



The Kansas Latin Americanist

Newsletter of the University of Kansas Center of Latin American Studies

1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Suite 320 - Lawrence • KS • 66045 - 7574 • (785) 864-4213 • latamst@ku.edu • www.ku.edu/~latamst

An Undergraduate Investigates Reproductive Health Care in Rural Peru



By Heather Wurtz

During the summer of 2007 I conducted a six week project in the department of Ayacucho, Peru. Through my research, I was able to learn about customary birthing practices passed down through generations and the employment of these practices by the public health care system. I was also exposed to the relatively recent and still evolving process of the institutionalization of birth in Peru as well as the roles and multifaceted effects of various international, federal, and grassroots organizations. Within the past ten years some of these organizations have been extremely effective in (see *From the Field* page 8)

Director: Elizabeth Kuznesof
Associate Director: Peter Herlihy
Interim Associate Director, Fall '08: Brent Metz
Office Manager: Judy Farmer
Editors: Gillian Ford and Erin Adamson

From the Director's Desk

Normally I use this space to talk about accomplishments of the last year and changes in faculty at the Center. We have had important continued accomplishments particularly in terms of the graduate program. These will be discussed elsewhere in the Latin Americanist. For this edition I think it is more important to discuss recent efforts to refocus the direction of the Center of Latin American Studies to better support and reflect current themes of student and faculty research at KU.

The Center of Latin American Studies is busy redefining itself as a Center and also simultaneously working hard on the next USDE Title VI competition with proposals due in January 2010. No doubt many of you have already been asked to submit information on your publications and your teaching as part of that effort. You will also have a number of opportunities to weigh in on (see *Director's Desk* page 10)

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Atlantic Nicaragua site of Miskitu language program

By Erin Adamson and Laura Herlihy

Five KU students accompanied Dr. Laura Herlihy to the Caribbean or Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua this July for the first session of a new KU study abroad program focused on indigenous Miskito language and culture. The 5-week program offered two courses, “Introduction to Spoken Miskitu” and “History and Culture of the Miskito Coast.” An Argentine student also joined the Miskitu language course.

The students lived in homestays in Puerto Cabezas-Bilwi, a city of 50,000 people in a coastal region that is a mix of Miskitu, Afro-Caribbean, and Mestizo Nicaraguans. Herlihy set the program up with the pluri-ethnic university URACCAN (The University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua) through Sasha Marley, who served as a guest professor at the Center of Latin American Studies in Spring 2009. Marley is an anthropology professor at URACCAN and Director of the Center for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Women (CEIIM)

Arriving there was like arriving in a different country.

“You feel like you’re not in Nicaragua any more,” said KU graduate student Jaime Pena, who added, “they even ask you for your passport arriving from Managua.”

The town is the capital of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) and is known by three names, Puerto Cabezas in Spanish, Port in Central American English, and Bilwi in Miskitu (a Misumalapan Macro-Chibchan language). The area has a history and culture distinct from Pacific or central Nicaragua and Spanish-speaking mestizos historically were considered to be the enemy. The coast was a British protectorate during the colonial period and later was a center of US-owned Standard Fruit Company production. Hostile inter-ethnic relations between *costeños* and mestizos were re-lived during the Contra-Sandinista war,

when the US funded a Miskitu-based resistance to the revolutionary Sandinista government during the 1980’s.

Herlihy said the program, slated to be repeated in the 2009-2010 academic year, offers KU students the unique opportunity to learn a Central American indigenous language in the largest indigenous city in Middle America, where Miskitu is the language on the street. In addition, approximately 1,500 projects of non-governmental and bi-national organizations operate in the region, making it an ideal location for students pursuing independent study projects and academic research, Herlihy said.

Students enrolled in the course “Culture and History of the Miskito Coast” completed research projects. Stacey Burton, a LAS master’s student funded by a Tinker award, studied intra-familial violence and focused on legal aspects of teen-pregnancy in the autonomous region. KU graduate Teresa Royston and undergraduate Justin Hunt examined the emerging Miskitu independence movement. They learned that its leaders, in an attempt to gain control of the regional government, have given current government officials until the 18th of October to step down from their posts. KU graduate student (Business and LAS) Jaime Pena studied the problems of garbage removal in Puerto Cabezas and, in a meeting with the town mayor,





Program participant Stacey Burton, a LAS master's student, submitted this view of the ocean from Puerto Cabezas.

discussed the toxic practice of burning plastic refuse in city streets.

Herlihy has conducted research along the Atlantic Coast of Central America since the 1990s. After completing her KU doctoral dissertation, "The Mermaid and the Lobster Diver: Gender and Ethnic Identities Among the Rio Platano Miskitu Peoples" (2002), Herlihy shifted her research from Honduras to Nicaragua in 2004. She first taught anthropology to graduate students at URACCAN, with support from a Fulbright grant and began working with Marley and other URACCAN professors on a FORD Foundation project. With funding from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and the KU Hall Center for the Humanities in 2006-2007, Herlihy continued working with Marley and other URACCAN professors to conduct oral histories of women leaders. Herlihy's current research, funded by Fulbright-Hays, compares indigenous feminism in two autonomy movements in Oaxaca, Mexico and on the Atlantic Nicaragua. In Nicaragua "tons of women are NGO directors, government officials, and leaders of religious and political movements" she says, while the same is not true in the Zapotec communities that she studies in highland Oaxaca.

The Study Abroad group interacted with other students and scholars in Nicaragua. After learning to converse in basic Miskitu sentences at the end of the trip, the KU students joined a group of Ohio State graduate students also studying Miskitu language in Granada, Nicaragua. KU graduate Chris White (Ph.D., History), accompanied by his Marshall University graduate students, also met them in Granada. In Bluefields, KU anthropology doctoral student Norberto Baldi Salas visited with the group. Norberto (funded by a LAS Stansifer Award) was studying the genetic history of the indigenous Rama people that live in RAAS.

While on the Atlantic Coast, the group traveled to Corn Island, Bluefields, and Pearl Lagoon, all in the Creole-dominated South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS). Perhaps the group's most adventurous trip was their jaunt in motorized canoe up the Rio Coco, the international border between Honduras and Nicaragua. "It was a politically tumultuous time to be on the river" said Herlihy. The Miskitu live in a bi-national (Honduras and Nicaragua) homeland and normally cross the Rio Coco without incident. After the Honduran coup this summer, however, Honduras closed the border with Nicaragua.

Tinker Sends Students into the Field

The Center of Latin American Studies was proud to send 18 KU graduate students to do field research in Latin America in the spring and summer of 2009 thanks to a prestigious grant from the Tinker Foundation. The students were awarded a total of \$20,000 to help pay the expenses of traveling to Latin American countries and conducting research.

