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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
CENTER FOR LATIN
AMERICAN STUDIES

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organization revived**

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illuminates family stories,
collective history**

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The Naula Cousins, 1983. Sandra [1], Aida [2], and Kleber [3] in Mancheno.

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Director's CORNER

DR. CARLOS DE LA TORRE

Another great semester is ending. Thanks to the generous support of the Kislak Family Foundation, we hosted Mexican writer Ave Barrera for one semester. She taught a creative writing class; some of her student's short stories are included in this issue (pp. 10-11). Ave also organized a reading group focusing on women writers that were silenced during the "Latin American literature boom" in the 1960s and 70s. We had a book launch of her novel "The Forgery," and while at the Center she finished her new novel. (Read more about Ave on p. 5.) Next year's Kislak Family Foundation Artist in Residence will be Eduardo Abaroa from Mexico. He will teach a course on the history of art in Latin America, focusing on how knowledge is shared through art.

Three new faculty joined the Center and are having a great impact on our students (p. 17). Dr. Ariadna Tenorio taught our MALAS core course, "Issues and Perspectives in Latin America." She focused on the different methodological approaches of student research projects, both from academic perspectives and from the subjective value that each research project has for the students who carry it out. Eight Latin American Studies graduate students in Dr. Rafael Ramírez Solórzano course, "Queer Trans Expressions Across the Americas," worked with the professor to have their papers accepted to academic conferences. Finally, Dr. Luis Felipe Lomelí is the new undergraduate coordinator and will teach creative writing in Fall 2024. For next semester, he is organizing a book club in Spanish and will invite six Latin American writers to virtually discuss their work with the students.



I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Meg Weeks and Dr. Flávia Biroli in January. Dr. Weeks is new Center-based faculty, and will teach courses on social movements and gender, and reproduction and reproductive justice in the Americas. Dr. Biroli is the Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar Spring 2024. She teaches at the University of Brasilia and is a former president of the Brazilian Political Science Association. She will teach a class on gender and political conflict in Latin America and will be the keynote speaker in the Center's 72nd annual conference, "Democratic Backsliding and Resistances in Latin America and Beyond," on February 29-March 1, 2024.

I am happy to report that our faculty continue to publish scholarly articles in top journals, books, and win academic awards. We had the book launch of Dr. Rebecca Hanson's new coedited volume, "The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela" in October 2023. The Council of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation elected Dr. Bette Loiselle as Honorary Fellow for her long-distinguished service to tropical biology (p. 25).

Thanks to the hard work and leadership of Jessica Mrozinske Baker and Center staff, the third floor of Grinter Hall got a radical makeover with new paint, carpet, and furniture. Our students relaunched the Student Association of Latin American Studies (SALAS) (p. 4). Finally, I am happy to share with you that Provost J. Scott Angle reappointed me as director of the Center. Thank you students, staff, faculty, and alumni for your trust and support. Have a great new year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CDL 2".

Dr. Carlos de la Torre
CENTER DIRECTOR

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ON THE COVER: MALAS alum Kleber Naula and his cousin Sandra Naula stand before a photo of themselves, taken when they were children in Chimborazo, Ecuador. **Read more on page 7.**

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SALAS returns: Student organization revived

MALAS students re-establish association with goal of resource sharing, community building

“The students of the Center for Latin American Studies are pleased to announce the organization of a new student association which brings together students at the University with an interest in Latin America.”

In the December 1985 issue of *The Latinamericanist*, these words marked the beginning of SALAS, the Student Association of Latin American Studies. The group persisted over the next two decades, organizing colloquia, participating in outreach initiatives, and spearheading service projects. However, sometime after the early 2000s, the official organization dissipated, and LAS students instead relied on informal bonds to build networks and engage with their peers.

Now, thanks to joint efforts of the two MALAS cohorts, SALAS has officially returned.

“We wanted to build a community where students could share resources and support one another,” says SALAS president and MALAS second-year Jane Perez. “Especially from the second-year cohort to the first-year cohort of MALAS—we don’t necessarily cross paths because of different class schedules or academic interests, so we wanted to create social spaces to share our experiences with them and help them acclimate to the program.”

Because the MALAS degree is only a two-year program, there isn’t a lot of time for new students to orient themselves and tap into the myriad resources that are available at such a big university. “When Jane asked me to be a part of the SALAS board, I reflected a lot on the opportunities I’ve been able to harness here,” says SALAS International Student Chair and MALAS second-year Jorge Arcia Duran. “I realized that for the incoming cohort, they might not know how to navigate those processes and take advantage of how you can customize your experience in this program.”

For Jorge, who is from Colombia, being an international student added an extra layer of adjustment. “For some students, this is the first time that they are out of their home countries, their hometowns, and their families, and that can be a little bit less stressful.”

“I knew he could answer questions that I wouldn’t necessarily be able to address,” adds Jane, who attended UF as an in-state undergraduate student. So the International Chair position was created, and Jorge took the initiative to meet with other international students and share what he’s learned from his own experiences, whether about academic resources, university processes, or living in Gainesville.



For Adriana Sela, a first-year MALAS student and treasurer of SALAS, sharing knowledge from cohort to cohort was a key motivation for getting involved with the organization. “I wanted to meet new people and connect with them outside of classes or the Center,” she explains. “It was important for me to be active with both cohorts as well as make it easier for future cohorts to find a community and friends.”

In addition to community building and resource sharing, the students of SALAS are also active in promoting the benefits of Latin American Studies to students across campus. “During my undergraduate years, I didn’t really understand how I could apply Latin American Studies to my academic or professional career,” Jane says. “That’s something that we want SALAS to help advocate.”

SALAS leadership has participated in tabling events throughout the fall, including one at the Harn Museum of Art’s Noche de Museo (pictured above). The team shared program information with potential candidates, and Jorge himself visited twenty-five undergraduate classrooms across campus to encourage more undergraduates to apply for a minor. SALAS also operates an Instagram account to get the word out about Latin American Studies opportunities and events. In the spring, they’re organizing a workshop on preparing a CV for PhD applications and recruiting Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking staff at the Career Connections Center for guidance.

“When we re-established SALAS, we took a survey, and the members’ main interests were in providing resources on scholarships and funding, professional development, and networking with alumni,” Jane reports. “So we’re going to build off of those ideas especially.”

Of course, SALAS is also interested in new members joining the association, especially as new leadership graduates and the torch is passed to the next generation of LAS students. If you’d like to become a member, email ufsalas@gmail.com. Meetings are held in Grinter Hall once a month, and open to anyone interested in joining. You can also follow SALAS on Instagram [@ufsalas](https://www.instagram.com/ufsalas). ♦



Creating space with author Ave Barrera

Kislak Family Foundation Writer in Residence emphasizes connection and caring in the writing process

For nearly every student, writing is a cornerstone of their academic life. But so often, writing in this realm manifests in the form of tasks: an act of production, with one eye always on the result. No matter how exciting the topic, research, or opportunity, embarking on an academic writing project can render the actual act of writing a struggle.

Thanks to the Kislak Family Foundation Artist/Writer in Residence program, Mexican author and editor Ave Barrera brought new perspectives on the act of writing to the Center's students this semester. In addition to her course "Escritura Creativa," she also led a book club featuring overlooked women writers of the Latin American Literary Boom—an extension of her work on the collection *Vindictas*, with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Through these encounters, Ave offered students and colleagues the chance to enjoy writing and works of writing free from the pressures that academia can impose on them. "For my class especially, I wanted to listen to the students and offer them what they needed," Ave shares. "All of them came to the workshop wanting to find an open space—a different space, a space of freedom and companionship."

So Ave shaped the syllabus around this desire, and structured the class almost like a support group. Here, writing was meant to be an act of creation, an act of construction. In the abstract, this meant creating a space to work with "love, comprehension, and listening," in Ave's words. But it also involved practical methods: sharing and sharpening the tools for creative writing that can help them beyond the limits of the class hours.

"I insist a lot on having this kind of discipline of writing every day," Ave says. "But it's not like you *have* to do it. It's more like, *you give yourself that space*. It's for you and your creative side. It's difficult to have it, but once you have it you don't let it go."

By the end of the semester, Ave's students had responded to this shift in mentality. Each of them finished the experience with

creative projects completed and underway, new writing partners and a beloved mentor, and yes, signed copies of Ave's books. But also, in some cases, students emerged from the course having undergone a profound transformation. "Ave marks the re-beginning of my writing," student Diana Rodríguez Allende shares. "Over time, I quit, and I just couldn't do it when I tried to take it up again. Her class is my keep-going."

Ave herself continued her own writing projects during her time in Gainesville, finishing one novel and immediately taking up another. In the same way she cultivated open spaces for her students, the Kislak Family Foundation Writer in Residence program gave her the opportunity to work outside of her "every day," where it's so much harder to find room to create.

But, as in her classroom, establishing a space to write isn't physical isolation: Ave underscores the creative value of embedding oneself in a new community during a residency like this. Over the course of the semester, in addition to her own book club and class, she attended Center events with guest speakers from all disciplines and backgrounds. She sat in on classes with Center faculty Susan Paulson and Catherine Tucker, and built bonds with faculty Luis Felipe Lomelí, Ariadna Tenorio, and Emily Hind.

"You start writing when you start talking to each other," she declares. "This sense of community is much more creative than being alone. To create is to be in that dialogue with the world, and this huge community of students and colleagues, all interesting people, was very good to dialogue with."

Now, after a fond farewell to her new community, Ave will return to Mexico City, where she will find space to finish the novel she began here in Gainesville. But the evidence of Ave's residency won't live on solely in the pages of two novels: it will also carry forward in the human connections she made, and the impact she had on her students, writers and readers alike. "I have never seen someone who thinks like her," Diana says. "I can't wait to see what she comes up with in the future." ♦

FLAS cohort meets to build community

Awardees of Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships share experiences and benefits of language study across disciplines



In 2022, all three area studies centers at the University of Florida—the Centers for African, European and Latin American Studies—were again awarded funding by the U.S. Department of Education to distribute Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. Available to undergraduate and graduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, this funding assists individuals learning a world language at an intermediate or advanced level to support their research, study, or curriculum development in area studies.

“The FLAS fellowship is really such a good opportunity,” says Clate Korsant, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and FLAS Coordinator in Latin American Studies. “At least for us in Latin American Studies, it’s the best funding package we have, and the addition of language classes really helps strengthen the work students are doing.”

FLAS fellowships support UF students studying less commonly taught languages: for Latin American Studies, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and Indigenous languages; for African Studies, Akan/Twi, Amharic, Arabic, Portuguese, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu; for European Studies, Arabic, Czech, Hungarian, Italian, Modern Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, or Turkish.

In an effort to connect the current FLAS fellows, the three Centers co-organized a luncheon for FLAS awardees this semester. Bringing the students together encouraged them to share stories, offer feedback, and develop a sense of FLAS community. “By sharing together, they get more out of the experience,” says Dr. Korsant, who facilitated the luncheon discussion. “They learn more about studying language at this level and what being a FLAS awardee means.”

The students of this FLAS cohort are from varied backgrounds, at different degree levels, and dedicated to a wide range of pursuits. One student studied Portuguese in Brazil with the UF in Rio study abroad program; another participated in an intensive on Maya K’iche’ in Guatemala as part of research on violence against Indigenous Guatemalans in the 20th century; others are learning Swahili in order to conduct research about food sovereignty and healthcare in Tanzania.

