



Conference on Immigration Detention, Advocacy, and the Faith Community

The University of Florida's Center for Latin American Studies and Loyola University's Jesuit Social Research Institute led a coalition of organizations that sponsored the conference "Imprisoned, Forgotten, and Deported: Immigration Detention, Advocacy, and the Faith Community" in New Orleans from October 13-14, 2011. The conference was hosted by Loyola University's College of Law and made possible by a grant from the Ford Foundation held by the Center. The realities of the immigration detention system were the focus for the first day of the conference, while the second day was devoted to advocacy.

National Public Radio correspondent Laura Sullivan delivered the first keynote address, lecturing on the topic of private prison companies in the detention system. According to Sullivan, laws such as SB 1070, Arizona's controversial anti-illegal immigration bill, are highly profitable for private prison companies such as the Corrections Corporation of America and the GEO Group.

The panel that followed discussed the political and economic realities of immigrant detention. Dora Schiro, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Corrections, spoke of her own investigations into the detention system's shortcomings and suggested improvements. Alger Kendall, Jr., a former county judge of Karnes City, Texas spoke of the reasoning behind his town's decision to allow GEO to develop a model facility there. He described GEO as a "good county partner" that contributed to local schools and funded community events. However, Bob Libal of Grassroots Leadership noted Texas' remote detention facilities and human rights abuses, including the sexual assault of detainees.

A former detainee, Omar Hassan, spoke of his own experiences in the system following the denial of his asylum claim. Mr. Hassan came to the United States from Somalia in 1996 and appealed the denial of his claim for 13 years before finally losing his case. His moving testimony included tales of mistreatment and racism in the detention system, and he described his experience in civil detention as more frightening than having bullets fly by him in Somalia.

Manuel Vásquez, Professor of Religion at UF, moderated the next panel, on the topic of race and illegality in the immigration detention system. Among the four panelists was Kenneth Nunn, Professor of Law at UF's Levin College of Law. The panelists compared the situation of immigrants to the experiences of African Americans, noting in particular the higher rates of incarceration for both minority groups in comparison to whites.

The second day of the conference began with a keynote address by Miguel De La Torre from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. The next panel took up the topic of religious

responses to detention as an alternative to purely legal reforms. The panel opened with Anton Flores-Masonet, M.S.W., who presented a brief, moving video recounting the story of Pedro and Emily Guzmán during Pedro's incarceration. Faith communities "have tipping point potential" for reforming the immigration detention system according to David Fraccaro, Executive Director of FaithAction International House. The final panelist, Sister JoAnn Persch, summed up her discussion of advocacy in detention centers with her team's motto: "We do this peacefully, respectfully, but we never take 'no' for an answer."

The conference ended with a panel on secular detention advocacy efforts. Hiroko Kusuda, Assistant Clinic Professor of Immigration Law at Loyola University, described some of the legal parameters in the detention system and asserted that, in her experience, "persistence works" when it comes to advocacy. For activist Jacinta Gonzalez, until we remove the stigma of criminality from immigrants, their humanity will continue to be ignored and advocacy efforts will fail. This stigma persists despite the administrative nature of immigration law, in which immigrants are typically punished for being out of legal status rather than for committing an actual crime. Although these are civil detention centers, as Hiroko Kusuda explained, you cannot take away someone's physical freedom and still be truly "civil."

-Contributed by Courtney Sidwell, MALAS student



▲ Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J. of Loyola University of New Orleans and Laura Sullivan of NPR spoke at the conference.



Director's Corner



▲ Dr. Philip Williams

We began the fall semester facing a new set of budget challenges. Over the summer, we received news that our Title VI funding was cut by 47% for the coming academic year. This was a result of the spring 2011 congressional budget cuts that sliced \$50 million from the Department of Education's international programs budget. In our case, we had to cut \$118K from our 2011-12 Title VI budget. Obviously, this means that the Center has had to reduce its level of programming and support for new initiatives for this academic year, while striving to protect those activities that are essential to the Center's core mission. Given the budget climate in Washington, it is unlikely that the previous level of funding will be restored any time soon. Going forward, the Center will have to increase its efforts to attract external funding, including private gifts.

Despite these budgetary challenges, the Center has had a busy summer and fall semester. In July, the Center signed an agreement with the Secretariat for Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples (SEDINAFROH). The new agreement will establish a graduate fellowship program to be administered by the Center and supported by the Government of Honduras (see p. 5).

Also in July, the Center organized a Teacher Summer Institute focused on Latin American Ecosystems (see p. 11). The institute represents a first step in making available to science teachers around the state the extensive faculty expertise and resources of our Tropical Conservation and Development program.

To kick off the fall semester, we held the Center's annual fall reception at the President's home. This is the third year in a row that we co-hosted the reception with the Association of Hispanic Alumni. During the reception, we welcomed two new faculty members: Dr. Bette Loiselle, the new Director of the Tropical Conservation and Development program, and Dr. Glenn Galloway, the new Director of the Master's in Sustainable Development Practice program. Also, as part of the Center's TIES grant with the Universidad Veracruzana (UV), we welcomed two visiting faculty members from UV, Citlalli López and Eddie Ellis.

In October, the Center organized a conference on immigration detention at Loyola University, New Orleans (see p. 1). The conference, which is part of the Center's Ford Foundation-supported initiative on immigration and social change, brought together a diverse group of policy and opinion makers, scholars, students, lawyers, activists, and members of faith communities to discuss the realities of immigrant detention in the US South. We also partnered with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Initiatives at Miami Dade College to organize a panel on the recent elections in Argentina and Nicaragua at Miami Dade's InterAmerican campus.

The Center was proud to co-sponsor the 7th Annual Latino Film Festival organized by the Latina Women's League. The film festival, held at the Harn Museum, screened six films during Hispanic Heritage Month, and included a presentation by Abner Benaim, the director of the Panamanian film, "Chance."

Finally, the Center helped to organize two Cuba-focused events this semester: a discussion panel, film screening, and talk by Cuban filmmaker, Fausto Canel (see p. 4), and a lecture by Carlos Saladrigas, co-chairman of the Cuba Study Group (see p. 3).

On a sad note, Hugh Popenoe, Professor Emeritus of Soil and Water Science, passed away in September (see p. 6). Hugh's career at UF spanned 45 years, during which time he directed the Caribbean Research Program and IFAS's International Programs. His commitment to his students and to the study of tropical agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean was unrivaled. Even after his retirement in 2005, Hugh continued to teach graduate courses and serve on the board of Zamorano University in Honduras. Hugh's many contributions will be sorely missed.

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Center for Latin American Studies
319 Grinter Hall
PO Box 115530
Gainesville, FL 32611-5530
352-392-0375
www.latam.ufl.edu

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Creating an Enabling Transitional Environment in Cuba



▲ Carlos Saladrigas

Successful Cuban-American businessman Carlos Saladrigas spoke at UF in late November on “Creating an Enabling Transitional Environment in Cuba.” In his talk, Saladrigas argued that the current US policy toward Cuba does not foster conditions that might facilitate a transition to democracy on the island. Moreover, sanctions and denial of resources to the Cuban state has served to isolate and ultimately benefit the Castro regime. Saladrigas prefaced his remarks by stating that he is “passionate about Cuba” and

longs for the day when Cubans can be “masters of their own destiny.” Saladrigas was born in Cuba and came to the US at the age of 12 through the Pedro Pan Operation.

More than 35 countries have transitioned from communism to democracy in the last few decades. While each transition was unique, lessons can be drawn from these experiences and applied to the Cuban case. For example, those countries that were more engaged with the West had smoother transitions than those that were isolated. Likewise, a transition to democracy is likely to occur when the rewards and urgency of the transition combine to outweigh the costs of transitioning.

