



## CHARLES STANSIFER, 1930-2016

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*Courtesy LJ-World*

## Community Mourns Professor Emeritus Charles Stansifer

**D**r. Charles Stansifer, former Director of the Center from 1975-89 and KU professor emeritus of history, passed away on Feb. 4. A native Kansan from Garden City with a BA and MA from Wichita State and PhD from Tulane, Charley devoted his life to educating his home state and served on the KU faculty from 1963-2004. At Tulane he worked with fellow Kansan William Griffith, a giant in the study of Central American history. He helped recruit Griffith to KU, where Griffith directed the Center from 1970-75.

Charley became a renowned historian of Central America in his own right, particularly of

Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and he authored, co-authored, and edited twelve books. He taught the first history course in the U.S. solely about the region and directed the Junior-Year program in Costa Rica from 1966-74. His lecture on the history of the banana, a Central American export rivaled only by coffee, was famous both for humor and historical detail, and he and his former students collected a veritable museum's worth of banana-related memorabilia. In his research and educational travels, he collected many rare historical documents and books that are now housed in the KU Spencer Research Library. In fact, Charley

had much to do with KU's having one of the top three Central American library collections in the United States. His endowed [Charles Stansifer Fund](#) for Latin American Literature will keep KU's Latin American and Caribbean collections strong well into the future. Having served on countless Masters theses and PhD dissertation committees, Charley also took the initiative in helping the libraries digitize the 138 KU theses and dissertations written about Central America, 51 of which are now available in KU ScholarWorks.

As if being a premier specialist in Central American

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# From the Acting Director's Desk



**Brent Metz, Acting Director,**  
Center for Latin American and  
Caribbean Studies

While the Center has moved forward on many activities that you can read about here, in other ways the state of the Center can be characterized as “wait and see.” Throughout the fall all nine of KU’s area studies centers and programs met to develop a new Institute of Global and International Studies, the rollout of which was to be February 1.

Center staff and directors investigated other such institutes nation-wide and reviewed their own operations, resulting in a consensus organizational plan. The proposed Institute is now on hold until our new Dean, Carl Lejuez—who himself began at KU on February 1—finishes surveying the lay of the land. In his first months here, Dean Lejuez has been welcomed with a large budget cut from the state. We are anxiously waiting to see how the cuts will affect us.

Still, our ship has been cruising ahead thanks to our adept staff of Pete Haney as Assistant Director, Danika Swanson as Outreach Coordinator, Chad O’Byrhim as

*“We still have a long way to go to adequately support undergraduate research, faculty travel, and events on and off campus, but we are heading in the right direction, buoyed by the dedication of friends, alumni, and memorials to Charley Stansifer.”*

Office Manager, Josie Kapicka as Graduate Program Assistant, and our student workers, particularly Owen MacDonald. They have made my duties as Acting Director and Graduate Coordinator manageable. Meanwhile, Director Santa Arias has sacrificed a significant portion of her sabbatical to guide us towards the Center’s long-term vision, for which I am very grateful.

Besides the activities and events reported in the following articles, I call your attention to some newsworthy items. Many faculty in the fall opined that the Center needs to cultivate more activities that build unity and synergy, and we attempted to address this concern by replacing the sparsely attended Graduate Research Colloquium in the Spring with more graduate student presentations at the [Meriendas](#), the time for which we changed from noon Thursdays to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays followed by discussion at Cielito Lindo. The effort has been an unqualified success among students, who have much to do with attendance improving from 5-6 per session in the fall to an average of 16 this semester. For faculty, however, the adjustment was not so successful, with an average of 1 in

attendance. Part of the problem may be the heavy competition for faculty attention on Friday afternoons. The informal discussions at Cielito Lindo started strong but fizzled by Spring Break.

The year 2018 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State of Kansas-Paraguay Partnership, and the Center, with the initiative of Dr. John Barnett of Emporia State University, is beginning tentative plans to hold an international [Paraguay conference](#) on March 9-10, 2017. The U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay, Leslie Bassett, visited the Center and the Office of International Programs on March 10 and offered to send at least one speaker from Paraguay to the conference. Funding for the conference will be garnered through registration fees.

On the topic of funding, several generous patrons have been [boosting the Center’s endowment](#), especially the Charles Stansifer doctoral award. We still have a long way to go to adequately support undergraduate research, faculty travel, and events on and off campus, but we are heading in the right direction, buoyed by the dedication of friends, alumni, and memorials to Charley Stansifer.

Academically, the Under-

graduate Committee is close to instituting new tracks or pathway options for the undergraduate major. Soon, students will have the option to specialize in particular themes (still with some general background courses) or complete the traditional generalist major. On the graduate front, the Graduate Committee has chosen to reconfigure our Brazilian and Mesoamerican certificates. We will now have three certificate tracks: a) a general certificate, b) a Brazilian Studies certificate, and c) a Mesoamerican certificate. The certificates consist of four courses, one of which must be LAA 701 “Interdisciplinary Seminar on Latin American Culture and Problems.”

Finally, the spring is when we thank members of the [Executive Committee](#) who have completed their three-year terms. This year we express our heartfelt appreciation to Verónica Garibotto, Rob Schwaller, Susan Twombly, Melissa Birch, and Tony Rosenthal for their leadership and sacrifice to Latin American & Caribbean Studies. Of course, we continue to welcome their input and hope they will run for the committee again in the future. The newly elected members, after razor-close votes by over 30 faculty, are Chris Brown (Social Sciences), Elizabeth Kuznesof (Humanities), Tamara Falicov (Humanities), and Lua Yuille (Professional Schools).

It has been a real honor keeping the Center’s boat afloat this academic year, and the sails will now be raised with Santa Arias at the helm again in July.

## US Ambassador to Paraguay Visits KU

**Peter Haney**  
Assistant Director

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies was honored to join International Programs and others on campus in welcoming the U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay, Leslie Bassett, to campus on Thursday, March 10th.

Spring Break was almost upon us, but numerous students and faculty, including a large contingent from the KU Paraguayan Students Association turned out to meet Ambassador Bassett at a reception that afternoon. Earlier in the day, the Ambassador spoke to the Global Scholars class about diplomatic careers, visited CLACS and the Applied English Center, and discussed initiatives related to Paraguay with faculty and administrators.

Ambassador Bassett is a relative newcomer, having arrived in Asunción to assume her duties in January of last year. Previously she served as the Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. A career member of the State Department’s Senior Foreign Service, Ms. Bassett has also served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. embassies in Manila, Philippines; in Mexico City, Mexico; and in Gaborone, Botswana. Her career also includes service in Colombia, Israel, South Africa, El Salvador and Nicaragua. A distinguished graduate of the National War College, she holds a master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University, and received her undergraduate degree in international relations from the University of California at Davis.

