



# The **LATINAMERICANIST**

University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies | Volume 46, Number 2 | Fall 2015



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**P**resident Obama's December 2014 announcement of a new policy of normalization with Cuba has presented UF with an historic opportunity to expand its role as a

national leader in academic engagement and scientific collaboration with Cuba. UF's connections with Cuba date back as far as 1930. During commencement ceremonies that year, UF President Tigert announced the establishment of the Institute for Inter-American Affairs (the forerunner to UF's Center for Latin American Studies). To demonstrate the seriousness of the initiative, Tigert awarded an honorary degree for the first time to a Latin American citizen, Cuban Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Orestes Ferrara. During Tigert's tenure, the Institute made scholarship opportunities available for students from Latin America (including Cuba), and UF signed one of its first collaborative agreements with the University of Havana (UH). Prior to and after the Cuban Revolution, a number of UF Latin American Studies faculty conducted research related to Cuba and maintained collaborative relationships with Cuban academics. Despite the difficulties for Florida-based universities to engage with Cuba during the 1990's, with funding from the MacArthur Foundation, an important UF research program on Cuban agriculture got underway in IFAS in 1994, and this program opened

the door for research collaboration between UF and UH. Although additional restrictions were placed on academic travel to Cuba by the Florida legislature in 2006, the Center formally launched the UF Cuba Program in 2009. Since its launch, the Center's Cuba program and affiliated faculty have been successful in deepening UF's engagement with Cuba, including new cooperative agreements with Cuban partner institutions and the launch of a Center-based project on Cuban agriculture.

With the removal of Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism and the reestablishment of diplomatic relations, the Center's Cuba program is leading the way in expanding UF's academic engagement with Cuba. This past semester the Center joined with the International Center and IFAS to organize a workshop on academic engagement with Cuba. The Center has been working with the College of Law in developing a new partnership with the law school at UH, including the visit of two law faculty from UH and a UF law delegation to UH that I accompanied in November. The Center also co-sponsored Jorge Macle's (Archivo Nacional de Cuba) visit to deepen the collaboration between UF Libraries and Cuban institutions in the preservation and sharing of research materials. For the spring 2016 semester, we look forward to hosting the Director of International Relations from UH to discuss new opportunities for scientific collaboration.

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## 2015-16 Faculty Advisory Council

<b>Philip Williams,</b> <i>Chair</i> <i>LAS/Political Science</i>	<b>Ieva Jusionyte</b> <i>LAS/Anthropology</i> <i>[Catherine Tucker (LAS/Anthropology) filling in for fall 15]</i>
<b>Ida Altman</b> <i>History</i>	<b>Robert Lucero</b> <i>Nursing</i>
<b>Richmond Brown</b> <i>LAS</i>	<b>Paul Losch</b> <i>UF Libraries</i>
<b>Silvio dos Santos</b> <i>Music</i>	<b>Jocelyn Peskin</b> <i>LAS</i>
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<b>Glenn Galloway</b> <i>LAS/MDP</i>	<b>Robin Wright</b> <i>Religion</i>

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**65TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

**CRIMESCAPES:  
SPACE, LAW,  
AND THE MAKING OF ILLEGALITY IN THE  
AMERICAS**

**MARCH 24-26, 2016  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESSES BY**

**Francisco Goldman**

*Author of "The Art of Political Murder"  
and "The Interior Circuit"*

**Diane Davis**

*Professor of Regional Planning and  
Urbanism at Harvard University*

**Finn Steputat**

*Senior Researcher in Peace, Risk and Violence at the  
Danish Institute for International Studies*

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Latin American Studies  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Featuring a screening of  
"Dreams from the Concrete Mountain" by Alex Fattal

# DÍA DE ECUADOR

## *Ecuador Day*

Over one hundred students, academics, and community members gathered at Emerson Alumni Hall on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, to celebrate Día de Ecuador (Ecuador Day). The Center for Latin American Studies partnered with the U.S. Embassy of Ecuador to organize the one-day academic event that contributed to stronger educational cooperation, fruitful intellectual discussions, and deeper understanding of Ecuadorian culture.

The Ambassador of Ecuador for the United States Francisco Borja, UF President Kent Fuchs, and the

Center for Latin American Studies Director Philip J. Williams opened the event. Eminent scholars from multiple disciplines attended to exchange ideas and discuss issues related to agriculture, development, and the environment. The three panels focused on challenges of Amazonian development, sustainable development initiatives, and issues related to food sovereignty and small scale agriculture in the context of

sustainable development initiatives undertaken in Ecuador.

The academic panels were followed by traditional Ecuadorian dishes and a cultural event featuring the NYC-based Afro-Ecuadorian band Chota Madre.

