate that Dr. Laura Herlihy has been leading six-week field schools to the Miskitu Coast of Nicaragua over the past few years. I

Continued on page 15
Representatives of the Comité Paraguay Kan-sas visited KU in September, followed in October by the Asunción-based sculptor Sergio Jara. These visits show that the long-standing relationship between KU and Paraguay, which the Comité and its sister organization in Kansas, the Kansas Paraguay Partners has done so much to promote, remains strong. The two organizations are nonprofits affiliated with Partners of the Americas, an organization that pairs communities in the United States with communities in Latin America for mutual assistance and intellectual and cultural exchange. The KPP/CPK collaboration was recently recognized as an outstanding Partners affiliate.

In September, KU CLACS received CPK Board President Erwin Bogado and Project Director Mirian Mongelos, along with many of the Paraguayan students on campus. Bogado and Mongelos stopped at KU as part of a tour of the Regents institutions. KU, like all of these institutions, offers in-state tuition to a number of Paraguayan students each semester.

Sergio Jara also came to KU as part of a statewide tour that was his prize as the winner of the 7th Annual Young Artists competition. Emporia State art professor Eric Conrad helped with the judging of that competition thanks to a grant from Partners of the Americas. CPK, KPP, and the Centro Cultural Paraguayo Americano (CCPA) sponsor the contest. Jara creates imposing works in wood, metal, and stone, and he is getting noticed more and more outside his native country. He recently traveled to China to participate in an international conference of sculptors who work in wood. In Lawrence, he had a fruitful week exchanging ideas with KU faculty and community-based artists, including Judith Mc-Crea and Amber Hansen, who coordinated the Lawrence leg of his trip. Hansen herself visited Paraguay last semester with support from Partners to judge a photography contest. Jara’s visit to KU culminated with a merienda lecture in Bailey 318. The CLACS familia received him warmly, and we look forward to further artistic and cultural exchanges with Paraguay.

Sculptor Sergio Jara came to KU as part of a statewide tour that was his prize as the winner of the 7th Annual Young Artists competition.

UCR Visit Renews Relationships

The Office of International Programs

The longstanding relationship between KU and the University of Costa Rica (UCR) added another dimension with a week-long October visit from a UCR delegation of faculty and administrators to explore research collaborations. The faculty from a variety of disciplines met with potential research partners and learned about international education at KU. Their schedule also included a mixer with faculty from the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and dinner with students connected to Costa Rica.

The UCR delegation builds a strong bond with KU partners.
Glenn Adams, Professor, Department of Psychology, Visiting Scholar (2015-2016), Centre for Critical Development Studies, University of Toronto

Adams, along with KU Professor Ludwin Molina, former KU student (now Associate Professor at the University of West Georgia), Tugce Kurtis, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica instructor Luis Gómez, and Universidad de Costa Rica Professor Ignacio Dóbles, co-edited a special thematic section of the Journal of Social and Political Psychology devoted to the topic of “Decolonizing Psychological Science.” The special section grew out of a series of exchanges and meetings that the scholars had with Costa Rican collaborators during the past few years (with funding from the UCR-KU collaboration fund at KU OIP), including a conference on “Liberatory and Decolonizing praxis in Psychology” at the University of Costa Rica in November 2014 in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Ignacio Martín-Baró and other UCA priests.

Adams also organized and chaired the conference symposium “Decolonizing justice: Critical approaches to the psychology of global inequality” at the Annual convention of the American Psychological Association in Toronto, Ontario in August 2015. Adams has published articles in the Journal of Social and Political Psychology and the journal Teoría y Crítica de la Psicología on the decolonization of psychology.

Santa Arias, Professor, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Director, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Arias is currently on sabbatical at the Rachel Carson Center in Munich as a scholar in residence. For her new project Entanglements from San Juan: The Imperial-Colonial Paradox of the Enlightenment at a Caribbean Frontier, she traveled to the small town of Barbastro in the Somontano region of northern Spain to conduct research at the ecclesiastical archive of the eighteenth-century historian of Puerto Rico, Iñigo Abbad y Lasierra. She recently published “Constituting the Archive: The Indigenous Ancient World” for the Cambridge History of Latin American Women’s Literature; and “Looking to the Southeast Antilles: Iñigo Abbad y Lasierra’s Geopolitical Thought in his Historia geográfica, civil y natural de la Isla de San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico (1788)” in Colonial Latin American Review.