Her visit to KU was part of a tour of

universities in Kansas. Our state has been matched with Paraguay for over almost fifty years through [Partners of the Americas](#), and a number of Paraguayan students receive in-state tuition at Regents universities every year. Recently, there have been increases in the Paraguayan enrollment at Kansas State and Pittsburgh state and other schools. KU currently has a healthy group of 23.

Ambassador Bassett’s enthusiasm for intellectual and cultural exchange between the U.S. and Paraguay was clear to all who met her, and with so much interest in Paraguay all over the state, we should expect great things in the next half-century of the partnership. Special thanks are due to Michelle Ward of International Programs for her fine work coordinating the Ambassador’s visit.

## Winter Field School Provides Unique Learning Opportunities

**Madison Outlaw**  
Senior, Spanish, Indigenous  
Studies in Latin America

A small group of KU students made the decision to spend half of their winter break in Guatemala and El Salvador participating in an [Anthropology Field School](#) led by Dr. Brent Metz. These students—which included a variety of majors including Spanish, journalism, anthropology, and Latin American & Caribbean Studies—participated in the evaluation of two ecotourism lodges, planning a cultural fair held in Jocotán, Guatemala for the Ch’orti’ Maya community, and a filmography project. Students also completed coursework which gave a brief overview of the history of Guatemala and the Ch’orti’ Maya.

The evaluation of ecolodges began with El Manzano, an ecolodge located near Dulce Nombre de María in El Salvador. Stu-

dents stayed for two nights in cabins and tents to evaluate the accommodations and offer suggestions to the leaders within the project on how they can improve the ecolodge to attract more international tourists. The attractions provided at El Manzano included a variety of levels of hikes, a guerrilla museum, and a waterfall swimming hole. The sights and activities available were an incredible experience for all students involved. As student Haley Mead remarked, “it was great to learn such in depth histories about both the people and the ecolodges they established.”

The cultural fair was a great success, with many members of the community participating in the events of the day, which included a recipe collection, a performance/storytelling competition, and a seed exchange.

*Continued on page 4*



*Courtesy Brent Metz*

Guatemalan youth perform at the Field School’s culture fair. The fair featured many performances and an opportunity to learn about their heritage.

# McAllister Contributes Collection

Danika Swanson  
Outreach Coordinator

KU's International and Area Studies Centers were fortunate to receive a recent donation from Lawrence resident and retired arts educator Lucy McAllister. The McAllister collection includes over one hundred international art works and handcrafted items that will now be part of the Spencer Museum of Art's Classroom Collection and the Centers' Outreach Collections.

Lucy McAllister holds a BFA in Drawing and Painting and an MS in Art Education from KU, as well as a Ph.D. in Art Education from the University of Minnesota. She has taught and designed curriculum for public schools in Kansas and Minnesota, for the University of Minnesota, and for Southwest Minnesota State. She has also directed extension programs for the Minnesota College of Art and Design and created children's programs for the Minnesota Museum of Art. At the Museum she supervised area art students as they designed hands-on immersive activities for schoolchildren. Here is Lawrence Dr. McAllister is known for her support



Courtesy Danika Swanson

of the Girl Scouts, and many Kansas troupes have already used her international materials.

CLACS is still taking inventory of the Latin American and Caribbean items in the collection. We did note several objects from Colombia and have used them to complete a new addition to our Cul-

ture Trunks. We had already begun to build a Colombia culture trunk thanks to the efforts of Diana Restrepo and the generous donations of the Colombian Cultural Association. The completed Colombia trunk has already travelled to events and is currently in a classroom in Overland Park.

## Winter Field School (cont.)

The winner of the performance/storytelling competition and grand prize of 100 quetzales was a poet from Lelá Chancó, Camotán, who shared several beautiful poems about Jocotán and its surrounding towns. The group which won second place was a musical group which performed several numbers for those gathered. Several members of the musical group were native speakers of Ch'orti' Maya and enjoyed the festival and the opportunity to learn about their heritage.

The filmography project was an interesting and enlightening experience for several students during the trip. Participating student and film and media studies major Alex Robinson shared that "it was amazing to capture the country and culture on film to share with others." He has continued to work on editing the raw film captured in-country this semester

with Susan Wilcox, a filmographer who accompanied the students on the trip and provided the video equipment for the project. Most other students on the trip had little to no experience working with film and the project provided them with a unique opportunity to try their hand in a new area.

The trip provided all students with opportunities to learn about the history and culture of the communities visited. Additionally, the ecolodge evaluations provided a chance for students to get involved in the improvement of the ecotourism ventures of the communities, even providing ideas for potential economic ventures. At Las Cebollas, the group noted that there was a natural spring nearby with beautiful cascades below and this could potentially be used as a clean water source for tourists, which is an obstacle for many

ecolodges seeking to serve an international clientele. "Beyond the beauty of the falls, the clean mountain water represented an opportunity for the community, the chance to bring tourists up the mountain and into their lodges" said Joey Hentzler, graduate student in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

After returning to the United States to begin their spring semester at KU, the participating students bid each other farewell at the airport after two weeks of seeing incredible sights - including everything from volcanic lakes to mile-long panoramas—and spending all of their time together in tents, cabins, and hotels. However, they often reunite to celebrate their love for tacos (and their dislike of queso fresco) across Lawrence, laugh about memories from the trip, and discuss important issues within their fields.

## Charley Stansifer Remembered (cont.)

specialist in Central American history was not enough, Charley played a critical role in the State of [Kansas-Paraguay Partnership](#), serving on its board of directors for over two decades and along with Dr. Anita Herzfeld arranged an in-state tuition agreement for Paraguayan students in Kansas, resulting in over 1,000 Paraguayans coming to various Kansas universities to study. With the dream of Kansans studying in Para-

guayan universities, he donated \$5,000 to kickstart an endowed scholarship fund that continues to strengthen the partnership to this day. Charley was also instrumental in setting a tradition of sponsored visits of Kansas artists to Paraguay and vice versa, as well as boosting the KU Natural History Museum's ornithological collections with specimens from Paraguay. For his lifelong efforts, Charley was given the Pro-

vost's Faculty International Leadership Award, a Universidad de Costa Rica Award for Contribution to KU-UCR Relationship, and a Universidad del Pacífico (Paraguay) Award for Service in International University Exchange.

The family survivors, including four children, three stepchildren, and seven grandchildren, will hold a memorial Saturday June 11 in the Lawrence Carnegie Building. They suggest [donations](#)

to the Stansifer Scholarship Fund to support KU doctoral students in Central American, Mexican, and Caribbean studies. The funeral home Rumsey and Yost has a blog where some of his former students have left [comments](#) and where anyone can continue posting indefinitely.

*Information compiled from KU Communications, the Lawrence Journal World, and the Kansas-Paraguay Partners.*

## Reflections from colleagues and students

"I always admired, respected, and trusted [Charley] for his belief in the capacity of human beings to behave responsibly and creatively, his delight in facing intellectual challenges, his self-assurance that preempted all pettiness, and his absolute integrity, both as a person and as a scholar and colleague. He will be sorely missed by all of us who cared for him deeply."

