



The **LATINAMERICANIST**

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DIRECTOR'S Corner



What an academic year! I first want to congratulate our graduating students for adapting to strenuous circumstances and successfully

completing their MA degrees. Despite the uncertainties this was a successful year for our faculty, who continue to be recognized for their research in the quality and number of their publications. Professors Tanya Saunders and Joel Correia merit a special mention. Dr. Saunders was honored with a fellowship at the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University for Spring 2022, and Dr. Correia was awarded a 2021 American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship (p. 12).

In February we celebrated the Center's 90th birthday with a panel of former Center directors, and a discussion about the Center's contribution to theories of critical development (p. 3). The Latin American Studies Alumni Board awarded Camila Pazos Fajardo the 2020 Young Alumni Award (p. 13). Laury Cullen was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for his continuous work on conservationism and reforestation in Brazil (p. 13). Professors Pilar Useche, Timothy McLendon, Trent Blare, and Brian Gendreau published the 2021 Latin American Business Environment Report (LABER) that focused on the effects of

the Covid pandemic (p. 11). In April our annual conference titled "Indigenous Rights, Environmental Change, and Development in South America's Chaco," brought together frontline actors and academics from Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Canada, and the U.S. (p. 4). I want to thank Dr. Joel Correia for organizing the conference, and the great speakers who participated.

Because of the Covid crises it will be difficult to do summer research in Latin America and the Caribbean. As we hope to move to a "normal" Fall 2021 semester, we will have face-to-face classes and conferences. In late October, we will host an international conference on the theme "Still the Age of Populism," with the Center for European Studies and the Ehrlich Chair in the Department of Political Science at the University of Florida. The conference will be co-sponsored with Reset Dialogues on Civilizations (resetdoc.org), an international association committed to convening, researching and publishing on cross-cultural and international relations, cultural and religious pluralism, human rights, and the promotion of the rule of law and liberal democracy.

I welcome the MALAS and MDP classes of 2021-23, and want to close thanking the alumni board for their continuous support, and the faculty, students, and staff of the Center for their hard work and their daily contributions.

Dr. Carlos de la Torre
CENTER DIRECTOR

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Editor & layout design: Christa Markley, LAS

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Center for Latin American Studies

Contributed by Anthony Baxter Jr. (MALAS 2022)

2021 marks the 90th Anniversary of the creation of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida. Currently amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, an in-person celebration was unable to occur to lower the likelihood of spreading or contracting the virus. However, the Center was able to celebrate its inception through zoom meetings and live YouTube broadcasts. The current director, Dr. Carlos De La Torre, hosted a Director's Panel, which featured previous directors of the Center Dr. Carmen Diana Deere, Dr. Terry McCoy, and Dr. Philip Williams. In this panel, the directors walked the audience through the Center's history while exploring various goals of Latin American studies during different time periods, and the key goals of the Center while they served as directors. Each director had their own unique interests and contributions to the center, yet they all played a crucial role in making the center one of the top three Latin American Studies programs in the United States. Former director Dr. Philip Williams highlighted four key principles about Latin American Studies at UF which gave a solid depiction of what the Center strives for and represents:

1. The insistence on deep contextual understanding of language, culture, and history of what scholars choose to study.
2. Indispensability of interdisciplinary studies, programs, and initiatives that bridge together scholars of various disciplines and backgrounds.
3. Collaboration and embracing collaborative research methods while incorporating the participation of community while conducting research.

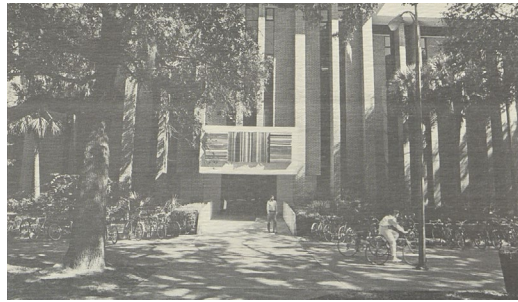
4. Teaching and scholarship that advances knowledge while also striving to conjure a positive impact through our work.

90th Anniversary Development Panel

Development Studies and theory in Latin America have continued to maintain their status of high relevancy both in and outside of academia. It is a complex subject that spans across disciplines, which requires a critical, holistic lens to determine what it means, who decides what country or sector needs development, how to approach development, and why certain things must occur to achieve and sustain it. To celebrate the founding of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, a panel moderated by its current director Dr. Carlos de la Torre was held to acknowledge and celebrate the Center's contribution to being at the forefront of critical Development Studies over the years.

The panel featured a variety of the Center's faculty members, who all tackled the studies of development in each of their respective disciplines. These panel participants were: Dr. Carmen Diana Deere, Dr. Bette Loiselle, Dr.

Glenn Galloway, Dr. Susan Paulson, and Dr. Marianne Schminck. They each offered their insights about the evolution of their approach to development theory through years of conducting field research, learning from their research participants, and teaching. Their perspectives and experiences with Development Studies highlighted the imperativeness of collaboration between disciplines and researchers—as most of them felt the need to collaborate with natural scientists and other scholars as their research progressed to critically evaluate development in Latin America.



69th Annual Conference brings together activists and academics on El Gran Chaco

Contributed by Britany Green (MALAS 2022)



The Center for Latin American Studies hosted its 69th Annual Conference titled “Indigenous Rights, Environment Change, and Development in South America’s Chaco” from April 15-16. This year, the conference was held virtually, which allowed for the participation and attendance of a diverse range of actors from across the Americas. The two-day event consisted of presentations and round-table discussions with Indigenous leaders, researchers, and social justice advocates from Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina, the U.S., and Canada. The panelists provided critical insight into struggles for Indigenous land rights, environmental conservation, and human rights in the Gran Chaco.

The first day of the conference featured presentations by the invited panelists from Indigenous communities and advocacy organizations in the Chaco. Indigenous leaders from Bolivia and Paraguay shared their communities’ struggles for the recuperation of ancestral lands and the recognition of their territorial rights. Representatives from research organizations in the Chaco discussed the efforts being made by human and environmental rights

advocates to address the social and environmental injustice in the region. Moreover, members of conservation organizations talked about the rapid deforestation and loss of biodiversity occurring in the Chaco with the expansion of agribusiness and development projects. Each panel concluded with vibrant discussion on the future for the communities and organizations represented. Many panelists expressed the importance of collaboration between researchers and frontline actors, but also between researchers themselves. Collaboration is especially necessary in the case of the Gran Chaco, as the forest lies at the intersection of four countries, each with complex relationships between the state, private businesses, and local actors.

Day two revolved around presentations by the authors of the forthcoming edited book *Reimagining the Gran Chaco: Identities, Politics, and the Environment*. The authors came from various countries and academic backgrounds, which resulted in the book being multinational and interdisciplinary in its approach to analyzing the Chaco. During the conference, some speakers

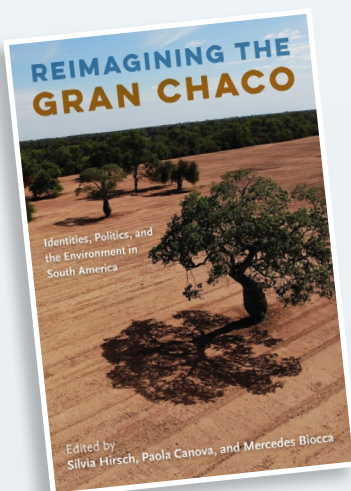
discussed the historical legacies of colonialism and settler colonialism that impact the lives of Indigenous peoples in the Chaco today. Other scholars discussed Indigenous peoples' struggles for territory and autonomy in the context of growing extractivist industries. The intersections between identity, language, and religion were explored through presentations on the cultural dynamics of the people living in the region. Each presentation

built on the discussions from the previous day by furthering our understanding of the social, political, and economic context of the Chaco. The conference ended with a virtual happy hour and live music by Welson Tremura, where conversation continued on how to strengthen collaborative research.



