



# The **LATINAMERICANIST**

University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies | Volume 48, Number 2 | Fall 2017



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# DIRECTOR'S Corner



The fall semester was marked by a series of devastating hurricanes that impacted the Caribbean and the mainland of the United States.

These storms served as important reminders of the vulnerabilities of coastal and island communities that are especially at risk to sea level rise and climate variability. In the case of Puerto Rico, the federal government's slow and uneven response to the devastation of Hurricane Maria has prompted non-governmental organizations, universities, and private citizens to fill the void. On the part of universities, there has been a general lack of coordinated responses, often with little or no consultation with universities in Puerto Rico.

While offering free tuition to Puerto Rican students to continue their studies at universities on the mainland is a goodwill gesture, such efforts need to consider the medium and long-term impact on student enrollment at Puerto Rican universities. Here at UF, under Dr. David Norton's leadership, the Office of Research provided funds and logistical support for short-term research residencies for faculty and students from Puerto Rican universities. Several departments and centers on campus stepped up to accommodate the visiting faculty and students during their research stays.

Our Center hosted a faculty member from the Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPR)-Mayagüez campus and supported the Office of Research in placing faculty and students in other departments. The School of Architecture, led by Dr. Martha Kohen, hosted a large group of faculty and students from the UPR-Rio Piedras campus, organizing a collaborative workshop, entitled "Puerto Rico Re\_Start Prep." One outcome of the initiative is the organization of an international workshop in Puerto Rico in March 2018. The workshop will focus on resilient design solutions to protect Puerto Rico's environment and people from future natural disasters. The Center is honored to be a co-sponsor for this important initiative.

In addition, the Center's Assistant Director, Dr. Lenny Ureña, is co-chairing a task force for the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) focused on supporting educational partners in Puerto Rico. In November she visited with university officials at the UPR-Rio Piedras campus to understand how U.S. universities could provide more coordinated responses that will support the long-term sustainability of UPR academic and research programs. Looking ahead, the Center for Latin American Studies stands ready to work with Puerto Rican counterparts in developing programs and initiatives that will support a more sustainable future for Puerto Rico.

**UF** Center for Latin American Studies  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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

### Center-Based Faculty

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Philip Williams</b><br><i>Director</i>  | <b>Rosana Resende</b><br><i>(LAS)</i>  |
| <b>Efraín Barradas</b><br><i>(LAS/SPS)</i>   | <b>Mary Risner</b><br><i>Associate Director,<br/>Outreach &amp; LABE<br/>(LAS)</i> |
| <b>Emilio Bruna</b><br><i>(LAS/WEC)</i>  | <b>Tanya Saunders</b><br><i>(LAS/CWSGR)</i>  |
| <b>Jonathan Dain</b><br><i>(LAS/SFRC)</i>  | <b>Marianne Schmink</b><br><i>(LAS)</i>  |
| <b>Glenn Galloway</b><br><i>Director, MDP (LAS)</i>                                | <b>J. Richard Stepp</b><br><i>(LAS/Anthropology)</i>                               |
| <b>Rebecca Hanson</b><br><i>(LAS/Sociology)</i>                                    | <b>Welson Tremura</b><br><i>(LAS/Music)</i>  |
| <b>Karen Kainer</b><br><i>LAS/SFRC</i>   | <b>Catherine Tucker</b><br><i>(LAS/Anthropology)</i>                               |
| <b>Bette Loïselle</b><br><i>Director, TCD<br/>Program (LAS/WEC)</i>                | <b>Pilar Useche</b><br><i>(LAS/FRE)</i>  |
| <b>Timothy Murtha</b><br><i>(LAS/DCP)</i>  | <b>Nicholas Vargas</b><br><i>(LAS/Sociology)</i>                                   |
| <b>Susan Paulson</b><br><i>Associate Director,<br/>Academic Programs<br/>(LAS)</i> | <b>Robert Walker</b><br><i>(LAS/Geography)</i>                                     |

*Editor/Layout Designer: Patricia Alba, LAS*

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# Amazon Workshop

## Tropical Conservation and Development

Contributed by Bette Loiselle, TCD Director & LAS Faculty



The Center's Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) program organized a major workshop on Tools and Strategies for Conservation and Development in the Amazon: Lessons Learned and Future Pathways. The event took place October 3-5, 2017, in collaboration with the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and support from 10 UF academic units and numerous external organizations. UF President Kent Fuchs opened the event. Participants included 65 leaders from academia, NGOs and government in the U.S., and five Amazonian countries, plus 45 UF faculty and students from across campus.

The workshop started from the premise that important advances have been made in addressing key drivers of Amazonian deforestation, yet persistent threats remain, especially ambitious new infrastructure projects. The workshop reviewed lessons learned from existing tools and strategies, explored case studies of complex issues such as dams, mining, and roads, and considered how new approaches could build connections and synergies between multiple approaches at local and macro

scales. In particular, organizers focused on knowledge as a key input for governance while recognizing that power also plays a key role in deforestation and needs to be addressed through negotiation, legal contestation, political resistance, and communication.

Considerable networking and preparation were conducted prior to the event. At the workshop, plenary lectures from distinguished scientists and activists Carlos Nobre and Thomas Lovejoy and keynote speakers set the stage for facilitated sessions and panel discussions. The workshop concluded with six self-organized groups producing proposals for future actions to address the challenge of Amazon conservation and development in new ways.

Complementary to the workshop, TCD graduate students organized a Learning Day open to the community to present and discuss experiences, reflect on how research can effectively contribute to conservation and development, and promote networking between TCD students, faculty, alumni and partners.

## For Your Information: UF ACRONYMS

**CWSGR** Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research  
**DCP** College of Design, Construction & Planning  
**dLOC** The Digital Library of the Caribbean  
**FLMNH** Florida Museum of Natural History  
**FRE** Food and Resource Economics  
**IFAS** Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
**LABE** Latin American Business Environment  
**LAC** Latin American Collection (UF Libraries)

**LAS** Latin American Studies  
**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  
**SPS** Spanish & Portuguese Studies  
**TCD** Tropical Conservation and Development  
**WEC** Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

# Collaborating Across the Divide: Digital Humanities and the Caribbean

Contributed by Laurie Taylor, George A. Smathers Libraries, and Leah Rosenberg, English

The early twenty-first century is a critical moment of opportunity and of risk for scholars of Caribbean studies. Digital technology has made it possible to create digital libraries that have provided people across the globe access to Caribbean materials available, previously only in specialized libraries and archives. Yet even as digital technology has thus democratized access to and preserved invaluable cultural patrimony, it has also reproduced colonial hierarchies, marginalizing the Caribbean. We face the challenge of how to use digital technology and digital humanities in ways that decolonize knowledge and empower Caribbean Studies. This challenge is an urgent one for the University of Florida, which is the technological hub for the Digital Library of the Caribbean ([www.dloc.com](http://www.dloc.com)), the largest open-access digital collection of Caribbean materials and an international partnership of roughly fifty libraries, archives, universities, and NGOs in the Caribbean and the United States.

