



The **LATINAMERICANIST**

University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies | Volume 47, Number 2 | Fall 2016



Inside this Issue

- 2** Director's Corner
- 9** Faculty News & Publications
- 12** Student News
- 15** Thanks to Our Donors



DIRECTOR'S Corner



This past semester has been a period of significant transition for the Center. Not long after welcoming a new cohort of MALAS students, we

received the sad news of Dr. Richmond Brown's passing. Richmond had served as the Center's Associate Director for Academic Programs for ten years and had recently taken early retirement due to his ongoing battle with cancer. The way Richmond lived his life these past few years left an example for all of us. Richmond never complained, never showed bitterness - on the contrary, it was his modesty, courage and dignity even against enormous odds that made him so special. His commitment to our students was unmatched. The day before he was moved into hospice care, he was still responding to student emails even though he had stepped away from his responsibilities at the Center. It was a privilege to work alongside Richmond these past several years and we will miss him dearly.

On a brighter note, we welcomed a number of new staff members to the Center, including a new Assistant Director for Administration (Lenny Ureña), a new Program Coordinator (Maira Gutiérrez), a new Communications Specialist (Patricia

Alba), and a new fiscal assistant (Monica Castillo). We're delighted to be back to full strength and look forward to building a strong team to help us advance the Center's preeminence in Latin American Studies.

Finally, the recent elections generated a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety, particularly among our undocumented and international students. The day after the elections, some of our DACA students chose not to come to campus out of fears generated by the heated campaign rhetoric about mass deportations. In the face of the hateful discourse directed against people of color, immigrants, Muslims, and the LGBT community, the Center reaffirms its commitment to serve as a welcoming community and safe space for all students, staff, and faculty. The elections also made visible a strong anti-globalist sentiment among significant sectors of the population that feel threatened by the forces of globalization and immigration. What this will mean in terms of the new administration's foreign policy towards Latin America is uncertain at this time. We hope that the normalization policy vis-à-vis Cuba will continue, as the Center remains committed to expanding UF's engagement with Cuban universities and research institutions. More than ever, the Center must take seriously its mission of public engagement to educate the general public about both the complexities of global processes as well as the imperatives of remaining globally engaged.

The LATINAMERICANIST

Volume 47, Number 2
Fall 2016

Center for Latin American Studies
319 Grinter Hall
PO Box 115530
Gainesville, FL 32611-5530
(352) 392-0375
www.latam.ufl.edu

Center-Based Faculty

Philip Williams
Director

Efraín Barradas
(LAS/Spanish & Portuguese)

Emilio Bruna
(LAS/WEC)

Jonathan Dain
(LAS/SNRE)

Glenn Galloway
Director, MDP (LAS)

Karen Kainer
LAS/SFRC

Bette Loisel
Director, TCD Program (LAS/WEC)

Susan Paulson
Associate Director, Academic Programs (LAS)

Rosana Resende
(LAS)

Mary Risner
Associate Director, Outreach & LABE (LAS)

Tanya Saunders
(LAS/CWSGR)

Marianne Schmink
(LAS)

J. Richard Stepp
(LAS/Anthropology)

Welson Tremura
(LAS/Music)

Catherine Tucker
(LAS/Anthropology)

Pilar Useche
(LAS/FRE)

Nicholas Vargas
(LAS/Sociology)

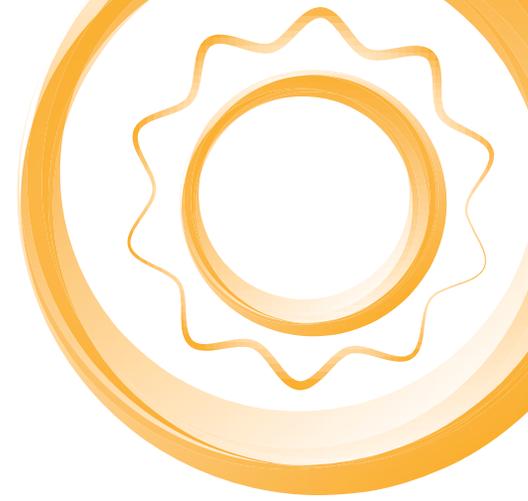
Robert Walker
(LAS/Geography)

Graphic Designer: Liquid Creative

UF Center for Latin American Studies
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

CONTENTS

- 3 Remembering Richmond F. Brown
- 4 2016 - 2017 Latina/o Studies Lecture Series
- 5 Cuba and the United States in the 21st Century
- 6 Gainesville Latino Film Festival Sees Record-high Attendance
- 7 Research & Training
- 9 Faculty News & Publications
- 12 Student News
- 14 Alumni News
- 14 Alumni Spotlight
- 15 Staying Connected



Remembering Richmond F. Brown

Richmond F. Brown, the Center's former Associate Director for Academic Programs, died peacefully at Haven Hospice on September 20th, just three weeks short of his fifty-fifth birthday, after a long and very brave struggle with cancer. Born on October 14, 1961, in Fort Benning, Georgia, where his father was stationed in the army, he grew up and lived much of his life in Mobile, Alabama, a city he loved and knew well. He graduated from Davidson High School in Mobile in 1980 and summa cum laude from Spring Hill College in 1983. Disturbed by the violence and devastation in Central America in those years, he decided to study the history of Guatemala and Central America at Tulane University, earning his master's degree in 1986 and his doctorate in 1993.

He will be remembered for his kindness, decency, lack of pretension, integrity, sharp intellect, and quiet sense of humor.

