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Dear CLACS Community,

I was thrilled to be appointed the Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies this summer, after having served as Interim Director last spring. The Center continues to do vital work promoting study of the region, its languages, and its diasporas, with events and programming both on and off the KU campus.

Our community outreach during the Summer and Fall featured two significant events. During the Summer, we organized and hosted a workshop for K-12 educators on the novel Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez (an extension of last year’s Big Read / Read Across Lawrence activities); more broadly, the workshop provided perspectives and tools for dealing with the impact of immigration policy in the primary and secondary school classroom. We were hoping for a turnout of 20 educators; more than 50 participated. My deepest thanks to our campus and community partners for that event, including the Spencer Museum of Art (which provided the space and offered a tour and a lecture on using art in the classroom), Ladybird diner (which generously supplied the breakfast for all participants), and our amazing panelists for the lunchtime discussion: Lydia Diebolt and Giselle Scott from Centro Hispano, Immigration Attorney Jessica Piedra, Family and Removal-based Immigration Attorney Angela Williams, and Diane Rojas from Guadalupe Centers in Kansas City. Both the panel and the workshop were engaging, informative, and inspiring. Also, this Fall, along with partners from across campus, we sponsored and organized an enormously well-attended Community Forum on the history and meanings of “Sanctuary” at the Law - rence Public Library. The conversation extended well beyond the panel’s contributions to informed and impassioned comments and questions from the community.

CLACS once again organized several major events to share research and knowledge on Latin America and the Caribbean. We launched the Fall semester with a three-day Paraguay Conference that brought in international scholars on Paraguay. A few of the participants with expertise on Paraguay’s indigenous peoples stayed in Lawrence for a full week in order to learn about indigenous communities in the United States. Most recently, our annual Waggoner Research Colloquium, which this year spotlighted “Caribbean Representations” and featured the research of Cécile Accilien (AAAS and the Associate Director of CLACS), Giselle Liza Anatol (English), Tamara Falicov (Film and Media Studies, and currently the Interim Associate Dean for Research in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), and Omaris Zamora (Spanish & Portuguese) and—once again—saw a fantastic turnout and lively discussion.

CLACS has also paid special attention this semester to increasing its reach among our students. Perhaps most notably, our Merienda Series has been reformatted to emphasize discussion and Q&A and to expose more KU students to topics in Latin America and Caribbean study. The series this semester featured researchers from across KU—including Melissa Birch (Business) investigating the advantages and drawbacks of NAFTA, Tim Hossler (Design) speaking on Cuba and the meanings of place, Brent Metz (Anthropology) leading a discussion on how and when people identify (or are identified) as indigenous in Latin America, and Omaris Zamora (Spanish and Portuguese) exploring representations of AfroLatinidad. The room has been packed with students enrolled in LAA 100 and LAA 300, who have benefited from hearing the variety of disciplinary approaches to Latin American and Caribbean Studies and from interacting with professors with whom they might not otherwise cross paths. We have also enjoyed bringing our community of graduate students together, with a potluck social in the fall that included both graduate students in the Center and LAGO (Latin American Graduate Organization) students. More recently, in November CLACS organized and hosted a workshop specifically requested by LAGO on “Presenting Your Work,” geared specifically toward students for whom English is a second language. Rebecca Boguski Alegre from the Applied English Center co-facilitated this workshop with Cécile Accilien and me—many thanks to both of them! Approximately 30 graduate students from several disciplines and schools all across KU’s campus attended the session.

As usual, I am enormously proud of the work the Center does, of our dedicated and renowned faculty, and of the staff at CLACS who are always organizing and coordinating behind the scenes, especially Aron Muci and Stefanie Torres.

One final note: I wish to acknowledge that recent announcements of policy changes at the federal level have created heightened levels of anxiety among some of our students, including our international and DACAm ent ed / undocumented students. At CLACS our mission is to promote the learning and inclusion of all our students; we will continue to seek ways to provide needed support and resources so that our most vulnerable students are not left behind. We encourage the CLACS community to assist us in supporting an open and inclusive educational system in the spirit of international studies.

We hope to see you attending some of our events in the Spring, and please drop by our office to say hello!
An Interview with Daniel Quijano: A Multinational Business Perspective Through the World of Coffee  
By Katelynn Giraldo

Thanksgiving week of 2016 is a moment in time that I will forever remember as my chance to learn about Colombia's strengths and struggles through the stories of individuals from all walks of life. I was fortunate to meet individuals from a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, providing rich context and perspective to my understanding of the country's state, but I found that the background did not matter in how these individuals pursued change. The common factor, present within each conversation in which I was engaged, was the focus on relationships; in order to pursue positive change in Colombia, building respectful and formative relationships was always at the center.

At the humblest level, I learned about the domino effect of armed conflict through firsthand accounts of displaced families living in informal settlements. People struggling to pick up the pieces, forging communities in the direst circumstances, banded together to build a community out of nothing. Art on crumbling city walls whispered stories of the past to me as I walked with an urban artist/activist through Medellín's industrial sector. He helped me see that words aren’t the only means to resolve a conflict; art and culture have the potential to transform communities and bring citizens together through a common purpose. The aroma of freshly roasted coffee surrounded me as I conversed with another catalyst for Colombia's positive transformation. Daniel Quijano, Director of International Business at Colcafe, introduced me to another way in which the city of Medellín, and Colombia as a whole, is pursuing development and positive change at the macro-economic level: international business.

Before my interview with Daniel, I must admit I was quite jaded about the superficiality of most multinational companies’ missions and purposes. I had assumed that this conversation would mostly focus on how Colcafe, Colombia’s leading coffee producer and exporter, was leveraging its international relations to make the largest profit possible. However, I was pleasantly surprised about how humble and approachable Daniel was (considering his high position in a culture with high power distance) and how globally and sustainably conscious Colcafe is as a company. I quickly realized that I was talking with a businessman of great experience, and I learned a great deal about Colcafe's history, products, and employees, its business model and operations as a member of a Latin American Grupo, its navigation of international political climates, and one man's experience growing as a professional in several international environments.

To begin, it’s important to provide some context on the company in which Daniel Quijano works. Founded in 1950, and based in the city of Medellín, Colcafe is Colombia’s top producer and exporter of coffee. Colcafe produces roasted, ground coffee, roasted coffee beans, and instant coffee products within Colombia, and exports its products to more than 40 nations around the world (“My Website > Nuestra Compañía > Bienvenida”). It has been navigating the multinational environment for some time, even exporting to Japan as early as 1961. Colcafe is a subsidiary of the alimentary group, Grupo Nutresa. Collectively, Grupo Nutresa’s subsidiaries produce a variety of food products, including coffee, cookies, meats, pastas, retail foods, and more. It is the largest alimentary group in Colombia, and the fourth largest in Latin America (“Grupo Nutresa Presencia Internacional”). As a subsidiary of Grupo Nutresa, Colcafe is able to operate in several major global economies, but the majority of its focus is centralized in North America. North America, alone, represents the largest export market for Colcafe; 70-75% of Colcafe's exports arrive in North America's $10-13 billion market each year. 80% of these exports are made up of roasted, ground coffee; the remainder is made up of instant coffee products. North America represents the market of greatest opportunity and challenges to Colcafe, and this is the region that Daniel Quijano manages.

Daniel Quijano has been a member of the Colcafe team since 2004, first completing his required undergraduate internship with the company, and then transitioning to work full-time after graduating from the Escuela de Ingenieros de Antioquia in the same year. While maintaining a full-time career at Colcafe, Daniel completed a Master's degree in International Business at the Polytechnic Institute of Milan. His degree allowed him to enter the management realm of Colcafe, and to build his experience as a multinational businessman. The majority of Daniel's career was devoted to the Asian markets, where he spent ten years as a regional manager. It was only a few years ago that Daniel's assignment was shifted to focus on the Americas, but he had plenty of intercultural experience to bring to...
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the table. Daniel shared that he immensely enjoys the fact that he can sell and promote products that he truly believes in. He came to the company not drinking coffee, but the years he has spent at Colcafe have cultivated his love of quality coffee products.