To assist dLOC in developing a plan for collaborative research and teaching, the Interdisciplinary Working Group on Caribbean Arts and Humanities (sponsored by the UF Center for Latin American Studies) held a symposium entitled “Collaborating Across the Divide: Digital Humanities and the Caribbean” (September 21-22, 2017). Scholars and artists based primarily in the Caribbean were invited to discuss

their current projects while scholars and librarians based in the southeast (at Florida State University, Rollins College, and the University of South Carolina) and across the U.S. (from UCLA to the New York Public Library and Duke University) participated; over 130 students, faculty, and librarians in all. Highlights included presentations by novelist and activist Oonya Kempadoo; Matthew Smith (UWI, Mona; PhD UF, 2002); Thomas Hale (Penn State); Rosamond King (Brooklyn College); Sue Ann Barratt (UWI, St. Augustine); Randi Gill-Sadler (Lafayette College) and from UF, Laurie Taylor, Prea Persaud, and Leah Rosenberg. Schuyler Esprit, Dean of Academic Affairs at Dominica State College and founding Director of the Create Caribbean Research Institute, the first Digital Humanities center in the Caribbean, was unable to travel because of Hurricane Maria; she presented her work at UF on November 17.

The symposium was sponsored by the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere; the Creative Campus Program; Center for Latin American Studies; Imagining Climate Change; the George A. Smathers Libraries; the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research; the Department of English; the Department of History; the UF Informatics Institute; the France-Florida Research Institute; and the Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Department.

## Ambassador Adalnio Senna Ganem Visits the Center for Latin American Studies

Ambassador Adalnio Senna Ganem (center), Consul General of Brazil visited the Center in October, 2017. Amb. Aldanio met with Center Director, LAS and SPS faculty; he toured the UF campus and met students interested in Brazil and the Portuguese language.



Image: Giovanna Kubota, UF Student.

# Splendor, Spectacle, Self-Fashioning: Questioning the Role of Display in Colonial Latin American Visual Culture

Contributed by Leslie E. Todd, Ph.D. Candidate in Art History, and Macarena Deij Prado, MA Alumna of Art History



This two-day, bilingual (English and Spanish) symposium, which took place November 2017, critically addressed how images were displayed in their original contexts during the colonial period in different areas of Latin America. Topics addressed how multiple images coexisted and worked together, and how this shapes our understanding of the object as it was commissioned and viewed during the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. The keynote lecture by Dr. Clara Bargellini and eleven presentations by emerging scholars in the field responded to and problematized these questions. Ultimately they demonstrated that display was about splendor, spectacle, self-fashioning and more.

In addition to the presentations and keynote lecture, the symposium included tours of the Harn Museum's *Spotlight: Latin America* exhibition and the Smathers Latin American library collection for the presenters and visiting scholars; a reception in the University Gallery following the keynote lecture and concluded with a roundtable discussion led by Dr. Paul Niell, associate professor of Art History at Florida State University.

This event was about both academic discourse as well as bringing together a community of scholars in the field from North and South America. The presenters included: Isabel Oleas-Mogollón, University of Delaware; Elsarís Núñez Méndez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; Verónica Herrera, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; Dario Velandia Onofre, Universidad de los Andes; Cynthia Neri Lewis, University of California, Riverside; Lucia Abramovich, Tulane University; Andreína Soto, University of California, Santa Barbara; Andreia Martins Torres, Universidad Complutense de Madrid; Diana López Meléndez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; and Emily Thames, Florida State University.

The symposium filled a void in the field in which opportunities to present on and discuss specifically colonial Latin American art are lacking. Their presentations will be published through the University of Florida Institutional Repository to broaden the scope of potential readers. In addition, organizers hope to make this a biennial or triennial event to continue creating opportunities for networking and dialogue about various themes and concepts in the field.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the UF Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, Harn Eminent Scholar Chair in Art History program, School of Art and Art History, UF Center for Latin American Studies, and UF International Center.

## WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY!

**Germán Bet**, Economics

**Chris Busey**, Education: Teaching and Learning

**Kathleen M. Colverson**, IFAS International Programs

**Andréa C. L. Ferreira**, Spanish and Portuguese Studies

**Bryce Henson**, African American Studies & Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research

**Travis McArthur**, Food and Resource Economics

**Cecilia Peluffo**, Economics

**Heidi C. Powell**, Arts and Art History

**Heather Vrana**, History

**Zully A. Rivera-Ramos**, Counseling & Wellness Center

## A Little More Blue: Art, Nation, Exile, Brazil

Contributed by Kaira M. Cabañas, SAAH, and Andréa C. L. Ferreira, SPS

**A** *Little More Blue* presented a series of talks by internationally recognized Brazil-based scholars with a distinguished record of published scholarship on modern and contemporary art. In their research, these speakers addressed interconnections between political economy, aesthetics, representational systems, and material practices of everyday life in the study of Brazilian art and culture. They also presented new scholarship that offered critical alternatives to entrenched ways of thinking and conducting research on Brazilian art, both within and outside of Brazil. The series' title, *A Little More Blue*, was taken from the eponymous song by Brazilian singer-songwriter Caetano Veloso. In it, Veloso reflects on the emotional toll of his forced displacement on account of Brazil's military dictatorship, while the song's broader engagement with identity and politics presented a fitting frame for the series' general theme.

More specifically, each speaker explored the tensions that arise when aesthetic practices are mobilized in the service of or in opposition to national aesthetic and political aims, spanning from the mid-19th century through to the military dictatorship

installed in the country in 1964. Fernanda Pitta addressed the afterlife of the colonial imaginary and *bandeirante* (pioneer) images in 19th century painting. Ana Magalhães turned to the moment of the Cold War and the legacy of Italian art in Brazil vis-à-vis the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Sérgio B. Martins engaged the painterly-conceptual

practices of Antonio Dias and their aesthetic and political resonances during his exile in Milan, Italy. What is more, *A Little More Blue* fostered public, faculty, staff and student engagement through its various formats. The series directly related to scheduled courses in



Kaira Cabañas (L), Fernanda Pitta (C), and Andréa Ferreira (R).

Brazilian studies and art history. The master classes were offered in Luso-Brazilian Civilization (POR 3500), taught by Andréa Ferreira, and in the art history graduate seminar (ARH 6496), which was taught by Kaira Cabañas and focused on art and war with a special focus on Brazil. The series was organized by Cabañas and Ferreira with the support of the Harn Eminent Scholar Chair in Art History, Spanish and Portuguese Studies Enhancement Fund, Center for Latin American Studies, International Center, Florida-Brazil Linkage Institute and the History Department.

## Sino-Lac Relations & Anhui-Lac Economic And Trade Cooperation Forum

**C**enter for Latin American Studies Director, Dr. Philip Williams, and faculty members, Dr. Welson Tremura and Dr. Brian Gendreau, participated in a major Latin American Studies conference in Hefei, China. The conference was hosted by Anhui University's Institute for Latin American Studies and co-sponsored by the UF Center for Latin American Studies from September 23-24, 2017, on the topic of Globalization, Anti-Globalization, and Alternative Globalization. Scholars from across China, the United States, Argentina, Colombia, and Chile participated in the conference.

