We began the fall semester with good news on our Title VI grant. The Center was again designated as a Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) by the Department of Education and received Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship funding for 2014-17. The Center expects approximately $1.9 million in funding during the four-year cycle. The Title VI NRC grant will provide support to: 1) strengthen research collaboration across disciplines; 2) increase the area studies and language competencies of students, especially from underrepresented groups; 3) strengthen K-12 education through Latin American Studies-enhanced teacher education courses and longer term in-service training initiatives; and 4) expand Latin American Studies outreach to Minority-Serving Institutions and community colleges, business, media, and the general public. The FLAS fellowship grant supports graduate and undergraduate students to pursue advanced proficiency in Portuguese and Haitian Creole. The competition was especially tough this round, given that the NRC budget has been cut by one third compared to four years ago. I’d like to thank all of the faculty and staff at the Center who worked so hard to make this happen. These grants are a reflection of the outstanding quality of Center-based and affiliate faculty and students across the University of Florida.

The Center had a very busy and productive fall semester. In September, we were proud to co-sponsor the Gainesville Latino Film Festival, now in its 10th year (p. 10). In recognition of the Center’s ongoing support of the festival over the years, we received the “Spreading the Light of Culture” Award from the Latina Women’s League. In October, the Center’s Program for Immigration, Religion, and Social Change (PIRSC) hosted the 5th Conference on Immigration to the US South (p. 3). The conference attracted over 200 community and religious leaders, activists, and scholars to discuss the theme, “Immigration Reform and Beyond?” In November, the Center helped organize the first “Gainesville Connected” conference together with the non-profit Projects for Haiti (P4H), and UF’s other area studies centers. The conference brought together over 130 educators, pre-service teachers, and non-profit groups in an effort to connect them with global education opportunities (p. 10). And finally, also in November, the Center teamed up with the Master of International Business program to host the 7th Latin American Business and Career Symposium. The symposium featured a number of distinguished alumni, who shared their expert insights and insider perspectives on the current business environment and professional opportunities in the Latin American and Caribbean region (p. 9).
Some 200 activists, advocates, academics, and interested community members convened on UF’s campus from October 23-25, 2014 to engage in lively discussions about immigration reform at the 5th Conference on Immigration to the US South (formerly Conference on Immigration to the Southeast).

A multidisciplinary event, the Conference drew from a wide range of perspectives in an effort to understand both short-term and long-term challenges of immigration reform. As the myriad speakers and panelists highlighted, this understanding can then be utilized to outline practical policy alternatives.

Three prominent keynote speakers helped to uncover and address these challenges. Archbishop Thomas Wenski (top right) of Miami outlined the perspective of the Catholic Church on immigration reform and the possibilities of shifting public opinion by re-moralizing the public discourse on immigration. Dr. Mae Ngai’s (bottom right) complex analysis of the history of “illegal” immigration to the U.S. provided important insights into present day immigration policy. Activist attorney Mónica Ramírez embodied the multifaceted nature of the conference as she offered an impassioned call to arms.

Friday night’s reception and gran baile energized conference participants with the help of Gilberto de Paz and the Tropix. A closing discussion of the next steps revealed an invigorated audience eager to fortify links between disciplines and actors in order to collectively continue to struggle for immigrant rights and reform. Participants have already begun to organize the 6th Conference, tentatively scheduled for 2016 at the University of South Carolina.

The conference was sponsored by the UF’s Center for Latin American Studies and the Program for Immigration, Religion, and Social Change (PIRSC) and was made possible through a grant from the Ford Foundation. Other co-sponsors included: Kennesaw State University Center for Conflict Management, the Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI) of Loyola University, New Orleans, and the Centro de Investigaciones Sobre América del Norte of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Contributed by Ana Porter, MALAS student
Save the Date!
We are planning a Center for Latin American Studies alumni reception in Miami

Thursday, February 26, 2015

More details to come
Email outreach@latam.ufl for more information

Envisioning a Sustainable Tropics
March 25 - 27, 2015

64th Center for Latin American Studies Annual Conference
Organized by the Tropical Conservation and Development Program

This conference is designed to stimulate a dynamic interchange about alternatives and solutions to deal with the complexity of finding sustainable solutions that meet the needs of future generations, while conserving the natural resources and ecosystem services on which they depend. Featured speakers include Avecita Chicchon, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation; Miguel Piñedo, Columbia University; Luis Suarez, Conservation International, and Claudio and Suzana Padua, Institute for Ecological Research.