There is one central commonality, however, across the cohort: the value of language learning in their studies. “You don’t do research *on* people; you do research *for* communities and *with* communities to address needs and concerns,” explains Brenna McWhorter Fennessey, a second-year master’s student in anthropology. “I have to be able to communicate with local

stakeholders, and it’s a step removed to not actually be able to talk with the people you’re researching with.”

“You’ll make better connections with people and get more accurate data if you at least try to learn their language,” agrees Jessica Striley, a first-year master’s student in geography. “You want people to give you real information on what’s going on in a place; they’re much more likely to connect with you and trust you if you show up at least trying to speak their language, because it’s a matter of respect.”

For Aaya Kingsbury, a second-year PhD history student who spent the summer in Guatemala studying Maya K’iche’, learning an Indigenous language is a meaningful act of preservation. “It shows that this language is important—by actively talking about it and supporting the efforts of people who want to share their native language with you, it’s a kind of revitalization.”

Moreover, Aaya notes, language is a gateway through which to share specific aspects of culture. “I had four teachers who were native speakers of K’iche’, and all of them were from a town called Nahualá,” she says. “One of my favorite days of the whole program was when we went to Nahualá and spent a day in one of my teachers’ homes, cooking caldo and talking with their family. It was an incredible experience.”

Caroline Centeno, an undergraduate junior who did a summer study abroad in Rio de Janeiro, echoes the importance of language in building connections with people from different backgrounds and cultures. “In Brazil, I would have a conversation with my host mom every night at dinner and we’d talk about our lives,” she explains. “You get to see a different perspective – one that we feel like we know, but don’t really think about all the time. It’s important to see another side of a story.”

As for the connections between this cohort of FLAS awardees, Dr. Korsant hopes that the relationships among them will strengthen as their individual language journeys continue. “The goal is to develop a FLAS community across all three Centers.” ♦

To learn more about and apply to FLAS fellowships offered at the University of Florida, please visit:

- latam.ufl.edu/student-funding
- africa.ufl.edu/academics-programs
- ces.ufl.edu/funding/student-funding



Andean photo exhibit illuminates family stories, collective history in Indigenous Ecuador

Alum Kleber Naula shares artifacts from his family's past interacting with U.S. missionaries and Peace Corps Volunteers from the 1950s through 1980s

When MALAS alum Kleber Naula was an undergraduate student at Universidad San Francisco de Quito, he took a history class in which students were tasked with a final essay that connected a family belonging to a specific moment in the history of Ecuador. Kleber rummaged through a few pictures his family had and procured one of his grandmother, Tránsito Guacho, in their hometown of El Troje in Chimborazo province. What he was yet to discover was that upwards of 11,000 photos of his family, taken between 1949 and 1982, were scattered in personal collections across the United States.

It turns out that the entirety of Kleber's family photo album, figuratively speaking, connected to a specific moment in the history of Ecuador. In 1954, members of Kleber's family were some of the first in their community to convert to Protestantism, 52 years after the first members of the Gospel Missionary Union (GMU) began preaching in Indigenous Ecuador. As a result, his family was intertwined with the lives of Protestant missionaries as they helped advance the faith locally. In the next decades, they would also live side by side with volunteers who arrived from the Peace Corps, which started operations in Ecuador in 1962.

This unique convergence of people in one place meant that the majority of Kleber's family photos in existence were not actually in their possession: instead, they were dispersed across other families' personal scrapbooks in Utah, Louisiana, and Arizona, tucked away in the garages and attics and closets of the people who took them. Moreover, it meant that these photos are more than just snapshots in a scrapbook; they are glimpses into a time in Ecuador's history when Indigenous communities lived at the

meeting point of ideas generated by religious groups and governmental agencies of all political slants.

"The pictures show one important part of the history of Ecuador, which brought a very big religious movement. But in our case, it triggered also cultural, economic, social, and political transformations," Kleber explains. "It was a new way of thought in Indigenous people. These photos are part of the memory of our society."

The task of uncovering and analyzing the photos was at the center of Kleber's MALAS thesis, "From Weavers to Preachers." Now, as an alum, he has worked with his former thesis advisor, Dr. Carmen Martínez Novo, to curate an exhibit of selected photos and additional artifacts, which were on view for the Center and University community at an inauguration event in November. The photos, taken by GMU missionaries Jhon Malick (Dr. Basilio Malán), Patricia and Henry Klassen and Peace Corps Volunteers Joel Mullen, Frederick DeSmith, and Robert Henderson, show daily life in El Troje: ceremonies, routines, families and friends. Some of them were taken as personal souvenirs to remember their time in Ecuador, whereas others were taken to publish in institutional reports, books, and magazines. While the individual photographers knew the names and identities of community members, their subjects were simply labeled "Indian man" or "Indian woman" in publications. Kleber's aim is to give name and identity to these previously anonymous individuals.

Two prominent figures in the photos are Kleber's uncle Manuel, and his own father, José, who embodied two polarized

perspectives on the ideologies brewing in their family. Where José had converted to Protestantism and saw himself as a child of God, his brother Manuel had not, and instead became a teacher and leftwing advocate for Indigenous land rights and against inference from mestizo Ecuadorian landowners and what he saw sometimes as U.S. American brainwashing. They clashed on topics of capitalism, paternalism, globalization, revolution, and religion. The brothers remained at odds for most of their lives, only reconciling in their adult age.

Bringing complex family dynamics like theirs into a public light was, at times, difficult for Kleber to reckon with. “Especially at the beginning, it felt very, very personal, like a private space, and it was a challenge for me,” he reflects. “But I realized it was possible, in an academic way, to examine the ideas and the actors and be neutral, respectful.”

To commemorate the exhibit’s opening, Kleber was joined by his cousin Sandra, Manuel’s daughter, who is an Indigenous women’s rights activist and a leader in her community. In addition to Sandra, Kleber reunited with Peace Corps Volunteers Joel Mullen and Frederick DeSmith, and Beverly Klassen, daughter of GMU missionaries Patricia and Henry Klassen. Each of them had collaborated with Kleber throughout the course of his thesis research, sharing not only their photos of El Troje, but their own stories and diaries from their pasts in Ecuador, living alongside Kleber’s family.

During the process of curating the exhibit, Kleber realized that it wasn’t only photographs that could be displayed. Everyday items from that time had transformed into artifacts the same way that daily activities became memories and stories became

history. Among them was the first Quechua Chimborazo Bible printed in 1954, necklaces and belts that had belonged to Kleber’s mother, and a woven striped poncho that Frederick the Peace Corps Volunteer had purchased from Kleber’s grandfather in the 1970s. “He told me that he bought it because my grandfather had financial problems and he wanted to help him,” Kleber says. “He wasn’t thinking about having some part of history. He wanted to help his friend.”

Little did Kleber’s grandfather know that one day his poncho would be given back to his grandson, who would wear it at the inauguration of an exhibit telling the stories of his community, and showing how they struggled with ideological debates that continue even today.

Like the poncho, every object and photo in Kleber’s project is imbued with meaning that has evolved over time, through personal stories reflecting the collective historical moment. Pictures that were originally taken by outsiders have become powerful relics in rebuilding a community’s history and a family’s memories. It’s this element that drives Kleber forward into the next phase of his research.

“When I first shared the flyers for the event with friends, I received messages asking me, *Are you able to do something very similar in our country? Because it’s memory. We don’t have this memory.*” For Kleber, bringing the exhibit on view in Indigenous communities in Ecuador is a way to share their history in their home, remembering stories and seeing faces of a time gone by but no less resonant today. “I’m planning to take the exhibit to Ecuador so Indigenous communities and other scholars can see it and learn from the past,” Kleber shares. ♦

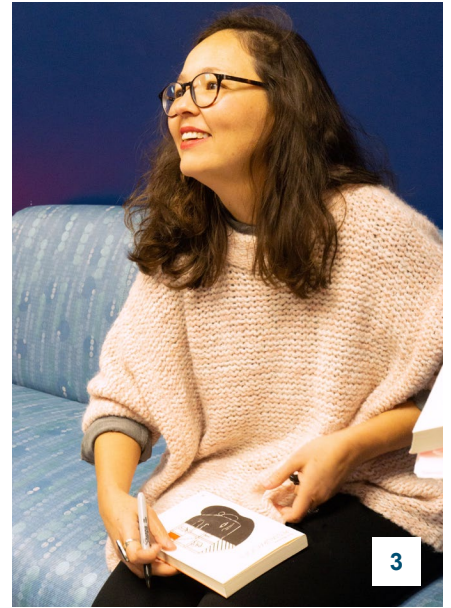
Center events AT A GLANCE FALL 2023

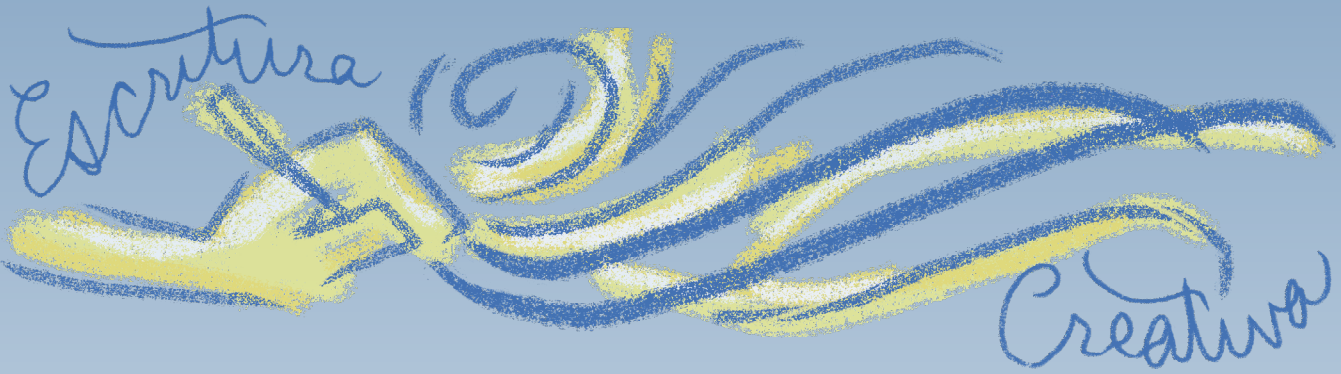
- **Russian Foreign Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Twenty-first Century** Ekaterina Kosevich ° [7]
- **Escritorias silenciadas por el canon** Seis sesiones del club de lectura con Ave Barrera
- **Reflexiones en torno a la idea de “restaurar”** COLOQUIO with Ave Barrera*
- **Noche de Museo** with the Harn Museum of Art
- **Book launch | Collective Creativity and Artistic Agency in Colonial Latin America** Maya Stanfield-Mazzi* and Margarita Vargas Betancourt*, featuring Derek Burdette* and Max Deardorff* [8]
- **Museum Tour | Under the Spell of the Palm Tree: The Rice Collection of Cuban Art** [2]
- **Research agendas and collaborative management of tropical forests in Latin America** COLOQUIO with Karen Kainer* [4]
- **World Music Fest** featuring Welson Tremura*
- **Elecciones, violencia y democracia en Ecuador** Director of FLACSO Felipe Burbano ° [12]
- **Book Launch | The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela: Revolution, Crime, and Policing during Chavismo** Rebecca Hanson* [11]
- **Book Talk | Circulating Culture: Transnational Cuban Networks of Exchange** Jennifer Cearn °
- **Fervor on the Frontier: Environmentalisms in Practice in Costa Rica’s Osa Peninsula** COLOQUIO with Clate Korsant* [1]
- **Chimborazo Runakuna: Intimacy, Religion, and Power in the Andes of Ecuador (1954 -1967)** Kleber Naula† [5]
- **PharmacoCuir: Autotheory, Corporal Archives and the AIDS Crisis at the US/Mexico Border** Francesca Dennstedt ° [9]
- **Visual Ethnography Workshop/The Whale Lagoon Documentary preview screening** Francisco Campos-Lopez ° and Xiye Bastida ° with Clate Korsant* and Rebecca Hanson*
- **Russian Plebiscitarian Regime in Times of Peace and War** Greg Yudin °
- **Book launch | The Forgery** with Ave Barrera*, Luis Felipe Lomeli*, and Terry Harpold [3]

° Guest speaker from outside institution

† Center student or alum

*Center faculty (Core, affiliate, or visiting scholar)





The following creative works are authored by students in Ave Barrera's class, "Escritura Creativa."