Center Director Dr. Philip Williams, delivered the keynote

address on the topic of US-Latin American Relations: from Globalism to Anti-Globalism and gave a lecture to students on Latin American immigration. Dr. Welson Tremura gave a concert of Latin American music and delivered a presentation on the Participatory Experience and the Significance of Brazilian Music in Higher Education. Dr. Brian Gendreau spoke on the topic of Growth and Investment in Latin America and gave a lecture to students on the Latin American Business Environment. Dr. Williams also met with the director and faculty of the Institute for Latin American Studies at Anhui University to discuss opportunities for faculty and student exchanges and collaborative research projects.

# Latin American Studies Alumni Awards

This year, the University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies began a new tradition of presenting the Outstanding Young Alumni Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Center's Alumni Board worked hard in choosing the recipients among a very talented group of nominated alumni.



The recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Young Alumni Award is Dr. Joe Townsend, who received his Master's in Latin American Studies and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida. Dr. Townsend is currently an Associate Professor of Biology at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on the evolution, diversity,

and conservation of the amphibians and reptiles of northern Central America, particularly Honduras, and has resulted in 115 scientific publications. Additionally, Dr. Townsend regularly engages in outreach in rural public schools in Western Pennsylvania. He is dedicated to the development and conservation of practitioners in Honduras and is involved in workshops for university students, park guards, and local guides. Dr. Townsend exemplifies the mission of the Center at UF through his commitment to collaborative research and outreach in Latin America and the United States and to the long-term development of the biological research community in Honduras.

The recipient of the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award is Jay Brickman, who is currently the Vice President for Government and Cuba Services for Crowley Maritime Corporation. Mr. Brickman graduated from the University of Florida with degrees in Political Science and Economics and a certificate in Latin American Studies. He completed a Master's in International Economics and Latin American Studies from

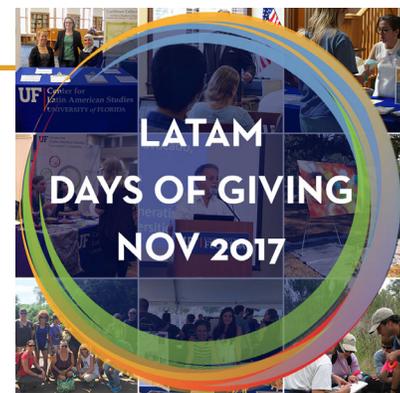
Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Brickman has spent his entire career promoting business and commerce in Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, he has been a pioneer in addressing regional transportation and logistics issues. Because of his longstanding commitment to developing working relationships with Cuba, Mr. Brickman has become a highly respected authority on US-Cuba trade issues. He is also Crowley's contracting officer for the U.S. Department of Defense. At the University of Florida, Mr. Brickman has worked closely with the Center, serving on its Cuba Program Advisory Board and sharing his expertise at many academic and career workshops on campus.



## LATAM Days of Giving Campaign

In November 2017, the Center launched the LATAM Days of Giving campaign with a goal of raising \$5,000 for the Carmen Diana Deere Director's Fund. With the generosity of faculty, alumni, and friends like you, we raised \$7,170! Thank you to everyone who helped us reach and exceed our goal.

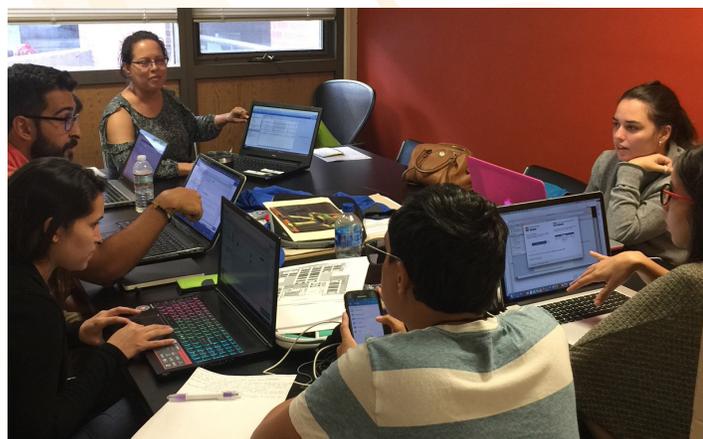
For those who missed the Days of Giving, you can help us keep the momentum going with your investment in current and future programs at the Center! To make a gift please go to [www.ufl.edu/college/center-for-latin-american-studies/](http://www.ufl.edu/college/center-for-latin-american-studies/) or contact the Center's Development Officer, Aimee Green, at 352-273-3699 or via email at [ab.green@ufl.edu](mailto:ab.green@ufl.edu).



# Solidarity With Puerto Rico

The past Hurricane Season had devastating effects for our colleagues, friends, and family in the Caribbean. During the month of September, Puerto Rico was struck by two major storms that caused serious damages to its already frail economy and infrastructure. On September 6, the eyewall of Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 storm, passed north of the Puerto Rican main island, leaving millions of residents without power. Two weeks later, Hurricane Maria cut through the U.S. territory with maximum sustained winds of 155mph, destroying the entire electrical grid, knocking down most of the communications towers, and leaving about half of the population without access to clean drinking water. The rebuilding process has been extremely slow, weighing heavily on people's morale and producing a mass exodus of Puerto Rico's labor force. In the past two months, over 200,000 Puerto Ricans have already migrated to the U.S. mainland, particularly to Central Florida.

Responding to the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria, the Center for Latin American Studies joined efforts with other departments and units at the University of Florida (UF) to support Puerto Rico's recovery. The University offered in-state tuition and financial aid to UF students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It also funded the research visits of eight displaced faculty and two graduate students from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). Although UF was unable to accommodate displaced students on campus, due to the fact that the fall semester was well underway when Maria struck the Caribbean, the University created a program for them through UF Online that begins spring 2018. Displaced students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may enroll in online courses as non-degree seeking students in the spring and summer terms of 2018 without having to pay tuition and fees.



Among the group of displaced faculty that came to UF, the Center hosted Dr. Jeffrey Herlihy-Mera, Distinguished Researcher and Associate Professor of Humanities at

UPR-Mayagüez. LAS faculty and students also had the opportunity to engage with the work of Dr. Evelyn M. Dean Olmsted (Department of Anthropology and Sociology at UPR-Río Piedras) who came through the UF Center for Jewish Studies to further her research on Syrio-Lebanese Jews in Mexico City. LAS Affiliate, Dr. Martha Kohen, hosted Dr. Anna Georas, Coordinator of Graduate Studies at UPR School of Architecture, and a group of seven students who participated in a workshop they jointly organized on sustainability and resilience in Puerto Rico Post-Maria.



