Emergent Brazil: A Collaborative Exploration

This February 14 and 15, the Center for Latin American Studies (LAS) teamed up with the Center for Research and Documentation of Contemporary Brazilian History (CPDOC) at the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) to hold the Center’s 62nd annual conference, “Emergent Brazil.” Given the international interest in Brazil lately, the potential of such a conference seemed particularly obvious. It also drew attention to the various Brazilian strengths we have to offer at the University of Florida, part of a tradition extending back to the early part of the twentieth century. While Brazil has been the focus of a number of conferences in the United States, it is doubtful whether any other university has presented a gathering with the breadth and depth of this one.

The conference was the most important result of a center-to-center collaboration first proposed in 2009 by CPDOC’s current director, Celso Castro, who worked on his dissertation at the Center in the early ’90s and was impressed by the community and resources he found here. The conference was proposed at the end of a preliminary joint-faculty seminar in December 2010. As it happened, Manuel Vásquez (Professor, now Chair, of Religion), in a previous exchange with Philip Williams, the Center Director, had suggested a topic for the annual Center conference which suited perfectly: the ongoing impact of Brazilian trends, institutions, culture, and religion on the wider world and processes of globalization. The conference was planned and organized at both centers, and many panels involved two co-chairs, one from each center. Jeffrey Needell (LAS) chaired the conference; Aimee Green (LAS) oversaw its realization. The Center obtained significant Title VI funding; CPDOC contributed generously as well. The panel chairs were responsible for the quality of what was achieved; associated with both centers, they knew just whom to tap. Mario Grynszpan (CPDOC) chaired Agribusiness, Marianne Schmink (LAS) chaired Emergent Amazonia, Joseli Macedo (LAS) and Mariana Cavalcanti (CPDOC) chaired Urban Studies, Manuel Vásquez (LAS) and Christiane Jalles de Paula (CPDOC) chaired Religion, Terry McCoy (LAS) and Carlo Patti (CPDOC) chaired International Relations, Charles Perrone (LAS) and Fernando Lattman-Weltman (CPDOC) chaired Culture, Clyde Fraisse (LAS) chaired Energy and Climate Change, and Timothy J. Power (Oxford, and a MALAS alumnus) chaired Contemporary Politics. The panelists ranged from academia to government and policy analysis, and came from four continents.

Four panels presented on each of the two days, so that participants and audience alike could attend all of the sessions. Both during and after the meetings, participants and the people attending agreed upon the unusually high level of the presentations and of the discussion that followed each panel’s three presenters. The first keynote, a masterful discussion of Brazil’s recent history, was delivered by Marshal Eakin (Vanderbilt University), a key figure in the Brazilian Studies Association and a well-known historian of Brazil’s industrialization and its cultural nationalism. The second keynote was a compelling analysis of recent social and economic policies in Brazil, given by an eminent architect and scholar of such policies – Marcelo Neri, President of the Institute for Applied Economic Research (and now interim Chief Minister of the Brazilian president’s Secretariat for Strategic Affairs and interim Executive Secretary of Brazil’s Council for Social and Economic Development). Conference participants and noted figures in the university community also had the opportunity to attend the luncheon address of His Excellency, Mauro Vieira, Brazilian Ambassador to the United States, who deftly outlined the common interests of our two nations, with a special emphasis on Florida. The conference was elegantly finished by a solo guitar performance of Ulisses Rocha, this year’s Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar at the Center.

-Contributed by Jeffrey Needell, Conference Chair and Professor, History
This past semester, the Center commissioned an external review of its graduate programs, area studies curriculum and faculty, outreach activities, and Title VI-funded language instructional programs. Personally, it was a rewarding experience to receive such strong external validation regarding the quality of the Center’s programs. The reviewers were especially impressed with the breadth and depth of commitment to Latin American Studies across campus, even during a period of severe fiscal austerity. As we come to the end (we hope) of the worst economic recession since the Great Depression and new faculty hiring picks up momentum again, the Center looks forward to working with Colleges and Departments to address some of the faculty gaps that have emerged in several disciplines over the past five years.

The Center has had a busy Spring semester. On the academic front, another great group of MALAS students defended their theses and graduated in May. We also graduated another cohort of students in the Master’s in Sustainable Develop Practice (MDP) program (p. 6). In less than four years, we’ve succeeded in getting the new MDP degree program approved, recruited the first class, and now graduated the second cohort of students. In February, the Center organized the 11th annual Field Research Clinic (p. 15). A large number of faculty and students turned out to view the poster presentations based on graduate student field research conducted the previous year. The Field Research Clinic is a great way to make our graduate student research more visible and accessible to the public.

Also in February, the Center hosted its 62nd annual conference, “Emergent Brazil,” co-organized with CPDOC of the Getulio Vargas Foundation in Rio de Janeiro (cover). The conference grows out of our new linkage program with CPDOC under Professor Jeffrey Needell’s (History) leadership and supported with funds from the Center’s Title VI grant. We were delighted to welcome Brazil’s Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Mauro Vieira, as a luncheon keynote speaker during the event. We also supported a group of faculty from Bethune-Cookman University to participate in the conference.

The Center’s interdisciplinary working group, “Creative Cultures/Contexts of Change: Race and Indigenous Identities in Latin America and the Caribbean,” organized a number of events throughout the semester. These included a faculty/graduate student monthly reading group and three invited speakers, including Joanne Rappaport (Georgetown University), Deborah Thomas (University of Pennsylvania) and Mary Weisman (Northwestern University). We also collaborated with UF’s Center for Business Education and Research (CIBER) to host a luncheon talk by Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Professor Emeritus from the University of Pittsburgh (p. 3). Mesa-Lago spoke on his new book, Cuba under Raul Castro: Assessing the Reforms.

This semester the Center hosted a number of visiting scholars/researchers from Latin America. As part of the Center’s new agreement with CAPES, we welcomed two post-doctoral researchers from Brazil, Silvia Fernandes (Universidade Federal Rural de Rio de Janeiro), and Marion Quadros (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco). We also hosted Isabel Rosales, a visiting researcher from Guatemala, currently finishing her PhD at the University of Hamburg.

And finally, on the grants front, Carmen Diana Deere (LAS) received a major grant ($640,000) from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) to support “An Evidence-Based Policy Project on the Distribution of Assets across Gender.” Congratulations to Professor Deere!
Assessing Change and Predictions for the Future of Raúl’s Cuba

In March, the Center for Latin American Studies, along with the Center for International Business Education & Research and the MA in International Business Program, hosted Dr. Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Economics and Latin American Studies from the University of Pittsburgh, for a discussion on his new book *Cuba en la Era de Raúl Castro. Reformas Economico Sociales y Sus Efectos*. A Cuban native, Mesa-Lago received his BA in Law at the University of Havana, before eventually receiving his PhD in Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University. He is currently among the most widely published and most frequently cited of all economists conducting research on Cuba.