Daniel Quijano has not only traveled and worked in many regions of the world; he has developed a deep, careful understanding of his international business relationships and the constantly evolving environments in which Colcafe operates. When I asked about the greatest benefits that come from working for a Latin American multinational, Daniel explained his appreciation for Colcafe’s competitive nature. He appreciates that the politics of Grupo Nutresa (and Colcafe) are politics that promote free trade across the markets. He explained that operating a company with a free market focus causes the company to be more innovative. It leads to production of the highest quality and allows the best products to be introduced into society. Daniel believes that government-owned or state-protected entities do not have the drive of competition pushing them to thrive; they become complacent, and their products are not anything to be proud of. He further explained that Colcafe is so free market focused that it utilizes its multiple international production platforms to best navigate customs tariffs. For example, if Colcafe needs to ship coffee to Spain, it will first evaluate the tariff cost and country relations between Spain and each of its production platform countries (Colombia, Chile, and Malaysia). If Malaysia and Spain have an agreement that makes the tariff cost lower, then Colcafe will manufacture and ship the coffee from Malaysia, not from Colombia. Colcafe leverages international relationships alongside its quality products to achieve the best margin possible. This is a clear picture of free trade navigation.

In the import/export world, it is almost always cheaper to ship mass quantities between countries. This production strategy has been Colcafe’s key to success for years. However, Daniel explained to me that this very structure is now presenting itself as Colcafe’s biggest challenge. Recent market studies have shown that the U.S. market, in particular, favors artisanal products over those that are mass produced. Since North America represents the majority of Colcafe’s export market, the company must now find a way to achieve high margins while catering to the manufacture of coffees that have a lower production volume demand. This is no easy task, but it is a challenge that Daniel believes Colcafe must embrace to hold on to their market share.

As we were discussing Colcafe’s major challenges, I assumed that one of them would relate to uncertainty within the political climates of Colombia and the United States. Both countries have had interesting years when it comes to politics. Colombia walked through the process and denial of pursuing a peace accord with the FARC guerrillas, and then a second treaty was drafted and passed. In the U.S., Trump’s presidential election shook the markets and caused mass rage throughout many communities. Nonetheless, Daniel told me that Colcafe had not been directly impacted by the political climates of either nation. His rationale; the trade agreement between Colombia and the U.S. that waives export tariffs on coffee (TLC) is still active. At this time there are no trade barriers between the two nations that would directly affect Colcafe.

With that said, Daniel went on to add that any time there is a national political shift, there is always an effect on international business. Shifts in politics always affect a nation’s macroeconomics, which in turn, affects currency exchange rates and large-scale commerce between nations. In the case of Trump’s election, market uncertainty caused the Colombian peso (COP) to become devalued in terms of its exchange rate with the U.S. dollar. However, this devaluation was actually a benefit for Colcafe, because the COP was not suffering from inflation. The cost to produce coffee remained steady in Colombia; therefore, due to the exchange rate, the payments coming into Colombia in USD were greater than they had been previously. Colcafe was benefiting from the shift in the exchange rate when it came to exports. However, Daniel said that the cost to import items from the U.S., like parts for machinery, was more expensive at this time. While political changes do not often affect business immediately and directly between Colcafe and the U.S., Daniel said that these changes are always at the forefront of Colcafe’s business decisions. Political shifts are a chain reaction that reaches one nation’s procedures of conducting business before too long, so Colcafe must always be aware of their importing countries’ political climates.

Shifting to a more anecdotal topic, I inquired about Daniel’s experiences working on major projects and collaborating with managers and buyers in the United States. I asked him to speak about his perception of the U.S. management style and to share his advice on what a newcomer to a multinational company should consider to successfully navigate the environment. I was truly delighted by his response that one must always come into a new culture with respect at the center of every interaction. Daniel said that this is the most important lesson that any newcomer to the multinational environment must learn in order to be successful. Respect and openness to collaborate are the keys to developing long-lasting business partnerships in any country. Currently, Colcafe, specifically, does not have any production or distribution investments in the United States, but Grupo Nutresa recently opened a coffee factory in Texas that has been extremely successful. The group is actually looking to expand this facility to serve the entire U.S. market, as it has already established strong in-house distribution channels.

Daniel says that his success, and the most recent success of Grupo Nutresa, has come from analyzing each region of the United States as a unique market. He explained that the greatest weakness of Latin American companies conducting business in the U.S. is that they try to see the country as one single market. He stressed to me, and stresses to his employees, that one cannot approach a country as large and diverse as the United States with a one-size-fits-all model. One also cannot approach collaboration with U.S. managers through a singular model; work styles, business aggressiveness, and risk averseness vary greatly between states and regions. Overall, Daniel summarizes that his extensive interaction with the American market over the past several years has been very positive (Quijano).

The outlook for the future of Colcafe, and the future of Colombia, seems very bright. Daniel and the team at Colcafe are now looking to develop additional product lines that fulfill the global trend for On-the-Go coffee items. They are also looking to align themselves with research organizations both in Colombia and internationally to use data to dispel the myths around coffee products. Colcafe hopes to use such studies to continue affirming the strength and quality of the Colcafe product lines. Overall, Colcafe is a company that embodies the Colombian ideal of innovation and building for a better future. Although I did not think this way before, the time I spent speaking with Daniel has helped me to see international business in a new light. Multinational firms, like Colcafe, can be catalysts for positive change in developing nations like Colombia. I am eager to follow the progress of this company and to hear about the positive initiatives that leaders like Daniel Quijano will impart in this special company.
Paraguay at the Crossroads Conference at KU

Paraguay has been undergoing many tumultuous political, economic, and social changes, but its larger neighbors have attracted most of the attention. Some changes stem from long historical trajectories and others have been spurred by the recent intensification of globalization. In this intimate and influential conference, we invited scholars from all disciplines whose research and critical eye could put these changes in perspective and identify future trends. Scholars came from around the United States and Paraguay to share their research and scholarship.

Paraguay and the State of Kansas have had an official partnership led by the Kansas Paraguay Partners and the Comité Paraguay-Kansas for forty-eight years. Both organizations are members of the Partners of the Americas (POA), the Western hemisphere’s largest private, apolitical volunteer organization. The partnership has included commercial, rural, governmental, and educational collaboration. Currently, nearly 200 Paraguayan students attend Kansas universities, while many Kansas faculty and students have researched and studied abroad in Paraguay. POA and the Kansas Paraguay Partners both funded speakers at the 2017 conference.

The conference was well attended and several visiting speakers extended scholarly conversations by participating in on and off-campus events about Paraguayan culture and politics. Professor Marilin Rhenfeldt visited from the Catholic University of Asunción in Paraguay and gave an excellent presentation on forced labor among indigenous groups in the Paraguayan Chaco (western region), including slides depicting the land and indigenous workers and families’ daily life in forced labor farming. Professor Rhenfeldt also discussed intercultural education and state relations with indigenous groups.

Paraguay at the Crossroads was supported by many KU sponsors: the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Environmental Studies Program, Department of Film and Media Studies, Hall Center for the Humanities, Indigenous Studies, International Programs, and Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

In addition, Paraguay at the Crossroads was supported by several outside sponsors: Kansas Paraguay Partners, Partners of the Americas, Title VI: U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Embassy, Asunción, Paraguay, and three generous anonymous donors.

Finally, we extend very special thank you to the conference organizing committee: Melissa Birch, School of Business; Tamara Falicov, Film & Media Studies; and Brent Metz, Anthropology.

Photo courtesy of Laura Jimenez.
Educator Workshop Teaches U.S. Immigration Policy, Legal Status, and Youth Development

For at least a decade, political rhetoric has shaped the way we think about immigration. In our communities, there are a range of opinions and experiences that make teaching about current immigration policy a daunting task for teachers.

