CLACS and KU Remember
Barbara Fisher Ashton Waggoner (1921-2015)

This past February Latin Americanists at the University of Kansas lost one of our dearest friends, Barbara Fisher Ashton Waggoner. For decades, Barbara was an active participant and collaborator of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the College of Liberal Arts, and the University.

Barbara was the widow of the late George R. Waggoner, former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and widow of Thomas Edward Ashton, Jr., formerly of Kansas City and Cleveland, Ohio. She attended the University of New Mexico, graduated from Ohio University, and earned a Master of Journalism at the University of Kansas. At the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies she taught as an adjunct lecturer and held a position for many years as research associate. In the latter role she strengthened our important link with the University of Costa Rica.

When traveling to Latin America with George Waggoner, Barbara was our ambassador. She knew the region well and visited Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and throughout Central America during her lifetime. She received a Fulbright Scholarship to Costa Rica to conduct a research project on the history of the Confederation of Central American Universities.

We will always remember Barbara’s boundless enthusiasm for Latin American Studies. She promoted the Center’s activities and our programs. She even advocated for the need for undergraduate students to spend one full year of study abroad in Costa Rica or any other Latin American country. For her, it was clear that learning cultures and histories went hand in hand with language proficiency.

At KU she was one of our strongest and most passionate supporters. We will always miss her. ¡Gracias, Barbara!
Dear Amig@s:

This year I assumed with great excitement the position of Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The last few months have been extremely busy as we have worked to plan for the next two years that will next two years in a way that will best serve our community of students and scholars, and maintain our long-standing reputation and connection to our many different constituencies.

When I look at the list of outstanding students that have graduated from our undergraduate and graduate programs, or that we have supported through with Tinker, Stansifer, or FLAS funding, I feel proud and honored to be able to take a turn at serving the Center. As I have said often over the last months, lack of Title VI Federal funds can present a great opportunity to rethink the curriculum and reevaluate our programs. As with many other university programs in the humanities and social sciences, our student numbers have suffered greatly. Students, more often than not, are choosing to be more practical when seeking degrees, and, there are many prospective students who could benefit from the sort of degree we offer who might not be able to attend KU as regular students because of the complicated lives they lead. Therefore, we need to rethink our programs and respond to these new trends and needs. I hope that next semester, both the graduate and undergraduate committees can discuss and design a plan to address these issues and raise more interest in Latin America and the Caribbean among students.

Meanwhile, our office continues seeking opportunities to support our mission and expand collaboration with other units across the University and with prestigious national and international organizations. These sort of projects will be crucial in years to come. Our outstanding Latin Americanist faculty remains our greatest strength. I am pleased to announce the addition of several impressive new faculty members to our ranks: University Foundation Professors Cecilia Menjívar and Victor Agadjanian will join the Sociology Department and co-found a center dedicated to migration and immigration studies. In addition, the Department of American Studies has added assistant professors Joo Ok Kim and Chris Perreira who will strengthen course offerings in Latin@ Studies program. Very soon, African and African American Studies will have an announcement of the new faculty member in Haitian Creole. Other faculty members who have contributed long to our program have been recognized for their cutting-edge interdisciplinary research. In our Faculty Highlight feature Gregory Cushman, Associate Professor of History and Environmental Studies and winner of a KU Scholarly Achievement Award this year. Just this week, he received news that he is a recipient of the prestigious Andrew Carnegie Fellowship in a new program addressing Current and Future Challenges to U.S. Democracy and International Order. His work, and that of many others core and affiliate faculty members continues to serve as a model of interdisciplinary scholarship that strives to make a difference in all our lives.

Chris Brown, Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, received a Fulbright Scholarship to support his research in Brazil, and as director of the Environmental Studies Program, garnered the KU Degree Level Assessment Award for the program’s efforts toward improvement of the assessment of student learning.

In terms of our programing, migration and immigration issues continue to resonate in KU academic programs and events. The Hall Center Seminar on Latin America, directed by Jill Kuhnheim (Spanish and Portuguese) and Tony Rosenthal (History) will devote its 2015-16 program to the theme: "Roots, Race and Mobility," which will conclude with a mini-conference on April 8. Magalí Rabasa, from Spanish and Portuguese will serve as co-director as well. Also, please stay tuned for our fall Merienda series line up to be announced at the end of the semester. As many of you know, next year I will be on leave as a Hall Center fellow and for sabbatical. During this period, the Center will be in great hands: Brent Metz (Anthropology) will serve as Interim Director. Thank you, Brent! Well before I arrived at KU, Brent had distinguished himself as one of the most committed Latin Americanist faculty members on campus. He served between 2001-05 as Associate Director of the Center and currently advises our new Latin American Graduate Organization (LAGO) led by Marisela Andrade Chávez Narváez (MA Student, Latin American and Caribbean Studies). Finally, I want to thank Jill Kuhnheim for her efforts as Director of the Center for the last three and half years; and also thank the staff: Rubén Flores, Peter Haney, Danika Swanson, Cathy Swenson-Tucker, and Rebecca Dunavin for their hard work and enthusiasm during these hectic months. I am deeply thankful for this opportunity and look forward to interacting with all of you in my new role in coming years.
CLACS Welcomes Paraguayan Ambassador