*Contributed by Maja Jeranko, MALAS student*



UFIC Dean Leo Vilallón, UF President Kent Fuchs, Ambassador of Ecuador for the United States Francisco Borja, and Center Director Philip Williams



## LAS Undergraduate Welcome Reception

On October 1, 2015, the Center for Latin American Studies hosted a welcome reception for undergraduate students pursuing a minor or certificate in Latin American Studies. The reception featured information, resources, and inspirational speakers from the field of Latin American Studies at UF. Approximately 30 people attended the event, which took place at the Hispanic-Latino Affairs Institute, popularly known as La Casita. The UF Student Body President, Joselin Padrón-Rasines, was our special guest speaker, and she shared her experience as a Latin American Studies Minor student. We want to thank all of the speakers and students who made this a successful event!



## Carmen Diana Deere Retires After Distinguished Career in Latin American Studies

Former Center director (2004-2009) Carmen Diana Deere is retiring from UF after a distinguished career. Dr. Carmen Diana Deere has been appointed Distinguished Professor Emerita of Latin American Studies and Food & Resource Economics. She holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of California, Berkeley, and a M.A. in development studies from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She was Director of the UF Center for Latin American Studies from 2004 to 2009. Before coming to UF, she was Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she was Director of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies. She is a past-

president of the Latin American Studies Association and of the New England Council of Latin American Studies. Deere is the author of eight prize-winning books and journal articles and many other contributions in the fields of gender and development and agrarian studies in Latin America.

She is an associate editor of the journal *Feminist Economics*, and serves or has served on numerous editorial boards. As of 2015, she is an honorary professor emerita of the Latin American Faculty of Social Science (FLACSO) in Quito where she is still teaching periodically.

### What do you consider your biggest accomplishment during the time you served as Director?

I nurtured the development of a number of new programs, such as the Law & Policy in the Americas

program; the Crime, Law & Governance program; the Latino Studies Program; the Cuba Program; and the Masters in Sustainable Development Practice, not all of which came to fruition during my time as director. We formally launched the UF Cuba program in 2009, and I coordinated this program for the next few years, forming an alumni board, facilitating faculty research exchanges with the University of Havana, and successfully obtaining external research funding. We also implemented a new governance structure to facilitate the participation of our affiliate faculty and developed links to alumni such as by establishing the LAS Alumni Advisory Board. I hired the Center's first development officer and designed our first-ever LAS Capital Campaign in collaboration with deans from a number of colleges.

*Continued on page 6*

## Welcome New Center Staff, Affiliates, and Visitors!

### AFFILIATE FACULTY

**Kaira Cabañas**  
*Art History*

**Karen Garrett**  
*Plant Pathology*

**David Kaplan**  
*Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment*

**Robert Lucero**  
*College of Nursing*

**Carlos Suarez Carrasquillo**  
*Political Science*

**Laurie Taylor**  
*UF Libraries*

**STAFF**  
**Dayanara Hudson**  
*Communications Coordinator*

**SiseneG Midget**  
*Human Resources Assistant*

### VISITORS

**Mehmet Emin Cagiran**  
*Turkish Military Academy, Turkey*  
*Visiting Scholar*

**Delia Macias**  
*Universidad Oviedo, Spain*  
*Visiting Ph.D. student*

**Karen Ponciano**  
*Universidad Rafael Landívar,*  
*Guatemala*  
*Visiting Scholar*

**What were some of the biggest challenges you had to overcome?**

We held five searches for joint faculty appointments, not all of which were successful. One of my biggest frustrations was hiring junior faculty to build these various initiatives and then having them leave, as happened both with the Latino Studies and the Crime, Law & Governance programs. These programs are finally being consolidated now. Fundraising was also tough. While we were able to obtain three new endowments and several new funds while I was director, most of these to benefit students, we fell far short of the Capital Campaign goals.

**Where any of these accomplishments or challenges behind your decision to create the Carmen Diana Deere Director's Fund upon your retirement?**

I learned a lot about the art of fundraising during my tenure, but still found it difficult to ask people for money. Early on I realized that it would be a lot more fun to give money away than to ask for it. I decided to create an unrestricted fund upon my retirement to give the Center director as much flexibility as possible in pursuing new initiatives and exciting ideas. It is set up as a matching fund to encourage colleagues, former students, and friends to contribute to it, which I'll then match through an additional bequest.

**What has been the most rewarding aspect of your career at the Center?**

What I probably enjoyed most was working with faculty and students from across campus. The Center is uniquely positioned to develop and facilitate inter- and multi-disciplinary activities. It was very rewarding to lead such a diverse and talented group of Latinamericanists, all of whom share a passion for the people, culture, and complexities of the region. I also learned a ton about how UF functions and its problems and challenges. It was also gratifying to always have the support of the UF Administration, particularly former President Machen, when new initiatives came up.