Coposeando momentos: la cita más importante de mi vida, por los pelos, una tarde de chicas

Fragmento de cuento, por SIXTA CHAVERRA MARTÍNEZ

Mi preciosa Julia, este domingo te asienta muy bien, te siento muy tranquila. Aunque tenga que verte, cada ocho días, sé que ya no estas cansada, ni adolorida, no hay agujas, y eso me pone feliz. Pero, espera, no hablemos de eso, así como a ti, me emociona más mostrarte lo que he traído a nuestro compartir, no te afanes. Aquí, están las cremas para el cabello, tu peinilla morada y tu espejo

de mariposas, ese cabello lo tienes muy alborotado. Claro, no podía olvidarme de las uvas, esas siempre las echo de primeras. Nooo señorita, esas no se me olvidan, las vitaminas también, aunque no te gusten y con su néctar de popocho. Ohh, si, olvidé traerte tus pepas de cacao seco, pero tranquila mi nena, para nuestro siguiente picnic, te las traeré. Uju, las tajadas de plátano están en el lado

derecho del bolso. Ummm, te voy a hacer unas trenzas con pepitas en las puntas, amarrados con cauchitos. Ahhh verdad, no te imaginas como me gustaría poder peinar tu cabello. Mira, mi julia, aquí esta tu muñeca Lilia; ojalá pudieras, verla, tocarla y jugar con ella. Ojalá yo pudiera tocarte, abrazarte verte, ojalá pudiera trenzarte. Ojalá pudiera... ♦

La pared de la calle y yo

Microrrelato, por WHITNEY RODRÍGUEZ

Llevo dos semanas en la puerta del baño de esta discoteca. Felipe me compró porque parezco a un diamante que lleva un cinturón de oro. Quiere darle más categoría al lugar. Llevo dos semanas aquí y ya me han tocado 325 hombres con sus manos asquerosas, sudadas, malolientes y espesas. Dos semanas y ya he dejado de ser transparente. Estoy gris y amarilla y café. Mi brillo desapareció.

Eran las nueve y media cuando el décimo de la noche trató de articular la mecánica que me vuelve una con la puerta. Me desprendí de ella, golpeé el piso y un sonido seco que nadie alcanzó a distinguir, porque Bad Bunny es más escandaloso, inició el viaje en círculos que me arrinconó debajo de la refrigeradora. Aquí estoy mejor. Al menos así quedo lejos de sus manos. ♦

Pensamiento intrusivo

*Fragmento de cuento, por
DIANA RODRÍGUEZ ALLENDE*

Las sombras de las ramas del árbol afuera de mi ventana se movían por el techo. Quería que diera fruto, aunque estaba casi segura de que más floral que de frutas. Ese árbol y yo éramos parecidos —estancados y afectados por el tiempo. Ese árbol, dentro de la guerra civil en la que vivía, era mi única constante, sin poder hacer nada más que ser movidos por el tiempo.

Con los ojos abiertos reflexioné. Escuchar los estruendos por la casa me provocaban nervios, como si estuviera esperando que llegaran a mi puerta y me gritaran hasta llorar. Pensé en matarlo otra vez. Pero no. No puedo, por más quiera. Las ramas se movían al son del sol y el viento y pronto ya no decoraban mi techo. La oscuridad me envolvió, pero ahí me quedé. En mi cama, manos en el pecho, ojos al techo. ♦

¡Me cansé, me voy! un jueves por la tarde el Tempisque decidió desaparecer...

Fragmento de cuento, por OSWALDO MEDINA-RAMÍREZ

Ingenieros, hidrólogos, políticos, antropólogos, ambientalistas, empresarios, de todo un poco. Todos ellos discutían las posibles razones de la desaparición del río Tempisque. No pasó mucho tiempo hasta que comenzaron a echarse la culpa los unos a los otros. Los hoteleros culpaban a los ingenios productores de caña de azúcar por la

extracción de agua del río que ellos hacen para sus cultivos. Los ingenios culpaban a los hoteleros por la contaminación de las aguas del río porque “todo lo botaban al río”. Todos culpaban a las instituciones del gobierno por la descoordinación entre ellos y por la falta de controles ambientales por parte del estado. Mientras ellos discutían, me acordé de

un amigo especialista en el estudio de acuíferos, tal vez si hacíamos eso, ver lo que estaba pasando en el acuífero del Tempisque podríamos saber si tal vez sus aguas se infiltraron en la tierra, y eso tal vez sea una señal de que debemos dejarlo descansar. ♦

Casa para dos

Fragmento de cuento, por ISABELLA ARRAZOLA DIAZGRANADOS

Mis manos carcomidas estaban de un color verde aceitoso hasta la muñeca, y las puntas de los dedos se me habían derretido casi por completo. Un escalofrío me recorrió el cuerpo mientras intentaba alejarme lo más posible del agua, pero mis piernas no cooperaron. Perdí la movilidad. Mis piernas ya no eran piernas sino una aglutinación de tejido convertido en moco, y mis brazos pegados a mis costados no podían levantarse para pedir ayuda. Intenté hablar, pero la separación de mis labios solo produjo un mojado glug y nada más. Me arrastré como pude intentando llegar a la cocina, cual babosa dejando a su paso una estela de secreción. Lo único que sentía era pesadez y cansancio. Mi última esperanza se manifestó en el tintineo de unas llaves y el giro de la perilla. La puerta principal se abrió lentamente. En el umbral apareció Clara, mi Clara, pero algo estaba diferente. ♦

La buhardilla

Fragmento de cuento, por FLORY SANABRIA

La señora María dormita y va cayendo en un sopor denso y profundo en el que se ve a sí misma desde arriba, acostada en esa misma cama donde yace, con sus hijas haciéndole compañía. Ve pasar su vida ante sus ojos hasta llegar al recuerdo de la buhardilla en la casa grande, donde vivía con sus papás, cuando vivía rodeada por el silencio y no era más que una niña invisible que inspeccionaba los rincones. Se ve a sí misma cruzando la buhardilla por un lado y saliendo por el otro, a otro mundo en esa misma casa, donde jugaba y se había inventado a una abuelita amorosa que se alegraba cuando la visitaba y le llenaba el vacío de su infancia.

Al morir la señora María, sus hijas recogen sus cosas. Una de ellas abre su libro de oraciones y encuentra la ranita de papel.

-¿Qué es eso?

-Cositas que guardó la abuela desde pequeña. ♦

DECONSTRUIDO: DEJARSE IR

Fragmento de cuento, por DUVÁN GULFO PEREA

Con la caña de pescar de su abuela firmemente asida entre sus dedos, Tanislao se aventuró en la espesura de la selva, guiado por el murmullo del río cercano. La luz del atardecer, que se colaba entre las hojas, jugaba con las sombras, y la brisa nocturna, aunque suave, llevaba consigo una tensión

palpable, casi como si la selva misma respirara con expectación. Con cada paso, Tanislao se alejaba del calor familiar, adentrándose más en su propio mundo de aventuras y descubrimientos. El crujido de las hojas secas bajo sus pies marcaba el ritmo de su marcha, fusionándose con el sonido constante del agua que lo

llamaba. Una mezcla de miedo y emoción se entrelazaba en su pecho al acercarse al río, su santuario secreto.

Al llegar a la orilla, Tanislao quedó cautivado por la danza de las corrientes bajo el brillo plateado de la luna. ♦

Spotlight on VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

The Center continues to collaborate with the UFIC Office of Global Learning (OGL) to promote virtual exchange as a way to internationalize the curriculum by connecting students to classrooms around the world through real-world projects. Below we feature projects with Colombia, Honduras, and Mexico and highlight a MALAS “Education in the Americas” thesis on VE. OGL offers training for UF faculty during the academic year (go.ufl.edu/ufic-ve) and the LAS Outreach program offers an online summer training for non-UF state college and K-12 faculty (go.ufl.edu/latam-ve)

JOURNALISTIC GENRES FROM LATIN AMERICA

PARTNER INSTITUTION

- Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico



SUMMARY

Students from Universidad Veracruzana collaborated with students in the UF course by reading a shared list of nonfiction texts. The professors facilitated live discussion on Zoom. Students at UF prepared questions for their counterparts in Mexico, some of which appeared by video on the Flip platform. Those Flip videos included individual reflection on one work discussed during the special tour of the Harn Museum of Art facilitated by director Eric Segal that focused on the Latin American collection of photography, painting, and more.

INSTRUCTORS



Emily Hind
Department of
Spanish & Portuguese
UF College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences



Nelly Palafox López
Facultad de Letras
Española
Universidad
Veracruzana

AN INTERACTIVE RESTAURANT: WHERE INTERACTION GOES BEYOND SPATIAL BOUNDARIES

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

- Universidad Autonoma de Occidente, Colombia
- Universidad Icesi, Colombia



SUMMARY

The main objective of this project was for students to engage with a different culture and diverse disciplinary background. Students had to interview one another in assigned groups between the three institutions to learn about cultural traits and spatial characteristics to propose a design solution. They came from three different disciplinary backgrounds, all design-related, which helped them understand how different disciplinary perspectives can shape the same project.

INSTRUCTORS



Luis Mejia Puig
Department of Interior Design
UF College of Design,
Construction & Planning



Edgar Martinez
College of Architecture,
Urbanism, and Design
Universidad Autonoma de
Occidente



Carlos Arajuo
Department of Design
Universidad Icesi



**Jose Andres
Moncada Quintero**
Department of Design
Universidad Icesi

MIRA=LOOK: TEGUCIGALPA & FLORIDA

DISEÑO Y PERTENENCIAS | DESIGN AND BELONGING

INSTRUCTORS



Maria Rogal
School of Art + Art History
UF College of the Arts



Maria Isabel Pineda
Graphic Design and Corporate
Communication
Department of Economic and
Social Sciences

PARTNER INSTITUTION



Universidad Jose
Cecilio del Valle,
Honduras

TOPIC

Graphic Design

PROJECT SUMMARY

In this binational design collaboration, students will explore how we perceive ourselves in relationship to each other, learning about assumptions, demystifying culture and everyday life by learning about designers in context.

MALAS thesis focuses on virtual exchange

Carrie Martins (MALAS 2023) conducts study among VE instructors in U.S., Mexico

As a child, MALAS student Carrie Martins loved writing letters to pen pals, for years exchanging letters with other young girls who lived as far away as Brazil. When she first heard about virtual exchange (VE), a pedagogical practice where teachers in different countries design tasks for their students to carry out together online, she instantly thought back to her pen pals and the excitement of connecting with someone you may never have met in person to exchange stories and ask questions.