However, immigration is a topic worth discussing in the classroom, because the policy concerns us all. Estimates suggest that one out of every three children in the United States is an immigrant or a U.S.-born child of immigrants. Unfortunately, many schools throughout the nation are ill-equipped to meet the needs of changing demographics.

Utilizing our connections to interdisciplinary faculty and community experts, each year we host workshops that provide information and resources connected to Latin America and the Caribbean for regional K-16 educators. In the summer of 2017, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Spencer Museum of Art hosted “Return to Sender: Exploring U.S. Immigration Policy in the K-12 Classroom.”

Conceptualized as an extension of topics and themes inspired by Read Across Lawrence 2017, the workshop’s title is a reference to a timely novel about the families of undocumented workers written by Julia Alvarez, an NEA Big Read selected author.

Over sixty teachers, school support staff, and community members from around the state gathered to deepen their knowledge about U.S. immigration policy, including legal status and deportation and how it affects the education system in the Midwest. Educators also sought ways to help students unpack emotions and untangle opinions from facts about immigrants and our immigration system.

Attendees heard from experts on U.S. immigration policy, legal status, and youth development, including:

- **Attorney Jessica Piedra**, who, with more than 15 years of experience, has been recognized with the Mexican Consulate’s Ohtli Award, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Humanitarian of the Year, and Missouri Lawyer’s Weekly’s Up and Coming Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year for her advocacy on behalf of immigrant youth;
- **Attorney Angela Williams**, a solo practitioner in Kansas City focusing on family and removal based immigration and federal criminal defense;
- **Lydia Diebolt**, LSCSW, a bilingual clinician and the director of Centro Hispano in Lawrence, KS. She has spent the last 10 years advocating for immigrant rights on local and state levels; and
- **Giselle Scott**, who has served Hispanic and immigrant populations in multiple ways since 2009 as a paralegal, advocate, interpreter, translator, and now is a social worker at Centro Hispano.

Attendees also learned about critically conscious pedagogy, and participated in activities focused on using literature and art as tools to teach about immigration and undocumented status. Facilitators included:

- **Marta Caminero-Santangelo**, Professor of English and Director of CLACS, who facilitated and modeled a book discussion of Julia Alvarez's novel, *Return to Sender*.
- **Amanda Martin-Hamon**, Associate Director of Community Engagement at the Spencer Museum of Art, who encouraged educators to use art as a tool to develop cultural competency in the classroom. She also facilitated a self-guided tour of a special exhibition in the museum of our nation’s history of immigration.

On behalf of all the facilitators and presenters, we could not have been more inspired by our workshop attendees. Everyone at the workshop earnestly participated in difficult conversations about how best to address immigration in the classroom. Several educators even earned continuing education credits by participating in an online course offered through Baker University, producing educator resources to be used and shared by teachers throughout the country.

The Center and the Spencer Museum of Art would like to thank our sponsors, including the Office of the Provost and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In addition, a special thanks to Ladybird Diner, a supremely generous establishment in Lawrence, KS, for providing a wonderfully delicious breakfast to start our day.

Thanks to everyone for inspiring us at the Center to continue our efforts to advance knowledge and seek solutions to pressing questions. If you are an educator, support staff, or administrator in a school in the state of Kansas, find out more about “Return to Sender: Exploring U.S. Immigration Policy in the K-12 Classroom,” and how you can be an agent of change in your school, at www.clacs.ku.edu/RtS-educator-workshop.
The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Kansas hosted a community-wide conversation about sanctuary at the Lawrence Public Library on Wednesday, September 20th.

In the past several years, immigration enforcement has at times given rise to sanctuary cities, sanctuary campuses, and other grass-roots sanctuary movements and efforts. This event offered our community the opportunity to have a conversation about the history and meaning of sanctuary. The forum began with panelists discussing sanctuary efforts and movements past and present, and what sanctuary means today. Audience members were invited to join the discussion.

The panelists included:

- **Dr. Hilary Cunningham**, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toronto
- **Rev. Laurie Anderson**, Kansas City New Sanctuary Movement
- **Paula Console-Soican**, Assistant Professor at Donnelly College in Kansas City, KS
- **Alejandro Caceres**, Immigration Organizer at Grassroots Leadership in Austin, TX

Nearly 80 people attended the Sanctuary Community Forum and posed insightful questions for the panelists as well as fellow audience members. Many people were interested and eager to continue to work with us on issues surrounding DACA, undocumented families, and human rights. We are so fortunate to be part of such a strong community here in Lawrence and the surrounding area.

This event was supported by the KU Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Latinx Studies Initiative, Latin American Graduate Organization, Latin American Student Union, Office of Vice Provost of Diversity and Equity, Institute of Haitian Studies, Office of International Programs, African and African American Studies, Kansas African Studies Center, Department of American Studies, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Center for Migration Research, and Lawrence Public Library.

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The Community Comes Together to Support Our Undocumented Brothers and Sisters

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The Waggoner Research Colloquium was inaugurated in 1992 by former Director, Dr. Elizabeth Kuznesof. Latin Americanist faculty and graduate students affiliated with the Center have gathered each fall semester to celebrate the ongoing creation of scholarship about Latin America by KU faculty. The format usually includes an interdisciplinary panel on a particular theme, followed by a reception with wine and hors d’oeuvres.

This year’s program featured:

**Omaris Zamora** (Spanish & Portuguese)
“Digital Afro-Dominican Diásporas of Womanhood”

The presentation focused on literature and performance in social media to explore questions of Afro-Latina feminisms put forth by transnational Afro-Dominican cultural producers that push us to think of digital aspects of diaspora, migration, and (re)producing the Afro-Latina/Afro-Dominicana self. The presentation discussed intersectionality, transnationalism, performance, and social media.

**Giselle Anatol** (English)
“Folklore and Environmentalism in Caribbean Children’s Literature”

This presentation explored how the middle-grade novel *The Protector’s Pledge* (2015) by Danielle McClean employs Trinidadian folklore, such as the legends of Papa Bois (“Father of the Woods”) and Mama D’Lo (“Mother of the Waters”), to promote a strong environmental message for adolescent readers. The talk also considered how anti-colonial, pan-Africanist themes and a somewhat contradictory gender ideology simultaneously emerge with the author’s use of the folk characters.

**Tamara Falicov** (Film and Media Studies)
“The imperfect citizen: Contemporary Cuban Cinema”

This talk explored a spate of new films from Cuba, the Caribbean country with the longest running and most robust film industry. Films such as *Véstido de Novia* (His Wedding Dress, 2014), *Conducta* (Conduct, 2015), and *Venecia* (Venice, 2016) explore issues of gender and sexuality as it attempts to unpack Cuban Revolutionary ideology in ways that in some sense mirror films from the late 1990s, but in other ways tackle social issues in new, more daring ways.

**Cécile Accilien** (African & African American Studies)
“Haiti at the Spencer Museum of Art: A Journey Through the Mary Lou Vansant Hughes collection”

This presentation explored some of the works of some contemporary Haitian artists that is part of the Spencer Museum of Art Mary Lou Vansant Hughes collection. Among the themes highlighted were: family, gender, class and religion.

Along with the scholarly program, the fellowship among colleagues and graduate students continued to be a central part of the event. The interdisciplinary sponsorship was a testament to KU’s continuing commitment to international education and its promotion of international consciousness among students and faculty. It also celebrated and carried on the legacy left by George Waggoner, in whose honor this Colloquium was founded.

Dr. Waggoner was Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1954 until 1975, when he became the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. During his tenure, Dr. Waggoner founded the College Honors Program and established educational ties with universities in the Caribbean and in Central and South America. He was presciently concerned with international programs and development and was instrumental in bringing many of the key Latin Americanists to KU who have helped make our programs distinguished.