The Center believes the opportunity to spend time in another country making contacts and learning about conducting research is an invaluable opportunity for students, and often is a pivotal experience for students that leads to a life-long interest in conducting research in Latin America. One such student is Andrea Romero, a student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, who used Tinker funding to travel to La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica for her project “Effects of Forest Fragmentation on Small Mammal Communities in Lowland Tropical Rainforests.”

In her research report, Romero said that this project followed up on field research she began in 2007. With her 2009 Tinker funding, she surveyed several more forest fragments and trapped rodents at six additional sites.

“The data are currently being analyzed to discern patterns of community composition differences based on forest patch size,” she reported.

Romero found the Tinker Grant was “very helpful” in conducting her research and the Tinker grant allowed her to focus on a particular project of interest in Costa Rica.

A complete list of the outstanding graduate students funded by the 2009 Tinker Grant follows:

1. Emilia Barbosa, Spanish, Ph.D student
Project: Reaffirming Cultural Identities in Guatemala and Honduras - An Inquiry Into the Contemporary Performance of Violence;
Faculty Sponsor: Professor Yajaira Padilla, Spanish & Portuguese



Andrea Romero stands in one of the Costa Rican lowland tropical rainforest sites of her research on rodents.

2. Matias Beverinotti, Spanish Literature, M.A. student
Project: Rascón Banda and the Use of Theater as a Tool for Social Change;
Faculty Sponsor: Professor Stuart Day, Spanish & Portuguese

3. Stacey Burton, Latin American Studies, M.A. student
Project: Violence Against Indigenous Women: A Look Beyond Gender Identity;
Faculty Sponsor: Professor Laura Herlihy, Latin American Studies

4. Ian Carrillo, Latin American Studies, M.A. student
Project: Commercialized Microfinance in Oaxaca, Mexico: Efficiency or Theft?;
Faculty Sponsor: Professor Peter Herlihy, Geography

5. Jessica Craig, Anthropology, Ph.D student
Project: The Veneration of Their Sacred Past: Evidence for the Ceremonial Reuse of Ancestral Buildings and Monuments by the Ancient Maya of

San Bartolo; Faculty Sponsor: Professor John Hoopes, Anthropology

6. Antoinette Egitto, *Anthropology, Ph.D student* Project: Objects of Status and Power: Artifact Analysis From the Sites of La Manuda, Las Flores, and Nuevo Corinto; Faculty Sponsor: Professor John Hoopes, Anthropology

7. Alberto Fonseca, *Spanish & Portuguese, Ph.D student* Project: Commercializing Crime: Narco-narratives and Markets in Mexican Literature; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Danny Anderson, Spanish & Portuguese

8. Ian Gowan, *Spanish & Portuguese, Ph.D student* Project: Negotiating Family, Identity and Nation in XXI Century Argentine Theatre and Performance; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Stuart Day, Spanish & Portuguese

9. Andy Hilburn, *Geography, Ph.D student* Project: Mapping the Subjectivities of Waste Management and Agrarian Reform in the Tehuacán Valley, Puebla, Mexico; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Peter Herlihy, Geography

10. Anne Justice, *Anthropology, Ph.D student* Project: Origins and Genetic Structure of Maya Populations of Central America; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Michael Crawford, Anthropology

11. John Kelly, *Geography, Ph.D student* Project: Village-level Control of Natural Resources in Post-PROCEDE Indigenous Mexico; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Peter Herlihy, Geography

12. Arturo Mejjide Lapido, *Spanish & Portuguese, Ph.D student* Project: Alonso Quijano en el Callejón del Gato: Particularidades de las ficciones de asesinos en serie españolas; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Jorge Pérez, Spanish & Portuguese

13. Andrew Norris, *Geography, M.A. student* Project: Land Reform in the Peri-Urban Area of Guanajuato; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Peter Herlihy, Geography

14. Heather Putnam, *Geography, Ph.D student* Project: Coffee in Context: Cooperatives, Access to Alternative Markets, and Rural Development in

Southern Minas Gerais, Brazil; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Chris Brown, Geography

15. Aida Ramos Viera, *Geography, Ph.D student* Project: Forest Conservation Politics on a Huastec Indigenous Region at the Neoliberal Land Reforms; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Peter Herlihy, Geography

16. Lisa Rausch, *Geography, Ph.D student* Project: Development Strategies on Brazil's Amazon Frontier: Understanding Local Responses to National and Regional Initiatives; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Chris Brown, Geography

17. Andrea Romero, *Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Ph.D student*

Project: Effects of Forest Fragmentation on Small Mammal Communities in Lowland Tropical Rainforests; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Robert Timm, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

18. Lena Withers, *Latin American History, M.A. student* Project: The Impact of U.S. Immigration Policy on Mexico; Faculty Sponsor: Professor Elizabeth Kuznesof, History



Heather Putnam, kneeling second from the left, with coffee farmers in southern Minas Gerais, Brazil.



Project team members, lead by Professor Clifton Pye, fourth from the left.



KU doctoral student Pedro Mateo, right, works in Guatemala.

Documenting Mayan Language Acquisition

By Clifton Pye

For the past four years Clifton Pye of the KU Department of Linguistics has directed a National Science Foundation sponsored project documenting how children acquire three Mayan languages. The project focuses on the systematic comparison of the acquisition of three native Maya languages: Q'anjob'al spoken in Santa Eulalia, Guatemala; Mam in San Ildefonso Ixtahuacan, Guatemala; and Ch'ol in Tila, Mexico. The project is the first to document the acquisition of historically related languages in a uniform fashion. The project goal is first to document the acquisition of three endangered Mayan languages while children are still acquiring them naturally, and second to compare the processes of language development with the processes of language change.

A project of this nature would not be possible without the support of many individuals and institutions. The project requires training native speakers of the languages in digital recording technology, video transfer methods and transcription techniques. Many of the assistants in the project only have a high school education, and yet they have performed wonders in mastering the

computer technology that the project requires. Advances in computer technology have enabled us to communicate via email throughout the year as well as to transfer the language transcriptions to the project laboratory at KU.

The project has benefited enormously from the participation of a number of students. Pedro Mateo, a doctoral candidate in KU Linguistics, has played a key role in the recruitment and training of the project members. Pedro is a native speaker of Q'anjob'al from Santa Eulalia and he is writing a dissertation based on the Q'anjob'al data collected in the project. Pedro has also played a crucial role as a cultural ambassador for the project. He has calmed local fears about kidnapping (a real concern in highland Guatemala), and explained the necessity for the strict transcription protocols to the other Mayan assistants. Along the way, he has enriched many classes at KU with his observations on his language and culture.

The project is now in its final phase in which we are adding Spanish translations to the Mayan transcriptions and making the transcripts available in an internet archive <almaya.org>. More details about the project can be found on-line at <pyersqr.org>.

