



# OUTREACH

— 2017-2018 —

## 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-16 curriculum.

## Outreach Program Priorities

### Focus areas:

- Latin American Studies in the K-16 classroom and community
- Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL)
- Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP)
- Connections between education and business



### Priority audiences:

- K-16 educators and students
- Community, Business

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

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# K-16 Classroom Engagement

Through collaboration with UF Latin Americanists, UF alumni, and professional teacher organizations, LAS has enhanced K-16 classrooms and teaching experiences in Florida and throughout the United States.



as well as travel, economy, and education in Latin America. LAS shipped out 35 suitcases throughout the year to 28 patrons in 15 different states.

## Traveling Suitcases

LAS ships suitcases of Latin American cultural artifacts for teachers to use as learning centers. Suitcase themes include, but are not limited to: Afro-Latin America, Latin American indigenous peoples,

## Virtual Connections Network (VCN)

VCN offers teachers the opportunity to bring an expert into their classroom to provide context on topics related to Latin America. The program reached over 342 students through 13 virtual visits during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Topics included:

- Argentina Culture and Daily Life
- Indigenous Groups of Latin America
- Colombian Carnival & Music
- Immigration - Historical and Contemporary Contexts
- Ecotourism in Latin America
- Differences Between U.S. and Latin American Education

## Lending Library

LAS continues to partner with Tulane University to offer over 4,000 educational materials about Latin American topics. These materials were used across the United States.



# K-16 Professional Development

LAS reached over 865 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.

## Florida Connected Conference: Raising Global Awareness in Florida Classrooms

In March 2018, more than 40 Florida educators convened at the Florida Museum of Natural History for the third Florida Connected Conference, coordinated by LAS, the Center for African Studies, and P4H Global to increase their global awareness and create a network to share classroom resources. The conference featured guest speaker and African children's book author Baba Wagué Diakité.



## Children's Literature Graduate Course

In the Spring 2018 semester, LAS partnered with the UF College of Education to incorporate global content into lesson plans for their future classrooms. LAS provided copies of 2017 Américas Book Award winner *Ada's Violin*, by Susan Hood, for Dr. Suzanne Chapman's graduate course on children's literature. The course also integrated a virtual class visit with the author.



# K-16 Professional Development

## Summer Teacher Institute in Mexico

In June 2018, LAS organized the Summer Teacher Institute in Campeche, Mexico, in collaboration with partner organizations Volusia County Sister Cities, Instituto Campechano, and La Universidad Autónoma de Campeche. The 2018 Institute is the fifth installment in this professional development program, inaugurated in 2008 and conducted in five different Latin American countries over the years. This year, the Institute introduced global competencies to help educators integrate global themes into their curriculum, with a focus on the Mexican education system, Mayan culture, and Mexican society. The 11 participants learned about comparative education, identity and belonging, and sustainable development. Participants worked together to develop lesson plans and ideas to integrate into their classrooms.



# Language & Careers: Connecting Education and Industry

The fourth International Symposium on Languages for Specific Purposes (ISLSP), hosted at the University of Florida this past February, was a successful collaboration between the UF Center for Latin American Studies and the U.S. Department of Education Centers for International Business Education and Research (CIBERs).



The conference, entitled "LSP Vectors: Strengthening Interdisciplinary Connections," united 140 educators, administrators, students, and language policy makers worldwide. Participants shared innovations and visions of a future where LSP is a standard and integral component of the curriculum.



Centers For International Business Education & Research



# Making an Impact

## Latin American Business Environment (LABE) Report

The 19th edition of the LABE report was co-authored by LABE director Dr. Brian Gendreau and law professor Timothy McLendon. The report is an appraisal of the economic, social, political, and legal developments that have shaped the Latin American business climate in the past year. With the addition of Haiti and Puerto Rico in 2017, the report now reviews the conditions of all Latin American states. This year, the report was featured at the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce 11th Annual International Business Forum, with conversation led by Dr. Gendreau. There were 44 attendees at the event.



## LAS Annual Conference

LAS invited presenters from across the globe for the 67th Annual Conference on Buen Vivir and Other Post-Development Pathways. The conference hosted 160 attendees. Topics ranged from human and environmental well-being to global South and North relations. It incorporated events such as poetry readings, music performances, and a capoeira workshop.

# Arts and Culture in Florida

A total of 9,034 attendees participated in cultural events planned or promoted by LAS in Gainesville and around Florida.



Performance by Grupo Folklórico Mahetzi at the Latino Film Festival, presented by Gainesville Latina Women's League.

Brazilian  
Music Institute:  
600

Museum  
Nights:  
620

Jacaré Brazil &  
Jacaré Choro:  
3,408

Latino Film  
Festival and  
related events:  
4,001

Latin  
Music  
Concerts:  
405

Performance by  
Jacaré Brazil at the  
closing celebration  
of the Buen Vivir  
conference.



# Collaborators & Affiliations

At the University of Florida



Beyond the University of Florida



# 2017-2018 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.



Erika Davis is a Graduate Assistant at the Center for Latin American Studies. She is working towards her M.A. in Latin American Studies, specializing in Latinx Studies and Education. Erika manages the Traveling Suitcase program, Virtual

Connections Network speakers, event planning, and the FFLA and ISLSP conferences for the Center's Outreach program.



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. He helps manage the Traveling Suitcase

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



Anna Rodell is a Graduate Assistant at the Center for Latin American Studies. She is working towards her M.A. in Latin American Studies, specializing in Latinx, Migration and Transnational Studies. Anna co-managed the Traveling Suitcase

program, Virtual Connections Network speakers, and event planning.



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