We began the fall semester with some very positive news. As part of the University of Florida’s “Preeminence Initiative” to propel UF into the ranks of the top ten public universities, the Center for Latin American Studies and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences received funding to hire two senior faculty in the social sciences with a focus on Latin American development to begin in August 2014. Moreover, the Center is conducting its own senior search in the area of Latin American development to further reinforce this cluster of hires. These hires are intended to extend the University of Florida’s long history of internationally recognized excellence in Latin American Studies.

Despite UF’s established and growing strengths in sustainable development and tropical ecology in Latin America, the impending retirements of senior faculty like Professor Charles Wood (see p. 5) require complementary investment in the social and policy sciences in order to consolidate our position as a global leader in interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable development within a changing climate scenario. The social and policy dimensions of development in Latin America are absolutely central to many of UF’s interdisciplinary programs, such as the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) program and the Masters of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) program, in addition to doctoral programs with an emphasis in development, tropical ecology, and impacts of environmental change. It is expected that faculty hired under this initiative will strengthen UF’s competitiveness for significant outside funding from federal sources and from private foundations, and for interdisciplinary research and applied work related to development.

In addition to conducting these senior faculty searches, the next few months will be taken up with preparing the Center’s Title VI funding proposal to the Department of Education. The Higher Education Title VI program provides support for National Resource Centers (NRCs) in area studies and Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) fellowships. The process of preparing such a comprehensive grant proposal is an exhausting one, and yet, the experience also provides a unique opportunity to appreciate the truly impressive breadth and depth of our Latin American Studies resources across campus.

On a sad note, Helen Safa, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Latin American Studies, passed away in November (see p.3). Helen’s pioneering scholarship combined with her commitment to social justice was unrivaled. Even after her retirement in 1997, Helen continued to be an active scholar and mentor, and a regular presence at Center-sponsored events. Helen’s many contributions to the Center and the field of Latin American Studies will be sorely missed.
Dr. Helen I. Safa, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, passed away on November 4, 2013 in Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Safa joined the faculty of the University of Florida in 1980 as the Director of the Center for Latin American Studies (1980-85). She was a core faculty member of the Center and the Department of Anthropology until her retirement in 1997.

Dr. Safa was President of LASA from 1983-85, and also served on the Executive Committee several times. Among her initiatives as LASA President was the first formal academic exchange program between US and Cuban scholars, funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation. She was also instrumental in the founding and growth of the Gender and Feminist Studies Section, which helped transform LASA from a largely North American male organization in the 1960s and early 1970s into the more diverse organization it is today. She served on the editorial board of the Latin American Research Review, among other journals.

Throughout her career, Dr. Safa pursued an interest in the causes and consequences of inequality, focusing on class issues in her early work on poverty and urbanization, moving to gender in the 1970s and 1980s, and in her work incorporating race. The Myth of the Male Breadwinner: Women and Industrialization in the Caribbean (1995) compared women industrial workers in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Her interest in the social impact of women’s paid labor force participation was reflected in her earlier co-edited publications with June Nash, Sex and Class in Latin America (1976) and Women and Change in Latin America (1986), while her participation in the international women’s movement contributed to another co-edited publication with Eleanor Leacock entitled Women’s Work (1986).

In addition to her books, Dr. Safa published over 60 articles and book chapters on issues of poverty and urbanization, migration, gender and development, social movements, mestizaje, and family structure. Dr. Safa was honored as a founder of Puerto Rican anthropology by the Puerto Rican Association of Anthropology and the American Ethnology Society. She received the 2003 Conrad Arensberg award from the Society for the Anthropology of Work of the American Anthropological Association. At UF, the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research awarded her its 2006 Uppity Woman Award.

In 2007, Safa was presented the Kalman Silvert award of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) at its International Congress in Montreal. The Silvert award recognizes senior members of the profession who have made distinguished lifetime contributions to the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is worth noting that Safa was only the third woman to receive the award.