He taught Latin American history at the University of South Alabama from 1990 to 2006 before becoming Associate Director for

Academic Programs and Student Affairs at the UF Center for Latin American Studies in 2006, serving in that position until shortly before his death. Under his superb leadership, the MA program in Latin American Studies (MALAS) became a nationally-ranked program in terms of the quality of students, the coherence of the curriculum, and the support services for our students. During his tenure, Richmond oversaw an exhaustive review of the MALAS program and instituted a number of changes,

including the consolidation of the degree specializations and the introduction of the new internship option. He also helped to promote and grow significantly our certificate and minor programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

He was an exemplary scholar and teacher and a mentor to many students. He will be remembered for his kindness, decency, lack of pretension, integrity, sharp intellect, and quiet sense of humor. He had a deep knowledge of history and sports and loved music, Alabama football (although he found room in his heart for the Gators), and his cat Sooky. All of us who love Richmond say goodbye with heavy hearts, even as we treasure our memories of this extraordinary man who gave so much to so many and never thought of himself as extraordinary. We should have had him in our lives for much longer.

As a way of honoring Richmond's memory, the UF Center for Latin American Studies has established the Richmond F. Brown Graduate Student Fund. The fund will support master's degree students in the Center for Latin American Studies - with a preference for students pursuing internships. Checks should be made payable to UF Foundation, Inc. (Indicate in the memo line "Fund 020871") and send to:

Center for Latin America Studies
University of Florida
319 Grinter Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611

2016 - 2017 Latina/o Studies Lecture Series



The Latina/o Studies Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law, contributes to a vibrant academic environment at the University of Florida. It permits UF students and faculty to engage with cutting edge research on Latina/os, with implications for the nation at large. We invite researchers from universities across the United States. Thus far, Héctor Cordero-Guzmán, Cynthia Feliciano, and Elizabeth Aranda have participated to discuss some of the most exciting social scientific work in this area of study. These leading scholars have presented research on the economic crisis in Puerto Rico, and its implications for demographic and political change in Central Florida; research on how Latina/os' racial dating choices reflect and shape U.S. race relations; and the unanticipated consequences of DACA (Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals) for young adults.

During visits, we introduce speakers to our campus community, and they actively engage with students, staff, and faculty. Speakers often tour the UF campus and the Latin American and Caribbean Collection at the historic Smathers Library. They meet with staff and undergraduate groups in Hispanic-Latino Affairs, and provide professional development guidance to graduate students and junior faculty in related disciplines. The series is intended to foster intellectual engagement and promote community for those interested and invested in issues related to Latin America, and Latina/os in the U.S.

Talks for Spring of 2017 are currently being organized. In most ways, we can expect more of the same—engaging scholars discussing their new social scientific research on contemporary Latinx lives. In addition, we also hope to hear from some early career scholars who are pushing boundaries in the discipline. Over time, we should expect the series to extend beyond the social sciences to engage Latina/o Studies in the Arts and Humanities.

For Your Information: UF ACRONYMS

CAS Center for African Studies
CWSGR Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research
FBLI Florida-Brazil Linkage Institute
FLMNH Florida Museum of Natural History
FRE Food and Resource Economics
LABE Latin American Business Environment
LAC Latin American Collection (UF Libraries)
LAS Latin American Studies
LLC Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

MIB MA in International Business
MALAS MA in Latin American Studies
MDP Master of Sustainable Development Practice
SAAH School of Art and Art History
SFRC School of Forest Resources and Conservation
SNRE School of Natural Resources and Environment
SPS Spanish & Portuguese Studies
TCD Tropical Conservation and Development
WEC Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



Cuba and the United States in the 21st Century

The UF Center for Latin American Studies cordially invites you to the 66th Annual Conference | Cuba and the United States in the 21st Century. The conference will take place March 30 - April 1, 2017 at the University of Florida.

This year the conference will feature expert presentations from diverse perspectives - agriculture, business, trade, natural resources and the environment, economics, the arts, humanities, and the social sciences. Highlights of the conference include keynote addresses from Alejandro de la Fuente (Robert Woods Bliss Professor of Latin American History and Economics, Harvard University), Roberto Zurbano (Casa de las Américas), Rafael Hernández (Editor, Revista Temas), José Luis Rodríguez (Cuban Minister of Economy, 1995-2009), and Pedro Sánchez (Research Professor, University of Florida).

Registration will open early 2017.

Conference Coordinator:

Maira Gutiérrez
Program Coordinator, UF Center for Latin American Studies
MGutierrezra@latam.ufl.edu

WELCOME NEW CENTER STAFF AND AFFILIATE FACULTY!

AFFILIATE FACULTY

Eben N. Broadbent, Forest Resources and Conservation

George Aaron Broadwell, Anthropology

Manoucheka Celeste, African American Studies/Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research

Vincent DeGennaro, Medicine

Eric S. McLamore, Agricultural & Biological Engineering

Cecilia Suarez, Agricultural Education and Communication

Angélica M. Almeyda Zambrano, SPEC Lab/Tourism, Recreation & Sports Management

STAFF

Patricia Alba, Communications Specialist

Patricia earned her bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Florida. Prior to joining the UF Center for Latin American Studies, she worked for the UF International Center as a Program Assistant, and as a Data Marketing Analyst in the private sector.

Monica Castillo Sifuentes, Fiscal Assistant

Monica earned a Bachelor of Science in economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to

joining the UF Center for Latin American Studies, she worked for the Linguistic Data Consortium in Philadelphia.

Lenny A. Ureña Valerio, Assistant Director for Administration

Dr. Ureña received her Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Puerto Rico and her PhD in history from the University of Michigan. Her dissertation, "The Stakes of Empire: Colonial Fantasies, Civilizing Agendas, and Biopolitics in the Prussian-Polish Provinces, 1840-1914," was awarded

the Distinguished Dissertation Award in Polish Studies by the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in 2010. She is currently working on expanding the scope of her dissertation research to incorporate the experience of Polish colonists in Brazil at the end of the nineteenth century, a book project forthcoming with Ohio University Press. Before joining the University of Florida, Dr. Ureña was the Academic Program Manager of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Michigan.