*Photo courtesy of Stefanie Torres.*
Fall Merienda Speaker Series Returns with a New Format

The Fall 2017 Merienda Speaker Series continued the tradition of showcasing speakers from KU who work and research in Latinx communities in the United States, as well as Latin American and Caribbean countries, from diverse programs such as business, Spanish and Portuguese, art and design, and anthropology.

This fall, CLACS welcomed:

- **Dr. Melissa Birch**, associate professor in the School of Business, who discussed the relations between the United States and Mexico and NAFTA in her presentation titled “NAFTA: The Worst Trade Agreement?”
- **Dr. Omaris Zamora**, assistant professor and transnational Black Dominican Studies scholar in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, whose interactive workshop examined the representation and lack thereof of AfroLatinxs in US media and cultural production in a presentation titled “Reppin’ la Patria?: AfroLatinidad & Representation in US Media & Culture.”
- **Tim Hossler**, assistant professor in the School of Architecture and Design, who presented research on how visual culture defines the idea of place, specifically focusing on Havana, Cuba in his discussion titled “Do you know what they call a Quarter Pounder with Cheese in Havana?”
- **Dr. Brent Metz**, associate professor of Anthropology, who discussed the methodology he used to uncover how people decide who is indigenous in the ethnically-disputed tri-border region of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala in his presentation titled “How Do You Tell Who’s Indigenous in Latin America Anymore?”

The Merienda Speaker Series allowed attendees to engage in discussions with expert scholars and learn about emerging research in Latin American and Caribbean Studies in an informal setting. This semester, the presentations were interactive to emphasize conversation and activities between the speaker and audience members. Each Merienda was very well attended by CLACS graduate and undergraduate classes and friends of the center. Not only did everyone enjoy the rice and beans and pastries with each talk, but they were engaged in important discussions with each presentation.

The fall Meriendas paved the way for even more strong interaction in the upcoming spring series. We look forward to the continued participation from experts in their field and engaged students and listeners in the audience.
Fall Coffee Talk & Tasting Series Brings Coffee and Education to KU

This fall, Coffee Talk & Tasting, a series where you can hear from local business owners and experts and engage in casual conversations about current affairs related to coffee, resumed at the Ecumenical Campus Ministries building every third Thursday of the month. All semester, attendees sampled coffees provided by Repetition Coffee and Z’s Divine Espresso from Latin American, African, and Caribbean, including Nicaragua, Rwanda, Guatemala, Uganda and Ethiopia. Donuts and other pastries were generously donated from Ladybird Diner. As we sipped on coffee, attendees participated in coffee trivia competitions, winning prizes provided by local coffee shops in Lawrence. Guest speakers included Amy Pope, co-owner of Repetition Coffee, Musa Wakhungu Olaka, a Librarian for African Studies and Global and International Studies at University of Kansas from Kenya, and our own Aron Muci.

The Coffee Talks featured coffee from different countries; attendees were given a brief overview of the history of that country’s practices of coffee growing and exporting with an emphasis on sustainability and social justice. Speakers explored topics such as climate change and geopolitics that affect what we drink in Lawrence, KS. “This year, CLACS and KASC saw an opportunity to bring our communities together. I am very grateful that so many students, faculty and community members came together to taste delicious coffee and bond over a shared love of learning,” said Aron Muci, Outreach Coordinator at CLACS. We look forward to continuing such a great tradition in the spring.

Student-led Latinx Film Night a Social Success

This Fall, CLACS started up a student-led Latinx Film Night which began with an idea from Ellie Anderson-Smith, the CLACS undergraduate student representative. “I thought that Latinx Film Night would be a relaxed, entertaining way to engage younger undergrads with Latin America,” she says.

Every other Sunday night, students gathered in the Daisy Hill Commons to enjoy free popcorn and the featured movie of the week. Anderson-Smith went on to explain that “this was an entirely student-led project: undergrad and graduate students affiliated with Latin America in some capacity chose their favorite Latin American film to screen and put the story into context so the audience could fully appreciate subtle themes, plot points, and characters. This event, then, was also an opportunity to further expose the KU community to Latin American film—a truly diverse, nuanced genre that offers audiences a glimpse into Latin American cultures.” We look forward to continuing this program in the Spring semester!

Photos courtesy of Ellie Anderson-Smith and Aron Muci.
LAGO Students Active in KU and Lawrence Community

By LAGO Board, 2017-2018

After four years of existence, the Latin American Graduate Organization (LAGO) has gained particular attention among the broad range of student organizations at KU because of its diverse and active schedule of activities through the year. Since its beginning, LAGO has participated annually in the KU welcome activities and in local festivals. This year has been no exception. LAGO started its fall agenda by participating at the Union Fest and the Graduate Welcome Fair. Both of these events helped the organization to recruit new members and to keep growing its network of collaborations.

In September, LAGO made its third appearance at the Lawrence Festival of Cultures with what we called “A Taste of Latin America,” an activity that included a sample of traditional dishes from Mexico, Ecuador, Honduras, and Bolivia, and a performance of Colombian Cumbia. This was a fun showcase of the diversity of flavors from Latin America that we enjoyed during a warm Sunday at South Park and where we made new friends.

Then, the time to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Month arrived. During October, they helped put together a series of activities for the Lawrence community that consisted of a workshop on Latin American music, facilitated by Amado Espinoza, as well as a couple of live music presentations by local bands Trio Cucharada (tango) and Mundo Nuevo (Latin rhythms).

LAGO hosted their biannual “Symposium Night” at the Ecumenical Campus Ministries, which offered a couple of talks related to “The Panama Papers.” Alberto Araujo, a graduate student in the School of Journalism, shared his experience as a collaborator on this investigation (which led his team to win an award). The second talk was given by Ramon Alvarado, a graduate student in the Department of Philosophy, who led the audience through an analysis of ethical business practices and how they might impact citizens. The interaction between the audience and speakers made this event an open space for debate and free speech.

November started off with the celebration of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) at the Ballroom of the Kansas Union, which reached an attendance of more than 300 people. This was the second time LAGO joined forces with the Student Union Activities (SUA), the Latin American Student Union (LASU), and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) to display a sample of what Mexicans do to remember and honor their deceased loved ones. LAGO constructed an “altar” (offerings table) in memory of the deaths caused by this year’s earthquakes in Mexico and hurricanes in Texas and Puerto Rico.

LAGO further collaborated with CLACS to host a workshop on presentation skills designed, in part, for graduate students whose native language is not English. Marta Caminero-Santangelo (CLACS), Rebecca Alegre (AEC), and Cécile Accilien (CLACS) talked about how to present work effectively to future employers, colleagues, or collaborators.

Finally, LAGO partnered with the KU Fulbright Scholars Association (KUFSA) for the “Culture Collage” event on November 15th. Together, they represented Latin culture, in four performances showing some of the musical and dancing talents in our group.

A special thanks to all LAGO members and friends, as well as the Lawrence community. None of these events would have been possible without you!

- LAGO Board, 2017-18

Top photo courtesy of Raul Saenz; Bottom photo courtesy of Stefanie Torres.
Spotlight on Summer/Fall Faculty Publications, Research, and Travel in Latin America & the Caribbean

Cécile Accilien (African and African American Studies) is currently co-editing a volume (with Valérie Orlando, University of Maryland) titled “Teaching Haiti Beyond Literature: Intersectionalities of History, Politics and Culture.” She recently attended the Haitian Studies Association conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 1st-4th. While in New Orleans she was accompanied by undergraduate student Tyler Allen and met with Haitian-American, New Orleans based artist Ulrick Jean-Pierre to choose paintings for the upcoming exhibit on the connections between Haiti and Louisiana (fall 2018).


Bob Augelli (Business) took another group of business students to Cuba in May of this year for a study abroad program entitled Business and Culture of Cuba (MGMT 500 /895). Augelli also helped put together a benefit for Puerto Rico on Saturday, November 4 called “Lawrence Loves Puerto Rico.”