Waggoner Colloquium celebrates KU scholarship

The Center of Latin American Studies, together with the Departments of American Studies, History, Sociology, and Spanish & Portuguese, hosted the *Seventeenth Annual Waggoner Research Colloquium* on November 7, 2008. The Waggoner Research Colloquium was inaugurated in 1992 by Elizabeth Kuznesof, who has continued the tradition over the seventeen year period. Latin Americanist faculty and graduate students affiliated with the Center have gathered each fall semester to celebrate the ongoing creation of knowledge about Latin America by KU faculty. The format usually includes an interdisciplinary panel on a particular theme and is followed by a reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres. The fellowship among colleagues and graduate students is seen as a central part of the event along with the scholarly program. The interdisciplinary sponsorship is a testimony to KU's continuing commitment to international education and its promotion of international consciousness among students and faculty. It also celebrates and carries 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. The Center was honored to have Barbara Waggoner, Dr. Waggoner's widow and collaborator on many of his projects on international education, in attendance. Also in attendance was Dr. Charles Stansifer who was Director of Latin American Studies at KU from

1975 to 1990 and did much to strengthen the program, including being the first to successfully apply for USDE Title VI funding for the Center.

This year brought together the talents of interdisciplinary international KU faculty to explore "US-Mexican Migrations: History, Representations and Politics." This focus represented something of a departure from years past in that it introduced the theme of US relations with Mexico (and by implication with other Latin American countries) as well as issues related to globalization, the objectification of minorities, and representations of the "other" in politics. This panel testified to a certain coming of age for Latino/a studies at KU, evidenced also by the recent approval of an undergraduate minor in Latino/a Studies in the American Studies department, as well as the enormous success of "Nuestra América in the U.S.?", last Spring's Latino/a studies conference, brought about largely in thanks to the initiative of Marta Caminero-Santangelo (English).

This year's panel continued Dr. Waggoner's tradition of promoting scholars and scholarship that is international in orientation, while seeking to affirm and to contest particular definitions of identity and culture. Sheyda Jahanbani (History), whose current project seeks to historicize the origins of a global conception of poverty, started off the evening with "The Mexican Migrant and the Culture of Poverty." She was followed by Stuart Day (Spanish & Portuguese), whose main interest is contemporary Latin American literature with a focus on theater and performance. He presented "The Woman Who Fell From the Sky: A Tarahumara Migrant in Kansas." Tanya Golash-Boza (Sociology and American Studies) wrapped up the event with, "The Impossible Choice: Family vs. Citizenship in Contemporary Immigration Policy." Her work involves Latin American racial identities as well as racial identities of Latinos and Latinas in the U.S. The event concluded with an elaborate reception that included wine.

(continued from **From the Field** page 1)



the reformation of services and programs of reproductive and sexual health care.

In the 1990's Ayacucho was estimated to have the third highest rates of maternal mortality in Peru. The management of obstetric emergencies requires proper facilities and training; the maintenance of maternal health requires accessible and adequate health care resources and personnel. At the time, Ayacucho was lacking both.

Resources were indeed scarce and facilities understaffed in Ayacucho, but even when clinics improved and were available, women were not choosing to go. There was a great divide between community members and health professionals that was reinforced by a lack of communication, lack of cultural sensitivity within facilities, and a deep sense of mistrust by the women of government run institutions. There was a general attitude of disrespect within facilities toward Quechua women who were not actively involved in the understanding or decision-making concerning their own health. Therefore, women preferred to give birth in their houses, attended by *parteras* ('traditional' midwives). In many cases the medical professionals at health clinics were not even aware that many women were pregnant. Health professionals would have to go house to house at times to try to persuade women to come

to the clinic for prenatal appointments (Hilda Bautista Vega, 2007: personal interview).

The majority of victims of maternal mortality in Ayacucho were Quechua women from rural communities of low socioeconomic status and with little education—many who would be described by the World Health Organization as carrying the 'triple burden' of productive, reproductive, and domestic labor (PAHO 2006). Many opted to birth in a vertical position with the use of a birthing rope (*soga*) suspended from the ceiling—a practice utilized cross-culturally and which has been found to date back to early historical dates. Other customs included the presence of family members at birth, the ingestion of teas and infusions to speed delivery and calm anxiety, uterine massage, a blanketing method (*susaka*) to position the fetus, and the burial or burning of the placenta after the birth. Health facilities did not allow the option for women to choose these reproductive practices nor did they respect the culture of the women. This resulted in an estimated 79% of women that chose to give birth in their homes as opposed to going to health facilities (WHO 1998). Domicile births, although preferred by women, could potentially be very dangerous. High risk situations could ensue due to a lack of aseptic techniques and resources and the inability of the attendant to manage complications during and after childbirth.

In the late 1990's and early 2000's a variety of initiatives were implemented. Although several indicators may point to success as a direct result of improved facilities, I contend that although structural and procedural reconstruction is a key component, there are several reasons for the decline of maternal mortality rates: the education and empowerment of women through their active involvement in making decisions regarding their health (including the incorporation of community based practices), women's improved relations with health care and organizational workers via the supportive transitory role of local midwives (*parteras*) and the establishment of health promoters, as well as improved facilities and EmOC.

The testimonies I gathered were collected in three communities and with the help of three different organizations. I primarily worked with the



Wurtz, at left, meets with women during her fieldwork in highland Peru.

organization *Manuela Ramos* at the House of Well-being in the rural community of Pampa Cangallo, in the district of Los Morochucos. I interviewed organizational coordinators - an economist, lawyer, and an *obstetrix* (comparable to a nurse-midwife) and women in the community. I participated in weekly meetings and educational classes with the health promoters at the House of Well-being.

I also conducted interviews in San Jose de Secce, in the district of Santillana. I spoke with coordinators from the organization of *Salud Sin Limites* (Health Unlimited), health workers at the local clinic, and women in the community. Particularly targeted because of its violent past and impoverished state, the community of San Jose de Secce helped establish a 'culturally adequate birthing room' in the clinic. Although the work of *Salud Sin Limites* ended in 2003, these reforms continue in the community and have increased rates of births attended by health professionals and improving communication between community members and health care workers.

The final site of my research was Huamanga, the capital of Ayacucho, where the Regional Hospital of Ayacucho is located. I spoke with several health care professionals at the hospital and attended one shift at the obstetric unit.

I also interviewed women in the community, professors at the university, and medical students. In 2000, reforms were enacted in Ayacucho via the *Foundations to Enhance Management of Maternal Emergencies (FEMME)* project, a program funded by the Peruvian Ministry of Health and international donors (including USAID), which focused on improved medical training, augmentation of adequate resources, and the establishment of culturally sensitive methods of treatment and protocol. The reforms proved successful, according to data from the Regional Hospital, with a drastic reduction of the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) from 230+/100,000 women to 114/100,000 women (RHA: 2007).