Melissa Birch, Associate Professor, School of Business

Melissa H. Birch was named Co-Director of the Center for Global Business Studies at the School of Business where she teaches courses on international business and business in Latin America. In her new role, she will help the School and its international resources connect with the business community and other parts of the university. As a member of the Kansas International Trade Coordinating Committee, Birch participates each year in the selection of the Kansas Exporter of the Year. She was recently in Emporia, Kansas at Vektek when the Governor visited to officially present the award. Vektek is a major supplier of premium hydraulic and pneumatic clamping systems for the metalworking, tool & die and mold industries. While the company has customers all around the world, Mexico and Brazil are major Latin American export markets for the company.

Ben Chappell, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of American Studies

Chappell served as a consulting scholar on two projects for the Kansas
Faculty in the Field: Chris Brown

Chris Brown was recently promoted to full professor and is spending the academic year on sabbatical in Brazil. He is with his family (Denise and the boys, Jason (12), and Connor (9)). They are in Campinas, São Paulo, where Chris has a Fulbright Fellowship to study land use in some of Brazil’s fastest changing agricultural landscapes in the states of Mato Grosso, Goiás, and Mato Grosso do Sul. To this end he is conducting ground surveys of agricultural practices for a mapping project with researchers at the State University of Campinas and at Embrapa (roughly the equivalent of our USDA).

Chris will also travel to the state of Maranhão along the northeast coast with anthropology colleagues from the Federal University of Maranhão to document the struggle of peasants to maintain their rights to land and water near the Lencóis Maranhenses National Park. This is a classic situation where people living for a long time in a particular area are being removed to preserve an idea of nature.

In a telling coincidence, a recent episode of the reality show “Naked and Afraid” was filmed at the site.

Humanities Council. One of these was “Mexican American Fast Pitch Softball Leagues: Connecting Communities Across State Lines,” conducted by P.I. Dr. Gene Chávez, who curated an exhibition for the Kansas City Museum and produced a video documentary. The exhibition is on display through December 20. (http://kcmo.gov/kansascitymuseum/new-exhibition-starting-this-month/).

The second project is entitled “Root for the Home Team,” conducted by P.I. Dr. Rachel Epp-Buller of Bethel College. For this project, Chappell delivered a lecture on Mexican-American fast pitch softball in Midwestern railroad towns, and presented a public panel discussion of ballplayers from that tradition. An exhibition from that project is open at Kauffman Museum in Newton through June 3, 2016.

Gregory Cushman, Department of History, Environmental Studies

Cushman was recently awarded a two-year Carnegie fellowship, and he is spending fall semester 2015 as a research fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich. A 50+ page chapter on “The Environmental Contexts of Guaman Poma: Interethnic Conflict over Forest Resources and Place in Huamanga (Peru), 1540-1600,” appeared in the book Unlocking the Doors to the Worlds of Guaman Poma and his Nueva Corónica, edited by Rolena Adorno and Ivan Boserup (Copenhagen: Museum Tusculanum Press, 2015). His 2013 book, Guano and the Opening of the Pacific World, was awarded the Turku Prize by the European Society for Environmental History at their Versailles meeting in July 2015.

Giselle Anatol presenting work at the Caribbean Cinema Now! conference as part of the Trinidad and Tobago film festival in Port of Spain, Trinidad

Tamara Falcíov, Associate Professor, Department of Film & Media Studies

Falicov presented a paper on the political and economic ramifications of film festival funds at the “Caribbean Cinema Now!” conference as part of the Trinidad and Tobago film festival in Port of Spain, Trinidad. She also gave a talk and class

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“Fitzgerald was recently notified that her book, Native Women and Land: Narratives of Dispossession and Resurgence, was awarded ‘Best Academic Title of 2015’ by the Wordcraft Circle/Native Writers Circle of the Americas.”

Stephanie Fitzgerald, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Indigenous Studies

Fitzgerald is developing and teaching a new course this semester, Indigenous Literatures of Latin America, under the rubric of ENGL 305: World Indigenous Literatures, and cross-listed with Indigenous Studies and Latin American Studies. Her book Native Women and Land: Narratives of Dispossession and Resurgence was published in March 2015 by the University of New Mexico Press. Fitzgerald was recently notified that her book was awarded “Best Academic Title of 2015” by the Wordcraft Circle/Native Writers Circle of the Americas.