**Can you name one of the courses you taught that you enjoyed teaching most?**

My Gender and Latin American Development course was always special, since I was able to integrate my research and teaching in a particularly fruitful way. My long-run research program has been on women's ownership of assets and its relationship to women's economic empowerment. It has been very rewarding to explore these ideas with students and to have many of them pursue theses and dissertations related to these themes. I also enjoyed participating in the design of the curriculum for the MDP program and teaching Foundations of Sustainable Development.

**You are currently teaching in Ecuador - would you like to share with us more about your current role there?**

I am currently teaching a Ph.D. course at FLACSO-Ecuador on economic development of the Andes. I carried out a nationally-representative household assets survey in Ecuador in 2010, and still have a number of research topics, related to the findings of this survey, which I want to pursue there. I recently finished a paper on gender and class in Ecuador's credit market, and hope to carry out some more interviews on this topic while in Quito.

**Since you have recently retired, are there any aspects of the Center that you are already missing?**

I have been so busy teaching at FLACSO, that I have not yet had the time to feel retired! But I tend to think of retirement as the opportunity to be on "permanent sabbatical," a time when I'll have more flexibility in terms of travel and research. Also, I'll still be involved in several projects at the Center. I am part of the UF-University of Havana collaborative project and hope to pursue field research in Cuba this coming spring with UF colleagues. I am also a member of the International Panel on Social Progress (IPSP), an initiative led by Amartya Sen, and will be co-authoring a chapter on gender and the family for that report. Moreover, I still have several students that are in the pipeline, so it should be a very gradual transition to full retirement.

# CONGRATULATIONS MARGARITA GANDÍA

On September 29, Center faculty, staff, and friends celebrated Margarita Gandía's retirement after 25 years of working at the Center - congratulations Margarita!



Jessica Caicedo (Center's Sr. Fiscal Assistant) and Margarita Gandía



# UF International Educator of the Year



Perz with collaborators Johanna Espin, Flavia Leite, and Paula Pinheiro

Center affiliate Stephen Perz (Sociology) was named UF's 2015 Senior Faculty International Educator of the Year by the University of Florida International Center (UFIC). Perz works in the Amazon basin spanning Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia coordinating the efforts of universities, NGOs, and government agencies at the local, regional, and international levels. His fieldwork focuses on social and environmental impacts of infrastructure development and how the region's communities integrate climate change into sustainable development strategies. UF President Fuchs and UFIC Dean Villalón presented the award to Perz at a reception held in the Keene Faculty Center on November 16, 2015.

## American Academy of Nursing Fellows



Jeanne-Marie Stacciarini and Robert Lucero

Jeanne-Marie Stacciarini and Robert Lucero, both Center affiliates from the UF College of Nursing, have been elected as fellows of the American Academy of Nursing. Stacciarini's NIH-supported research examines health inequalities and social isolation among rural Latinos, in addition to her work as a co-PI

collaborating with researchers from Mexico and Peru on an international center for gender and health disparities. Lucero's current research, also supported by NIH, is a study that aims to extend the use of an electronic personal health record through a web-based Family

Health Information Management System for use by Latino caregivers. Fellows are recognized for making outstanding contributions to effective nursing and show the potential to continue making significant contributions to the field.

# FACULTY NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

**Jessi Elana Aaron** (SPS) was invited to present “Greater than any one of us, yet nothing without us: On the role of perception and everyday life in language” as part of the Center for Language Science Speaker Series at Penn State University in October 2015.

**Robert Buschbacher** (SFRC) published “A Teoria da Resiliência e os Sistemas Socioecológicos: Como se Preparar para um Futuro Imprevisível?” *Regional, Urbano e Ambiental* (2014): 11. With Wendy-Lin Bartels and Denyse Mello, he completed 3-module field course “Metodologias de Mediação para Governança Socioambiental Municipal” for conservation professionals from Brazilian NGOs. Buschbacher also received a new grant to “Consolidate the Multi-Scalar Learning Network to Strengthen NGO Initiatives for Municipal Socioenvironmental Governance in Brazilian Amazon,” together with the RECAM NGO network.

**Kaira Cabañas** (Art History) published *Art brut et art moderne au Brésil, Les Cahiers du Musée national d'art moderne*, No. 129, Fall 2015; *Learning from Madness: Mário Pedrosa and the Physiognomic Gestalt*, October 153, Summer 2015, and *Criatividade comum*, in *Histórias da Loucura: Desenhos de Juquery*. São Paulo: Museu de Arte de São Paulo, 2015. Cabañas presented “Console and Classify, Therapy and Art: The Work of Modern Psychiatric Patients in Brazil,” at the New Worlds: Frontiers, Inclusion, Utopias, a conference organized by the Comité International de l'Histoire de l'Art in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August 25–29, 2015.