Dr. Melissa H. Birch (Business) was named Chair of the Kansas International Trade Coordinating Committee (KITCC). KITCC is an independent council that operates with the assistance of the Kansas Department of Commerce to advise the Governor on the selection of the Kansas Exporter of the Year.

Ben Chappell (American Studies) took part in the Inter-University Program in Latina/o Research Siglo XXI conference: Mapping Latino Research at the University of Texas, San Antonio in May. Dr. Chappell presented a paper as part of an all-day series of panels entitled “Anthropology in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands: A Texas Perspective,” featuring the doctoral students of José Limón, Richard Flores, and Martha Menchaca.

Dr. Michael Crawford (Anthropology) co-organized with Dr. María de Lourdes Muñoz (CINVESTAV-IPN) the “2nd International Human Migration Conference: What Can Genomics and Culture Diversity Tell Us about Human Migration?” at the CINVESTAV-IPN University (Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute) in Mexico City from October 17-21. The conference included 62 presentations by distinguished scholars from around the world. Among the KU Latin American & Caribbeanists at the conference, Dr. Crawford presented “Causes and Evolutionary Consequences of Human Migration: Molecular Perspective,” Dr. Bartholomew Dean (Anthropology) and Randy David (ABD Anthropology) presented “Yurimaguas and the Lower Huallaga River Valley: A Biocultural Approach to Disruptive Patterns of Migration & Urbanization in Peruvian Amazonia.” Dr. Kiran Jarayim (KU MA 2003, now Asst Prof at U. South Florida) presented “Learning the World, Learning the Whirled: Ethnographic Methods of Urban Mobility,” Chad Gerhold (MSC KU Anthropology) presented “Migration and Intergenerational Effects on Linear Growth: Boas Revisited,” and Dr. Brent Metz (Anthropology) presented “The Ch’ortí’ Maya Diaspora.”


Verónica Garibotto (Spanish and Portuguese) has a forthcoming book publication titled Rethinking Testimonial Cinema in Post-Dictatorship Argentina: Beyond Memory Fatigue (Indiana University Press, Fall 2018 or Spring 2019). The following articles have also been accepted or appeared this summer or fall: “Movilidad y Contra-Hegemonía en el Cine Documental Argentino de los Noventa” (Poéticas del Desplazamiento en la Cultura Visual y Narrativas Actuales, Eds. Tatiana Navallo and Jeffrey Cedeño Mark, Hispanic Studies Review, forthcoming, Fall 2018); “Sentimiento Codificado: Ideologías del Miedo en el Cine Argentino de la Posdictadura” (Narrativas del Miedo: Terror en Obras Literarias, Cinemáticas y Televisivas de Latinoamérica, Eds. Marco Ramirez, Karem Langer, David Rozotto, and Peter Lang, forthcoming); and “Pitfalls of Trauma: Revisiting Postdictatorship Cinema from a Semiotic Standpoint” (Latin American Research Review 52.4, Fall 2017).

Rich Glor (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) and Javier Torres visited Cuba in July to curate a collection of herpetological specimens housed at
the University of Havana. Glor also gave a seminar at the University of Ha-
vana on the use of modern genomic methods to study Caribbean biodiver-
sity. Later in July, three members of the Glor Lab visited Quito, Ecuador to
attend the Eleventh Latin American Herpetology Congress. After the meet-
ing, the group spent a week in cloud forest along the Amazonian slope of the
Andes not far from Los Baños, where they discovered a new species of glass
frog. In August, three members of the Glor Lab, including PhD student Pi-
etro de Mello and undergraduate researcher Tanner Myers, conducted field
work in the Dominican Republic; a trip that included an epic donkey-aided
trek across the country’s highest mountain range and countrywide sam-
pling of lizard diversity.

Joo Ok Kim (American Studies) published “Training Guatemalan Camp-
pesinos to Work Like Korean Peasants: Taxonomies and Temporalities of
East Asian Labor Management in Latin America” in the journal Verge: Stud-
ies in Global Asias, Vol. 3, No. 2, as part of a special issue, “Between Asia and
Latin America: New Transpacific Perspectives” (Fall 2017, pp. 195-216, Uni-
versity of Minnesota Press). Professor Kim has presented research related to
this article: “Managing Anxieties: East Asian and Latin American Orbitals of
Labor Management” at the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Conference in Seoul,
Republic of Korea in July 2017, and “The Factory is My University: Un-
ruly Discipline from the Transpacific Maquiladora to North Korean Mag-
azines” at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in Chicago, IL in November 2017.

António R.M. Simões (Spanish and Portuguese) attended the Annual
Meeting of the American Organization of Teachers of Portuguese (AOTP),
on August 4–5, 2017, at the Florida International University, in Miami, as a
member of Scientific Committee of the AOTP, and on August 20th-24th, he
presented a paper at the Congress Interspeech 2017 – Situated Interaction,
in Stockholm, at the Stockholm University and Karolinska Institutet. He is
currently finishing a book on the pronunciation of Spanish and Portuguese,
for the Springer Series on Prosody, Phonology and Phonetics.

Luciano Tosta (Spanish and Portuguese), with a grant from the Interna-
tional Travel Fund for Humanities Research from the Office of Interna-
tional Programs, spent the summer in Mexico City doing research at the
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) for his manuscript
project “The Unlettered City: Human Geography, Subalternity, and Spaces of
Oppression in Latin American Literature and Film.” He gave the lecture
“Brazilian-American Literature and U.S. Brazilian Literature: Intersec-
tions and Fissures” at the Department of Foreign Languages at West Point,
United States Military Academy on September 29, 2017. He also spoke about “Capoeira and Globalization: Songs as Historical Records” at the Lat-
inian American Symposium of Literature, Music, Dance, and Folk Traditions
at the Brazilian Endowment for the Arts/Biblioteca Brasileira de Nova
York on September 28, 2017. Tosta gave the lecture “Brazilian-American Literature and U.S. Brazilian Literature: A Historiography” at the Depart-
ment of Spanish and Portuguese at Arizona State University on November
20, 2017. The lecture at West Point and the one at Arizona are related to
his current book project. Tosta’s essay “Milton Hatoum: Interweaving the
Local and the Global” will be published in December in Critical Insights –
Latin American Fiction, a volume edited by Ignacio Lopez-Calvo (Salem
University Press).

Margot Versteeg and Jonathan Mayhew (Spanish and Portuguese) co-di-
rected the Buenos Aires study abroad program of the Department of Span-
ish and Portuguese in May-June 2017.

Marta V. Vicente (History and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies) pub-
lished Debating Sex and Gender in Eighteenth Century Spain, from Cam-
bridge University Press. Vicente also published an article titled “Staging
Femininity in Early Modern Spain” in The Early Modern Hispanic World:
Transnational and Interdisciplinary Approaches (eds. Kimberly Lynn and
Erin Rowe).

Farewell to a Member of the CLACS Family

Though Nina Kinti-Moss has been teaching Quechua at KU since 1997, her Quechua lessons go back even fur-
thor to 1973 when she first started de-
veloping and teaching Quechua-Span-
ish curriculum. From 1975 to 1979, she worked with a visiting American
scholar, Professor Louisa Stark, to de-
velop more bilingual materials and in
1979, Stark invited Kinti-Moss to come to the University of Wisconsin to
Teach Quechua. From 1979 to 1985, Kinti-Moss taught elementary and in-
termediate Quechua and attended the University of Wisconsin as an
undergraduate. She completed a degree in education in 1985, and in
1988, earned a Master’s in Social Work. After 20 years at KU, Nina Kin-
ti-Moss will retire at the end of this year.

