



OUTREACH

— 2018-2019 —

Annual Report

University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies

Center for Latin American Studies

The Outreach Program at the University of Florida's Center for Latin American Studies (LAS) promotes the integration of the study of Latin America, its cultures, and its languages across the K-12 and higher education curriculum.

Outreach Program Priorities

Focus Areas:

- Latin American Studies in the K-12 and higher education classroom and community
- Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL)
- Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP)
- Connecting education and business

Priority Audiences:

- K-12 and Higher Education
- Community
- Business



LAS is a Title VI National Resource Center with funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

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K-12 and Higher Ed Classroom Engagement

Through collaboration with UF Latin Americanists, UF alumni, and professional teacher organizations, LAS has enhanced K-12 and higher ed classrooms and teaching experiences in Florida and throughout the United States.

Traveling Suitcases

LAS ships suitcases of Latin American cultural artifacts for teachers to use as learning centers, with themes such as Latin American indigenous peoples, travel, economy, and education in Latin America.



480 students
46 classrooms

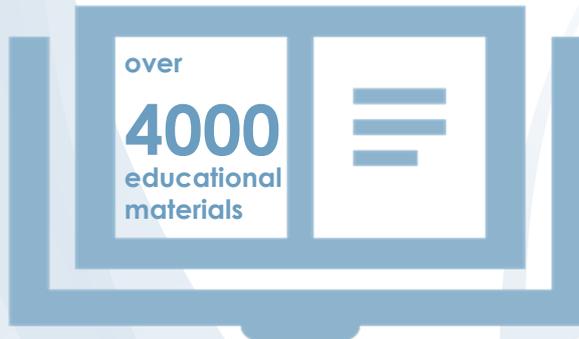
Virtual Connections Network (VCN)

The VCN enables teachers to bring an expert into their classroom to provide context on topics related to Latin America. 2018-2019 topics included:

- Latinx Studies
- Childhood in Bolivia & U.S.
- Afro-Latin America
- Colombian Carnival
- Endangered Animals and Climate Change in Latin America

Lending Library

LAS continues to partner with Tulane University to share materials about Latin American topics with educators across the United States.



K-12 and Higher Ed Professional Development

LAS reached over 640 educators through professional development opportunities both virtually and at conferences across the country. These opportunities help inspire educators to integrate LAS content and innovative pedagogies into their curriculum.

Raising Awareness in Global Classrooms

In March 2019, educators from across the state gathered in Gainesville for the annual Florida Connected Conference. Co-sponsored by the Centers for Latin American, African, and European Studies, the conference aimed to increase global awareness and connect teachers to Center resources.

Featured at the conference:

- Introduction by Maxine Lunn, Senior Program Officer for Teacher Exchange Branch of U.S. Department of State
- Presentations from innovative K-12 teachers and UF faculty
- Mini-workshop facilitated by Teachers for Global Classrooms alumni
- Author keynote by renowned children's author Susan Hood



LAS Annual Conference

LAS invited presenters from across the globe for the 68th Annual Conference, Jews and the Americas. Topics ranged from Jewish politics to transnational commerce to the arts and language, spanning countries throughout Latin America. Additional events included a concert performance and a tour of the Smathers Library Judaica Suite.

K-12 and Higher Ed Professional Development

Creating a Collaborative International Teaching Network (CITN)

The CITN is a project awarded modest funding by the Provost's Creative Campus Initiative for the 2018-2019 academic year and generously supported by the UF International Center. Its mission is to guide and support UF faculty to engage creatively with collaborative international teaching opportunities, facilitating virtual exchange and rewarding innovative teaching that crosses campuses and disciplines to transform learning.