When March rolled around, most people on campus were watching the NCAA tournament, but Latin Americanists in the know had their eyes on something a little different. On the 14th of that month, the University had the privilege of hosting the annual meeting of the Kansas Paraguay Partners. Paraguay’s ambassador to the United States, Igor Pangrazio (KU ’90) was a guest of honor, as was Steve Vedder, national President of Partners of the Americas, the national nonprofit organization to which KPP belongs. The Center held a gathering to welcome Ambassador Pangrazio to campus on Friday, March 13th in Bailey 318. He seemed excited to return to his alma mater and connect with Latin Americanist faculty, Latin American & Caribbean Studies students, the Chancellor, and of course, with Jayhawks from his native land. Since 1968 Partners has paired U.S. states with countries in Latin America for people-to-people cultural, educational, and technical exchanges. KPP and its Paraguayan partner organization, the Comité Paraguayan Kansas KPP, are internationally known for excellent projects ranging from student exchanges to artist travel grants to aid projects involving libraries and emergency preparedness. The theme of the program was “Opportunities for Leadership.” The CLACS community was pleased to be able to welcome the Kansas Paraguay Partners to campus and we look forward to future collaborations.

CLACS Bids Farewell to Dean Danny Anderson

CLACS would like to take this opportunity to give farewell and thanks to College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Danny Anderson as he has accepted the position of President of Trinity University in San Antonio. Having served for KU faculty and as an administrator for 27 years, Anderson was a great friend to CLACS throughout his climb to increasingly greater leadership roles. He directed the Center for two years before becoming Associate Dean of International Studies. Throughout his time as dean of the College, he remained active in the life of the Center. His presence will be missed. We wish him the best as he begins the next chapter at Trinity University.

The Hall Center Latin American Seminar

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

The theme for the 2014-2015 seminar series is “Violence in Latin America.” Spring 2014’s distinguished presenters included:

⦁ January 26th, Luciano Tosta, Spanish and Portuguese. “Fictional and Everyday Violence: Brazilian Audience as an Interpretive Community of Brazilian Cinema.”


⦁ March 12th, Valerie Mendoza, American Studies. “Creating Cultural Space in a Kansas Town: Topeka’s Mexican Fiesta.”


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The CLACS community meets Paraguay’s ambassador. From left, Peter Haney, Betsaida Reyes, Amber Hansen, Nicole Strubing-Cartes, Jay Newton, Ambassador Igor Pangrazio, Diana Restrepo-Osorio, Rafael Acosta Morales, Gregory Cushman, Gabriela Valdovinos-Sacarello, and Andrea Ramirez-Caceres. Not pictured: Santa Arias, Melissa Birch.

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Gregory Cushman

Gregory Cushman (Ph.D. in Latin American history, Univ. of Texas) is Associate Professor of History and Environmental Studies. His teaching and research interests include Latin America, 1450-present (especially the Andean and Pacific Worlds, Peru, Chile, and Cuba); environmental history (including climate, volcanoes, oceans, soils, natural disasters, conservation, and the tropical world); indigenous peoples (particularly Rapanui, Muchik, Quechua, and Aymara ethnicities); and the history of science, technology, and engineering.

Greg has just been awarded a 2015 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. With this prestigious award, he will have time to complete the book *The Anthropocene and the Age of Revolution: A People's History of the Earth under Human Domination*. This project will examine the history of the idea of the Anthropocene—our unique “human epoch” of geological history—its historical causes, and relevance for human values. This fellowship will also provide travel support enabling him to return to Peru, Chile, and its Isla de Pascua (Easter Island) for field research.

Greg is the author of *Guano and the Opening of the Pacific World: A Global Ecological History* (published in 2013 by Cambridge University Press), with a special focus on Latin America’s historical connection to the rest of the Pacific Basin. His book was reviewed by the Times Literary Supplement, Science, and over a dozen other national and international journals. It received the inaugural Jerry Bentley Prize in World History from the American Historical Association, the Murdo J. MacLeod Book Prize from the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association, and the Henry A. Wallace Award from the Agricultural History Society.

**Faculty Updates**

**Giselle Anatol**, Director of Graduate Studies, Associate Professor, Department of English, published *The Things That Fly in the Night: Female Vampires in Literature of the Circum-Caribbean & African Diaspora* with Rutgers University Press. The book has received considerable attention and acclaim. She also wrote the forward to *A Wizard of Their Age: Critical Essays from the Harry Potter Generation* and gave lectures both at KU and abroad. Finally, she taught a graduate “block seminar” at Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany in January titled “Caribbean Women Writers: Resistance and Revolt.”

**Caroline Chaboo**, Curator in the Biodiversity Institute and Assistant Professor in EBB, will lead an OSA Biology field course to Costa Rica in June 2015. Sixteen KU students will participate in research on plant-animal interactions. Two students have been awarded Rudkins Scholarships for international Interdisciplinary Experiences for Art+Science projects; others are seeking UGRA awards for international research. A UCR-KU grant from the Office of International Programs is supporting the research collaboration of two Biology faculty at the University of Costa Rica (UCR), Mauricio Fernández and Paul Hanson, with Chaboo.