The 69th Annual Conference was facilitated by Dr. Joel Correia and hosted by the UF Center for Latin American Studies. The event was sponsored by Title VI funding, and the UF International Center, Anthropology department, Tropical Conservation and Development Program, University of Florida

Press, and the University of Arizona Center for Latin American Studies also contributed. All conference sessions are available to view on the Center's YouTube channel, and *Reimagining the Gran Chaco* is able to be preordered through The University of Florida Press.



WATCH: qrgo.page.link/EXxE4

PREORDER THE BOOK:
qrgo.page.link/B42me



Reimagining the Gran Chaco is available to preorder at a discount price of \$28 (paperback) and \$50 (hardcover), plus free U.S. shipping. Use code **LASA21**. Place orders online or call 800-226-3822. Discount code valid through **June 30, 2021**.

Towards an Acoustemology of Afro-Cuban Rap: A Lecture with Pablo D. Herrera-Veitia

Contributed by Anthony Baxter Jr. (MALAS 2022)

If culture is the blueprint for a community that determines their way of life, thought, and interactions with the cosmos and everything of it—rap is the spoken extension of this phenomena that offers a glimpse into the inner worlds of a community, offering vivid depictions of what goes on in their daily lives. Although the genre has been bastardized and infiltrated by corporations and record label executives since the early 1990s, at its core remains the need to tell stories about a community's struggles, dreams, pitfalls, and resistance against oppressive governments and superstructures that function through the lens of white supremacy. Rap was initially the means of communication for our (African descendant) people in the United States that was birthed from jazz, scatting, soul, blues, funk, spoken word, and African polyrhythms that were brought with our ancestors as they were kidnapped and trafficked across the trans-Atlantic. It was used to make the parties jump, as well as provide social commentary to keep everyone in the loop about what was happening in the world.

Just as rap has played a significant role in the United States, it is also cemented in the lives and culture of our Afro-Cuban brothers and sisters 103 miles across the ocean in Cuba. On March 9, 2021, the Center for Latin American Studies at UF held a lecture moderated by faculty member and professor Dr. Tanya Saunders that featured the well-known Afro-Cuban music producer Pablo D. Herrera-Veitia, who

has produced several popular songs for a myriad of Rap artists both in and outside of Cuba that can be found here: soundcloud.com/pablo_herrera.

During the lecture Pablo highlighted the need for Rap music in Cuba and how it has become vital for both older and younger generations throughout the country. While conducting field research, many of his research participants revealed that the amplified presence of protest embedded within

the songs contribute to strengthening their sense of pride and identity, and influencing the directions that they take to make their lives better. Rap in Cuba, especially underground Rap/ Hip-Hop, provides the spaces for Afro-Cubans to express themselves as well as formulate their ideas and goals while also defining/redefining who they are and what they stand for as a community. Through its need and urge to tell the truth, it forces one to pull back the gilded layers of society to analyze the realities of Afro-Cubans and disrupts the narratives circulated that depict Cuba as a non-racial society that is completely beyond the

issues of race and racism. The lecture also posed questions about appropriation and highlighted the symbiotic relationships between the diaspora, as the music clearly shows African descendant people sharing and feeding off of one another, despite land or language barriers.

PUBLIC LECTURE

TOWARDS AN
ACOUSTEMOLOGY
OF **AFRO-CUBAN** RAP

LECTURE BY
Pablo D. Herrera Veitia

UF Center for Latin American Studies UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

MARCH 9
5:30 PM ET

WATCH: youtu.be/Fv6lyNU9fUo



Impasses Políticos y los Caminos Hacia un Futuro Mejor en Venezuela

Contributed by Christa Markley (LAS)

The path forward for Venezuela is neither clear nor simple, a result of a complex and challenging political situation. On March 26, scholars on Venezuela explored this topic in the virtual forum "Impasses Políticos y los Caminos Hacia un Futuro Mejor en Venezuela" moderated by Professor Rebecca Hanson. The discussion brought experts from a diverse range of research, including democratization, citizen security, and political violence.

The speakers were: Maryhen Jiménez, postdoctoral research associate at the Latin American Centre at University of Oxford; Leonard Gómez, researcher and professor at Universidad Nacional Experimental de la Seguridad in Caracas; Verónica Zubillaga, sociologist and associate professor at Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas; and Alejandro Velasco, Associate Professor of Latin American history at New York University.



Maryhen Jiménez spoke about the role of political parties and society in contemporary Venezuela, and the shifting contextual factors affecting the facility of transition.

Leonard Gómez presented on political oppression and violence before and during the revolution, and detailed challenges to citizen security in a post-Maduro future.

Verónica Zubillaga shed further light on the role of violence in the revolution, focusing on the increased use of guns and its effect.

Finally, Alejandro Velasco posed questions to the panelists about transitional strategies and political discourse.

WATCH: youtu.be/tYGS47dL7Tk



Dialogue in the Diaspora: Benin and Brazil

Contributed by Christa Markley (LAS)

Despite pandemic travel restrictions, Welson Tremura's Jacaré Brazil still teamed up virtually with Jomion and the Uklos to explore the shared musical language between Brazil and Benin, spanning the distance between Gainesville and Brooklyn.

The event featured approximately an hour of musical performances from both groups. The song selections were workshopped in advance to highlight the



interchange of rhythms between Brazil and Benin, particularly Brazil's bossanova and Benin's bossuhoho. The Q&A after the performance revealed the deep connection between these "twin" rhythms separated by the diaspora, and the power of reuniting them in imagination, in reality, and through music.

WATCH: youtu.be/hBrc4abkY5Uo



Governance and Infrastructure in the Amazon project culminates in collaborative findings

Contributed by Robert Buschbacher (LAS / GIA)

The Governance and Infrastructure in the Amazon project (GIA, part of the Center’s Tropical Conservation and Development Program), is an innovative approach to research, education and international extension. GIA brings together academics, NGOs, grassroots leaders and interested government staff in a Community of Practice and Learning to exchange experiences, reflect, and learn about strategies to address the challenges of large-scale infrastructure. Roads, dams and waterways threaten the Amazon’s forests and rivers as well as the livelihoods of indigenous people, family farmers and riverine folk. Infrastructure proponents use economic and political power to control information, disrupt community organization, limit consultation, and co-opt multiple constituencies with misleading promises and pro-development discourse.

The GIA project is led by a team of UF students and faculty who have deep roots in the Amazon region. We began by reaching out to practitioners and researchers in four different regions of Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. UF formed regional teams, conducted interviews and online meetings with partners, and then organized a workshop in each region that consolidated a network of practitioners who were mobilized to reflect on their work and improve their practice by learning and dialogue.