Conclusion

The endeavors of reform programs have made significant improvements, resulting in decreased maternal deaths as well as the establishment of more accessible and adequate health resources. I believe that some of the most successful and sustainable components of these programs include the education of women and the increased, participatory role of women in the communities in the decisions regarding their own health. Several of the challenges still facing maternal health care are indeed politico-economic at heart. Unequal distribution of resources and lack of political will for basic social needs must be addressed on a national, and even international, scale. Peru is a magnificent country, full of diversity and beauty. In order to embrace all that it has to offer, it must first give a voice to its most vulnerable members and protect the rights to a healthy life to which we should all be entitled.

This article was excerpted from a submission by Heather Wurtz. She graduated with Honors in Latin American Studies in 2009 with an honors paper titled 'Reproductive Health Care in Ayacucho, Peru: Healing Social Scars of a "Forgotten Department."' She began studies in nursing at the University of Kansas in fall 2009.

Center developing thematic research programs

possible initiatives for the next proposal. The faculty of the Center of Latin American Studies has grown more than three-fold since 1992 when I first became Director — from about 30 to about 102 currently. Much of that change was the effort to include faculty from professional schools as well as faculty in the sciences, both important to our new proposal. The graduate and undergraduate curriculums also expanded to include courses offered by faculty in new areas. Recently our opportunities have expanded through the change of the Indigenous Nations Study Program to the Global Indigenous Nations Study Program, with John Hoopes as Director. Similarly, changes in the Environmental Studies program (now directed by Chris Brown) as well as the grants on global climate change such as the IGERT, which include Latin America offer new directions. As a result, the Center as an entity seems unwieldy in size and somewhat indeterminate in its purposes beyond those of facilitating research and teaching of Latin America.

Therefore, to bring more focus to these seemingly disparate threads, the core faculty has discussed in several meetings the development of thematically-focused research programs to facilitate cooperative faculty research as well as workshops around these topics. These programs were chosen to reflect areas of current interest and strength in our program and will support already existing and active research clusters that distinguish KU scholarship.

We feel these programs will also provide new possibilities for collaboration among faculty and students as well as more focused and fresher dimensions of identity for the Center of Latin American Studies. We are currently considering three programs: Environment, Climate Change and Food; Cultural Identity and Migration; and Politics and Economy. Faculty will be invited to develop projects (involving three or more KU faculty) to organize workshops, bring in speakers, develop grant applications, conduct research, or other activities that relate to one of the established themes.

Funds for these purposes will be budgeted in the USDE Title VI grant. These programs hopefully will involve both faculty and students, and will also be focused on field activities in Latin America as well as efforts to collaborate with other institutions and to develop workshops and publications. None of this is set in stone, of course, and no doubt changes will be made in how all of this is handled. I welcome comments and suggestions concerning these ideas, as well as the integration of curriculum into this rubric.

Another aspect of change in Latin American Studies is an increasing focus on Latin American migration to the US and the challenges of that migration for K-16 education. The new Latino Studies minor in American Studies, as well as faculty at KU who focus on immigration, Latino Studies and issues of globalization, are also a testament to this shift. Further enforcing this tendency is the fact that several Universities funded for Latin America (Title VI) in the last competition specifically listed Latin American immigration to the US as a focus in their grants, which indicates that USDE is now allowing the use of Title VI funds for that kind of initiative. In conjunction with that, the Center of Latin American Studies held a K-16 teaching workshop on Latin American immigration to the U.S. Saturday, October 3, 2009.

As Director of Latin American Studies I hope these innovations will strengthen our Center and provide more ways for faculty to take part in and benefit from our existence. Please do communicate any reactions (good or bad) to these ideas or thoughts about ways to improve them, as well as other ideas not mentioned here.

Elizabeth Kuznesof

Student News

Sophomore Wins Nelson Scholarship

Sophomore Jacquelyn Murdock received a Harley S. Nelson scholarship spring 2009 for the Center of Latin American Studies. Murdock, a double major in Latin American Studies and Environmental Studies, envisions a law career that allows her to advocate for and defend the cultural and land rights of indigenous people in Latin America. The Nelson brings a \$1,200 scholarship to outstanding undergraduates in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Winning Master's Thesis Explores Recognition of Housework

Cory Fischer-Hoffman, a 2008 graduate of the Latin American Studies Master's program, has been awarded the prestigious Outstanding Thesis Award by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for her thesis "Mision Madres del Barrio: A Bolivarian Social Program Recognizing Housework and Creating a Caring Economy in Venezuela." She chose to donate the \$500 award to the land-purchasing fund of the Autonomous Center for the Intercultural Creation of Appropriate Technologies (CACITA) in Oaxaca, Mexico, "as well as to my companeras in Venezuela who continue to organize despite the fact that the state resources have not yet trickled down to them."

Fischer-Hoffman is now Campaign Director for the Prometheus Radio Project based in Philadelphia, PA.

Stansifer History Fellowship awarded for Central American anthropology

Norberto Baldi Salas (PhD student, Anthropology) is winner of the \$4,000 2009 Stansifer Fellowship for his dissertation project "Bio-cultural Studies in Central America." His faculty sponsor is Michael Crawford.

The Fellowship honors KU Professor Emeritus of History Charles Stansifer, whose research focused on Central American countries and their relations with the United States.

Oppenheimer Scholarship awarded to two scholars of Guatemala

Anne Kraemer (PhD Student, Anthropology) and Pedro Mateo (PhD Student, Linguistics) are the 2009 Oppenheimer Scholarship Winners. Each received \$3,500.

Anne's project is entitled "Que Pasa Guatemala? So Many NGOs and so Few Results." Pedro's is "Acquisition of Verb Complex Construction in Q'anjob'al (Maya)."

Latin Americanist Geographer's Awards Expand Study to Uganda

Heather Putnam, a doctoral student in geography, received a \$2,500 Howard J. Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award for research in Uganda. Graduate students in the College or the School of Business are eligible for the award, which supports research for a thesis or dissertation related to peace and justice. Putnam was nominated by John Christopher Brown, professor in environmental studies, for her thesis, "Certified Places: Improving Access to Coffee Certifications as Rural Development Strategies." Putnam conducted research for her thesis in Nicaragua and Brazil.

Putnam also received a \$12,000 Pruitt Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Society of Women Geographers for 12 months of fieldwork in Uganda, beginning September 1. Finally, she received a \$500 Kollmorgen Summer Field Research Grant from the Department of Geography to supplement her work in Minas Gerais, Brazil, this summer.