**Christian Dimitriu**, Department of Philosophy, was the lead speaker at an American Philosophical Association panel in St. Louis in February. He gave a speech titled “New Directions in Global Justice”.

**Veronica Garibotto**, Assistant Professor and Graduate Admissions Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese will publish articles this year in *Latin American Literary Review, Hispanic Research Journal*, and the *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*. All of the pieces deal with contemporary Argentine cinema. She was awarded a General Research Fund for “Historicity at a Crossroads” from KU and received the Cramer Professorship Excellence in Research and Teaching Award, along with a Junior Faculty Teaching Award from the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs.

**Cassandra Mesick**, Curator of Global Indigenous Art at the Spencer Museum of Art, participated in the 2015 College Art Association’s annual conference. Along with her colleague Celka Straughn, she presented a paper titled “Colonial, National, and Global Museum Discourses in Guatemala and India: A Comparative Case Study”.

**Brent Metz**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, co-published an article with Spanish anthropologist Alfredo Francesch titled “Llamas de inseguridad en el oriente de Guatemala: Mega-proyectos y la quema de la municipalidad de Jocotán.”

**Mehrangiz Najafizadeh**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology – Recipient of a 2014 Mortar Board Outstanding Educator Award. This award was presented by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little on November 14th. She also received the University of Kansas Panhellenic Association Faculty Member of the Month Award, an award that is presented to faculty who have assisted students in reaching their academic potential.

**Anton Rosenthal**, Associate Professor, Department of History, released a new publication titled “The Streetcar in the Urban Imaginary of Latin America” in the January 2015 online edition of the *Journal of Urban History*. 
Visiting Latin Americanist Scholars

Élika Ortega-Guzmán

Media scholar Élika Ortega-Guzmán joined KU in January as a Digital Humanities Postdoctoral Researcher. Ortega is based at the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities (IDRH) which has been funded since 2010 as a partnership of KU Libraries, the Hall Center for the Humanities and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Ortega’s work as a postdoc is divided into three parts: teaching, outreach, and research. For the teaching part, she is currently developing a two-term Introduction to Digital Humanities course. Part 1: Methods, Applications, and Collaborations will be taught next Fall, and Part 2: DH and the World Out There will be offered in the Spring. The overall objective of the course is to provide students with a panoramic of Digital Humanities both in practice and in theory, which will allow them to get started on their own projects.

Her research focuses on Electronic Literature (E-Lit). With Alexandra Saum-Pascual (UC Berkeley), she is the co-P.I. in Hispanic Legacies in Electronic Literature: The Trace of Experimental Writing in Spain and Latin America. This project looks into the connections between features of Iberoamerican experimental writing from the twentieth century and traces how they have been reimagined or relocated into digital literary works produced in the last two decades. Further, at KU Libraries and thanks to a GRF grant, she’s looking into access and preservation of electronic literary works, which are highly dependent on cycles of technological innovation and obsolescence. Finally, the outreach component of Ortega’s work is focused on supporting and assisting scholars who might be interested in DH and would like to gain more skills, find collaborators, or get projects started. Through IDRH she also organizes workshops and the Fall Digital Humanities forum.

Vanina Maria Teglia

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese served as a temporary home for Vanina Maria Teglia, the 2015 Fulbright-MENA Visiting Scholar.

Teglia has a Ph.D. in literature and teaches 16th-19th century Latin American literature at the Universidad de Buenos Aires. In addition, she holds a postdoc research position at CONICET, Argentina’s National Council for Scientific and Technical Investigation, where her focus is on colonial literature in Hispanic America.

At the beginning of February 2015, she participated in the Merienda Lecture Series sponsored by the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies at the University of Kansas. Her lecture was on opposing patterns for representing Native Americans in the 16th century. Given the topic, Teglia also gave a talk at Haskell Indian Nations University on April 15th.

During the spring semester at KU, she sat in on a course offered by Professor Santa Arias in the Spanish Department. During the class, “Travel, Histories, and Myths of the Early Modern Iberian World,” Teglia presented some of the topics in her area of expertise.

During her stay at KU, Teglia made progress on a book she is writing about utopian representations in the historical works of Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo and Bartolomé de las Casas. Dr. Teglia’s main goal during her stay at our university was to enrich her work with different research methodologies and the specific teaching in colonial and postcolonial studies. Her exchange with Professor Santa Arias and other professors of the department (Verónica Garibotto, Rafael Acosta, Antonio Simões and Jill Kuhnheim) was enriching for the Argentinian scholar and for the department members as well. The extensive libraries and online catalogues at KU also made an important contribution to her work.