—Anita Herzfeld, Professor Emerita of Latin American Studies & Linguistics

"Charley's passion for teaching and Latin America provided the foundation for much of the strength in the program today. He deserves our sincere thanks."

—Elizabeth Kuznesof, Professor of History & Director of the Center, 1992-2011

"Charley was a gentleman and a scholar. And he was also a bridge-builder: between units on campus, between dictators and their citizens, between the foreign and the domestic. In the Business School we remember him for his early and sustained support for our efforts to internationalize our curriculum. As a Paraguayanist I remember him for his uncanny ability to travel the non-partisan path with aplomb."

—Melissa Birch, Associate Professor of Business

"Charley was one of the most important advisors I ever had in grad school. He turned me on to geography and was the chair of my thesis committee in Latin American Studies. I try, in every interaction I have with my own students, to emulate his care and concern, and to give the kind of constructive criticism that propelled me and many others forward. Thank you, Charley!"

—Chris Brown, Associate Professor of Geography & Director of Environmental Studies, former student

"Dr. Stansifer will be deeply missed, as a father, friend, and professor. From his teaching to his scholarship and service, he held his students to a high standard, and we all respected him for this. He was always up for a fun discussion about Latin American history, culture, or politics, and his banana lectures were the source of considerable joy for all those who attended. I was there for his last one. It was unforgettable. From the moment I began my research at KU as an MA student, all the way to the present (15 years later), Dr. Stansifer has been a constant presence in the part of my mind that keeps me on task. I keep him with me as a guide and a friend."

—Chris White, Associate Professor of History at Marshall University, former student

"I had the privilege of hearing Professor Stansifer speak during a seminar on foreign policy for junior high students when I was a teenager, here in Lawrence, Kansas. Dr. Stansifer explained the background of 20<sup>th</sup> -Century Latin American revolutions, saying names and mentioning events that my textbooks had not deemed worthy of note. I had just finished a research project on the history of soft drinks and had run across a journalistic story about a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Havana before the Revolution. During the question and answer session, I asked what had happened to it. Dr. Stansifer said he didn't know about that specific plant but that most U.S. assets in Havana had been nationalized. He added that having visited Cuba, he could report that both of the soft drinks made by the Revolutionary state, "Cola" and "Orange," were terrible. My friends ribbed me for days for asking about random minutiae, but the exchange showed me that Latin American Studies was a legitimate field of inquiry. Thanks to Dr. Stansifer for being a resource for the whole community."

—Peter Haney, Assistant Director, CLACS

**Contribute to the Stansifer Fund**  
[latamst.ku.edu/giving-program](http://latamst.ku.edu/giving-program)  
**Leave your memory of Charles**  
[rumseyyost.wpengine.com/2016/02/charles-l-stansifer/](http://rumseyyost.wpengine.com/2016/02/charles-l-stansifer/)

# Faculty Updates

**Santa Arias**, Professor, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Director, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies

As resident fellow at KU's [Hall Center for the Humanities](#), on April 6th, Arias delivered her lecture "Reinventing Possession from San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico: Writing a Critical History of Slavery and Colonialism (1764-1788)." At the Latin American Studies Association International Congress she presented the paper "Colonial Geo-graphing: Reasserting the Place of Space in Caribbean Studies." In addition, Arias has forthcoming the essay "A Cronicón of Crónicas: The New Spanish Prose Narrative" in the *Cambridge History of Mexican Literature* edited by Ignacio Sánchez Prado, Anna Nogar, and José Ramón Ruisánchez; and co-authored with Vanina M. Teglia (Conicet-Argentina) the bibliographical essay "Bartolomé de las Casas" to appear in *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Renaissance and Reformation*.

**Chris Brown**, Associate Professor, Geography, Director of Environmental Studies

Brown returns to campus this coming fall after his year-long sabbatical on a Fulbright Fellowship at the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil. He recently won of the 2016 [George and Eleanor Woodyard International Educator Award](#) here at KU. Chris and his co-authors at KU (Jude Kastens and Chris Bishop of the Kansas Biological Survey) and at Embrapa (Brazil's equivalent of the USDA) completed a major project to map land use and land cover of the state of Mato Grosso, one of the world's fastest growing breadbaskets, from 2001-2014. Other research in progress examines the social and environmental dynamics of the expansion of sugar cane production in Brazil's *cerrado* (savanna) with collaborators at UNICAMP and Kansas State University. Some recent publications include: "Land Occupations and Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon." *Land Use Policy*, Vol. 54 (2016), pp. 331-338 (with Courtenay Brown) and "Using an Analyt-

ic Hierarchy Process Approach to Prioritize Public Policies Addressing Family Farming in Brazil." *Land Use Policy*, Vol. 51 (2016) (with Maria A. Petrini, Jansle Rocha, J. and Rafael Bispo).

**Caroline Chaboo**, Curator, Biodiversity Institute, and Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Chaboo conducted field work in Peru, with co-PIs Mary Anne and Luke Jordan, Visual Arts. They are developing an interdisciplinary research on indigenous natural dyes with in-country collaborators, Dr. María de los Angeles La Torre-Cuadros, a professor of ethnobotany at the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Lima and Nilda Callañaupa, a Quechua Master Weaver and Dyer. The group visited several Quechua communities in the Sacred Valley and examined dyes made with insects, various plants, and lichens. They are preparing manuscripts and external grants to continue this initial expedition, which was funded by a Commons Seed Grant.

Dr. Chaboo returned to Costa Rica in January with eight KU undergraduates to continue fieldwork with faculty collaborators at the University of Costa Rica on Zingiberales plant-arthropod communities. This project is funded by a grant from the [KU Office of International Programs](#). The research has assembled some 151 samples of communities from three sites around Costa Rica and a comprehensive manuscript with the 22 KU student co-authors is in preparation.

**Michael Crawford**, Affiliated Professor of Anthropology

Crawford was among the co-others of a genome-scale study arguing that ancestors of present-day Native Americans arrived in the Americas as part of a single-migration wave from Siberia no earlier than 23,000 years ago. The study appeared in the journal *Science*. Dr. Crawford has also published several articles on anthropological genetics in *The American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

**Tamara Falicov**, Associate Professor

of Film and Media Studies

Falicov was invited to give a two hour workshop at the Panama International Film Festival to help first time filmmakers strategize how to obtain European film festival funds and to utilize crowd sourcing. She also conducted her second year of a research project on the finishing fund (post production) "First Look" for Central American filmmakers. Falicov was also awarded a summer General Research Fund grant for her new book manuscript examining the role of film festivals, film branding, and film schools in three emerging Latin American economies: Chile, Colombia, and Panama. She will attend the Valdivia film festival located in Chile this fall to study a workshop called "Three Ports Cinema." Falicov was also awarded an "Internationalizing the Curriculum" grant to create a new course with a research and service learning component called Global Film Festivals to be offered Spring 2017. She will be on sabbatical leave Fall 2016.