As a way of honoring Dr. Safa’s legacy, please consider contributing to the Safa Graduate Student Travel Endowment: https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=013515
THE LOOK, THE LOGO & THE LEGEND

You may have noticed that this issue of the newsletter looks a little different. Here at the Center we are excited to be launching our new look! We decided to take on this re-branding project in order to modernize our image and bring our branding into compliance with UF regulations. We are working closely with a local graphic design agency to ensure that our new look not only follows UF’s guidelines, but also reflects the innovative nature of the Center and all that we do. The newsletter re-design is one of the first steps of our new branding roll-out - we will introduce our new look gradually as print materials and other items are needed.

During the numerous discussions about the re-branding project, it was mentioned that it might be interesting to include a newsletter piece on the history of the outgoing logo (pictured at right). We went through all of the Center’s newsletters dating back to 1974, and asked former Center directors, associate and executive directors, emeritus faculty, and LAC librarians for any information they might remember. While the exact details remain a bit unclear, thanks to the collective memories of Margarita Gandía (LAS Executive Secretary), Hannah Covert (former LAS Executive Director), Amanda Wolfe (former LAS Associate Director), and especially Dr. M.J. Hardman (Professor Emerita), we traced the origin of the logo to a former UF graduate student from the 1970s.

We believe that Allyn MacLean Stearman, an Anthropology master’s student (1973) studying lowland Bolivian communities under Dr. Hardman, drew the original design. At some point, a wooden carving of the design was made and hung in the Center’s main hallway until it was stolen during a renovation project a number of years ago. Exactly when the design was introduced as the Center’s logo remains uncertain, as does the meaning of the symbol, but the Center began producing marketing materials with the design as its logo in the mid-1990s.

If you have any information about the meaning of the outgoing logo or about the wood carving, please send an email to jpeskin@latam.ufl.edu. We would love to be able print a follow-up article some day!
Charles Wood is retiring from UF at the end of the Fall 2013 semester after a long and distinguished career in Latin American Studies. Dr. Wood received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1975. In 1996, he was appointed Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, a job he held until 2004. He has also served on the faculty of the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil (1975–1979), and on the faculty of the Departments of Sociology at UF (1980–1992), and the University of Texas at Austin (1992–1996). He led the center in a period of rapid growth in external funding for its research and graduate student training programs which raised the visibility and prominence of the center both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Wood is well-known for his expertise in the areas of Latin American Studies, population and the environment, demography, the sociology of development, and the comparative study of race and ethnicity, and for his work on deforestation in the Amazon, property rights and resource use, and the demography of racial discrimination social identity in Brazil. He was awarded a Fulbright fellowship in 1983, received an Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award at UF in 1991, and was named UF’s 2008 International Educator of the Year.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of your career?
When I reflect on my university career, the experience that stands out from the rest has been the opportunity to be a part of the Center for Latin American Studies. When I first joined UF in 1980 I was housed in the Department of Sociology and was affiliated with the Center. After a five-year stint at the University of Texas, I returned to UF in 1996, this time as Director, a position I held until 2004. The experience of working in different institutional settings has given me a keen appreciation for the special character of the Center.

What has been your favorite course to teach for the Center and why?
Of the courses that I’ve taught over the years, the one that I have most enjoyed teaching is the seminar Design and Methods of Research, required of incoming students in the MALAS program. I suspect that “enjoyed” is not the term that comes to mind among most first-year students, at least not at the outset of the semester. By the end of the term I’d like to think that they acquired some basic skills that made it easier for them to do well in graduate school and beyond. In the sometimes painful process of grappling with data, they invariably produced new knowledge and unexpected insights. Along with the students, I always came away from the experience knowing a lot more than I did when the semester began. In the end, it was always great fun – a term that we don’t use nearly enough in academia.