Mesa-Lago’s much-anticipated research spans the period from July 2007, when Raúl Castro called for structural reforms approximately a year after he assumed power from his brother Fidel, until 2012. His research focuses on three main areas: the causes of Raúl’s economic and social reforms, three specific types of reforms that have been made, and the main structural reforms and their effects. Some of these structural reforms include the dismissal of state workers and a simultaneous increase of jobs in the private sector, as well as a reduction of social services, changes in migration policy, and tax reform laws.

While Mesa-Lago noted that there had been several improvements under Raúl, such as the creation of co-ops, the creation of more jobs, the fall of unemployment, and the ability of private citizens to sell and rent spaces to and from the state, he highlights that there are still far more obstacles for Cuba to overcome before true structural reform can really happen. Among these obstacles, Mesa-Lago cites too much regulation and opposition of the bureaucracy, as well as the uncertainty that many Cubans still feel in light of their country’s history.

Mesa-Lago summarized that while Raúl’s reforms are positive and well-oriented, they are insufficient in resolving entrenched economic issues. Mesa-Lago concluded his talk by highlighting the relationship between Cuba and Venezuela and mentioned that because of the economic progress made from the close relationship with Venezuela, Hugo Chavez’s death has the potential of having a sizeable negative economic impact on Cuba. The English version of Dr. Mesa-Lago’s new book, *Cuba Under Raúl Castro: Assessing the Reforms*, is due to be released in June 2013.

-Contributed by Emily Castillo, MALAS student and William Messina, Coordinator of Economic Analysis, Food & Resource Economics

Race and Gender in Colonial Colombia

Joanne Rappaport, a professor in the Anthropology and Spanish departments at Georgetown University, spoke on April 18 about the concept of *mestizaje* as it applied in sixteenth-century Bogotá in her talk “Hiding in Plain Sight: Gendering Mestizaje in Early Colonial Bogotá.” While *mestizaje* is a twentieth-century term referring to the phenomenon of biological and cultural mixing, especially in Latin America, the roots of the concept date back to the beginning of the colonial era. The term *mestizo* was employed early on, most often to refer to descendants of Spaniards and indigenous Americans. However, Rappaport showed that perceptions of who was and was not a *mestizo* in the sixteenth century were much more malleable and contingent than we might expect. By way of three engaging family dramas culled from archival research and the work of colonial chronicler Juan Rodriguez Freyle, Rappaport showed that *mestizo* was applied more often to men, usually in cases in which the speaker wished to defame the so-called *mestizo* and deprive him of social status. In the cases of women, many mixed-race daughters of conquistadors melted into Spanish colonial society and were simply known as *hijas naturales*.

As recent studies have brought eighteenth-century Mexican *casta* paintings to wider attention, Rappaport demonstrated the risks inherent in assuming that racial categories were used similarly in the early colonial period, and in areas outside Mexico. Drawn from her upcoming book, *The Disappearing Mestizo*, her discussion offered texture and nuance to our understandings of race and gender in the northern Andes. Her latest book will be her fifth, as she has previously published on both historical anthropology and contemporary issues in modern Colombia.

The public lecture was attended by many affiliates of the Center for Latin American Studies and by students in Maya Stanfield-Mazzi’s spring course, Colonial Andean Art. The 2012-13 Title VI LAS working group led by Florence Babb and entitled “Creative Cultures/Contexts of Change: Race and Indigenous Identities in Latin America and the Caribbean” initiated Rappaport’s visit. Other members of the group include Efrain Barradas, Faye Harrison, Leah Rosenberg, and Maria Rogal.

-Contributed by Maya Stanfield-Mazzi, Assistant Professor, Art History
Latinos, Language, and Bilingual Television Consumption

On March 14, the Center for Latin American Studies was pleased to welcome affiliate faculty member Dr. Amy Jo Coffey as a guest speaker for the LAS Colloquium Series. Dr. Coffey, a professor from the UF College of Journalism and Communications, was recently named 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year for the College and was the 2011 International Educator of the Year. Coffey presented her latest research – a compelling project focused on understanding media consumption of the United States’ fast-growing bilingual population and how this knowledge could be used in developing more effective strategies for media providers as well as advertisers.

Dr. Coffey uses mood-management theory in her analysis of the data collected from a national survey of bilingual households. The underlying foundation of mood-management theory is that viewers and media consumers will subliminally select content based on how they are feeling. These findings are important as media providers and advertisers continue to evolve their approaches to the Latino community. Dr. Coffey’s findings showed that many variables contributed to the content chosen, including the presence of other bilingual or non-English speakers when watching TV. She also showed that the choices varied by gender and according to the mood of the individual.

An interesting conclusion of Dr. Coffey’s findings was that understanding a language doesn’t mean that bilingual individuals will immediately consume media in the second language and that individuals usually tend to be driven by their dominant language. However, despite the value of language as a market segmentation tool, Dr. Coffey highlighted that it is not the most important variable - cultural traits and preferences supersede language in the heterogeneous bilingual community in the United States.

-Contributed by Emily Castillo, MALAS student

Development and Risk Reduction in the Face of Climate Change

Dr. Anthony Oliver-Smith, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Center affiliate, is the recipient of the 2013 Bronislaw Malinowski Award, presented to him during the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SFAA). The Malinowski Award was initiated in 1973, and is presented each year by the SFAA to an outstanding senior scholar who is recognized for a lifetime commitment to the application of the social sciences to contemporary issues. Dr. Oliver-Smith has devoted his life to teaching and conducting applied anthropological research in the areas of disaster risk reduction and mitigation, and is a leading author in theoretical and methodological approaches linked to development-forced displacement and resettlement.

Dr. Oliver-Smith presented his Malinowski lecture to UF students and faculty on April 19. His lecture, entitled “Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation: Parallels and Convergences for Applied Anthropology”, presents a brilliant analysis of how development paths and frames affect vulnerability and risk among rural and urban communities, with important consequences for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Oliver-Smith discussed the concepts of vulnerability, resilience, and adaptation; distinguished coping from adaptation; and presented a critical analysis of the evolution of climate change policy. He closed his lecture reminding the audience of our common socio-environmental history and the challenges for development ahead - “In the final analysis, the trajectory laid down over the last 500 years of global history has led us into a series of acute problems and challenges, not the least of which is climate change. And these deeply rooted problems all too frequently manifest themselves in the form of the tragic events we understand as disasters. How we respond to the challenge of climate change effects, many if not most of which will be experienced as disasters, will require significant alteration of the way we interact with nature and the way we interact with each other.”