Anita Herzelf, Professor Emerita Linguistics and Latin America Studies; Professor and Former Undergraduate Director and Advisor for Latin American Studies

In September Herzfeld participated in “A Week of Linguistic Variation,” at the invitation of the University of Costa Rica, by presenting a paper entitled “Space and Socialization in Bilingual Individuals.” Together, with Professor Franklyn Perry, she organized “A conversation among speakers of Limonese Creole,” and a session in which both taught the audience greetings in the Creole.

Cecilia Menjívar, Foundation Distinguished Professor, Department of Sociology


Menjívar was recently awarded the Public Sociology Award, International Migration Section from the American Sociological Association.

Magalí Rabasa, Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Co-Director Hall Center for the Humanities Seminar on Latin America & Its Diasporas

Rabasa organized and participated in a roundtable on feminism in Latin America at the American Studies Association in Toronto (Oct 2015), and presented a paper on migration and publishing in Argentina and Bolivia at the American Comparative Literature Association in Seattle (March 2015).

Rabasa is reviving and redesigning SPAN 464: US Latina/o Literature and Culture, as a course on Narratives and Theories of Border Identities. The course had not been offered for several years, and the new incarnation of it (taught this semester) looks at cultural production from US Latina/o writers and artists that
relate to questions of identity formation and border politics. The class is conducted in Spanish and is a unique experience for the students working with a lot of bilingual and/or transnational materials. An exciting feature of the class is a final project through which the students develop an original research project working with archival materials related to Latina/o politics from the Wilcox Collection (materials from contemporary political movements) at Spencer Research Library.

Tony Rosenthal, Associate Professor, Department of History, Co-Director Hall Center for the Humanities Seminar on Latin America & Its Diasporas

Rosenthal recently published “Moving between the Global and the Local: The Industrial Workers of the World and Their Press in Latin America” in Defiance of Boundaries: Anarchism in Latin American History. He is also serving on the Nominations Committee and the Board of Directors of the Urban History Association.

Luciano Tosta, Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish & Portuguese

Tosta’s book Confluence Narratives: Ethnicity, History, and Nation-Making in the Americas was accepted for publication with Bucknell University Press and is forthcoming in 2016. His co-edited interdisciplinary book Brazil, which is part of ABC-CLIO’s Nation in Focus’s series, is forthcoming in December 2015. Tosta presented his essay “Fictional and Everyday Violence: Brazilian Audience as an Interpretive Community of Brazilian Cinema” in the Latin America & Its Diaspora Seminar at the Hall Center on January 26, 2015. The essay was published in the Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

In April he presented “The Hybrid Indian and the Inescapable Coloniality in Luiz Antonio de Assis Brasil’s Breviário das Terras do Brasil” as one of the keynote speakers for UCLA’s Spanish & Portuguese Graduate Student Conference, and was the Interim Editor for the “Portuguese in the Americas” Book Series of Tagus Press (University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture) from May-October in 2014. Tosta will be leading the six-week Language and Culture in Salvador, Brazil, study abroad program in the summer of 2016, the year of the Olympics in Brazil.

Vicky Unruh, Professor Emerita, Spanish & Portuguese


Latin American Graduate Organization

From left to right: Diana Giraldo, Carlos Paredes, Diana Restrepo, and Edgar Diaz. Diana and Carlos from Cali, Colombia, are the 2006 Argentine Tango World Champions; Diana Restrepo is the current LAGO president, and Edgar Diaz is a dance instructor at EZ Dancing. They all performed at the Exhibition of Latin Dances from the Americas event that LAGO and other community organizers hosted at the Cider Gallery on October 1st.
Outreach Notes

CLACS Collaborations on Campus and in the Community

Danika Swanson
Outreach Coordinator

This Fall, thanks to some of our wonderful campus and community partnerships we have been fortunate to maintain much of our Outreach programming, despite the lack of Title XI funding.