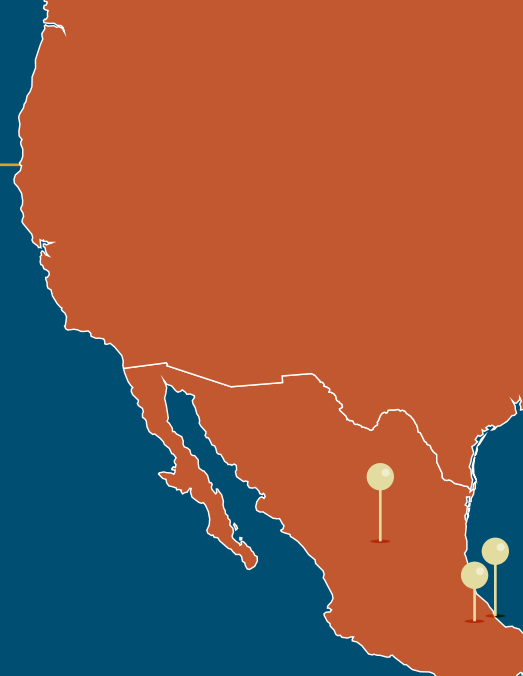
VE initiatives have been ongoing at UF since 2018, thanks to the leadership of Dr. Mary Risner, the Center's Associate Director of Outreach and Business Programs and Paloma Rodriguez, Director of the Office of Global Learning (OGL) at UFIC. This foundation at UF provided an opportunity for Carrie to develop her thesis topic on VE. While many institutions worldwide are beginning to institutionalize VE, there is limited information in the field on how to grow a VE initiative past initial instructor trainings. Additionally, it was clear from the literature that VE presents a variety of challenges for instructors, and Carrie wanted to know how institutions could assist in making this practice more manageable. So, Carrie conducted a research study in which instructors from the U.S. and Mexico responded to a questionnaire and then shared their VE experiences in small groups, including the challenges that they faced during their projects and the institutional resources they considered most useful for this endeavor.



This research gave Carrie important insight into best practices for faculty professional development and resource support for implementing VE. She hopes to share these findings with a wider audience through a manuscript currently under review. Additionally, conducting this research has afforded her experience with Research in Teaching and Learning (RiTL), an area that OGL encourages faculty to explore. OGL supports faculty to engage in RiTL by offering resources like the International Critical Thinking and International Communication surveys, which Carrie helped translate into Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese earlier this year.

Carrie's developing experience in VE has led her to a new role: Coordinator of Virtual Exchange Initiatives at UFIC, where she hopes to continue growing in this area and supporting UF faculty's classroom innovations. Throughout her involvement with VE, Carrie has witnessed that familiar spark of enthusiasm she once felt when she wrote pen pals as a child, mirrored back to her in the students and faculty participating in VE projects. She looks forward to working with UF faculty from all disciplines as they pursue this opportunity to connect their students with peers across the globe to gain new perspectives on both their areas of study and the world around them. ♦

Student RESEARCH MAP



TANIA TREJO-MENDEZ

YOUNG LORDS PARTY AND LATINX FEMINIST ACTIVISM IN U.S. 1960s-70s

When I was in Spanish Harlem to see if I could still find traces of the Young Lords and their activism, I came across the First Spanish United Methodist Church. This was the site of a 1969 takeover by the New York Young Lords in which they took over the building to turn it into the "People's Church" and provided services like basic health testing, free hot breakfast, political and cultural education, and cultural performances. While I was taking photos outside, a woman who seemed to work there asked me if I wanted to take a tour of its interior. She told me stories about the Young Lords as she showed me around. It was really powerful to physically step into the space and be in the same exact building where these young Black and Latinx activists took a stand against poverty, lack of access to healthcare, lack of cultural education in schools, and provided meaningful mutual aid to their people. The woman invited me to Sunday service and talked to me about how the current church staff and leaders sought to uphold the same love for community and social justice that the Young Lords had in their current day programming and events. It was a beautiful and inspiring experience!



DUVAN GULFO PEREA

EDUCATION FOR PEACE-BUILDING IN RURAL AREAS OF COLOMBIA

I was on my way to meet with educators involved in projects for the promotion and construction of peace in a municipality in Chocó, Colombia. I made an unexpected stop at a library, and while the librarian was organizing children for an activity, I volunteered to read a story to them. I remembered that I had some colored paper with me and that it would be a good opportunity to tell them a story with origami and make some figures of interest to the children and that were assimilated to the context in which they live. For the next four days, every afternoon we shared a moment of mindfulness and of course, origami. Mindful origami transcends the mere act of folding paper. It emphasizes a thoughtful and sensory-aware approach to each fold, aligning with the principles of Mindfulness. This practice is not just about creating shapes; it's about being fully present and attentive during the process, embodying a significant strategy for peace-building in areas impacted by armed conflict.



ILLYAMANI CASTRO

THE EXPLOITATION OF INDIGENOUS BODIES: THE CHILDREN OF YUYAIYAKU

I got to visit San Antonio de los Cobres, a small town in northern Argentina during the Pachamama festival/Pachamama-raymi. We gave our offerings of food, chicha (alcohol), water, and cigarettes to the goddess of the Earth. We celebrate this in Ecuador too, so it was an interesting comparison with the Kolla indigenous people.



JANE PEREZ

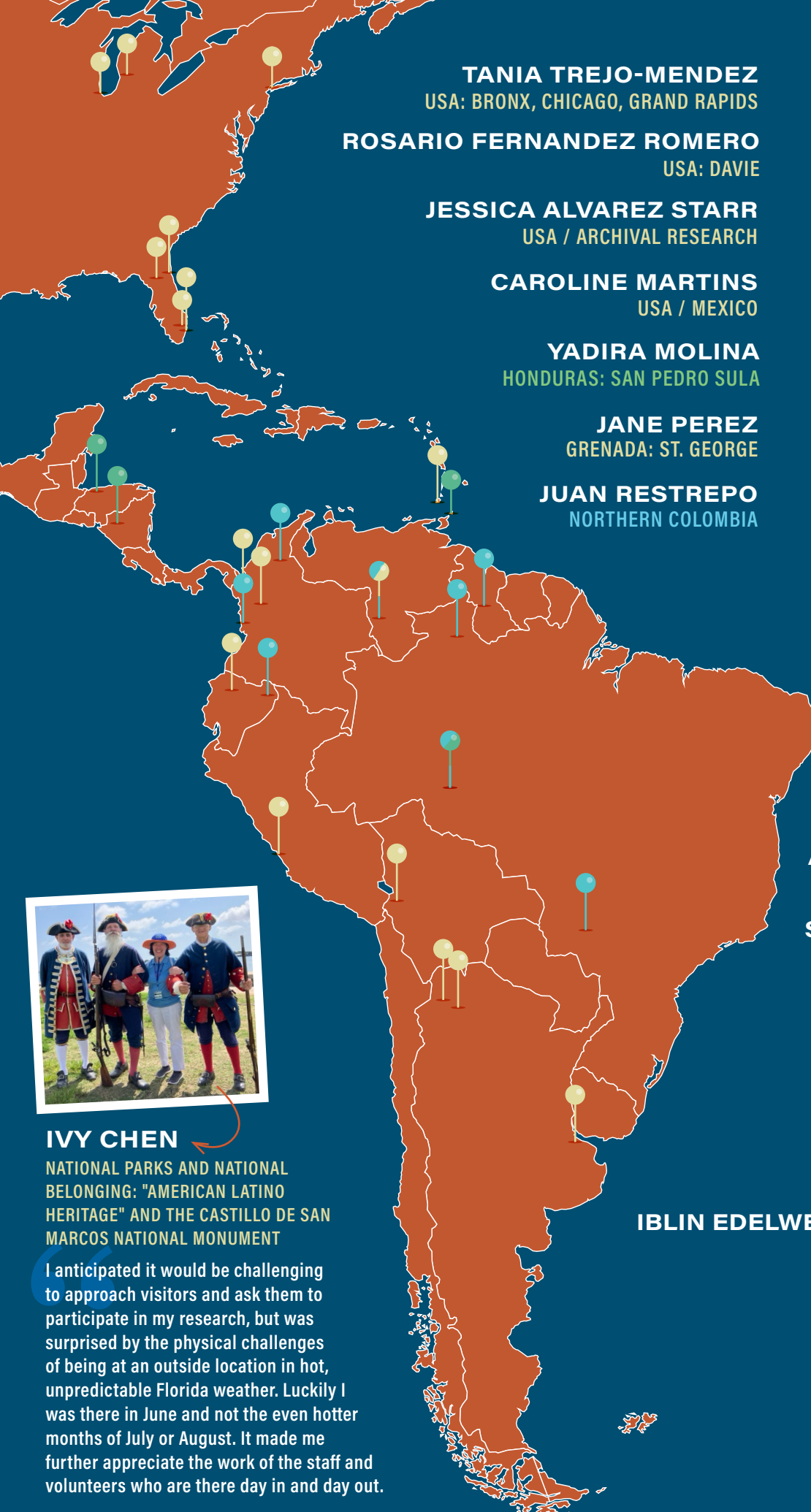
QUEER ACTIVISM & COMMUNITY IN GRENADA

I found it amazing how queer Grenadians were able to organize and build community in the face of homophobic rhetoric and violence by individuals and state actors. Many of them do not hide their identity and their families know how their partners and identity despite restrictive laws and beliefs on the island. Members of the community uplift and support each other, even when they think that progress should take different forms. I think that something hard to find in any community and it is something to really appreciate.

JESSICA ALVAREZ STARR

HISTORY OF SLAVERY, ABOLITION, & NATIONALISM, 19TH CENTURY PUERTO RICO

I learned through my research is that Puerto Rican abolitionists played a significant role in the Spanish Abolitionist Society, an organization founded in Madrid in 1864 with the aim of ending slavery in the Spanish colonies. In fact, Puerto Rican antislavery activists José Julián Acosta, Segundo Ruiz Belvis, and Francisco Mariano Quiñones were the first to bring an official proposal calling for the immediate abolition of slavery before the Spanish government, at the Junta de Información sobre Ultramar in 1866-1867.



TANIA TREJO-MENDEZ

USA: BRONX, CHICAGO, GRAND RAPIDS

ROSARIO FERNANDEZ ROMERO

USA: DAVIE

JESSICA ALVAREZ STARR

USA / ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

CAROLINE MARTINS

USA / MEXICO

YADIRA MOLINA

HONDURAS: SAN PEDRO SULA

JANE PEREZ

GRENADA: ST. GEORGE

JUAN RESTREPO

NORTHERN COLOMBIA

IVY CHEN

USA: ST. AUGUSTINE

BEATRIZ DOMINGUEZ

USA / ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

SARAH DOMINGUEZ

MEXICO: YANGA, VERACRUZ

RAYMOND HOPKINS

NICARAGUA: ESTELÍ

MATTHEW SEALY

TOBAGO: SCARBOROUGH

SARINA KAWALL

GUYANA: RUPUNUNI

ANA MARIA GARRIDO

COLOMBIA LOWLANDS

DUVAN GULFO PEREA

COLOMBIA: QUIBDO

JORGE ARCIA DURAN

COLOMBIA: MEDELLÍN

LAURA BOTERO

VENEZUELA: AMAZONAS

MESLY MATA

BRAZIL: PORTO VELHO

ANA YOKO YKEUTI MEIGA

BRAZIL: MATO GROSSO DO SUL

SILVIA DE MELO FUTADA

BRAZIL: AMAZONAS / RORAIMA

DANIEL SARKELA

ECUADOR: QUITO

ANGÉLICA NOGALES

ECUADOR: YASUNÍ NATIONAL PARK

RODRIGO MEZARINA

PERU: LIMA

IBLIN EDELWEISS MURILLO LAFUENTE

BOLIVIA: LA PAZ

ILLYAMANI CASTRO

ARGENTINA: SALTA, SAN ANTONIO

MICHAEL STANTON

ARGENTINA: BUENOS AIRES



IVY CHEN

NATIONAL PARKS AND NATIONAL BELONGING: "AMERICAN LATINO HERITAGE" AND THE CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT

I anticipated it would be challenging to approach visitors and ask them to participate in my research, but was surprised by the physical challenges of being at an outside location in hot, unpredictable Florida weather. Luckily I was there in June and not the even hotter months of July or August. It made me further appreciate the work of the staff and volunteers who are there day in and day out.