-Contributed by Simone Athayde, TCD Post-doctoral research associate

SPRING 2013 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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UF Delegation Inaugurates New Human Rights Partnership in Colombia

In early April, Center Director Philip Williams traveled to Colombia with a group of faculty from UF’s Levin College of Law and Stetson University’s College of Law to inaugurate UF’s new Human Rights Partnership with Colombian law schools. The partnership is supported through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through Higher Education for Development (HED) and will enhance the human rights programs at law schools in the Caribbean region of Colombia. In addition to Williams, the delegation included Joan Flocks, Director, Social Policy Division, Center for Governmental Responsibility, UF Levin College of Law; Timothy McLendon, Staff Attorney, Center for Governmental Responsibility, UF Levin College of Law; Luz Nagle, Professor of Law, Stetson University College of Law; and Stephen J. Powell, Director, International Trade Law Program, UF Levin College of Law. The delegation participated in two symposia entitled “Building Human Rights Capacity in the Colombian Caribbean,” at the Universidad del Magdalena in Santa Marta and the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla. Topics ranged from trade agreements and human rights, to environmental justice and the Inter-American human rights system. During the symposia, Williams also took part in the signing ceremonies to create a new Colombian Caribbean Human Rights Center (Centro de Derechos Humanos del Caribe Colombiano), a joint effort of the new partnership. In addition, the delegation met with law faculty at both universities to explore collaborative research opportunities, and spoke to several law and political science classes. According to Williams, “the Center for Latin American Studies views this partnership as a unique opportunity to develop new collaborations with Colombian universities not just in the area of human rights capacity, but in other areas as well.”

Women’s Leadership Program in Paraguay

In October 2012 the University of Florida signed a contract with Higher Education for Development (HED) to collaborate with the Universidad Nacional de Asunción (UNA) in Paraguay for capacity building activities in this South-American country. Faculty from the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) led by Marta Hartmann, Agricultural Education and Communication, will receive nearly $812,000 from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through HED to implement the Women’s Leadership Program in Paraguay (WLPP).

The purpose of WLPP is to support national and local development goals that promote gender equality and female empowerment. A team of faculty from UF and UNA will collaborate to strengthen institutional capacity of UNA’s School of Agricultural Sciences (FCA) research and education on women’s leadership, to advance women’s employability skills, and to develop sustainable alliances between the UNA’s School of Agricultural Sciences, civil society, and the public and private sector that promote the emergence of female leaders.

“We are delighted to partner with UNA in Paraguay to contribute to building capacities and empowering those who seek livelihood security, equality, and opportunity to participate more fully in their own society,” Hartmann said.

For additional information:
Dr. Marta Hartmann, US WLPP Director
Agricultural Education and Communication
martah@ufl.edu
352-273-2574

Sonia Delphin, US WLPP Program Coordinator
Agricultural Education and Communication
sdelphin@ufl.edu
352-294-2777
TCD Update

TCD has had a very busy spring thanks to the efforts and creative work of many of our students, faculty and partners. There are 17 TCD students completing MS or PhD degrees in their home department and receiving the TCD graduate certificate/concentration in Tropical Conservation and Development. This graduate certificate is designed to “add value” to the graduate education students receive in their primary discipline by providing the opportunities and space for students to learn across disciplines and develop leadership skills critical to working in conservation and development.

TCD also awarded nine field research grants with monies from our Ford Foundation endowment and from the Center’s Tinker Foundation grant for students conducting MS research or PhD pilot projects. Projects cut across a number of disciplines and include research on understanding what factors influence behavior change of agro-producers towards biodiversity conservation, human dimensions of wildlife-livestock conflicts, how landscape structure impacts biodiversity patterns, forest composition and carbon in agricultural landscapes, and perceptions of well-being among indigenous youth.

Additionally, TCD funds will help four students attend international meetings this summer, and will enable two students to return the results of their research to the Costa Rican and South African communities in which they worked. These relatively small investments in student research, conference travel, and practitioner experiences can have significant impacts on the professional development of TCD students.

MDP Update

Administered by the Center for Latin American Studies and Center for African Studies, the Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) Program provides an interdisciplinary curriculum in the health, natural, social and management sciences through integrated academic, practice and skills training. While earning their degree, MDP students are also encouraged to specialize in a particular field of interest, taking advantage of the university’s rich academic offerings. The MDP Program is supported by more than 40 core and affiliate faculty from over seven colleges and 20 different UF departments, centers, and research institutions, drawing in this way on the UF’s considerable depth. The program is committed to helping students understand the multidimensional nature of development challenges, to gain analytical capacity and tools applicable to these challenges, as well as to become critical thinkers concerning development processes and their implications.

The MDP Program is pleased to have 12 graduate students carrying out a variety of international field practicum projects this summer, in collaboration with institutions that include non-governmental organizations, research centers, and foundations. MDP students will travel to Colombia, South Africa, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, Uganda, Tunisia, and Belize. Practicum projects will contribute to a number of sustainable development challenges using participatory methodologies.

The securing of field practicum placements and the development of successful proposals would not be possible were it not for the support of program faculty and student committee members. For example, this year two students carrying out their practicum projects in Colombia were linked to their host organization (CIAT) through the support and guidance of Dr. Carmen Diana Deere (LAS). We are extremely grateful for all of the support committee members have provided to our 2nd and 3rd cohort of MDP students.

Learn more about the MDP Program:

FBLI Update

Last year the University of Florida signed an agreement with FAPESP, the agency that funds research and higher education in the state of São Paulo. The centerpiece of this agreement was a call for proposals to support four research projects that would advance collaboration between scientists in Florida and Brazil. The decision was a difficult one, but the FBLI selection committee chose the following projects as the recipients of the inaugural UF-FAPESP Research Grants:

- Carlos Roque Duarte Correia (Instituto de Química/Unicamp) and Aaron Aponick (Department of Chemistry/UF): “The development of novel gold and palladium-catalyzed transformations involving both redox active and neutral catalyst systems”
- Eduardo Colombari (Fac. Odontologia Araquara/Unesp) and Colin Summers (Dept. of Physiology and Functional Genomics/UF): “Unesp-UF: Hypertension research exchange program”
- Karina Martins (Centro Ciencias Tecnologias Sustentabilidade/UFSCar) and Salvador Alejandro Gezan (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, UF): “Ecological and genetic processes that affect Copaifera langsdorffii remnant populations in the Atlantic Forest”
- Lilian Amorim (Esc. Superior Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz/USP) and Natalia A. Peres Lautentti (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Dept. of Plant Pathology, UF): “Improved PFD control in São Paulo and Florida: using weather forecasts to anticipate disease risk in citrus groves”

Support for these projects was generously provided by Dr. David Norton (UF Vice-President for Research), and Dr. John Hayes (Dean for Research of the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station).
Welcome New Center Affiliates, Staff, and Visitors!