What aspect of your career will you miss the most?
There are a great many things I will miss. Most of them relate, in one way or another, to the interdisciplinary spirit that lies at the Center’s core. It’s a term that’s thrown around a lot in academic settings, but the Center is unique in truly delivering on this score. The commitment to interdisciplinarity has real consequences that express themselves in every aspect of daily life. It not only broadens the kind of colleagues and students with whom I routinely interact on the third floor of Grinter Hall, but it also shapes the content and the spirit of what takes place in the classroom and in meetings of the Center’s faculty. Interdisciplinarity seems to foster the kind of gracious style and inclusive perspective that so clearly defines the Center. Its collaborative culture comes from my colleagues’ sincere appreciation of the value of difference, their easy willingness to entertain new ideas and initiatives, and the genuine enthusiasm with which they get behind agendas and programs that are far from their own interests. These features of the Center set it apart from departments across campus, and are among the things that I have most valued over the years.

What advice do you have for young academic professionals?
Most of the advice I would give young professionals adds little to the usual clichés. One thing I can say that is perhaps not so self-evident has to do with how people think about the institutional context in which they work, be it in academia or otherwise. I refer to the tendency, especially in the early stages of a career, to treat the existing arrangements one is presented with as fixed and inflexible. In sociological jargon, it is a perspective in which “structure trumps agency.” There’s some truth to that of course, but, at the same, you can always find ways to shape the context to advance new ideas, programs and directions. What I learned early on, and what the Center’s success clearly demonstrates, is that the world is far more mutable than it often seems.
Simone Athayde (TCD/LAS) was granted a World Social Science Fellowship by the International Social Science Council (ISSC). She is one of 25 fellows who will work on creative, interdisciplinary perspectives on Risk Interpretation and Action at a seminar co-sponsored by the ISSC’s World Social Science Fellows Program; the Risk Interpretation and Action working group of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Program; the IRDR International Center of Excellence, Taipei; the international START Secretariat; and the Royal Society of New Zealand.


Amy Jo Coffey (Journalism and Communications) was awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor in the College of Journalism and Communications. She presented the paper “Bilingual Latino Viewers’ Language and Genre Preferences: A Comparative Analysis by Nativity, Gender, Education Level and Mood Condition” at the 4th International Spanish-Language and Latino-Oriented Media Conference at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX in February 2013. Her publications include: New Media Environments’ Comparative Effects upon Intercultural Sensitivity: A Five-Dimensional Analysis (with Rasha Kamhawi, Paul Fishwick, and Julie Henderson). International Journal of Intercultural Relations, 37(5) 2013: 605-627; and Representing Ourselves: Ethnic Representation of America’s Television Newsrooms. Howard Journal of Communications, 24(2) 2013: 154-177.

Carmen Diana Deere (LAS/FRE) was an invited panelist at the 12th UN Conference on Women in Latin American and the Caribbean held in Santo Domingo in October, and at the NSF-sponsored Third Summit on Women held in Washington, DC in November. She also gave lectures at the University of Illinois and McGill University and participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Securing Land Tenure for Women of the Huairou Commission. Publications include: Patrimonial Violence: A Study of Women’s Property Rights in Ecuador (with Jacqueline Contreras and Jennifer Twyman [FRE 2012]). Latin American Perspectives (online 2013); and the research brief Women’s Land Ownership and Participation in Agricultural Decision-Making: Evidence from Ecuador, Ghana and Karnataka, India (with members of the Gender Asset Gap project).


Tace Hedrick (English) presented the invited paper “Chica Lit and Latina/Chicana Americanization for the Twenty-first Century” at the 1st Biennial U.S. Latina/o Literary Theory and Criticism Conference: Haciendo Caminos: Mapping the Futures of U.S. Latina/o Literatures at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Ieva Jusinyte (LAS/Anthropology) was chair and organizer of the panel “Capillary Governance: Other State Actors in Latin America” and presented the paper “For Social Emergencies ‘We Are 9-11’: How Journalists Perform the State in an Argentine Border Town” at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress in D.C. in June 2013. She published On and Off the Record: The Production of Legitimacy in an Argentine Border Town. PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review, 36(2) 2013: 231-248.