**Ruben Flores**, Associate Professor of American Studies

Flores was the lead author of "Using History to Analyze the 'Learning by Observing and Pitching In' Practices of Contemporary Mesoamerican Societies," published in December in the journal *Advances in Child Development and Behavior* as part of a National Science Foundation-funded project designed by psychologist Barbara Rogoff at the University of California, Santa Cruz, to understand Mesoamerican learning practices. The special issue was devoted to the study of the learning practices that Rogoff and others have coined "Learning by Observing and Pitching In," or LOPI, which is especially common among indigenous communities of the Americas and families that have had contact with those communities.

**Mugur V. Geana**, Associate Professor of Journalism

Geana and his team of researchers from KU and from the University of Costa Rica recently completed the data anal-

## Faculty Spotlight: Cecilia Menjívar

Since her arrival on campus, Foundation Distinguished Professor of Sociology Cecilia Menjívar has been hard at work as co-director of KU's new Center for Migration Research, together with Victor Agadjanian, also a Foundation Distinguished Professor of Sociology. This Spring, the Center organized a well-attended symposium on race and migration featuring such migration studies luminaries as Rogelio Saenz of UTSA and Nestor Rodríguez of UT-Austin. Participants in the conference explored the shift of emphasis in public discussions of migration from overt racism to more veiled appeals to race after the Civil Rights Movements of the 1960s. Earlier in the semester, the Center also sponsored lectures by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo of the University of Southern California on migration in the U.S. context and Anne François of Eastern University (Pennsylvania) on migration between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The Center is also supporting

faculty research on migration through seed grants. Expect to see exciting results from the projects supported by the Center in the coming months.

Prof. Menjívar has not let the work of building a new migration studies program detract from her own academic research. In a recent paper co-authored with Arizona State doctoral student Dulce Medina, Menjívar studied the barriers that Mexicans face when they return to their home communities after living in the United States. Surprisingly, Menjívar and Medina found that voluntary return migrants struggled with the same social stigmas and bureaucratic barriers faced by those who had been deported.

Prof. Menjívar also teaches popular classes on migration at KU and serves on the CLACS Executive Committee. We expect the cross-pollination between Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Migration Studies will enrich the activities of both Centers.



Courtesy KU News

ysis on the impact of a communication campaign built on Community-Based Participatory Research addressing prevention of dengue fever in the province of Limón, Costa Rica. Some of the findings of this applied research will be presented at the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare, September 7-10, 2016, at the University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Dr. Geana's collaboration with Chile's Catholic University (Schools of Mass Communication and School of Medicine) culminated in January with the presentation of the prototype of the online communication system (Bienestando) developed to improve knowledge and awareness of Chilean seniors about health. The project was funded by FONDEF (Fondo de Fomento al Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico). The colloquium received wide coverage in Chilean mass

media. The team is currently working on preparing a grant proposal to advance the research and development of the web communication resource

**Laura Herlihy**, Lecturer in Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Herlihy attended the 9th Assembly of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant people of the Nicaraguan Moskitia, from Feb. 26-28, 2016 in Bilwi, the capitol of the North Autonomous Region. This year's assembly was important because the indigenous peoples of Moskitia are in crisis due to colonization of their land by armed settlers from the Pacific side of Nicaragua. While observing the assembly for her own research, Herlihy also teamed up with Dan and Jane Higgins, representatives of Bilwi's sister city Burlington, Vermont. Dan Higgins is a photographer and an Art History Emeritus

professor at the University of Vermont and produced a film about the assembly with Herlihy serving as the interviewer and translator (Miskitu/Spanish/English). The Bilwi-Burlington sister city was set up in the early 1980s by Burlington's then mayor Bernie Sanders, when he visited Nicaragua during the Sandinista revolution. Herlihy is also attending the 2016 Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations, from May 8-14. She will serve as an academic observer and accompany the Miskitu leaders at the UN.

**Joo-Ok Kim**, Assistant Professor of American Studies; **Christopher Perreira**, Assistant Professor of American Studies; and **Magalí Rabasa**, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese

The three received a Commons Starter Grant for Trans/forming Activist

Media in the Americas, brings together activist communities, artists and scholars from Mexico, Canada and across the United States to investigate how the arts, new media technologies and activist discourse and knowledge production intersect.

The events, which include performances, film and media exhibitions, roundtable events and a keynote lecture, will take place in fall 2016.

**Brent Metz**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Acting Director

Metz published the commentary "The Challenge of Framing Migration for the Public" in *Practicing Anthropology*, and presented "Situational Identity, Opportunism, and Self-Defense in Eastern Guatemala and Western Honduras" at the American Anthropological Association annual meetings in Denver last November and "Intersecting with Engineers Without Borders in a Latin American Indigenous Water Project" at the Society for Applied Anthropology annual meetings in Vancouver in April.

**Betsaida Reyes**, Librarian for Spain, Portugal and Latin America

Reyes published the article "Area Studies Librarianship." In *Becoming a Star Subject Specialist: Practical Tips from the Field*, edited by Karen Sobel. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited. (Refereed, Invited) Libraries Unlimited is a leading publisher for library related monographs. The book is aimed at those currently working on their library degree, and her chapter addresses area studies librarianship. The chapter describes the unique qualifications and skills that will prepare future area studies librarians. The chapter also identifies key organizations for each particular region of interest.

**Anton Rosenthal**, Associate Professor of History

Rosenthal published "The Streetcar in the Urban Imaginary of Latin America" in the *Journal of Urban History* January 2016 42: 162-179.

**Robert Timm**, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Timm, his former student Andrea Romero, and their collaborators have



Courtesy Peter Haney

Lecturer Laura Herlihy leading a LASA human rights delegation from Burlington, Vermont filming testimonials from the Miskitu of Nicaragua. Burlington is sister City of Puerto Cabezas, started when Bernie Sanders was mayor of Burlington and visited Nicaragua in the early 1980s.

had two papers recently appear on their research in Costa Rica. Their chapter on "The Caribbean Lowland Evergreen Moist and Wet Forests" was published in the book *Costa Rican Ecosystems* by the University of Chicago Press. The book and their chapter take a holistic, integrated approach with introductory, historical, and ecological information for a broad overview of the major ecosystems. Their chapter is a comprehensive account of the diversity, structure, function, uses, and conservation of Costa Rica's Caribbean lowland landscape.

Their recent paper in the *Journal of Mammalogy* assesses the abundance and diversity of mammals in primary and secondary forests, providing a rigorous survey technique and recommendations on how to sample wildlife in tropical forests. Their paper highlights the significant conservation value of secondary forests.