Kinti-Moss is proud of the work her students have done over the years in mastering Quechua. Some have gone to Quechua-speaking
areas in the Peruvian or Ecuadorian Amazon, or the Bolivian or Ec-
Aguoran highlands to do their graduate work. Her students and colle-
agues are equally fond of her and wanted to share their thanks and
well-wishes:

“I am very grateful to Nina for helping CLACS kick-off and sustain
our “indigenous languages and peoples” program from 2000 to the
present. She provided an incomparable indigenous language and cul-
tural experience to our program in Quechua. She also participated in
other CLACS programs that featured indigenous peoples of Latin
America. She will be very much missed.” -Betsy Kuznesof

“Nina has been an inspiration to many of us in CLACS. Thank you
for the knowledge and friendship that you have imparted on your stu-
dents. Your love for teaching has no end. May you continue to find
success wherever you may find yourself. Shoo p’unllakaman ñukapak
mashi!” – Ginett V. Pineda Marruffo

“Mashi Nina, thank you for helping us open our mind and heart to
learn about the Quechua world. Yupaychani.”—Lina Muñoz

“Nina, thanks for teaching us, for listening to us, for being always so
generous, for leading by example, for letting us in your class and your
nice home. Yupaychani. Mashi Juanito.”—Juan Pablo Roman-Alvara-
do

“It has been a joy for me to learn the beautiful language of Quechua
with Nina Kinti-Moss. Nina is genuine, passionate about where she
comes from, and exceptionally talented in sharing her story and pas-
sion with others. I will truly miss having class with her, and experienc-
ing an amazing Latin American culture through her teaching.”—Kate-
lynn Giraldo
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Undergraduate and Graduate Students Reflect on How Award Money Helped with Research and Study Abroad

Taylor A. Tappan, Graduate Student, Dept. of Geography and Atmospheric Science
OPPENHEIMER & STOUSE SUMMER TRAVEL AWARDS
Conservation, Indigenous Territoriality, and Land Use/Land Cover Change in Costa Rica

On a global scale, remaining expanses of protected tropical rainforest (e.g., Amazonia, Congo Basin, Southeast Asia, and Central America) are disproportionately coincident with indigenous homelands. Costa Rica is a microcosm for this phenomenon. Numbering about 100,000, indigenous peoples represent only 2.5 percent of Costa Rica’s total population, yet indigenous territories account for 22 percent of Costa Rica’s protected areas. Despite these figures, indigenous territories’ role for conservation has been understudied. My research examines the long-term management of forest and natural resources by Cabécar communities in Costa Rica’s Alto Chirripó Reserve. Specifically, I approach indigenous territoriality as a fundamental concept for understanding conservation and environmental change in tropical rainforests inhabited by indigenous peoples in Costa Rica and elsewhere. I combine on-the-ground participatory research mapping with analysis of remote sensing (e.g., Landsat, Sentinel, Google Earth) data to overlay cultural information on a changing landscape.

I spent two months during summer 2017 conducting pre-dissertation research at Costa Rica’s National University (UNA) in Heredia and in Alto Chirripó Indigenous Reserve. Funding from the Oppenheimer and Stouse Awards supported my prolonged stay in country, where I developed working relationships with UNA students and faculty in their Dept. of Geographic Sciences. I also spent time with leaders of the Cabécar Indigenous Association, the umbrella organization representing indigenous Cabécar communities in Alto Chirripó Reserve. In both Heredia and in Alto Chirripó Reserve, I presented my proposed dissertation research and discussed designing a participatory research project through which Cabécar community leaders, UNA students and faculty, and I work together to further our understanding of indigenous territoriality and its impact on changing forested landscapes.

This pre-dissertation experience in Costa Rica lay the groundwork for future funding and prolonged research collaborations. I expanded results from my summer research into a Fulbright IIE proposal, and I plan to continue searching for additional funding through the Social Sciences Research Council and Fulbright-Hays to support 9-12 months of dissertation field work during the 2018-2019 school year.
PART 3: OUR COMMUNITY AT WORK

Diana L. Restrepo-Osorio, Graduate Student, Dept. of Geography and Atmospheric Science
OPPENHEIMER & STOUSE SUMMER TRAVEL AWARDS
Studying Water Resources on the Southern Cone of South America

I’m in my fourth year as a PhD student in the Geography and Atmospheric Sciences department. I’m also working at the United States Geological Survey’s Kansas Water Science Center as a Geography student trainee in the geographic information systems (GIS) unit focusing on surface water and water use projects. I’m furthering my understanding of the ArcGIS platform and its applicability in the analysis of water resource data sets. I will utilize these skills in the analysis and dissemination of hydrologic data associated with her research project in the Southern cone of South America.

The Pierre A. Stouse Award and the Robert Oppenheimer Memorial Scholarship allowed me to work with Paraguayan and Uruguayan ranching communities in understanding their perceptions on the sustainable management of water resources and ecosystem services associated with cattle ranching operations located on natural grassland ecosystems. This data will help in the analysis of spatial dimensions of barriers and possible solutions according to stakeholders’ views and cultural dimensions, in addition to illuminating how variations between stakeholder groups can be reconciled to increase the acceptance, ownership, and implementation of the solutions.

João Batista Nascimento Gregoire, Graduate Student, Latin American and Caribbean Studies
OPPENHEIMER AWARD
Economic Policy-Making Under External Supervision: The Cases of Vargas and Cardoso in Brazil

My research analyzes how external agencies have influenced and limited the ability of two Brazilian presidents in the development of economic policies. I reach this goal by establishing a comparative study of the former Brazilian presidents, Getulio Vargas and Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who operated under the supervision of the Bank of England and the International Monetary Fund, respectively.

The Oppenheimer Scholarship was of great importance for my research. It enabled me to travel to Brazil and spend a month scrutinizing the archives of Vargas’ and Cardoso’s foundations located in São Paulo. It provided me the unique opportunity to have access to primary sources that were not available in digital format and that are essential for my research. In addition, I was able to establish valuable connections with Brazilian historians from universities in Sao Paulo that will be important in my future career as a historian.

Erin Adamson, Graduate Student, Department of Sociology, Research Assistant, Center for Migration Research
STANSIFER AWARD
Costa Rica: Impact of Foreign Residents from Global North

The Stansifer Fellowship enabled me to travel to a community in an emerging lifestyle migration location on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica this summer and spend two months conducting participant observation and interviews, as well as networking with local organizations and scholars. I investigated how locals view the impact of foreign residents from Global North countries on the local economy, sense of place, and community cohesion. The project adds to other studies on lifestyle migration in Latin America because the site I work in is Afro-Caribbean and Indigenous, both Patwa English and Spanish speaking, with roots on the Panamanian side of the border and in Costa Rica, economically dependent on tourism, and near protected forest and coast. This creates a unique relationship to place for the local community, which impacts relationships with migrants from the U.S. and Europe, and from Nicaragua. The Stansifer was instrumental in enabling this pilot project for my dissertation; the area has become a tourist zone and thus prices are high, and the award paid for airline tickets, rent in a shared house, food and water, and travel within the country, including to the capital city of San Jose to meet with University contacts.

Matt Fahrenbruch, Graduate Student, Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science
STANSIFER AWARD
Mapping the Jellyfish Industry on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua

I just got to my study site last week and am still settling in. In general, I am living with a local family in the indigenous Miskitu community of Tuapi in the Northern Autonomous Region of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua. I am collaborating with the Universidad de Las Regiones Autonomás de la Costa Caribe de Nicaragua (URACCAN). Together with members of the community, the goal is to map the operation and understand the governance of the incipient jellyfish industry on the coast.

I did have a meeting with community leaders and fishermen about two weeks ago before I moved to the community. In the meeting they expressed concern about the jellyfish fishery. They had a huge year in 2014, but the catch has been declining precipitously since. Local fishermen and leaders are interested to learn more about the resource and industry in general, so
I’m hoping to help them out there.