FUNDING KEY: LAS TCD MDP

UF's International Center is working to move beyond 'helicopter science'

CONTRIBUTED BY KAREN KAINER, BETTE LOISELLE, JONATHAN DAIN



When Dr. Marta Wayne became Associate Vice-Provost and Dean of UF's International Center (UFIC) in early fall 2022, she had a vision that all international research conducted by UF researchers and students would advance beyond 'helicopter science.' As an evolutionary biologist, Dr. Wayne was well aware of ethical issues in her own field surrounding the collection of genetic material and was concerned with related ethical issues in other fields. She sought to initiate a program to improve UF's international research practices across all disciplines. 'Helicopter science' refers to researchers from higher income or more privileged settings carrying out research in resource-poor settings with limited to no involvement of local communities, often dropping in, collecting data, and leaving.

Dr. Wayne established a committee to discuss how we can transform our international research experiences as "we look to reshape our research presence." The team included Center faculty from Tropical Conservation and Development (Andrea Chavez Birgit, Jonathan Dain, Karen Kainer, Bette Loiselle) and faculty from other UF units: Sandra Russo, Michael Kung, Marit Østebø, David Blackburn, and Michelle Tennant. This diverse working group discussed and debated the continuum of associated concepts and practices across disciplines. While clear that research without thoughtful host engagement is unacceptable, conducting collaborative work, co-producing knowledge, and building trust among a scholarly team, all take much more time and nuanced processes than outdated approaches.

The Beyond Helicopter Science Working Group met regularly though Fall 2022 to plan a series of events. A kickoff workshop took place in November 2022 during International Education week. The event was opened by Dr. Wayne and featured introductory remarks from Drs. Russo, Kainer, and Loiselle, followed by breakout groups where participants shared experiences, highlighting good practices, learning needs, and gaps. The event was well attended by graduate students who

expressed a strong desire to continue addressing this pervasive issue. As a result, graduate students joined the working group and have since played key leadership roles in planning and facilitating workshops and events. Active among those pushing the Beyond Helicopter Science effort forward are TCD students Ana Maria Garrido, Audrey Culver Smith, Claudia Garnica Díaz, Silvia de Melo Futada, Ana Yoku Ykeuti Meiga, Angelica Gouveia Nunes, and Silvia Sayuri Mandai.

In spring 2023, four events took place:

- *The fieldwork that we envision: a future of equitable field biology and reciprocity with local communities.* Speakers Rebecca Tarvin & Valeria Ramírez Castañeda (Asst Prof & PhD student, respectively), Dept. of Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley.
- *Engaging respectfully and effectively in international development research and collaborations.* Speaker: Elizabeth Hoffecker (lead research scientist with MIT's Local Innovation Group).
- *Getting beyond "Helicopter" approaches*, 2-hr TCD graduate student-led workshop.
- *Power dynamics in international research partnerships: an ethnographic study.* Speaker: Joanna Crane (Assoc. Prof. Anthropology, Alden March Bioethics Institute). Panelists: Eric Nelson, Stephen Perz, Ana Maria Porras, and Kendi Muthomi, moderated by Sarah McKune.

Building on these events, Dr. Kainer and Claudia Garnica facilitated a graduate student workshop at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) in Coimbatore, India. Participants from six countries shared practical considerations and strategies for field research that is safe, robust, and more responsive to local realities—the needed antidotes to helicopter science.

The most recent event was a graduate student led workshop held in November—*Reimagining fieldwork: Sharing experiences and transforming approaches*. Small group discussions of the 32 participants focused on 1) cultural rules and safety perspectives, 2) equitable collaborations and sharing of research results, and 3) research logistics, permits, and permissions. For Spring 2024, the faculty and graduate student team are planning a January retreat to reflect on lessons learned and organize next steps.

To learn more about these events and ongoing efforts, please visit go.ufl.edu/beyond-helisci. Critical scholarly literature that addresses this serious concern can also be found there. Please stay tuned for future opportunities to collectively identify collaborative paths forward that embrace more equitable, fair, and just international research partnerships. ♦

Faculty SPOTLIGHT

Welcoming new faculty

This fall, we welcomed three new professors to our Center-based faculty: Ariadna Tenorio, Rafael Ramírez Solórzano, and Luis Felipe Lomelí. Read more about their interests and teaching philosophies:



ARIADNA TENORIO

Course taught: *“Issues and Perspectives in Latin American Studies”*

“The students were what I was most excited about. Visiting campus, you see the opportunity to meet some of the students, and their interests really grabbed my attention. They’re very distinct interests—for example the interests of the students I’ve met and interacted with who are concerned with everything they have been viewing in ‘the real world,’ and who are worried about how to apply the foundations they are learning, not only to their personal experiences but also problems in countries of Latin America. I’ve been very excited to be able to talk with them.” ♦

RAFAEL “RAFA” RAMÍREZ SOLÓRZANO

Courses taught: *“Introduction to Latinx and Chicax History,”*
“Queer Trans Expressions in the Americas”

“I truly believe in three things. One: everybody can teach; everybody in my seminar can learn from each other. We have the skills and the knowledge to learn from each other. The second one is that I want to make things accessible. My teaching style is for everybody to learn together, to not leave people behind. The third one is really about people bringing different types of knowledge, cultural wealth, to my classes. I want to hear from students: what do you want to learn? What can you bring, what can you share? Let’s develop this class together. I want students to build some ownership in these spaces.” ♦



LUIS FELIPE LOMELÍ

Courses taught: *“Intro to Latin American Studies,”* *“The Politics of Knowledge in Latin America”*

“I believe that the most important ideas that a person can come up with are developed before the age of 30, if not before 25, so the most exciting thing is what students think: their original ideas and the critiques they make to canonical authors. The usual dynamics in any of my classes starts with understanding what an author is trying to convince us about: ‘Okay, here’s what I agree with, what I like, and what makes sense.’ And then, as we say in Mexico, we take a machete out and begin pointing out to everything that no longer works, everything that does not make sense, or only makes sense in a very particular and privileged way: ‘This only applies here, or for this particular group of people, et cetera.’” ♦

Student SPOTLIGHT



Fieldwork in Venezuelan Amazon sparks student's entrepreneurship to support local women's group

Laura Botero (MALAS 2024) collaborates with Indigenous women artisans and activists on new business model

For her summer fieldwork, MALAS student Laura Botero traveled to the Venezuelan Amazon to learn more about the daily life of Uwottüja Indigenous women and the community dynamics that have emerged due to encroaching mining operations nearby. When she left two months later, she returned to Gainesville

with new friendships, hours of interviews, a few mosquito bites, and, somewhat unexpectedly, a business venture.

The initiative grew organically from an organization that already existed before Laura's arrival: local women artisans use colorful beads to craft intricate designs in necklaces, earrings, and bracelets, and sell them at a kiosk in town. This organization, Organización de Mujeres Indígenas de Autana (OMIDA) was founded by a woman named Amelia Conde, one of Laura's main contacts among the Uwottüja as she conducted her research.

But the main goal of OMIDA is not solely to sell handicrafts, and OMIDA's members are not solely artisans. These women are also grassroots political activists. As Laura got to know Amelia and the other women of OMIDA better, she learned that despite some advancements in the local Indigenous movement, these political roles were all occupied by men. Women were excluded from collective spaces for decision-making, both inside and outside the Uwottüja community.

So Amelia took action, and organized other women with the same goal of mobilizing women's voices to be recognized as an inherent part of Indigenous rights activism. Women have been an essential part of the well-being of families and communities, caring for and collectively organizing community life. Selling the jewelry provides a source of income so that the women can take care of



Laura (back row, second from right) with Uwottüja family

their families as well as travel from and to the main city when their leadership and advocacy work demands it.

During her fieldwork, Laura found herself spending time with the artisans in their workshop, helping pick out bead colors and learning more about the designs. That's when inspiration struck. "I knew they had kind of hit a wall with their current business model," Laura says. "They could only reach the same audiences—mostly representatives from NGOs and United Nations agencies who pass through town. I wanted to use my connections to help open up a new market for them."

Rather than offer help that put herself in the position of an intermediary or a profiteer, Laura instead worked to facilitate new orders from her connections at the university and in Gainesville. This way, purchases in U.S. dollars could have more buying power in Venezuelan bolívares. She offered marketing suggestions, helped calculate prices, and, once the first round of orders was made, coordinated the logistics of transferring money and goods internationally—no easy feat for a remote community in Venezuela.

"I am the daughter of a businessman," Laura laughs. "But I never wanted to follow in his path. Business always felt like a battle to me, like there are always winners and losers." In this endeavor, she wanted to make sure that everyone was on the winning side. "There's more than just monetary value to this jewelry," she explains. "These are handmade cultural handicrafts. There's value in the context in which it is made, and the histories behind the people doing it. For me, that's worth it."

In the long term, Laura hopes to set up the women of OMIDA with all the tools they need to continue this business model independently. "For me, it's very important that this is not only a sustainable business model, but that it can also be sustained by them," Laura says. "Capacity building is going to be key."

One important element has recently been decided: a business name. The collective opted to call themselves Juäyëtu, which, in the Uwottüja culture, is also the name for the goddess who guards the traditional house where the sacred Warime ritual is held. With a name established, next steps include developing a catalog of standard marketable designs, improving quality control, creating an Instagram account (@beaded_amazonas), growing the network of people who can help with logistics... the list goes on.

But Laura is confident that this branch of the business operation has the potential to grow. "No matter where I go, every time I wear the jewelry in public, I get compliments on them," she grins. "Soon, they'll be able to buy some too." ♦



Museum internships offer Jorge Arcia Duran professional growth, academic depth

Curation experiences in the United States and Colombia yield opportunities to compare museological practices, build applicable skills for career

As an alternative to a traditional written thesis, MALAS students may opt to pursue an internship as the culmination of their research in Latin American Studies. An internship can be an invaluable opportunity to gain hands-on practical experience, discover networks for future career paths, and get a head start on resume building. The significant downside? Landing an internship can be a challenge, considering factors like competitive candidate pools, timing, and location.

But Jorge Arcia Duran, a second-year MALAS student pursuing Museum Studies, found himself with a unique chance to maximize the benefits of not just one internship, but *two*.

The first: a virtual internship with the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., through which he conducted archival research in support of a developing exhibition proposal on a pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican ball game. The second: an in-person internship at the Museo Universitario Universidad de Antioquia in his home city of Medellín, where he designed an anthropology exhibition on Ráquira pottery, highlighting outstanding Colombian contemporary handicrafts.