The Cuban state historically derived its legitimacy from three

sources: a) the charismatic leadership of Fidel Castro, b) the achievements of the Revolution, particularly in the areas of education and healthcare; and c) framing itself as a victim of US imperialism, as evidenced by the embargo. Since Fidel Castro is no longer in power and since Cuban healthcare and education are on the decline (due to the lack of capital investments), the only remaining source of legitimacy for the Cuban state is being a victim of the US. Thus, the embargo serves to prop up the very regime that it is trying to change. Instead, to enable a transition to democracy, the US needs flexible, adaptable policies that respond to changes on the island. Also, it is important that the US make attempts to engage with Cuba even in the current political climate. Otherwise, we will be bystanders when change does happen. Saladrigas mentioned that he is involved with setting up a small business incubator on the island that will open next year.

Saladrigas commented that not all members of the Cuban-American community agree with his viewpoints on US policy toward Cuba. He thinks though that the topic should be discussed within a climate of respect.

Saladrigas is Chairman and CEO of Regis HR Group, a professional employer organization offering outsourced human resources services to small and mid-sized businesses. He is a co-founder of the Cuba Study Group and serves as its co-chair. Saladrigas was a co-founder and CEO of The Vincam Group, which in 1998 was listed as the largest Hispanic-owned company in the United States, and which was acquired by ADP in 2000. He holds an MBA with honors from Harvard University and a BBA, cum laude, from the University of Miami. Saladrigas’ visit to UF was co-sponsored by the Center, CIBER, and IFAS.

-Contributed by Hannah Covert, Executive Director

Environmental Dispute Resolution under the CAFTA-DR

Mario Mancilla, Legal Advisor to the Secretariat for Environmental Matters (SEM) for the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), presented at UF on “Environmental Dispute Resolution under the CAFTA-DR: Obstacles and Opportunities” in mid-November. The SEM was established through CAFTA-DR to facilitate public involvement in environmental protection, and in his lecture, Mancilla elaborated upon several environmental dispute resolution mechanisms within the agreement. Mancilla’s visit to UF was jointly sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies and the Levin College of Law.

CAFTA-DR reaffirms each signatory’s responsibility to enforce their respective domestic environmental laws. Should a state fail to enforce these laws, the citizens of member countries can present public submissions to SEM. Public submissions are written statements that address violations of domestic environmental regulations that have occurred within CAFTA-DR members’ jurisdictions. SEM is charged with receiving and reviewing public submissions to determine whether the need to pursue an investigation, called a factual record, exists. To initiate an investigation, a CAFTA-DR member must vote to approve it. Once the SEM completes its investigation, it discloses the factual record to the government of the country named

in the public submission.

The public submissions process is one of several ways in which CAFTA-DR citizens can proactively engage in the enforcement of regional environmental laws. This process is designed to enhance multilateral cooperation in environmental protection and regulation among CAFTA-DR members at the public level. Mancilla acknowledged that procedural limitations exist; however, he believes the public submissions process has proven to be successful. He reported that CAFTA-DR government leaders have willingly resolved these issues after receiving the factual record in most cases. To date, SEM has received more public submissions than the corresponding body created under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and it continues to process more applications on a routine basis. Mancilla asserted that the environmental protection mechanisms in CAFTA-DR have improved upon those contained in NAFTA. Moreover, the model for environmental dispute resolution in international trade law has evolved and it has become an important feature of a new generation of free trade agreements.

-Contributed by Lindsay Barnes, MALAS student

The Struggle for Democracy in Latin America

March 29-31, 2012



Register Now!

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The UF Center for Latin American Studies' 61st Annual Conference will serve as the 59th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS), and will take place on the UF campus March 29-31, 2012. Featured speakers, who will address the conference theme, include Joseph Foweraker,

Director of the School of Interdisciplinary and Area Studies at Oxford University and the Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar at UF in spring 2012 ; Deborah Yashar, Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University; and Paul Drake, Senior Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs at the University of California, San Diego.

2012 marks the 200th anniversary of the Cádiz Constitution that made Spain and its embattled empire a constitutional monarchy and the 100th anniversary of the Sáenz Peña electoral

law that brought universal adult male suffrage to Argentina, two key steps along Latin America's tortuous road toward constitutional democracy. Although Latin America experienced what Paul Drake has called a "tsunami of democracies" from the 1970s to the 2000s, much remains to be done to strengthen and secure governments "of, by and for the people" throughout the region. Even more is required if one considers social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of democracy along with the political and institutional. Finally, as Latin American aspirations for democracy have not been confined to south of the Rio Grande/Bravo, la lucha for democracy by Latin Americans and Latina/os in the United States also merits serious attention.

Conference Chair

Richmond Brown: rbbrown@latam.ufl.edu
Associate Director, UF Center for Latin American Studies

Conference Coordinator

Aimee Green: agreen@latam.ufl.edu
Program Coordinator, UF Center for Latin American Studies

Cuban Cinema 1961-2011: Imaginaries, Politics, and Censorship (Homage to Fausto Canel)

A two-day seminar held at UF in mid-November on Cuban cinema explored the tense relationship between revolutionary cultural production and the State's utopian and messianic representations in the early 1960s. The seminar featured a keynote address by Cuban filmmaker and critic Fausto Canel, an academic panel on 1960s Cuban cinema, a film screening of Canel's film *Desarraigo* (1964) (shown for the first time with English subtitles), and an exhibit of archival materials, including letters, articles, photos, and scripts displayed at the UF Latin American Collection.

The seminar paid homage to Fausto Canel, a founder of the film industry in Cuba, who left the island in the late 1960s. Canel's cinematic work is powerfully charged with the euphoria and the contradictions of the first years of the Cuban Revolution. At the center of his films, lies the dialectic between human agency and a new collective project and between revolutionary fidelity

and critical discourse set against the backdrop of a total bureaucratic power. *Desarraigo* (1964), *Carnaval* (1960), and *El Final* (1962) are early examples of how Cuban cinema spoke truth to power by contesting and undermining the hyperrealist vision hindered by the new revolutionary State, as observed by Lillian Guerra (*History*). Canel's films are understudied and unknown to many scholars of Cuban film history and Latin American film in general.

The screening of *Desarraigo* as well as Canel's keynote address, "The critical period of Cuban Cinema (1961-68)," paved the way for a broad discussion on Cuban culture and served to introduce his work to UF's undergraduate and graduate students. The seminar was co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies and the Graduate Film Studies Group. It was organized by Gerardo Muñoz, a Spanish and Portuguese Studies graduate student.

Focus on Research: Measuring the Gender Asset Gap in Ecuador

In Her Name: Measuring the Gender Asset Gap in Ecuador, Ghana and India is a collaborative research study based at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), which includes researchers from the University of Ghana, American University, Yale University, University of Florida and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Ecuador. This study examines the incidence of asset ownership of men and women separately within the same household to estimate the gender asset and wealth gaps. The Ecuador study, entitled “Assets, Gender and Poverty in Ecuador,” is a collaborative endeavor of the Gender & Culture Program at FLACSO-Ecuador and the UF Center for Latin American Studies. Carmen Diana Deere, Distinguished Professor of LAS and FRE, is the PI for the Ecuador project, and Jennifer Twyman, doctoral candidate in FRE, has been the principal research assistant. Funding for the project was provided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs under its MDG3 Fund for Gender Equality.