**Affiliate Faculty**

**James A. Sterns**  
Food & Resource Economics

**Staff**

**Kym Dalton**  
Secretary/Receptionist

**Visitors**

**Silvia Fernandes**  
Universidade Federal Rural de Rio de Janiero, Brazil  
CAPES post-doctoral researcher

**Marion Quadros**  
Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil  
CAPES post-doctoral researcher

**Isabel Rosales**  
University of Hamburg, Germany  
Visiting researcher from Guatemala

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**Amazon Dams Program in Colombia**

UF awarded a Research Opportunity Seed Grant to the Center of Latin American Studies for a project led by Dr. Marianne Schmink (PI) and Drs. Simone Athayde, Stephanie Bohlman, Anthony Oliver-Smith, and Michael Binford (Co-PIs). This interdisciplinary project, “Designing a Framework for Integrative Research on Dams, Environment and Society in the Amazon,” is a collaboration with Brazilian researchers and is the first seed grant received by the Center, which will support strengthening of international collaborations with Brazilian universities for integrative research on water, energy, environment and society in the Amazon.

More information:  
http://www.tcd.ufl.edu/research/amazon-dams-program
**FACULTY NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS**


**Alba Amaya-Burns** (PHHP) chaired a session on health policy in Latin America and presented "Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Address Maternal Mortality in the Poorest Regions of El Salvador and Honduran Borders," with Dr. Nestor Fuentes, Clinical Director of the Perquin regional clinic of the Salvadoran Ministry of Health, at the 2013 meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

**Simone Athayde** (LAS/Antropología) is the co-editor of the new *Tipiti* journal. "Tipiti is the international peer-reviewed journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA). She also published *Ciências e Tecnologias Indígenas: Tecendo Natureza, Cultura e Sociedade*. Revista de História da Biblioteca Nacional 8(91) 2012: 30–33. [http://ufdc.ufl.edu/l/IR00002508/00001](http://ufdc.ufl.edu/l/IR00002508/00001). She co-presented a "Eliciting Discourses about Hydroelectric Dams in Brazilian Public Spaces" (with F. Leite) at the IASESP in 2013, the Ninth Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of Environment, Space, and Place.


**Allan Burns** (Anthropology - Emeritus) was honored at the 73rd meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Denver with the "Sol Tax Award" for his career combining research with activism and service. He organized a panel on "The Anthropologist as Expert Witness" at the meeting, with the participation of Michael Warren (UF Anthropology) and J. Bryan Paige (University of Miami, UF Alumni). Burns published Indigenous Migration: Americas, Distinctiveness and Scale in the *Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*, I. Ness, ed: Wiley, 2013.

**Eric Castillo** (IHLC – La Casita) presented the paper "How the West Was Juan: Racial Profiling and State Violence in Texas" at Rice University at the conference "Race and Place in Houston, Texas" in February 2013. He was also selected as a Faculty Fellow for a research trip to Israel this summer where he will be researching comparative imperial/neocolonial relationships between the geopolitical borders of the United States-Mexico and Israel-Palestine.

**Cesar N. Caviedes**, (Geography – Emeritus) undeterred since suffering a serious stroke in 2009, is back in action and continuing his academic work. He published *Clima y sociedad en Argentina y Chile durante el periodo colonial. Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y la Cultura*, 39(12) 2012: 159-185; Rapa Nui: A Climatically Constrained Island? (with P. Waylen) *Rapa Nui Journal*, 25(1) 2011:7-22; and in July 2013 his contribution "Der Niedergang der Regionalen Studien" (The decline of regional studies) will appear in the Festschrift honoring Professor Christoph Stadel, Geographisches Institut der Universität Innsbruck, Austria.

**Carmen Diana Deere** (LAS/FRE) published Property Rights and the Gender Distribution of Wealth in Ecuador, Ghana and India (with A. Oduro, H. Swaminatham, and C. Doss), *Journal of Economic Inequality*, February 2013. She is also the lead co-PI of a new $640,000 two-year grant from the Economic Empowerment Division of UN Women to continue their comparative analysis of gender and asset ownership in these three countries.


íves Jusiónyte (ANTH/LAS) presented "Alert on the Border: Discourses of Terror and Everyday Journalism in the Triple Frontera" at the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology Conference in Mérida, Mexico in March 2013.


Bette Loisellet (LAS/WEC) received a three-year grant from Brazil’s “Science without Borders” Special Visiting Research Program. Entitled “Integrating sexual selection and foraging theory,” this grant is in collaboration with Dr. Marco Pizo at the State University of São Paulo (UNESP) in Rio Claro.

Terry McCoy (LAS) participated as a panelist at the 2013 Central Florida Global Economic Forum in Orlando and also as a featured guest on WUCF/PBS TV Global Soccer, “ at the CIBER Business Language Multidisciplinary Luncheon Seminar in March 2013. He also presented the paper “The Business and Culture of International Soccer,” at the CIBER Business Language Conference in Bloomington, Indiana in April 2013.

Susan Milbrath (Florida Museum of Natural History) presented “Evidence for Agro-Astronomy Among the Ancient Maya” at the 78th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Honolulu, HI in April 2013. She also published *Heavenly History: Ancient Mexican Astronomy in the Codex Borgia*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2013; Seasonal Imagery in the Ancient Mexican Almanacs of the Dresden Codex and Codex Borgia. In Thierry Grueb, ed., *Das Bild der Jahreszeiten im wandel der kulturen un zeiten*, pp. 117-142.


Gregory Moreland (SPS), together with Mary Risner (LAS) and Franz Futterknecht, presented “Global Fluency: Preparing Our Students to Negotiate Cultural Differences,” at the University of Florida CIBER Multidisciplinary Luncheon Seminar in March 2013. He also presented the paper “The Business and Culture of International Soccer,” at the CIBER Business Language Conference in Bloomington, Indiana in April 2013.


**Max. A. Nickerson** (Florida Museum of Natural History) was voted Distinguished Alumnus by the Arizona State University School of Life Sciences faculty. He was also honored with the dedication of The Herpetology Conference special volume 51(4): 217-278 of the *Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History*, which was dedicated to his efforts in herpetology, conservation, and education.