Molleda, Juan-Carlos (Public Relations) published Los niveles de profesionalismo de las relaciones públicas y el papel social de los relaciones profesionales en Latinoamérica: Un modelo teórico y práctico [Levels of professionalism of public relations and social role of public relations professionals in Latin America: A theoretical and practical model]. Alacaurp, 7 2013: 45-56.


Charles Perrone (SPS) delivered the lectures “De antologias, antenas, trânsito e tradução: a poesia do Brasil e sua veiculação nos Estados Unidos” at Casa de Guilherme Almeida in São Paulo, SP, Brazil, on July 23, 2013; and “Laudas, Lances, Lembranças: o Professor Haroldo na Aistineia Desvairada” at Casa das Rosas, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, on July 24, 2013. He presented “Música e literatura: Animated Angolan Angles” at the South Atlantic MLA Conference on November 8, 2013 in Atlanta, GA.


Mary Risner (LAS) was invited to present “Are We Preparing Students for the Global Workplace?” for the opening panel of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese’s annual conference in San Antonio in July 2013. She was also invited to organize and moderate a panel of UF alumni on “What Business Wants from Graduates in the 21st Century Workplace” at the National Business Education Association Annual Conference in Atlanta in April 2013.

Marianne Schmink (LAS) is PI of a new grant (with Charles H. Wood, Jeffrey Hoelle and Carlos Valério Gomes) from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for a research project entitled “São Felix do Xingu: A Municipality in Transformation” October 2013 ($44,000). She also is PI of a UF Research Opportunity Seed Fund grant for “Designing a Framework for Integrative Research on Dams, Environment and Society in the Amazon,” August 1, 2013-July 31, 2015 ($83,000). Schmink presented “A experiência da Universidade da Flórida na formação de recursos humanos e produção de conhecimento para a Conservação e o Desenvolvimento na Amazônia” “[UF’s Experience in Training and Research for Conservation and Development in the Amazon]” as an Invited Plenary Speaker at the Simpósio NAEA 40 Anos, Federal University of Pará, Belém, Brazil, on November 7, 2013.


The Amazon Dams Program (ADP) is hosted by the Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD) in the Center for Latin American Studies. The ADP is an international collaborative and interdisciplinary initiative that involves seven Amazonian universities, two U.S. institutions and one university in Bolivia, with approximately 70 researchers and 30 students in both Brazil and the U.S. The initiative is funded by UF Office of Research (Research Opportunity Seed Grant) and CAPES (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior - Brazilian Coordination for Enhancement of Higher Education Personnel).

The main objective of this group is to develop an international network to synthesize and coordinate inter- and trans-disciplinary research for understanding, managing and monitoring social-environmental effects of hydroelectric dams in two Amazonian watersheds (Madeira and Tocantins rivers). The program includes a partnership and collaboration with the USGS Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, which has long-term experience monitoring the Glen Canyon Dam in the Colorado River.

At UF, the program involves a multidisciplinary team across campus departments and units. The UF team coordinators include: Dr. Bette Loiselle (LAS/WEC), Dr. Marianne Schmink (LAS), Dr. Simone Athayde (TCD), Dr. Stephanie Bohlman (FRC), and Dr. Anthony Oliver-Smith (Anthropology). Other UF collaborators include: Dr. David Kaplan (EES), Dr. Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli (SFRC), Dr. Joann Mossa (Geography), Dr. Robert Buschbacher (TCD/SFRC), Dr. Kai Lorenzen (SFRC), and Dr. Denis Valle (SFRC). UF students directly involved in the program are: Kelsie Timpe (MS student, Interdisciplinary Ecology), Randall Crones (PhD student, Anthropology), and Marliz Arteaga Gómez-García (UF alumna, program intern).