Teglia received a grant co-sponsored by the Fulbright Commission and Argentina’s National Education Ministry. It is generally awarded to professors from Argentina’s public universities for three months. The aim of the grant is to provide talented scholars committed to teaching and research with the chance to do research and postgrad work in the United States. The candidates have personal and academic qualities that ensure they will garner the maximum benefits from this program and be committed to the host universities during their stay in the United States.
CLACS Supports Grad Student Research

Latin Americanist graduate students on campus continue to pursue cutting-edge projects with support of the Center and with mentorship from CLACS faculty, and many are attracting significant outside support to their work. A special word of congratulations is due to History doctoral student George Klaeren, who won a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in Spain on the intersection of religion and the Enlightenment in the Spanish empire. This semester, CLACS partnered with the Kansas African Studies Center to organize a Graduate Research Symposium on April 3rd. KU presenters included Sarah Ngoh (English), Lindsay Harroff (Communication Studies), David Dalton (Spanish & Portuguese), Claire Wolnisty (History), Aida Ramos-Viera (Geography), Ryan Daugherty (Political Science), and Ximena Sevilla (History). A highlight of the event was a keynote address on Tupac Shakur by historian Jeremy Prestholdt of the University of California, San Diego. Graduate students from outside KU also presented on Africanist topics. Rubén Flores and Glenn Adams put tremendous effort into organizing the symposium, and it showed. All of the Latin Americanist presenters shared work they had developed with Tinker awards from the Center. A number of students returned in the Spring from Tinker-funded research conducted over Winter Break. Here’s a sampling of what they were up to.

Randy David (Biological Anthropology)

Randy visited Santo Domingo to collect and analyze interview and survey data on the biocultural correlates involved in Chikungunya transmission and severity from 50 former patients. Information collected included demographic data, health and general background information, and lastly, epidemiological and symptomatic data. The results will be submitted for publication and disseminated, so that we may better understand the biocultural correlates involved in Chikungunya infection in the Americas and prevent its spread.

Jennifer Abercrombie Foster (Spanish & Portuguese)

From January 3 to January 17, 2015, Jennifer visited Havana and Santiago de Cuba, interviewing various women involved in the arts and visiting cultural centers, museums, and local bookstores. While in Havana, she interviewed a number of prominent artists and activists and met with people involved with the Casa de las Américas and the Unión de Escritores. She also attended events sponsored by Casa de ALBA. This trip was Jennifer’s first experience with international field research and it has energized her interest in women’s issues in Latin America and will contribute to her dissertation.

César Silva (Spanish & Portuguese)

César spent two weeks in Argentina and in Uruguay study the effects of the approval of same-sex marriage on LGBT communities there, visiting many notable activists and GLBTQ non-profit organizations. He collected a surprising amount of material on trans issues. The trip continues to yield dividends after César’s return, as he has been able to maintain contact with people he met and has conducted interviews via Skype during the Spring.

Claire Wolnisty (History)

Claire visited Brazil’s National Library, its National Archive, and various research centers at the State University of Campinas to study the neglected history of migrants from the former Confederacy who settled in Brazil after the U.S. Civil War. Her research seeks to challenge Southern accounts of this history that highlight the individualism, patriotism, and liberalism of southern immigrants. She suggests that these accounts fail to account for the support that the Brazilian government provided to the migrants. She will reference these sources in a paper at Virginia Tech’s “Citizenship in the Era of the Civil War” conference in April and in an article for its edited proceedings.

Diana Restrepo-Osorio (Geography)

Through her visit to Paraguay Diana experienced the vitality of the country’s cattle industry, as well as the challenges it faces in the global economy. In addition to learning about the mechanics of cattle ranching, she sought to determine what the term “sustainability” meant in different contexts there and the differences between the Spanish words “sustentable” and “sostenible.” Diana anticipates continuing with comparative work on sustainability in cattle production in Kansas and the Southern Cone for her dissertation.

Caleb Lázaro Moreno (American Studies)

Caleb traveled to Mexico City to work with the Inquisition collection of the Archivo General de la Nación (AGN). He consulted sources related to reported human sacrifices and other documents that shed light on the establishment of a Western legal system in New Spain. Among the documents were accounts of Spaniards who were punished by the Inquisition for their reluctance to affirm the extension of Christ’s grace to Native populations. He emerged from the project with a new understanding of the ways the Inquisition required that all subjects (including Spaniards) to articulate a theology that incorporated Native subjects as a source of labor that needed to be kept alive.
If you were interested in the Americas at KU during Spring 2015, you had a problem: how to keep up with everything that was happening on campus. Of course the big news in the Western Hemisphere has been the move toward normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States. KU audiences got to hear a spirited debate on this topic at the Dole Center March 24th. Before a packed house, Prof. Marifeli Pérez-Stable of Florida International University and Frank Calzon, executive director of the Center for a Free Cuba, presented sharply contrasting views on the situation. Dr. Pérez characterized the new rapprochement as a moment of hope for Cuban Americans and an opportunity for the U.S. to connect with its sympathizers among the Cuban people and promote democratization. Calzon argued that the U.S. had not secured enough human rights concessions from the Castro administration, and that any normalization would only prop up the island’s communist government at a time when regime change was needed. The KU community also got a chance to learn about events in Mexico when parents of some of the 43 missing education students missing from a teacher’s college in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, visited Ecumenical Campus Ministries in March under the aegis of Kansas City’s Cross Border Network. The parents described...Continued on page 15