**Luciano Tosta**, Associate Professor of Spanish & Portuguese

In addition to receiving a promotion to Associate Professor, he won the 2016 Vice Chancellor for Research Book Publication Award for his book *Confluence Narratives: Ethnicity, History, and Nation Making in the Americas*, which is forthcoming with Bucknell University Press in July 2016. Informed by post-colonial theory, and ethnic and race studies, his book defines and analyzes a major literary genre that appears across the Americas in the middle of the twentieth century. With Eduardo F. Coutinho, Tosta also edited a collection of essays titled *Latin America in Focus: Brazil*. The book takes an all-encompassing look at Brazil and is suited for undergraduates, high school students, and readers outside of a classroom. Its chapters explore such topics as religion, social classes, ethnicity, gender and family, marriage and sexuality, and education, culture, and the arts.

# Undergraduate Update

**Peter Haney**  
Assistant Director

Spring is in the air, itchy mites are waking up to bite, and once again CLACS is getting ready to say "goodbye" to some of our amazing majors and minors. Majors **Janelle Fox** and **Bryan Neely** are both ready to finish their BA degrees, as are minors **Madison Outlaw** and **Carmen Bosneag**. Janelle was our front-desk assistant at CLACS for several semesters and we'll miss her cheerful smile and careful proofreading eye. Madison is well-known on campus for her leadership with the **Jayhawk Health Initiative**. She will take this experience to nursing school in the Fall. Carmen, who took to **Laura Herlihy's** summer program like a fish to water, is now in Kansas City working as an HR manager for the public relations firm Branson Cole. What is it about PR and Latin American & Caribbean Studies these days?

Our current students are keeping us on our toes. Major **Alex Stuart** and minor **James Tandy** will both travel to Latin America soon with help from the **Anita Herzfeld Scholarship** offered by our Center. You've met Alex if you've been to **Mesa Brasileira** or any other **BRASA** events recently. He'll be in Florianópolis during the Fall semester. James, who got his feet wet in Central America this past winter with Acting Director **Brent Metz's** program, will return to Guatemala with Tulane University's summer Mayan language program. Here at home, major **Elena Anderson-Smith** and non-major **Brittney**



Courtesy Peter Haney

**BRASA** officers and **LAA** majors **Owen MacDonald** and **Alex Stuart** stamp "passports" and reach out to interested students during the International Jayhawk Festival.

**Beckham** won top honors from the **Center for Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility's** annual Service Showcase poster competition this Spring. The competition invited poster sessions from about service-learning projects. For their project, a new community garden in the West Campus area organized through the **Center for Community Outreach's** EARTH program, Ellie and Brittney both won \$100 scholarships. The two will be EARTH co-chairs for the coming year. Major and front desk worker extraordinaire **Owen MacDonald** recently won the Elizabeth and Carl Gustafson Scholarship from the Political Science Department, the second award he has won from that program. Finally, Anthropology/Applied Behavioral Science major **Will Fleming** recently won first place in

the Sigma Xi Undergraduate Research Competition for a paper about alcoholism on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. CLACS's **Laura Herlihy** and **David Jarmolowicz** (Applied Behavioral Science) supervised his research.

In alumni news, lots of good reports are coming in. **Patricia Solís** ('15) finished her BA in Latin American & Caribbean Studies and Public Policy in December and has started working as a Legal Advocate with the **Mattie Rhodes Center** in Kansas City. She also works part-time at the **Rose Brooks Center**, a domestic violence shelter, along with **Kate Sopcich** ('15), who divides her time between Brooks and the **Mexican Consulate**. **Joey Hentzler** ('15) continues in our MA program, teaching a full class of LAA 100 students and getting ready to go to Bolivia

with a **Tinker** award to do his own research. From Illinois, we hear that **Cassie Osei** is rocking the History Ph.D. program. She was scheduled to return to KU to present at the Mid America American Studies conference but had to cancel because of illness. **Gus Bova** ('15) and **Rachel Cross** ('15) are both finishing up Americorps years, Gus in Austin and Rachel right here in Lawrence. Gus is looking into ways to start a journalism career, while Rachel is investigating options in government service. Rachel has worked closely with me this Spring, helping to coordinate service assignments for my LAA 300 class. Students in that class are volunteering in various capacities with **Centro Hispano**. **Gena Pollack** ('14) is studying law at the University of Tulsa and working for Tulsa Educare. As for **Grant Berning** ('14), he's pursuing a Ph.D. in archaeology right here at KU and recently visited Mexico with Tinker support from the Center. **Zach O'Bea** ('13) remains at Cerner in Kansas City and reports that he is about to tie the knot with a special someone he met through his travels in Brazil. **Bret Lathrop** ('13) is still working for General Mills, now in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. And for his part, **Jeff Miller** ('13) is getting back to nature as part of a new intentional community near the southeast Kansas town of Independence. It's always a privilege to work with such wonderful students, and we love to hear what our alumni are up to. Keep the news coming!

# Alumni Spotlight

## Marisela Chávez '15

A few weeks after defending my thesis, I moved to California to assume the role of Program Associate in the Andes-Amazon Initiative (AAI) at the [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#) in Palo Alto. The Intel founder and his wife established the foundation in 2001 to create positive, meaningful, and lasting change for future generations. My role consists of project management, as well as providing programmatic and administrative support to a \$30 million annual grant portfolio that finances environmental conservation projects across the Amazon Basin. Since AAI was launched in 2004, it has contributed to more than 30% of the conservation of the Amazon Basin. Our portfolio currently consists of over 60 projects in five countries (Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia), giving me ample opportunities to practice my language skills, including KU FLAS funded Portuguese, as I work very closely with our grantees and partners on developing their proposals and make site visits to monitor the progress of project objectives. My responsibilities also include engaging with key decision makers, thought leaders, and practitioners in the region to conduct gatherings that facilitate the exchange of ideas, establish basin-wide conservation work plans, and develop conservation monitoring tools and strategies that can influence development and policy-making in the Amazon Basin.

While at KU, my M.A. thesis



Courtesy Marisela Chávez

focused on sustainably-grown food as a mechanism for environmental and social justice for an MST (Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra, or Landless Workers' Movement) community in the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil. It was KU CLACS support, through the [Tinker and Oppenheimer research grants](#), that took me to Brazil and enabled me to gain some expertise in a region that is extremely relevant to my current work. While at KU, I also got the opportunity to participate in CLACS outreach activities, which enabled me to exercise my passion for education and expanding experiential opportunities for K-12 educators and students. Co-founding [LAGO](#) (Latin

American Graduate Organization) further enriched my studies, as it provided a platform to continue exploring issues in Latin America through an interdisciplinary lens. These and other volunteer experiences cemented my commitment to work on environmental conservation and social justice issues in the region.