The Center also collaborated with the Unión de Estudiantes Puertorriqueños Activos (UEPA) and other organizations in Gainesville to collect supplies to send to affected families in Puerto Rico. The initiative was spearheaded by MDP student, Jesse Cosme, and UEPA President, Ángel Santiago. Boxes of supplies have been delivered to families in Ponce and Vieques.

LAS Assistant Director and UPR alumna, Dr. Lenny A. Ureña Valerio, recently traveled to Puerto Rico to meet with UPR leadership in order to identify relief priorities and explore avenues of collaboration to support our colleagues in the rebuilding process. Dr. Ureña Valerio is also co-chair of the Puerto Rico Task Force, created by the Consortium for Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) in response to Maria to disseminate relief information across Latin American programs and foster joint academic initiatives with K-16 educational partners in Puerto Rico.

For further information on LAS initiatives with Puerto Rico, the CLASP Puerto Rico Task Force, or ways to help, please contact Dr. Ureña Valerio at [lurenvalerio@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:lurenvalerio@latam.ufl.edu).

*Images provided by Dr. Martha Kohen.*

# Community-Based Timber Management in Amazonian Protected Areas

In June 2017, Brazilian protected area and forest managers, researchers and technicians from different government institutions and civil society gathered to discuss the benefits, challenges, and lessons learned from community-based timber management projects in Amazonian protected areas. The meeting, held at the Embrapa (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation) Acre Training Center, also sought strategies to improve the management of these community-based initiatives.

Acre was the epicenter of the rubber tapper social movement in which rubber tappers and their allies directly confronted the actors driving Amazonian deforestation. From this conflict emerged a new type of sustainable-use conservation unit called extractive reserves, the first of which was also established in Acre.

Despite the many achievements championed, forest management in Acre and the broader Amazon region has faced a spectrum of challenges, to which forest livelihoods and management stability within conservation units such as extractive reserves are precariously sensitive. Extractive reserves and community-based timber management suffer from an insufficient allocation of human and financial resources to governmental and non-governmental institutions responsible for monitoring and sanctioning reserve performance and generally supporting conservation and development within these protected areas.

The workshop was originally conceived by two SFRC Ph.D. students (Ana Luiza Violato Espada and Natalie Cooper) who are also pursuing a TCD certificate offered through the Center for Latin American Studies. These two quickly obtained buy-in from their advisor, Dr. Karen A. Kainer, her long-term Embrapa collaborator, Lúcia Wadt, another SFRC-TCD M.S. student,



Eduardo Schmitz Bongioiolo, and UF-TCD alumnus Dr. Denyse Melo, along with a suite of Brazilian federal and state institutions.

The exchange of experiences and reflections on the theme were based on oral reports from community leaders of the extractive reserves Chico Mendes, Verde Para Sempre, Mapuá, and Ituxi in the states of Acre, Pará, and Amazonas, respectively. These reports were instrumental in guiding the ensuing discussions with representatives from the various institutions in Acre and Pará that partner with extractive reserve residents to collaboratively manage these important federal conservation units that cover approximately 12 million hectares (or 29 million acres) of the Amazon.

The workshop sought to bring these institutions together to share information and resources with Reserve residents and to jointly tackle these enormous challenges. The interaction between different actors not only improved understanding of the different approaches to community management but also strengthened the communication networks among all involved.

## Center Director Leads UF Mission to Visit Corpoica in Colombia



Center Director Dr. Philip Williams, led a delegation of UF faculty to visit Corpoica (Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria) from August 29-September 1. Accompanying Dr. Williams were Kathy Colverson (IFAS Global), Karen Garrett (Plant Pathology), Diane Rowland (Agronomy) and Pilar Useche (LAS/FRE). The delegation met with the Executive

Director and other officials at Corpoica and participated in working group meetings with Corpoica researchers. The purpose of the visit was to identify new collaborative research opportunities that can contribute to Colombia's post-conflict initiatives in the agricultural sector; to explore Corpoica staff attending UF's distance Agroecology degree programs; to discuss ways to build capacity in integrating the social sciences into Corpoica research programs - specifically building and managing Innovation Platforms; and to discuss opportunities for short courses and research visits for both Corpoica and UF research. As a result of the visit, UF and Corpoica signed a cooperative agreement to provide a framework for future collaborative activities.

# Hurricane Season: Island Tough

Contributed by Steven Keats, LAS Alumni Board Vice President

In the span of two weeks, Hurricanes Irma and Maria destroyed a wide area in the Antilles. The affected islands included Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Puerto Rico, St. Maarten/ St. Martin, St. Barthélemy, the Turks and Caicos, the British Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Managing the logistical challenges posed by the disaster takes the efforts of thousands of individuals in the supply chain.

We have seen the devastation on news media. One thing about experiencing a hurricane in the Caribbean, there is no place to run. On an island, at least in the immediate aftermath, you are simply stuck.

The Caribbean region is characterized by “The Geography of Limited Resources.” These include limitations of scale, the frequency of sea services, and lack of airport and port infrastructure. For example, in normal circumstances, the ships calling from South Florida maintain generally fixed sailings. In the immediate aftermath port terminals throughout the region were shut down for several days. Containers already in the islands were inundated by the storm surge.



Early responding vessels in Dominica.

In the first relief wave, which stretched for more than a month, all available cargo aircrafts were leased by Governments and NGO's. FEMA, American, British, Dutch and French militaries sprung into action. It took weeks before relief resources appeared in many locations. There was widespread looting and a sense of hopelessness. In the chaos, one island customer dependent on a honed schedule for his refrigerated cargo complained to the press, blaming a carrier for his late delivery.

Unending challenges faced by ocean carriers include the constraints placed on vessel capacity and availability of containers needed to fill the ships. Lack of terminal space overwhelmed the ability to circulate containers to make room for new arrivals. Government legislation also poses a challenge. Puerto Rico, for example, is bound by the Jones Act which requires the use of US-made and crewed ships. These assets are in limited supply.

Food, water, and material donations continue to flood in and unfortunately contribute to destination gridlock. The shipping

containers are analogous to the human circulation system. There is a finite number available and unless they are circulating like corpuscles, the logistics chain can grind to a halt. Consignees, many of whom have lost their storage facilities, need to use the carriers' containers for storage and that conflicts with the need for circulation. It's a serious outcome to manage in relief transportation.

Up through mid-November, the relief efforts continued in full force. Line trucks fanned out throughout the islands to repair electric and communications grids. Ships were overbooked for weeks in advance. The initial relief effort yielded to a semi-normalization of services but with extra ship capacity to supply building materials, water and food.

**It is a cycle that islanders have endured for centuries. We like to say, “Island Tough.” That’s how it is in the Caribbean.**

The recovery is progressing at a good pace in a number of islands. Anguilla, Antigua and Providenciales expect to salvage

their tourism seasons. Cruise ships, which played a huge role in evacuating stranded tourists, are coming back to their traditional markets including St. Thomas and St. Maarten. Already, the islands are seeing their foliage regenerate in luscious green. Ocean carriers are even shipping palm trees from Florida to affected islands. Magen's Bay in St. Thomas will have had all of its beachfront palm trees replaced.