Any historian worthy of the name would acknowledge that trade with China did much to shape colonial New Spain and is increasingly reshaping contemporary Latin America. In recent months Lawrence has hosted Valerie Campos, a Mexico City-based painter and organizer of “Nao Now,” a multinational exhibit of works produced in 2014 by artists from her native country during residencies in Beijing. The exhibit takes its name from the trade route between Mexico and China that existed in the era of New Spain and was known as “La Nao de China”. The project title is a word-play between “Nao” which was the type of boat used and English “Now.” The phonetic repetition “NAO NOW” in Chinese sounds like “brain-brain” and refers to the intellectual and cultural exchange between two countries. After a show of selected works from the project and a series of talks at the Lawrence Arts Center, Ms. Campos and curator Pablo Rico joined a March 3rd panel at KU organized by the Centers for Latin American & Caribbean Studies and East Asian Studies. With them were KU historians Gregory Cushman and Megan Greene who reflected on the relationship between China and Latin America. Both historians emphasized the spread of New World crops to Asia and the Pacific and the sharp changes in population, land use, and lifestyle that came from this, as well as the importance of Asian food crops and design motifs in the life of the Americas. Rounding out the panel, ethnomusicologist Ketty Wong described her recent work on “Latin” dance in China, where retirees in parks are making Salsa, Cha-Cha, and other forms their own. Reflecting on the exhibit and the process behind it, Mr. Rico emphasized the importance of face-to-face artistic exchange in an increasingly virtual world. We expect that future collaborations between area studies centers and KU and community-based arts organizations will promote many such encounters going forward.

Mexican artist Valerie Campos speaks on the Nao Now project at KU with Cannie Fitzpatrick, translator
Can you imagine KU students visiting Brazil over Spring Break without so much as touching a swimsuit? That’s just what happened with Prof. Melissa Birch’s Business in Brazil program from March 14-22nd, and believe it or not, nobody missed the sunbathing. In partnership with IES Abroad, Dr. Birch introduced a diverse group of undergraduate business majors and MBA students to the vibrant and volatile life of South America’s biggest economy. In Rio and São Paulo, students visited industry and finance players ranging from foreign firms like Nike and EY (the accounting firm formerly known as Ernst and Young) to such national concerns as the construction giant Odebrecht, the country’s stock market (BOVESPA), and the sustainable cosmetic manufacturer Natura. For media nerds in the group, the trip’s highlights may have been meeting the publicity staff of the magazine publisher Editorial Abril and getting a tour of the studios of Globo, Brazil’s dominant television network. After all, how many students can say they’ve visited the set of a telenovela. Although the class had been planned for some time, it ended up bringing students to Brazil at a time of crisis. After a long boom, the country’s growth is lagging, unemployment is rising, and corruption scandals at Petrobras, the state oil company, have stoked dissatisfaction with President Dilma Roussef, especially among the middle and upper classes. KU’s group did not witness firsthand the massive demonstrations that rocked Brazil’s major cities that week, but reports of them blared from every corner restaurant and newsstand. The country’s economic uncertainties were clearly on the minds of many of the executives who shared their thoughts with the group. Of course the trip had its lighter moments, from a visit to Rio’s famed Cristo Redentor statue to samba lessons and a raucous soccer match, not to mention the obligatory churrascaria meal. And though the schedule was packed, students did manage to catch the KU/New Mexico State game, because March Madness knows no borders. Oh and don’t worry. Nobody actually got in the water, but a stroll down Copacabana Beach was not missing from the week’s agenda. All in all the class provided students with an intense introduction to what the world of business looks like from one of the global South’s most important and volatile emerging markets.

Taryn Thompson and Cassandra Tomás visit the famous Selarón Steps of Rio De Janeiro

CLACS FLAS alumnus serves as Quechua Consultant for STARZ

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies can finally reveal that former FLAS fellow Fisher Adwell worked as a Quechua language consultant for Season 2 of the Starz Network’s series Da Vinci’s Demons. We would have told you earlier but it would have been a spoiler. For those unfamiliar with the show, it is a quasi-historical fantasy based loosely on the early life of Leonardo Da Vinci. Four episodes of its second season (“The Sun and the Moon,” “The Rope of the Dead,” “The Vault of Heaven,” and “The Fall from Heaven”) took place in South America and featured characters who spoke Quechua. In the episodes in question, Leonardo Da Vinci travels to the New World to search for the infamous “Book of Leaves.” Upon arrival, he and his compatriots are captured by the local Inca and brought to Machu Picchu where they meet a priestess named Ima.

...Continued on page 13
What makes the ultimate Spring Break experience? For a diverse group of students it was sunny skies, trekking at the base of an iconic volcano, navigating the city of San José, and learning about careers. Every spring, students from the KU Career Center’s “Preparing for International Careers” class spend the semester learning about the strategies, skills, and experience necessary to pursue international employment. As part of the experience, they travel to London or Costa Rica during Spring Break. The course is designed for students of all majors with an interest in exploring international careers.