Gainesville Latino Film Festival Sees Record-high Attendance

Contributed by Matt Levin, MALAS Student



The 12th Annual Gainesville Latino American Film Festival – showcasing 25 films from 14 countries – broke attendance records this fall. The free 18-day celebration opened with a screening of the Mexican film “*Paraíso*” on September 8 at the Harn Museum. The 12th Annual tribute to Latin American moviemaking and culture featured films from Cuba to Costa Rica to Brazil. All movies were presented with English-language subtitles and shown at locations around the Gainesville area, including the University of Florida, Santa Fe College and the Florida Museum of Natural History.

A variety of non-film events were also arranged by festival organizers, the Latina Women’s League, to mark Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month. Activities included art exhibitions, panel discussions, and a dance party. Ignacio Sánchez Prado, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, discussed “*Death and Vulnerability in Contemporary*” at the UF Smathers Library. The exhibit, “*Unity through Culture*,” looked at craft and textiles in indigenous communities in Bolivia and Panama from Sept. 1 to Oct. 15 at the Cone Park Library. More than 3,600 attendees joined in the festivities, organizers said, topping the previous year’s turnout by several hundred people.

The most popular event starred local band Gilberto de Paz and Tropix at Gainesville’s “Free Fridays” summer concert series. The tropical fusion group played a mixture of bachata, cumbia, disco, and other musical genres for 1,200 guests at Bo Diddley Plaza on the penultimate night of the festival. The Center for Latin American Studies congratulates the Latina Women’s League on another successful year and looks forward to supporting them in the coming years.

The Portuguese Language Journal publishes 10 Year Anniversary Edition

Contributed by Kerry White, MALAS student



This year the *Portuguese Language Journal (PLJ)* commemorated its tenth anniversary by publishing a two-volume print collection, which had previously only been available online. Since 2006, the *PLJ* has been a venue for fostering collaboration, research, and the exchange of ideas among instructors to improve the teaching and learning of Portuguese as a world language.

The *PLJ* was founded by LAS faculty member Mary Risner with funding from the Center’s first FIPSE/CAPES Brazil project. Since the first volume, *PLJ* has

published 60 articles by faculty across the Americas, Europe, and Asia on a variety of topics. Collaborations with other faculty and universities began when Margo Milleret at University of New Mexico and Gláucia Silva at University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth joined the *PLJ* in 2010 as Editor and Associate Editor, respectively. In the last few years, the Centers for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, the University of New Mexico, and Florida International University have provided valuable funding support through their United States Department of Education Title VI grants, which has

been instrumental in maintaining the *PLJ* and its efforts to promote Portuguese and Lusophone culture.

As of August 2016, the *PLJ* has become managed by and the official publication of the American Organization of Teachers of Portuguese (AOTP), an association with 300 members around the world. The *PLJ* will continue to be open access online and available in print to AOTP members. For more information on the *PLJ*, please visit www.portugueselanguagejournal.com.



NSF-Funded “Amazon Dams Network” Supports Co-Production of Knowledge on the **Social-Ecological Effects of Hydroelectric Dams Across the Amazon**

The Amazon is the largest freshwater system in the world, protecting invaluable biocultural diversity and critical ecosystem services that benefit local populations, national societies and humanity at large. This rich ecosystem is undergoing unprecedented transformation by infrastructural development, including the planned construction of hundreds of large hydroelectric dams on major rivers and tributaries.

In Brazil, this development aims to provide increased energy security, economic growth, improved living standards and industrialization, but the cumulative and long-term effects of dams on rivers, forests, and social systems are poorly known and undervalued in environmental planning and decision-making. A great deal of uncertainty remains about the social-ecological effects of dams, which has led to increased

risk, land degradation, and social conflict.

Through a newly funded National Science Foundation (NSF) Coupled Natural and Human Systems Research Coordination Network (RCN) grant, and in partnership with Brazilian universities, the U.S. Geological Survey and other U.S. universities, the Tropical Conservation and Development Program and the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida will lead a collaborative effort aimed at inter- and trans-disciplinary co-production of knowledge on the interconnected effects of damming rivers across Amazonian watersheds. This is the first initiative of its kind to bring together scientists with a diverse set of stakeholders, to integrate and coordinate research on how dam construction and operations affect people, their livelihoods, and the environment.



Women Scholars in Environmental Sciences and Sustainability: Opportunities and Challenges in Latin America

Attracting and supporting women in leadership roles in sustainability and environmental science is a necessary step to finding solutions to many of the challenges facing society today. Moreover, anticipating some of the challenges and opportunities faced by other women may help younger professionals to make an impact by shortening the journey and learning how to navigate in a rapidly changing world. In Fall 2016, the Southern Cone Conservation Leadership Initiative of the TCD Program took an important step in this effort by bringing together more than 52 women from different generations across Latin America. Cristina Nuñez-Godoy and Marcela Marquez (WEC PhD students), Claudia Segovia (Botany alumni) and Antonieta Eguren (MDP alumni) organized and led the 2nd and 3rd workshops in a series entitled **“Women Scholars in Environmental Sciences and Sustainability: Opportunities and Challenges in Latin America.”** The workshops preceded the XII International Congress on Wildlife Management in Latin America held in Ecuador, and the VI Binational Meeting of Ecology of Argentina-Chile, held in Argentina. The goal of these workshops was to provide an informal space to examine gender-specific issues at work, share experiences, and build a collaborative network to empower and strengthen women’s impacts in Latin American countries.