2008-2009 Merienda Brown Bag Lecture Series

Meriendas are hosted by the Center of Latin American Studies at 12 noon in 318 Bailey Hall every Thursday throughout the fall and spring semesters. A presentation is offered by a KU or visiting scholar, professor or student in a casual setting open to the public. A simple lunch of rice and beans is provided, or those in attendance are invited to bring their own lunch. For more information on Meriendas and to find a schedule for Fall 2008, see the Center's website at www.ku.edu/~latamst.

- Sept. 11 "Coffee and Environmental Change in Latin America since 1970" **Stuart McCook**, History, University of Guelph, Ontario
- Sept. 18 "20 Months in Rural Guatemala" **Anne Kraemer**, PhD student, Anthropology
- Sept. 25 "The Reconquest: The New Maya Slavery in Mexico's Paradise" **Erika Sandoval**, MA student, Latin American Studies
- Oct. 2 "Village-level Control of Water in Post-PROCEDE Indigenous Mexico" **John Kelly**, PhD student, Geography
- Oct. 9 "Finding Meaning in Chaos: An Ecological, Symbolic, and Material Investigation of Chronic Illness in a Maya Village" **James Herynk**, PhD student, Anthropology
- Oct. 23 "The Microfinance Movement in Oaxaca, Mexico: Institutional or Revolutionary?" **Ian Carillo**, MA student, Latin American Studies
- Oct. 30 "Responding to the Human Costs of US Border Policy: Local Activism in Arizona and Kansas" **Marta Caminero-Santangelo**, English
- Nov. 6 "Searching for Patterns of Migration and Development in North Mato Grosso State, Brazil" **Lisa Rausch**, PhD student, Geography
- Nov. 13 "Following the Money: Campaign Finance in Brazil" **Pedro dos Santos**, PhD student, Political Science
- Nov. 20 "Performing Affect: Filmic Representations of Nicaraguan Immigrants in Costa Rica" **Megan Thorton**, PhD student, Spanish and Portuguese

Dec. 4 "LISN Up! Shaping Public Discourse on Immigration" **Ben Chappell**, American Studies, KU

Jan.29 "Kansas and Latin America: The Business Connection" **Melissa Birch**, Business, KU

Feb.5 "Low-income Immigrant Latinos in Lawrence: A Social Service Agency's Perspective and Work in the Community" **Lydia León**, Centro Hispano

Feb. 12 "Communities in Resistance: A Semester with the Mexico Solidarity Network" **Kerrie Emig**, undergraduate student in Latin American Studies

Feb.19 "Fatherly Love: The Intersection of Paternalism, Development, and Containment in US Policy toward Bolivia at the Onset of the Cold War" **Aaron Moulton**, MA student, Latin American Studies

Feb.26 "Salvadoran Elections and Social Movement Work in 2009" **Sally Birmingham and Kansan-Salvadoran Solidarity Action**

Mar. 5 "Living in a Double Standard, Image Versus Reality: Chilean Neoliberalism, Social Activism and the Growing Social Divide" **Eve Clark**, PhD student, Sociology

Mar. 12 "Hong Kong, Kilometro 3, Golfito, Costa Rica: Material Culture Found, and Lost?" **donna luckey**, Architecture and Urban Planning, KU

Mar. 26 "La Universidad de Costa Rica y su influencia en la sociedad costarricense" **Francisco Enriquez Solano**, University of Costa Rica

April 2 "Usurpations and other Upsets: Land, Citizenship, Indigenous Identity and other Venezuelan Musings, Nineteenth Century and Otherwise" **Kim Morse**, History, Washburn University

April 9 "A River Runs through Them: Cross-Border Labor Solidarity and Working Conditions in the Maquiladoras of Northern Mexico" **Josie Nixon**, MA student, Anthropology

April 23 "Problems and Progress in Reconstructing Maya Ethnohistory: The K'iche' Maya Case" **Robert Carmack**, Anthropology, SUNY-Albany

April 30 "Geographies of the Latin American Internet" **Barney Warf**, Geography, KU

2008-2009 Hall Center Latin American Seminar Series

The Hall Center of the Humanities sponsors ongoing seminars that bring together faculty and graduate students from different departments for interdisciplinary dialogue and discussion and to present research. Many of the seminars also invite visiting speakers from other US universities and from overseas. Latin American Seminars take place on the fourth Friday of each month, from 3:30 until 5:00 p.m. Below is a list of the past Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 Latin American Seminars. Please visit www.hallcenter.ku.edu for more information on events sponsored by the Hall Center.

Aug. 22 “Damming Sonora: Water, Agriculture, and Environmental Change in Northwest Mexico”
Sterling Evans, History, Brandon University, Manitoba

Sept. 12 “The Dawn of ‘Sun Coffee’ in Central America: Technifications, Cold War Politics and Environmental Change, 1950-1990”
Stuart McCook, History, University of Guelph

Sept. 26 “Travels with ‘An Island Called Home’: Returning to Jewish Cuba”
Ruth Behar, Anthropology, University of Michigan

Oct. 24 “From Refugees to Domesticas: Cultivating Central American Subjects in U.S. Media and Film”
Yajaira Padilla, Spanish and Portuguese

Jan. 23 “Utopia 2012: Mayanism and the Long Count in Popular Imagination”
John Hoopes, Anthropology and Global Indigenous Nations Studies

Feb. 27 “Colonial History in Transit: Mier, Las Casas, and the Construction of Political Identity”
Santa Arias, Spanish and Portuguese

Mar. 27 “Un Enfoque Historico del Desarrollo de Costa Rica”
Francisco Enriquez Solano, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de Costa Rica

Apr. 24 “Comparing Indigenous Politics in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala”
Robert Carmack, Anthropology, SUNY-Albany

Graduating Master’s Students

Shannon Gorres: Thesis defense Oct. 2008, “Garifuna Place-Making: Hope for the Guatemalan Nation.”

Carola Ramirez Castello: Thesis defense Dec. 2008, “Afro-Peruvian Identity and its Connection with the Land: The Guayabo-Chincha Case.”

Grant Blanchon: Thesis defense Dec. 2008, “Family, Work, and Migration: Transborder Networking among Tlapanecs from La Montana.”

Cory Fischer-Hoffman: Thesis defense May 2008, “Mision Madres del Barrio: A Bolivarian Social Program Recognizing Housework and Creating a Caring Economy in Venezuela.”

Aaron Moulton: Thesis defense April 2009, “Through the Lens of Pater-Americanism: A Comparative Analysis of the Eisenhower Administration’s Perception of Guatemala and Bolivia, 1953 and 1954.”

Erika Sandoval: Thesis defense May 2009, “Extranjero en mi tierra (Stranger in My Homeland): Migrant Realities in the Riviera Maya.”

Sarah Saffa: Thesis defense Aug. 2009, “In the Womb of the Earth: Sex in the Maya Cave Setting.”