For information and to register visit the conference website
http://www.tcd.ufl.edu/2015-tcd-las-conference

Welcome New Center Affiliates, Staff & Visitors!

Come Home
Selections from the Collection of Hector Puig

From September 2 to November 7, 2014, Come Home, a collection of the artwork of Gainesville resident and Puerto Rico native Hector Puig, was exhibited in three UF locations: The University Gallery, Focus Gallery, and Grinter Gallery, as well as at three other Gainesville sites. A series of events accompanied the exhibit, including guest artists (santeros, or santo carvers) from Puerto Rico. In celebration of the University Gallery’s 50th anniversary in 2015, Come Home served as a collaborative effort between UF, state and local government, and many others. Efrain Barradas (LAS/SPS) wrote two pieces for the exhibit and explained that, since two-thirds of the collection featured Latin American art, it seemed appropriate for the Center for Latin American Studies to co-sponsor the effort. The Center is involved in a diverse array of work, and this is an example of collaborating with the art community here in Gainesville. Puerto Rico has a strong santos tradition and Come Home exhibited 250 santos that chronicle 250 years of a 500-year-old tradition. Today, most of these santos remain in privately held collections. Most new santos are made as crafts, not as devotional objects. The Puig exhibit serves to show the richness of artistic expression in Latin America and the relevance of the santo tradition today.

Contributed by Caitlin Schroering
MALAS student
The Center Establishes the Hugh L. Popenoe Mesoamerican Research Fund

The Center is pleased to announce the establishment of the Hugh L. Popenoe Mesoamerican Research Endowment. The endowment is named after the late Hugh Popenoe, Professor Emeritus of Soils and Water Science at the University of Florida, and was made possible by a gift from Hugh’s estate. The new endowment will support graduate student and faculty research on Mesoamerica - with a preference for topics related to indigenous peoples and cultures of the region.

Born in 1929 in Tela, Honduras, Hugh devoted his life to the tropical world, its people, and its agriculture. Hugh’s education in Guatemala prepared him for a B.Sc. in Irrigation and his first employment in Thailand. He entered the University of Florida where he studied for his Ph.D. on the effects of shifting cultivation on basic soil properties near Lake Isabal in Guatemala. He spent the rest of his professional life teaching for the University as a professor in Soils and Water Science, Botany, Agronomy, and Geography and being involved in various international activities. After directing the Caribbean Research Program, he was appointed Director of the Center for Tropical Agriculture in 1965 and Director of International Programs in Agriculture in 1966. He initiated and was Director of the Florida Sea Grant College from 1971 to 1978. Internationally, Hugh was a past President and Emeritus Board member of La Escuela Agrícola Panamericana (Zamorano) in Honduras. He was a trustee of the International Foundation for Science and a founding board member of the Organization for Tropical Studies.

Of all his activities and accomplishments, Hugh was most proud of his more than 300 graduate students and of his honor in 2009 as the first recipient of the Charles B. Heiser, Jr. Mentor Award which he received from the Society for Economic Botany in recognition of substantially impacting the training and professional development of students.

UF International Educator of the Year

Patricia Sampaio, TCD Program Coordinator, was selected as UF’s 2014 Staff International Educator of the Year
Center faculty, students, and staff were honored to have two ambassadors to the U.S. visit during the fall 14 semester. Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of Poland to the U.S. and a Latinamericanist, honored us with a visit to the Center during Polish Week in Gainesville. Ecuadorean Ambassador to the U.S., Nathalie Cely, met with several faculty in the Center and in IFAS to explore future research collaborations, and with a group Ecuadorean students pursuing degrees at UF.