NSF Project: International Trade Agreements, Globalization, Land Change, and Agricultural Food Networks

Contributed by Robert Walker, Center for Latin American Studies, Department of Geography

Robert Walker and Yankuic Galvan-Miyoshi have received NSF funding for their project, entitled “International Trade Agreements, Globalization, Land Change, and Agricultural Food Networks,” with a budget of \$375,000. The research, to be conducted in Mexico, investigates links between spatial shifts in that country’s forest biomes, and neoliberal reforms associated with GATT and NAFTA. Robert Walker, faculty member at the UF Center for Latin American Studies and at the UF Geography Department, will lead the project, in collaboration with Co-PI Yankuic Galvan-Miyoshi, a postdoctoral researcher at UF. The research engages an international team including agronomist Dr. Ema Maldonado from Universidade Autonoma de Chapingo (Estado de Mexico), soil scientist Dr. Marta Astier from Universidade Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), and environmental scientist Dr. Omar Masera, who directs UNAM’s Bioenergy Laboratory. Economic geographer Dr. Barney Warf, from the University of Kansas, will also participate. The team will conduct a large-scale survey of Mexican feedlots, in order to ascertain the spatial reconfiguration of maize and beef commodity chains stemming from shifts in trade policy and globalization. They will then determine the extent to which changing commodity chains explain regional patterns of forest loss and regeneration, across Mexico as a whole.



Colombia and the University of Florida Strengthen Ties

Contributed by Maria M. Fontecha, MDP student

Dr. Useche (third from right) with the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Heather Higginbottom, and the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia, Kevin Whitaker.

Dr. Pilar Useche, associate professor at the UF Food & Resource Economics Department and faculty member at the UF Center for Latin American Studies, is leading UF representation in the Land Grant University-Colombia Dialogue Consortium. Through this initiative, a scholarship program for Colombian students who want to do research in agricultural issues was established. Fulbright and the US Embassy in Colombia support this initiative. Dr. Useche also gave a talk introducing UF and its research to over 100 people in Bogota, including deputy secretaries of agriculture and education from Colombia, as well as the US ambassador to Colombia.

In addition, Dr. Useche represented the University of Florida as an invited guest at the signing of the “Cacao for Peace” agreement between the US State Department and the Colombian Government in February of this year. Moreover, Dr. Useche organized a visit to Colombia by the US Agricultural Counselor, Michael Conlon, who is interested in establishing research and student exchanges in agricultural topics between UF and Colombian institutions.

FACULTY NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

Ida Altman (History/LAS) was co-organizer of a conference on “The Spanish Caribbean in the Long Sixteenth Century” (University of Florida, October 22, 2016) where she presented the paper, “Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa: Ambition, Fear and Politics in the Early Caribbean.” The UF Center for Latin American Studies was a co-sponsor of the conference along with the History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Office of Research.

Emilio M. Bruna (LAS/WEC) published two papers: with Fabiane M. Mundim, “Is There a Temperate Bias in Our Understanding of How Climate Change Will Alter Plant-Herbivore Interactions? A Meta-Analysis of Experimental Studies,” *The American Naturalist* 188(S1): S74-S89, with E.H.M Vieira-Neto and H. L. Vasconcelos, “Roads Increase Population Growth Rates of a Native Leaf-Cutter Ant in Neotropical Savannahs,” *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 53: 983-992.

Robert Buschbacher (SFRC), in partnership with Simone Athayde and Wendy-Lin Bartels, published a Special Issue on Resilience Assessment of Social-Ecological Systems on the Brazilian Frontier in the Brazilian journal *Sustentabilidade em Debate* (<http://periodicos.unb.br/index.php/sust/issue/view/1370/showToc>). Seven articles, debate, interview, gallery of images and four book reviews were produced by 23 collaborators, including TCD students Thaissa Sobreiro, Raissa Guerra and Ricardo Mello, plus Brazilian NGO, government, and academic partners. In

addition, the ACLI program organized two workshops which created a new research group with Brazilian NGOs and universities for action-research on Resilience of Family Agriculture in Northern Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Kaira M. Cabañas (Art History) organized the HESCAH symposium *Critical, Clinical, Curatorial*. She edited the first anthology on Brazilian contemporary artist Laercio Redondo, titled: *Laercio Redondo: Intimacies / Proximidades* (Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro; Green Box Berlin, 2016). She also served as a guest critic at the University of Pittsburgh and presented the lecture “Creatividad común: Arte e psiquiatría en Brasil” at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid.

Amy Jo Coffey (JOU/COMM) delivered a lecture series to media industry professionals in the executive MBA program for media/communications management in the IESE Business School at the Universidad de Navarra (Spain). Coffey was a guest of the program when it was in New York in June 2016. She lectured on the topics of “Audience Valuation in the American Market,” “New Content Providers and the Resource-Based View,” “Digital Media Horizons: U.S. Market and Beyond,” and “Media Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the U.S.” The IESE Business School has been rated the #1 in the world for executive education by *The Financial Times*.

Jonathan Dain (LAS/SNRE) presented with Sonia Canavelli, Natalie Cooper, Denyse Mello and Mauricio Nuñez-Regueiro, the paper “Poisoned Birds and Four Slashed Tires: Building Capacity to Manage Biodiversity Conflict in South America,” at the *Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation* annual meeting in Montpellier, France (enabled by a LAS conference travel grant) in June 23, 2016. He also assisted a panel, titled: “Managing Habitats and Species or Managing People? The Challenges and Opportunities of Biodiversity Conflicts in Sustainable Natural Resource Management in the Tropics.”

Glenn Galloway (MDP/LAS) participated with Dr. Philip Williams in the Summit of the MDP Global Association in Penang, Malaysia in June 2016. He presented “Are sustainable development goals and sustainable forest management converging in Asia: Synthesis and remaining questions” in the technical session “Towards a green economy in Asia: Inserting forests into the sustainable development goals” in the

IUFRO Regional Congress in Beijing, China in October 2016. He also gave the keynote address “Curbing climate change from a sustainable development perspective” on UN Day in Gainesville in October 2016. Finally, he represented IUFRO in the PROFOR Forest-Poverty Reference Group in the World Bank in November 2016.