Today, I continue to develop my research interests beyond my current professional role. I am currently working on a chapter for a book project that will be published later this year on food justice in the U.S. and global context, and have started my own blog called Tlacualli, in which I will continue to explore the intersections of food production,

food cultures, social justice, and conservation in Latin America (<http://www.tlacualli.wordpress.com>). This spring I will be presenting at a conference on agricultural systems and environmental conservation in Mato Grosso on a panel that will give me the opportunity to sit side-by-side with the community that I worked with during my thesis research, and in the fall, I will return to Costa Rica where I have been invited to be a visiting scholar at EARTH University. At EARTH, I will present on my research and get a chance to interact with students and professors in their community-based projects. In my free time, I volunteer at an educational farm in the Bay Area.

## Lacey Koester '07

Latin American & Caribbean Studies Alum Lacey Koester ('07) is using the language skills and knowledge she gained through her undergraduate studies to help Latin American immigrants in the Kansas City area roll with life's punches and recover from trauma. Currently an MSW, Koester is completing her year-long clinical-level foundation at KU School of Social Welfare with [The Family Conservancy](#) in Kansas City, Kansas. There, Koester provides therapeutic counseling to members of the Spanish-speaking community in Wyandotte and Johnson counties through the "Dame La Mano" ("Give me your Hand") Program. The program helps children, families, couples and individuals manage stress, overcome trauma, reduce family violence, and beat depression and anxiety. Many of Koester's clients are victims of crime who accessed services for free through the Crime Act Victim Assistance Grant (VOCA) provided by the state of Kansas. Many were unaccompanied minors from Central America.

During her practicum, Koester helps the kids adjust to a new culture while dealing with the trauma that precipitated their move to the United States. She uses a strengths-based and resilience-focused framework, as well as solution-focused therapy to promote change and honor her clients' the unique cultural



Courtesy Lacey Koester

background. She also works with the parents, relatives, and caregivers of the children to provide an environment supportive of their unique mental health needs. In addition to direct therapeutic services, Koester helps the unaccompanied minors with applications for asylum as they navigated removal proceedings. She regularly confers with lawyers and provides letters of support on behalf of her clients regarding their adverse childhood experiences and recommendations for remaining with their caregivers in

the United States.

Time and time again, clients have professed their gratitude to the Family Conservancy for the services provided through the Dame La Mano Program. Without insurance, most had been unable to afford the mental and behavioral health services they so desperately needed to navigate and maintain their daily lives. After therapy, many reported improvements in their educational, social and familial relationships once they learn to manage the symptoms related to their previous traumatic experiences. For Koester, who earned a BA in History, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, and Spanish from the University in 2007 and received a FLAS Fellowship from CLACS to study Portuguese in Salvador, Brazil in 2014, the work was hard but rewarding. "When my clients describe what happened to them in Central America, I recognize the names of the places they talk about and the situations they describe," said Koester. "I know what questions to ask, and Latin American & Caribbean Studies helped get me there." As she wraps up the clinical practicum, Lacey has begun working for the Kansas City school district as a Refugee and Immigrant Social Worker. There she continues to serve students from Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras and many other countries.

## Sarah Stern '13



Courtesy Sarah Stern

When Lawrence native Sarah Stern ('13) came back from Brazil and Paraguay with a published book of photos already under her belt, we knew we'd see great things from her after she finished KU. The latest news from Sarah doesn't disappoint. After KU, Sarah moved to Miami to work as an account executive for the Jeffrey Group, an advertising firm that represents clients all over the Western Hemisphere and specializes in marketing aimed at Latin America. While at the Jeffrey Group, she won a SABRE, the PR industry's most coveted award, for her work promoting the music-streaming service Spotify. After this success, Sarah has moved to Los Gatos, California, where she manages the Latin American consumer PR team for Netflix. We suspect we haven't heard the last of this dynamic alumna.

# Outreach Notes

## KU to Host Fall Cortés Exhibit

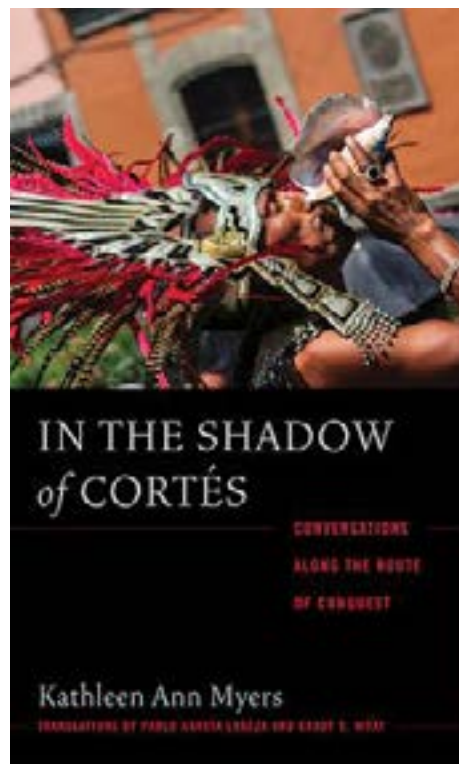
Danika Swanson  
Outreach Coordinator

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies is partnering with the Spencer/KU Libraries to host [In the Shadow of Cortés: From Veracruz to Mexico City](#) this Fall. The traveling art exhibit will be on display at the Kenneth Spencer Library Gallery from September 1st through December 10th.

The exhibit is the fruit of a project by two Indiana University professors: Kathleen Myers, a professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and colonial Mexico historian; and Steven Raymer, a professor of Photography and renowned *National Geographic* photographer. Meyer and Raymer have also written a book of the same name, *In the Shadow of Cortés: Conversations Along the Route of Conquest*, that includes excerpts from interviews with local storytellers, scholars, a poet, an archeologist, and townspeople the researchers met

along the route. “The purpose of ‘In the Shadow of Cortés’ is not to tell Mexicans what they already know, but rather to help Americans understand the great complexity and diversity of the traditions, languages and local histories found along a single, yet significant historical route in 21st century Mexico,” said Kathleen Myers.

There will be an opening reception and lecture on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> with Professor John F. Schwaller, a leading scholar of colonial Latin American History and the author of recently published book on the expedition’s first letter from Veracruz, *The First Letter from New Spain: The Lost Petition of Cortes and His Company, June 20, 1519*. In November, we will hold a Roundtable discussion and lecture with the author of the book and curator of the exhibit, Kathleen Myers. The roundtable will be a featured event during the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature.



## Latino Americans @ 500 Years



Betsaida Reyes, librarian CLACS areas, welcomes a visitor to the exhibit opening of the April 2016 Latino Americans: 500 Years of History series.

## Faculty Research Clusters to Return

Faculty are invited to submit themes for interdisciplinary research clusters. CLACS is currently seeking external support for one or two clusters with a modest grant that may host a speaker or program a conference. These events would add to the already established Colonialism seminar through the Hall Center and the Migration group through the Center for Migration Studies.

Clusters should connect to themes of broad scholarly interest at KU and strategic areas that could eventually lead to outside funding. The proposal should be submitted by at least 2 faculty members from different disciplines. Through this effort, the Center seeks to continue an important initiative it began with Title VI NRC support in 2010.