Other unaffected islands expect a rough tourist season to extend into 2018. As insurance money is paid out, owners will rebuild and renovate. Boat and yacht owners will replace their loses. Shipping companies will have solid financial performance as billions of dollars find their way to the region. It will take several years to fully recover and the pace is positive. For an enterprising MALAS Candidate, a thesis on the economic impact of a Caribbean hurricane would be a worthwhile exercise!

In another 8 months, another Hurricane season will be on the horizon. It is a cycle that islanders have endured for centuries. We like to say, “Island Tough.” That’s how it is in the Caribbean.

When virtually everything must be imported, it takes ships, planes and most importantly people to keep the Caribbean islands open for business in paradise.

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*Steven Keats works for Kestrel Liner Agencies Llp and has been in shipping for more than 40 years. He experienced first-hand the logistical challenges faced during Hurricane Hugo in the U.S. Virgin Islands.*

# Connecting World Language Educators and Industry

Contributed by Erika Davis, MALAS Student

A priority of world language education today is the relevance and incorporation of experiential learning into the curriculum. The most recent in a series of pre-conference workshops to expose educators to real-world contexts occurred at the Florida Foreign Language Association's (FFLA) annual conference. Dr. Mary Risner (LAS) co-led the workshop "Careers in International Trade & Logistics" with Dr. Anita Huang, Assistant Professor of Chinese at Birmingham-Southern College. Targeting K-16 language instructors, the workshop connected international trade, STEM, China-Latin America relations, and the benefits of language learning for careers in the global workplace.

For the location of the workshop, UF alumnus Richard Wainio, former CEO of Tampa Port Authority, helped arrange a corporate site visit to Port Tampa



Bay. Participants engaged with port executives to learn about industry perspectives culminating in a boat tour of port facilities. The workshop provided a unique opportunity for language instructors to connect with Florida employers. Past language and career workshops co-organized by LAS at the state and national level have included site visits to Kennedy Space Center, JaxPort, AmCham and Dell in Panama, and Hispanidad marketing firm in Denver, Colorado.

## Global Teacher Leader Institute

Contributed by Anna Rodell, MALAS Student

In summer 2017, eleven educators from across the United States participated in the week-long Global Teacher Leader Institute in Sarapiquí, Costa Rica. The UF Center for Latin American Studies created and sponsored this professional development program in collaboration with Holbrook Travel. It was led by LAS Outreach Director Dr. Mary Risner and designed to introduce global competencies and help educators integrate global themes into their daily curriculum. Key Institute themes ranged from comparative education and sustainable development to identity

and belonging. The Institute also opened dialogue on innovative uses of technology for collaboration across borders, reflecting on Florida itself as a cultural, economic, and geographic gateway to Latin America.

The Institute recruited K-12 educators from all subject areas and grade levels to encourage interdisciplinary perspectives and collaboration. Participating teachers represented areas within social studies, science, world language, administration, and language arts. One participant, high school teacher Brian Crouch of Palm Beach County, shared his thoughts on the benefits of the Institute: "[the] biggest thing was real-world experience. It was great to travel to another country and see how those teachers experience the same frustrations and have similar goals as U.S. teachers... [also] to network with other U.S. teachers as well as the University of Florida, and learn about various resources that I can now use in my classroom." The 2018 Institute will take place in Campeche, Mexico.



## FALL 17 GRADUATIONS

### Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates

**Jonathan Beutel** (Chemistry)

**Clara Garcia** (Telecommunication)

**Susana Gobitas** (Linguistics)

**Marissa Reyes-Skindziel** (International Studies/Poli Sci)

### MDP Degrees

**William Russell Anderson**

Specializations: Agriculture Education & Leadership, Emergency Services & Disaster Preparedness, Ecological Restoration, Natural Resource Policy Administration, Latin American Studies, TCD

Advisor: Bette Loiselle (TCD-Director/WEC)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Coastal Resource Management within Placencia, Belize: Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities in Caribbean Development"

**Grace Kihombo**

Specializations: Education and Gender, African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Susan Paulson (LAS)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Assessment of Factors Contributing to Girls' School Attendance and Performance on Form Four National Examinations in Mbeya Region, Tanzania"

**Rosanna Kingston**

Specializations: Organizational Leadership for Nonprofits,

Entrepreneurship, Latin American Studies, TCD

Advisor: Sebastian Galindo (IFAS / AEC)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Tires are Good for the Soles: Process Documentation of Upcycling Tires for a Mobile Livelihood Project in Fond Bayard, Haiti"

**Eunmi Song**

Specializations: Organizational Leadership for Nonprofits, African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Sarah McKune (African Studies / Environmental & Global Health)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Understanding the Reproductive Health Education Needs of Adolescent Girls in Uganda"

**Zotha Zungu**

Specializations: Monitoring & Evaluation, African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Sarah McKune (African Studies / Environmental & Global Health)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Data Know Best: Tracking Learner Achievement and Assessing the Old Mutual Flagship Project in Nine Project Schools in Motheo District, Free-State Province, South Africa"

### Graduate Sustainable Development Practice Certificate

**Karissa Raymond, MA** (AEC)

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### MOISÉS MORENO-RIVERA

Master of Arts in Latin American Studies

Moisés Moreno-Rivera is a Spring 2017 MALAS graduate. He currently works with the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) as their Central Coast Program Coordinator. EJCW is a statewide coalition of grassroots groups and intermediary organizations building a collective, community-

based movement for democratic water allocation, management, and policy in California. In their regional Salinas office, Moisés works with community members and partners for long-term drinking water and wastewater solutions in the Central Coast region including the Salinas Valley. Additionally, his work includes supporting the implementation of the Salinas Valley Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Drinking Water and Wastewater Planning Project, Proposition 1 DAC Involvement and technical assistance programs. According to Moisés, the MALAS program provided him the adequate resources to strengthen his passion for human rights issues. This came in the form of course selection, recommended readings, interactions with professionals, and most importantly, the faculty. Moisés is grateful that faculty members embraced his passions and helped him expand on them. This was useful, as he now advocates for the human right to water in under-served communities in California.

# STUDENT Spotlight



## ROSANNA KINGSTON

Master of Sustainable Development Practice

Rosanna Kingston is a second-year student in the Master of Development Practice program. Her love for the nonprofit world began in 2003 when she started a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing backpacks full of school supplies to South American children in need. The idea that started on her kitchen table came to benefit over 70,000 impoverished children in 14

countries. During this time she gained experience leading and coordinating humanitarian efforts with other nongovernmental and governmental organizations. Later in 2011, she worked with a nonprofit organization called Clean the World which recycles soap from hotels and donates their products to charities worldwide. Her research focuses on developing employment in vulnerable communities through social enterprise. Rosanna completed her field practicum with REBUILD Globally in Port Au Prince and at a refugee camp in Fond Bayard, Haiti. REBUILD Globally is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to replace conventional approach of charitable aid with the creation of self-sustaining social enterprise ecosystems. Her research was to document and codify all the processes of a Mobile Livelihood Project in order to be able to replicate in other vulnerable communities. A video highlighting Rosana's practicum work can be viewed here <https://youtu.be/nhaqMrEOM9w>. Her committee members are Dr. Sebastian Galindo and Dr. Jaclyn Kropp.

