



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAS

From the Director

The days and weeks that follow the end of the school year—during the lull that tends to settle over Carolina after graduation—provides an occasion to pause and reflect back on academic year 2018-2019. All of us at the Institute for the Study of the Americas have more than adequate reason to review the accomplishments of the past year with a well-deserved sense of collective achievement. Last year—academic year 2017-2018—ended in the frenzied throes attending the preparation of the Department of Education Title VI Grant proposal. We are pleased to report that the Duke-UNC Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies competed successfully, and more: that the Consortium was among the best funded Latin America proposals in the United States.

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NC/CLAS Keynote speaker Edwin Castellanos

Academic year 2018-2019 was noteworthy for the inauguration of an annual state-wide Latin America conference. In collaboration with colleagues in the Latin American Studies Program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the Consortium organized the North Carolina/Conference on Latin American Studies 2019 (NC/CLAS 2019), hosted in Chapel Hill in February 2019. NC/CLAS 2019 was designed to convoke scholars and specialists of Latin America and Latino/a studies from across the state of North Carolina, representing the social sciences and humanities, health care, and environmental studies, to share knowledge and foster collaborative state-wide networks on matters of shared interests having to do with current scholarship, national security, and issues of K-12 pedagogy. The focus of NC/CLAS 2019 on migration and climate change attracted more than 250 registrants, representing 66 organizations

from across the state, including colleges, universities, high schools, public school districts, and community organizations. The program included 21 panels, 4 roundtables, and 1 teacher workshop, a total of 108 panelists and moderators from 19 North Carolina colleges and universities. The success of the two-day conference was the result of the meticulous planning and careful preparation by the Consortium staff, including Beatriz Riefkohl Muñiz, Joanna Shuett, and Hannah Gill at Carolina and Natalie Hartman, Jennifer Prather, and Kenneth Maffitt at Duke, and our collaborator at UNC-C Jürgen Buchenau.

One of the programs of note in NC/CLAS 2019 was the teacher workshop, “Teaching about Migration and Climate Change: Resources from Latin America,” for K-12 educators, facilitated

by Beth Bee (East Carolina University) and Hannah Gill (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). The interactive workshop enabled K-12 teachers to share resources for teaching about the intersection of migration and climate change. It was attended by teachers from schools in the city of Asheville and Buncombe, Surry, and Cabarrus Counties, who contributed many ideas, websites, environmental organizations, and strategies at all grade levels. UNC World View helped secure the participation of master teachers and the Consortium provided funding to underwrite their two-day visit to Chapel Hill.

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Academic year 2018-2019 has been especially noteworthy for the achievements of the Latino Migration Project (LMP), the collaborative program of ISA and the Center for Global Initiatives. Over the course of academic year 2018-2019, LMP organized and/or participated in 22 public events related to migration, integration, public policy, oral history, and Latino/a studies. We are especially pleased to report that the Nuevas Raíces/New Roots Oral History Initiative was recipient of a generous grant from the Humanities in the Public Good Initiative at UNC-CH to engage youth residing in eastern North Carolina in documenting and celebrating community heritage. The project is designed to establish collaborative partnerships with local non-profit organizations, history centers, and schools. Nuevas Raíces/New Roots is an ongoing research and archival initiative that has generated more than 200 audio-recorded and transcribed interviews in English and Spanish languages. The Southern Oral History Program and the University Libraries process and archive the oral histories. New Roots facilitates public access to these resources through a web-based digital information system and bilingual website designed in collaboration with migrants, Latin American scholars, and public school teachers.



BIC at a Siler City Town Hall meeting

This past year LMP completed the Building Integrated Communities (BIC) action plan and has proceeded into implementation phase in Siler City and Chapel Hill. The BIC initiative contributes to statewide systemic change by working with municipal leaders to reduce the barriers that act to limit immigrants' civic participation and enhance immigrant capacities to engage in community processes. The proposed actions in Siler City include the creation of a

bilingual communications plan, the development of a Latino community advisory committee, the translation of Siler City Parks and Recreation Program Guide into Spanish, and the encouragement of mechanisms of self-advocacy with a particular focus on non-English speakers. The proposed action plan in Chapel Hill includes a pilot transit demand-based transportation solution, continued implementation of affordable housing strategies, and the creation of greater centralized and intentional outreach request process for the Chapel Hill Police Department.