FACULTY NEWS

Glenn Galloway (MDP) edited and co-authored the new book *Forests under Pressure – Local Responses to Global Issues* (with P. Katila, W. de Jong, P. Pacheco, and G. Mery) produced by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Special Project World Forests, Society and Environment (WFSE). The book involved the collaboration of 144 scientists and experts who acted as authors and over 60 peer reviewers. Three case studies were developed with the leadership and participation of the following UF faculty: M. Schmink, K. Kainer, C. Romero and F.E. Putz. Building on 27 case studies from different parts of the world, the book focuses on conditions that foster or hinder progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest-based local development. [http://www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse/](http://www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse/)
Andrés Avellaneda (SPS, Emeritus) was appointed by Argentina’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to teach Latin American literature in its National Foreign Service Institute. He published a second edition of El habla de la ideología. Modos de réplica literaria en la Argentina contemporánea. Press of The Universidad de Buenos Aires (EUDEBA), 2014 and wrote a prologue to the second edition of Ficción y política. La narrativa argentina durante el proceso militar.


Amy Jo Coffey (TEL) published The Power of Cultural Factors in Spanish-Language Advertising. Journal of Advertising Research, 54(3) 2014: 346-355. She was one of 15 professors selected nationally to participate in the Advertising Educational Foundation’s Visiting Professor Program this summer. In July, she was the guest of two media agencies within the Starcom MediaVest Group - MediaVest in New York City and Tapestry in Chicago.

Jonathan Dain (LAS) was named a 2014 Faculty Fellow of the Florida Climate Institute. The award was for “outstanding education, extension, and service activities that contribute significantly to UF’s interdisciplinary communities of science in climate”. The award is for three academic years.

Carmen Diana Deere (LAS/FRE) gave the keynote at the 20th anniversary of the Rural Women’s program at the Colegio de Postgraduados, Campus Montecillo, Mexico, and was a featured speaker at the XV Encuentro Internacional de Estadísticas de Género, Aguascalientes, Mexico, in fall 2014. She published Género, estado civil y la acumulación de activos en el Ecuador: una mirada a la violencia patrimonial (with J. Contreras and J. Twyman). EUTOPIA. Revista de Desarrollo Económico Territorial (Quito), No. 5, 2014: 93-119 and ¿Quién toma las decisiones agrícolas? Un estudio de las mujeres propietarias en Ecuador (with J. Twyman). Agricultura, Sociedad y Desarrollo, No. 11, 2014: 425-440.


Susan D Gillespie (Anthropology) presented “The Commoditization of Jade at La Venta, Mexico” at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, Texas in April 2014. She published (with M. Volk) A 3d Model of Complex A, La Venta, Mexico. Digital Applications in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. DOI: 10.1016/j.daach.2014.06.00.


Richard Kernaghan (Anthropology) presented “Oblivious Land, Or The Ties That Hide In Camouflage Title” at the International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in Chicago in May 2014 and “Retratos en terreno: los cruces de ríos como paisajes de posguerra en el Perú” at the III Congreso Mexicano de Antropología Social y Etnología in Mexico City in September 2014. He also published Time as Weather: Corpse-work in the Prehistory of Political Boundaries. In Finn Stepputat, ed. Governing the Dead: Sovereignty and the Politics of Dead Bodies, Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2014.


Mary Risner (LAS, Emerita) organized and chaired the panel “Meeting Industry Needs through LSP Innovation in U.S. Schools” at the Second Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP) Symposium in Boulder, CO. She was also elected as Portuguese Representative for the American Association of Spanish & Portuguese (AATSP) and will serve on the executive board for two years.


Nigel Smith (Geography, Emeritus) published Palms and People in the Amazon. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2014.