## Tropical Conservation and Development

In the spotlight are not one but four TCD graduate students that worked as a remarkable team to make the "Tools and Strategies for Conservation and Development in the Amazon" workshop a great success - Carolina Jordão (Ph.D. student, SNRE), Johanna Espin (Ph.D. candidate, Sociology), Marliz Arteaga (Ph.D. student, SNRE), and Vanessa Luna (MALAS student). Bringing skills from their own professional experiences, as well as skills they are learning at UF, these students helped facilitate, summarize, create graphic recordings, produce workshop materials, organize a poster session, handle travel logistics, and cater to the needs of over 100 workshop attendees. Despite busy schedules, these students committed

immense time and energy to the workshop with great efficiency, patience, and humor!



Vanessa Luna (left) and Marliz Arteaga (Right).

Carolina joined UF in 2016

from Instituto Centro de Vida, a dynamic NGO working in the Brazilian Amazon frontier. Carolina is particularly interested in capacity building and evaluating the impact of professional development programs



Johanna Espin (left) and Carolina Jordão (Right).

as mechanisms to promote sustainable development. Johanna arrived from Ecuador in 2013 and is nearing completion of her Ph.D. Johanna's dissertation is focused on developing a policy-relevant understanding of the ways in which gold mining is legal, illegal and informal in Peruvian Amazon. Marliz arrived to UF in 2010 as a Visiting Scholar from Bolivia and received a MS in Sustainable Development Practice. Her Ph.D. research investigates the sociological impacts of dams in the Madeira River basin. Vanessa arrived 2 months ago from Peru bringing experience as Science Coordinator and project planner for Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica, a highly respected NGO in Peru. For her thesis, Vanessa will study the impact of community private protected areas on forest conservation.

## 2017 Charles Wood Thesis Award

The 2017 Charles Wood Thesis Award committee received an exceptionally large number of high-quality nominations. Among these, a panel of judges recognized the following work.

Winner: Akemi Inamoto, Embodied Experiences of Climate Change: Gendered Perceptions and Differentiated Adaptations among Rice Farmers in Tolima, Colombia. Thesis Committee:

Susan Paulson (LAS), Catherine Tucker (LAS/Anthropology), Pilar Useche (LAS/FRE).

Runner-up: Kerry White, Cruising Havana: Affective Spaces, Public Gestures, and the Worlds They Make in a Contemporary Cuba. Thesis Committee: Lillian Guerra (History), Susan Paulson (LAS), Tanya Saunders (LAS/CWSGR).

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Mary Risner

Spring 2017 marked Dr. Mary Risner's fifteenth year with the Center for Latin American Studies and her tenth year serving as the Outreach Director. Her work and research promote the integration of technology and Latin American Studies across disciplines in the K-16 curriculum.

Dr. Risner recently completed a term as president of the Florida Foreign Language Association (FFLA) and led the 2017 conference, "From Our Classrooms to the World: Bridging the Gap." The event welcomed 280 teacher and administrator attendees and was co-sponsored by the Center.

Among Dr. Risner's outreach initiatives is her focus on world languages. In 2009 she founded and continues to administer the Network of Business Language Educators (NOBLE), a community for teachers and learners of world languages that connects languages and humanities with professional schools. She has co-authored LSP articles with K-12 teachers and graduate students in journals such as *Dimension*, *Hispania*, and *Global Business Languages*. She is currently organizing the IV International Symposium on Languages for Specific Purposes at the University of Florida, which will take place February 2018.

Another component of Dr. Risner's work focuses on Portuguese language education. She is currently completing her three-year term as the Portuguese representative on the Executive



Board of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

She co-edited *A Handbook for Portuguese Language Instructors in the U.S.* (2017). In 2006, she founded the online *Portuguese Language Journal* (PLJ), which recently released a special two-volume edition for the journal's tenth anniversary. The PLJ has now partnered with the American Organization of Teachers of Portuguese as its official academic publication.

To learn more about outreach initiatives coordinated by Dr. Risner, as well as ways to collaborate, visit the Center's Outreach page at [www.latam.ufl.edu/outreach](http://www.latam.ufl.edu/outreach).

## FACULTY NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

**Efraín Barradas** (LAS) published *Para devorarte otra vez: Nuevos acercamientos a la obra de Luis Rafael Sánchez*. Ediciones Cielonaranja, 2017.

**Kaira Cabañas** (Art History) gave the lecture "Hacia la práctica de un modernismo afectivo." Museo Reina Sofía, 26 June 2017. Alongside L. Redondo, B. Lipinski, V. Piccoli, and F. Pitta, she was a fellow at the Clark Art Institute as part of the Summer Collaborative Working Group. Together the summer fellows researched models for the exhibition of national art collections (e.g., Brazil, the US) and worked toward an exhibition of Redondo's work at Pinacoteca in 2018. Cabañas is also the winner of the International Educator Award in the College of the Arts.

**Amy Jo Coffey** (TEL) was named to the Fulbright Specialist Roster for 2017-2020. Along with G. Blackstone, she presented "Latino News Media Engagement, Opinion, and Political Participation" and "Assimilation or Consternation? U.S. Latinos' Perceptions of Trust in Relation to Media and Other

Factors" at the annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, August 2017, Chicago, IL.

**Susan DeFrance** (Anthropology) et al. "Droughts, Floods, and Farming at Quebrada Tacahuay from Late Prehispanic to Colonial Times." *Nawpa Pacha*, vol. 37, no. 1, 2017, pp. 25-37. doi: 10.1080/00776297.2017.1324010.

**Carmen Diana Deere** (LAS/FRE-Emerita) "Balance regional del acceso a la tierra por las mujeres." *International Seminar Governing Land with Equality, FAO/UN Women/Ministry of Agriculture*, August 2017, Asuncion, Paraguay. Keynote Address. Co-authored "Who Borrows to Accumulate Assets? Class, Gender and Indebtedness in Ecuador's Credit Market." *CEPAL Review*, vol. 122, August 2017, pp. 107-126. "Decomposing the Gender Wealth Gap in Ecuador." *World Development*, vol. 96, 2017, pp. 19-31. doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.02.003. "Assets and Shocks: A Gendered Analysis of Ecuador, Ghana and Karnataka, India." *Canadian Journal*

*of Development Studies*, 2017, pp. 1-18. doi: 10.1080/02255189.2017.1316244.

**Andrea Ferreira** (SPS) and Kaira Cabañas organized *A Little More Blue: Art, Nation, Exile, Brazil*. The event presented a series of lectures and master classes by internationally recognized Brazil-based scholars with a distinguished record of published scholarship on modern and contemporary art. Guest speakers were Fernanda Pitta, Ana Magalhães, and Sérgio Martins.