**Charles A. Perrone** (SPS) was appointed to a three-year term to the advisory committee of the Publications of the Modern Language Association (PMLA). He also celebrated the launch of the Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latin American Popular Music (2013) for which he also served on the Editorial Board. In February, he was invited to deliver the Miami Consortium’s Foreign Language Across the Curriculum (FLAC) Lecture at the University of Miami, *O Sumico das Empregadas: Gênero, Relações de Classe, e Transformação Social no Brasil*, sponsored by the UM Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. A twin lecture in English, *Help Wanted: Class, Gender, and the Vanishing Domestic Worker in Brazil*, was co-sponsored by the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies. Dr. Resende was also named as a 2012 Anderson Scholar faculty honoree by two award recipients. Faculty honorees are selected by student scholars who are given the opportunity to identify one faculty member who has been particularly inspiring or influential.


**Rosana Resende** (LAS/Anthropology) was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Postdoctoral Award to conduct field research in Salvador, Brazil during Spring 2014 for her project focusing on the changing dynamics between domestic workers and their female employers. In March, she was invited to deliver the Miami Consortium’s Foreign Language Across the Curriculum (FLAC) Lecture at the University of Miami, *O Sumico das Empregadas: Gênero, Relações de Classe, e Transformação Social no Brasil*, sponsored by the UM Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. A twin lecture in English, *Help Wanted: Class, Gender, and the Vanishing Domestic Worker in Brazil*, was co-sponsored by the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies. Dr. Resende was also named as a 2012 Anderson Scholar faculty honoree by two award recipients. Faculty honorees are selected by student scholars who are given the opportunity to identify one faculty member who has been particularly inspiring or influential.

**Mary Risner** (LAS) presented the paper “Connecting Multiple Campuses Around the Globe: Graduate Student Perspectives” at the SUNY Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Conference in New York in April 2013.


**Maya Stanfield-Mazzi** (SAAH) presented “Crosscurrents of Cloth: Liturgical Textiles in Late Colonial Peru” at the Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies Annual Conference in Panama City, Panama in March 2013.

**Diego Valderrama** (FRE) presented the poster “Examining the Potential of Seaweed Aquaculture in Mexico” at the 65th Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Research Institute in Santa Marta, Colombia, in November 2012.

The UF Center for Latin American Studies’ Outreach Program strives to bring real world perspectives from Latin America to young students, often one classroom at a time. Collaborating with Latin American specialists from departments across campus, we work to supplement our programs and resources with up-to-date and innovative material to enhance Latin American content and the overall classroom experience. The expertise of presenters ranges from the cultures of the indigenous peoples of Latin America to the ecology of the Brazilian Amazon.

We work closely with classrooms that receive Title VI stipends from our bus assistance program, which provides transportation to educators wishing to take their classes to the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH). Our classroom speakers offer pre- and/or post-visits to supplement the students’ experience at the FLMNH. The follow-up presentations help students not only re-visit and reinforce the information they were exposed to at the museum, but also to draw connections to other topics and themes throughout Latin America.

The newly developed Science Traveling Suitcase presents another way that we are entering classrooms “in-person.” The Program Coordinator of the Tropical Conservation and Development Program, Patricia Sampaio, has worked diligently to expose K-12 students in the area to the contents of the newly developed Science Suitcase and to explain their relationship with the ecology of the Brazilian Amazon. Sampaio holds a Master of Science in Ecology from the University of São Paulo, Brazil.

“I think the kids really enjoyed the hands-on activities that took a cross-curriculum approach, tying together science, math, and writing,” said Sampaio, “and they were excited to learn about what a scientist does.”

Classroom visits have also allowed the Outreach Program to bring Latin American languages and cultures to classrooms in Alachua County. A recent graduate of the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies program and current anthropology PhD student at UF, Emily Castillo, visited a local high school to give a presentation about indigenous social movements in Latin America. “I really enjoyed the experience because it allowed me to present more in-depth and tailored information about Latin America than is usually taught in a high school classroom,” said Castillo.

-Contributed by Korey Force, MALAS student
The Certificate of Proficiency in Portuguese as a Foreign Language

The Certificate of Proficiency in Portuguese as a Foreign Language (Celpe-Bras) was developed by the Brazilian Ministry of Education in 1998 to evaluate oral and written communication skills in Brazilian Portuguese. UF’s Center for Latin American Studies became the second official testing site in the U.S., after Harvard, in 2006 and continues to offer the Celpe-Bras in collaboration with UF’s Spanish and Portuguese Studies department. There are currently 61 certified testing sites, 21 in Brazil and 40 around the world. The exam is offered in April and October, both at UF and world-wide.

6th Annual Brazilian Film Festival

In collaboration with Valencia College and the Central Florida Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce, the Center for Latin American Studies co-sponsored the 6th Annual Brazilian Film Festival in Orlando, Florida. Richard Sansone, a Portuguese professor at Valencia College, organizes the film festival, which was first held in 2008 and has since become an annual event with growing public interest and support.

The week-long festival kicked off on April 3rd with a special event co-sponsored by the Center and the Volusia County Sister Cities Association, featuring the screening of A Hora e a Vez de Augusto Matraga at Daytona’s Cinematique Theater. The festival featured six different films in Brazilian Portuguese with English subtitles. Prior to each film screening, festival organizers held a reception with live entertainment and each film was followed up with a post-film discussion led by renowned Brazilian producer Elisa Tolomelli, who has produced Oscar-nominated films such as City of God and Central Station. All screenings were free of charge and open to the public.

UF graduate student and native Brazilian Elton Furlanetto attended two of the screenings and served as interpreter for Tolomelli at the Daytona screening. When asked what he thought about the growing American interest in all things Brazilian, Furlanetto expressed that, in light of upcoming mega-events and impressive economic growth over the last several years, ”It is not so surprising for me that Americans are taking some interest in knowing more about Brazil. And because we are developing in different fields, cinema is one area that deserves some attention.”

-Contributed by Skyler Simnitt, MALAS Student

UF Acronyms

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>CIBER</td>
<td>Center for International Business Education &amp; Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLMNH</td>
<td>Florida Museum of Natural History</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRE</td>
<td>Food and Resource Economics</td>
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<td>LABE</td>
<td>Latin American Business Environment Program</td>
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<td>LAS</td>
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<td>TCD</td>
<td>Tropical Conservation &amp; Development Program</td>
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<td>WEC</td>
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Center Wins Award from the American Organization of Teachers of Portuguese

The American Organization of Teachers of Portuguese (AOTP) has recognized UF’s Center for Latin American Studies with an award for its efforts in teaching and promoting Portuguese at the university level. The awards were presented at the Brazilian International Press Awards Gala on May 3, 2013 in Ft. Lauderdale.

Portuguese was first taught on the UF campus in 1914 and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies (SPS) now features two tenured faculty members offering both a major and minor in Portuguese. Courses range from beginner to advanced levels of language, along with courses in literature and culture. Students can also study Portuguese in Brazil as part of the UF in Rio – Language & Culture program. UF, SPS, and the Center continue to promote the study of Portuguese through classes on campus as well as through grants and fellowships from the Brazil/U.S. Funds for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE)/CAPES, the U.S. Department of Education’s National Resource Center (NRC) grants and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships.