The six undergraduates that traveled to Costa Rica had majors ranging from journalism, accounting, and even genetics. The program was led by Julie Hamel, Assistant Director at the KU Career Center, and CLACS graduate student, Marisela Chávez. For Hamel, one of the most valuable aspects of this class is that the students get the opportunity to meet with professionals through the employer visits and informational interviews—real people, with real jobs. “I think this is what distinguishes this trip from other study abroad experiences that focus more on language, culture or history,” she says, “students really do get to hear and see what it takes to have an international career, from those who are making that happen for themselves! I think this experience helps students envision themselves in similar roles and helps them truly understand what skills and traits they will need to develop if this is what they want.”

Once in Costa Rica, the students hit the ground running. After a busy morning of touring the capital, trying the typical casado meal, and tinkering around an artisan market, they were officially welcomed by KU alums—many of whom teach at the University of Costa Rica or work for international companies. These Jayhawks spent the evening talking about basketball, learning more about what life is like in San José, and getting advice on how to navigate the process of advancing their education or working abroad.

Over the next few days the students visited such employers, as Citibank, Costa Rica Productions, U.S. AID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the Peace Corps, the University of Costa Rica, and a coffee plantation. Before leaving San José, they conduct informational interviews with others in their field. This took some effort but the insight they gained was worth it.

Finally, a scenic drive out of the central valley led them to La Fortuna where they got a chance to relax under the shadow of the majestic Arenal Volcano. A visit to the Sacred Seeds Sanctuary provided them with the opportunity to learn about some of the medicinal properties of rainforest plants and the types of international careers linked to that field. The week was jam-packed with meetings, new sights, and experiences, and for many, it was hard to say “so long”. But if there is one thing that they all left agreeing on is this: Costa Rica is pura vida, ma’e!

Jennifer Abercrombie Foster came to KU after spending one year volunteering in Honduras and a second year auditing classes at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras. Jennifer received her BA in Spanish and Professional Writing from the University of Oklahoma. Here at KU, she has branched out, conducting research on women’s artistic production in Cuba on a Tinker grant. She is currently completing her dissertation, titled “(Un)Natural Pairings: Uncanny, Marvelous, Fantastical, and Cyborgian Encounters in Contemporary Central American and Caribbean Literature.” Her work explores the way Central American and Caribbean writers employ fantastic and eerie stories to rethink traditional gender and sexual ideologies, negotiating the gap between lived experience and official versions of national history.

This Spring she is the winner of the Stansifer Award, which was established by Professor Emeritus of History Charles Stansifer. A former director of the Center and longtime stalwart of the KU Latin Americanist community, Dr. Stansifer established the award at the time of his retirement to support the work of graduate students interested in Central America and Mexico.
SNAPSHOTS OF SPRING 2015

DMA Student and flautist Ana María Hernández tries out an Andean flute at the LAGO Earth Day Concert in the Commons

Spanish & Portuguese Ph.D. student David Dalton at the Graduate Research Symposium

LAGO members at their International Expo table in the Kansas Union

M’Balia Thomas, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Teaching, discusses diversity in study abroad at her merienda lecture in Bailey 318
Ready to say Good Bye to Spring Semester?

Come Celebrate with Us!

Thursday May 14
ECM, 8:00 p.m.

Contribution:
$5 two people
$3 one person

Drinks and Snacks available for purchase. Cash only.

DJ Jalapeño playing live!
Professional couple teaching salsa steps!
More surprises!!
Merienda Lectures

The Center’s merienda series continues to be the place to hear about the latest work on the Western Hemisphere by students, faculty, and visiting scholars over a nice lunch of rice and beans. The speakers represent a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds, and presentations typically last 40-50 minutes with a 10-15 Q&A. This semester lectures happened on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 12:00-1:00 in Bailey 318. We would like to thank all of the Spring 2015 Marienda presenters listed below. Please visit the website for the series under the News and Events sections of the CLACS website for more information and event photos.

January 22
Ezekiel Stear
“The Doubly Chosen: Nahua Pantheism in the Crónica mexicayotl.”

February 5
Vanina Teglia
“Alternanicas, contradicciones y transformaciones de modelos de representación de la otredad en discursos encontrados de mediados del siglo XVI.”

March 5
M’Balia Thomas
“Globalization, the Cultural Imaginary, & the Challenge to Promote and Diversify US Study Abroad.”

April 2
Ludwin Molina
“National Identity & Immigration Policy: Enforcing Laws or Ethnocentric Exclusion?”

April 16
Jacob Longaker
“Transgender Organizing & Public Policy in Latin America.”