First we celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) with our wonderful partners, the Latin American Graduate Organization (LAGO) and Sean Mawhirter, along with several other community sponsors. There were four main events during the first week of October including Salsa dance lessons, a Flamenco music and dance clinic with Professor Michelle Heffner Hayes, a dance exhibition and dance party at the Cider Gallery, and a performance and Milonga with the Tango music group, Cucharada. Events were held both on KU campus and in the community. This year’s attendance more than doubled the previous year’s numbers with over 300 people participating in the week’s events. This was our second year partnering with these organizations and we look forward to collaborating again next year!

As a culminating event for Hispanic Heritage Month and an opening event for Día de Los Muertos celebrations, Danika Swanson

Latino Americans: 500 Years of Latin@ Americanidad
Exploring Latino American History and Culture in the Heartland

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, along with our partners, The Tonantz-in Society, KU Libraries, and the Lawrence Public Library, are proud to be among the 203 grantees from around the country—libraries, museums, state humanities councils, historical societies and other nonprofits selected through a competitive application process—to receive funding, resources, and support to host festivals, collect oral histories, facilitate informed discussions and hold other public events about Latino American history and culture.

Our events (see next page) will take place during the month of April 2016. Through these events, in addition to an oral history project, we hope to bring visibility to the Latino experience, educate our communities, and create new knowledge about the Latino American cultural, political, and social history with a special focus on Kansas and the region.

If you are interested in being a part of these exciting programs or would like additional information, please contact Danika_swanson@ku.edu. Also, please check out our website, https://latamst.ku.edu/500years, for updates.

Latino Americans: 500 Years of History has been made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

From 1900 to 1940, Mexican workers comprised almost the entire labor force of the railroad industry of Kansas.

Danza Azteca Grupo Huitzilopochtli kicks off KU’s Día de Los Muertos celebrations with a special performance on campus’ Wescoe Beach.

Courtesy Peter Haney

File photo
we welcomed Danza Azteca Grupo Huitzilopochtli with MSU Denver’s “Journey Through Our Heritage,” to campus for a special performance on Wescoe Beach. Their ceremony and dances included an explanation and demonstration of the use of dance and indigenous background of sacred concepts. Danza Azteca was brought here by the Tonantzin Society as part of their Día de Los Muertos activities in Topeka.

“This year's attendance more than doubled the previous year’s numbers with over 300 people participating in the week's events.”

Other events we contributed to in honor of Día de Los Muertos included a screening of the classic Mexican film, Macario, again in collaboration with the Tonantzin Society, at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library; an afternoon of learning and crafts with the Lawrence Art Guild at the Lawrence Public Library; and an evening of celebration with the Student Union Activities.

Outside of the major celebrations we also partnered with various campus departments to host a number of interesting programs. In September we marked the anniversary of the 43 disappeared students with a screening of Xavier Robles’ 2015 film, Ayotzinapa Chronicle of a State Crime, and a presentation by Magali Rabasa. We also welcomed Witness for Peace back to campus on their Fall Tour for a special lecture on “Afro-Indigenous Hondurans in Resistance: U.S. Drug War, Violent Displacement and Migration” with Alfredo López from the organization, OFRANEH.

On a lighter note, we were happy to partner with the University Career Center and the Center for East Asian Studies and Kansas African Studies again this year for the Fall Etiquette Dinner, where we addressed dining etiquette from our respective regions.

Beyond our activities, we continue to build relationships with other campus and community groups and K-12 educators. If you have any contacts that you think would be helpful for more collaborative projects going forward, please e-mail us at lasoutreach@edu. We’re looking forward to a busy Spring and our Latino Americans Programs!
The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) is the largest professional organization for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of Latin America. This year’s conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico (May 27 to May 30), boasted 5,193 total registered participants, with an impressive 26% listed as students and 50% as Non US Residents.

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies is proud to recognize the impressive representation from the University of Kansas, as a great number of Kansas Latin Americanists made the trip to the Caribbean to participate in the event.

Jennifer M Abercrombie (Doctoral Student, Spanish & Portuguese) presented “La violencia y la masculinidad hegemónica: Ciclos eternos en Cien botellas en una pared” in the panel: “Hegemony and Masculinity in Latin American Literature.”

Raciel Alonso (Doctoral Student, Spanish & Portuguese) presented, “(Des)articulaciones de la nación: el cine de niño en la Cuba del siglo XXI” in the panel: “The Dystopian Childhood in Latin American Film.”