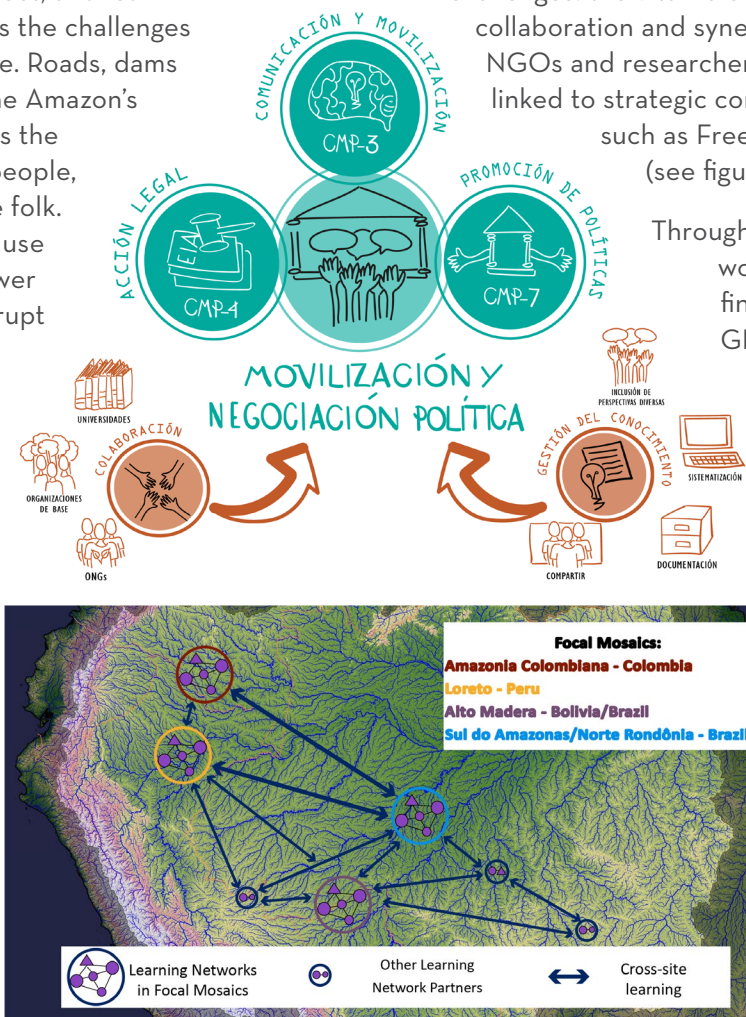
To indicate the way forward, a meta-analysis of 55 partners’ experiences from the 4 focal regions

identified key strategies to influence infrastructure governance. The global Covid-19 pandemic disrupted follow-up plans, but the dedicated UF team and engaged partners adapted and innovated. Using Zoom, WhatsApp, YouTube, a newsletter, infographics, videos and web site, a polycentric network of virtual teams is working on key strategies for addressing infrastructure challenges: the vital role of grassroots organizations; collaboration and synergy among communities, NGOs and researchers; knowledge generation linked to strategic communications; and legal tools such as Free Prior and Informed Consent (see figure).

Throughout April and May 2021, working groups are sharing findings with the pan-Amazon GIA network and fostering

discussion of limiting and enabling conditions for effective infrastructure governance, how to achieve synergy among strategies and partners, and opportunities for future work. GIA goes beyond typical academic approaches by engaging directly with practitioners, providing unique educational opportunities for UF students and post-docs; carrying out research in partnership with community leaders, NGOs and other universities; and co-generating

knowledge advances that are directly incorporated into the practice of grassroots organizations and others who are on the front line addressing the threats of infrastructure to the Amazon’s forests, rivers and livelihoods.



LEARN: giamazon.org



Research Festival adapts to virtual format for second year in a row

Contributed by Christa Markley (LAS)

Normally, March brings together students, faculty, and guests to the George A. Smathers Library to witness and celebrate the impact of fieldwork in Latin American Studies. Graduate students meet for an interactive workshop, and then everyone gathers for a public exhibit of presentations, with food, beverages, and bestowment of awards.

But since the pandemic hit last March, the Fieldwork Festival has had to adapt to the online context.

“It was important to us that we still find a way to hold the festival,” says Professor Catherine Tucker, Associate Director of Academic Affairs and Fieldwork Festival organizer. “The students deserve the chance to share their fantastic research and exchange ideas, especially because they had faced so many unique challenges during the past year.”

This year, there were few fieldwork projects to present; most students had to adapt their research to online and archival methods due to pandemic-related travel restrictions. So the 2021 Research Festival invited graduate students to share their research through virtual presentations, available for public viewing for a full week before the award ceremony. Fifteen students

participated, creatively adapting presentations of their research to the online environment and meeting the challenge: “How can you best engage the viewer in your work?”

Nearly every participant incorporated audio and video into their presentation, taking the opportunity to make poster presentations more dynamic and engaging. The judges on the awards selection committee, Professors Mark Brenner, Richard Kernaghan, and Juliana Restrepo Sanin, found it difficult to make final decisions given the high quality of the submissions.

Moreover, the students still gathered, via Zoom, to share their insights and reflect with one another on the challenges and successes of conducting research during the pandemic. There was also the opportunity for mentorship, with the chance for pre-fieldwork students to ask more experienced students questions about planning their own research.

“Overall, I think it was a great success, even without considering the circumstances of this year,” says Tucker. “I’m immensely proud of the work these students did, and the ways they rose to meet the myriad challenges of the pandemic.”

Research Festival Prize Winners

GRAND PRIZE

Frances Melgarejo

Tribal Survival Through Cultural Revival: How a Nearly Decimated Amazonian Tribe Resurrected Its Cultural Heritage to Stay United

MASTERS IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

First prize: Treethep Srisa-nga

Imagining Bolívar and Bolivarianism: Building Venezuela with Textbooks, 1959-2013

Second prize: Patrick James

Violence, Endurance: On the Ethnographic Salience of Colombia’s Gótico Tropical

MASTERS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

First prize: Caroline Baylor

Evaluation and Improvement of Polk County Waste and Recycling’s Online Service Request System

Second prize (tie): Yeyetsi

Maldonado

Traditional Charcoal Production in Agroforestry Systems: What Can We Learn from Global Experiences?

Second prize (tie): Brenda Lugano

Lamu Conservation: A Case Study Understanding Community Participation in Lamu Spatial Plan, Kenya

PRE-DISSERTATION

First prize: Nicholas Gengler

Differences in Scale of Effect Between Metrics of Habitat Configuration and Composition

Second prize:

Hermudananto

Logging Practice in Indonesian Natural Forests: Adoption of Personal Protective Equipment Associated with Worker Safety



WATCH:
qr.go.page.link/1HrLR

Virtual Exchange Training Outreach Initiative

Contributed by Caroline Martins (College of Journalism and Communications)

From mid-January to mid-February, Dr. Mary Risner, Associate Director of Outreach and Business Programs in the Center for Latin American Studies, organized a training on virtual exchange (VE) that was offered to administrators at colleges throughout Florida. The training was made possible through USDOE Title VI funding and a collaborative effort with the Florida Consortium for International Education (FCIE) and Unicollaboration, which is a non-profit professional association dedicated to increasing awareness and the practice of VE. It included participants from ten higher education institutions in Florida who work in their institution's international offices, as instructional designers, or in academic administration. As UF has been growing its virtual exchange courses, the goal of this initiative was to provide outreach to support and establish a network of collaborators throughout the state who will also champion VE and continue to engage in resource sharing and partnering with Latin America and other world regions.

Virtual exchange is facilitated with technology in order to connect students from different backgrounds for

sustained interaction and collaboration. During this four-week training, participants learned about best practices for implementing and facilitating VE and had the opportunity to draft an action plan for how their institutions might initiate or strengthen existing virtual exchange efforts. Participants also emulated VE in their use of technology to collaborate and had the opportunity to share their virtual exchange successes and questions with the group.

At UF, virtual exchange has already been implemented by faculty in multiple colleges and is supported by the UFIC Office of Global Learning (OGL) as a method of internationalizing the curriculum. The OGL offers a six-week VE training for faculty, which guides participants through the process of developing a VE project and familiarizes them with resources at UF for further support. Those interested in learning more about virtual exchange at UF can find more information and resources on the UFIC website.