# Student Organizations Update

## Paraguayan Student Assoc.

Under the leadership of President Ale Carrizosa, VP Facundo Bittar, Social/PR Chair Ximena Scavone, Treasurer Pablo Chen, Volunteering Chair Gabriela Valdivinos, and Cultural Chair Sergio Cibils, the [Paraguayan Student Association](#) had a busy and productive spring. The highlight was its March meeting with the US ambassador to Paraguay, Leslie Ann Bassett. In her preparations for the visit, Ambassador Bassett made meeting Paraguayan students a priority, and PSA rose to the occasion. The group also participated in the World Expo in the Kansas Union. At the Paraguay table, they had the opportunity to share their culture amidst the other international students by displaying items from the CLACS Southern Cone Trunk, including pictures, food, clothing, handicrafts, and books that describe the native aspects of Paraguay.

The association also hosted a group of high school students from Encarnación, Paraguay who were in Lawrence to study abroad. The PSA also volunteered at a nursing home on Valentine’s Day and participated in KU’s Big Event on April 16th. After the Big Event, the group held a celebration at Lawrence’s Tonic nightclub. Finally, the group said “good-bye” to graduating seniors and inaugurated a new set of officers with—what else?—an end-of-year barbecue.

## Brazilian Student Assoc.

For two years, people have been wondering, “what happened to Carnaval?” “Why doesn’t BRASA bring it back?” Well, this Spring they did, and it was spectacular. More than 500 people descended on Abe and Jake’s Landing in downtown Lawrence on February 20<sup>th</sup> to see the band Chicago Samba. Hips were moving throughout the night, while DJ 151 kept the crowd pumped during intermissions. CLACS’s very own star and BRASA president Owen MacDonald MC’ed the evening, finding out just how tough it is to go on stage and organize dance-offs. All told, Carnaval was the party of the year in Lawrence with rave reviews from students, professors, and folks from as far away as Brazil. BRASA was glad to see so many faces there, and looks forward to making next year’s celebration being even bigger!

Brazil Week, leading up to Carnaval, was also a fabulous triumph. A samba workshop led by BRASA vice-president and CLACS major Alex Stuart got the week off to a funky start. It was followed on Tuesday with a film screening of *The Second Mother*. This event brought students from a variety of disciplines together with CLACS Professor and BRASA advisor Luciano Tosta to have a serious discussion about domestic labor in Brazil. On Wednesday a panel discussion was held about the political and economic situation in Brazil and what the country’s outlook is for the future. Many



Courtesy Peter Haney

Created by local ceramist Justin Fairchild (left), CLACS Acting Director Brent Metz received a gift which portrayed the iconic yellow butterflies of Gabriel García Márquez’ “*One Hundred Years of Solitude*” on a vase that resembles the Colombian Poporo. For more information on LAGO’s GABO celebration, visit the CLACS website.

thanks to CLACS faculty Melissa Birch, Antonio Simões, Chris Anderson, CLACS MA Alum Mara Aubel, and friend of the center Jacob Longaker from Political Science for participating on the panel.

formed a variety dances from South America wearing traditional indigenous regalia. Drummer Gustavo Restrepo joined Espinoza.

LAGO celebrated the noted Colombian author and Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez with a gala event on March 10th at the Kansas Union Ballroom. The group organized a potpourri of presentations exploring the author’s contribution to the genre of magical realism and the many ways that his cultural traditions permeate his work.

Next semester LAGO hopes to increase its involvement in the community of Lawrence to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Month and continue the posadas or novenas Colombianas in December. In the Fall, the torch will pass to a new group of officers. Nadia Ruiz will take over as President, with Laura Jiménez as Vice President, Melania Piedra Barrera as Treasurer, and Will Penner as Secretary.

## LAGO

The [Latin American Graduate Organization](#) organized an Earth Day Celebration on April 20th with Musician Amado Espinoza and dancer Karen Lisondra. This event easily matched last year’s success, drawing a crowd of around 120 attendees from KU and the broader community to the Commons at Spooner Hall.

Amado is a talented musician who has taught himself how to play up to 40 instruments from around the world, and can play up to 5 instruments at the same time. His wife Karen Lisondra is an actress, theater director, educator, and yogini; who per-

# Tinker Field Research Grants Provide Students with Funding for Research in Latin America

In 2013, CLACS was awarded a prestigious grant from the [Tinker Foundation](#) to fund graduate student field research in Latin America. The grant, together with KU matching funds, provides \$30,000 per year through 2016 for students to conduct short-term research on a non-dissertation topic in Latin America that is new to them. Each year, students benefit from access to invaluable data and research experience they would have otherwise been unable to attain.

**Grant Berning**, *Anthropology*, travelled to Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico to conduct preliminary research into the number of archeological sites and museums associated with the Olmec Civilization. He spent time in Villahermosa collecting resources and publications at libraries and research institutions. Among his accomplishments on this trip were visits to the site of La Venta to become familiar with its ceramic artifacts building. He plans to build an Olmec ceramic sequence with the Olmec ceramic collection housed in the Archaeological Research Center at the University of Kan-

sas. He was able to locate and photograph the place where former KU archeologist Robert Squier excavated the ceramics. He visited the Sitio de La Venta (INAH), Parque Museo La Venta, Museo Regional de Antropología Carlos Pellicer Cámara, the Comalcalco Archaeological site museum, the Biblioteca José María Pino Suárez, and the research library at the Museo Regional de Antropología Carlos Pellicer Cámara.

**Alba Constenla Torrado**, *Spanish & Portuguese*, explored Cuba's Gallego Associations. She visited three important libraries and found valuable periodical publications written by Galician intellectuals. She decided to focus her research on a newspaper called *La tierra gallega*. It depicted a transatlantic vision on the problems of the turn of the century, offering Galician modernity to Cuba for the next century. She also visited the Sociedad de Beneficencia de Naturales de Galicia, also located in the Gran Teatro de La Habana, which unites various Gallego associations on the island. The most important material that she collected there was the original manuscript of the Gal-

cian national anthem, by Eduardo Pondal, "Queixumes dos Pinos".

**Josh Homan**, *Anthropology*, investigated the connections between indigenous Quechua speaking people living in the Upper Amazon region of San Martín, Peru and other indigenous people living in lowland Amazonia within the region of Loreto, and how these linkages have been maintained through trade, shamanism, and indigenous movements. He conducted archival research on communities around that area. He traveled to the small community of Sisa, San Martín and conducted interviews with government officials and indigenous authorities about the history of ampi production in the community. His research provided ample data on indigenous trade relations, identity, and shamanism, from both indigenous and mestizo perspectives. This research expands the ethnology and ethnohistory of the western Peruvian Amazon, which has a dearth of extensive research projects in comparison to other regions of the Amazon such as in southern Colombia, Ecuador, and northwestern Brazil

**Josephine Kapicka**, *MA Latin American & Caribbean Studies*, studied the cultural impact that perceptions of climate change have on the indigenous Miskitu people in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) of Nicaragua. She conducted structured interviews with people of the coastal community of Haulover. This research reported that the shrimp that should annually enter the lagoon have not been seen in three years, that marine life overall had decreased, and that manatees that once inhabited the lagoon have disappeared entirely.