CITN events included:

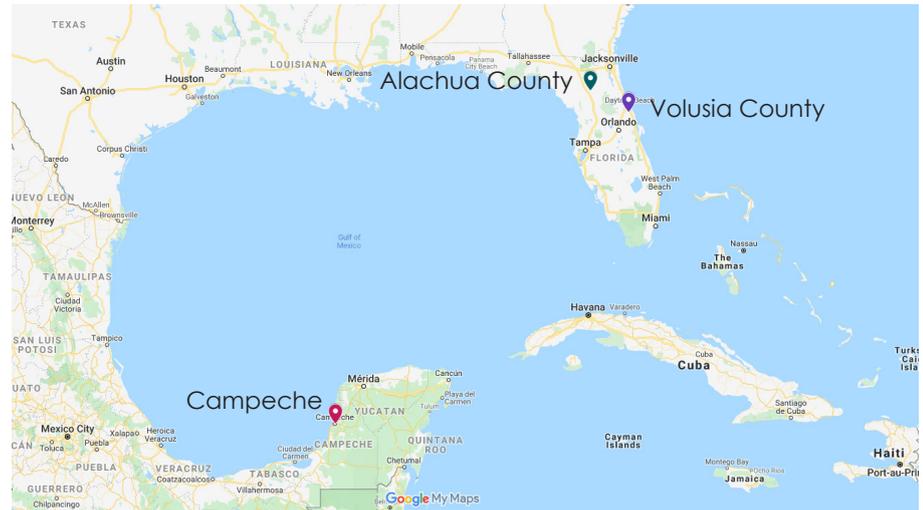
- Virtual Exchange Faculty Showcase that brought together UF faculty and two Virtual Exchange models from Santa Fe State College and Eastside High School
- Virtual exchange workshop facilitated by a professor from the University of Padova (Padua), Italy
- Six-week online training delivered by Unicollaboration
- Creation of a virtual exchange web page of resources
- Pilot courses including Latin American Geography, Human Rights in Latin America, Children's Literature, Global Studies for Educators, and Technology in Elementary Education



K-12 and Higher Ed Professional Development

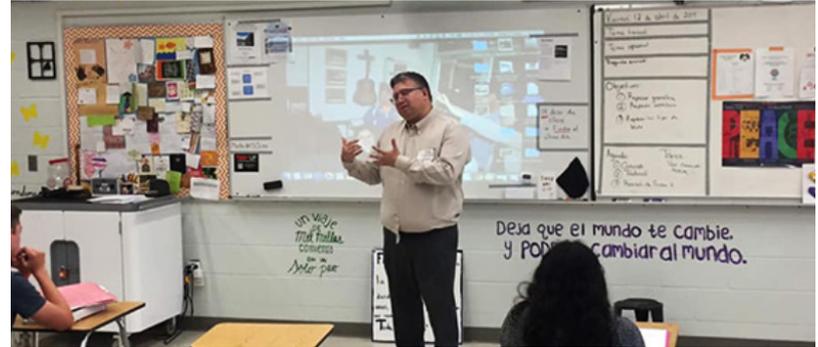
Teacher Exchange in Mexico

In June 2019, LAS organized the Teacher Exchange in Campeche, Mexico, in collaboration with partner organizations Volusia County Sister Cities, Instituto Campechano, and La Universidad Autónoma de Campeche. This year was the pilot program in a continuing partnership. Participants stayed with local Mexican teachers and learned about the Mexican education system, Mayan culture, and Mexican society. The exchange continued in October as the Mexican hosts stayed with their former guests in Florida, observing classroom practices in both Alachua and Volusia Counties.



Visiting Scholars at the Center for Latin American Studies: Melissa Aguilar and Darwing Pérez

In Fall 2018, the Center hosted visiting scholar Melissa Aguilar. Melissa, a graduate student at Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, used Smathers Library resources to support her research on the 2014 disappearance of 43 students in Ayotzinapa, Mexico. She also presented on her research at UF and on Mexican culture at local schools and through the VCN. In Spring 2019, Melissa reconnected with students from the Center at the SECOLAS conference in Oaxaca, MX, and later successfully defended her thesis.



In Spring 2019, the Center hosted Darwing Pérez, professor at the Normal School for Middle School Teachers at the Instituto Campechano. As a teacher trainer for future English as a Foreign Language teachers, Professor Pérez came to UF to observe the approaches and techniques currently used in all levels of formal education in the United States. He also visited Gainesville public schools to speak with K-12 students about Mexican culture and education, as well as to create connections with inservice and pre-service teachers in order to connect classrooms and teachers between the United States and Mexico.