LEARN: qrgo.page.link/h2oKZ



Partnership with Portuguese at Palm Beach State College

Contributed by Anna Rodell (MALAS Alumna)

Through Title VI Outreach efforts, the Center has launched a new partnership supporting beginner-level Portuguese courses at Palm Beach State College (PBSC). This partnership aims to promote Portuguese as a pipeline at state colleges so that students can enter 4-year universities at a more advanced Portuguese level. Adjunct Professor Silvia Sollai (UF/PBSC) developed and offered the first partnered courses online during the 2020-21 academic year. She has innovated the course by integrating virtual exchange activities through her *Conversa Fiada* model. This model emerged from a need for learners to have talk-time in online Elementary Portuguese foreign language classes.

Dr. Sollai and Dr. Celia Bianconi (Boston University) were motivated by the lack of opportunity for (virtual) classroom language learners to use unrehearsed content in realistic cultural contexts. Through this partnership with the Center, the instructors utilize a video conference platform with their students to chat about everyday life, interests, culture, and community in Portuguese. While learners typically receive performance-based instruction and practice in the familiar in-class context, *Conversa Fiada* offers both proficiency interaction and an active information exchange, just like small talks in real life.

2021 Latin American Business Report released at Coral Gables Chamber event

Contributed by Christa Markley (LAS)

This year marks the sixth annual release of the UF Center for Latin American Studies Latin American Business Environment Report (LABER) at the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce International Business Forum.

The event took place via Zoom, and featured the authors of the report: Pilar Useche, Brian Gendreau, Trent Blare, and Tim McLendon. The authors presented the business, investment, legal, and economic outlook in the region amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Gator alumni as well as members of the Miami-area business community attended the event.

The 2020 report reflects the widespread impact of the pandemic across the region's countries. "If you wrote it in March or January of 2020, it would be a different report," Useche explained. "Everything had changed by the end of the year."

The LABER is available online as a public resource. The event was sponsored by Nero Immigration Law, and presented in partnership with The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, Miami-Dade County, World Trade Center Miami, and UF Coral Gables.



READ: qrgo.page.link/Zkvvp



Real-World Connections through the LBE Program

Contributed by Veronica Paz (MALAS 2022)

After 20 years serving as Associate Director of the Latin American Business Environment (LBE) program, Dr. Mary Risner has transitioned into the Director's position. We thank the outgoing director, Dr. Brian Gendreau, for his five years of service to this vital and growing program.

The LABEP has continued expanding collaboration with the business school at the undergraduate level and engagement with alumni through course talks and mentoring and internship opportunities. The Fundamentals of the Latin American Workplace course featured career advice from alumni Jacob Schultz (Foreign Service Officer), Meghan Reynolds (Amazon), Brandon Knox (Johnson & Johnson Strategic Business Improvement), Jose Sario (Bilzin Sumberg), and Steven Minegar (Gartner). The Latin American Business Environment course included a talk from a former World Bank economist and course projects developed in collaboration with alumni: Meghan Reynolds (Amazon) assisted with marketing plans, and Jay Brickman (Crowley), Steve Keats (Kestrel Shipping), and Francisco Santeiro (former FedEx Latin America) advised on logistics and supply chain issues. Other alumni speakers were Carlos Iniguez (Venture Hive) and Anabell Iglesias (Inter-American Development Bank), with two colleagues.

We want to recognize and thank the alumni who shared their time and expertise this semester, and look forward to continue connecting students with alumni to enhance their real-world knowledge and skills related to Latin American business and sustainable development.

LBE Program hosts talk by economist Augusto de la Torre

Contributed by Christa Markley (LAS)



The Latin American Business Environment Program (LABEP) welcomed economist Augusto de la Torre for a virtual talk on the region's fluctuating growth patterns over the past 100 years.

The presentation was attended by LABEP students as part of an initiative to feature industry experts as guest speakers in LBE specialization courses. De la Torre's expertise provided in-depth analysis through historical data, and foundational knowledge for Latin American economies today.

De la Torre worked at the World Bank between 1996 and 2016; from 2006-2016 he served as their Chief Economist for Latin America. In addition to teaching at Columbia University, he is the Director of the Economics Research Center at the Universidad de las Américas (UDLA) in Quito, Ecuador, and an active participant in Latin American-related policy forums and scholarly endeavors.

WATCH: youtu.be/E21mUle1dFA



LAS core faculty Drs. Tanya Saunders and Joel Correia awarded prestigious fellowships

Contributed by Christa Markley (LAS)

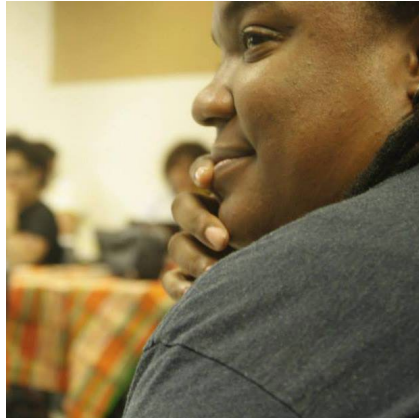
Dr. Tanya Saunders has recently been invited to be a scholar-in-residence at the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University for Spring 2022.

Dr. Saunders is a recipient of the Mamolen Fellowship, which brings distinguished scholars in the field of Afro-Latin American Studies to the Du Bois Research Institute.

The Hutchins Center is the preeminent research center in the field of African & African American research and has supported more than 300 fellows across a wide variety of disciplines since its founding in 1975. Its current director is Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. It also encompasses the Afro-Latin American Research Institute, led by Dr. Alejandro de la Fuente.

"It's such an honor," Dr. Saunders says. "I'm so excited for the opportunity to continue my research at the Hutchins Center, and be a part of such an inspiring community of scholars."

Within Afro-Latinx Studies and African Diaspora Studies, Dr. Saunders's research focuses on Sociology of Culture, Social Identity (Race, Gender, Sexuality), and Black Queer Studies.



Dr. Joel Correia was awarded a 2021 American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship in support of his book *Disrupting the Patrón: Unsettling Racial Geographies in Pursuit of Indigenous Environmental Justice*.

The ACLS Fellowship Program awards annual fellowships to scholars working in the humanities and related social sciences on a major piece of research and writing. The 2021 cohort includes 60 scholars selected from nearly 1,300 applicants through a rigorous multi-stage peer review process.

"It is an honor to be named an ACLS Fellow among colleagues whose work I value," Dr. Correia says. "With this fellowship I will complete my first book and advance a fresh take on multicultural politics and environmental justice in Latin America."

Disrupting the Patrón examines the politics of enforcing three Inter-American Court of Human Rights cases on Indigenous territorial claims in Paraguay's Chaco. Dr. Correia draws from 18 months of archival, collaborative, and ethnographic research in Paraguay from 2013-2020.

WELCOME!

NEW STAFF

Christa Markley, Communications Specialist

Xania Ramos, Administrative Support Asst I

NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY

Norman L. Beatty

Division of Infectious Diseases & Global Medicine
College of Medicine

Elizabeth DeVos

Department of Emergency Medicine
College of Medicine

Jesús Fuenmayor

University Gallery/Museum and Curatorial Studies
College of the Arts

Lauren Pearlman

Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2020 Alumni Award Recipients Announced

*Camila Pazos Fajardo wins Outstanding Young Alumni,
Laury Cullen wins Lifetime Achievement Alumni*

Contributed by Christa Markley (LAS)



Outstanding Young Alumni Award: Camila Pazos Fajardo

Camila Pazos Fajardo is Director of Investment Programs at the global nonprofit Echoing Green. Camila graduated in 2012

with an MA of Sustainable Development Practice and the Tropical Conservation and Development Certificate.