Santa Arias (Professor, Spanish & Portuguese) presented “Constituyen el archivo: el mundo indígena antiguo” in the panel: “On the Cambridge History of Latin American Women’s Literature: Hacia un canon continental. alcances e implicancias identitarias y discursivas.”

Emilia Barbosa (Doctoral Student, Spanish & Portuguese) presented “Flipping the Tortillera: Sandra Monterroso’s Hybrid Iconography in Tus tortillas, mi amor (2004)” in the panel: “The Female Body and the Performance of Gender in Latin America.” Barbosa also co-hosted the Gender and Feminist Studies Reception.

Gregory T Cushman (Associate Professor, History) presented in the workshop: “Emerging Research on the Latin American Environment.” Cushman was also a discussant on the Panel: “Maravillas, monstruosidades y utopías en Hispanoamérica colonial: alcances e implicancias identitarias y discursivas.”


Ryan Daugherty (Doctoral Student, Political Science) presented “Why a Pan-Mayan Party has not developed in Guatemala” in the panel: “Ponce Political Incorporation: Old and New.”

Stuart A Day (Associate Professor, Spanish & Portuguese) chaired the panel: “Flamboyant Theatre of the Real on the Latin American Stage (Part 3).”

Verónica I Garibotto (Assistant Professor, Spanish & Portuguese) served as the Session Organizer for the panel: “Marginality, Precariousness, and Exclusion: The Latin American Road Movie.”

Peter C Haney (Assistant Director, CLACS) presented “Other People’s Blood Revisited: Central American Families and Manufactured Crises in South Texas, 1988 and 2014” in the panel: “Central American-U.S. Migra-
Brent E Metz (Associate Professor, Anthropology) presented “An Ambivalent Nation: Chortís in Eastern Guatemala and Western Honduras” in the panel: “Identificación Colectiva de Naciones Indígenas Transfronterizas.”

Rafael Acosta Morales (Asst. Professor, Spanish & Portuguese) presented “Lo narco entre precariedad y poder: Matizes políticos, performativos y afectivos.”

Lina M Muñoz Márquez (Doctoral Student, Spanish & Portuguese) presented “Blanquitud en Autobiografía de un esclavo de Juan Francisco Manzano” in the panel: “19th-Century Colonial Cuba.”

Jorge Pérez (Associate Professor & Chair, Spanish & Portuguese) presented in the panel: “Marginality, Precariousness, and Exclusion: the Latin American Road Movie,” in addition to serving as the Chair of the panel.

Magalí Rabasa (Asst. Professor, Spanish & Portuguese) received an Honorable Mention for the LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Fellowship, an award that is offered at each LASA International Congress to an outstanding junior scholar who exemplifies Professor Diskin’s commitment to the creative combination of activism and scholarship.

Vicky Unruh (Professor Emerita, Spanish & Portuguese) presented “An Ephemerical Yearning to Act: Structures of Feeling and Communities in Cuba’s Avant-Gardes” in the panel: “Escenas precarias: Adaptación, exilio y resistencia en el teatro hispanoamericano contemporáneo.”

Ketty A Wong (Associate Professor, Music) presented “Salsa Dancing with ‘Chinese Characteristics’: In Search of Cosmopolitan Identity Markers” in the panel: “Maguey Media, Music, and Popular Culture.”

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The semester is off to a great start for the Brazilian Student Association! BRASA is focusing its efforts on growing the club and attracting new members who are interested in Brazilian culture, studying Portuguese, or just meeting new people and exploring what Brazil has to offer.

Just this semester, BRASA stole the show at the Lawrence Festival of Cultures; a group of BRASA members, who are studying at KU from Brazil through the Science without Borders program, performed a traditional Nordeste (Brazilian Northeastern) dance, the quadrilha. Wearing traditional clothes and poking fun at some of the Nordestino stereotypes, our members put on quite the show! BRASA also had a very successful fall party at Tonic Bar on Mass Street, attracting Brazilian students, other international students, faculty, and friends alike. Mesa Brasileira, the bi-weekly Portuguese conversation group is still going strong! After a few venue shifts, we’ve found the lobby of Naismith Hall to be a great place to hang out, practice Portuguese, shoot pool, and make new friends! There is no language requirement so we hope to see everyone there soon.