The Center leads global Portuguese language initiatives such as the online Portuguese Language Journal, the promotion of Portuguese through social media outlets, and supporting professional development activities at conferences around the country.

To see the Center’s clip promoting Brazil and the study of Portuguese, please go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcZrkJDh7TS.

Local Library Receives Donation of Children’s Books in Portuguese

Contadores de Estorias de Gainesville (Gainesville Storytellers, in Portuguese) is a group of over 50 immigrant Brazilian families that live in Gainesville and volunteer their time to help children develop a love of Brazilian culture and language through storytelling, music, and games. Most of these children have been born in the U.S. and are bilingual, but are not frequently exposed to Portuguese outside of the home. In addition to monthly meetings at the Alachua County Library’s (ACL) Millhopper Branch, the group gathers donations of children’s books in Portuguese from members, friends, family, and directly from authors in Brazil. To date, Contadores de Estorias has gathered a total of 120 books, films, and music CDs with stories and songs for all ages. While the original idea was simply to have these available to the group’s members to read at home to their children, the overwhelmingly positive response led group members to approach the ACL to accept them as a resource for other families in Gainesville. With support from the Center for Latin American Studies, Contadores de Estorias is now working with ACL to create a special section called ‘Kids Books in Portuguese’ to be housed at the Millhopper branch (they already have similar collections in Spanish and Chinese). Contadores de Estorias is very grateful to the Center and all the families, friends and authors that have contributed to this effort, and hopes that it will serve as a resource for not only our group, but also the broader Brazilian immigrant community in our region. For more information about the group, please see http://contadoresdeestoriasgainesville.shutterfly.com

-Contributed by Patricia D. Sampaio, TCD Program Coordinator

▲ One of the titles donated by Mariana Massarani, a famous brazilian author and illustrator, who graciously donated over 10 books to the group in 2012
Bertrhude Albert is a current MALAS student at the University of Florida. She is specializing in sociology but has a specific interest in Haitian Studies. As a Haitian-born student, she strives to understand her country so that she can contribute to its rebuilding. One of the ways that she is able channel her passion is through Projects for Haiti, Inc (P4H).

P4H is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Gainesville, Florida and was co-founded in 2011 by Albert and UF alumnae Priscilla Zelaya. With a focus on education, P4H partners with Haitian men and women to create and support sustainable projects in Haiti. Albert and Zelaya submitted a grant proposal and recently received news that they have been awarded a $10,000 grant from the UF Project for Peace committee. These funds will be used to support the 2nd Annual Teacher’s Conference in Cap-Haitian, Haiti. Last year this conference trained 60 pre-registered Haitian teachers, principals, and faculty members. This year, thanks in large part to the Projects for Peace grant, they are able to invite 120 educators.

A team of ten U.S. teachers (elementary, middle, and high school) has been invited to help facilitate the five-day conference. They will be hosting teaching labs, break-out sessions, vision-casting sessions, and collaborative working sessions. The goal of this conference is to equip Haitian teachers with critical teaching skills, but also serves as a mechanism to provide an avenue for them to connect and network. Projects for Haiti, Inc. has committed to a long-term partnership with these teachers and is excited to see a change in the country because of the educators!

As president of P4H, Albert is able to travel to Haiti three times each year to oversee projects such as the Teachers Conference. In total, P4H has taken over 70 individuals to Cap-Haitian to train, equip, and partner with Haitians. Albert hopes to one day work for P4H as a full-time staff member.

The students of the Student Association for Latin American Studies (SALAS) had an excitingly busy semester! We had ten students successfully defend against the tough questions of their thesis committees with topics that ranged from women’s reproductive health in the Peruvian Amazon to the relationship between the Mexican embassy and its migrants in North Carolina. SALAS students played a role in reducing the stress level of our defending cohort by coordinating the set-up and providing the refreshments for many of this year’s thesis presentations.

SALAS also worked this semester to solidify the bond between the first- and second-year MALAS cohorts by scheduling events and networking opportunities throughout the semester. We very much believe that the bonds that we forge with each other will be one of the keys in the future to bridge the gap between different disciplines in Latin American studies, projects, and career pathways. It is for this reason that SALAS spent most of its energy planning opportunities for interaction between our students including game nights, mixers, and celebrations.

The end of this semester means a transition to a new leadership team as many of our students move on to other places and new ones enter. The newly-elected officers that will oversee the next year of SALAS are: Rafael Cruzado (president); Stephanie Gomez (Vice-President); and Sarah Benton (Treasurer). A fall election for the SALAS secretary will give an opportunity to first year students to join the new officers. SALAS wishes the best of luck to all of our students wherever they may go!

-Contributed by Korey Force, SALAS President and MALAS student
The Center for Latin American Studies and the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program awarded more than 25 field research grants for UF graduate students to carry out Master’s thesis and pre-dissertation fieldwork in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2012. Held at Smather’s Library East on February 22, the 11th annual Field Research Clinic (FRC) gave students the chance to learn about the various research projects sponsored by the Center and TCD, and to stimulate debate with students from a broad range of disciplines. The clinic also provided an opportunity for grant recipients to showcase their work and to disseminate the results of their research to a wide audience of students and faculty members.

The FRC highlights the importance of graduate student research and raises awareness among the public about the vital importance of funding provided by the Center. The first half of the clinic consisted of a peer-learning workshop dealing with the fieldwork experience, providing new graduate students with the opportunity to voice their questions and concerns to students who have already completed their fieldwork.

The second half of the clinic was devoted to the research poster competition. The grand prize for best research poster went to Vanessa Mintzer (SNRE) for her poster, “Interdisciplinary Insights on Illegal Harvesting of Amazon River Dolphins.” Vanessa’s advisers are Kai Lorenzen (Fisheries) and Tom Frazer (SFRC). Posters were evaluated by Libby (Elizabeth) Ginway (SPS), Bob Buschbacher (SFRC), and Ieva Jusionyte (LAS/Anthropology).

The FRC is one of several graduate student support activities sponsored by the Center over the course of the academic year. These events serve to enhance the learning and professional preparation of LAS students.