M. Elizabeth Ginway (SPS) published “Machado’s Tales of the Fantastic: Allegory and the Macabre” in *Emerging Dialogues on Machado de Assis* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016), ed. by Lamonte Aidoo and Daniel F. Silva. She also gave an invited lecture, titled: “Relendo os clássicos: o processo de ‘zumbificação na ficção especulativa latino-americana,” as part of the series Seminário sobre Gêneros Cinematográficos e Audiovisuais, in Unicamp, Campinas, SP, Brazil May 3, 2016.

Tace Hedrick (English/Women’s Studies) gave a talk, titled: “He Was Dead, but He Was Nice: Class and Place in Latina Gothic Romance Fiction,” at the American Studies Association on November 16th in Denver.

Emily Hind (SPS) was named Book Review Associate Editor for the journal *Chasqui*. She published an interview with Guillermo Fadanelli, titled: “Entrevista a Guillermo Fadanelli,” *A Contracorriente* 14.1 (2016): 306-330. Hind also presented two papers: “Age Boundaries in 21st-C Mexico: From Reborn Dolls to Dead Writers’ Birthdays” at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association 88, in Jacksonville, Florida, and “Grammaticalization at the Heart of Mexico: Carla Faesler’s *Formol*,” at the IV Biennial Conference of the International Association of Inter-American Studies, hosted by the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Karen A. Kainer (SFRC) delivered a talk on “Collaboration, Shared Learning, and Long-Term Conservation with Local Communities” at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation in Montpellier, France (June 19-23, 2016).

Bette Loiselle (LAS/WEC) participated in two NSF-funded workshops: 1) “Seed Dispersal” at the Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center in May 2016 and 2) “Increasing accessibility of behavioral data” at Cornell University in October 2016. Together with John Blake, she published “Long-term changes in composition and species richness of bird communities at an “undisturbed” site in eastern Ecuador”,

Wilson Journal of Ornithology 128:255-267 and with colleagues Loiselle and Blake published “On the relationship between specialization and resource predictability in avian malaria parasites” in *Molecular Ecology* doi: 10.1111/mec.13758. With colleagues in Brazil, Loiselle published “Trade-offs in male display activity with lek size.” *PLoS ONE* 11(9): e0162943.

Susan Milbrath (FLMNH) published the article, “La evidencia de la agro-astronomía entre los antiguos mayas,” *Estudios de Cultura Maya* XLVII (2016):11-29. She published, with Debra Walker, “Workshops for Postclassic Effigy Censers in the Chetumal Area,” in *Investigations in the Land of Chocolate and Honey: Recent Archaeological Research on Chetumal Bay*, ed. by Debra Walker, pp. 186-213 (Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 2016). Along with Jeffrey Vadala, she also published “Using Virtual Reality to Explore the Emergence of Astronomical Knowledge at the Preclassic Site of Cerros, Belize,” *The Journal of Skyscape Archaeology* 2, no. 1 (2016):25-44.

Gregory Moreland (SPS) gave an invited presentation, “Languages across the Curriculum: Tailoring a LAC Program to Meet Institutional Needs and Realities,” at the University of Southern Mississippi (Hattiesburg), in October 2016.

Andrew Noss (MDP) collaborated with TCD graduates Santiago Espinosa, Galo Zapata-Ríos, and Damián Rumiz on country status reports regarding jaguar conservation in Ecuador and Bolivia respectively, published in Rodrigo Medellín’s new book “El Jaguar en el Siglo XXI,” UNAM: Mexico City. He also collaborated with former TCD visiting scholar Mario di Bitetti to co-author three articles with their advisee Verónica Quiroga on wildlife conservation in Argentina: Quiroga et al., “Puma density, habitat use and conflict in the Argentine Chaco,” *Journal for Nature Conservation* 31:9-15; Quiroga et al., “Local and continental determinants of giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) abundance: biome, human and jaguar roles in population regulation,” *Mammalian Biology* 81(3):274-280; and Quiroga et al., “Discovering one of the mysteries of El Impenetrable forest: the giant armadillo (*Priodontes maximus*) in the Argentine Chaco,” *Mastozoología Neotropical*.

Susan Paulson’s (LAS) chapter “Masculine and Feminine Exchanges Working to (Re) Produce or Degrade Andean Silvopasture Systems” appears in *The Earthscan Reader*

on Gender and Forests, edited by Carol Colfer *et al.* (in press). With representatives from indigenous territories across Latin America, Paulson facilitated a week-long workshop on “Gender and Territorial Governance” in Chiapas, Mexico, where she also taught a graduate mini-course on “Gender, Equity and Difference.” She delivered a plenary speech on “Capitalism and (De)growth” at the 5th World Degrowth Conference in Budapest, and the paper, “Gentler Paths to Manliness amid Pressures for Extractivist Profits,” at the American Anthropological Association Meetings.

Charles A. Perrone (SPS) co-edited *A poesia na era da internacionalização dos saberes: A produção, a crítica, a tradução e o ensino da poesia no contexto contemporâneo* (UNESP, Araraquara), including his “Recepção e circulação de poesia(s) brasileira(s) na América do Norte.” He presented “Bossa Nova USA: Balanço de valores e versões” at Casa de Guilherme Almeida, São Paulo (July 2016), and “From ‘Tension’ to De(con)struction: The (In)human Electric Lyric of Augusto de Campos,” APSA, at Stanford University (October 2016). Creative items include “Memoranda (two for the price of one), Re: ÉTUDES,” *Textshop Experiments #1*, *Textshop (T)issues* (2016), and “Year-End Review (ditty and duty),” *OccuPoetry* 5 (2016).

Rosana Resende (LAS) presented the paper “Assault on patronage: Employer perspectives on domestic workers’ empowerment in Bahia, Brazil” at the Latin American Studies Association Congress in New York (May) and delivered an invited lecture on “Race and Gender in Latin America” as part of the Western Hemisphere Seminar of the Foreign Service Institute (U.S. Dept. of State.) in October. Resende shared her analysis of the Rio Olympics and the U.S. elections as part of her weekly contributions to the “Café da Tarde” series with Radio Universidad Autónoma de Aguas Calientes (Mexico), June-November.