Connecting Language and Careers

Global Careers and Technical Education

LAS organized a Global Career and Technical Education (CTE) Workshop in Florida in June. Teachers from across disciplines came together to see innovative ways of connecting world language and CTE to global themes and other courses. Collaborators included Florida International University's Center for International Business Education and Research, Volusia Sister Cities, and Central Florida industry partners.

Students and the Global Workplace

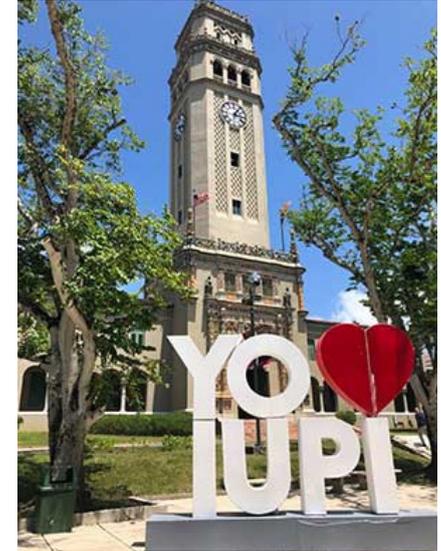
LAS participated in its first Florida Association of Career and Technical Education conference by exhibiting global workplace resources and presenting on the value of language and culture as soft skills in the global workplace.



Research and Curriculum Development

Collaborating with Universidad de Puerto Rico

The new Title VI cycle gave LAS the opportunity to expand collaborations with the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) and to support their community through curriculum and professional development during the Spring 2019 semester. This included sponsoring the participation of a UPR professor at a digital media and technology workshop at Florida International University and organizing events at UPR's Río Piedras campus, including a public talk and workshop on postwar Latin America.



Additionally, Professor Lillian Guerra (UF History/LAS) taught a one-credit course at UPR Río Piedras titled “The Cuban Revolution from Within,” co-sponsored by New York University. The course enrolled four graduate students and two advanced undergraduate students, with Professor Guerra encouraging the expansion of the collaboration to include UF students in future UPR mini-courses.

Arts and Culture in Florida

A total of 11,797 attendees participated in cultural events planned or promoted by LAS in Gainesville and around Florida.



Performance by Ballet Folklórico Campechano, organized with Sister Cities of Volusia County

Conferences:
301

Museum Nights &
Cultural Events:
4,615

Latin American
Creative Arts
Performances:
5,416

Latin American
Film Screenings:
1,465

Performance by Jacaré Brazil, led by LAS Professor Welton Tremura and featuring UF student singers and musicians

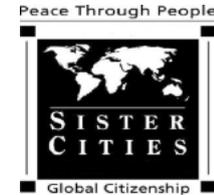


Collaborators & Affiliations

At the University of Florida



Beyond the University of Florida



2018-2019 Outreach Program Team



Mary Risner, Ed.D. is the Associate Director of Outreach and Business at the Center for Latin American Studies. Dr. Risner develops and manages initiatives that integrate the study of foreign language and area studies across the curriculum.

She has over 20 years of experience teaching foreign language at a variety of K-16 levels. Her background is in Marketing, Latin American Studies, and Educational Technology.



Anna Rodell is a Graduate Assistant at the Center for Latin American Studies and the College of Education (COE). She is an alumna of the M.A. in Latin American Studies and a Ph.D. student in the COE, specializing in race in U.S.

education. Anna helps facilitate the LAS-COE joint specialization "Education in the Americas" and assists with LAS curriculum development.



Andrew Gallup is a graduate assistant at the Center for Latin American Studies. He is working towards his M.A. in Latin American Studies with a focus on Development Studies and Economic Analysis. Andrew

manages the Traveling Suitcase program and Virtual Connections Network speakers for the Center's Outreach program.



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