



Forging a Career Across Disciplines:

**Fusing Language, Latin American Expertise,
and Professional Degrees**

October 23, 2015

Smathers Library

Room 100

University of Florida

Latin American Career Workshop

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University of Florida**

Symposium Sponsors:

UF Center for Latin American Studies

UF Department of Spanish & Portuguese Studies

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Special thanks to Jay Brickman

Workshop Program

Time	Title	Speaker
8:30-9:00	Coffee & Networking	
9:00-9:15	Welcome	Philip Williams, Director (LAS) Mary Risner, Associate Director (LAS)
9:15-9:30	Why is Latin America Important?	Brian Gendreau (Finance, Director of LABE)
9:30-10:45	Panel 1: <u>Logistics & International Trade</u>	Gillian Lord , Spanish & Portuguese (Moderator) María Conchita Mendez Jay Brickman Richard Wainio
10:45-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:15	Panel 2: <u>Business, Government, & Communications</u>	Juan-Carlos Molleda , Journalism & Communications (Moderator) Anabell Iglesias Jacob Schultz Brandon Knox
12:15-1:15	Lunch	
1:15-1:45	Student Panel: <u>Internship Tips</u>	Marisol Silva, Law (Moderator) Chloe Burke Brigitte Pfluger Priscilla Zelaya
1:45-3:00	Panel 3: <u>Law</u>	Lyrissa Lidsky, Law (Moderator) Mary Kogut-Lowell Evan George José Sariego
3:00-3:15	Closing Remarks	

Workshop Goals & Purpose

The Latin American Career workshop “Forging a Career Across Disciplines: Fusing Language, Latin American Expertise, and Professional Degrees” hosted by the Center for Latin American Studies is a collaboration with corporate and alumni sponsors as well as volunteers from the University of Florida’s language, communications, law, and business programs.

The conference’s goal is rooted in increasing collaboration across disciplines to emulate the nature of 21st century careers and ultimately, better prepare students for the increasingly interconnected and globalized world.

The distinguished guest panelists were invited to share how they have combined their respective skill sets, language ability, and passion for Latin America to forge a lasting, yet malleable career. The combination of professionals and academics is intended to expose students to a multitude of career possibilities, and encourage relationships amongst departments, alumni, students, and the local community.

Thank you for your presence at this conference and your support to the Center for Latin American Studies. We encourage all attendees to take advantage of the entire workshop and to explore global learning opportunities at www.latam.ufl.edu.

The Workshop Organizing Committee

Jay Brickman
(UF: BA Latin American Affairs 1964)

Vice President of Government Services
Crowley Maritime
Company Link: www.crowley.com



Jay Brickman works for Crowley Liner Services, a privately owned company that began operations in 1892, and today it is one of the most diversified shipping and logistics companies in the United States. Mr. Brickman initiated and directed Crowley's operations in the Eastern Caribbean, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Cuba.

Mr. Brickman currently resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, but he has lived and worked in Latin America for over forty years and he has served on the United States Department of Commerce's Latin American Trade Committee. Some of the places Mr. Brickman was previously stationed include: Managua, Nicaragua; Panama City, Panama; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Caracas, Venezuela; and Mexico City, Mexico.

At the University of Florida, Mr. Brickman collaborated with the Center for Latin American Studies and is a Millennium participant for the Cuba Program. He is also a founding member of the Cuban Studies Fund and serves on the Cuban Studies Program Advisory Group of the David Rockefeller Center at Harvard University.

Mr. Brickman's university studies focused on international economics and Latin American affairs. He received his BA from the University of Florida and his MA from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Brickman also studied at the Universidad de las Americas in Mexico.

Evan D. George
(UF: MALAS 2003; JD 2003)



Immigration Attorney
The Law Office of Evan D. George
Company Link: www.evangeorge-law.com

Evan D. George is an attorney who has operated his own law office in Gainesville, Florida, dedicated solely to immigration and deportation defense. Mr. George has also served as an adjunct instructor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, and regularly provides pro-bono legal services to indigent asylum seekers and battered migrant women.

Previously, Mr. George spent three years in New York City specializing in political asylum and deportation defense. Mr. George graduated from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he concurrently completed a Masters in Latin American Studies.

Brandon Knox
(UF: MBA, Finance 2005; MALAS 2001)



Director of New Business Development
Latin American Pharmaceutical at Johnson & Johnson
Company Link: www.jnj.com

Brandon Knox joined Johnson & Johnson in 2005 after completing his MBA at the University of Florida and has held positions across multiple areas in the company, several of which dealt with Latin America.

Prior to business school he worked for two years with Citigroup in an area responsible for financial reporting of affiliates in the region.

In 2001, Brandon received a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies (MALAS) from the University of Florida, with a focus on politics and business. During his time in the MALAS program he participated in two summer study abroad programs in Brazil, and in the fall of 2001 he was the first UF student to take part in a full-time internship in Rio de Janeiro sponsored by Prudential. Mr. Knox received his BA in Economics from Stetson University, and it was during his undergraduate years when he studied abroad in Mexico and Peru that he developed a deep interest in Latin America.