Mary Risner (LAS) co-edited with Luis Gonçalves the tenth-anniversary edition of “The Portuguese Language Journal 2006-2016”, Volumes 1 & 2 (Boa Vista Press, 2016). She also organized a series of events with the Brazilian Consulate in Miami and Portuguese language faculty at the July American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese conference.

Leah Rosenberg (English) presented papers at the 35th Annual West Indian Literature Conference and the 41st Annual

Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association. She also published “Diaspora through Tourist Eyes,” *Social and Economic Studies* 64:3-4 (2015), pp. 1-32.

Marianne Schmink (LAS - Emerita) presented “Under the Canopy: Gender and Forest Management in Amazonia” at the panel on Pathways beyond Productivist/Extractivist Development: Efforts to Forge More Just and Sustainable Socio-Ecological Worlds, at the Latin American Studies Association, May 27-30, 2016. She was also an invited speaker on “Perspectives on Brazilian Public Policy for the Amazon, 1976-2016,” at Quo Vadis Amazonia? Brazil in Crisis and Perspectives on Social Development and Environmental Sustainability, at George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, Brazil Initiative, April 19, 2016. She published with M. García, “Under the Canopy: Gender and Forests in Amazonia,” *Occasional Paper* 121 (Bogor, Indonesia: Center for International Forestry Research)—Translated as M. Schmink y García, M. (2015), “Bajo el dosel: Género y bosques en la Amazonía,” *Documentos Ocasiones* 125—, and M. Schmink e García, M. (2016), *Embaixo do dossel: Género e florestas na Amazônia*. Documento Ocasional 152, <http://www.cifor.org/library/5505/under-the-canopy-gender-and-forests-in-amazonia/>. Schmink also published with Mason Clay Mathews, “Differentiated Citizenship” and “The Persistence of Informal Rural Credit Systems in Amazonia 2015,” *Geoforum* 65:266-277.

Maya Stanfield-Mazzi (SAAH) published “El ‘ajuar divino’ de la escuela cuzqueña [The Divine Cloth of the Cusco School],” in *Escuela cuzqueña*, eds. Ricardo Kusunoki and Luis Eduardo Wuffarden (Lima, Peru: Museo de Arte de Lima, 2016). She presented “Revisiting Standardization in Andean Tapestries, from the Wari Empire to the Colonial Era” at Art Before History: Towards a History of Andean Art, a conference at Pontificia Universidad Católica in Lima, Peru, June 2016; and “Lenten Cloths of Chachapoyas” at the Seminar on the Development of North Amazonian Native Cotton, sponsored by Peru’s Ministry of International Commerce and Tourism and CITE Utcubamba/ Amazonas, in Chachapoyas, Peru, July 2016.

Rick Stepp (LAS/Anthropology) was elected President of the International Society of Ethnobiology. He will be inaugurated at the International Congress of Ethnobiology in Belém, Brazil next year.

Catherine Tucker (LAS/Anthropology) held a keynote lecture on “Understanding Common-Pool Resources and Their Governance: Ostrom’s Legacy and Current Challenges” for the International Workshop on Public Private Partnerships for Ecosystem Services Governance at the Slovenian Academy of Science and Art, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, May 19-20, 2016. She also presented the paper, “Challenges for Cross-Level Watershed Governance and Water Provision in the Mountains of Honduras,” at the International Conference on Research for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, in Bragança, Portugal, October 3-7, 2016.

Nicholas Vargas (LAS/Sociology) published three articles: with graduate student, Jared Kingsbury, “Racial Identity Contestation: Mapping and Measuring Racial Boundaries,” *Sociology Compass*, 10(8): 718-729; with Markus Schafer, “The Dynamics of Social Support Inequality: Maintenance Gaps by Race and Socioeconomic Status?,” *Social Forces*, 94(4): 1795-1822; and with graduate student, Esmeralda Sánchez, and colleagues, “Latina/o Congregations and Youth Educational Expectations,” *Sociology of Religion*, 77(2): 171-192. Vargas also presented papers on Latina/o racial identity at the Latina/o Studies Association meeting in Pasadena, CA (July 2016), and at the American Sociological Association meeting in Seattle, Washington (August 2016).

Margarita Vargas-Betancourt (LACC) organized the bilingual exhibition, “Mysteries of an Autograph,” which explores the mysteries of literary autographed books in the UF Latin American and Caribbean Collection, George A. Smathers Library. The collection is on display at the Smathers Library Gallery, from September 26 through December 16, 2016. Along with George Apodaca and Natalie Baur, Vargas-Betancourt was awarded the Society of the American Archivists’ 2016 Diversity Award for the Latin American and Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable (LACCHA) webinar series, *Desmantelando Fronteras/ Breaking Down Borders*.

Robert Walker (LAS - Emeritus) published an essay, titled: “To Keep a River Running,” *Earth Island Journal* 31.3. (http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/eij/article/to_keep_a_river_running/)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



MARIA FERNANDA CHECA VILLAFUERTE
Tropical Conservation and Development Student

Maria Fernanda Checa Villafuerte has traveled across Ecuador to study butterfly distribution and ecology. Along the way, she has trained many students and played an important role in the development of an invertebrate museum at the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador in Quito, where she received her

undergraduate degree and later joined the faculty in Biology. Working with Dr. Keith Willmott at UF's McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Maria Fernanda will graduate this December with a Ph.D. in Entomology, and a graduate certificate in Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) from the Center for Latin American Studies. Throughout her graduate career at UF, Maria Fernanda has been committed to translating her scientific research to benefit her home country. This goal led her to seek additional training through the TCD and MDP Programs to acquire the critical skills, concepts, and practical understanding necessary to work effectively in the field. In 2012, Maria Fernanda received the Marianne Schmink Innovation Award to support a community-based project that tested the feasibility of butterfly farming initiatives as a tool for sustainable development. She has published several scientific papers, popular articles and two books on butterflies. Maria Fernanda's remarkable combination of research and professional skills, together with her deep understanding of the threats facing Ecuador's biodiversity, positions her to become a significant conservation leader in her home country and expert on one of the richest butterfly faunas in the world.