As Director of Investments, Camila drives the strategy for finding emerging leaders to join the organization's community of Fellows, focusing on issues of climate change, education, health, human rights, poverty, and racial justice. Camila has increased visibility and resources to Latin American communities through investment in organizations like Emerge Puerto Rico and Vida Afrolatina, as well as her work on the 2018 Echoing Green conference hosted in Colombia.

Camila's commitment to empowering transformational leadership in underrepresented communities embodies the spirit of progress, equity, and collaboration that defines the Center for Latin American Studies.

Lifetime Achievement Alumni Award: Laury Cullen

Laury Cullen works as a researcher at Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ) in Brazil. Laury graduated in 1997 with

an MA of Latin American Studies and the Tropical Conservation and Development Certificate.



IPÊ develops and disseminates biodiversity conservation models that promote socio-economic benefits through science, education, and business. Laury's Corridors for Life project has planted over a million trees to reforest fragmented habitats across private lands. Not only are these corridors vital to support wildlife migration, Laury works alongside local families to integrate tree planting with improved soil fertility, water protection, and income generation.

Laury's fundamental methodology of integrating human and natural environmental success reflects the kind of interdisciplinary collaborative strategy that the Center strives to nurture in all its graduates.

Would you like to honor a Center alum doing exceptional work in their communities?
Submit a 2021 Alumni Award nominee here: latam.ufl.edu/alumni/las-alumni-awards

Farewell to Dr. Rosana Resende

Core faculty member Dr. Rosana Resende is leaving UF at the end of the Spring 2021 semester. Dr. Resende has accepted a position with the U.S. Department of State as the Chair for Western Hemisphere Area Studies at the Foreign Service Institute. The position involves teaching and supervising courses and the region-specific curriculum for diplomats and other foreign affairs professionals who work either in or on Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada.

Dr. Resende first came to the Center for Latin American Studies in 2015, and has served not only as a lecturer but also as the coordinator for the Brazil Studies MALAS specialization and the Associate Director of the Florida-Brazil Linkage Institute.

We thank Dr. Resende for all her contributions to the Center and wish her the best in this new opportunity!



Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates

Jorge Arana-Villar (Political Science, International Studies)
Nayelis Bosa (Public Relations)
Anette Mago (Visual Art Studies)
Evelyn Oldham (International Studies)
Sneh Patel (Political Science)
Jose Peralta (History)
Alexa Rezik (History)
Jorge Rivera (Chemistry)
Brandon Schloss (International Studies)
Sophie Sunderland (Political Science)

MALAS Degrees

Patrick Franklin James
 Thesis: Violence, Endurance: on the Ethnographic Salience of Colombia's Gótico Tropical
 Specialization: Crime, Law, and Governance in the Americas
 Chair: Richard Kernaghan

Michael Edward McKenna
 Thesis: The Crisis of Democracy in Venezuela: Petrodollars, Populism, and Puntofijismo
 Specialization: Crime Law and Governance
 Chair: Rebecca Hanson

Frances Melgarejo
 Thesis: Tribal Survival through Cultural Revival: How a Nearly Decimated Amazonian People Resurrected Its Heritage to Stay United*
 Specialization: Indigenous Studies
 Chair: Robin Wright

Adolfho Romero
 Internship topic: ¡Si se puede! Yes, We Can! An Analysis of a Non-profit Organization and its Effectiveness; The Farmworkers

Association of Florida
 Specialization: Latinx Studies, Migration & Transnational Studies
 Chair: Nicholas Vargas

Treethep Srisa-Nga
 Thesis: Imagining Bolivar and Bolivarianism: Building Venezuela with Textbooks, 1959-2013*
 Specialization: Crime, Law, and Governance in the Americas
 Chair: Rebecca Hanson

Graduate LAS Certificates

Colleen Abel (MDP)
Amelia Anderson (Religion)
Caroline Baylor (MDP)

MDP Degrees

Colleen Abel
 Specializations: Latin American Studies, TCD
 Advisors: Joel Correia and Becky Williams (Latin American Studies)
 Capstone Field Practicum: The mental health intersection: returned migrants in western Honduras

Andia Akifuma
 Specializations: Gender & Development, African Studies, TCD
 Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)
 Capstone Field Practicum: Understanding the impact of Cultural Arts Coalition's after-school science program (Gainesville, FL)

Ange Asanzi
 Specializations: Gender & Development, African Studies, TCD
 Advisor: Claudia Romero (Biology)
 Capstone Field Practicum: An integrated approach to reduce the rate of poverty

among African American communities in Alachua County

Caroline Baylor
 Specializations: Sustainable Waste Management, Latin American Studies, TCD
 Advisor: Timothy Townsend (Environmental Engineering Sciences)
 Capstone Field Practicum: Evaluation and improvement of Polk County Waste & Recycling Division's online request platform*

Amira Hussein
 Specializations: Science Communication / Digital Storytelling, African Studies, TCD
 Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)
 Capstone Field Practicum: Strengthening social enterprise contribution to sustainable development through impact measurement in East Africa

Brenda Lugano
 Specializations: Entrepreneurship, African Studies, TCD
 Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)
 Capstone Field Practicum: Lamu Coast conservation: a case study understanding community participation in Lamu Spatial Plan*

Sustainable Development Practice Certificate

Juliana Santiago, MALAS

Conservation and Development Certificate

Andia Akifuma (MDP)
Ange Asanzi (MDP)
Caroline Baylor (MDP)
Amira Hussein (MDP)
Brenda Lugano (MDP)

FACULTY NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

Mark Brenner (Geological Sciences)

Publications: (1) Pérez, L., Correa-Metrio, A., Cohuo, S., Macario-González, L., Echeverría-Galindo, P., Brenner, M., Curtis, J. H., Kutterolf, S., Stockhecke, M., Schenk, F., Bauersachs, T., and Schwalb, A. (2021). Ecological turnover in neotropical freshwater and terrestrial communities during episodes of abrupt climate change. *Quaternary Research* 1-11. doi.org/10.1017/qua.2020.124. (2) Velez, M.I., Salgado, J., Brenner, M., Hooghiemstra, H., Escobar, J., Boom, A., Bird, B., Curtis, J. H., Temoltzin-Loranca, Y., Patino, L.F., Gonzalez-Arango, C., Metcalfe, S. E., Simpson, G. L., and C. Velasquez. (2021). Novel responses of diatoms in neotropical mountain lakes to indigenous and post-European occupation. *Anthropocene*. In Press.

Fernanda Bretones Lane (History)

Lectures: (1) "The Caribbean: Colonization, Plantation, and the Slave Trade." August

27, 2020. Tougaloo College (Mississippi). (2) "Esclavitud y la trata de esclavos desde una perspectiva Atlántica." October 29, 2020. Lecture and dialogue with faculty and students of Universidad de Chile (Santiago de Chile). (3) Participation in "Colonial Studies Section Meeting: Freedom Before the Age of Revolution," as part of the Annual Meeting of the Conference on Latin American History (an affiliated society of the American Historical Association). January 2021.

Emilio Bruna (LAS/WEC) began his term as President of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) in spring 2021.. Founded in 1963, the ATBC is an international scientific and professional organization whose mission is to promote research, education, and communication about the world's tropical ecosystems. Its members (approximately 1000 in over 65 countries) are practitioners engaged in science, conservation,

development, and environmental policy. The society holds annual meetings around the world, publishes the scientific journal *Biotropica*, and is engaged in conservation and capacity building activities worldwide.