**Carmen Diana Deere** (LAS - Emerita) presented “Who Borrows to Accumulate Assets? Class and Gender in Ecuador's Credit Market” at the Latin American Studies International Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico in May 2015, and at the III Congreso Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO-Quito, in August 2015. She also presented “Gendered Paths to Asset Accumulation? The Role of Savings and Credit” at the International Association of Feminist Economics Conference in Berlin in July. She published (with Jennifer Twyman and **Pilar Useche** (LAS/FRE) *Gendered Perceptions of Land Ownership and Agricultural Decision-making in Ecuador*, *Land Economics*, 91 (3), 2015: 479-500.

**Richard Freeman** (Smathers Libraries) published “Visual Representations of Vodou and Voodoo.” In *The Vodou Encyclopedia: Magic, Ritual, and Religion*, ed. Jeffrey E. Anderson (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2015), 327-336.

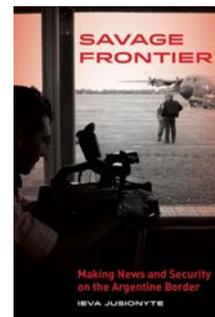
**Glenn Galloway** (MDP) moderated and presented in the side event “Opportunities and Challenges for Harnessing Local Forest Management to Improve Rural Livelihoods in Africa” in the FAO World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa in September 2015.

**Karen Garrett** (IFAS) published *Seed Degeneration in Potato: The Need for an Integrated Seed Health Strategy to Mitigate the Problem in Developing Countries*. *Plant Pathology* (2015), with Thomas-Sharma, S., A. Abdurahman, S. Ali, J.L. Andrade-Piedra, S. Bao, A.O. Charkowski, D. Crook, M. Kadian, P. Kromann, P.C. Struik, L. Torrance, and G.A. Forbes.

**David Geggus** (History) spoke on “The Formation of New American States” at the John Carter Brown Library in May 2015. He published *Saint Domingue, le Marronnage, et la Révolution Haïtienne*, in *Sociétés marronnes des Amériques*, ed. Jean Moomou (Matoury: Ibis Rouge, 2015), 127-138; “*Lesoulèvement de 1791: conséquence de la Révolution française?*” in *Haïti entre permanences et ruptures*, ed. André Calmont (Matoury: Ibis Rouge, 2015), and “Haiti's Declaration of Independence,” in *The Haitian Declaration of Independence in an Atlantic Context*, ed. Julia Gaffield (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2016), 25-41. His book *Haitian Revolution: A Documentary History* was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title.

**Brian Gendreau** (LBE and Finance) was appointed as a Richardson Faculty Fellow by the Finance Department effective in fall 2015, and was selected as the Warrington College of Business Administration's 2015 International Educator of the Year.

**Ieva Juisonyte** (LAS/Anthropology) published the book *Savage Frontier: Making News and Security on the Argentine Border*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2015. She presented “Crimescapes: Police, Journalists and News Publics in Argentina” at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in May 2015. Juisonyte was also awarded a Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) Junior Faculty Teaching Award in May 2015 and a National Science Foundation Senior Research Award from Cultural Anthropology and Law and Social Sciences programs for the multiyear study on “Emergency Services During Heightened Border Security”.

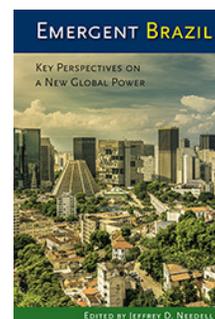


**Richard Kernaghan** (Anthropology) published *Cocaine's Minor Destinies: Ephemerality and Legal Threat on the Margins of the Peruvian State*. In *American Ethnologist* 42, no. 4 (2015): 658-671.

**Bette Loiselle** (LAS/WEC) and **John Blake** (WEC) published “Enigmatic Declines in Bird Numbers in Lowland Forest of Eastern Ecuador may be a Consequence of Climate Change.” *PeerJ* 3 (2015): e1177.

**Gerald Murray** (Anthropology - Emeritus) was invited to participate in launching a European Union-financed consortium of Dominican and Haitian universities called Observatorio Binacional. He produced a report entitled *Dinámicas Ambientales Binacionales Informe Sometido al OBMEC, Observatorio Binacional De Haití y la República Dominicana*. Murray was an invited guest lecturer at two other colleges on the topics of Afro-Caribbean religion and on the racial dynamics surrounding skin color and hair in the Afro-Caribbean.