Margarita Vargas-Betancourt (Department of Special & Area Studies Collections, Smathers Library) presented “Finding the Silver Voice: West Indians in the Panama Canal Museum Collection of the University of Florida” at the International Conference on Caribbean Literature in Panama City, Panama and co-curated (with P. Losch) the exhibit “Voices from the Panama Canal” at George A. Smathers Library, Smathers Library Gallery. August 11-October 24, 2014.
First CLGA Symposium: UF Alum Delivers a Talk on Unlawful Governance

On September 30, 2014 the Crime, Law, and Governance in the Americas (CLGA) Working Group welcomed Dr. Guillermina Seri (Union College, NY) as the first speaker of its 2014-2015 colloquium series. Dr. Seri, who holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Florida, is the author of the book Seguridad: Crime, Police Power, and Democracy in Argentina (2012). Entitled “Unlawful Governance in the Democracies: Lessons from Latin America” her talk examined state lawlessness—from political policing to torture to extra-judicial killings—and addressed its broad implications beyond the region. Founded in 2013 by an interdisciplinary group of faculty and graduate students, CLGA Working Group at the Center for Latin American Studies brings together scholars from the social sciences and the humanities, providing a venue for sharing findings, discussing ideas, mentoring graduate research and promoting collaborative investigation in the study of violence, crime, law, order and justice.

Latin American Business Environment (LABE) Symposium

In partnership with the Master of International Business program, the Center held its 7th Latin American Business & Career Symposium on November 7th. We would like to thank all of our alumni who shared their expertise and career advice with students.

Business in Brazil Summer Program

Summer 2014 Business in Brazil students and faculty from Pontifica Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR) meet with the project client in Curitiba, Brazil.
On November 1st, 2014 over 130 educators gathered together at the Alachua County Library Headquarters to participate in the First Annual Gainesville Connected. Nine speakers took the stage to share how they are raising global awareness in their classrooms. Speakers’ interests spanned the globe and their experiences are transforming their students’ lives. The Alachua County Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Owen Roberts, was the opening keynote speaker and shared his own story of global involvement while rallying educators to help develop students’ intercultural competency. Educators in attendance were thrilled to be gaining new strategies to implement in their classrooms. This conference was sponsored by Projects for Haiti, Inc. (P4H) and the Center for Latin American Studies and was co-sponsored by the Center for African Studies, the Center for European Studies, and the UF International Center, among others. Planning has already begun for next year’s conference, which will be open to educators from all over Florida.

Contributed by Priscilla Zelaya, Chief Operations Officer for Projects for Haiti

The 10th Gainesville Latino Film Festival wrapped up the month-long event on October 14th, 2014 reaching an audience of over 3,600 attendees.

The festival’s opening film, “Hugo, Paco, Luis, & Las Tres Chicas de Rosa,” was introduced by director Edmundo H. Rodriguez to an audience of over 400 people. The festival also showed the Bolivian film “El Regalo de Pachamama/ The Gift of Pachamama” and the Mexican film “My Mexican Shivah” to over 100 attendees each. The Ecuadorian documentary, “La Churona,” brought in an audience of over 130 people. The annual “Night in El Barrio” event brought more than 1,000 people to Downtown Gainesville for a night of salsa and art.

The inaugural 2014 Latina Women’s League “Spreading the Light of Culture” award was given to 10 individuals and/or organizations in recognition of their contributions to enriching Latino culture. The inaugural recipients included: the UF Center for Latin American Studies, Emiliano’s Café LLC, City of Gainesville, Visit Gainesville, Carmen Cuenca Accounting Co, Neutral7 Design Group, UF Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures, Harn Museum of Art, Hippodrome Theater, and Alachua County Library District.
Rainforests of Latin America – Belize is Your Classroom
Teacher Summer Institute 2014

In July, the Center for Latin American Studies Outreach Program teamed up with Gainesville’s Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE) to offer an eight-day Teacher Summer Institute for K-12 educators. The program, “Rainforests of Latin America – Belize is Your Classroom,” focused on integrating natural sciences and Latin American studies in order to enrich classroom curricula.