The study has included qualitative field work, a national household assets survey, and analysis and dissemination. Between August and December 2009, field work was carried out in three provinces of Ecuador: Pichincha and Azuay in the highlands, and Manabí on the coast. These provinces were chosen to be illustrative of different processes of development as well as socio-economic characteristics, factors posited to influence the possibilities for asset accumulation. In each province field work was carried out in at least three municipalities, always including the provincial capital as well as several predominantly rural municipalities. The primary methodology was the focus group, complemented by interviews with key informants and a compilation of the secondary literature. All told, 40 focus groups were held, organized in collaboration with 23 organizations, ranging from women’s and peasant organizations and cooperatives to microcredit groups.

The qualitative field work was followed up by the planning and execution of a nationally representative household survey, called the FLACSO-UF 2010 Ecuador Household Assets Survey. The survey of 2,892 households was carried out between April and June, 2010, by the survey and public opinion consulting firm, HABITUS. Since then the team has been cleaning the data set and generating the descriptive statistics on the key variables. A book summarizing the key findings of the study was published in July 2010 and publicly disseminated. In addition, two popular education pieces were produced, one for use by women’s groups, and another aimed at the training of those in the legal profession on women’s property rights.

The main finding of the Ecuador study was that women owned 52% of the gross physical household wealth, a share roughly equal to their share in the population. In contrast, in Ghana, women own only 31% and in Karnataka, India, only 19%. These differences are partly explained by the different marital and inheritance regimes of these countries; these regimes are obviously more favorable to women in Ecuador. Notwithstanding these positive findings regarding overall gender equality in Ecuador, the distribution of wealth is extremely skewed, and female household heads are over-represented among the asset poor.

Agreement with Government of Honduras to Establish Graduate Fellowships

The Director of UF’s Center for Latin American Studies, Philip Williams, and the Dean of the UF Graduate School, Henry Frierson, traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras in July 2011 to sign an agreement with the Secretariat for Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples (SEDINAFROH). Established in November 2010, SEDINAFROH is the first ever cabinet-level ministry in Latin America responsible for the development of indigenous and afro-descendent communities. The new agreement will establish a graduate fellowship program to be administered by the Center for Latin American Studies and supported by the Government of Honduras. The program will provide fellowships for up to ten Ph.D. and ten Master’s students whose research and training interests further the goals and purposes of SEDINAFROH.

Williams and Frierson attended the signing ceremony for the agreement that took place at a cabinet meeting presided over by the President of Honduras, Porfirio Lobo Sosa. During the ceremony, President Lobo expressed his strong support for the initiative and the importance of providing graduate training opportunities to students at such a prestigious university. In his remarks, Williams emphasized how investing in education was the most important tool to ensure the country’s future development and progress. He also pointed to the agreement as a first step in a long-term relationship between UF and Honduras. During their visit, Williams and Frierson also met with officials at the Autonomous University of Honduras to discuss graduate programs at UF and opportunities for collaborative research.



▲ Luis Green, Secretary of State for SEDINAFROH; Porfirio Lobo Sosa, President of Honduras; Philip Williams, Center Director; and Henry Frierson, Dean of the UF Graduate School.

Welcome New Center Affiliates, Staff, and Visitors!

Affiliate Faculty

Agricultural Education & Communication
T. Grady Roberts

Business Administration
Brian Gendreau

Food and Resource Economics
Diego Valdarrama

Human Development & Organizational Studies in Education
Pilar Mendoza

Special and Area Studies Collections
Margarita Vargas-Betancourt

Telecommunication
Amy Jo Coffey

Wildlife Ecology & Conservation
John Blake

Staff

Mike Magarelli, IT Expert

Visitors

Maria Isabel Aldea Guevara
Pacaya Samiria National Reserve,
Peru ACLI Visitor

Walterlina Barboza
Brasil Universidade Federal de
Rondônia,
Brazil ACLI Faculty Exchange

Edward Ellis
Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico
US-Mexico TIES Faculty Exchange

Citlalli Lopez Binnquist
Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico
US-Mexico TIES Faculty Exchange

In Memoriam: Hugh Popenoe



Hugh Popenoe, Professor Emeritus of Soils and Water Management at the University of Florida, died in Gainesville on September 21, 2011 at the age of 82. Born in 1929 in Tela, Honduras, Hugh devoted his life to the tropical

world, its people, and its agriculture.

Hugh's education in Guatemala prepared him for a B.Sc. in Irrigation and his first employment in Thailand. He entered the University of Florida where he studied for his PhD on the effects of shifting cultivation on basic soil properties near Lake Isabal in Guatemala. He spent the rest of his professional life teaching for the University as a professor in Soils and Water Management, Botany, Agronomy, and Geography and being involved in various international activities. After directing the Caribbean Research Program, he was appointed Director of the Center for Tropical Agriculture in 1965; Director of International Programs in Agriculture in 1966. He initiated and was Director of the Florida Sea Grant College from 1971 to 1978 and performed the duties of Chairman of the Council of Sea Grant Directors during this time. At the National level he chaired the joint Committee of Agricultural Research and Development of the Board of International Food and Development and also served on the Board of Science and Development of the National Research Council (NRC) and chaired the Advisory Committee of Technology Innovation. Hugh was the chairman or committee member of 16 NRC publications and also a member of the National Science Foundation International Advisory Committee, and founder and president of the American Water Buffalo Association.

Internationally, Hugh was a past President and Emeritus Board member of La Escuela Agricola Panamericana (Zamorano) in Honduras. He was a trustee of the International Foundation for Science and a founding board member of the Organization for Tropical Studies. He was a fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, the American Society of Agronomy, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Geographical Society. He was awarded the Science Pioneer Prize of the Egyptian Veterinary Association of Buffalo Development, and was a Visiting Lecturer on Tropical Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

He and his sister, Dr. Marion Popenoe de Hatch, donated their colonial home in Antigua, Guatemala, built in 1636, to the Universidad Francisco Marroquin to preserve the colonial heritage of Latin America. Continuing his interest in preservation, Hugh was a supporter of the Legacy Institute for Nature and Culture and the Conservation Trust of Florida. This past year was spent in preserving an 1873 board and batten school house on his property in Levy County, Florida.

In 1964 he was honored as "Professor of the Year in Agriculture" and continued teaching throughout his years as an administrator. Of all his activities and accomplishments, Hugh was most proud of his more than 300 graduate students and of his honor in 2009 as the first recipient of the Charles B. Heiser, Jr. Mentor Award which he received from the Society for Economic Botany in recognition of substantially impacting the training and professional development of students.

He is survived by Betty Haeseker, Marion Popenoe de Hatch, Sally Popenoe and several nieces and nephews.

FALL 2011 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

September 22 Social Capital in Developing Democracies: Nicaragua and Argentina Compared

Leslie Anderson, Professor, UF Department of Political Science

October 6 Latin America's Economies: Time for a Balancing Act

Brian Gendreau, Hough Professor of Finance, UF Department of Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

October 20 A Graduate Education Model to Democratize Conservation Leadership

Karen Kainer, Associate Professor, UF Center for Latin American Studies & School of Forest Resources and Conservation; Citlalli López Binnquist, Research Professor, Universidad Veracruzana; Jon Dain, Lecturer, and Hannah Covert, Executive Director, UF Center for Latin American Studies

November 17 Vodou Songs in Haitian Creole and English: A Source Text Approach to Vodou Religion

Benjamin Hebblethwaite, Assistant Professor, UF Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

December 8 De Félix Varela a Fernando Ortiz: la construcción de la idea cubana

Eduardo Torres Cuevas, Director de la Casa de Altos Estudios Don Fernando Ortiz, Universidad de La Habana; Director de Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba y Presidente de la Academia de la Historia de Cuba

Faculty News and Publications

Simone Athayde (LAS) prepared educational materials for UF's Amazon Conservation Leadership Initiative, including a booklet entitled, "A Caixa Mágica de Dinâmicas do Beija-flor: Ferramentas e Dinâmicas para Aprendizagem em Grupo." See: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/l/IR00000674/00001>.