**Jeffrey D. Needell** (History) edited *Emergent Brazil: Key Perspectives on a New Global Power*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2015, and authored the introduction “An Attempt to Grasp the Moment (1-12)”. Needell also published a review for the book *Porous City: A Cultural History of Rio de Janeiro*. By Bruno Carvalho. *Contemporary Hispanic and Lusophone Cultures*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2013. In *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 95:1 (Feb. 2015): 167-68.



**Susan Paulson** (LAS) published *Masculinities and Femininities in Latin America's Uneven Development*. London and New York City: Routledge, 2015. She was invited to present “La (Re)Producción de Diversas Socio-Ecológicas Con Cambiantes Masculinidades” at the Primera reunión internacional de la Red temática Género, Sociedad y Medio Ambiente in Mérida, México in November 2015. Paulson also presented “What Would Degrowth Mean for Sociocultural Inequalities Currently Linked to Expanding Societal Metabolism?” at the American Anthropology Association Annual Meetings in Denver in November 2015.



**Charles A. Perrone** (SPS) joined the Advisory Board of the revived UF-based *Delos: A Journal of Translation and World Literature*. He published *Da Titulação à ação dos Títulos: o Novo Livro de Salgado Maranhão*, preface to the poet's *Ópera denaos* (Rio de Janeiro: 7Letras, 2015), as well as *Out of Alphabetical Order* (Chicago: Moria Poetry, 2015).

**Richard Phillips** (LACC - Emeritus) has been named an honorary member of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM), becoming the 3rd UF Latin Americanist librarian to receive this award. Others from UF include Irene Zimmerman (elected in 1977) and Rosa Q. Mesa (elected in 1997).

**Jack Putz** (Biology) and **Claudia Romero** (Biology) published a *Futures of Tropical Forests (Sensu Lato)*. *Biotropica* 46.4 (2014): 495-505.

**Mary Risner** (LAS) published *Graduate Student Perceptions of a Globally Networked Course*. *Journal of Applied Research in Higher Education (JARHE)*, with Kumar, S.

**Marianne Schmink** (LAS - Emerita) and **Bette Loiselle** (LAS/WEC) were awarded a grant by the Center for Latin American Studies for "Course enhancement to add a global classroom dimension to the graduate-level Interdisciplinary Seminar on the Amazon". Schmink also published *Differentiated Citizenship and the Persistence of Informal Rural Credit Systems in Amazonia*. *Geoforum* 65, (2015): 266-277, with Mathews, Mason Clay.

**Kristen Stoner** (Music) performed two solo Latin American flute compositions, "Otras variaciones sobre el mismo tema de Paganini" by Luis Carrera (Ecuador) and "Fantasia Andina sobre el tema de 'El Condor Pasa' de Daniel Robles" by Cesar Vivanco Sanchez (Peru) in recitals presented in Italy, France, and England in June and July of 2015.

**Catherine Tucker** (LAS/Anthropology) co-presented the poster "Effective Adaptation Strategies and Risk Reduction to Global Changes in Small Farmers in Mesoamerica" with A. Solano, E. Castellanos, H. Eakin, J. Barrera, R. Diaz at the Conference Our Common Future under Climate Change in Paris, France in July 2015. She also presented the paper "Community Based Development and Local Water Governance in Honduras" at the Mountains of Our Future Earth Conference in Perth, Scotland, in October 2015.

**Denis R. Valle** (SFRC) published *Bias in Logistic Regression Due to Imperfect Diagnostic Test Results and Practical Correction Approaches*. *Malaria Journal* 14.1 (2015): 434, with Valle, Denis, Joanna M. Tucker Lima, Justin Millar, Punam Amratia, and Ubydul Haque.

**Nicholas Vargas** (LAS/Sociology) published four articles: "Latina/o Whitening?: Which Latina/os Self-Classify as White and Report Being Perceived as White by Others?" *Du Bois Review* 12, no. 1 (2015): 119-136. With Anning Hu: "Economic Consequences of Horizontal Stratification in Postsecondary Education: Evidence from Urban China." *Higher Education* 70, no. 3 (2015): 337-358. With Kevin Stainback: "Documenting Contested Racial Identities among Self-Identified Latina/os, Asians, Blacks, and Whites in the U.S." *American Behavioral Scientist*, Forthcoming. Available via Online First. With Trieu, Monica, and Roberto G. Gonzales. "Transnational Patterns among Latina/o American and Asian American Children of Immigrants in Southern California." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Forthcoming. Available via Online First.