In Brazil, Dr. Carolina Doria from Federal University of Rondônia (UNIR), and Dr. Elineide Marques from Federal University of Tocantins (UFT) coordinate the program. Dr. Doria is at UF through December 2013 as visiting faculty, and is developing academic exchanges. She was awarded an International Mobility Grant from Santander Bank in Brazil for her academic exchange program at UF, and is participating in the TCD and Amazon Dams Program activities. Dr. Doria is also the coordinator of CAPES International Cooperation project, which involves academic exchanges between Brazilian Universities and UF.

On October 15, 2013, TCD and the Amazon Dams Program welcomed Dr. Elineide Marques as TCD visiting faculty along with Dr. Carolina Doria.

BUSINESS IN BRAZIL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Center for Latin American Studies partnered with UF’s Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) to offer a new Business in Brazil Internship program in Summer A of 2013. The program included a four week short-term study abroad component in which four students completed online coursework and participated in unpaid internships in Curitiba, Brazil.

The internship provided real-world experience in international retailing and operations, and strengthened linkages between UF and its Brazilian partners at Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR).

The program will be offered again in 2014 and you can find more information on our website: http://www.latam.ufl.edu/research-training/la-business-environment/business-in-brazil
In July 2013, the MDP Program was awarded a grant from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Public Education for Peacebuilding Support (PEPS). The grant was made possible by a cost-sharing commitment from the Center for Latin American Studies, Center for African Studies, and the UF International Center. The objective of the proposal was to enhance the understanding of international peacebuilding and conflict resolution concepts and strategies among UF graduate students, faculty, and others interested in the theme via a seminar series and workshop organized through the MDP Practitioner Forum Series.

UF students and faculty from multiple departments carry out fieldwork with international communities at local, regional, and national levels, many of which are impacted by past or present conflicts. As a result, developing a basic understanding of Peacebuilding and its associated concepts and skills is important to students in graduate programs linked to Centers like Latin American and African Studies. USIP grant activities were designed to generate a greater awareness of, and interest in, international conflict resolution and peacebuilding among students by providing examples and encouraging discussion of the theme. Three seminar events, organized and facilitated by MDP Program Coordinator Cindy Tarter with support from LAS Faculty member Jonathan Dain, were held on September 26th, October 17th and November 4th.

The four invited speakers, Eric Hubbard, Dr. Joseph Sebarenzi, Judy Anderson, and Virginia Searing are each actively engaged in international work connected to conflict and peace in regions of Africa and/or Latin America. Each shared his or her practical experiences be it with nongovernmental organizations, the United Nations or in the case of Joseph Sebarenzi, his own government in Rwanda. The diverse approaches and stories presented included experiences from Guatemala, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Liberia, Angola and South Sudan.

The final activity funded by the USIP grant was an integrative and experiential Peacebuilding workshop for MDP students held on November 15th. The workshop incorporated and built upon the themes from the three seminars while providing conceptual tools designed to grow peacebuilding and conflict resolution skills and knowledge.
The UF Center for Latin American Studies Outreach Program continues to foster young scientists and Latinamericanists by encouraging innovative curriculum-connecting programs between science education and Latin American area studies for K-12 classrooms in the wider Gainesville area as well as across the nation.

The Outreach Program’s successful Bus Assistance Program, funded by the Center’s Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education, offers transportation grants in the form of bus vouchers to regional Title I schools for field trips to the Florida Museum of Natural History (FMNH). As a complement to the bus vouchers, the program has implemented well-received classroom visits from Center and TCD graduate students that incorporate Latin American content into the lessons learned from the FMNH exhibits. Dianne Behringer, School Programs Coordinator for the Center for Science Learning at the FMNH says that “the Bus Assistance Program is a wonderful partnership that allows us to provide students with out-of-classroom experiences that enhance in-classroom learning. By providing bus money, schools are able to participate in an educational field trip that otherwise wouldn’t be able to.”