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*Alejandro Velasco,
Distinguished Scholar Lecture*

We are especially pleased with success of the multiple speakers series and endowed lectureships during 2018-2019. The Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series generously funded by the Director’s Fund for Excellence in Latin American Studies sponsored the visit of Professor Alejandro Velasco (New York University). The George and Anne Platt Distinguished Lecture Series enabled the visit of Javier Auyero (University of Texas at Austin). In addition, Cuba Program funding from the Christopher Reynolds Foundation supported the 2018-2019 series, “On the Matter of Race and Race Relations in Cuba,” and included presentations made by Devyn Spence Benson (Davidson), Anasa Hicks (Florida State University), and Maya Berry (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). This year’s speaker for the ISA Visiting Lecture Series was Lisa Haugaard (Latin American Working Group); the 2018-2019 Faculty Lecture Series speaker was Stephanie Elizondo Griest (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). With support

from the US Department of Education, ISA launched a new series examining US-Latin American relations in the 21st century. The inaugural event featured Colonel Lawrence B. Wilkerson (Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Government and Public Policy at William and Mary speaking on U.S. Latin America Policy.

The ISA Graduate Student Symposium showcased the work of graduate students Lucía Stavig

(Anthropology), Anthony Rossodivito (History), and Israel Domínguez (Religious Studies).

We are pleased to report that during academic year 2018-2019 the Institute for the Study of the Americas distributed nearly \$250,000 in support of undergraduate-research initiatives, graduate-student recruitment, and graduate-student language training, research, and travel. Support for faculty professional development, including research and travel, program initiatives, and curriculum development, approached \$36,000.

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This past year ISA again collaborated with the Center for Global Initiatives, the Stone Center for Black Culture and History, Fayetteville State University and the University of Puerto Rico in support of the “Global Take Off: Puerto Rico Program.” The open-access program offers first-year students an opportunity to participate in a fully-funded first-time educational travel experience. Twelve students participated in this year's study program organized around the theme of identity.

During academic year 2018-2019, ISA sponsored, co-sponsored, and hosted 75 events. We wish to convey our appreciation for the collaborative esprit of the programs, departments, and student organizations across Carolina with which we have had the pleasure to work this past academic year to advance knowledge of and familiarity with Latin America, Latin American migration, and Latino/a studies, including the Department of African, African-American, and Diaspora Studies, the Department of Anthropology, the Department of English and Comparative Literature, the Department of Geography, the Department of History, the Department of Linguistics, the Department of Political Science, the Department of Religious Studies, the Department of Romance Studies, Carolina Public Humanities, Center for Global Initiatives, Curriculum in Global Studies, Graduate Certificate in Global Transmigration, Great Decisions, Mi Pueblo, UndocuCarolina, the Stone Center for Black Culture and History, Southern Oral History Program, the Schools of Education, Journalism and Media Studies, Law, Public Health, and Social Work, UNC Areas Studies Centers, UNC Global, UNC Libraries, and World View.



Staff of the NC Guatemalan Consulate and faculty from UNC and the Universidad del Valle, Guatemala

Our off campus collaborators include Central Carolina Community College, Chapel Hill Town Council, Chapel Hill Rotary Club, Chatham Community Library, Duke School of Nursing, GoGlobal (UNC system), NCA&T, Siler City Town Council, Silverspot Cinema, St. Thomas More Church, Surry Community College, UNC-Charlotte, Winston-Salem Town Council, and of course and most especially our Consortium partner, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Duke University.

ISA is especially pleased to have collaborated this past year with FPG Bilingüe (at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School) to create pedagogical materials about storytelling and Latin America for the summer school program, and in the organization of a Story Lab as part of a Family History Night to enable students to record their family and community history.