**Margarita Vargas-Betancourt** (LACC) published *Continuity and Transformation in Central Mexico: 'The Legend of the Tepozteco' and the people of Tepoztlan*. In *The Legacy of Mesoamerican Ancestors: Archaeological Heritage in and beyond Contemporary Mexico*, edited by David S. Anderson, Dylan J. Clark, and J. Heath Anderson. *Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association* Vol. 25, 2015. doi: 10.1111/apaa.12046.

## UF Center for Latin American Studies Receives New Grant from US Embassy Panama

The Center for Latin American Studies received a \$273,000 grant from the US Embassy Panama to implement a new project, "Equal Justice for all in Panama: Supporting the Transition to the Accusatory System in Rural and Indigenous Communities." Center Director Philip Williams, together with UF law Professor Larissa Lidsky, will be collaborating with two MALAS alumni in Panama - Benjamin Goodman (Village Rights International) and Osvaldo Jordan (Alianza Para La Conservación y el Desarrollo) - on the project based on a national campaign to inform Panamanian citizens about the new Accusatory Justice System (AJS) with emphasis on vulnerable indigenous populations in remote rural areas. The project targets indigenous and local residents in two rural districts of Panama: Santa Fe, Veraguas and Pinogana, Darien. The activities include the development of culturally sensitive AJS training materials, AJS capacity-building workshops for community members, and a broad AJS information campaign utilizing radio and social media to reach local and indigenous communities. The Center will be partnering with two non-governmental organizations to implement the project. Village Rights International brings specialized knowledge in the application of indigenous legislation and the protection of human rights in indigenous rural communities in Panama, particularly in the Darien region. Alianza para la Conservación y el Desarrollo, a Panamanian non-profit organization with ample experience in participatory planning and research in indigenous communities, will provide in-country coordination and support for the project.

For more information contact  
**Philip Williams: [pjw@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:pjw@latam.ufl.edu)**

## Center for Latin American Studies Cuba Program

Center Director Philip Williams accompanied a delegation from the UF Levin College of Law to meet with counterparts at the Facultad de Derecho, Universidad de la Habana. The Center is working with the law schools to initiate a new collaborative partnership to support faculty and student exchanges, joint research projects and publications, and a joint conference to be held in May 2016.



From left to right: Tim McClendon (UF Law), Berta Hernandez (UF Law), Jon Mills (UF Law), Mayda Goite Pierre (Dean, UH Law), Marta Fernández Martínez (Vice Dean, UH Law), Philip Williams (UF LAS)

## Disseminating Latin American Studies through Outreach

Since the emergence of the field of Latin American Studies (LAS) during the Cold War, LAS has evolved and today transcends boundaries in an increasingly globalized world. Studying Latin America is important within a multitude of contexts, including government, trade, science, and culture. Just as the study of LAS is diverse, the demographics it reaches are equally multifaceted. The Center for Latin American Studies encourages transdisciplinary perspectives and engagement with the region through on- and off-campus outreach efforts for K-16 educators, the community at-large, and businesses through a variety of activities outlined in the box on the bottom right. Additionally, the program connects with individuals through online learning networks and information sharing.

As part of a recent initiative to recruit students and promote the value of Latin American Studies coursework, the Center's outreach program produced a two and a half minute video clip aimed at helping students see how LAS knowledge can leverage their career opportunities. To view the video go to [www.latam.ufl.edu/home/why-las](http://www.latam.ufl.edu/home/why-las).

For more information on outreach services and to contact us about potential collaboration, please visit [www.latam.ufl.edu/outreach](http://www.latam.ufl.edu/outreach).

*Contributed by Brigitte Pfluger, MALAS Graduate Assistant*



Go to [www.latam.ufl.edu/home/why-las](http://www.latam.ufl.edu/home/why-las) to view video

### CLAS Outreach Activities

- Traveling Suitcases
- Lending Library
- Webinars
- Workshops & Conferences
- Cultural Events



## Forging a Career across Disciplines through Latin American Studies

In October, the Center for Latin American Studies hosted “Forging a Career across Disciplines”, a workshop encouraging students to explore careers that fuse language skills, Latin American expertise, and professional degrees to prepare them for 21st century careers in an increasingly globalized world.

Professors, department chairs, and associate deans across departments moderated alumni panels representing business, legal, logistics and trade, government, and communications sectors. Although the alumni guests came from diverse industries, their core message was similar—they have excelled by building valuable relationships and having a broad skill set with a combination of language, cultural, and technical expertise. A special feature of this workshop included a panel of current graduate students who shared tips about internships they recently experienced at multinational corporations and non-profits.