Robert Buschbacher (School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences)

Publication: Painter, Buschbacher, Souto and Silva. 2021. Agroecology and Forest Conservation in Three Types of Land Reform Communities in the Cacao Region of Bahia, Brazil. IN Montagnini (Ed.) *Biodiversity Islands: Strategies for Conservation in Human Dominated Environments*. Springer.

Lecture: "Governança como Salvaguarda para Populações Impactadas por Projetos de Infra-estrutura" at the Seminário de Direitos Socioambientais, Federal University of Mato Grosso Law School.

Kaira Cabañas (Art History) has been appointed as the William C. Seitz Senior Fellow at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies in Art (CASVA). Dr. Cabañas is the first Latina and first UF professor to receive the William C. Seitz Senior Fellowship from the National Gallery of Art. Cabañas's book, "Immanent Vitalities: Matters of Modern and Contemporary Art," was published in April as part of the University of California Press's "Studies in Latin American Art" series.

Daniel Contreras (Anthropology)

Presentations: (1) Daniel A. Contreras, Benjamin Vining, and Aubrey Hillman. "Working from Regional Climates towards Local Consequences: Diachronic Settlement Patterns as Model Material in the Chicama Valley, Peru". Invited talk for RDMed Workshop: Modelling adaptation of ancient agricultural societies to climate change, the core of an interdisciplinary approach. Aix-en-Provence, France, January 2021 (virtual). (2) Daniel A. Contreras and Benjamin Vining. "Assembling the Archive: Integrating Legacy Data to Examine the Longue Durée in the Chicama Valley, Peru". 61st Annual Meetings of the Institute of Andean Studies, Berkeley, CA, January 2021. (virtual) (3) Daniel A. Contreras, Benjamin Vining, and Aubrey Hillman. "Regional Climates, Local Consequences: Downscaling Climate Data in the Chicama Valley, Peru". Session on Local Manifestations of Climate Change for Archaeological Research, 85th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, TX, April 2020 (virtual).

Joel Correia (LAS) was awarded an American Council on Learned Societies Fellowship for the book project, "Disrupting the patrón: Unsettling racial geographies in pursuit of Indigenous environmental justice." **Publications:** (1) Correia, J.E. Reworking recognition: Indigeneity, land rights, and the dialectics of disruption in Paraguay's Chaco. *Geoforum*. 119: 227-237. (2) Correia, J.E. All the land was stolen: Following countertopographies of Indigenous rights through legal geography and critical environmental justice. In *Handbook on Space, Place, and Law*. Bartel, R. and Carter, J. eds. Cheltenham (UK): Edward Elgar Publishing. Lectures: (1) "Between flood and drought: How the production of new waterscapes produces environmental racism in South America's Chaco." University of Florida Department of Geography. March 4. (2) "Indigenous water justice in Paraguay's Chaco." University of Florida Water Institute. February 3.

Carlos de la Torre (LAS)

Publications: "What do we mean by populism?" in *The Routledge Companion to Media Disinformation and Populism*, edited by Howard Tumble and Silvio Waisbord, New York: Routledge, 2021, 29-38.

Max Deardorff (History)

Invited Talk: "Theory and Practice: Laws of Domicile and Municipal Citizenship in the

Early Colonial Spanish Indies." Seminário Permanente de História do Direito da UFC, Universidade Federal do Ceará: Fortaleza (Brazil); Podcast: "Christian Citizenship in the Empire of the Spanish Habsburgs," Episode 33 of *Historias*, The Spanish History Podcast, January 2. historiaspodcast.org/2021/01/02/christian-citizenship-in-the-empire-of-the-spanish-habsburgs/

Silvio J. dos Santos (Music)

Conference Paper: "An Indian in Tuxedo?": Villa-Lobos's Imagined Indigeneity" Presented at the Virtual Joint meeting of the American Musicological Society and Society for Music Theory. November 2020.

Kathleen Earl Colverson (Animal Sciences)

"Evolution of a Gender Tool: WEAI, WELI and Livestock Research", *Global Food Security*, September 2020

Joan Flocks (Law)

Publications: (1) Lauzardo M. et al. "An Outbreak of COVID-19 Among H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers." *American Journal of Public Health* (2021) 111:571-573. (2) Chicas R. et al. "Cooling Interventions Among Agricultural Workers: Qualitative Field-Based Study." *Hispanic Health Care International* (2021) DOI: 10.1177/1540415321993429. (3) Mac V. et al. "Risk Factors for Reaching Core Body Temperature Thresholds in Florida Agricultural Workers." *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* (2021) DOI: 10.1097/JOM.0000000000002150. (4) Mac V. et al. "A Modified Physiological Strain Index for Workplace-based Assessment of Heat Strain Experienced by Agricultural Workers." *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* (2021) 64:258-265. (5) Flocks J. "The Potential Impact of COVID-19 on H-2A Agricultural Workers." *Journal of Agromedicine* (2020) 25(4): 367-369.

Laura Gonzales (English)

Forthcoming edited collection: *Latina Leadership: Language and Literacy Education across Communities*. press.syr.edu/supressbooks/3944/latina-leadership/

Rebecca Hanson (LAS)

Publications: Hanson, Rebecca. 2020. "Popularity Contests Deepen Venezuela's Deadly Stalemate". *NACLA* 53(1):15-18; Hanson, Rebecca and Patricia Richards. 2020. "La etnografía corporizada en tiempos de pandemia: ¿A dónde vamos desde aquí?" *LASA Forum* 52(1): 24-28; **Presentations:** (1) "Harassed: Gender, Bodies, and Ethnographic Research". Temple Department of Sociology. Co-sponsored by Anthropology; Center for the Humanities; Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies; Geography and Urban Studies; Public Policy Lab; and Science, Technology, and Society Network. February 24, 2021; (2) "Harassed: Gender, Bodies, and Ethnographic Research". Workshop on Ethnographic Methods, University of Michigan. February 25, 2021

Benjamin Hebblethwaite (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)

Stirring the Pot of Haitian History by Michel-Rolph Trouillot. Translated and edited by Mariana Past and Benjamin Hebblethwaite. (1) liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/books/id/54558/ (2) amazon.com/Stirring-Pot-Haitian-History-Michel-Rolph-ebook/dp/Bo8Y5HB3GW (3) jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1hqdjnw

Tace Hedrick (English)

Conference Presentation: "A Disreputable Modernity: Anzaldúa's 'Racial Occult'." *American Comparative Literature Association*. Virtual, April 8-11 2021.

Andrew Janusz (Political Science)

Refereed Publications: Cunow, Saul, Scott Desposato, Andrew Janusz, and Cameron Sells. "Less is more: The paradox of choice in voting behavior." *Electoral Studies* 69 (2021): 102230. **Non-Refereed Publications:** (1) Janusz, Andrew. "Por que os candidatos mudam sua declaração de raça? - 5 perguntas" Getulio Vargas Foundation Center for Politics and Economics in the Public Sector Blog. October 6, 2020. (2) Janusz, Andrew. "Thousands of Brazilian candidates 'switched' racial identities this year" *The Washington Post - Monkey Cage Blog*. December 8, 2020. (3) Janusz, Andrew. "Thousands of Brazilians who won elections as Black candidates in 2020 previously ran for office as white" *The Conversation*. January 8, 2021. **Awards:** Winner of the Rodney Higgins Best Faculty Paper Award for "Candidate Race and Campaign Resources in Brazilian Mayoral Elections," at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists 2021 Meeting.

Philip Janzen (History)

Publication: "Looking Forward Always to Africa: William George Emanuel and the Politics of Repatriation in Cuba, 1894-1906," *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History* 78, no. 1 (2021): 37-59.