“I was very lucky; thankfully it ended up that I could work at both institutions,” Jorge says. “I had always loved experiencing museums as a visitor, but never had I been in the behind-the-scenes museum life.” Now, Jorge had the chance to go “behind the scenes” twice over, with opportunities to compare the working experiences at two different institutions: one, a large national museum in the United States, and the other a mid-sized university museum in Colombia.

The two internships also offered the chance to participate in different parts of the processes that go into taking an exhibit from conception to completion. During the U.S. internship, Jorge was focused primarily on the research that goes into the first stages of exhibit design, whereas the internship in Colombia tasked him with constructing an entire exhibit: choosing the big idea, selecting artifacts, and even writing the labels. He was afforded the chance to explore collections, ask questions of museum professionals, and be mentored by an anthropology curator. “Doing a museum project was a game-changing opportunity for me to take the things I’ve learned in academic spaces and connect them with a hands-on experience,” he reflects.

Applying research to practice has been a central theme in Jorge’s graduate school experience. Classes like “Critical Indigenous Studies” and “Latin American Elites,” taught by Center faculty

Dr. Carmen Martínez Novo, have added depth to his understanding of how issues like race and class influence the way Indigenous peoples and cultures are portrayed in museum exhibitions, as well as a greater awareness about complicated histories of artifact acquisition. Additionally, the class “Museum Exhibitions” with Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler, Exhibits Director at Smathers Libraries, was crucial preparation for the practical process of conceptualizing and executing an exhibition.

This synthesis of archival research and public engagement fuels Jorge’s interest in his chosen field. “I love museum exhibitions because they are a way to connect the hard work of researchers with the general public,” he explains. “Not everyone will read an anthropology book, but visitors from all backgrounds visit museums, and there’s an opportunity to leave a lasting impression on many people.”

Along the same lines, Jorge is also passionate about perpetuating better museological practices when it comes to developing exhibits on Indigenous peoples and cultures, both past and present. “I am inspired by the work of museum curators and professionals who want to prioritize the needs of the people involved in their projects and recognize historical wrongdoings,” he shares. Museums are not perfect, he says, but they’re a powerful space in which to create change. “The most successful projects take time, and a lot of consultation. It should be a collaboration that shares authentic narratives and benefits living communities.”

As Jorge looks to his future beyond graduate school, his internship experiences have not only added to his resume, but also affirmed his desire for a career path applying his knowledge in Latin American Studies and Museum Studies: “I see myself working in a cultural heritage institution, making the changes I envision for the field while collaborating with colleagues, institutions, and communities in the U.S. and Colombia.” Thanks to his academic and internship experiences, he’s already got a strong foundation to pursue exactly that. ♦

Larissa Ruiz Baía (MALAS 1996)



In addition to the MALAS degree, Larissa Ruiz Baía also earned a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Florida. She has over 20 years of higher education experience, both as administrator and instructor. Additionally, Dr. Baía serves on the boards of the Ybor City Chamber of Commerce and the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County. Some of her professional interests are in the areas of student success, equity and inclusion, workforce pathways, adult learners and immigrant and refugee advocacy.

Q: What is your current position?

DR. BAÍA: I currently serve as the Campus President for the Ybor City Campus of Hillsborough Community College.

Q: What motivated you to pursue a MALAS degree?

DR. BAÍA: I began taking classes as an undergraduate in Latin American Studies and completed a minor. Those classes sparked my interest in continuing my studies in the field which led me to seek Master's programs. I was lucky enough to be

accepted into various Master's programs and UF offered me a graduate assistantship which enabled me to attend graduate school.

Q: How does your MALAS degree help you in your job today? How has it informed your career?

DR. BAÍA: While I don't work in a work directly involved with Latin American studies, my MALAS degree exposed me to the value of qualitative primary source research. The experiences of having to conduct one's own research not only meant that you gained skills in different research methodologies, but also I gained a respect for the importance of immersion in a context different to yours. Those are all skills I have used in one way or another, both as faculty and as an administrator.

Q: What was the most valuable part of your MALAS experience?

DR. BAÍA: The most valuable part of my experience were the relationships I was able to build with colleagues and faculty. I was able to complete a doctoral program, which wasn't in my plans when I first arrived at UF, because of faculty who saw potential in me and encouraged me.

Q: What advice would you give students as they pursue their MALAS degree and/or graduate with a MALAS degree?

DR. BAÍA: Sometimes a graduate degree within the Arts and Sciences can be viewed as undefined and thus be considered to be a privilege only for those who can afford it. In my case, it was the MALAS degree that opened doors that I didn't imagine existed for me. The MALAS program was academically rigorous but led by faculty who believed that their students' success was their success. That combination resulted in a newly found confidence for me that has propelled the rest of my career. I am very grateful and proud to be a MALAS alum. ♦

LAS alum Steven Keats named Golden Gator

Alum Steven Keats (LAS Certificate 1977) has been named a Golden Gator by the University of Florida. The Academy of Golden Gators "honors alumni and friends whose support and guidance is driving UF's ascent as one of the nation's best institutions of higher learning."

After graduating with his BA in Interdisciplinary Studies and a certificate in Latin American Studies, Mr. Keats began working in shipping and logistics in the Caribbean and



along the north coast of South America. Today, he is a partner at Kestrel Liner Agencies LLP, which provides shipping services in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As an alum, Mr. Keats has stayed involved with the Center, giving presentations in classes, mentoring students, and even offering internships for those interested in shipping and logistics. Recently, he served as the president of the Center's Alumni Board.

Through these activities, Mr. Keats embodies his belief that mentorship is a crucial component of a student's academic journey—and is therefore much deserving of the Golden Gator honor. Congratulations! ♦

Larissa Ruiz Baía (MALAS 1996) “After completing my MALAS degree, I pursued doctoral studies in political science at UF and graduated with my Ph.D. in 2004. Since then, I have been working in higher education administration, first at Lynn University and since 2008 in community colleges. I served as VP of Enrollment Management and Student Services and then as President of Lakes Region Community in NH until 2022. In the summer of 2022, I moved to Tampa to take on the position of campus president of the Ybor City Campus of Hillsborough Community College.”

Sofi-Nicole Barreiro

(MALAS 2023) “Since graduating in May, I moved back to my hometown and starting applying to jobs related to research, higher ed, politics, Latinxs, and Latin America. I ended up with the job of my dreams as a Program Coordinator for the Cuban Heritage Collection at the University of Miami Libraries where I get to administer and organize academic and community related events alongside my team.”

Katie Coldiron (MALAS

2018) Ms. Coldiron is Outreach Program Manager for the Digital Library of the Caribbean at Florida International University, and a Ph.D. student in the FIU Department of History. She will be attending the LASA Congress in June 2024 to present her paper “El Laboratorio: Latin American Studies in Miami” as part of the panel titled, “Comunidades educativas, desafíos pedagógicos y exclusiones.”

Jimmy Everett (MALAS

2019) Mr. Everett was featured in Colombia’s El Tiempo newspaper as “El ‘gringo’ amante de Colombia que brilla en TikTok cantando vallenatos en Inglés.” Mr. Everett’s content has gone viral on TikTok as “El Gringo Campero,” in which he sings traditional Colombian vallenatos translated into English and shares his experiences and perspectives in Campo de la Cruz, Colombia.

Wally Gallart (MALAS

2022) “I am working now with the Transportation planning organization in Hillsborough County, Florida. I work alongside elected officials and transportation agencies to ensure we are meeting the transit needs of people across Tampa and Hillsborough County.”

Thacher Loutin, Juan Carlos Moreno Perea, and Whitney Rodríguez (MALAS 2023)

Ms. Loutin served as a Site Coordinator and Mr. Moreno Perea and Ms. Rodriguez volunteered as Servant Leader Interns at the Awkwaaba Freedom School program, which provides local students with six weeks of reading enrichment and project-based learning experiences related to health and wellness, athletics, the arts, and STEM.

Moisés Moreno Rivera

(MALAS 2017) “Since I left the Center, I have been appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to a couple of different roles, including most recently as the State of California’s Environmental Protection Agency’s Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs, and Border Relations:

gov.ca.gov/2023/02/17/governor-newsom-announces-appointments-2-17-23

[calepa.ca.gov/about/bios/moisés-moreno-rivera-deputy-secretary-for-environmental-justice-tribal-affairs-and-border-relations.](https://calepa.ca.gov/about/bios/moisés-moreno-rivera-deputy-secretary-for-environmental-justice-tribal-affairs-and-border-relations)”

Juan David Rojas (MALAS

2022) Mr. Rojas is a columnist for the political science magazine Compact Mag, covering Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula. His recent articles include “The Neoliberal Roots of Degrowth,” “How Javier Milei Defeated Peronism,” and “A Defeat for Guatemala’s Elites.” You can read Mr. Rojas’s columns at compactmag.com

Alyson Scotti (LAS undergraduate certificate, 1993)

“I worked for over two decades for the U.S. Government as an Intelligence Officer, most recently at U.S. Southern Command where I was an analyst of illicit trafficking and regional governments and trends in Latin America. I also spent two years acting as a liaison for information sharing with South American partner militaries.”

Alumni, want to see your update here?

Complete our Alumni Update Form online at bit.ly/3s5H2KA and let us know what’s going on with you! Your update might be included in the next issue of the *Latinamericanist* (space permitting). We love hearing from you, whether it’s for big news or a little hello!

UF, UF alumni prominent in Fulbright Amazonia program

Center faculty Jonathan Dain was in Brazil during the summer to participate in the first group meeting and orientation for the Fulbright Amazonia program. Funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), and the Fulbright Commission in Brazil (FBR), the program "provides a platform for scholars to conduct impact- and action-oriented research to foster a healthy, sustainable, and resilient Amazon Basin."

The program is co-led by two University of Florida alumni, Carlos Valério Aguiar Gomes (PhD, Geography, TCD certificate) and Jeffrey Hoelle (PhD, Anthropology, advised by LAS faculty emerita Marianne Schmink). Of the 16 Fulbright scholars to receive funding, three are TCD alumni: Ane Alencar (Brazil), Danny Pinedo (Peru) and Simone Athayde (Brazil).

Jon worked with TCD alum Pamela Montero (Peru) to facilitate the 4-day inaugural planning meeting where scholars met each other, were introduced to the program and made plans for cross border and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Each scholar received funding to spend three to eight weeks at a U.S. university of their choice. Three selected UF: one from Suriname, one from Peru and one from Venezuela. Stay tuned to learn more about the program as it continues in 2024!

For more details about the program, visit bit.ly/41zFN8v

Retired LAS faculty Paul Doughty dies at age 93



We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Paul L. Doughty in October this year. Dr. Doughty was a prominent affiliate faculty of the Center from 1971 to 1995, as well as an Emeritus Distinguished Service Professor and the chair of the Department of Anthropology. Involved in the early meetings of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), he went on to serve as its eighth president in

1974. Dr. Doughty arrived at the University of Florida when programs in applied anthropology and cultural anthropology were burgeoning into prominence; his contributions would join those of other UF-LAS anthropologists Dr. Martha Hardman and Dr. Bill Carter.

We're grateful for the knowledge, enthusiasm, and leadership that Dr. Doughty imparted to the Center and to the field of Latin American Studies. His legacy still impacts Center students today through the memorial fund he established in honor of his daughter, Carol French Doughty, in 2009.