**Doriane Andrade Meyer**, *MA Architecture*, researched the influence of Islamic architecture in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. The research uncovered important Islamic influences, including muxarabiés in some windows, verandas that encircle farmhouses, and the interior design of some colonial residences. She took over one hundred pictures of forts, churches, convents, buildings, and his-

torical residences exhibiting Islamic architectural styles. She also interviewed several important scholars and researchers and found important bibliographic and journalistic sources in the Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional (National Institute for Historic and Artistic Heritage), the city's main public library, the Fundação Cultural Palmares of Brazil's Ministry of Culture, the city's Central Public Archive, and the São Bento Monastery.

**Pamela Rodríguez-Montero**, *Theater*, travelled to Guatemala City, Antigua and Rabinal. Her research allowed her to explore the design elements of the contemporary Mayan culture and their richness in terms of visual language and theatrical design. She was able to explore the costume design and visual elements associated with the traditional dance drama *Rabinal Achí*. The research allowed her to gauge possibilities and costs for costume design. In Rabinal, she learned that the drama-dance is performed in honor of the San Pablo, the patron saint of the community, but Catholicism is always mixed with Maya elements, including the dance styles and constant beating of the *tun*, or drum.

**Gina Sandí-Díaz**, *Theater*, visited Diriamba, Nicaragua to study the performance of El Güegüense, a colonial theatre-dance drama performed since the 17th century. She witnessed the ritual performances of El Tope de los Santos, El Güegüense, El Toro Huaco, El Viejo y la Vieja and La Giganta festivities in Diriamba and neighboring Dolores. She also conducted open interviews of audience members, mask makers, and artisans about the festivity and visited historical sites and cultural centers to learn the historical context of Granada, the province in which Diriamba lies. Her conversations with artisans, mask makers and audience members suggested that El Güegüense is indeed an icon of national identity, and yet the current government has divested from the traditional dances and forced participants to condense the processions and their complexity.

**Taylor Tappan**, *MA Geography*, held a participatory research mapping workshop in Grano de Oro, Costa Rica and gained insight into traditional Cabécar land tenure and subsistence practices. Twenty Cabécar leaders representing villages from all sectors of the Alto Chirripó Reserve traveled to Grano de Oro to receive training in basic geographic methodologies, including communi-



Courtesy Carmen Torre Pérez

ty sketch mapping, application of a land use survey, and the use of a hand-held GPS unit. These local investigators returned to their communities after the workshop to organize assemblies in which land use surveys were completed and sketch maps were drawn to reflect the cognitive spatial knowledge of members of the given community. This experience was essential for becoming familiar with the geography of Alto Chirripó Reserve and Cabécar community leaders, and to establish ties with geography students and professors at the National Autonomous University and the University of Costa Rica who have experience working in the region.

**Carmen Torre Pérez**, *Spanish & Portuguese*, traveled to Cuba to discover the extent to which Cuba's alternative music scene differed from those in Spain and North America. At first she expected to visit Havana, Santa Clara and Sancti Spíritus, but then she added Cienfuegos and Trinidad to garner a fuller perspective of Cuba's scene. Her journey began at Havana. Through a snowball approach, she was able to meet many people who referred her to many more. She was able to meet all of her contacts, exchanged music with them and even visited some music venues and a self-made recording studio. She interviewed five bands and spoke with many underground critics, publishers, and consumers. She also found a strong tendency towards being apolitical, as opposed to being critical of communism or capitalism.

## 2016 Awardees

### Tinker Field Research Award

Jennifer Abercrombie Foster  
Kevin Chovanec  
Pietro de Mello  
Rachel Denney  
Sara Estrada-Villalta  
Matthew Fahrenbruch  
Joey Hentzler  
Jack Hruska  
Nadia Jessop  
Lina Muñoz Márquez  
Ginett Pineda  
Naara Queiruga Domínguez  
Angel Rañales Pérez

### Anita Herzfeld Award

Alex Stuart  
James Tandy

### KU Sigma Xi, Oral Presentation

Will Fleming

### Pierre A. Stouse Award

Will Penner  
Diana Restrepo

### Stansifer Award

Rachel Denney



Courtesy Gina Sandí-Díaz



## Donations Fund Student Travel

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies strives to provide a diverse range of opportunities and programs for its students, the University and the greater community, but it cannot sustain these activities on state funding alone. Through donations, students are able to travel to Latin America to complete pioneering research on interdisciplinary subjects, as well as experience Latin American culture. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Erin Adamson

Connie Amen

Jane E. Averill

Melissa H. Birch

Susan Lee Blochberger

Sharon Burton Brown

Charles E. Bussing

Clark H. Coan

Mary Janet Collins

Jaime A. Diaz

Marshall C. Eakin

Laura Ada Emmett

Jan L. and Cornelia Flora

Anita Herzfeld

Nancy Jorn

Sarah R. Kessinger

Anthony Kobler

Susan F. and Stuart G. Levine, PhD

Kenna Lopez

Robert A. Lopez

Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett

Rachel Buckwater Miller

William L. and Virginia Jean Mitchell

Gena S. Pollack

Mary Raple

Norma K. J. & Gary L. Schilmoeller

Ryan D. Stansifer

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Georgiana H. Torres

Douglas C. Wasson

Nan L. Wilson

Ralph L. Woodward

# Giving to Latin American & Caribbean Studies

By giving to the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, 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:

- Supports teaching and learning about Latin America on campus and travel to the region for research and study by students and faculty.
- Disseminates knowledge of Latin America through academic conferences, seminars, monthly 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.
- Sponsors visiting scholars, lectures series and field trips.

### Donations may be used for:

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

You may give online by visiting [www.latamst.ku.edu/giving-program](http://www.latamst.ku.edu/giving-program). Online giving is secure, speedy, and simple. You will be redirected to the website of KU Endowment, the non-profit fundraising organization that supports KU.

**Latin American & Caribbean Studies Contingency Fund:** Donations help fund undergraduate or graduate study abroad scholarships, research or conference travel for students and faculty, public programs such as conferences, lectures, exhibits and performances, and the Kansas Latin Americanist newsletter.

**Stansifer Fellowship Fund:** Initially endowed by Professor Emeritus Charles Stansifer, this 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.

**Anita Herzfeld Study Abroad Award for Latin America:** Your donations build a fund which help sponsor undergraduate students who wish to study abroad.

If you wish to send a donation by mail, please contact us at:

**Center for Latin American  
& Caribbean Studies**

**The University of Kansas  
Bailey Hall 320, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd  
Lawrence, KS 66045-7574**

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