Sammy King, Undergraduate Student  
HERZFELD AWARD  
Studying Abroad in Buenos Aires

I am spending my fall semester of 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Through this program, I am taking classes with Argentine students at the Universidad de San Andres, a university that sits just outside of the city. While the university is in a suburb, I live in downtown Buenos Aires, getting to enjoy all that the city has to offer - a vibrant art and music scene, beautiful parks and museums, and the lively porteño lifestyle. By doing a full semester program, I don’t feel as if I’m just passing through the city, but instead truly living here. The way Argentines eat, speak, socialize, protest – these are elements of daily life that I get to not only see but personally experience. I find that my Spanish, and the confidence I feel when using it, has improved immensely. The Herzfeld Award has helped offset costs such as tuition and daily living expenses, allowing me the freedom to really enjoy my experience abroad. Beyond Buenos Aires, I have had the opportunity to travel to Iguazu Falls, the largest waterfall system in the world, Mendoza, Argentina’s wine region, and this week will be heading north to Salta and Jujuy to see the region’s multicolored mountains and salt flats. During my time here, I’ve fallen in love with the constant movement of the city, Argentina’s vast and diverse scenery, truly feeling at home in a foreign land.

I also found that interacting with the locals was one of the best ways to improve my Spanish-speaking skills. I lived with a host family and practiced speaking to them at home. In addition to this, having the freedom to explore the city on foot also contributed to my learning of Spanish because I’m prone to getting lost. Being a person with little sense of direction meant that I became very adept at asking for directions in Spanish.

This trip was a truly memorable one. I learned a lot about Argentine history and culture, but most importantly, I learned a lot about myself. This study abroad trip still continues to resonate with me as I begin to think about my future career path and how I want to incorporate Spanish into that. It’s amazing what you can learn in 6 weeks, but it’s even more amazing how those 6 weeks can have a lasting impact on your life.

Catherine Pham, Undergraduate Student  
PASCAL AWARD  
Cultural Education in Argentina Summer Study Abroad

This past summer I was blessed with the opportunity to study abroad in Buenos Aires. I obtained 9 credit hours’ worth of Spanish classes in 6 weeks. It seems like such a short amount of time for me to have learned and experienced everything that I did while abroad.

Although I did spend a fair amount of time learning within the classroom at the University of San Andrés, nothing compares to what I was able to do outside of the classroom. There are so many museums to visit and so many things to do and see. One of my favorites was the ESMA. Although it serves as a reminder of a dark period in Argentine history, I think it’s important that we never forget what happened so that it never happens again. Being able to learn about history and then visit the places where that history took place was an unforgettable experience.

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McKenzie Butcher, Undergraduate Student  
HERZFELD AWARD  
Hands-on Experience with Speech Therapy in Guatemala

This summer, I traveled to Antigua, Guatemala for a speech therapy internship. I went through a program called Maximo Nivel, which offers English and Spanish classes, TEFL courses, and various internship and volunteer placements in Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Peru. For my internship, I worked several hours each day in the Centro de Educación Especial Hermano Pedro, a school for those with special needs. Each week, I assisted with the speech therapy for every class from preschoolers through adults. Since therapy was given to a whole grade at a time, rather than in individual or small group sessions of only those who needed therapy, sessions generally consisted of mouth and tongue exercises, practicing articulation, and sometimes singing songs. My presence allowed us to break the class into small groups to work more effectively or even for the students to still receive therapy on days when the school therapist needed to be absent for a day. For my final project, I made a picture directory with the name, age, grade, and diagnosis of each child in the school who needed speech therapy services to help orient future volunteers and interns at the school more quickly to allow them to assist more effectively. As part of my program, I also took an hour of private Spanish lessons every day. Additionally, I lived in a homestay, participated in an optional “tandem conversation” program in which I met an hour a day with a native Spanish speaker who was taking English lessons to practice both Spanish and English together, and took advantage of many opportunities to speak Spanish all day long in the community. All in all, this experience will help me be successful in my goal of being a bilingual speech therapist, which in turn will help me to better serve many people. The Herzfeld award was invaluable in allowing me the opportunity to participate in this experience.
Finding a Second Home: Alex Stuart

Reports from Brazil

It is our pleasure to introduce Alex Stuart, an undergraduate student majoring in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. At the time of this interview, Alex was studying abroad in Brazil for a full academic year. Since returning to Lawrence, KS, he has assumed the role of President of BRASA, the KU student association that promotes Brazilian cultures and the Portuguese language across Kansas and the nation.

Aron Muci, CLACS: Can you share some details about yourself?

Alex Stuart: I am a first generation college student born and raised in Overland Park, KS. I started becoming interested in the Brazilian culture when I was 14 years old. During this time, a friend that I met in middle school brought me to a capoeira (Brazilian martial art) class. Five years later, at 19, I began taking samba classes through the same school. Ten years later, here I am today. Through these experiences with the Brazilian culture, I was taken out of a dark place in my life. As the culture has helped me many times in my life, I would like to work coordinating International Programs working with Brazil.

What brought you to KU?

I decided to come to KU because it was the closest option to where I live. I could easily go back home on the weekends or make a quick trip there during the day. Also, I had already been introduced to KU’s Brazilian community before enrolling at KU.

How’s Brazil?

Brazil is amazing! Words cannot describe how beautiful this country is. Florianópolis, where I am studying, makes me feel like I have a second home. Some of the experiences that I have had have included parading through Salvador, Bahia’s historic center in a samba reggae band, climbing Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro and seeing a bird’s eye view of the city, and having the opportunity to spend carnaval in Florianópolis, as well as in Ouro Preto and Belo Horizonte (both located in Minas Gerais).
Why did you decide to study Latin American and Caribbean Studies?

My decision to study Latin American and Caribbean Studies came from my interest in Brazilian culture. I hope to one day be able to work with coordinating International Programs that focus on Brazilian culture, something like KU’s Global Awareness Program (GAP) or helping students study abroad in Brazil.

What motivates you academically?

My research is focused primarily on Brazilian culture with a more precise focus in the Afro-Brazilian culture that resides in Salvador, Bahia. My topics of research have included Candomblé (Afro-Brazilian religion), music such as samba and samba reggae, as well as carnival. The topics that I write about are generally something that I already have an interest in which makes the process a lot easier.

What are your current projects, or what would you like to do next?

After KU, I’m still deciding. I definitely want to go to graduate school, possibly for International Education. There is also a chance that I will take a couple years off of school and return later. Paying off my student loans would be nice, too.

What has been a highlight of your time at KU?

One of my highlights would have to be with BRASA. In the Spring 2016 semester, we hosted a Brazilian Carnaval fundraiser which had a turn-out of 600 people. I thought it was a lot of fun to be able to use the knowledge and resources that I have acquired over the years, regarding Brazil to bring carnavales to Kansas. During the same week, we hosted a Brazilian Week which included samba workshops, academic discussions, a feijoada (traditional Brazilian dish) night, and a Brazilian movie night.

What have you learned that might help other students succeed?

Go to all of the discussions/test reviews that your courses offer, they are a life saver and make it a lot easier to ask questions with a group of 15 vs a group of 200. Get involved on campus and join a student organization!!!!!! The semester that I began working with BRASA was my favorite. I was able to meet new people and practice skills for something that I enjoy.

What is the Brazilian Student Association (BRASA), and what has been your role in the student organization?

BRASA is an organization run by Brazilian and Brazilian Studies students (however any student can join) that brings the Brazilian culture to the KU and Kansas City community. My role at BRASA has been as president and has involved a variety of aspects. Some of these duties have included visiting Portuguese classes to recruit new members and share information about upcoming events, running BRASA’s Facebook page, scheduling group meetings, and delegating tasks amongst the organization.

Anything else that you would like to say before we conclude?

The Brazilian Studies program within the Department of Spanish and Portuguese has been a huge help during my time at KU. The difference between this department and others on campus is that they become more than a face that you see for just one day a week. They all carry with them a piece of the Brazilian culture which helps them become more intimate with students (helping out with any problems the student might have, helping out with research questions, having meals with students, and not being afraid to go the extra mile to help their students succeed).