Nearly 150 participants attended the workshop throughout the day and evaluations showed that students felt empowered through information on how to work toward innovative careers. The workshop conveyed the impact University of Florida global programs and courses have on preparing students with opportunities to engage with the world, cultivate alumni connections, and collaborate across disciplines.

*Contributed by Chloe Burke, Levin College of Law*



MALAS alumni Evan George (Law Office of Evan D. George) and José Sariago (Telemundo Network Group) participating as panelists at the career workshop



Students conversing with MALAS alumnus Jacob Schultz of the U.S. Foreign Service (far right)

## SUMMER '15 & FALL '15 GRADUATIONS

### Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates

**Paloma Bone** (Spanish)  
**Nahil Carranza** (Psychology)  
**Frances Chapman** (Political Science)  
**Seth Dagen** (Systems Engineering)  
**Diana Durnas** (Computer Science)  
**Scott Mckenzie** (Int'l Studies)  
**Amanda Mora** (History)  
**John Patino** (Political Science)  
**Marina Rodrigues** (Communications)  
**Agassy Rodriguez** (Public Relations)  
**Helen Roldan** (Political Science)  
**Daniel Patrick Ryan** (Int'l Studies)  
**Luke Smith** (Animal Sciences)  
**Bryan Weaver** (Physics)

### Graduate LAS Certificates

**Elvin Cabrera, MA**  
(Urban & Regional Planning)  
**Natalie Cooper, MS (SFRC)**  
**Mariana De Maio, PhD**  
(Mass Communication)  
**Robert Taber, PhD (History)**  
**Erin Zavitz, PhD (History)**

### MALAS Degrees

**Michelle Blanck**  
Specialization: Brazilian Studies  
Advisor: Elizabeth Ginway (Spanish & Portuguese Studies)  
Internship Final Research Paper: Migrant Education: Success or Stagnation

### Lauren Krebs

Specialization: History  
Advisor: Lillian Guerra (History)  
Thesis: La Revolución Preparada: Political Tourism in Cuba, 1963-1978

### Lara Lookabaugh

Specialization: Development Studies  
Advisor: Carmen Diana Deere (LAS/FRE)  
Thesis: Talking about the Weather in Chiapas, Mexico: Rural Women's Approaches to Climate Change in National and Global Context

### TCD Certificates

**Hernán Álvarez, MS (WEC)**  
**Natalie Cooper, MS (SFRC)**  
**Yasmin Quintana Morales, MS (SNRE)**  
**María Rios Marín, PhD (SNRE)**  
**José Sierra Huelsz, MS (SFRC)**

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

### Academic Year FLAS Fellowships

The following students received U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships from the Center for Latin American Studies for the 2015-16 academic year:

### PORTUGUESE

**Todd Bertwell, MS (FRC)**  
**James Christ, MDP**  
**Crisne Lebron, MALAS**  
**Sarah Marek, BA (Political Science)**  
**Mirelis Martínez, MALAS**  
**Macarena Moraga, MALAS**  
**Stephanie McComber, BA (Int'l Studies)**

### HAITIAN CREOLE

**Carissa Cullum, MALAS**  
**Diana Moreno, MALAS**

### 2015 Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award

**Raissa Míriam Nascimento Guerra (PhD) SNRE**

Advisor: Marianne Schmink (LAS)  
Dissertation Title: Feasibility of Payments for Environmental Services in the Amazon Region: Tools for Ex Ante Assessment

### 2015 Chuck Wood Outstanding MALAS Thesis Award

**Anna Porter**  
Advisor: Carmen Diana Deere (LAS)  
Thesis Title: Mobilizing for Voice: The Bartolinas in Bolivia

## NEW MALAS STUDENTS

Front, from left: Samantha Soffici, Carissa Cullum, Mirelis Martínez, Karen Cardona. Back, from left: Moises Moreno-Rivera, Maja Jeranko, Kerry White, Chris Lomelin, Juanita Duque, Akemi Inamoto, Ruming Yang



## ALUMNI UPDATES

### **Lindsay (Barnes) Arrieta**

(MALAS 2012) received her JD from The George Washington Law School in May 2015. After graduation, she relocated to New York City to work for Citigroup, Inc. where she will rotate across four business groups within Citibank's Compliance division as part of a two-year Management Associate program.

### **Larissa (Ruiz) Baia**

(MALAS 1996) is the Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management at Lakes Region Community College in New Hampshire. She has been living in Concord, NH with her husband, Carlos Baia, and their two children, Tatiana and Jonas.

### **Luis Caraballo-Burgos**

(MALAS 2010) works as the UniServ Director of the Orange County Service Unit (an educator's union) in Winter Park, Florida.

**Kirsten Clanton** (MALAS 2005) is an attorney for Southern Legal Counsel, a Florida statewide not-for-profit public interest law firm that is committed to the ideal of equal justice for all and the attainment of basic human and civil rights.