A total of five teachers participated in the action-packed trek through Belizean jungle reserves, Mayan villages, and barrier islands. Teachers came from Illinois, Tennessee, and Florida, with backgrounds in special education, science, and speech therapy. Their ingenuity and creativity elicited roundtable discussion at the BFREE facility where conservation projects with Hickatee turtles and Harpy eagles are in their infancies. A luncheon with local Belizean teachers afforded the opportunity for teachers of both nationalities to articulate their unique challenges and possible solutions.

Upon return to the United States, participants of the institute implemented various communication and teaching tools. Their creative ideas for experience-sharing include a digital photoshare, a trip blog, and a school bulletin board. Participant Kelly Mahan-Etcheverry reflected a general sentiment amongst the teachers that they “will make sure to incorporate the cultural and economic impacts to environmental preservation” in their lessons. Follow-up meetings in Gainesville and through virtual meeting spaces facilitate continued collaboration amongst teachers and their classrooms, as well as with agencies in Belize.

The Center has hosted similar summer institutes for teachers in years past, thanks due in large part to Title VI NRC funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The 2014 institute was the first in partnership with BFREE and the first in Central America.

Contributed by Mandy Monroe, MALAS student
STUDENT News

Summer ‘14 and Fall ‘14 Graduations

Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates
Brenda Brito (Telecommunications)
Tyler Egan (Botany)
Ava Funk (Spanish)
Madison Hayes (Anthropology)
Caitlin Anne Logrino (History)
Perla Pimentel (History & International Studies)
Michael Tarr (International Studies)
Maria Uribe (Public Relations)
Tatiana Yate (Political Science)

Graduate LAS Certificates
Carmen Laguer-Díaz, PhD (Anthropology)
Eleanor Laughlin, PhD (Art History)

Joint JD/MDP Degree
Gentry Mander
Specialization: TCD & Environmental and Land Use Law
Advisor: Marianne Schmink (LAS)
Capstone Field Practicum: Cacao Value Chain Analysis in Belize

FLAS Fellowships
Spring 2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Recipients
The following students received U.S. Department of Education Academic Year Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships from the Center for Latin American Studies:

Portuguese
Mirna Amaya (PhD) Health
Heather Bergseth (PhD) Music

Haitian Creole
Amanda DiLorenzo (MA) Counselor Education
Jeremy Lambeth (MDP)

2014 Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award
Vanessa Mintzer (PhD) SNRE
Co-Advisors: Tom Frazer (SNRE) and Kai Lorenzen (Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences)
Dissertation Title: An Evaluation of the Conservation of Amazon River Dolphins (Inia geoffrensis) in a Brazilian Protected Area

2014 Chuck Wood Outstanding MALAS Thesis Award
Adam Reid
Advisor: Lillian Guerra (History)
Thesis Title: Borders and Bridges: Negotiating Ethnic and National Identities in the Argentine Anarchist Movement, 1890-1930

New MALAS Students

Front, from left: Macarena Moraga, Diana Moreno, Brigitte Pfluger, Michael Waylen

Back, from left: Jonathan Mateer, Gage Ziehm, Crisne Lebron, Chloe Anderson, Richard Denis
Lindsay (Barnes) Arrieta (MALAS 2012) lives in Alexandria, VA. After completing her MALAS degree, she completed her first year of law school at the Florida State University College of Law. She has since transferred to The George Washington University Law School and expects to complete her J.D. in May 2015. Since graduating with her MALAS degree, she has completed internships with both the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Northern District of Florida and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C.

Roan Balas McNab (MALAS 1999) serves as the Guatemala Country Director for the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Andrea Cabral Leal Ferreira (MALAS 2009) is a Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of Florida working with Dr. Jeffrey Needell. She resides in Gainesville, FL.

Laura Fonesca (MALAS 2009) works at Indiana University as the Associate Director in Career Services, School of Global and International Studies.

Jessica Franey (MALAS 2013) starts the Physician Assistant Studies Program at the University of Kentucky in January 2015. She will work towards a Master of Science degree with a Global Health Certificate.