Faculty Promotions Announced

To full professor:

Marta Caminero-Santangelo, English

Dietrich Earnhart, Economics

Jonathan Mayhew, Spanish and Portuguese

To administration:

Danny Anderson, Spanish and Portuguese, was named interim provost for 2009-2010 academic year.

Undergraduates Celebrate Graduation, New Horizons

Filming a documentary about municipal recycling in Buenos Aires, Argentina, learning about the modern slavery many immigrant tomato pickers experience in Florida, studying Central American archeology, participating in a sister city delegation to El Salvador.

These are just a few of the amazing experiences the 2009 Latin American Studies undergraduates participated in while at KU.

Members of the graduating class of 18 gathered at the Center on April 24 to celebrate their academic achievements, but also the travel, volunteer and work experiences that have changed them during their undergraduate years.

Meredith Van Natta, who will continue her education in the Latin American Studies department at the University of California, Berkeley, said her experience participating in the KU delegation to El Papaturo, El Salvador, was one of the experiences that broadened her perspective on the world.

Melissa Rogers, a co-major with Environmental Studies, lived in Buenos Aires in fall 2008, studying at the Universidad Autonoma Catolica. In a filmmaking class, she and her classmates created a short documentary examining Portenos' attitudes about recycling. Most are not in the habit of using the brightly colored city recycling bins, she found.

Clarice Amorim, who completed the minor in conjunction with an anthropology degree, will begin the master's program in Anthropology at KU in the fall. She completed an honor's thesis exploring the slavery and inhumane working

conditions experienced by immigrant tomato pickers in Imokkalee, Florida. She became interested in the topic after participating in an alternative winter break through Ecumenical Christian Ministries that took students to Imokkalee to learn first-hand about the plight of workers.

Not all of the graduates' projects are highlighted in this story, but all of them deserve commendation for their hard work in the program. The department, and especially Professor Anita Herzfeld, undergraduate advisor, salute their accomplishments. Following is a list of all our graduates:

Majors

Melissa Rogers
Hyemin Kim
Meredith Van Natta
Heather Wurtz
Fernando Yaluk
Andrew Stanley
Emily Strinden
L. Paige Houghton
Brad Nelson
Bradley Safarik
Adam Benfer

Minors

Clarice Amorim
Ann Giessel
Kevin Brennan
Dan Belz
Josiah Earle
Genevieve DePriest
Juliana Tran



Faculty News

Danny Anderson, Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, served as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs in 2008-2009, and currently he is the Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. His most recent publication is “Misguided Idealism on a Mission of Mercy: Eleanore Wharton, U.S. Do-Goodeer” in *Mexico Reading the United States*, edited by Linda Egan and Mary K. Long (Vanderbilt University Press, 2009).

Santa Arias, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, published *Approaches to Teaching the Writings of Bartolome de las Casas*, a co-edited volume with Eyda Merediz, for the MLA Series Approaches to Teaching World Literature. She also published *The Spatial Turn: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, a co-edited volume with Barney Warf for Routledge. A forthcoming 2009 book chapter is titled “Geografía, imperio e iglesia bajo la huella de la ilustración: Juan Ignacio de Molina y los espacios del imaginario cartográfico jesuita.” The editors are David Solodkow and Juan M. Vitulli.

Marta Caminero-Santangelo, who is currently serving as advisor for the new Latino/Latina Studies minor and has also begun her term as Chair of the English Department, received a Smithsonian Fellowship to work on her current book project, “‘Illegal’: Narrating the Non-Nation,” which examines writing about undocumented immigrants in literature and letters by U.S. Latino/as since the advent of Operation Gatekeeper in 1994. She will be in residence at the Smithsonian in the summer of 2010. A short version of one chapter of her book project, “Central Americans in the City: Goldman, Tobar, and the Question of Panethnicity,” is forthcoming in *LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory* (Summer 2009). Caminero-Santangelo also co-edited a forthcoming special issue of *Antípodas: Journal of Hispanic and Galician Studies* on literature about the Trujillo era in the Dominican Republic. The special issue will include

her own article: “At the Intersection of Trauma and Testimonio: Edwidge Danticat’s *The Farming of Bones*.” Finally, Marta published a short article, “Responding to the Human Costs of US Immigration Policy: No More Deaths and the New Sanctuary Movement,” in *Latino Studies*.

Greg Cushman, Assistant Professor of International Environmental History, has presented at a number of conferences in 2009. He presented “The Ecology of Liberation: Haiti, Humboldtian Travel, and Latin America’s First Postcolonial States” at University of Texas, Austin, in April and at Louisiana State University’s interdisciplinary symposium “Homage to Alexander von Humboldt: Transatlantic Reimagining of the Caribbean and the Americas” in May. Also in April, he presented “Humboldtian Geopolitics and the Discovery of Human-Caused Climate Change in South America” for the International Conference on Climate and Cultural Anxiety: Historical and Social Perspectives, at Colby College, Waterville, Maine.

Stuart Day, Associate Professor in Spanish and Portuguese, has produced recent research in chapters/articles on Federico Gamboa (“Federico Gamboa and the Performance of Power”); Sabina Berman (“Similia similibus curantur: La exhumación de lo real en Backyard de Sabina Berman”); Vicente Leñero (“Transposing Professions: Vicente Leñero and the Politics of the Press”); and a piece based on interviews with Sabina Berman and Jesusa Rodríguez (“It’s My National Stage Too: Sabina Berman and Jesusa Rodríguez as Public Intellectuals”). This topic—public intellectuals in Mexico—is the subject of an edition Day is currently working on with a colleague.

A 2007 book by **Tamara Falicov**, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies, has been selected as an “Outstanding Academic Title” by “Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries.” *The Cinematic Tango: Contemporary Argentine Film* is one of 15 books listed in the Film category. An overview of the Argentine film industry, Falicov’s book includes a technical commentary on

(see *Faculty News* page 16)

(continued from **Faculty News** page 15)

production and marketing within a four-period historical framework. In the 1930s, Argentina consolidated studios, the star system, and print culture in a golden age that challenged Hollywood's monopoly. Frequent clashes between pro- and anti-Axis censorship, Perónist nationalism, and military dictatorship frequently plunged the industry into crisis from the mid-1940s until after the Dirty War in the late 70s and early 80s.

Tanya Golash-Boza, Assistant Professor in Sociology and American Studies, published two articles in 2009 on the immigration industrial complex in *Sociology Compass* as well as an article on blackness in Peru in *Latino Research Review*. She spent the summer 2009 in Jamaica, interviewing people who have been deported from the United States. From there, she traveled to Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and back to Jamaica to talk to people who have been deported from the US. Interviewees included both people who were legal permanent residents of the US and have been deported on criminal grounds and people who lived in the US without documentation and were deported for being out of status. This research is funded by a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Award.