The outreach program also marches ahead with plans for a promising Teacher Summer Institute in Central America. In partnership with the Belize Foundation for Research & Environmental Education (BFREE), the Center is offering a week-long field study course in Belize for K-12 educators and is recruiting participants from around the United States. As in past years, the institute will use a hands-on approach, seeking to build capacity and enthusiasm amongst participants and empowering them to integrate science and Latin American studies into their curricula. The Center makes competitive stipends available to educators to help cover the costs of the institute. For more information and to apply for the 2014 Teacher Summer Institute in Belize, please visit: http://www.latam.ufl.edu/teacher-summer-institute-belize.

Partnerships with both BFREE and the FMNH allow the Center’s outreach program to offer original opportunities to educators, enabling K-12 teachers around Gainesville and throughout the United States to foster a curiosity about and love of science and Latin American studies among their students.

Contributed by Mandy Monroe, MALAS student

This past October, the Center for Latin American Studies partnered with the Southern Polytechnic State University to sponsor a conference entitled “Globalizing the Future: Infusing Latin American Studies Across the Curriculum.” An important aspect of the Center’s mission as a Title VI center is to provide professional development to other colleges and universities, helping them to build area studies expertise and incorporate related material into their courses. In compliance with these goals, the conference offered training and resources to more than 70 participants from 15 different academic institutions throughout the state of Georgia. The Center’s Director Philip Williams, Associate Director Mary Risner, and faculty members Efrain Barradas (Spanish/LAS) and Rosana Resende (Anthropology) led sessions covering a variety of pedagogical approaches to immigration, business, and cultural issues in Latin America. A number of participants offered positive feedback on the event, revealing a strong commitment to the practice of these new approaches in their own classrooms.

As one educator commented, “The presentations have given me concrete examples of pedagogical approaches, information sources, and perspectives that will (and already have) extend my own perspective. I will be able to incorporate this directly into my teaching and have already started related conversations with my students.”

The Center plans to facilitate a similar workshop with Florida colleges in the coming year.

Contributed by Adam Reid, MALAS student
Summer 13 & Fall 13 Graduations

Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates
Matthew Agramonte (Political Science)
Cristian Arango (Political Science)
Alexa Asendorf (English)
Stephanie Aya (Biology)
Jasmine Brito (Criminology)
Juan Concha (Agricultural Education & Communications)
Knadia Daniley (Spanish)
Carla Ginlock (Spanish)
Cristobal Gonzalez (Sociology)
Rocio Granela (Anthropology)
Lauren Nuñez (Political Science)
Michelle Rector (Economics)
Lacie Rosser (Spanish)
Luís Suarez (Political Science)
Chris Valdivieso (Telecommunications)

Graduate LAS Certificates
Nathalia Ochoa, MA (Women's Studies)
Diana Reigelsperger, PhD (History)

MDP Degrees
David Pittman
Specialization: TCD
Advisor: Brian Child (CAS/Geography)
Capstone Field Practicum: Developing and Monitoring Indicators for Integrated Water Quality Management in Mayana, Namibia

Ramin Gillett
Specialization: TCD
Advisor: Grenville Barnes (SFRC)
Capstone Field Practicum: Sankoyo on the Eve of the Hunting Ban: Local Perspectives and Implications for the Future

FLAS Fellowships
2013-2014 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
Dylan Attal (BA) Spanish/Linguistics
Michelle Blanck (MA) Spanish/Portuguese
Maria Gavidia (PhD) Urban & Regional Planning
Gentry Mander (MDP/JD)
Mirelis Martinez (BA) Political Science/Religion

Haitian Creole
Crystal Felima (PhD) Anthropology
Skyler Simnitt (MALAS)

2013 Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award
Laura Kowler (PhD) SNRE
Advisor: Christine Overdevest (Sociology)
Dissertation Title: Interpreting Legitimacy Through a Multi-Level Governance Lens: The Case of Environmental Forums in Bolivia