Florence Babb (Women's Studies & Gender Research) is spending much of the 2011-12 year on FEO research leave and sabbatical in Peru, where she is affiliated with the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos in Lima. She is reexamining feminist anthropological debates on gender and indigeneity in Andean Latin America while conducting new ethnographic research. She recently gave talks in Peru and at the Walker Latin American Studies Symposium at Colby College. Her article in honor of Helen Safa appears in the current issue of *Caribbean Studies*.

Mark Brenner (Geological Sciences) gave the keynote address "A Brief History of Paleolimnology in the Yucatan Peninsula" at the Congreso Latinoamericano de Geología and the Congreso Colombiano de Geología in Medellín in August. He presented the paper "85,000 Years of Environmental Change on the Yucatan Peninsula" in Knoxville in January. Publications: *Environmental History of Lago Petén Itzá from the Last Glacial Maximum to the Early Holocene (24-10 ka BP)* (with L. Pérez, P. Frenzel, J. Escobar, P. Hoelzmann, B. Scharf, & A. Schwalb). *Journal of Paleolimnology*, 46, 2011: 59-74; *Environmental and Cultural Changes in Highland Guatemala Inferred from Lake Amatitlán Sediments* (with M. Velez, J.H. Curtis, J. Escobar, & M. Popenoe de Hatch). *Geoarchaeology*, 26, 2011:346-364.

Emilio Bruna (LAS/WEC) Phenotypic plasticity in plant responses to edge effects: experimental test with an Amazonian understory herb (with A. Segalin de Andrade). *American Journal of Botany*, 98(10) 2011: 1727-1734; *Assymetric dispersal capability of Amazonian plant-ant queens* (with T. Izzo, B. Inouye, M. Uriarte, & H.L. Vasconcelos). *PLoS ONE*, 6(8) 2011: e22937; *Disentangling the drivers of reduced long-distance seed dispersal by birds in an experimentally fragmented landscape* (with M. Uriarte, M. Anciães, T.B. da

Silva, P. Rubim, & E. Johnson). *Ecology*, 92(4) 2011: 924-93; *Seed predators limit plant recruitment in Neotropical savannas* (with A.V. Ferreira & H. L. Vasconcelos). *Oikos*, 120, 2011: 1013-1022; *Volume and geographical distribution of ecological research in the Andes and the Amazon, 1995-2008* (with N. C. A. Pitman, J. Widmer, C. N. Jenkins, G. Stocks, L. Seales, & F. Paniagua). *Tropical Conservation Science*, 4(1) 2011: 64-81.

Hannah Covert (LAS) presented "Using Narrative Inquiry for Understanding How Students Experience Chilean Cultural Differences while Studying Abroad" at the Midwest Qualitative Research Conference in June.

Carmen Diana Deere (LAS/FRE) participated in the East Africa Regional Workshop on Gender and Assets in Uganda, which focused on the results of a comparative study (including Ecuador, Ghana and India) on women's accumulation of assets. She presented a summary of these results to the USAID-BASIS/IFPRI Workshop on Gender and Assets in Washington, DC in October. She delivered the paper "Women's Wealth and Patrimonial Violence in Ecuador" at the Walker Symposium at Colby College and as the Robert G. Mead, Jr. Endowed Lecture at the University of Connecticut in November. Publication: *Tierra y autonomía económica de la mujer rural: avances y desafíos para la investigación*. In P. Costas, coord., *Tierra de mujeres: Reflexiones sobre el acceso de las mujeres rurales a la tierra en América Latina*. La Paz: Fundación Tierra and International Land Coalition, 2011: 39-69.

David Geggus (History) gave an invited paper on the Haitian Revolution at the University of Turin in June, spoke at the Heinrich von Kleist Memorial Conference at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt in July, and presented "Slave Insurrections as Insurgencies" at a conference on "War By Another Means: Perspectives on Insurgencies," at the South Carolina Archives in October. Publication: *Slave Rebellion during the Age of Revolution*. In W. Klooster and G. Oostindie, eds., *Curaçao in the Age of Revolution, 1795-1800*. Leiden: KITLV, 2011: 23-56.

Susan Gillespie (Anthropology) presented "The Entanglement of Jade and the Rise of Mesoamerica" as a keynote speaker at the Stanford Archaeological Center Conference on Entanglement in April. She presented the Phil Griffin Distinguished Lecture on "The Maya Calendar and 2012: Whose Doomsday Is It?" at the UF Alumni Association in May. Publications: *Archaeological Drawings as Re-Presentations: The Maps of Complex A, La Venta, Mexico*. *Latin American Antiquity*, 22(1) 2011: 3-36; *Inside and Outside: Residential Burial at Formative Period Chalcatzingo, Mexico*. *Archeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association*, 20(1) 2011: 98-120; *Maya Memory Work*. *Ancient Mesoamerica*, 21(2) 2011: 401-414.

Karen Kainer (LAS/SFRC) Capacity for Timber Management in Small and Medium Forest Enterprises: A Case Study from the Peruvian Amazon (with R. Cossio & S. Perz). *Small-Scale Forestry*, 10(4) 2011: 489-507

Susan Milbrath (FLMNH) submitted an invited paper, "Seasonal Imagery in Ancient Mexican Almanacs of the Dresden Codex and Codex Borgia," at the University of Cologne in July. Publications: "Real-Time" Climate Events in the Borgia-Group Codices: Testing Assumptions about the Calendar (with C. Wooley). *Ancient Mesoamerica*, 22(1) 2011: 37-51; *Last Great Capital of the Maya: How Internal Fighting Brought down Mayapán, the last Maya Kingdom*. In Z. Zorich, ed., *The Maya: Ancient Mysteries and New Discoveries from the Editors of ARCHAEOLOGY*. Long Island City, NY: Archaeology Magazine, 2011: 62-65; *Venus and the Great Eclipse of 1496 in Codex Borgia 39-40*. In *White Paper: The Role of Venus in the Cosmologies of Mesoamerica, West Mexico, the American Southwest, and Southeast*, electronic publication of the Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico, February 2011; *Religious Imagery in Mayapán's Murals* (with C.P. Lope and M. D. Kú). *PARI Journal*, 10(3) 2010: 1-10.

Pilar Mendoza (Education) delivered a 30-hour seminar entitled "Estrategias innovadoras para el liderazgo efectivo de instituciones académicas" at El Centro de Investigación y Formación en Educación

Faculty News and Publications continued

(CIFE) at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá in July, and a keynote address entitled "Procesos de socialización de los nuevos docentes en la cultura académica" at the 10-year anniversary of CIFE, also in July.

Juan-Carlos Molleda (Public Relations) was awarded the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Educators Academy Top Faculty Research Paper Award for "Testing a Perceived Authenticity Index with Triangulation Research: The Case of Xcaret in Mexico" (with R. Jain) at the PRSA International Conference in October. He delivered invited lectures on "Las dimensiones de la autenticidad percibida" at the Congreso Internacional de Comunicación Estratégica en Medios Interactivos" in October in Medellín, "El profesionalismo y roles de los relacionistas públicos en las organizaciones modernas desde una visión internacional," and "Identidad, autenticidad y reputación: La triada dinámica" at the Colegio Profesional de Relacionistas Públicos del Perú in Arequipa in August. Publications: Crisis transnacional global en relaciones públicas: el caso Chiquita Brands (with A.F. Giraldo, L.H. Botero, & V. Bravo). *Palabra Clave*, 14(1) 2011: 31-52.