The semester may be drawing to a close, but BRASA’s got a lot going on this Fall and into the Spring. BRASA is excited to announce that Dr. Domingos Sávio Siqueira, Assistant Professor of English, Federal University of Bahia and Fulbright Visiting Scholar, University of Hawai’i at Manoa, will be visiting to give a presentation about the Brazilian Military Dictatorship. Prof. Siqueira is going to discuss his recently published book Caminhando e Contando: Memórias da Ditadura Brasileira, a collection of 10 testimonies during the military regime. Dr. Sávio will speak on campus Monday, November 30th and Tuesday, December 1st. Don’t miss those talks! (Thanks to Luciano Tosta, CLACS, and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese for supporting this dynamic speaker.) Carnaval returns to KU this spring! Join us at Abe and Jake’s on Friday, February 20. It will be a party to remember!

Make sure to like us on Facebook, BRASA at KU, and follow us on Twitter @KU_BRASA for our latest news and updates, tchau!
Good news keeps coming in from our undergraduate majors and minors. Patricia Solís remains on campus for one more semester, finishing the public policy side of her double major. She plans to graduate in December and is looking at graduate programs in Public Administration. Elena Anderson-Smith is back on campus after a leave of absence and has jumped back into her classes with gusto. Also back is Owen MacDonald, who spent the Spring in Florianopolis, Brazil. If you come into the office, you’re likely to see Owen working the CREES/CLACS front desk. Speak to him in Portuguese and he’ll answer you right back. Together with Alex Stuart, Owen is at the helm of Brasilian Student Association this semester. For more about what BRASA is up to, see the story on page 9.

A number of our majors and minors, along with students interested in Latin American & Caribbean Studies packed Bailey 318 on October 2nd when Angie Williams (LACS MA, 2000) spoke to the Jayhawks Without Borders Club about her work as an immigration attorney in Kansas City. She described the circuitous route that brought her to the law and highlighted the ways that her Latin American & Caribbean Studies background helps her deal with people from the region who are struggling with the U.S. immigration system. After Angie’s talk, students discussed offerings on campus related to the Americas with staff from CLACS and the Office of Study Abroad, all over pizza.

CLACS acting director Brent Metz’s winter interim program in Guatemala was prominent among those offerings. Students in Dr. Metz’s program, including Global Scholar and LAA minor Alex Robinson and linguistics major/LAA minor James Tandy will help Ch’orti’ Maya villagers on water infrastructure and ecotourism projects in January. Students associated with CLACS are also organizing activities of their own in Latin America. Spanish major/LAA minor Madison Outlaw, for her part, is a co-directors of the Jayhawk Health Initiative. After another successful trip to Panama in May 2015, the group has been taking new applications for another visit next Spring and adding a public health component to complement its focus on short-term medical and dental needs. Undergraduates interested in Cuba have opportunities to visit that country this Winter through programs organized by Bob Augelli in the Business School and Tim Hossler in Design. Closer to home, CLACS is creating service opportunities for undergraduates through a collaboration with Centro Hispano called Herman@s Sin Fronteras. This project, led by LAA minor alum and Americorps volunteer Rachel Cross (’15) has paired eleven KU undergraduates with Spanish-speaking kids in town who could use a “big brother/sister.”

In alumni news, Gus Bova (’15) published an ethnographic study of Quechua speakers in the U.S. asylum system in the KU Journal of Undergraduate Research’s August issue. Area studies students are prominent in that volume. Gus is working as an Americorps volunteer at Casa Marianella, a refugee shelter in Austin. Kate Sopcich (’15) has been working with a number of different service agencies in Kansas City and applying to grad school, while Cassie Osei (’15) has taken the plunge into graduate school in history at the University of Illinois. And at least one 2015 alum has decided to come back for more. See our graduate highlight for more information about the one and only Joey Hentzler (’15).