2013 POSTER COMPETITION WINNERS

Grand Prize
Interdisciplinary Insights on Illegal Harvesting of Amazon River Dolphins
Vanessa Mintzer, SNRE

1st Prize Master’s Level
Sí, yo soy revolucionaria: Peasant Women’s Roles, Participation, Identity, and Empowerment in El Salvador’s Revolution
Nathalia Hernández Ochoa, Center for Women’s Studies & Gender Research

2nd Prize Master’s Level
The Color of Inequality: Racial Discrimination and Child Mortality in Colombia
María Tobón, LAS

2nd Prize PhD Level
Human Livelihoods Assessment in the Buffer Zone of the Future Ntokou Pikunda National Park in Northern Congo
Germain Mavah, SNRE

3rd Prize Master’s Level
If Money Talks, How Convincing Is It? The Effects of Payment for Environmental Services on Conservation Behavior in Esparzo, Costa Rica
Korey Force, LAS
2013 Summer Research Grant Recipients

Each year, the Center for Latin American Studies and the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) program award funding to UF students to conduct summer research. This year a total of 21 students from 10 different departments received funding to carry out their field research in Latin America and in Latino communities in the U.S. These awards are made possible by the following funding sources:

- Boonstra Family Research Fellowship
- Carol French Doughty Memorial Fund
- Center for Latin American Studies grant overhead
- Charles Wagley Research Fellowship
- TCD Ford Foundation Endowment
- Tinker Foundation

The Center would like to congratulate the following students on their 2013 field research awards. Each student, their degree program, and country where they will conduct their field research is listed below.

Berthrude Albert (MALAS) Haiti
Hernán Alvarez (MS Wildlife Ecology & Conservation) Ecuador
Christina Callicott (MS Anthropology) Peru
Thiago Cunha (MALAS) Ecuador
Lisa Duffy (PhD Archaeology) Guatemala
Crystal Felima (PhD Anthropology) Haiti
Sarah Graves (MS SFRC) Panama
Colón J. Grijalva (MS Veterinary Medicine) Ecuador
Colin Harte (PhD Music) Brazil
Leah Henderson (MS Anthropology) Ecuador
Sarah Kennedy (PhD Anthropology) Peru
Eshe Lewis (PhD Anthropology) Peru
Marcela Marquez (MS SNRE) Chile
Luis Montalvo (MS Wildlife Ecology & Conservation) Ecuador
Elise Morrison (PhD Soil & Water Conservation) Panama
Adam Reid (MALAS) Argentina
Amit Rojas (PhD Wildlife Ecology & Conservation) Costa Rica
Ashley Sharpe (PhD Anthropology) Belize & Guatemala
Skyler Simnitt (MALAS) Brazil
Bryan Tarbox (PhD Agronomy) Colombia
Aaron Victoria (PhD Anthropology) Central America

2013 Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Recipients

The following UF students received U.S. Department of Education Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships from the Center for Latin American Studies:

Kerri Blumental (PhD Quechua)
Stephanie Boothby (PhD Portuguese)
Christina Callicott (PhD Kichwa)
Hans Duque (MA Portuguese)
Jeremy Lambeth (MA Haitian Creole)
Mirelis Martinez (BA Portuguese)
Elsa Mota (BA Portuguese)

Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates

Juliette Barbera (Criminology)
Cindy Brizuela (Political Science)
Julia Butler (Economics)
Andreas Christofakis (Political Science)
Cristabel Farronay (Geography)
Timothy Fretwell (Chemistry)
Norbert Glass (Political Science)
Jenna Hostetler (Journalism)
Ariana Jonas (Anthropology)
Jared Larson (Political Science)
Alessandro Pacheco (Geography)
Jessica Pariante (Finance)
Lisa G. Pierre (Political Science)
Jessica Pincus (Advertising)
Patricia Posey (Political Science)
Paige Quiñiones (Spanish)
Juan Rivera (Criminology)
Juan Tellez (Political Science)
Ana Maria Urueta (Anthropology)
Lissette Varela (Anthropology)
Michelle Vargas (Public Relations)
Jane Vicens (French & Francophone Studies)
Robert Wilson (Political Science)

Graduate LAS Certificates

Molly Green, MA (Women’s Studies)
Rafael Mendoza, PhD (Anthropology)
Leslie Todd, MA (Art History)
MALAS Degrees

Tomás Castellanos
Specialization: History
Advisor: Lillian Guerra (History)
Thesis: Presbyterians and the Cuban Revolution

Florence Emily Castillo
Specialization: Anthropology
Advisor: Charles Wood (LAS)
Thesis: Afro-Argentines and the 2010 Census: A Path Towards Visibility?

Korey Force
Specialization: TCD
Advisor: Marianne Schmink (LAS)
Thesis: If Money Talks, How Convincing Is It? The Effects of Payments on Conservation Behavior in Esparza, Costa Rica

Jessica Franey
Specialization: Development
Advisor: Carmen Diana Deere (LAS)
Thesis: Local Knowledge, Beliefs, and Treatment-Seeking Behaviors for Malaria among the Matses of the Peruvian Amazon

Dominique González (JD/MALAS)
Specialization: Development
Advisor: Berta Hernández Truyol (Levin College of Law)

Cassandra Howard
Specialization: Latino Studies
Advisor: Maria Coady (Education)
Thesis: Teacher Beliefs of Language and Culture as a Resource for Latina/o English Language Learners

Alyssa Peavey
Specialization: Latino Studies
Advisor: Philip Williams (LAS)

Ana Szogi
Specialization: Anthropology
Advisor: Ieva Jusionyte (LAS/Anthropology)
Thesis: Women in Murga: Power and Identity in a Uruguayan Carnival Art

James (Pete) Taylor
Specialization: Religion and Society
Advisor: Robin Wright (Religion)
Thesis: Plans, Ritual, and Mediation in the Ayahuasca Shamanism of the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazon

María Julianna Tobón
Specialization: Development
Advisor: Charles Wood (LAS)
Thesis: The Color of Inequality: Racial Discrimination and Child Mortality in Colombia

MDP Degrees

Indah Waty Bong
Specialization: Forest management
Advisor: Grenville Barnes (SFRC)
Capstone Field Practicum: Learning what life is for an insider while remaining a 'lekgowa': A participatory approach to understand local adaptive capacity and resilience in Nokaneng, Botswana

Stephanie Chatfield
Specialization: Water resource management
Advisor: Richard Rheingans (Environment & Global Health)
Capstone Field Practicum: Developing tools for impact: sanitation behavior change among women in Awassa, Ethiopia

Marlíz García
Specialization: Environmental education and climate change
Advisor: Stephen Perz (Sociology)
Capstone Field Practicum: The development and testing of a participatory process for creating a regionally appropriate environmental curriculum to empower teachers in Pando, Bolivia

Sky Georges
Specialization: Non-profit leadership
Advisor: Marta Hartmann (Agricultural Education & Communication)
Capstone Field Practicum: Youth leadership development in Chennai, India: Setting the foundations for the next generation of world-class leaders

Sydney Nilan
Specialization: Community-based natural resource management
Advisor: Marianne Schmink (LAS)
Capstone Field Practicum: Participatory planning: Laying the foundations for collaboration in ecotourism development in Chirripó, Costa Rica