During academic year 2018-2019, through the liaison initiative undertaken by Hannah Gill, ISA and the Southern Oral History Project (SOHP) jointly explored opportunities to promote common areas of shared interests in oral history, particularly as these interests relate to the expanding Latin American communities in North Carolina.

Global Career Night 2019 was a collaboration with all the area studies centers, the Curriculum in Global Studies, Center for Global Initiatives, Honors Program, Office of Distinguished Scholarships, Campus Y, Career Services, Peace Corps, and Study Abroad. LTAM alumnus Anthony Dest (PhD/University of Texas at Austin) shared his experience researching the impact of violence and development of black communities in Colombia and work as part of the Colombia Land Rights Monitor group and at the Washington Office on Latin America.



Mexico North Carolina Programs Networking Event

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In a project organized by Cynthia Radding (History/University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and with support from the European Union, UNC is participating in the Minority Languages, Major Opportunities. Collaborative Research, Community Engagement and Innovative

Educational Tools project. Coordination with the University of Warsaw in Poland, the Americas Research Network, and thirteen other institutions from seven countries, ISA and the Departments of History, Romance Studies, and Linguistics result in a two-week workshop on language revitalization at UNC in summer 2019 with over 20 scholars from Europe, Latin America, and the United States.

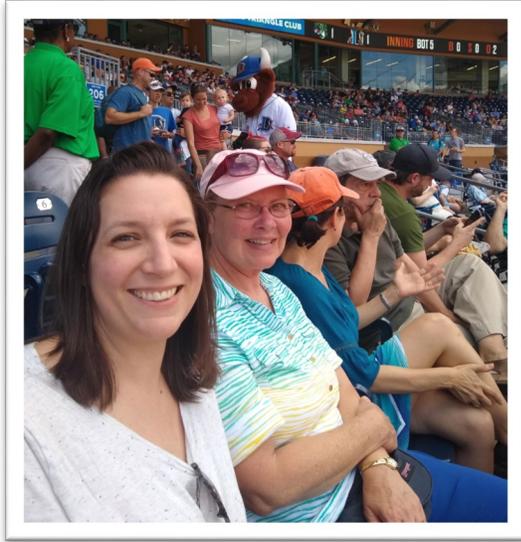
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We add our congratulations to the well wishes of friends and family of the following students for their 2018-2019 awards: Maya Ziva Weinberg (the Julia Crane Award for Research in Latin America and the Federico Gil Award for Best Undergraduate Honors Thesis); Jessica Whipple (Foreign Language and Areas Studies Fellowship for the Study of Portuguese); Katherine Kenlan (the Melvin A. Halpern and María Cristina Alfonzo Halpern Award for Study Abroad in Argentina); Franklin Gómez (Mellon Scholarship); Madison Dakota Knowles (the Mellon Undergraduate Award for Latin American Studies for Study Abroad in Mexico).



Congratulations Class of 2019!

All of us at ISA extend our warmest best wishes to the 2018-2019 graduating class of LTAM majors: Gabriela Alemán, Kelsey Curran, Franklin Gómez, Maggie Miller Helms, Briana Juanita Humes, Madison Dakota Knowles, Diana Guadalupe Márquez, Gustavo Adolfo Méndez Rodríguez, and Maya Ziva Weinberg.



We are especially delighted to welcome Corin Zaragoza Estrera to the Consortium staff as Outreach Coordinator. Corin assumes responsibility for the development and coordination of educational outreach services to pre-service and in-service K-12 teachers, 4-year and community colleges, and historically black colleges and universities. In addition, Corin will coordinate with the UNC School of Education the development of new exchange program with the Universidad San Francisco de Quito for School of Education undergraduate and graduate students. Corin will also assist in the design and delivery of programs to general public, media and business community and state and local agencies. Welcome Corin!

We wish all our colleagues and collaborators a safe and pleasant summer

Lou Pérez
June 2019