Stephen Perz (Sociology and Criminology & Law), **Rafael Muñoz-Carpena** (ABE), and **Gregory Kiker** (ABE) were awarded an NSF Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH) grant for \$1.4 million over four years entitled "Global Sensitivity & Uncertainty Analysis for Evaluation of Ecological Resilience: Theoretical Debates over Infrastructure Impacts on Livelihoods & Forest Change" that takes up the case of the MAP frontier in the southwestern Amazon where Bolivia, Brazil and Peru meet.

Stephen Perz (Sociology and Criminology & Law) will serve as Administrative Coordinator on a \$6.5 million, 5-year cooperative agreement funded by USAID for its ICAA II (Initiative for Conservation of the Andes-Amazon, Phase II) program for the new "Madre de Dios Consortium," led by UF, with the Madre de Dios Special Project, the National Amazonian University of Madre de Dios, Futuro Sostenible and Woods Hole Research Center as consortium partners. Publications:

Regional Integration and Local Change: Road Paving, Community Connectivity and Social-Ecological Resilience in a Tri-National Frontier, Southwestern Amazonia (with L. Cabrera, L. A. Carvalho, J. Castillo, R. Chacacanta, R. Cossio, Y.F. Solano, J. Hoelle, L.M. Perales, I. Puerta, D. R. Céspedes, I.R. Camacho, & A.C. Silva). *Regional Environmental Change* (Online First, 5/24/11); Connectivity and Resilience: A Multidimensional Analysis of Infrastructure Impacts in the Southwestern Amazon (with A. Shenkin, G. Barnes, L. Cabrera, J. Castillo, & L.A. Carvalho). *Social Indicators Research* (Online First, 2/8/11).

Charles Perrone (SPS) presented "Shared Passages: Spanish-American-Brazilian Links in Contemporary Poetry" at the AATSP session of SAMLA in November, served as the artist liaison and lead consultant for "Transcreation: The Word-Things of Augusto de Campos" at the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts in New York in November, and participated in the panel "Writing Rio de Janeiro" and launch at the Americas Society in New York in November. Publications: Capital Lyric: Poetry and Song in Contemporary Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, Bahia. *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas*, 44(2) 2011: 212-222; Brazilian Literature, Poetry. *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, 66 2011; translations of Dorival Caymmi, Chico Buarque, and Vinícius de Moraes in *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas*, 44(22) 2011; and five poems in *Ygdrasil: A Journal of the Poetic Arts*, 19:9, 2011.

Stephen Powell (Law) Global Laws, Local Lives: Impact of the New Regionalism on Human Rights Compliance (with P.C. Pérez). *Buffalo Human Rights Law Review*, 17 2011: 117-153.

Mary Risner (LAS) A Community of Practice of Business and Foreign Language Faculty. In M. Watson & C. Pérez Llantada, eds. *Specialized Languages and Globalization: A Multi-Perspective Approach*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011.

Daniel Sokol (Law) presented three papers in Chile: "Cartels, Corporate Compliance and What Practitioners Really Think About

Enforcement" at the Catholic University of Chile in July, "Cartel Remedies and the Case for Corporate Monitors" at the University of Chile in October, and "Prioritizing Cartel Enforcement in Small Economies" at the Fiscal Nacional de Economía's Día de la Competencia in Santiago in September.

Maya Stanfield-Mazzi (Art History) Cult, Countenance, and Community: Donor Portraits from the Colonial Andes. *Religion and the Arts*, 15(4) 2011: 429-59.

Brijesh Thapa (Tourism, Recreation & Sport Management) presented the paper "Satisfaction with Eco-Experience: A Case of Costa Rica's "Ecolodges" at the Global Sustainable Tourism Conference in South Africa in November. Publication: Environmental Management in the Caribbean Accommodations Sector (with M. Best). *Tourism*, 59(2) 2011: 145-168.



Hannah Covert stepped down as Executive Director of the Center at the end of December to relocate to New Orleans. Hannah worked tirelessly for the Center for over ten years, first as Associate Director of the TCD program and then as Executive Director. She graduated from the MALAS program in 1998 and just received her PhD in Higher Education Administration from UF. We wish Hannah all the best in her future pursuits!

Recent Faculty Books

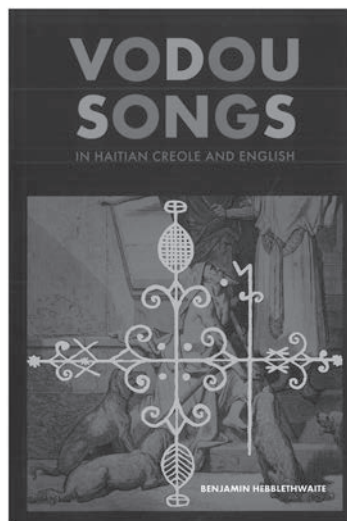


Carmen Diana Deere and Jackeline Contreras Díaz

Acumulación de activos: una apuesta por la equidad

FLACSO, Sede Ecuador, 2011

This book summarizes the key findings of the research project “Assets, Gender and Poverty in Ecuador,” a collaborative endeavor of the Gender & Culture Program at FLACSO-Ecuador and the UF Center for Latin American Studies. Field work was carried out in municipalities in three provinces of Ecuador that illustrate a range of income-generating activities that might facilitate women’s accumulation of assets. See page 5 for more details on the study.

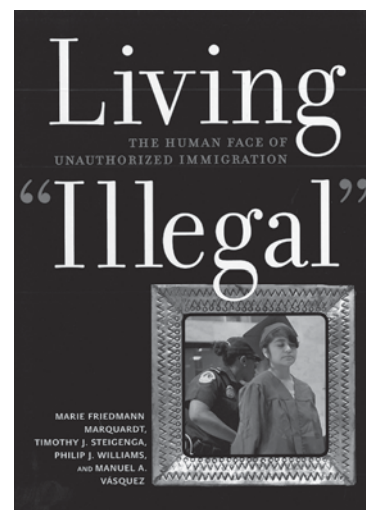


Benjamin Hebblethwaite

Vodou Songs in Haitian Creole and English

Temple University Press, 2011

Vodou songs constitute the living memory of Haitian Vodou communities, and song texts are key elements to understanding Haitian culture. Vodou songs form a profound religious and cultural heritage that traverses the past and refreshes the present. Offering a one-of-a-kind research tool on Vodou and its cultural roots in Haiti and pre-Haitian regions, *Vodou Songs in Haitian Creole and English* provides a substantial selection of hard to find or unpublished sacred Vodou songs in a side-by-side bilingual format.



Marie Friedmann Marquardt, Timothy J. Steigenga, Philip J. Williams, and Manuel A. Vásquez

Living “Illegal”: The Human Face of Unauthorized Immigration

The New Press, 2011

Today’s polarized debates over immigration revolve around a set of one-dimensional characters and unchallenged stereotypes. Yet the resulting policy prescriptions, not least of them Arizona’s draconian new law SB 1070, are dangerously real and profoundly counterproductive. A major new antidote to this trend, *Living “Illegal”* is an ambitious new account of the least understood and most relevant aspects of the American immigrant experience today. Based on years of research into the lives of ordinary migrants, *Living “Illegal”* offers richly textured stories of real people—working, building families, and enriching their communities even as the political climate grows more hostile.