AKEMI INAMOTO
Masters of Arts in Latin American Studies

Akemi Inamoto is a second year MALAS student specializing in development studies and Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD). Prior to attending the University of

Florida, she graduated from the Florida Atlantic University Honors College with a bachelor's degree in International Studies and a concentration in Latin American Studies. Her research focuses on how gender systems impact perceptions of and adaptation strategies to climate change among rice farmers in Colombia and Nicaragua. To carry out the field research, Akemi collaborated with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Nicaraguan Rice Farmers Association (ANAR), and the Colombian Rice Farmers Federation (Fedearroz). With this research, Akemi hopes to inform and influence ANAR, Fedearroz, and government policy-makers to design and implement gender-transformative development policy. Akemi served as a research consultant for an NGO seeking to learn alternative ways to integrate gender systems in their programming in agricultural/livelihood settings. In her time in Gainesville, Akemi has also been an active member of the TCD student group and the Latino-Hispanic Graduate Association (LOGRAS).



OSWALDO MEDINA-RAMIREZ

Masters of Sustainable Development Practice

Oswaldo Medina-Ramirez is an Ecuadorian student in the

Master of Sustainable Development Program. His research interests focus on institutions, governance, policy, and development. In the summer of 2016, he completed his capstone Field Practicum in Brazil. He conducted an analysis of the current status of socio-environmental governance under the Sustainable Municipalities Program in the state of Mato Grosso. Specifically, he analyzed the role of the NGO Instituto Centro de Vida and local municipalities in this governance system. His advisors for this research are Drs. Robert Buschbacher and Grenville Barnes. As an additional research activity, Oswaldo worked in Honduras with Dr. Kathleen Colverson and the INGENAES project to carry out an assessment of the current status of the country's Agricultural Extension System. This included an analysis of existing agricultural training methods (with a focus on farmer field schools) and projects to determine the potential to integrate and promote gender and nutrition into extension practices.

FALL 16 GRADUATIONS

Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates

William Delaney (History)

Michael Ball (Criminology)

Hailey Becker (International Studies)

Katherine Benesch (Finance)

Jacof Terán (Sociology)

Patricia E. Matamoros
(Telecommunications)

Graduate LAS Certificates

Thales West (Ecology)

MALAS Degrees

Richard Denis

Specialization: History

Advisor: L. Guerra

Thesis: "Una Revista al Servicio de la Nación: Bohemia and the Evolution of Cuban Journalism 1908-1960."

Licinio Miranda

Specialization: History

Advisor: J. Needell

Thesis: "The Liberal Quinquennium: Constitutional Practice, Political Power and the Rise of Emperor Dom Pedro II of Brazil, 1844-48."

MDP Degrees

Matthew Anderson

Specializations: TCD, Organizational Leadership for Nonprofits

Advisor: Glenn Galloway (Latin American Studies / MDP)

Capstone Field Practicum: "BEER: Brewing Employees Engaged in 'Corporate' Responsibility"

James Benjamin Christ

Specialization: TCD

Advisor: Marianne Schmink (Latin American Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Community-Based Social Marketing for Atlantic Forest Restoration in Brazil"

Rugiyatu Kane

Specializations: TCD, African Studies, Entrepreneurship, Organizational Leadership for Nonprofits

Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Transforming Youth Years in Sénégal: Developing a Youth Venture Program with Ashoka Sahel"

Graduate Sustainable Development Practice Certificate

Julienne NeSmith, MS (SNRE)

Thales Augusto Pupo West, PhD (Biology)

Tropical Conservation and Development Program

Oscar Gonzalez Medina, PhD

(Interdisciplinary Ecology)

Shelly Johnson, PhD

(Forest Resources and Conservation)

ALUMNI UPDATES

Heather Leila Jordan (LAS 2003) is a Field Operations Officer at the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health. Through her job, she supports an HIV

treatment project in Zambézia Province, Mozambique. The University of Florida Portuguese program opened up a career in Lusophone Africa for Heather. After graduation, Heather volunteered with the Peace Corps in Mozambique. She later earned her master's degree in Public Health and worked for World Vision Angola for two years.

Jason F. Taylor (JD/MALAS 2011) is an attorney at law at Taylor | Alderman. He was elected to the South Carolina

Bar, House of Delegates (2016 - 2018 term) and is an adjunct professor at the College of Charleston. Jason has taught international studies courses on Drug, Guns, and Gangs in the Americas and Beyond; Comparative Social Movements; and was a Cuba Study Abroad Program Assistant. He has also taught courses on Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS), such as Trade and Human Rights Law in the Americas; Latin American Social Movements and Human Rights; and Law and Policy in the Americas.



Alumni Spotlight MEREDITH FENSOM

Meredith Fensom is a Florida native who has a special interest in Latin America. She finished her

undergraduate studies with a Bachelors in Political Science and a study abroad experience in Buenos Aires. Falling in love with the country, culture, and people, she decided to pursue a Law degree at the University of Florida in conjunction with a Masters in Latin American Studies. After submitting her thesis, *Judicial Reform in the Americas: The Case of Chile*, she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in Santiago, Chile.

From working for the University of Florida to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Meredith continued to expand her knowledge of the region. What did change, however, was her career. Originally, she thought that she was going to have a legal job working with trade agreements between the U.S. and Latin America. However, this grew to agricultural trade work for private clients, then biotechnology regulatory work and she has become a trailblazer for biotechnology companies operating in the region.

Can you tell us more about what you are currently doing?