Are you an alum of a CLACS program? Send your news to latamst@ku.edu!
Graduate Student Updates

Joey Hentzler, MA Student and Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Hentzler completed his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Latin American & Caribbean Studies from the University of Kansas in Spring 2015. He is involved in a number of international non-profits in the Kansas City area. Since 2013, he has served on the board of the United Nations Association in Kansas City which involves awareness raising and advocacy of international issues. Upon graduating, Joey planned to transition from part-time to full-time at the International Relations Council managing that organization’s programs, but due to the generosity of CLACS, decided to return to KU for the MA program. Joey is interested in development anthropology, particularly in regards to how non-governmental organizations (NGOs) interact with indigenous communities and their traditional social institutions in the Andes. He is studying Quechua and plans to research in Bolivia for two months this summer conducting interviews with development workers. Additionally, Joey will be travelling to Guatemala in January with Brent Metz Ch’orti’ Maya field school program. At the end of May, he will return to Anse-à-Galets, a town in Haiti, to help facilitate a participatory community development project.

Courtney Sánchez, PhD Student and Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Film and Media Studies

Sánchez completed her undergraduate degree in Journalism at the University of Colorado, and her Master’s Degree in Cinema Studies at New York University. Her research interests include silent film culture in Latin America and the political economy of media, and she was a recipient of a 2015 Tinker grant.

Sánchez’s paper “The National Hero and His Immigrant Sidekick: Contested Citizenship in Argentine Silent Film” won first place in the Gary Burns Graduate Student Travel Award competition at the 2015 Midwest Popular Culture Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Fall 2015 Langston Hughes Visiting Professors

Every fall, KU welcomes accomplished minority faculty to campus to teach courses and engage with the campus community through the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor program. This year’s Hughes professors both have strong ties to Latin America and U.S. Latina/o communities.

Omar Gudiño, University of Denver

Omar Gudiño, PhD, ABPP is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Denver. Dr. Gudiño directs the Services for At-Risk Youth & Families (SAYF) Lab at DU, which studies patterns of risk and resilience in ethnic minority and immigrant youth exposed to trauma; ethnic/racial disparities in youth mental health services; and evidence-based assessment and treatment of maltreated youth. Dr. Gudiño also teaches undergraduate and graduate courses at DU and trains doctoral students in the Child Clinical PhD Program.

Alcides Velasquez, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia

Alcides Velasquez is Assistant Professor of Communication at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia where he teaches social media, quantitative research design and content analysis courses. He is also the chief editor of the journal Signo y Pensamiento, one of the most prestigious in Latin America in the communication studies field. His work has been published in journals like New Media and Society; Information, Communication and Society; Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media and International Journal of Communication.
In 2013, 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 on a non-dissertation topic in Latin America that is new to them. Each summer, students benefit from access to invaluable data and research experience they would have otherwise been unable to attain.

**Brett Bias**, PhD History, travelled to Mexico City to conduct preliminary research into the lived religious experience of people in colonial Mexico. He gathered archival materials on the sacrilegious treatment of sacred images and objects to analyze non-religious or sacrilegious actions. This work can shed light on indigenous cultures, especially the religious images and idols the Spanish sought to destroy and replace with Christian images. These sources will be the basis of his study on the aspects of early modern religion that religion did not necessarily have a neat, even, or consistent separation between the profane and the secular.

**David Cooper**, PhD Sociology, spent a little over a month in Peru conducting exploratory doctoral research on water management in Latin America. He met with a number of people in different communities to get a better sense of conflicts and issues related to water pollution, water access, and water rights. These meetings made him aware of differences between the mountainous regions, where water is scarce, and the Amazon, where water is plentiful but in danger of pollution from oil drilling and mining.

**Rachel Denney**, PhD Women Gender and Sexuality Studies, sought to explain the conditions that make Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent vulnerable to trafficking in the Dominican Republic. She conducted interviews with several service and advocacy organizations, as well as the Office of the Special Attorney against Illegal Smuggling in Migrants and Trafficking in Persons. All participants did seem to agree that the Dominican government had badly mismanaged the process of assessing and restoring people’s citizenship.

**Will Penner**, MA Geography and Urban Planning, worked in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala to explore why and how the indigenous Kaqchikel and Tz’utujil Maya participate in the production, sale and trade of native seeds. He visited over 20 small-scale farmers to document the ways in which they employ traditional and modern practices. Will spent nearly every day familiarizing himself with the nature of small-scale farming and native seed preservation by farming and gardening alongside the very people he was interviewing.