Two faculty members that I would like to mention are Dr. Antônio Luciano de Andrade Tosta and Lecturer Mara Aubel. Dr. Tosta has been exceptional during my time at KU. He has been my primary instructor with the Brazilian Studies program, as he runs the program and the advisor for BRASA. He genuinely has a spark in his eye when he gets the chance to help a student. He has helped me with personal problems, questions that I have had while being abroad in Brazil, been a great resource in terms of research and genuinely tries to find assist students in finding research topics they will enjoy based on their interests. Mara Aubel has done the same. While working during BRASA’s Carnaval event, she was always willing to help BRASA think of events that students would enjoy and provide us with resources. As an instructor, she scheduled a time with the class to meet outside of class (if desired) to practice Portuguese over lunch. These meetings helped me improve my Portuguese skills and feel more confident as a speaker upon my arrival in Brazil.

Both have made my time at KU go much smoother. In my opinion, they are a good example of what an instructor should be.
At first, college was not in the picture for me. I was really worried. Somehow I got the opportunity, and I looked at several colleges and community colleges. At the time, I didn’t think that a four-year college was right for me. Eventually, I decided on Johnson County Community College, because it felt very comfortable. I earned my associate’s degree, even if it took me a little longer than two years. I really enjoyed my time at JCCC. In my final year, I took a Native American history course, which changed my direction in life.

I was to start a summer internship at the Center for American Indian Community Health, where I visited reservations and had a great experience. Knowing what I wanted to do, I started looking at universities, but KU still didn’t seem like an option for me.

**What brought you to KU?**

I looked at KU, because they had a program for International Studies. In addition, I wanted to study Indigenous Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. I took Joey’s introductory class, which was amazing because he is super fun and energetic. I also took a class with Laura Herlihy and Professor Brent Metz’s course, both of which introduced me to the possibilities of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Laura and Brent convinced me to pursue studies in Latin America, and I realized that I could take that knowledge back home to help communities in need. I never thought I would go back, because all that I wanted to do was come to the U.S. I felt ashamed or embarrassed of those thoughts, but now I have learned so much and realized that I can give back to my people.

**What motivates you academically?**

To be honest, I never really knew that there were indigenous people while I grew up in México. When I came here, I learned about the history of oppression and began thinking of ways that I could help them. I know that I am mestiza, but I don’t know much. So, now, I am interested in discovering my own roots, too.

**Are you engaged in any projects or do you have one on the horizon?**

I took Professor Brent Metz’s LAA 334 “Indigenous Traditions in Latin America,” where I started a photo-voice project. While many people know of American Indian cultures locally because of Haskell University, not as much is known about indigenous communities and cultures from México. Professor Metz encouraged me to meet people in Lawrence. It has been amazing! By working in the Lawrence community, I feel like the University of Kansas is right for me.

**What have you learned that might help other students succeed?**

To be honest, at times, I just wanted to give up. A friend helped me through the tough times. It is important to find friends and faculty that support and motivate you to persevere. For me, I want to make my parents proud.

**How has CLACS impacted you?**

I really enjoy some of the programs and events that CLACS offers. I have enjoyed coming to some of the Meriendas, especially the one last year when the people from Ayotzinapa visited KU. Oh! I also appreciated when the Aztec dancers performed. In the future, I hope that CLACS can help fund my projects working with indigenous communities.

**Anything else that you would like to say before we conclude?**

I’d like to give a shout out to Laura Leonard, my academic advisor. Of course, Laura and Brent are amazing. I am also a part of KU Dreamers. It’s a work in progress, but I am excited about its future. We are going to try and make this campus a more welcoming place.

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**LaunchKU Project**

**Funds Students to Study in Latin America, the Caribbean**

Opportunities for students to devote full-time attention to their chosen indigenous or modern language and area studies specialty are essential components of a liberal arts and sciences education at KU. At the Center, we believe that our community benefits from strengthened student research and global competency. This is why we encourage students to seek first-hand experience in Latin America and the Caribbean to conduct primary research, develop contacts in their respective fields, and familiarize themselves with the region. With this in mind, we decided to start a fundraising project through KU Endowment called “LaunchKU: Travel to LAC” in order to raise money for graduate and undergraduate students who wish to study or research in Latin American and/or the Caribbean.

Our project began in mid-November and runs until December 15, 2017 with the goal of raising $15,000, which is enough money to fully fund at least four students’ travel expenses. Many of our students travel abroad to Latin America and the Caribbean in order to do research, explore the world, and experience different cultures and places. However, studying abroad can be cost-prohibitive for many students, hence our desire to give students the opportunity to have a life-changing experience without having to worry about financial setbacks that might otherwise prevent them from visiting Latin America or the Caribbean.

We encourage and appreciate any help our friends of the Center can give to send our students abroad! Visit www.launchku.org/traveltolac to read more about how you can give. Please consider the following giving levels when donating:

- $20 covers one student’s meals for a day;
- $50 covers travel and technology costs for one student for a day;
- $100 covers on-site costs for one student for a day;
- $200 covers on-site costs for two students for a day;
- $500 covers on-site costs for one student for a week;
- $1,000 covers travel expenses from the U.S. and back;
- $3,750 fully funds a life-changing experience.
DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS OF THE CENTER,

We are proud of the efforts and contributions made by the students, faculty, staff, campus units, and community organizations responsible for the content you have read about in this issue of the Kansas Latin Americanist. We hope you are, too!

The Center’s mission is to:

• Be a leading research center linking faculty, students, and the community from across Kansas, the country, and the world in the interdisciplinary study of the histories, cultures, societies, economies, and environments of Latin America and the Caribbean;
• Serve as the best resource in our region and a model in the country for excellence in research, education and outreach;
• Advance knowledge and seek solutions to pressing questions related to Latin America and the Caribbean;
• Position the region in a global conversation and promote multiculturalism on campus and in our community;
• Provide an environment for learning and working where differences are valued and each person is supported and offered an equitable opportunity to achieve their academic and professional goals.

As we continue to strive toward those goals, we ask you to keep us in mind for donations. Much of what you have read is the direct result of gifts made by colleagues and friends of the Center.

In other words, YOU help us to succeed in our mission. Your gift will assist the Center to maintain its academic prominence, better prepare its students, and initiate and expand research and training programs on a broad range of themes.

Here is how your gift to the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies can positively impact our mission:

• $100 funds educational resources for outreach to the public, regional K-12 schools, community colleges, and local organizations
• $200 funds public programs such as conferences, lectures, exhibits, and performances
• $300 funds in-country travel for a graduate student’s field work in Latin America or the Caribbean, or technology such as a digital recorder or camera for field work
• $500 funds an undergraduate scholarship to study abroad in Latin America or the Caribbean
• $1000 funds airfare for a graduate student to Latin America or the Caribbean to conduct research, or transcription and translation services for a graduate student’s ethnographic field work
• $1,300 funds room-and-board for a 4-5 week trip for a graduate student to do research or learn an indigenous language in Latin America and the Caribbean

In addition, please consider giving to the following general and award funds:

• Unrestricted gifts to the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Contingency Fund allow the Center to support all the activities for which State funding may be limited or not be used and to respond to special needs and opportunities.
• Initially endowed by Professor Emeritus Charles Stansifer, the Stansifer Fund awards support to graduate students planning to complete a doctorate in the study of Middle America (defined as Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean). Fellowships are granted on a competitive basis.
• The Anita Herzfeld Study Abroad Award for Latin America Fund was created to honor Professor Emerita Anita Herzfeld’s decades of service to the Center. It supports study abroad grants for undergraduate students. This purpose reflects her longstanding dedication to undergraduate education.

Support at all levels—from small annual gifts to the creation of endowed funds—is needed and welcome. If you would like to contribute to CLACS to fund a specific aspect of our mission, please designate in your gift (e.g. “student travel”).

Thank you for your continued support,

Marta Caminero-Santangelo, Director

Give online by visiting the “Giving” page on The Latin American and Caribbean Studies website at http://clacs.ku.edu/giving.

You will be redirected to the website of KU Endowment, the non-profit fundraising organization that supports KU.

If you wish to donate by mail, please address to:

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