May 8
Enrique Chaves-Carballo
“American Medicine & the Panama Canal: The Control of Yellow Fever and Other Tropical Diseases”

Award Recipients and Graduates

Tinker Grant Recipients

- Brett Bias, History (Luis Corteguera)
- David Cooper, Sociology (Mehrangiz Najafizadeh)
- Rachel Denney, WGSS (Hannah Britton)
- Silvia Sánchez, Cultural Anthropology (Brent Metz)
- Will Penner, Geography (J. Christopher Brown)
- Diana Restrepo, Geography (J. Christopher Brown)
- Courtney Sánchez, Film & Media Studies (Tamara Falicov)
- S. Thomas Scott, Vocal Pedagogy (James Daugherty)
- Ximena Sevilla, History (Gregory Cushman)
- Taylor Tappan, Geography (Peter Herlihy)
- Arianna Tulloch, American Studies (Rubén Flores)

Oppenheimer Award

- Amber Ables, Biological Anthropology
- Matthew Farhenbruch, Geography
- Joey Hentzler, LACS

Herzfeld Award

- Megan Wetschensky, Early Childhood, Junior
- Hannah Taylor, Social Work, Junior

Graduating Students

Undergraduate Majors

- Gus Bova
- Joey Hentzler
- Cassandra Osei
- Kathryn Sopcich

Undergraduate Minors

- Carmen Elena Bosneag
- Stefanie Carnahan
- Matt Carrillo
- Rachel Cross
- Lindsey Fisher
- Tor Fornelli
- David Alberto Knox
- Paige Manka
- Meaghan Palmer

MA Students

- Federico Cervantes
- Marisela Chávez-Narváez
- Jorge Soberón-Hernández

Congratulations!
This Spring, the community of Latin Americanist scholars on campus was delighted to learn that the noted sociologist and Arizona State University migration scholar Cecilia Menjívar will join KU’s faculty as a Foundation Professor in the Fall.

Menjívar, who has been on the faculty at Arizona State since 1996, is a prolific and award-winning author. Her work spans six books and more than 90 articles. Two of the books, *Enduring Violence: Latina Women’s Lives in Guatemala* and *Fragmented Ties: Salvadoran Immigrant Networks in America*, have received numerous awards and accolades. A Guggenheim Fellow, Prof. Menjívar has served on editorial boards of more than a dozen prestigious journals in sociology, Latina/o studies, gender studies and social justice. She is also an active member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Sociological Association, for which she currently vice president.

Joining her in the sociology department will be a second Foundation Professor, Victor Agadjanian, the founding director of ASU’s Center for Population Dynamics, which studies a variety of issues related to human demography with a particular focus on migration and immigration, family dynamics and population health. Prof. Agadjanian has published extensively on the relationship between migration and health in Eastern Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa and has served on the National Institutes of Health Committee on the Priorities for Behavioral and Social Research on HIV. Together the two will found a center for migration studies on campus whose precise shape remains to be determined. They join a scholarly community where a strong interest in such issues as migration, immigration, diaspora, and human trafficking crosses disciplines and regional specialties. “It’s easy to find immigration studies centers on the coasts, but to have one in the center of the country is important,” Menjívar told the *University Daily Kansan* in an article posted April 20th. “It will provide a different angle and shed light on relevant issues.” These hires and the creation of the new Center advance the “Building Communities, Expanding Opportunities” and “Promoting Well-Being: Finding Cures” strategic initiatives that form part of KU’s *Bold Aspirations* plan.

KU hires Migration Experts as Foundation Professors to create Migration Studies Program

Fisher translated sections of the scripts that were to be spoken in Quechua from their original English into the indigenous language. He also gave advice on Quechua word usage and created phonetic renderings and sound recordings to help the actors with pronunciation. The job wasn’t easy, and Quechua instructor Nina Kinti-Moss helped out and even provided recordings for the female speakers. *Da Vinci’s Demons* is not a show known for its historical accuracy. It does nothing, for example, to disabuse the public of the idea that “Da Vinci” was Leonardo’s last name. Viewers will judge for themselves the way it represents indigenous peoples of the Americas. Maybe there’s a dissertation chapter in there for somebody. But at least a KU graduate and his language instructor helped STARZ get the language right. Fisher remains in Lawrence, pursuing a degree in Library Science and working at the KU Libraries and the Lawrence Public Library.
By Peter Haney

Spring 2015 marks a milestone for the Undergraduate program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The students graduating this semester came to KU just as the Center rolled out its reorganized undergraduate major and were here during the creation of the new Indigenous Studies in Latin America (ISLA) track in the minor. It’s hard to imagine a more accomplished and committed group than the students we are saying goodbye to this year.

Major Gus Bova, who was a FLAS fellow in Ecuador last year, is heading to Austin, Texas after graduation, where he plans to work as an Americorps volunteer at Casa Marianella, an emergency shelter for immigrants and refugees. During his last year at KU Gus made himself nearly indispensable at Centro Hispano, where he regularly worked and pioneered the “Hermanos sin fronteras,” program serving as a “big brother” to a local immigrant teenager. Gus also earned an undergraduate research award, and under the supervision of Peter Haney and Bart Dean, he did an original project on interpreters who serve speakers of indigenous Latin American languages in the U.S. legal system. A poster session of work was part of the Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 25th. Not to be outdone, Joey Hentzler has finished his double major in political science and LACS while working for the International Relations Council of Kansas City and the Dole Institute of Politics and preparing to start the LACS MA program here at KU in the Fall! Cassandra Osei has also had a busy Spring semester. She received an undergraduate research award for a project on the politics of affirmative action in the U.S. in the 1990s, under the supervision of Clarence Lang. While completing this project, she managed to get accepted to Ph.D. program in History the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, where she will have a FLAS fellowship for further Portuguese language study. And to top it off, Cassie won the Rusty Leffel Concerned Student Award this Spring! Cassandra Osei learns of her receipt of the Rusty Leffel Concerned Student Award from Vice Provost for Student Affairs Tammara Durham.