### **Erika (Paola) Gherzi**

(MALAS 2006) holds the position of Professor of Latin American Humanities and Languages at Santa Fe College (SFC) in Gainesville, FL. She has been teaching Languages and Humanities, designing syllabi, coordinating the Language Lab, organizing the World Humanities Expo, and coordinating the Bilingual Storytelling Project (BSP) at SFC for six years. In addition to teaching, Gherzi has been conducting research with faculty from Sao Paulo State University (UNESP) since 2014.

**Eleanor Lewis** (MALAS 2010) is an Associate Attorney for Antone, Casagrande & Adwers P.C.

**Sarah Martin** (LAS undergraduate certificate & minor 2008) serves as attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice and was selected as an attorney by the U.S. Attorney General's Honors Program at the

Board of Immigration Appeals in Virginia. This is her second term of duty in the Honors Program.

**Brian Payne** (MALAS 2000) is the Co-Director of Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL) and lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Ramon Ramos** (LAS undergraduate certificate 1972) serves as the Director of Social Services at Jackson Memorial Perdue Medical Center in Miami, Florida.

**Griselda Rodriguez** (MALAS 2010) teaches at Hallandale Elementary School in Hallandale, Florida.

**Geraldine Slean** (MALAS 2005) is a Resident Physician at the California Pacific Medical Center.

**Anouk St-Arnaud** (MALAS 2005) works for Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development as a Diplomate, First Secretary (Development) at the Canadian Embassy in Ethiopia.

## For Your Information: UF ACRONYMS

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

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



## ALUMNI CAREER PROFILE:

# Alan Bonderud

(MALAS 1976)



As the son of a Guatemalan mother and a pioneering airline pilot, Alan Bonderud embarked on a journey he hoped would lead to a career selling big airplanes in the Americas. After learning to fly and earning a BA in political science with a certificate in Latin American Studies, Alan turned his attention to the master's program at the UF Center for Latin American Studies. Advisors tailored a program for him to study economic development, underpinned by language, history, culture, and politics. He earned his MA in Latin American Studies in 1976, after submitting a thesis involving a summer of research in South America. Alan then earned his MBA, and a commercial multi-engine pilot license.

Alan started his aviation career with Mooney Aircraft selling high-performance planes in the southeast U.S. and Latin America. Thirty years later, in partial response to his wife's illness, he took early retirement from Lockheed Martin where by this time he was responsible for the company's international sales of multi-engine transport aircraft. Since then, Alan has pursued what he devotedly calls "merciful service". He served for a season as executive director of a free, charitable air ambulance that flew indigent patients in a jet equipped as a mobile intensive care unit. Alan then moved on to accept various leadership roles in Christian ministry to prisoners.

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

Today, in addition to helping launch a prison mentoring ministry, I serve as Board Chairman of Metanoia Prison Ministries. Metanoia is a nationwide non-profit that engages the Church to prepare prisoners for successful return to family, church, work, and society.

### What aspect of your career have you enjoyed the most?

I've enjoyed being on the front end of things, taking new products and programs, to new customers, in new settings, employing new innovative strategies and approaches in complex environments. I've enjoyed hiring and working with people with character, teaching them our craft, and equipping & motivating them to do hard things well, bringing long-term, high-value campaigns to fruition.

### How did your MALAS degree and the Center help you prepare for your career?

In a not-so-successful period of college life, I actually failed as an undergraduate. UF gave me a second chance. I was mentored by two remarkable professors who helped me thrive in an academically rigorous environment. I came to understand influences on decision making at national and regional levels. Other students

challenged me to be intellectually honest about my faith. I courted my future wife there. Each of us in the interdisciplinary MALAS program pursued "different objectives together". It was an extremely satisfying experience in an intense challenging environment, immersed in diverse national cultures, working harmoniously in close community, where failure was not an option.

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

First, "start with the end in mind" in tailoring your own unique foundation. Have as clear an understanding about what you want to accomplish then take advantage of the outstanding faculty and broad range of programs available to you through the Center and UF. Second, be intellectually honest in every area of your life. Don't let popular culture, political correctness, or extreme currents - either liberal or conservative, dominate your world views. Finally, use this time to build character, understanding that organizations would rather bring on people with character and teach them the work at hand, rather than hire people with certain skill sets and only hope to find character.

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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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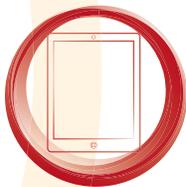
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If you would like to receive our weekly LAS News and Events email, please send a message to [info@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:info@latam.ufl.edu) asking to be added to the weekly update list.



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