Angela Quashigah
Specialization: African Studies
Advisor: Renata Serra (CAS)
Capstone Field Practicum: New Life Orphanage needs assessment and building project: Nungua, Ghana

Nicholas Vasconcellos
Specialization: Value chain analysis
Advisor: James Sterns (FRE)
Capstone Field Practicum: Improved livelihoods for poor communities through less constrained market opportunities for cattle farmers in Ngamiland District, Botswana
Alumni Career Profile:

Dr. Jane Landers  
(PhD History 1988)

Jane Landers is the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of numerous books, chapters, and articles on Africans in the Atlantic World, the most recent being the award-winning Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions (Cambridge, Mass., 2010). She is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the British Library Endangered Archives Programme, and the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. She is currently co-directing Vanderbilt’s Andrew W. Mellon Foundation John E. Sawyer Seminar, “The Age of Emancipation: Black Freedom in the Atlantic World and the Circum-Atlantic Studies”, now in its eleventh year. Another of her long-term projects is the Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources for Slave Societies digital archive (http://www.vanderbilt.edu/esss/index.php) which is preserving the oldest records for Africans in Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, and the present-day United States. She has consulted on a variety of archaeological projects, documentary films, and museum exhibits about Africans in the Americas. During her Guggenheim Fellowship year she will complete a monograph on the evolution of communities of African descent in the Iberian Atlantic from their earliest formulations as autonomous kingdoms in the wilderness through their last vestiges as formally recognized free black towns in the eighteenth century. This book builds on more than twenty years of ethnohistorical research in archives in Spain, Cuba, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Brazil, and is informed by archaeological investigations of African sites in the Americas.

Q&A

How did the Center help prepare you for your career?

During my graduate career at UF I regularly attended lectures and conferences at the Center that introduced me to some of the best scholarship in fields beyond my own of history. This interdisciplinary training was extremely important in my formation and later career.

What are the aspects of your current role that you most enjoy?

One of my favorite roles is serving as graduate advisor to a group of fantastic young doctoral students. I love helping them develop their interests and dissertation topics and end up wishing I could write them!

What would you like to share with us about your most current research?

I just received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Guggenheim Foundation to complete a monograph entitled "African Kingdoms, Black Republics and Free Black Towns across the Iberian Atlantic" and I also hope to complete a biography entitled "Atlantic Transformations: The Many Lives of Francisco Menéndez and His Free Black 'Subjects'". In the meantime I also direct a digital archive project that is preserving the oldest serial records for Africans in the Americas. http://www.vanderbilt.edu/esss/index.php

What advice would you give to MALAS graduates that are looking to pursue a career in academia?

My advice to all graduate students is to be diverse and open to all possibilities of employment. Academia is the career I have chosen but your language and cultural skills are going to be ever more important in this rapidly globalizing world and good research and writing skills have many applications. I have used mine in social work, teaching, research for archaeological investigations, museum exhibitions and documentary films and in grant writing. The latter allowed me to co-direct a Brazilian student exchange program with partners from UF’s Center for Latin American Studies, Robin Wright (Religion) and Aimee Green (LAS).

What would you most encourage MALAS students to take away from their experience at the Center for Latin American Studies?

The Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida is one of the premiere institutions in the nation and in addition to the excellent faculty and courses, you should try to take advantage of every one of its amazing resources while you are in residence - speakers, symposia, film and musical events, exchange programs and unique collections. An impossible task, I know, but an enjoyable one!
Thanks To Our Donors

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. Gracias to the following people!

Boonstra Family Research Fellowship
Alexa B. & Thomas O. Barnett

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Polly French-Doughty & Paul Doughty
Victoria Condor-Williams & Philip Williams
Jessica H. & Thomas Long
Ximena N. Briceno

Center for Latin American Studies Endowment
Deborah E. & Mark P. Kisker
Charlotte A. & Julian C. Bridges

Colonel Glenn A. Farris Scholarship
India C. & Glenn J. Farris

Latin American Studies Fund
Karen Schwartz & Chris Baker
Jay S. Brickman
Chaitram Singh
Wanda S. & Richard W. Oberdorfer
The Community Foundation, Inc.
Eugene F. Taggart

Mc Coy Latin American Travel Scholarship Fund
Jeanne & Stephen Rozman

Schmink Fund for Innovation in Tropical Conservation and Development
Amy E. Duchelle

Tropical Conservation & Development Fund
Bette Loisel & John Blake

Vivian G. Nolan Graduate Fellowship
Maria & Michael Handelsman
Charles H. Denny III Charitable Trust
Eric A. Wagner

Guilherme Costa (BA Business & Political Science 2005) attended law school at Notre Dame after graduating from UF, and now lives in Moscow, ID where he works as the Associate General Counsel for the University of Idaho. He plans to get married this July and is excited to travel to Brazil for the 2014 World Cup.

William Fullerton (PhD Political Science 1999) has been working on airport development as an engineer in Latin America (Costa Rica and Peru) and elsewhere (Russia, Jordan). He currently lives in Atlantic Beach, FL.

Andrew Godley (MALAS 1997) has lived in Naples, FL since 2003, where he teaches Spanish and serves as the World Languages Department Chair at Naples High School. Since 1999, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Panama and worked for a non-profit environmental education organization in California. He is married and has three boys – ages 8, 6, and 6 months.

Sarah Martin (BA Economics & English 2008) graduated with a JD from UC Berkeley School of Law in 2012 and has hired through the US Attorney General’s Honors Program. She lives in California and advises judges on legal issues of removability and relief in the Los Angeles immigration court.

Edoardo Murillo (BA Political Science 2010) plans to move to Ithaca, NY and start law school at Cornell University in the fall.

Leslie Pappa (BA Business Administration 2011) moved to Guatemala after graduating in August 2011 and works as the office assistant for Antigua International School.

Stephen Smith (BA Marketing 1987) teaches management and English at the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology at Mahidol University in Bangkok. For the past 18 years he had been living in working in Japan and Thailand.

The Center for Latin American Studies would love to hear from its Alumni if you have not already done so, please complete our electronic Alumni Update Form online at:

www.latam.ufl.edu/alumni/alumni-update-form

We’re on Facebook and LinkedIn!
Giving to the Center for Latin American Studies

We rely on contributions from our friends and alumni to support certain special activities such as student travel to conferences and seed support for larger fund-raising efforts. If you would like to make a donation to the Center, please fill out the form below.

My gift is to benefit:
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- McCoy Travel Scholarship Fund (014527)
- Nolan Graduate Fellowship in LAS (016143)
- Safa Graduate Student Travel (013515)
- Schmink Fund for Innovation in TCD (016259)
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