Read Dr. Doughty's obituary here: bit.ly/46oZtxK

Student GRADUATIONS FALL 2023

Undergraduate LAS Certificates & Minors

Isabella Macias (Astrophysics)

Diana Tineo (Microbiology and Cell Science)

MALAS Degree

Ivy Yun Chen

Thesis Topic: National Parks and National Belonging: 'American Latino Heritage' and the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in Saint Augustine, Florida

Specialization: Latinx Studies, Migration & Transnational Studies

Chair: Maya Stanfield-Mazzi

Carrie Martins

Thesis Topic: Faculty-Focused Needs

Assessment of U.S.-Mexico Virtual Exchange Initiatives

Specialization: Education in the Americas

Chair: Mary Risner

Graduate LAS Certificates

Jeantel Cheramy, MDP

MDP Degree

Hannah Jo Maier

Specializations: African Studies, TCD

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

Capstone Field Practicum: "Farmer

Engagement in Community Based Agroforestry: A Case Study of Kijani Forestry in Northern Uganda."

Khumo Nicole Senuku

Specializations: Entrepreneurship, African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Renata Serra (African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Systems thinking in addressing structural poverty among formerly incarcerated people: Creating equitable and inclusive prosperity for all."

Jeantel Cheramy

Specializations: Global Health; Soils, Water and Public Health; Latin American Studies; TCD

Advisor: Samuel Smidt (Soils, Water, and

Ecosystem Sciences)

Capstone Field Practicum: "Analyzing heavy metal removal in point-of-use water treatment systems: GOW & BioSand water filtration."

Tropical Conservation and Development Graduate Certificate

Khumo Senuku, MDP

Jeantel Cheramy, MDP

Tropical Conservation and Development Graduate Concentration

Nicholas Gengler, PhD SNRE (Interdisciplinary Ecology)

Johanna Depenthal, PhD SFGSS (Forestry)

Ernesto Bastos Viveiros De Castro, PhD SNRE (Interdisciplinary Ecology)

Jessi Elana Aaron (Spanish & Portuguese)

Invited lecture:

"Pobres caníbales: Transitividad y la construcción de la agencia indígena en México colonial." Conversatorio: El canibal amistoso, Graduate seminar Anthropophagy and Cultural Consumerism, org. Paola Uparela, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, September 27, 2023.

Award: Selected as Virtual Exchange participant, Office of Global Learning, University of Florida International Center.

Leslie Anderson (Political Science)

was invited to attend and present a paper, "Paths Toward Democracy: Institutions and Social Capital," at the Conference on 40 Years of the Third Wave of Democracy in Latin America, November 27-28, Univ Torcuato DiTella, Buenos Aires, Argentina; also invited to make a presentation on "The Quality of Democracy: Erosion and the Rule of Law," at the Conference in Memory of Guillermo O'Donnell at the Univ Austral, Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 29, 2023; also invited to be a commentator at the book launch of David Smilde, Veronica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson eds., *The Paradox of Violence*, sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of Criminology and Sociology, UF, October 26, 2023.

Luis Álvarez-Castro (Spanish & Portuguese)

gave two invited lectures on Spanish author and thinker Miguel de Unamuno at the Universidad de Puerto Rico - Río Piedras, hosted by the Department of Hispanic Studies and the Seminario Federico de Onís, on October 16-17, 2023.

Amy Jo Coffey (Media Production, Management, Technology)

New book: Hollifield, A. & Coffey, A.J. (2023). "Media Analytics: Understanding Media, Audiences, and Consumers in the 21st Century."

Routledge (Taylor & Francis). More info: jou.ufl.edu/2023/06/27/amy-jo-coffey-co-authors-groundbreaking-media-analytics-textbook

Conference presentation: Coffey, A.J. (2023, June). "The Audience Ownership Model: How Sport Could Save Local Journalism." European Media Management Association. Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain.

Kathleen Colverson (Animal Sciences)

was recently awarded a grant from the Global Food Systems Institute, with Drs. Juan and Jeanette Andrade of the Food and Nutrition department, and Dr. Trent Blare of CIP to develop collaborative strategies in the countries of Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru to address malnutrition issues with women and children. The team will be working closely with the CGIAR centers, including the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Potato Center

(CIP), as well as local non-profit groups, including EkoRural. Selected universities will also be involved in developing the strategies, including FLACSO, the Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) and the Universidad de Cuenca. Work will begin in early summer to create and finalize these strategies that will lead to larger, regional efforts.

Max Deardorff (History)

New book: Max Deardorff, *A Tale of Two Granadas: Custom, Community, and Citizenship in the Spanish Empire, 1568-1668* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Carmen Diana Deere (LAS/FRED emerita)

Publication: "Beyond 'Death Do Us Part': Spousal Intestate Succession in Nineteenth Century Hispanic America." *Law and History Review* 41 (4), 2023: 619-651.

Susan DeFrance (Anthropology) organized an international workshop entitled "Humanos y Camélidos: Interacciones Sociales e Historia Evolutiva" that was held in Arica, Chile on July 6-8, 2023. The workshop was sponsored by the Institute of Andean Research along with support from Latin American Studies, the Department of Anthropology, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The workshop brought together archaeologists from Chile, Bolivia, Peru, and Argentina to discuss current research related to humans and Andean camelids.

Carlos de la Torre (LAS)

Publications: (1) Carlos de la Torre and Oscar Mazzoleni *Populism and Key Concepts in Social and Political Theory*, Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2023; Carlos de la Torre, *Populismo y democracia*. Quito: Curiqingue, 2023; (2) "Differentiating Populism: The Complex Construction of the Leader and the People" in Paula Diehl and Brigitte Bargetz, ed., *The Complexity of Populism: New Approaches and Methods*, New York: Routledge, 2023, 37-53; (3) "Populismos del Siglo XXI" with Treethep Srisa-nga in Melany Barragán and Salvador Martí i Puig, eds., *América Latina. Democracias Frágiles y Conflictividad*, Valencia: Tirant Humanidades, 2023, 293-315. **International Conferences:** (1) "Thinking Global Populism from Latin America" International Political Science Association IPSA 27th World Congress, Buenos Aires July 18, 2023; (2) "Populist leadership, mass meetings and performances of emotions" Presidential Panel on Populism and Representation, Latin American Studies Association meeting, Vancouver, May 26, 2023.

Joan Flocks (Director Emeritus, Social Policy Division Center for Governmental Responsibility Levin College of Law)

Publications: (1) Reynolds T, Olexa M,

Toth G, Adams D, Flocks J. "Urban Food Deserts: Improving the USDA Identification Methodology Through Inclusion of Neighborhood Racial Attributes." *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy* 14:1-8, 2023; (2) Flocks J. "As the Heat Rises, We Must Do Better at Protecting Agricultural Workers," *Modern Farmer* July 28 2023. **Presentations:** (1) "Agricultural Workers are Among the Most Vulnerable Populations to Extreme Heat in the United States", UPenn Perry World House Global Shifts Colloquium, 3/21/23; (2) "Employment, Labor, and Immigration" with Andrew Elmore and Oscar Londono. An Unequal Burden: Environmental Justice and the Climate Crisis, University of Miami Law Review Symposium 2/10/23.

Rebecca Hanson (LAS) Verónica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson. 2024. "Shoutings, scoldings, gossip and whispers: Mothers' responses to armed actors and militarization in two Caracas barrios". *Latin American Research Review* 59:1. Winner of 2023 Best Article Award from the Latin American Studies Association, Section on Venezuelan Studies; Participation in conference: "Economía moral de la criminalización de lo político: Entender los vínculos entre lo político y lo criminal en los intersticios de la violencia en las Américas" Ciudad de México, 18-19 de septiembre del 2023

Berta Hernández-Truyol (Law) Publications:

(1) *The Human Environment: Awakening to the Indomitable Cuban Spirit—Government, Culture, and People*, 17 Florida International University Law Review (forthcoming 2024); (2) *Awakening the Law: Kate Stoneman—An Awakened Woman*, 86 Albany Law Review 231-256 (2023); (3) *Awakening the Law—Unmasking Free Exercise Exceptionalism*, 72 Emory Law Journal 1061-1103 (2023); (4) *Awakening the Law: A LatCritical Perspective*, 20(4) Seattle Journal of Social Justice 927-964 (2022).

Emily Hind (Spanish & Portuguese) Book

chapter: "The Art of the Hack: Poets Carla Faesler and Mónica Nepote, and Booktuber Fátima Orozco," in *The Multimedia Works of Contemporary Spanish American Women Artists and Writers*, edited by Jane E. Lavery and Sarah Bowskill, Boydell & Brewer, 2023, pp. 165-183. **Board appointment:** Appointed to the Faculty Advisory Board for the University of Florida Press, 2024-2026.

Philip Janzen (History) "Tensions on the Railway: West Indians, Colonial Hierarchies, and the Language of Racial Unity in West Africa," *The Journal of African History* 64, no.3

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

Book chapter: Kainer, de Oliveira Wadt & Staudhammer. 2023. Contribuição associada ao modo de vida de populações locais e à conservação florestal. Pg 83-108 In Oliveira Wadt, Fernandes Maraccolo, Carneiro Guedes, & Emídio da Silva. Eds. Castanha-da-amazônia: Estudos sobre a espécie e sua cadeia de valor. (Vol 1). Embrapa, Brasília. **Workshops:** (1) Engaging across the conservation landscape. 4-hr workshop to 25-members of Conservation Initiatives, Shillong, India. 26Jun23; (2) With C. Garnica. Can graduate students ground the helicopters? 2.5-hr workshop to 16 participants. 59th Meeting of Assoc of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC), Coimbatore, India. 2Jul23. **Conference presentation:** Kainer & Violato Espada. Women & timber management: From assigned cook to strategic decision-maker. 59th Meeting of ATBC. 4Jul23

Clate Korsant (LAS) Along with UF's International Ethnography Lab, hosted Chilean-American film director Franco Campos-Lopez for the visual ethnography workshop and documentary sneak peek screenings, Nov 16-17; Coloquio book talk, "Fervor on the Frontier: Environmentalisms in Practice in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula," Nov 3. **Presented paper:** June/2023, "A Freirean Ecopedagogy or an Imposition of Values? The Pluriverse and the Politics of Environmental Education," in the panel, Political Ecology of Education - Climate, Youth, and Indigenous Activism, POLLEN 2022/23 Durban South Africa (June/Hybrid)

Luis Felipe Lomelí (LAS) Chapter: "This Land Shouldn't Be a Desert: The Collapse of Western Civilization in 18th Century 'California'." Deserts in the Global South and Beyond: Anthropocene Naturecultures. Eds. Suchila Shekhawat, Rayson K. Alex, and Swarnalatha Rangarajan, Rutledge, 2023, pp. 99 - 112 **Dissemination articles:** "Metamorfosis y estudios interdisciplinarios", F-ILIA, Ecuador, Fall 2023. **Translations:** (1) "Dialéctica y poder." From Melo, João: Os marginais, Caminho, 2013, pp.- 77-100; in Nagari, Miami, July 2023; (2) "El celular." From Melo, João: The serial killer e outros contos risíveis ou talvez não, Caminho, 2004, pp.- 15-20; in Neotraba, July 2023; (3) "La belleza americana." From Melo, João: O dia em que o Pato Donald cameu pela primeira vez a Margarida, Lisbon, 2006, pp.- 75-85; in Nagari, Miami, Sept. 2023.