**Karen Garrett** (Plant Pathology) et al. published "Epidemic Network Analysis for Mitigation of Invasive Pathogens in Seed Systems: Potato in Ecuador." *Phytopathology*, vol. 107, no. 10, 2017, pp. 1209-1218. doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-03-17-0108-FI. "Resistance Genes in Global Crop Breeding Networks." *Phytopathology*, vol. 107, no. 10, 2017, pp. 1268-1278. doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-03-17-0082-FI.

**Brian Gendreau** (Business) delivered three presentations. "Growth and Investment in Latin America" and "The Economic and

Business Outlook for Latin America, 2017.” Anhui-LAC Economics and Trade Forum, September 2017, Anhui University, Hefei, China. “The Economic and Business Outlook for Latin America, 2017.” LatAm Gateway Summit sponsored by Zelle LLP, 11 October 2017, Miami, FL.

**Rebecca Hanson** (LAS/Sociology) “Deepening Distrust: Why Participatory Experiments are not Always Good for Democracy.” *The Sociological Quarterly*, 2017, pp. 1-23. tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00380253.2017.1383145. Hanson presented “Masculinities, Marginality, and Reducing Police Use of Force.” Florida Atlantic University’s Workshop on Sociological Research, 3 November 2017.

**Gaby Hernandez** (SAAH) was selected as awardee of the AIGA+Amazon National Design Conference Fellowship 2017, that took place in Minneapolis, MN in October 2017. This fellowship recognizes her contributions to the diversification of the design profession and design education in the United States.

**Emily Hind** (SPS) “Classism. Gente Decente and Civil Rights: From Suffrage to Divorce and Privileges in Between.” *Modern Mexican Culture: Critical Foundations*, edited by S. Day, University of Arizona Press, 2017, pp. 184-202. “Contemporary Mexican Sor Juanas: Artistic, Popular, and Scholarly.” *The Routledge Research Companion to the Works of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz*, edited by E. L. Bergmann and S. Schlauf, Routledge, 2017, pp. 107-117.

**Karen Kainer** (LAS/SFRC) et al. “Population Structure and Fruit Production of *Carapa Guianensis* (Andiroba) in Amazonian Floodplain Forests: Implications for Community-Based Management.” *Tropical Conservation Science*, vol. 10, 2017, pp. 1-13. doi.org/10.1177/1940082917718835. Helped organize the symposium “Partners in Science: Collaborating With Communities, Policy-Makers and Institutions” and presented “Are Brazil Nut Populations Threatened by Fruit Harvest?” 54th Annual Meeting of the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation, 9-14 July 2017, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

**Susan Milbrath** (FLMNH) “Maya Astronomical Observations and the Agricultural Cycle in the Postclassic Madrid Codex.” *Ancient Mesoamerica*, vol. 28, no. 2, pp. 489-505. doi:10.1017/S0956536117000189. “The role of Solar Observation in Developing the Preclassic Maya Calendar.” *Latin American Antiquity*, vol. 28, no. 1, 2017, pp. 88-104. doi.org/10.1017/

laq.2016.4. Co-authored “Mesoamerican World View and Cosmology in the Murals of Mayapán.” *Constructing Power and Place in Mesoamerica: Pre-hispanic Paintings from Three Regions*, edited by M. Paxton and L. S. Cicero, University of New Mexico Press, 2017, pp. 191-208. Milbrath presented “Yearbearer Rituals in the Maya Area.” Working Group for “Maya Materialization of Time,” August 2017, Santa Fe Institute.

**Gerald Murray** (Anthropology) presented “The New China/Haiti Connection - New Hopes, Old Alarms.” Globalization, Anti-Globalization, and Alternative Globalizations Conference, September 2017, Anhui University, Hefei, China.

**Paul Ortiz** (History) received the UF Division of Student Affairs Mort Wolfson Faculty Service Award for Outstanding Service to University of Florida Students. He published “Anti-Imperialism as a Way of Life: Emancipatory Internationalism and the Black Radical Tradition in the Americas.” *The Futures of Black Radicalism*, edited by G. T. Johnson and A. Lubin, Verso, 2017. Presented “Development Drowned and Reborn: A Roundtable in Memory of Clyde Woods.” The National Conference on Planning History, October 2017, Cleveland, Ohio.

**Susan Paulson** (LAS) published “Power and Difference in Conservation Policy: Changing Masculinities and Andean Watersheds.” *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2017, pp. 207-224. “Degrowth: Culture, Power and Change.” *Journal of Political Ecology*, vol. 24, no. 1, 2017, pp. 425-448. Paulson and Lisa Gezon co-edited a special issue with 15 new studies on efforts around the world to forge ways of living well with less impact: “Degrowth, Culture and Power” Nos. 23-37 of the *Journal of Political Ecology*.

**Mary Risner** (LAS) and Margo Milleret co-edited *A Handbook for Portuguese Instructors in the U.S.* Boa Vista Press, 2017. She also served on a panel promoting Portuguese at the 2017 annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Portuguese.

**Sadie Ryan** (Geography) co-authored “Habitat Use, Activity Patterns and Human Interactions with Jaguars *Panthera Onca* in Southern Belize.” *Oryx*, 2017, pp. 1-6. doi:10.1017/S0030605317000308. “Outbreak of Zika Virus Infections, Dominica, 2016.” *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, vol. 23, no. 11, pp. 1926-1927. doi:10.3201/eid2311.171140. “Polisye Kont Moustik: A Culturally Competent Approach to Larval Source Reduction in the Context of Lyphatic Filariasis and Malaria Elimination in

Haiti.” *Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease*, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 39. doi:10.3390/tropicalmed2030039. Funding- USAID/ BRCCC: “Development of a Health-Climate Spatio-Temporal Modeling Framework for the Caribbean.” CDC: “Insecticide Resistance in *Aedes Aegypti* in a Zika Transmission Region in Ecuador.”

**Tanya Saunders’** (LAS) book, *Cuba Underground Hip Hop*, was awarded honorable mention in the Barbara Christian Prize for the best book in the Humanities for the Caribbean Studies Association. Out of 200 entries, the book was also selected for one of six author-meets-critics sessions at the National Women’s Studies Association in Baltimore, November 2017.

**Marianne Schmink** (LAS-Emerita) et al. (2017): From Contested to ‘Green’ Frontiers in the Amazon? A Long-Term Analysis of São Félix do Xingu, Brazil, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, doi: 10.1080/03066150.2017.1381841. She co-authored “Women’s Rights to Land and Communal Forest Tenure: A Way Forward for Research and Policy Agenda in Latin America.” *Women’s Studies International Forum*, vol. 65, 2017, pp. 53-59. ISSN 0277-5395, doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2017.10.005.

**Maya Stanfield-Mazzi** (SAAH) “Uniquely American Visions of the Virgin Mary.” *The Art of Painting in Colonial Bolivia*, edited by S. L. Stratton-Pruitt, St. Joseph’s University Press, 2017, pp. 253-271.