Library Travel Grants

The Center for Latin American Studies, with support from its U.S. Department of Education National Resource Center grant, made ten travel awards for research at the UF libraries in summer 2011. Scholars from the following universities visited the Latin American Collection: LaGuardia Community College, Saint Leo University, Ohio University, Jacksonville University, Vanderbilt University, University of Central Florida, Southern Illinois University: Edwardsville, Washington University, Denison University, and East Carolina University. The scholars represented a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, history, languages, Latin American Studies, philosophy, and sociology. Information on the 2012 Library Travel Grants program is available at: <http://www.latam.ufl.edu/Funding/travel.stm>.

Faculty Search: Crime, Law, and Governance in Latin America

The UF Center for Latin American Studies invites applications for a tenure-track assistant or associate professor in the social sciences with a teaching and research focus on crime, law, and governance in Latin America to begin in August 2012. The appointment will be made jointly between the Center and the appropriate disciplinary department within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Substantive interests may include but need not be restricted to: the causes and consequences of crime and crime victimization, transnational criminal activities, and comparative analysis of crime and violence in Latin America and the United States. Additional details are available at: <http://jobs.ufl.edu>, requisition #0809591.

Featured Item:

Latin American Wiki Series



Emerging technologies have facilitated contact between educators and learners, diminishing distance and allowing for knowledge to reach broader audiences. Taking advantage of the increased use of technology in education, the Center's Outreach Program has been developing online resources on a variety of Latin American topics. Our latest online resource is a wiki series that provides accessible resources for use by individual educators or for professional development events. The objective of the wiki series is to share resources and build knowledge for incorporating Latin American Studies across the curriculum. Teachers, students and professionals can join the wikis and post suggestions on the discussion boards, as well as edit content upon editorial approval. Wikis are a simple way to build communities. According to Ryan Koopmans, one of the creators of Wikispaces®, a wiki is "a place on the web where people can work together to build content. As a concept it has made a huge impact on the world." Wikis are easy to use and guests can edit a page without creating an account. The result is a valuable resource that results in collaboration and is widely available to anyone.

The Center's wikis cross disciplines and include topics such as ecosystems, Afro-Latin America, Caribbean diversity, and Portuguese language. We also have a Brazil Business series for those interested in learning more about Brazil as an emerging market. You can access and join our wikis at: <http://latamuf.wikispaces.com/>.

Latin American Wiki Series

- Latin American Ecosystems
- Understanding Afro-Latin America (under construction)
- Discovering Caribbean Diversity (under construction)
- Introduction to Latin America
- IB History of the Americas
- Espaço português como língua estrangeira
- Portuguese Resources (under construction)

Brazil Business Series

- Retailing in Brazil
- Florida-Brazil Business Link
- A Gator in Rio

-Contributed by Rachel Mourão, MALAS student

Ecosystems of Latin America Summer Teacher Institute: Connecting Science and Area Studies



▲ Participants of the Ecosystems of Latin American Teacher Institute.

The Center's Outreach Program held its first summer teacher institute focusing on the sciences in July 2011. The Latin American Ecosystems Institute emphasized the use of emerging technologies and local resources to address state science standards and continued the Center's efforts to integrate Latin American content beyond the K-12 social studies and foreign language curriculum.

Fifteen teachers attended the three-day institute, twelve local elementary and middle school teachers and three elementary

teachers from Brevard County. The program was filled with hands-on activities, site visits, and presentations connecting the broad theme of ecosystems in the Latin American context. UF speaker presentations ranged from plants and insects, climate change literacy, conservation and sustainability issues in indigenous communities, and the use of social media for educational purposes. Local second grade Williams Elementary School teacher, Sandra Davis, discussed strategies to integrate a rainforest unit into the curriculum of a Gifted Magnet Academy Program. Partnerships with the TCD program, the LUBEE Foundation, and the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH) highlighted the local resources available to Florida teachers; such as UF faculty and graduate students, the FLMNH Butterfly Garden and Dugout Canoe Exhibit, and the LUBEE Bat Conservancy. "The Institute gave teachers the opportunity to learn from people who work on Latin American ecosystems and exposed them to local resources where they can take kids to enrich classroom activities" said Patricia Sampaio, TCD Program Coordinator and a member of the institute's planning committee.

Resources from the teacher institute will enhance K-12 students' visits to FLMNH, which are funded by the Center's Title VI NRC grant. Other outcomes include the creation of a science traveling suitcase and expansion of visits of UF faculty and graduate students to K-12 science classes. For more information about the institute, please visit our wiki at <http://latinamericanecosystems.wikispaces.com/>. To volunteer to present about science in a local K-12 class, please e-mail us at: outreach@latam.ufl.edu.

Latin American Ecosystems Presentations

Introduction to Latin American Ecosystems,
Emilio Bruna, UF LAS/WEC

Integrating a Rainforest Unit into the Curriculum of a Gifted Magnet Academy Program,
Sandra Davis, Williams Elementary School Gifted Magnet Program

The Changing Climate and the Need for Climate Literacy,
Christine Archer Engels, UF Family, Youth, and Community Sciences

A Story of Traditional Hunters: Jaguars and Oil Exploitation in Ecuador's Amazon,
Santiago Espinosa, UF WEC

People and Ecosystems,
Rosana Resende, UF Anthropology

-Contributed by Korey Force, MALAS student

Student NEWS

Student Field Research Grants: People on the Move

The Center and TCD awarded 24 grants totaling \$43910 in the 2011 field research grant competition. The grants, typically ranging from \$1500 to \$2000 each, allowed UF graduate students to conduct field research in 10 Latin American countries as well as in Ghana and the Philippines. (The TCD Program funds research in tropical areas outside of Latin America.) Topics ranged from sea turtles in Brazil, to ancient sharks in Panama, to coffee in Jamaica. One of the common themes among several of the researchers was “people on the move”—either physically from one place to another, psychologically and culturally in the search or struggle for identity, or politically and socially through participation in social movements and NGOs.

Alissa Jordan (Anthropology) traveled to Barbancourt, Haiti to conduct ethnographic research among earthquake survivors at Camp Mahanaim, only to learn that most of the former inhabitants had recently returned to Port-au-Prince. Still, she was able to explore conflicts between camp dwellers and town residents and religious tensions and to refine questions for future research.

Krystal Anderson (MALAS) interviewed some 30 Ecuadorians regarding the perceived costs and benefits associated with migration/return migration, in order to determine the impact of Ecuadorian government efforts to encourage Ecuadorians to return home.

Jamie Lee Marks (Anthropology) focused on rural to urban migration among Andean women in Peru. She worked with the NGO La Casa de Panchita, conducted interviews, and traveled to the highlands community Huanuco.

Eshe Lewis (MALAS) also traveled to Lima to study two Afro-Peruvian organizations: CEDET, founded in the 1990s and comprised of veteran activists, and Makingu, a younger spin-off group of Afro-Peruvian youth between the ages of 20 and 33. She discerned intergenerational conflicts, complementary and competing agendas, and a lack of communication between the groups.

Camee Maddox (Anthropology) explored feminist activism and cultural politics in Martinique. She interviewed participants in the 2009 general strike, and met and interacted with leaders of Caribbean migrant communities. She spent her evenings as a participant observer among artists, musicians and bélé dancers.

Corey David de Sousa (Anthropology) dealt with movement of a similar kind, participating in several samba classes and schools in Rio de Janeiro, exploring the role of place, cultural identity, self-image, work, and culture.

Carlos Iñiguez (MALAS) looked into the questions raised by the prominence of elite Afro-Ecuadorian soccer players, namely the social contradictions of race, class, and identity.