Victoria Gómez de la Torre (MALAS 2004) works with Alachua Multi-County Migrant Education Program as the Academic Program Coordinator/Teacher Specialist in Alachua, FL.

Aimee Greene (MALAS 2004) is the Operations Manager and coach for CrossFit Gainesville in Gainesville, FL.

Enrique Matta III (LAS Certificate 1970) spent two years in Panama while in the military following his UF years. He has since traveled extensively in Central and South America and is currently President of Total Convenience Marketing. Matta resides in Longwood, Florida.

Adam Reid (MALAS 2014) currently works as a Behavioral Instructor at SD Associates in Erving, MA. He is also involved with a labor rights organization helping immigrant workers.

Gary Schweitzer (MALAS 1974) is a partner at Ernst & Young in Tampa, Florida.

Mariana Varese (MALAS 1999) serves as Wildlife Conservation Society’s Director for Amazonia and lives in Lima, Peru.

For Your Information: **UF ACRONYMS**

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ALUMNI CAREER PROFILE:
Claudio (MALAS 1987) & Suzana Padua (MALAS 1991)

How did your MALAS degree prepare you for the work that you are doing now?

Suzana: I think the whole experience of UF, MALAS, and TCD, is important because they address the complexity of our world today, and introduced us to interdisciplinary perspectives. That is important with our work now - mixing broad social and environmental views in our changing world today.

Claudio: The networks of students I met while I was there has made a difference as well as the fantastic interdisciplinary combination that I haven’t seen in many places.

As co-founders of the non-profit IPE, what has been your biggest accomplishment?

S: The empowerment of young people - seeing young professionals changing their lives and the world they live in is gratifying. The challenges are immense and discouraging, which is why we need to train professionals who can make the changes that may lead to a better world.

C: We are creating knowledge and research results that are changing policies. It is a way to scale up—give answers to decision makers to implement solutions.

What would you like to share about your time either at UF or your current work and research?

S: We thought that moving into the “real world” was going to be easier, and helping people understand about conservation and the importance of nature is not always an easy task. But, MALAS prepared us for many of the challenges we faced. We feel that the UF programs are like a sun and we a ray of its light in Brazil!

C: MALAS was a turning point in my life and the life of many people. We all left and went to other places but the base MALAS gave us was fantastic, preparing us to face challenges. Besides, we built a network of amazing resources that have been valuable overtime.

You are both coming to Gainesville in March for the spring conference. Can you speak briefly about what you will be doing?

S: I think it is a renewal, touching base with people and sharing our experiences after many years of working in the field and teaching in Brazil.

C: Our program has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TCD and we want to strengthen and make it happen. We have to start organizing broader, global graduate programs and I believe our institutions are in tune.

S: The MOU was signed years ago with the idea that students could come to Brazil and our students come to UF. We want to strengthen this.

C: And we are just excited to be in Gainesville.

S: Gainesville is our second home!
The Center for Latin American Studies would like to express its gratitude for the generosity of those who have responded to our mailings and to the University of Florida Foundation’s annual appeal.

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Bonnie M. Lincoln

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Vivian G. Nolan Graduate Fellowship
Edite V. & William T. Vickers

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Thanks to **Our Donors**

Keep in Touch & Staying Connected

The Center for Latin American Studies would love to hear from our alumni! Please complete our electronic Alumni Update Form online at: [http://www.latam.ufl.edu/alumni/alumni-update-form](http://www.latam.ufl.edu/alumni/alumni-update-form) and let us know what you’re up to!

If you would like to receive our weekly LAS News and Events email, please send a message to [info@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:info@latam.ufl.edu) asking to be added to the weekly update list.

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We rely on contributions from our friends and alumni to support certain special activities such as student field research, travel to conferences, and seed support for larger fundraising efforts. If you would like to make a donation to the Center, please access the Center’s online giving page at https://www.uff.ufl.edu/onlinegiving/centerforlatinamericanstudies.asp or fill out the form below.

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