New MALAS Students

Elizabeth Getman
Ithaca College
Development Studies

Amber Jennings
Washington University in St. Louis
Brazilian Studies

Lauren Krebs
University of Florida
History

Lara Lookabaugh
University of Florida/Florida State University
Development Studies

Amanda Monroe
Warren Wilson College
Tropical Conservation & Development

Anna Porter
Bellarmine University
Development Studies

Ana Cecilia Silva
University of Florida
Brazilian Studies

Top row: Lauren Krebs, Ana Silva, Amber Jennings, Liz Getman
Bottom row: Mandy Monroe, Lara Lookabaugh, Anna Porter
Dr. Robert Maguire is Director of the Latin American & Hemispheric Studies Program of the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University, where he is also Professor of the Practice of International Affairs in the International Development Studies program. In addition, he serves as Chair of the Haiti Advanced Area Studies Seminar at the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Service Institute. In 2008/09 he was a Jennings Randolph senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace. From 1979 to 1999, Maguire was the Inter-American Foundation’s Representative for Haiti and the Caribbean. In 1994, he created the Haiti Program, a research and policy initiative active through 2008 at Johns Hopkins, Georgetown and Trinity Washington Universities. In 2000, he served as advisor on Haiti at the U.S. State Department. Maguire has published extensively on Haiti, US-Haiti policy, and Haitians in the U.S. He has testified before the U.S. Congress, most recently in February 2010. He has traveled throughout Haiti during his more than 100 visits there and speaks Creole.

Maguire earned a Ph.D. in Geography from McGill University in Montreal, an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida, and a BA in Secondary Education from Trenton State College. At George Washington he teaches graduate and upper level undergraduate seminars on poverty alleviation, grassroots development, development policy, and development in post-disaster settings. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Dominica, West Indies.

**How did the MALAS degree help prepare you for your career?**
The multidisciplinary nature of the MALAS degree was very important in helping to prepare for my career in public service with the State Department and the Inter-American Foundation. My MALAS concentration was geography, but complementary courses in anthropology, history, literature, and political science, as well as several courses I took at IFAS all contributed toward helping me to navigate real world issues.

**How did you become involved with Haiti and with U.S.-Haitian relations?**
Between my 1st and 2nd years in the MALAS program, Dr. Gustavo Antonini of the Geography Department offered me an opportunity to go to Haiti to participate in a summer study program there. Several years later, when I was in Southwest Louisiana undertaking Ph.D. research in Black Creole communities (where I learned Creole), the Inter-American Foundation asked me to go to Haiti to evaluate its work there, which thereafter translated into a job at the IAF. Once in Washington, I connected with the Congressional Black Caucus, which initiated my involvement in US-Haiti policy issues.

**What aspects, if any, of your training with the Peace Corps have you found most useful in your career?**
My Peace Corps experience helped me to understand the importance of connecting with and listening seriously to the ‘voiceless’ of a society, and that development begins with investing in people to help change human relationships that contribute to persistent poverty, inequality and underdevelopment. This realization has been extremely important in guiding my work in Haiti.

**Do you have any current research projects?**
As a ‘voice on Haiti’ in Washington, I constantly keep abreast of developments there, particularly as linked to poverty alleviation, social & economic development, and politics. I also track evolving U.S. and international development policies and practices, and have just completed an article on aid effectiveness reform in the Obama Administration. Finally, I’m developing a new course – with a short term study abroad component to it – on small island developing states in the Caribbean, with a focus on Dominica.

**What advice would you give recent graduates looking to pursue a career in foreign relations?**
A Rastafarian friend once advised me to ‘live clean and let your works be seen.’ In this regard, I think it’s important to pursue one’s passion and demonstrate an ability to dig beneath the surface. This also implies the importance of developing and using networks. A multidisciplinary background is a real plus in international affairs, so MALAS grads already have an advantage in this regard.
**ALUMNI News & Notes**

**Marcos Avellan** (MALAS 1998) lives in Aventura, Florida and is the Store General Manager at Sears.


**Deogracia Cornelio** (MALAS 2003) is the Director of Education at UCLA’s Labor Occupational Safety and Health (LOSH) Program.