Finally, **Erin Zavitz** (History) ventured to Haiti to locate archival sources, make contacts for oral histories, and conduct preliminary interviews related to her research on how Haitians have commemorated one of the western world’s most consequential historical movements, the Haitian Revolution.

-Contributed by Richmond Brown, Associate Director



◀ Left: A soccer field in El Juncal in the Chota Valley where many of Ecuador's greatest players from the last 20 years got their start playing barefoot and with no ball. Right: Carlos Iñiguez (MALAS) with Rodrigo Paz, the principal director of Liga Deportiva Universitaria de Quito, a club team.

New MALAS Students



▲ First-year MALAS students.

Tomás Castellanos (Cornell University)
History

Emily Castillo (Eckerd College)
Development Studies

Jessica Franey (Samford University)
Development Studies

Korey Force (Saginaw Valley State University)
Development Studies

Alyssa Peavey (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Development Studies

Courtney Sidwell (Centre College)
Latino Studies

Ana Szogi (Baylor University)
Development Studies

James Taylor (Jacksonville University)
Religion and Society

María Tobón (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali)
Development Studies

GRADUATES

Interdisciplinary Studies Major in Latin American Studies

Jessica Neer

Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates

Wesley Albuquerque (Political Science)

Ana Ansola (Business Management)

Pamela Battistini (History and Anthropology)

Natalia Cardona (Anthropology)

Pablo Crucet (History)

Sara Edelman (Environmental Science)

Maritza Gaviria (Economics)

Nilo Rodrigo Farfán Aramayo (Economics)

Rachel Hunt (Anthropology)

Rachel Lowery (Psychology and Criminology)

Diana Moreno (Political Science)

Stephanie Ramirez (Public Relations)

Macarena Santos (Anthropology)

Lara Schmertmann (Political Science and Portuguese)

Catalina Vargas Villalobos (Political Science)

Graduate LAS Certificates

Vanessa Bravo (Mass Communication)

Timoteo Mesh (Interdisciplinary Ecology)

MALAS Degrees

Paul Deis (Political Science)

Advisor: Philip Williams

Thesis: An Examination of the Rule of Law Improvements of Plan Colombia and President Alvaro Uribe, 2002-2010

Brian Readout (Development Studies)

Advisor: Carmen Diana Deere

Thesis: Balancing Outreach and Sustainability: The Double Bottom Line of Microfinance in Ecuador

Schmink Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Tropical Conservation & Development



▲ Simone Athayde

Simone Athayde has been selected as the 2011 recipient of the Marianne Schmink Award for the Outstanding Dissertation in Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD). She completed her dissertation at UF in Interdisciplinary Ecology under the supervision of Marianne Schmink. The selection committee was composed of TCD faculty members

Emilio Bruna and Rick Stepp and TCD alumnus Stephen Taranto (MS Interdisciplinary Ecology 2000).

Simone's dissertation, entitled "Weaving power: Displacement, indigenous knowledge systems, and territorial control amongst three Kaiabi groups in the Brazilian Amazon," was notable because of the scope, quality, and multidisciplinary nature of the research. Further, Simone's work served as an important bridge between the Kaiabi people and a broader audience through the development of educational materials and workshops. Indeed, the dissertation is an excellent exemplar of TCD's mission of bridging theory and practice to conserve biodiversity, promote sustainable resource use, and advance human well-being. Throughout her tenure at UF, Simone was an active leader of the TCD community and is commended for her role in highlighting the TCD program and the artistry of the Kaiabi people to a global audience.

Simone compared the knowledge related to basketry and textile weaving of men and women in four villages of different Kaiabi groups. This work was coupled with an evaluation of factors that led to cultural persistence and political empowerment of the Xingu Kaiabi, as well as peoples' perspectives on the role and work of political organizations. Her research remains one of the relatively few longitudinal studies that apply both quantitative and qualitative methods to understand the transmission, innovation, and erosion of knowledge among indigenous societies, which underscores its importance and is a testament to the high regard in which she was held by the communities with which she lived.

UF's Digital Latin Americana

With support from the UF Center for Latin American Studies, the UF Libraries now host many thousands of unique Latin American research titles and images in digital format (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/>). Below are profiles of some specific collections.

The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) (www.dloc.com) is a cooperative digital library for resources from and about the Caribbean and circum-Caribbean. dLOC provides access to digitized versions of Caribbean cultural, historical and research materials currently held in archives, libraries, and private collections. Partners include FIU, UF and libraries in the Bahamas, Martinique, Jamaica, Venezuela, Haiti, and other locations.

Women in Development (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/wid>) collects research on societal structures in Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. These materials reflect the impact of women in rural and urban settings, discussing issues of education, economic growth and legal rights among other topics. Collected here is the research of scholars such as Elsa Chaney, Susan Poats, Helen Safa, Anita Spring, Marianne Schmink, and others who have pioneered research into women's issues in developing countries.

Panama and the Canal (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/pcm>) is a joint project of the UF Libraries and the Panama Canal Museum. Panama and the Canal builds from the Panama Canal Museum's rich collection of

Panama and Canal Zone materials and the extensive holdings on Panama and the whole of Latin America from UF's Latin American Collection, Government Documents Collection, and the Map & Imagery Library. The Government Documents Department of UF Libraries is the Center of Excellence for the U.S. Panama Canal Commission and its predecessor agencies.

The South American Collections (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/dlosa1>) reflect the deep intellectual coverage of South America at the UF Libraries. Notable here are the Charles Wagley Papers Digital Collection, documenting anthropological field work in the cultures of Latin America, especially Guatemala and Brazil/Amazonia, and The Ralph della Cava Gift on Padre Cícero and Popular Religion consisting of varied holdings on the social, religious and political history of the Brazilian Northeast. Among the more prized components of the della Cava gift are hundreds of late 19th-century and early 20th-century archival and printed sources, many rare and unique, that deal with the life and times of Padre Cícero Romão Batista (1844-1934) and the popular religious movement he inspired.



▲ José Sariego

Alumni Career Profile: José Sariego

In this edition of the Alumni Career Profile, we highlight the career of José Sariego, senior vice-president and general counsel of HBO Latin America. Headquartered in South Florida, HBO Latin America has regional offices in Caracas, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, and Sao Paulo. José received his BS in Journalism with a certificate in Latin American Studies in 1977. He serves as President of the Steering Committee of the LAS Alumni Board.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

People will find this a little crazy, but I really enjoy working with documents. I sense myself a writer and my major at UF was journalism. I also really enjoy talking to our business people and trying to understand what it is that they want to accomplish, and reflect that into a document that they can understand and read. Most legal documents are very boring, complicated, and difficult to read. If I can make them a little bit more understandable, a little bit more logical, then I had a good day. The other thing that I do is just help people. I am a problem-solver. No one likes to talk to lawyers, unless you have a problem. When you solve someone's problem and they are really appreciative, that makes my day.

How does one start a career in the field of media and entertainment in Latin America? What would be your advice?

First, you have to have a good background in Latin America. Assuming you want to work for an HBO or other US company, you have to know about Latin America, not only media in Latin America. You have to travel, spend time there, know the culture, the people, the politics, history, economy and that is one reason the Center for Latin American Studies has been so helpful for me. My advice would be that, first, you have to be well prepared, and the Center and UF helped me prepare for many things: helped me become a better communicator, a good listener, and broadened my horizons and perspectives on the world. You have to be lucky, and I have been very lucky in my lifetime. You have to have good mentors; people who take an interest in you and you have to seek them out. It is very important to have sponsors in your career. You have to be *atrevido*, aggressive and assertive with your own career. And the last thing I would say, and I learned this at UF and I practiced that for my entire career, is that you have to network. You have to stay in touch and reach out to the people who have helped you and you have to help others. Networking is the way to get ahead in the world in general, and in the business world in particular. Many times it's who you know, who you helped and how other people have helped you that really matters.