I am working for the Intrexon Corporation, a U.S. biotechnology company that encompasses the health, food, energy, consumer, and environment sectors in order to realize a better, healthier planet. My role is to be the facilitator between the company and the governments of our priority markets. Intrexon is a very innovative company and often there isn't a regulatory pathway in place for the products we have created, so it is my job to work with the governments to ensure we can commercialize our

products. We have been working with various governments in the region to deploy our genetically modified mosquitoes in order to reduce the *Aedes aegypti* species which carry diseases such as Zika, dengue, yellow fever, and chikungunya.

How has your MALAS degree helped you prepare for your career?

My degree in Latin American Studies has made me a unique candidate with a well-rounded view of the continent. My MALAS degree has given me knowledge of the history, political structure, and culture that shape the countries and affect how they conduct business. Also, the language requirements encouraged me to learn Brazilian Portuguese which has set me apart from other candidates and has been very helpful when working with the Brazilian government.

What advice would you give to MALAS students?

That's a great question, I actually have more than one piece of advice! First, try to learn Brazilian Portuguese. There are a lot of native Spanish speakers, especially in Florida, but if you know both languages it will distinguish you from other candidates competing for regional jobs. Second, try to expose yourself to as many different areas as possible. Even though I ended up working at a biotech company, I did not study agriculture and health in school because I thought I was more interested in history and politics. Doing internships and fellowships during or after school are very helpful to figure out what you enjoy. Third, love what you are doing because that's what you are going to do best. And lastly, make sure to keep an open mind. I never thought that I would be working in this sector and I ended up loving it.

Thanks to Our Donors

The Center for Latin American Studies would like to express its gratitude for the generosity of those who have contributed to the Center's funds and endowments.

A. Hower Memorial Endowment

Neale J. Pearson

Carmen Diana Deere Director's Fund

Aimee B. Green
Usha E. Pitts
Community Foundation of North
Central Florida

Carol French Doughty Memorial fund

Rosalind Sterling & Brian A. Sterling

Colonel Glenn A. Farris Scholarship

Christine A. Farris-Edwards
& Thomas L. Edwards

Hugh L. Popenoe Mesoamerican Research Endowment

Harlan G. Hawkins & Thelma J. Hawkins

Latin American Studies Alumni Graduate Student Travel Fund

Bonnie M. Lincoln

Latin American Studies Endowment

Anthony P. Maingot & Consuelo S. Maingot

Latin American Studies Fund

Mark A. Journey & Patrice Mallory
Bette A. Loiselle & John G. Blake
José M. Sariago
Michael Stewart & Elizabeth Stewart
Erin E. Zavitz

MDP Program

Bette A. Loiselle & John G. Blake

Richmond F. Brown Graduate Student Fund

Ida Altman
James & Alisa Plant Boyden
Richmond & Laura Brown
Fumiko Brown
David Chalmer
Sarah Cline
Jon & Karen Kainer Dain
Nancy & Peter McNamara Easterlin
Bonnie & David Laber Effros
Brian & Linda Gendreau
Jane Landers

Stephen & Maria Morris
Paul & Sheila Payne Ortiz
Jimmy & Carol Redmill
Marianne Schmink
Jonathan & Katharina Scholl
Carrie & Harold Singer
Ira & Linda Singer
Mira Sonders
Peter Szok
Michael & Marilyn Thomason
Philip & Vicky Williams
Ralph L. Woodward Jr.

Schmink Fund for Innovation in Tropical Conservation and Development

Richard H. Wallace & Amalia C. Paez-Perez

Tropical Conservation and Development Fund

Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation
TCD Student Group

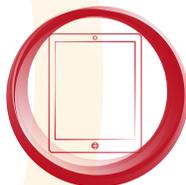
Wagley/Carter Fellowship Fund

Maxine L. Margolis

Keeping in Touch & Staying Connected



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



If you would like to receive our weekly LAS News and Events email, please send a message to communications@latam.ufl.edu asking to be added to the weekly update list.



CONNECT WITH US ON



www.latam.ufl.edu

The contents of this newsletter were developed under the National Resource Center grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Center for Latin American Studies
319 Grinter Hall
P.O. Box 115530
Gainesville, FL 32611-5530

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 field research, travel to conferences, and seed support for larger fundraising efforts. If you would like to make a donation to the Center, please access the Center's online giving page at [https://](https://www.uff.ufl.edu/onlinegiving/centerforlatinamericanstudies.asp)

My gift is to benefit:

- Boonstra Family Research Fellowship (014091)
- Carmen Diana Deere Director's Fund (019905)
- Carol French Doughty Memorial Fund (016269)
- Colonel Farris Scholarship (005067)
- Cuba Program Fund (017435)
- Florida-Brazil Institute (007277)
- LAS Alumni Graduate Student Travel Fund (012521)
- Latin American Studies Fund (011147)
- McCoy Travel Scholarship Fund (014527)
- Nolan Graduate Fellowship in LAS (016143)
- Hugh H. Popenoe Mesoamerican Research Endowment (018331)
- Richmond F. Brown Graduate Student Fund (020871)
- Safa Graduate Student Travel (013515)
- Schmink Fund for Innovation in TCD (018201)
- Wagley and Carter Fellowships (004763)

Gift Amount:

- \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Email: _____

Method of Payment:

- Check** (Make check payable to: UF Foundation, Inc.)

Please send your check with this form to:
University of Florida Foundation
Gift Processing Department
P.O. Box 14425
Gainesville, FL 32604-2425

- Credit Card**

Call the UF Foundation's Gift Processing toll-free number with your credit card information:

1-877-351-2377

This secure line is staffed Monday - Friday
from 8:00AM to 4:30PM

- Online**

[https://www.uff.ufl.edu/onlinegiving/
centerforlatinamericanstudies.asp](https://www.uff.ufl.edu/onlinegiving/centerforlatinamericanstudies.asp)