ISLAC
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
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A New Chapter In the History of Colombia
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CONTESTING WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE AMERICAS: NEW APPROACHES AND REFLECTIONS

The Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC) hosted the event “Contesting White Supremacy in the Americas: New Approaches and Reflections” on October 3, 2016.

The event was organized by the Afro-descendant working group, and it was an important space for the discussion of white supremacy, its manifestations, and its social impacts.

The panel featured presentations from Dr. Vilna Bashi Treitler, Professor of Sociology, and Chair of the Department of Black Studies of the University of California, Santa Barbara; Dr. Keisha- Khan Y. Perry, Professor of Africana Studies at Brown University; and Dr. Bernd Reiter, Associate Professor of Political Science and Latin America and the Caribbean Studies at the University of South Florida. Dr. Bashi-Treitler presented "White Supremacy & Ethnic Projects: How Racism Survives & Thrives"; Dr. Khan Perry presented "The Fight for the New Frontier: The Gendered Racial Logic of Black Dispossession"; and Dr. Reiter presented "Recognition and Reparations Reconsidered: Lessons from Germany."

The discussant and moderator of the conference was Dr. Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology. The panel was co-sponsored by the Institute for Black Life.

14TH ANNUAL USF DIVERSITY SUMMIT

The 14th Annual Diversity Summit is an event that explores topics related to diversity and inclusion through workshops, keynote speakers, and other activities. This event was held on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at the Marshall Center. The summit also recognizes the efforts faculty, staff and students who carry out and support diversity and inclusion.

We were honored to receive the Team Diversity Award 2017 during the 14th Annual Diversity Summit!
On November 10, 2016 and January 17, 2017 the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean hosted two Community Fora on “Issues Facing the Caribbean Diaspora.” The first event featured presentations from Dr. Christiana Best-Giacomini, a faculty member from the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, and the School of Education at Brooklyn College; Dr. Joyce Hamilton-Henry, the Regional Director for the ACLU of Florida; and Dr. Linda Tavernier-Almada, Adjunct Instructor with the USF School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies. The second forum included presentations from Dr. Joyce Hamilton-Henry; Dr. Guitele Rahill, Associate Professor of Social Work in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences at USF; and Dr. Margarita Pinkos, Director of Multicultural Education for the School District of Palm Beach County.

The panelists discussed issues including: access and educational success for diverse immigrant children, law and policing for immigrants (especially Afro-descendants), family dynamics of trans-national families, and other issues associated with the integration of diverse immigrant communities.
ISLAC organized the panel "The Mansion House of Liberty: London’s Spanish American Community 1808-1832" that was held on March 29, 2017. The conference featured the presentation of Dr. Karen Racine, Associate Professor of the University of Guelph, Canada.

Racine discussed the nature and activities of the community that gathered in London during Spanish America's independence era, and explored the cultural connections between Great Britain and Spanish America in the first decades of the 19th century.

Most of Dr. Racines's work centers on the history and culture of the independence period in Latin America and in the Atlantic World. Her forthcoming book deals with issues surrounding cross-cultural contact, national identity formation, and the creation of patriotic civic cultures from 1780-1830. Dr. Racine presented some of the chapters of this book. This project traces the effect of extended foreign residence on the Spanish Americans' sense of national identity, and documents the intellectual and cultural influences that Great Britain exerted upon their vision of post-independent nationhood.
At the beginning of April, two of our graduate students participated at the 1st Annual Afro-Latin American Graduate Student Conference - Dialogues and Challenges in the Study of the African Diaspora in Latin America which was held at Harvard University. The conference examined the dialogues and discourses that inform black political forms, expressive culture, aesthetic ideologies, transnationalism, transculturation, and ethno-racial identity formations in the Afro-Latin American diaspora. The aim of this conference was to help emerging scholars in the U.S. and Latin America develop the burgeoning field of Afro-Latin American Studies by creating an interdisciplinary dialogue bridging African American Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Literature, Ethnomusicology, Education, Economics, Political Science, Gender Studies, and Communication Studies.