How did the University of Florida and the Center help prepare you for your career?

When I started I had no idea I was going to even be a lawyer, much less a lawyer for a company operating in Latin America. Because of my background – I'm Cuban, I was born in Cuba – and because I speak Spanish, Latin America was a natural interest. I learned a lot about Latin America at the Center. Of course that is no substitute for traveling or knowing people directly, but the UF experience opened up the door. First thing, it provided me the knowledge that not all Latin America is the same. Brazilians are very different from Argentines, Mexicans, or Venezuelans, and you have to appreciate that to do business in Latin America. Otherwise, you are going to get into a lot of trouble. These kinds of cultural differences make the region fascinating, and knowing them gives you an advantage over someone who doesn't have that kind of background. I spend a lot of time explaining Latin America to US executives and other lawyers at HBO domestic and elsewhere, and sometimes it is hard for them to understand some of the things that happen in Latin America. That's part of my job; I do a lot of cultural translating.

Do you have any memories or interesting stories that you would like to share about your time at the Center or UF?

Florida was a very different university when I was there. I joke that I probably couldn't get in today. The standards have greatly improved. UF was a big party school when I went there, and although it still has some reputation for that, I think it has improved dramatically in the academic environment. When I went back after many years, I was amazed with the seriousness of the students. Then as now, college is a good time, it is the best time of your life, but at the same time is the foundation of everything you are going to do in your future. Grades are important, but not as much as learning how to think for yourself and expanding your universe, being open to new cultures, environments and ways of thinking. If you can come out of college with that then you're well prepared to handle the world.

-Contributed by Rachel Mourão, MALAS student

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Marcos Avellán (BA Political Science 1995, MALAS 1998) works as a Store General Manager for Sears, Roebuck and Co. in the Miami market after three years in Tampa Bay. He recruits at all levels for the organization, including recent college graduates and seasoned professionals.

April (Bright) Baer (MALAS 1995) is a Business Development Manager for Poole & Associates. She lives in Maryland.

Larissa R. Baia (MALAS 1996, PhD Political Science 2004) is the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management at Manchester Community College in New Hampshire.

Gregory Bates (MALAS/JD 2007) works as Compliance Counsel for Latin America at Avon Products in New York, NY.

Christina Bennett (BA Anthropology & LAS Minor 2010) is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of South Florida in Tampa. She is also a member of the USF Florida/Caribbean AIDS Education and Training team.

Antoni Castells-Talens (PhD Mass Communication 2004) works as a researcher at Universidad Veracruzana's Centro de Estudios de la Cultura y la Comunicación, in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.

Donald E. D'Orto, Jr. (MALAS 2001) is a middle school social studies teacher for Volusia County Public Schools in Florida.

Celina Fernández (MALAS 1997) is the Coordinator of a Culture of Lawfulness at the Consejo Cívico de Instituciones de Nuevo León in Monterrey, Mexico.

Andrea Ferreira (BA History 2004, MALAS 2009) is pursuing a PhD in Latin American History at UF, with a focus on 20th century racial constructs in Brazil and Cuba, under the guidance of Jeffrey Needell and Lillian Guerra.

Kyle George (MALAS 1996) served in the US Army, including tours in Chile, Spain, Kuwait and Iraq. After graduating from Mercer University School of Law in 2009, he

worked as the District Director for Congressman Jim Marshall. Kyle is now the Chief Deputy Clerk at the US Bankruptcy Court in Macon, GA.

Valerio Gomes (MALAS 2001, PhD Geography 2009) works as the coordinator of Vale Foundation for the Nature Conservancy in Belém, Brazil. The program focuses on conservation efforts in the Brazilian Amazon.

Norrie Horak (MALAS 1996) worked as a teacher after completing a Master's degree in Elementary Education. Norrie now owns Playball, a sports company catering to preschoolers, and lives in Smyrna, GA.

Augustín Iriarte Walton (MALAS 1988) is General Manager of Flora y Fauna Chile, an environmental consulting firm based in Santiago, Chile.

Ed Johnson (MALAS 2006, MBA 2006) works as a Senior Manager at Deloitte Consulting, primarily focusing on Latin America. He lives in New York, NY.

Tess Kulstad (MALAS 2006) is pursuing a PhD in Anthropology at UF.

Ana S. Q. Liberato (MALAS 2001, PhD Sociology 2005) works as Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Kentucky.

Steven Minegar (BA Political Science/History 2008, MALAS 2010) is pursuing a PhD in Political Science at Emory University in Atlanta.

Donathon Olliff (PhD History 1974) is retired from Auburn University where he taught for 30 years. He currently lives in High Springs, FL.

Wendy Pond (MALAS 2006) is an International Programs Specialist for the US Office of Government Ethics in Washington, DC.

Mary Risner (MALAS 2001) is the Associate Director for Outreach and the Latin American Business Environment Program at the UF Center for Latin American Studies. She just received her EdD in Educational Technology from UF.

Nicolas Rubio (MALAS 2006) is an International Economist for the Foreign Agricultural Service branch of the USDA.

Jacob Schultz (MALAS 2007) works as a Foreign Service Officer for the US Department of State.

Elizabeth Smith (MALAS 2008) works as a banker for Wells Fargo in Sarasota, FL. She works primarily with Spanish and Portuguese-speaking clients as well as with local Latino businesses and volunteers as an ESL and financial education instructor.

Amanda Stronza (MALAS 1995, PhD Anthropology 2000) is an Associate Professor of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Michele Thompson (MALAS 1996) works as a Criminal Investigator for the Office of the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration in the Chicago area.

Josiah Townsend (MALAS 2006) graduated with a PhD in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from UF. He specializes in the evolution, systematics, and conservation of Mesoamerican amphibians and reptiles.

Cassandra White (MALAS 1993) was a Fulbright Scholar at Tulane University, receiving her PhD in Anthropology in 2001. She is currently an Associate Professor at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Cassandra is the author of *An Uncertain Cure: Living with Leprosy in Brazil*, and lives in Clarkston, GA with her husband and daughter.

The number of UF MALAS graduates recently surpassed 500! 512 students have graduated from the program since its inception in 1954.

Annual LAS Reception

A good time was had by all at the Center's Annual Reception at the UF President's House! The event was once again co-sponsored by the UF Association of Hispanic Alumni (AHA).



ADRIAN ZEH

▲ The UF President's House was a lovely venue for the reception.



ADRIAN ZEH

▲ Guests enjoyed dancing to Gilberto de Paz and the Tropix.



ADRIAN ZEH

▲ Mary Risner, Aimee Green, and Hannah Covert; members of the Center's administrative dream team.



ADRIAN ZEH

▲ MALAS student Lindsay Barnes Arrieta and her husband Yeison Arrieta Badilla.

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UF Acronyms

CIBER	Center for International Business Education & Research
FLMNH	Florida Museum of Natural History
FRE	Food and Resource Economics
LABE	Latin American Business Environment Program
LAS	Latin American Studies
MALAS	MA in Latin American Studies
SFRC	School of Forest Resources & Conservation
SNRE	School of Natural Resources & Environment
SPS	Spanish and Portuguese Studies
TCD	Tropical Conservation & Development Program
WEC	Wildlife Ecology & Conservation

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