Karen Kainer (LAS / School of Forests, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences)

Publications: (1) Staudhammer, C.S., L.H.O. Wadt, K.A. Kainer, T.A. da Cunha. 2021. Comparative models disentangle drivers of fruit production variability of an economically and ecologically important long-lived Amazonian tree. *Scientific Reports* 11:2563. (2) Violato Espada, A.L. and K.A. Kainer. 2020. Fellowship report. *Tropical Forest Update* 29(3):20-24. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Yokohama, Japan. **Talk:** Delivered an invited presentation and led a discussion - "Collaboration, shared learning, and long-term conservation with local communities" - with 15 scientists and staff of Conservation Initiatives, a leading conservation NGO in Northeast India (10 Nov 2020). **Award:** CALS Graduate Teacher/Advisor of the Year, 2020-21. Nominated by my graduate students, representing one of two awards selected from UF's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences professoriate.

Bette Loiselle (LAS / Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation)

Publications: (1) Montaño-Centellas, F., M. Tinley, and B. A. Loiselle. 2021. Ecological drivers of avian community assembly along a tropical elevation gradient. *Ecography* 44:1-15. doi.org/10.1111/ecog.05379 (2) Villegas, M., B. A. Loiselle, R. T. Kimball, and J. G. Blake. 2021. Ecological niche differentiation in South American Chiroxiphia and Antilophia manakins (Aves, Pipridae). *PLOS ONE*: doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0243760

Lucas Majure (FLMNH)

Publications: (1) Majure, L.C., D. Barrios, E. Díaz, B. Zumwalde*, W. Testo, and V. Negrón-Ortiz. 2021. Pleistocene drying underlies the evolutionary history of the Caribbean endemic, insular giant, *Consolea* (Opuntioideae). *American Journal of Botany* 108: 1-16. doi.org/10.1002/ajb2.1610 (2) Majure, L.C., T. Clase, Y. Encarnación*, B. Peguero, K. Ho*, and D. Barrios. 2021. Phylogenetics of *Leptocereus* (Cactaceae) on Hispaniola: clarifying species limits in the *L. weingartianus* complex and a new species from the Sierra de Bahoruco. *Phytokeys* 172: 17-37. doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.172.59497 **Awards:** National Science Foundation (DEB-SBS #2002270). Collaborative Research: A phylogenomics approach to resolving one of the world's most diverse, tropical angiosperm radiations: Melastomataceae. PI: L.C. Majure, Co-PIs: N. Cellinese, W.S. Judd, and F. Michelangeli. Aug. 2020 - Jul 2024. \$1,108,780.

Carmen Martínez Novo (LAS) was invited to be an international observer in Ecuador's general elections, February 7, 2021. She was interviewed in the Ecuadorian magazine *Vistazo* and in the Ecuadorian program *La Regla del Pomodoro*, *Fundamedios*, Quito, Ecuador. **Publication:** *Undoing Multiculturalism: Resource Extraction and Indigenous Rights in Ecuador*. Pittsburgh University Press, April 2021. **Presentations:** (1) "Derechos indígenas en Ecuador en la década de Rafael Correa (2007-2017)" symposium *Rodas da Rosa 16*, Ecuador: renovação e polarização no campo da esquerda, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro and Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil, March 2021. (2) "The Politics of Decolonial Scholarship" in symposium "Entangled Ontologies: Decoloniality and Decolonization." Virginia Tech University, March 4 and 5, 2021.

Crystal Marull (Spanish and Portuguese)

Publication: Gonzalez*, P., Kinsella*, B., Marull*, C., & Campbell, N. (2021). The Effect of Perceptions: Instructor-Student Dynamics in the Heritage Classroom. *Languages*, 6(1), 46. *Co-First-Authors **Award:** "CLAS Teaching Award", College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida

Jeffrey D. Needell (History)

Publication: "The Abolitionist Movement of 1879-1888. Lessons from a Popular Reform

Movement," *Almanack Guarulhos* 2020, no. 26 Epub January 2021.

Susan Paulson (LAS)

Publication: *Decolonizing technology and political ecology futures*, *Political Geography* **Talks:** (1) Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar (Quito), Un diálogo Norte-Sur Sumak Kawsay y Decrecimiento; Centro de Análisis SocioAmbiental (Santiago), El Caso de Decrecimiento; (2) University of California (Davis), Decolonize, deracialize, depatriarchize; (3) The Beacon School (NYC), Environmental action; (4) Degrowth/Environmental Justice School (Barcelona), Disentangling coloniality, racialization, gender; (5) Concordia College (Moorehead), Political economy, religion and degrowth; (6) UF Center for Latin American Studies Latin American and Indigenous perspectives on degrowth and Degrowth and other Postdevelopment Pathways; (7) DegrowUS National Meeting, Alliances to move through and beyond COVID with care. **Public Media:** (1) *Brave New Europe* (Brussels) Degrowth in EU and the world; (2) *Radio WNUR* (Chicago) This is Hell! Chuck Mertz interviews Susan Paulson, Giorgos Kallis; (3) *The Ecopolitics Podcast* (Canada) Growth, degrowth, a-growth.

Juliana Restrepo Sanín (Political Science)

Publications: (1) Restrepo Sanín, J. (2020). Criminalizing Violence against Women in Politics: Innovation, Diffusion, and Transformation. *Politics & Gender*, 1-32. doi:10.1017/S1743923X20000173 (2) Krook, M., & Restrepo Sanín, J. (2020). The Cost of Doing Politics? Analyzing Violence and Harassment against Female Politicians. *Perspectives on Politics*, 18(3), 740-755. doi:10.1017/S1537592719001397

Mary Risner (LAS)

Publication: Risner, M. (2021). Building Global Competence and Language Proficiency through Virtual Exchange. *Hispania* 104(1), 6-10. muse.jhu.edu/article/786593. **Invited talk:** "Proficiency and Career Pathways through Business Portuguese" for the FIU CIBER workshop: Integrating Business Portuguese & Spanish in the Secondary Curriculum.

Colleen Rua (School of Theatre and Dance)

and Dr. Rachel Carrico (Dance Studies) have spent the 2020-2021 academic year curating "Disaster & the Body," a yearlong series of engagements with performing artists from the Caribbean and Gulf Coast to explore questions of healing and recovery through the arts in disaster-impacted communities. Yari Helfeld and Julio Morales of the San Juan-based theatre collective *Y no habia luz* were joined by Dallas based choreographer Michelle Gibson. All engaged with UF students as part of their creative processes which resulted in screenings of two new works, *El Circo de la Ausencia* (YNHL) and *Attend to My Prayer* (Gibson) at an April 19 webinar. Panelists included the artists, Drs. Rua and Carrico, and faculty partners Dr.

Antonio Lopez and Dr. Alana Jackson. "Disaster & the Body" is sponsored by SoTD, CAME, CHPS, Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese, Creative Campus Catalyst Grant, and the Office of Research.