Laura Herlihy, Ph.D., Lecturer in Latin American Studies, traveled to Nicaragua in summer 2009 to complete the last two months of her Fulbright-Hays grant, studying women's struggles within the indigenous autonomy movement. In Nicaragua, she led the first Latin American Studies Study Abroad program in Puerto Cabezas-Bilwi, focusing on indigenous and Afro-Caribbean language and culture. She published a chapter titled, "Afro-Indigenous Women and Autonomy" in the book *A Nicaraguan Journey: Memories from the Land of Sandino*, edited by Luciano Baracco, Algora Press for 2009 or 2010 publication. She also submitted, "Indigenous Women's Struggle for Political Leadership: Nicaragua and Mexico Compared" to *Bulletin of Latin American Research*.

Anita Herzfeld, Professor of Latin American Studies, published three journal articles in Spring 2009: "La política lingüística y la planificación lingüística: del nacionalismo a la globalización" in *Dynamik romanischer Varietäten ausserhalb Europas*. Edited by Silke Janzen and Haralambos Symeonidis; "El Lunfardo histórico: el 'lenguaje argentino del crimen' a partir de la inmigración italiana" in *II Congreso Latinoamericano de Antropología: Antropología Latinoamericana gestando un nuevo futuro*; and "Lengua e identidad en una situación de contacto: el criollo limonense en Costa Rica" in *Signo y Sena*, Revista del Instituto de Lingüística, University of Buenos Aires. She also delivered papers at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina; the Mediterranean Studies Association in Sardinia, Italy; the Latin American Studies Conference in Rio de Janeiro; and the International Congress of Americanists in Mexico City.

John Hoopes, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Global Indigenous Nations Studies Department, was awarded a \$5,000 Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence by a "surprise patrol" in August, 2008. The Kemper fellowships recognize outstanding teachers and advisers at KU as determined by a seven-member selection committee. The awards were supported by a \$650,000 in gifts from the William T. Kemper Foundation (Commerce Bank, trustee) and \$650,000 in matching funds from KU Endowment.

Jill Kuhnheim, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, just finished a year as Acting Chair of Spanish and Portuguese. She is currently working on a book project on poetry and performance in Latin America and had two articles appear last year: "Performing Poetry, Race, and the Caribbean: Eusebia Cosmé and Luis Palés Matos." *Revista hispánica moderna* 61.2 (2008) and "The Politics of Form: Three Spanish American Poets and the Sonnet." *Hispanic Review* 76.4 (autumn 2008).

Elizabeth Kuznesof, Professor of History and Director of the Center of Latin American Studies, is the proud recipient of the 2009 George and Eleanor Woodyard International Educator Award. She was the 2008 Chair of the Conference of Latin American History (AHA) Bolton-Johnson Prize Committee for Best Book on Latin American History for 2007. She organized a session on “The Construction of Brazilian Citizenship: Slaves, Women, Children” for the Latin American Studies Association Conference June 11-17, 2009 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she presented the paper: “Civilizing o povo Brasileiro: The ‘termos de bem viver’ and other Elite Definitions of Good Citizenship, 1808-1888.” She published “La construcción del nacionalismo y la ciudadanía brasileña en un Estado multirracial” (“The Construction of Brazilian Nationalism and Citizenship in a Multi-Racial Polity”) in Verena Stolcke & Alexandre Coello de la Rosa (eds.), *Identidades ambivalentes en América Latina (siglos XVI-XXI)*, Barcelona: Edicions Bellaterra, 2008. She also published “History of Childhood and Child Labor in Latin America” in *The World of Child Labor: An Historical and Regional Survey*, Hugh D. Hindman, Editor, ME Sharpe in May 2009.

Brent Metz, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, was the principal editor for the volume *The Ch’orti’ Maya, Past and Present*, which was published by the University Florida Press in April 2009. It has 20 chapters, two of which were written by Metz, and disciplines represented include linguistics/epigraphy, archeology, archeobotany, history, folklore, ethnobotany, sociology, and anthropology. Metz also presented at a conference on violence in Guatemala in October 2008 and at LASA 2009 in Rio de Janeiro.

Antonio Simões spent the 2008-2009 academic year working at West Point, New York. His book *Pois não* was published in September of 2008. In Spring of 2009 he published an article on the contrasts of Spanish and Portuguese, in the

Portuguese Newsletter. In the summer of 2008, he directed KU 2008 summer Study Abroad program in Barcelona, Spain. In the summer of 2009 he taught at Middlebury College, Vermont. Professor Simões received the Cramer Award for research in Spring of 2008. He is currently working on different areas of phonetics and phonology, with special interest in applications to literacy programs and facial gestures.

Paul Sneed conducted field work from May to July 2009 in the favela, or squatter town, or Rocinha, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for his book manuscript, *Culture without Capital: Scavenging Modernity in a Brazilian Slum*. The study compares performances of power in utopian spaces in Rocinha in the political, artistic, spiritual and cultural life of the favela, such as strongholds of drug-traffickers, funk street dance parties, meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, services of a Pentecostal church and educational activities of an NGO in Rocinha. In mid-June, Sneed served as session organizer, chair and presenter for a panel titled “Organic Universities: Action Research and Latin American Society and Culture,” held at the international conference of LASA in Rio.

Jorge Soberon, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Senior Scientist at the Biodiversity Institute, published the first of three volumes of the work *Capital Natural de Mexico: Estado Actual y Tendencias de los Ecosistemas del Pais* after four years of work on the project. Soberon was one of the three coordinators of the first volume, which is a description of the state of knowledge of the biodiversity of Mexico, the fourth most biodiverse country in the planet. The first volume includes chapters about the knowledge about the distribution and functioning of ecosystems, the very first list of the described species of Mexico (more than 70,000, in CD ROM), and also a chapter about the documented indigenous knowledge in the major languages of Mexico (more than 60) and about the status of legislation protecting it. In Fall 2009, and as a part of the IGERT project (see *Faculty News page 19*)

Students Compete for Research Recognition

By Erin Adamson

To showcase the significant research being done by Latin Americanist graduate students at the University of Kansas, the Center of Latin American Studies hosted the Latin Americanist Graduate Research Competition on April 8, 2009.

At the PhD level, a first place prize of \$300 was awarded to Jessica Craig (Anthropology) and a second place prize of \$100 was awarded to John Kelly (Geography). At the Master's level, a prize of \$200 was awarded to Erika Sandoval (Latin American Studies).

This year's competition had four sessions of original research presentations on Latin America. The winners were selected by a panel of faculty judges, including Stuart Day (Spanish and Portuguese), Laura Herlihy (Latin American Studies), and Jorge Soberon (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology).

Sociology professor Tanya Maria Golash-Boza gave the faculty research keynote presentation, "Age of Exile: Deportees in Latin America and the Caribbean" at a luncheon attended by competition participants, their faculty advisors, and other KU affiliates. The Graduate Research Competition is sponsored by the Peter Stouse Fund, Department of Geography, and the Center of Latin American Studies.