**Hannah Covert** (MALAS 1998) works as a Senior Grants Administrator for the Global Environmental Health Sciences program at Tulane University’s School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, LA.

**Devin Dotson** (MALAS 2009) lives in the Washington, DC area and is the Associate Director of Communications at American Rivers, an organization that protects wild rivers, restores damaged rivers, and conserves clean water for people and nature.

**Clay Giese** (MALAS 2011) is currently pursuing an MBA at NC State University.

**Paula Hamsho-Diaz** (MALAS 2008) is the Evaluation Specialist and Project Coordinator for the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center at the University of Florida.

**Jorge Piñon** (BA Economics 1975) currently serves as the Interim Director at the University of Texas at Austin, Jackson School of Geosciences, Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy and Director of its Latin America and Caribbean Program.

**Joann Sazama** (MALAS 1998) works at the U.S. Department of Justice as an Investigator.

**Mary Waters** (MALAS 2007) is the International Account Manager at Guided Therapeutics, Inc., a medical device company in Norcross, GA. She is responsible for overseeing the company’s Latin American business development.

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.

**Thanks to Our Donors**

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The focus of the conference will be Panama, viewed from multiple perspectives — science, business, history, and the social sciences. In 2014, Panama is marking the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal, so this seems an apt time to explore Panama’s unique position at the crossroads of the Americas.

Plans are still evolving, but confirmed featured presenters include the following:

- **Michael Conniff**
  SJSU and UF Bacardi Scholar for 2014

- **Ambler Moss**
  University of Miami
  Former US ambassador to Panama

- **Rubén Berrocal**
  Secretary General of SENACYT

- **Jorge Quijano**
  CEO of the Panama Canal Authority

- **Angeles Ramos Baquero**
  Director, Museo del Canal Interoceánico (Panama City)

- **Julie Greene**
  University of Maryland

- **Stanley Heckadon-Moreno**
  Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

More information and to register, please visit the conference website: [http://www.latam.ufl.edu/news-events/annual-conference](http://www.latam.ufl.edu/news-events/annual-conference)
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Azucar y ganadería: Otro contrapunteo cubano
Reinaldo Funes, Department of History, University of Havana

September 19
Young Women and Sexuality in Pernambuco, Brazil: Between Individual Rights and Community Control
Marion Quadros, Department of Anthropology and Museology, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco

September 26
Two Tales of a Border: Crime, Security, and Media Production in the Triple-Frontera
Ieva Jusionyte, LAS/Anthropology, University of Florida

October 3
Green Growth in Latin America
Oscar Avalle, World Bank (Guatemala)

October 10
After the Nicaraguan Non-Payment Crisis: Alternatives to Microfinance Narcissism Development and Change
Peter Marchetti, AVANSCO (Guatemala)

October 17
The Development of Spanish Sanctuary Policy towards Runaway Slaves in the Circum-Caribbean
Linda Rupert, Department of History, UNC Greensboro

November 14
Assets, Wealth, and Intimate Partner Violence in Ecuador
Carmen Diana Deere, LAS/FRE, University of Florida

September 12
Azucar y ganadería: Otro contrapunteo cubano
Reinaldo Funes, Department of History, University of Havana

October 10
Domesticating Dispossession: Towards a Transitional Feminist Geopolitics of Development
Jennifer Casolo, CIRMA, Guatemala

November 15
The Argentine Pope and the Future of Religion in Latin America
Daniel Levine, Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan

November 18
My Life in Anthropology in Brazil from 1960 to the Millennium
Roberto DaMatta, Professor of Cultural & Social Anthropology, Pontifica Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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