Maya Stanfield-Mazzi (School of Art and Art History)

New book: *Clothing the New World Church: Liturgical Textiles of Spanish America, 1520-1820*, published in February 2021 by the University of Notre Dame Press. The book provides the first broad survey of church textiles of Spanish America and demonstrates that, while overlooked, textiles were a vital part of visual culture in the Catholic Church. undpress.nd.edu/9780268108052/clothing-the-new-world-church/

Catherine Tucker (LAS / Anthropology)

Publications: (1) Steger, C., J. A. Klein, R. S. Reid, S. Lavorel, C.M. Tucker, et al. 2021. Science with Society: Evidence-based Guidance for Best Practices in Environmental Transdisciplinary Work. *Global Environmental Change* 68:102240. (2) Gonzalez Tovar, J., A. Larson, G. Barnes, and C. M. Tucker. 2020. Can multi-stakeholder forums empower indigenous and local communities and promote forest conservation? *Conservation Science and Practice*. doi.org/10.1111/csp2.326 (3) Thorn, J., J. A. Klein, C. Steger, K. A. Hopping, C. M. Tucker, et al. 2020. Envisioning Mountain Futures: A systematic review of scenario planning in mountain social-ecological systems. *Ecology and Society* 25(3):6. Tucker, CM. "Estudio de Caso: Manejo de microcuencas a nivel de comunidades para producción de café" & "Manejo de Recursos de Uso Común" (by Zoom). **Invited Lectures:** CREHO-RAMSAR Workshop on Water Management in Panama, Oct. 21-22, 2020.

Paola Uparela (Spanish and Portuguese)

Conference: "Güergüenzas, Reproduction, and Regeneration in Guaman Poma's Buen gobierno". Colonial Biopolitics sponsored panel, MLA (January 9, 2021). **Invited presentation:** "Gyneco-Scopic Regimes of Modernity: Erotism and Putrefaction in the Representation of the Spanish Anatomical Sculpture *La Parturienta*," Center for Medical Humanities & Social Medicine and Dep. of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University (February 7, 2021).

Heather Vrana (History)

New book: *Out of the Shadow: Revisiting the Revolution from Post-peace Guatemala*. Edited by Julie Gibbings and Heather Vrana. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2020. doi.org/10.1215/00182168-8897854 **Publication:** Heather Vrana, "The Precious Seed of Christian Virtue: Charity, Disability, and Belonging in Guatemala, 1871-1947." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 101, no. 2 (2021): 265-295.

ALUMNI Engaged

We'd like to recognize LAS alumni **Jorge Piñon (BALAS 1975)** and **Lorenzo Hamilton (MALAS 2019)** for their support and participation in the UF Career Connections Center virtual workshops this past spring. Piñon served as an alumni mentor for the four-week Envision Career Academy for Latinx Students, designed to help

students develop their identities as a Hispanic/Latinx professional. Hamilton served as an alumni mentor for the four-week Black Student Envision Career Academy, which focused on impostor syndrome, self-advocacy, professional branding, and building social capital. Thank you Jorge and Lorenzo for your involvement!



➤ Want to get involved with the Center? Please reach out! communications@latam.ufl.edu

ALUMNI Updates

Licínio Nunes de Miranda (MALAS 2016) After searching among 7,000 tombs across three years, Licínio Nunes de Miranda rediscovered the lost tomb of famed Brazilian abolitionist Francisco José do Nascimento in July 2020. Miranda's continuing research on untold stories of Brazilian abolitionists is supported by UF International Center's Research Abroad for Doctoral students program.

Laury Cullen (MALAS/TCD 1997) was featured in an interview with CNN on the deforestation of *juçara* palm trees and innovative agroforestry strategies that can support agriculture, nature, and local communities. cnn.com/2021/03/30/world/jucara-palm-tree-agroforestry-brazil-c2e-hnk-spc-intl/index.html

Francisco X. Santeiro (BS/Certificate 1977) published *The Restless Exile Of Gerardo Machado*, available in both English and Spanish. The collection tells the story of Gerardo Machado's exile, which has been taken from

primary sources. These include letters to and from Machado and many others written by family, friends and supporters, numerous contemporary newspaper accounts, and documents from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. State department, obtained through the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. The documents referred to in the writing of this document are stored at the University of Miami's Cuban Heritage Collection at their Richter Library and available to other scholars from around the world.

Victoria Reyes Garcia (TCD 2001) is one of 30 newly elected international members of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Election to the NAS recognizes distinguished and continued achievements in original research. Reyes Garcia participated in the MERGE (Managing Ecosystems and Resources with Gender Emphasis) program during her time at the Center, and has dedicated her career to the interdisciplinary study of dynamic relations among peoples, biota, and environments.

ALUMNI Spotlight: H.A. Smith (MALAS 1997)

A Q&A with Helena Lopes, MALAS 2022

What is your current position?

I retired in June 2020. My first retirement gig is pouring into twin grandbabies every day. Before this, I taught in middle and high school for 31 years in Saint Augustine. During that time, I taught at a middle school for several years, took a leave of absence to pursue the MALAS for a change in career, and finished with the blessing of teaching for 23 more years at Allen D. Nease High School. Most of that time was spent teaching various courses in the Social Studies department.

How does your MALAS degree help you in your job today?

How has it informed your career?

The MALAS was absolutely invaluable. As a generalist degree across the many UF academic departments, the expectation of field research, and of competence in a Latin American language, it allowed me to contribute to policy creation, and to teach a broad range of courses



to a broad range of students. It also prepared me to competently advise my students (many UF bound) on the virtues of learning other languages and new skill sets.

What motivated you to pursue a MALAS degree?

I had become disenchanted with what my career prospects were at the middle school where I was teaching. My logic was that moving to a new school anywhere else would leave me still stuck in a similar situation. My wife and I decided that since we didn't have any consumer debt, that I should take a leave of absence and pursue the MALAS, since I'd heard good things about it through the UFCLAS Outreach office, and that with a MALAS, I could make a clean break with teaching. The Geography department seems the best option for me, which has turned out to be true. As it turned out, I returned to teaching, where the MALAS allowed me to thoroughly enjoy 23 more years of teaching.

What was the most valuable part of your MALAS experience?

Since you ask for THE most, not a number of them (this is really hard since there are so many valuable aspects), I'd have to say I felt that I was treated extremely generously and hospitably, by everybody associated with the Center for Latin American Studies. From Dr. McCoy and Wood as the directors, to the professors, scholars, and office staff, and fellow MALAS candidates. There was a clear expectation that diversity of thought or ideology was welcome and encouraged, and discussions were to be civil. It could have been a very lonely time, but it was not. There are many other valuable aspects of my MALAS experience

that I love to chat about, but I'll discipline my response to your question.

What advice would you give students as they pursue their MALAS degree?

(1) absolutely do field research. I set up my lodging with a family in Chile, and they made tons of connections for me and welcomed me into their home. I got to meet with lots of people there who helped me with my research and became friends; (2) take electives in as many departments as possible. One thing that stands out to me is GeoPlan's allowing me to take an introductory GIS course. It was a very tough learning curve for me, but they were generous in their coaching and the experience has enriched my life; (3) insist on ideological diversity and insist on civil open discussion.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience in the MALAS program?

The MALAS prepared me to comfortably be an internationalist in many ways. I came into the program when I was 34, and my wife and two young children moved to Gainesville with me. It allowed me to further expose my family to things Latin American and has made my family nuanced and knowledgeable as we involve ourselves with Vida Joven, Young Life in Latin America. People crave leaders who have a deep understanding of the situations they are influencing, and the MALAS has been perhaps the most important component of helping me serve in that fashion.

Gator Giving Day Results



On Thursday, February 18, The Center participated in Gator Nation Giving Day. This fundraising initiative calls on our alumni, students, faculty, staff and Center friends to come together in support of the Center and its programs.

We are thrilled to announce that out of 29 different programs, research, and causes, the Center for Latin American Studies finished **9th** with **68 gifts** totaling **\$41,238.38**. This result breaks a record for Giving Day donations to the Center!

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this fundraiser. Your gifts help strengthen our academic programs by funding scholarships and enhancing the quality of research, teaching and outreach in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino studies at the University of Florida.

Thanks to Our Donors

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

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