Session One: Migration, Poverty, and Micro-Finance

Commercializing Microfinance in Oaxaca: Efficiency or Exploitation?

Ian R. Carrillo, MA Student, Center of Latin American Studies

Afro-Mexican Immigrants and Changing Perceptions of Race

Ariane Tulloch, MA Student, Department of Anthropology

The Reconquest: The New Maya Slavery in Mexico's Paradise

Erika Sandoval, MA Student, Center of Latin American Studies

Session Two: Population History, Maya Ceremonies, and Language

The Genetic History and Population Dynamics of the Rama Indians from the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua

Norberto Baldi and Phillip Melton, PhD Students, Department of Anthropology

The Veneration of Their Sacred Past: Evidence for the Ceremonial Reuse of Ancestral Buildings and Monuments by the Ancient Maya of San Bartolo, Guatemala

Jessica H. Craig, PhD Student, Department of Anthropology

Acquisition of the Suffix -on in Q'anjob'al (Maya)

Pedro Mateo, PhD Student, Department of Linguistics

Session Three: Politics, Community and Religion

Ciudadania e Identidad entre los Miskitu de Sisín, Region Autonoma del Atlantico Norte

Sasha Marley Matamoros, Social Science Professor, Autonomous University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (URACCAN)

Os Evangelicos and Political Power in Brazil

Pedro dos Santos, PhD Student, Department of Political Science

Community Engagement with the Neoliberalized State in Mexico: The Case of Water

John H. Kelly, PhD Student, Department of Geography



Faculty Keynote Presentation – Age of Exile:
Deportees in Latin America and the Caribbean
Professor Tanya Maria Golash-Boza,
Department of Sociology

**Session Four: Environment, Conservation, and
Garbage**

Mapping Amazonian Dark Earths using Satellite
Imagery: What I did Wrong
*Jonathan B. Thayn, PhD Student, Department of
Geography*

Neoliberal Land Reforms, Forest Conservation
Policies, and Traditional Forest Management at the
Huasteca Region of San Luis Potosi, Mexico
*Aida Ramos Viera, PhD Student, Department of
Geography*

Landfills, Dumps and Tiraderos Clandestinos: Solid
Waste Management in Rural Southern Mexico
*Andy Hilburn, PhD Student, Department of
Geography*

(continued from **Faculty News** page 17)

of KU, Soberon will also be teaching a course with
field work in Mexico on the impacts of climate
change to campesino communities in the highlands of
Michoacan.

Jessica Vasquez, Assistant Professor of Sociology,
settled into her second year here at KU Sociology
by teaching SOC 310 Methods and SOC 536
Sociology of Latinos in the US for both Fall and
Spring terms. In Fall 2009 she will be instructing the
Latinos undergraduate course and a graduate
seminar on the Sociology of Race. She is revising
her book manuscript on Mexican American multi-
generational families and their racial identity
formation and integration trajectories. This year she
had a co-co-authored article on racial authenticity
accepted to *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (look for it
in the November 2009 issue) and a solo authored
article on the intersections of race and gender among
third generation Mexican Americans accepted to
Sociological Perspectives (forthcoming 2010).

This year **Marta Vicente**, Associate Professor of
History and Women, Gender and Sexuality
Studies, has been working on her book manuscript
*Playing Maria: Constructing Sex and Gender
in Early Modern Spain* as well as on an article
titled “Pornography and the Spanish Inquisition:
The Reading of an Eighteenth-Century
Pornographic Best-Seller.” Two of her articles just
came out in 2009: “Fashion, Race and Cotton
Textiles in Colonial Spanish America,” in *The
Spinning World: A Global History of Cotton
Textile, 1200-1850* ed. by G. Riello and P.
Parthasarathi (Oxford University Press) and
“Successful Mystics and Failed Mystics: Teaching
Teresa of Avila in the Women’s Studies
Classroom,” *Approaches to Teaching Teresa of
Ávila and the Spanish Mystics* ed., Alison Weber
(MLA Publishing).

William I. Woods, Professor of Geography,
continued his research into the dark earths, or
Terra Preitas, in the Brazilian Amazon, and also
conducted research on dark earths in Costa Rica
and Nicaragua in January, 2009. He presented
“Costa Rica’s Anthropogenic Tierras Negras?” at
the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers
Meeting, January 9, in Granada, Nicaragua. He
was an editor of the book *Amazonian Dark Earths:
Wim Sombroek’s Vision* and published other
articles on the subject.

Ketty Wong-Cruz, Assistant Professor of Music,
was invited by the Ministry of Culture of Ecuador
to present a conference on Ecuadorian popular
music in the First International Colloquium of
Musicology on December 2008. In 2009, she
presented a two-week seminar and workshop on
Ethnomusicology at the University of Cuenca,
Ecuador. She also presented two conference
papers on Ecuadorian national identity, one in the
Hawaii International Conference on Arts and
Humanities (January), and the other in the Latin
American Studies Association Conference in Rio
de Janeiro (June). Her article “The Song of the
National Soul: The Ecuadorian Pasillo in the
Twentieth Century” has been accepted for
publication in the *Latin American Music Review*.

New Additions



Paul Sneed, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, welcomed his son **Cael Sneed** on July 25, 2008. The family celebrated Cael's first birthday this summer in Belém do Pará, in the North of Brazil, at Habib's Lanchonete. Cael likes açaí, the purple fruit of the Amazon, with no sugar.



Proud parents Professor Tamara Falicov, Media and Film Studies, and Stephen Steigman announce the birth of **Ilan Raul Falicov Steigman**. Ilan (pronounced e-LAHN) was born January 30, 2009, at 8 lbs, 3 oz, and 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Above, a 5-month-old Ilan weighing 16 lbs. 12 oz. poses on his mom's lap. He's an incredibly happy and healthy boy, and loves the outdoors and spending lots of active time with his parents. Ilan is named after Stephen's late grandfather Ira Kersh, and Tamara's late father Raul Falicov.

Why give to the Center of Latin American Studies?

By giving to CLAS, you contribute to Latin American academic activities, community outreach, special guests and cultural events and student research like that described in the preceding pages of our newsletter.

The Center of Latin American Studies

- Supports the development of new courses about Latin America, faculty and student research travel for study of Latin American languages and research topics.
- Promotes knowledge of Latin America through academic conferences, seminars, weekly brownbag Merienda lectures, cultural performances, museum exhibits and cultural celebrations.
- Organizes teacher workshops to help Kansas educators incorporate Latin American languages and cultures into their classroom curriculum.

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- Research or conference travel for students and faculty
- Public programs such as conferences, lectures, exhibits and performances
- The Latin Americanist Newsletter

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