Kate Sopcich has been off campus this Spring after a semester in Chile, working as an intern at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs. Our last undergraduate major to intern there was Trent Boultinghouse who, after a stint at the Department of Defense, is now pursuing a degree in international relations in Brazil.

Several of our minors are also graduating. Business major Lindsey Fisher, back this semester from a program abroad in Costa Rica, has accepted a position at AIG after graduation. Human Biology major Meaghan Palmer, who is has an undergraduate fellowship from the Center this year to study Quichua, will enroll in a Physician’s Assistant program in the Fall. In the long term, she plans to return to the Andean region to do medical work. Rachel Cross, who with Meaghan, Gus and several graduate students has created KU’s Runaximi Club to promote Quichua on campus, will also be graduating, along with Stefanie Carnahan, Matt Carrillo, Bryan Kurz, Tor Fornelli, and Paige Manka. Our continuing minors also have accomplishments under their belts this year. Among them is Anthropology major Thomas Robinson, who was named a Global Scholar this year. GIST major Carmen Bosneag expects to graduate in the summer. Congratulations to all of the accomplished students who make our program a success!
in vivid detail their struggle to find their children, who disappeared after an encounter with police in September of last year. The Mexican government maintains that local police corrupted by drug traffickers murdered the students and burned their bodies. Recent news reports have cast doubt on this story and have suggested that government involvement in the students’ disappearance may go higher. The parents visited Lawrence as a part of a speaking tour of the United States aimed at drawing attention to the human rights abuses occasioned by the drug war.

One of the most exciting things about this Spring’s programming has been the way student organizations have taken the initiative to help create programming on campus. One of the most active groups has been the Latin American Graduate Organization (LAGO). During the Spring LAGO partnered with undergraduates to sponsor a screening of the Gael García-Bernal documentary Who is Dayani Cristal. In this film, the noted actor traces the journey of a Honduran immigrant whose body was found in the Arizona desert, and visits the man’s family in his home country, bringing the everyday tragedy of migrant deaths into sharp relief. The idea for the screening came from members of the Ecumenical Campus Ministries student organization who participated in an alternative Winter Break program organized by the Mexico Solidarity Network in Chicago. LAGO also organized a rousing performance of Andean music in celebration of Earth Day by the Bolivian-born multi-instrumentalist Amado Espinoza. Together with his wife, dancer Karen Lisondra, Espinoza played to an enthusiastic crowd in the Commons at Spooner Hall. The event was supported in part by the KU Student Senate. LAGO will follow this event with a Latin Dance night at Ecumenical Campus Ministries May 14th, so mark your calendar!

Other student organizations also held events related to Latin America this Spring. Among them was La Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc., whose KU chapter invited History professor Robert Schwaller and Louisiana State University doctoral candidate Amaris del Carmen Guzmán to present on the complexities of Afro-Latin@ identities. Not to be outdone, KU’s international studies club, Jayhawks Without Borders, hosted Melissa Stiehler of the Cross Border Network in April. Melissa, an economics undergraduate at UMKC, shared the latest news about the political situation in Honduras and information about a delegation that the Network plans for May.

Of course, events related to Latin America on campus weren’t all politics. Fans of Latin American music had much more to choose from on campus than just the Earth Day Concert. KU’s Lied Center hosted two Latin American programs: the Brazil Guitar Duo in February and a piano recital in March titled “From Fado to Tango” featuring music of Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula. Flautist Ana María Hernández-Candelas, fresh from the release of her second CD, gave her third DMA recital this semester featuring the music of Berio, Schumann, Nielsen and Sancan. Her husband, organist Andrés Mojica-Martínez, also gave his final DMA recital on April 20th. Andrés and Ana María return to their beloved Borinquen soon, and we will all miss this musical duo around campus!

Music fans who couldn’t make those events could tune in to “Latin Lab” on KJHK at 11:00 Tuesday nights. Run this semester by David Simon, the program has long been a fixture of KHJK’s lineup. In Fall 2014, members of LAGO and Kansas City’s Colombian Cultural Association got involved and joined David in studio for nights of music from such countries as Colombia and Costa Rica. Toward the end of the Spring, students in Ketty Wong’s Latin American Music class (MUSC 305/LAA 302) brought their presentations on carnival traditions across the Americas to the airwaves. “Working with KJHK really enriched the class,” said Dr. Wong. “Because the students knew they were going to be on the radio, they took the presentations seriously and put their hearts into the research,” she added. We are pleased to report that LAGO has agreed to take over Latin Lab for the Fall in cooperation with the Colombian Cultural Association of Kansas City.
Giving to Latin American & Caribbean Studies

By giving to LACS, you contribute to Latin American academic activities, community outreach, special guests, 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.

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

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.

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

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Thank you for your support!