**Catherine Tucker** (LAS/Anthropology) *Coffee Culture: Local Experiences, Global Connections. Second Edition.* Routledge Press, 2017. “Methods for Examining Food Commodity Chains in Conventional and Alternative Trade.” *Food Culture: Anthropology, Linguistics and Food Studies*, edited by J. Chrzan and J. Brett, Berghahn, 2017, pp. 239-252. Co-authored “The Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement’s Symbolic Nod to Environmental Protection.” *Society and Natural Resources*, vol. 30, no. 10, 2017, pp. doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2017.1290183. “A Model Integrating Social-Cultural Concepts of Nature into Frameworks of Interaction Between Social and Natural Systems.” *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 2017, pp. 1-22. doi.org/10.1080/09640568.2017.1327424.

**Pilar Useche** (LAS/FRE) co-authored “Epidemic Network Analysis for Mitigation of Invasive Pathogens in Seed Systems: Potato in Ecuador.” *Phytopathology*, vol. 107, no. 10, 2017, pp. 1209-1218. doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-03-17-0108-FI. “Decomposing the Gender

Wealth Gap in Ecuador.” *World Development*, vol. 96, 2017, pp. 19-31. doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.02.003.

**Margarita Vargas-Betancourt** (LAC) et al. “Breaking Down Borders: Dismantling Whiteness Through International Bridges.” *Topographies of Whiteness: Mapping*

*Whiteness in Library and Information Science*, edited by G. Schlesselman-Tarango, Litwin Books, 2017.

**Heather Vrana** (History) published *This City Belongs to You: A History of Student Activism in Guatemala, 1944-1996*. University of California Press, 2017. She also co-organized

“Revisiting Revolution: History, Memory, Politics” at the University of Manitoba in May with the support of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Connection Grant. She recently won the UF Global Fellows Program fellowship for her new research, “The Idea of Disability and the Making of Modern Central America.”

## ALUMNI News

# ALUMNI UPDATES

**Marcos Avellan** (MALAS 1998) is the General Manager of JCPenney. He runs JCPenney’s second largest operation nationally, located in the Bronx, New York. As part of his job he leads a team of approximately 500 employees.

**Brian Bombassaro** (BSBA, BA, LAS Cert 2006) joined the staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance in October 2017. As international trade counsel, he is

responsible for advising the committee on international trade law and policy. From 2012 to 2017, Bombassaro was an associate at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP in Washington, DC, where his practice centered on investor-state dispute settlement, sovereign finance, and international trade. While in private practice, his work included several projects involving Latin America, including representation of the governments of Brazil, El Salvador, and Panama and counseling on legal aspects of debts of the governments of Argentina, Belize, Ecuador, and Puerto Rico.

**Anna Porter** (MALAS 2015) worked for two years as a legal caseworker in the immigration and legal services office at

a refugee resettlement agency. Anna recently enrolled at the University of Chicago Law School.

**Mariana Varese** (MALAS 1999) is the Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Amazon Landscapes Program, which encompasses five highly biodiverse and complex landscapes totaling 400,000 km<sup>2</sup> in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. She currently leads a project on exploring the conditions and possibilities to implement a citizen science approach in the Amazon at the scale of the basin, both aggregating local participatory monitoring initiatives and exploring new ways of engaging Amazon citizens in science and conservation.

## Alumni Spotlight

# Avecita Chicchón and Gustavo Fonseca

Our alumni spotlight is shared by two accomplished individuals, Dr. Avecita del Carmen Chicchón and Dr. Gustavo Alberto Fonseca. Both Drs. Fonseca and Chicchón graduated from the University of Florida where they participated in the interdisciplinary Tropical Conservation and Development Program from the Center for Latin American Studies. In December 2017, as recognition for their outstanding achievements, Dr. Chicchón and Dr. Fonseca were awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award by the University of Florida.

Dr. Chicchón earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Florida. Her career encompasses over 25 years of innovative work in natural resource use, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

where she has guided the design of major conservation initiatives. Currently, Dr. Chicchón leads the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation’s Andes Amazon Initiative, which is investing \$500 million in the protection and improved management of more than 170 million hectares in the Amazon.

Dr. Fonseca earned his Ph.D. in Forest Management and Conservation at the University of Florida. As a professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, he developed an innovative interdisciplinary graduate program that was recognized as the top program of its kind in Latin America. In his current role as Director of Programs for the Global Environment Facility, Dr. Fonseca is responsible for a \$4.43 billion Trust Fund.

Can you tell us about your current position and how it relates to Latin America?

**Dr. Chicchón:** I am the Director of the Andes Amazon Initiative at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Our initiative focuses on consolidating protected areas and indigenous lands across the Amazon for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and securing ecological processes to mitigate climate change. Currently, we work in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia.

**Dr. Fonseca:** I am the Director of Programs for the Global Environment Facility, a multilateral funding agency dedicated to helping developing countries with their environmental needs and commitments with the international conventions. Latin America is one of the regions where we concentrate a lot of resources to deal with climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, agriculture, and other pressing needs.

What aspect of your career have you enjoyed the most?

**Dr. Chicchón:** What I have enjoyed the most is developing partnerships to conserve nature that have resulted in new protected areas, and to provide alternatives for sustainable development for local peoples across Latin America.

**Dr. Fonseca:** The ability to navigate different sectors and different parts of society, from academia to government circles, to NGOs and the private sector, all the way to working with public finance institutions. Not being confined to any one of these sectors is a blessing, particularly if you are dealing with the environment and sustainable development. Without that, it is hard to see beyond your own personal field of work.

How did the TCD program and the Center help you prepare for your career?

**Dr. Chicchón:** The Center helped me prepare for my career in two fundamental ways. One was learning the basic and critical tools of conservation with an interdisciplinary perspective, and the second was by helping me develop a network across Latin America that only a place like Florida can provide.

I have traveled across Latin America in different capacities and I have always found a UF graduate in a key position that has helped facilitate my work.

**Dr. Fonseca:** TCD and the Center provided me with a very wide breath of exposure to different teachers and students from different backgrounds and countries. The ability to have a dialogue across all of these experiences is invaluable and that is something that I didn't find in other programs. Through this exposure, my work became much richer and much more germane to finding the right solutions for the various problems that we are facing in the environmental arena in Latin America.



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

**Dr. Chicchón:** Students at the moment are facing a rapidly changing world. I think it is important to be curious, keep an open mind, learn all the tools the University of Florida provides, and apply them to their work. They need to focus on the goal of their career. It won't be easy, but it is very important to do the work and adapt even though they will find obstacles along the way.

**Dr. Fonseca:** Students need to step out of Gainesville and be exposed to how the world operated. I recommend that everyone do fieldwork for their thesis or dissertation. Students should try to put themselves in situations where they experience the different tensions that arise from challenges in the natural resource management or development fields. They can then reflect on and apply their academic training to these experiences, and be informed by the different entities and agencies in the decision making process.

# 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.

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## **Vivian G. Nolan Graduate Fellowship in Latin American Studies**

Christopher E. Baker  
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Center for Latin American Studies  
319 Grinter Hall  
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