Mary Kogut– Lowell

(UF: MBA, Business Administration & Management 2008)

***Director of Justice Programs
Harbor House of Central Florida***

Company Link: www.harborhousefl.com



Mary Kogut-Lowell works for Harbor House of Central Florida, the state-certified domestic violence center in Orange County. In addition to working at Harbor House, Ms. Kogut-Lowell teaches at both the University of Florida College of Business and the Florida A&M University College of Law. She is a member of the Florida Bar's Domestic Violence Committee and the Bar's Law Related Education Committee. She is admitted to the State and Federal bars of Florida and Michigan, the U.S Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ms. Kogut-Lowell earned her J.D in 1981 from Wayne State University College of Law, her MBA from the University of Florida in 2008, her MA from the University of Michigan in 1977, and her B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1976, majoring in Romance Languages and Literatures. She is fluent in Spanish and regularly uses her Spanish skills at work.

Maria Conchita Mendez

(UF: BA Economics, MALAS)

***Director of Latin American Sales & Trade
Development***

Alabama State Port Authority

Company Link: www.asdd.com



Maria Mendez has previously served as Trade Development and Customer Relations Manager for Latin America at the Jacksonville Port Authority, the Director of Direct Marketing at Unisource Worldwide, and she has also worked in inventory finance at General Electric Corporation.

Ms. Mendez is a board member of The Society of Mobile La Havana (the first sister city between Cuba and the United States), serves on the advisory board for the University of West Florida, was the founder of the Hispanic American Business Association of the Gulf Coast, is the co-author of "Cuba: It Matters", and is a descendant of Mambises (independence soldiers who fought against the Spanish).

Mendez is a native of Cuba. She earned her MA in Latin American Studies and BA in Economics & Latin American Studies from the University of Florida.

Anabell Iglesias

(UF: MA, Mass Communications 2010; Certificate in Latin American Studies 2010)

Senior Manager of Corporate Communications

Kimberly Clark

Company Link: www.kimberly-clark.com



Anabell Iglesias has served as the head of digital strategy, brand public relations, and corporate social responsibility for the Huggies Brand in Latin America. Prior to Kimberly– Clark, Ms. Iglesias worked at: Unilever’s Central America office, International Paper’s beverage packaging, UNICEF, the Art Museum of El Salvador, World Partnerships (a U.S. Department of State partner), and Discovery Communications.

Ms. Iglesias is a native of El Salvador. She earned her BS in Economics and Business Administration from the Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios in El Salvador, her MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and her MA in Mass Communications as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Florida.

José Sariego

(UF: BA Latin American Studies; BS Journalism 1977)

Senior Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs

NBC Universal

Company Link: www.nbcuniversal.com



José Sariego has more than 25 years of experience working at law firms and as in-house counsel to major corporations such as Telemundo. Mr. Sariego was the Senior Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs and the Secretary for the HBO Latin America Group. Prior to HBO he was the Senior Vice President – General Counsel and Secretary of MasTec, Inc., a publicly traded international telecommunications contractor. His legal career began as a litigator at Jenner & Block and later he became a partner at the international law firm Kelley Drye & Warren. Mr. Sariego has also been a professor of *Media Business Law* at Miami International University and is a frequent lecturer and author on corporate, international, and entertainment law. Before becoming a lawyer he was a professional journalist with *The Miami Herald*.

He earned his JD from the University of Michigan, and his BA in journalism, political science, and Latin American Studies from the University of Florida. Born in Cuba, he is fluent in English and Spanish, and proficient in Portuguese.

Jacob Schultz
(UF: MALAS 2007)

Foreign Service Officer
United States Department of State
Company Link: www.state.gov



Jacob Schultz was an economic officer in the U.S. Embassy in Quito, Ecuador and is transitioning to a new assignment.

Prior to his current position he was the Environment, Science, Technology, and Health officer in the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Schultz has also previously served as a consular officer in Mexico. Before joining the Foreign Service, he worked for an NGO, for the United Nations Development Program, and as an interpreter/translator.

He earned a BA in International Relations from Florida State University in Panama and a MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida. He speaks Spanish and Portuguese.

Richard Wainio
(UF: Latin American Demographic Studies)

International Business Consultant
Former CEO of Tampa Port



Richard Wainio specializes in assisting multinational companies throughout Latin America and the United States. He has held executive positions in the global transportation industry for over 35 years working. Mr.

Wainio worked as Senior Economist, Director of Corporate Marketing, and Director of Executive Planning at the Panama Canal for 23 years.

Subsequently, Mr. Wainio worked for a number of international ports and shipping companies including positions as: Executive Vice President at Manzanillo International Terminal Panama, CEO of the Port of Tampa, and the President and Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Panama. He taught for 25 years as an adjunct professor of sociology and marketing for Florida State University (Panama).

He has a MA in International Business from the Thunderbird School of Global Management and a BA from Davidson College. Mr. Wainio also did post-graduate work in Latin American studies at the University of Florida and in economics at the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Wainio was born and raised in Panama and speaks Spanish.

Thanks to the Career Workshop Committee

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And Special Thanks to our Workshop Moderators

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