**Courtney Sánchez**, PhD Film and Media Studies, travelled to film archives in Mexico City to investigate the relationship between cinema, gender, and post-revolutionary nation-building in Mexico. Specifically, she went in search of missing movie stars. Her research project sought to recover the stories of such actresses as Emma Padilla, Elena Sanchez Valenzuela, and Mimi Derba – pioneers whose work from 1917-1923 laid the foundation for subsequent Mexican feature filmmaking, but whose contributions to that tradition have been lost, forgotten, and obscured.

**Silvia Sánchez**, MA Cultural Anthropology, explored the proliferation of development interventions and their effect on Ch’ortí’ Maya communities in Eastern Guatemala. Among various meetings with several NGOs, she participated in a workshop with ASOVERDE and in a community meeting with ProChortí. Additionally, she visited the eco-tourism project at Las Cebollas community, funded by foreign donors in the past and intends to work with the UN in the future. She plans to analyze regional catastrophes, national public policy changes in the 1990s and 2000s, and the stages of global development industry.

**S. Thomas Scott**, PhD Vocal Pedagogy, visited the community (Aldeia) of Pesqueira, Pernambuco, Brazil to examine the acoustic characteristics of two types of vocal music of the Xucurú tribe—the rhythmic chant ritmo and the sacred song toré—in relation to the common Xucurú and Portuguese speech. He was able to document on video significant festivals in which these musical genres are important. Some of the songs were in Portuguese and some were in Xucurú, which, other than in a few rituals, is effectively a dead language. He prepared for and performed an interview and concert on the local radio.

**Ximena Sevilla**, PhD History, visited the Archivo Nacional del Ecuador and the Aurelio Espinosa Pólit library. Her aim was to gain knowledge about the colonial historical events that shed light on the ecological and cultural connection between Kichwa-speaking communities from the Ecuadorian Amazon and the Upper Amazon region of Peru. The links date back to the pre-colonial era when the Amazonian territory was not yet divided by the states’ national borders, and the social and economic organization of Amazonian indigenous peoples depended on riverine navigation.

**Ariane Tulloch**, PhD American Studies, traveled to Panamá to investigate a botanical garden development initiative among the indigenous Ngobe community of Medo. As often happens among NGOs, due to lack of funding the project ceased to exist by the time she arrived, but Ariane adjusted her focus to teach English in the village and thereby gain its confidence for an ongoing research relationship. Medo is a remote community with little to no experience with foreigners. Ultimately, she learned quite a bit about the realities of grassroots NGOs in Latin America and of daily life in an impoverished indigenous community.
TLAGO Engages Community (cont.)

Leadership and Policy Studies, Geography, Geology, Theater, Urban Planning, and Biology. Through LAGO and their interactions with the community, members are finding out about more Latino activities here and in other parts of Kansas. Recently, LAGO has begun to develop exciting new community service initiatives. It is looking into ways to give back to the community and is exploring partnerships with local organizations.

Members say that participation has given them a sense of belonging. By sharing their cultural traditions through food and dance, they find the comfort and camaraderie that mean so much to students who are far from home. All of the members have an interest in the organization’s success and work to create a high level of consistency and build credibility. Even some alumni members continue to contribute and participate after graduation. As Will Penner, Geography, described it, LAGO is, “A consistent organization with good people that are fun to be with, it’s a vibrant and welcoming culture that you just want to be a part of.”

LAGO has big plans for next semester, including an Earth Day concert, a remembrance of the life and work of Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and a film festival in collaboration with the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies.

Like their page on Facebook or contact them at lagostudentsku@gmail.com for more information on upcoming events.

Director (cont.)

have also organized intermittent field schools in Guatemala and Honduras. And, it looks like we may soon be able to add more field school opportunities! We have been approached by delegations from four countries in September and October alone that have encouraged us to collaborate with their students, professors, non-profits, and businesses in field schools. These include our Kansas-Panama Partners, the University of Costa Rica, with whom KU has had a formal relationship since the 1950s, eight indigenous Mexican universities whose visit was funded by the U.S. State Department, and the University of Riohacha, Colombia. If any faculty would like to lead field trips or establish ties with them, the Center is here to assist.

Thank you all for your engagement and continued support of the Center.
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The Center:
- 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 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 www.latamst.ku.edu/giving-program. Online giving is secure, speedy, and simple. 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: Your donations build a fund which help sponsor undergraduate students who wish to study abroad.

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