Carmen Martínez Novo (LAS) Book translation: The translation of my book entitled "El desmantelamiento del multiculturalismo: extractivismo y derechos indígenas en Ecuador" was published with Abya Yala in Quito, Ecuador. I launched the translation at FLACSO, Ecuador in Quito and at Universidad Nacional de Chimborazo in Riobamba in May 10-12 of 2023. **Talk:** "Paternalism and ventriloquism as colonial legacies and elite practices." at the LASA 2023 meetings, Vancouver, Canada, May

24-27, 2023. **Podcast:** In September of 2023, I was invited to the Latin News Podcast. Foreign correspondent Richard McColl interviewed me on the elections and the security situation in Ecuador.

Susan Milbrath (Natural History, Florida Museum of Natural History) Book edited: *Birds and Beasts of Ancient Mesoamerica: Animal Symbolism in the Postclassic Period*, edited by Susan Milbrath and Elizabeth Baquedano. Denver: University Press of Colorado, 2023. **Book chapters:** (1) Animal Symbolism in Calendar Almanacs of the Codex Borgia and Links to Postclassic Imagery in Mexico. In *Birds and Beasts of Ancient Mesoamerica: Animal Symbolism in the Postclassic Period*, edited by Susan Milbrath and Elizabeth Baquedano, pp. 282-340. Denver: University Press of Colorado, 2023; (2) A New World Bestiary in Postclassic Mesoamerica. In *Birds and Beasts of Ancient Mesoamerica: Animal Symbolism in the Postclassic Period*, edited by Susan Milbrath and Elizabeth Baquedano, pp. 402-410. Denver: University Press of Colorado, 2023.

Jeffrey D. Needell (History) "Building New Brazilian Institutions," vol.3, ch.19, in *The Cambridge History of the Age of Atlantic Revolutions*, 3 vols., ed. Wim Klooster, 496-519.

Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo (Anthropology) Oyuela-Caycedo, A., 2024. Americas, South: Andean Complexity. In: Nikita, E., Rehren, T. (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Archaeology*, 2nd Edition, vol. 3, pp. 541-546, London: Academic Press. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-90799-6.00180-4>.

Susan Paulson (LAS) Publication with collaboratoes: Why are feminist perspectives, analyses and actions vital to degrowth? *Degrowth Journal*. May 2023. Invited Lecture: Radical innovation for abundant post-growth worlds. Invited talk, Sogeti Executive Summit on Scarcity in Abundance. Cannes, France, October 2023.

Charles A. Perrone (SPS emeritus) Publications: (1) "Brazilian Popular Music, Performance, and Culture. Oxford Bibliographies in Latin American Studies. www.oxfordbibliographies.com. November 2023; (2) "Metrô e a peregrinação circular & poética pelo mapa-mar urbano." Foreword to Adriano Espinola, *Metrô ou viagem até a última estação possível* (Rio de Janeiro: Editora 7Letras, 2023); (3) Jorge Amado e Imaginários Baianos: Uma História Pedagógica Inter-Americana." In III Webinário Estudos Amadianos: 110 Anos de Nascimento de Jorge Amado. Cachoeira, BA: Portuário Atelier, 2022; (4) "Literature: Brazil: Poetry" in *Handbook of Latin American Studies*. Austin: University of Texas Press / Library of Congress Hispanic Division. Vol. 76 (2022).

David O. Prevatt (Civil & Coastal Engineering) Award: the 2023 Education Award at the National Disaster Resilience Conference, by Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) **NSF-Sponsored STEER Reports:** (1) Published a report on building performance following the Hurricane Otis impacts on Acapulco, Mexico (November 2023): <https://bit.ly/uf-WINDHAZARD>; (3) Published a report on building performance following the earthquake impacts on in Mw 6.8 Guayas Ecuador Earthquake (March 2023): <https://www.steer.network/response/mw-6.8-guayas-ecuador-earthquake>

Mary Risner (LAS) was invited to co-lead a Virtual Exchange workshop with UFIC's Paloma Rodriguez at the Hanseatic League of Universities conference at Florida Gulf Coast University. The event was attended by higher administration officials from around the globe.

Colleen Rua (School of Theatre and Dance) Publication: In *Performance, Trauma and Puerto Rico in Musical Theatre*, Dr. Rua, Assistant Professor of Theatre in UF's School of Theatre and Dance positions four musicals and their associated artists as mobilizers of defiant joy in relation to trauma and healing in Puerto Rico, arguing that the historical trajectory of West Side Story, The Capeman, In the Heights, and Hamilton has formed a canon of works that have reiterated, resisted or transformed experiences of trauma and healing through linguistic, ritual, and geographic interventions. This book also opens a dialogue between these musicals and the work of Puerto Rican theatre collective Y no había luz, that has served as a site of first response to disaster.

Hector H. Sandoval (Bureau of Economic and Business Research) Publication: Hancevic, P. I., & Sandoval, H. H. (2023). Solar panel adoption among Mexican small and medium-sized commercial and service businesses. *Energy Economics*, 126, 106979. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2023.106979>

Steven Sargent (Horticultura Sciences) Dr. Germán Sandoya, UF/IFAS lettuce breeder, was selected as a 2023 UF International Center Global Fellow, nominated by Dr. Steven Sargent, also of the Horticultural Sciences Department. This award, along with funding from the UF/IFAS Global Food Systems Institute, enabled them to visit Dr. Fernando Sala, professor of horticulture, Federal University of São Carlos, Araras Campus, Brazil, from October 2-5. They saw, first-hand, breeding programs selecting for lettuce adapted to warm, humid growing conditions, a real challenge to growers in both countries. Sargent, a postharvest physiologist, also met with postharvest colleagues from Embrapa and two state universities. Next steps are to develop a multidisciplinary project to evaluate new breeding lines and promote exchange of faculty, researchers and students between UF and these institutions.

Marianne Schmink (LAS Emerita)

Publication: Londres, M., M. Schmink, J. Börner, A. E. Duchelle, G. P. Frey. 2023. Multidimensional forests: Complexity of forest-based values and livelihoods across Amazonian socio-cultural and geopolitical contexts. *World Development* 165 (May), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2023.106200>. **Invited Inaugural Speaker:** Simpósio Internacional Interdisciplinaridade, Sustentabilidade e Desenvolvimento, Commemoration of 50 Years of the Núcleo de Altos Estudos Amazônicos (NAEA) Federal University of Pará (UFPA), Belém, Brazil, November 20-22 2023. **Invited speaker:** A Turning Point for the Amazon, Thomas Lovejoy Science for Nature Symposium, World Wildlife Fund and Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, October 17 2023.

Paola Uparela (Spanish & Portuguese)

Book Award: Book Award: III Klaus D. Vervuert Hispanic Essay Award by the Cervantes Institute & Iberoamericana Vervuert for the book "Colonial Invaginations" (2024). **Article Awards:** (1) The 2023 Sturgis Leavitt Award - SECOLAS; the 2023 LASA - Sylvia Molloy Best Article Award - honorable mention; and the 2023 LASA - Visual Culture Best Article Award - honorable mention for the article: "Yo llana estoy' o el despliegue de una virginidad queer."

Revista de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades 48.1 (2022): 53-74; (2) The 2023 LASA - José María Arguedas Essay Award for the article: "‘Multiplicarse ha la tierra de gente y de fruto’: Gender and Re-production in Las Casas’s and Guaman Poma’s Biopolitical Projects (1516, 1615)." Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2022. 35-60.

Margarita Vargas-Betancourt (Latin American and Caribbean Collection)

Exhibits: (1) "Diaspora Dishes: Remembering Home," (with Katiana Bague, Melissa Jerome, Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler), physical, University of Florida, George A. Smathers Libraries. September 15, 2023-December 15, 2023; (2) "Yo misma fui mi ruta," (with Beatriz Domínguez Alemán), physical and online, University of Florida, George A. Smathers Libraries. August 10-December 15, 2023. exhibits.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/miruta

Publications: Vargas-Betancourt, Margarita, Daniel Fernández Guevara, and Beatriz Domínguez Alemán, "Planning Collaborative Practices for Archiving Farmworker Communities' Histories." *Source. The Magazine of the University of Florida* George A. Smathers Libraries, Summer 2023. doi.org/10.32473/sourceuf.5.1.32655

Wagner Vendrame (Environmental Horticulture) We have established a successful collaboration with the Corporación Regional Autónoma del Valle del Cauca (CVC) in Colombia, and signed an MOU for collaborative research. We recently visited CVC in Cali, Colombia, including 4 faculty, 3 from the Environmental Horticulture Dept. (including myself) and one from Food Resources and Economics. We addressed issues related to water quality, conservation and restoration of degraded areas, community work, propagation of forest species for reforestation, among other topics. Faculty involved included Dr. Carrie Adams, Dr. Hector Perez, Dr. Jorge Ruiz-Menjivar and myself (Wagner Vendrame). We have also established the ground for receiving CVC employees for specialization purposes and master's programs at UF. CVC is very excited to work with us.

Heather Vrana (History) Endemic Goiter and El Salvador's Cold War Battle Against Cretinismo," *American Historical Review*. 128, no. 3 (December 2023)

Bette Loiselle named Honorary Fellow of Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation



The Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) has named Center faculty and TCD Director Bette Loiselle a 2023 Honorary Fellow.

Given since 1963, the ATBC Honorary Fellow Award is the organization's most prestigious award. Each year, it is presented to two recipients "who have made substantial scientific contributions and provided long

distinguished service to tropical biology or conservation." Congratulations, Dr. Loiselle!

The follow interview is an excerpt from one conducted by ATBC. Read the full interview on their website here:

bit.ly/3vklhN2

Q: What drew you to tropical biology?

DR. LOISELLE: During the time of my graduate studies, considerable attention was focused on understanding and explaining high diversity in tropical systems, including hypotheses focused on the latitudinal gradient in species diversity. From afar, I was fascinated by these systems and read many of the classics that described early expeditions and experiences of natural historians and scientists. Through a bit of luck, I found myself traveling to Panama in 1980 as a field assistant to Dr. James Karr

who was conducting long-term studies on bird communities along the "Pipeline Road". My first 24 hours in that forest transformed me and I've been working in tropical forests since that time.

Q: What accomplishment by you and/or your research team are you most proud of?

DR. LOISELLE: I have had absolutely marvelous graduate students over my career with most of these students coming from the global south. I am so very proud of their professional and personal accomplishments. Many have published in the top journals, disseminated their research broadly, and have had stellar careers in academia, non-governmental organizations, and research institutes. From our own research, much of which was in collaboration with Dr. John Blake, we have contributed I hope to a better understanding of the ecological role of birds as seed dispersers and the population ecology and dynamics of tropical birds, including especially, manakins.

Q: What is your advice to a young scientist starting a tropical biology and conservation career?

DR. LOISELLE: To borrow an answer from [TCD alumna] Dr. Victoria Reyes-Garcia, my advice is never stop going to the field. Not only does it re-energize you, but field work is essential to make observations and local connections that will help formulate your research questions and contribute to make your research more impactful in your study region. ♦

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Snapshots FROM THE SEMESTER



L-R: Faculty and staff attending the August retreat; MALAS alumna Maricarmen Torres Medina giving an introduction to the incoming MALAS cohort at student orientation



L-R: Undergraduate students from "Intro to Latin American Studies" with prof. Luis Felipe Lomelí after presenting their final projects to Center faculty, students, staff; the MALAS first years and prof. Ariadna Tenorio posing with Halloween decorations



L-R: Catherine Tucker's Coffee Culture class raises a toast during their coffee tasting; MALAS students Nilton, Beatriz, and Daniela work in the newly renovated front office



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