Mariela Noles Cotito participated in the panel "Afrodescendant Grassroots Organizations, Social Movements, and Affirmative Action Policies" with a paper that examined the role of the "2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance" in the affirmation of the political personality of the Afro-Peruvian population.

Ana Lucia Mosquera Rosado participated in the panel "Reimagining Black Aesthetics, Rethinking the Black Body," presenting a paper that analyzed the impact of media representations of Afro-Peruvians, and the process by which these images are processed and socially accepted by viewers.

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of the Hispanic and Latinx communities, and the individuals who have contributed to Latino culture through academic research and/or community service.

In the Kick-Off Ceremony, Dr. Rachel May, Director of ISLAC, was awarded the SOL faculty award and Rebeca Blackwell, ISLAC alumni and current Ph.D. student in the Sociology department, was awarded the SOL Graduate Student Award.

**Graduation**

**Congratulations to our 2017 graduates**

Lamica Garcia and Angelica León are our Summer 2017 graduates. ISLAC staff wish you a wonderful new chapter in your professional lives.

*Happy Bulls Graduation and Best Wishes!*
On September 20, 2016, Mr. Augusto Bazán, Minister (DSR) of Human Rights from the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced that Peru had subscribed to the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance, and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. This news was discussed in Lima at an event where our graduate assistant Mariela Noles Cotito, had been invited as an author of the Policy paper: “The importance of Peru’s adhesion to the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and connected forms of Intolerance”.

In October 2016, Mariela Noles Cotito was invited to participate in the “5th Regional Workshop about Gender and Collective Rights of Black Women in the Americas.” The event, which was co-sponsored by the Rights and Resources Initiative, the Tridha Foundation and the National Afro-Colombian Authority, convocated Afro-descendant women leaders from the Americas in the city of Bogotá.

Noles Cotito also received a great honor on behalf of her country of origin, Peru, when she was designated to be a part of a national delegation to the “Commission on the Status of Women” (CSW) in March 2017. The event was attended by representatives of the Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC- accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Having worked with the government of Peru in different capacities, as well as with the Afro-descendant Movement in her country, Ms. Noles Cotito was able to offer an important perspective on behalf of Black women in Latin America.

At the end of May, a group of ISLAC students and staff traveled to Lima to participate in the XXXV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association held in Lima, Peru. With the title Diálogo de Saberes, the Conference congregated hundreds of academics from around the globe to discuss issues of relevance for the region.

Mariela Noles Cotito, and Pamela Pareja (ISLAC students), and Paula Lezama (ISLAC Staff) participated in a panel where they focused on the organizational efforts of women in the region.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD JAVERIANA

The University of South Florida and the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cali, Colombia have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding. ISLAC will be the contact office at USF for this agreement, while the Institute for Intercultural Studies at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana is our counterpart. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali was established as an autonomous institution in 1970, and during its existence has been involved in teaching, research and community outreach with and within the regional context: the southwest of Colombia and the Valle del Cauca. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali is recognized for its high-quality education, having been granted the National Institutional Accreditation for Academic Excellence by the National Accreditation Agency (CNA) and the Ministry of National Education in 2012.

We expect to be developing new initiatives through this exciting partnership, and hope this will open the door to further collaborative ties with Colombia. For more information on Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and the Institute for Intercultural Studies, please visit: https://www.javerianacali.edu.co/intercultural

ISLAC GRADUATE CERTIFICATE STUDENT WINS INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP

Maria Gonzalez-Malabet, a Ph.D. Candidate in political science in the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, and also in the ISLAC graduate certificate program, was awarded the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) Grassroots Development Ph.D. Fellowship. This program is intended to increase awareness and professional knowledge of grassroots development efforts. Her research investigates how Medellín- Colombia, went from being one of the most corrupt cities in South America to becoming one of the most democratic cities in the world.

Her research targets women’s political agency and women’s organizations as a fundamental causal mechanism for the progressive change of Medellín. Gonzalez-Malabet explores how women’s empowerment has generated the building of innovative democratic institutions and inclusionary social policies. Also, she hopes to illustrate how female political agency has shaped various institutional transformations, by designing new urban sustainable development programs oriented to reinforce democratic practices of the citizenry.
International Conference on Armed Movements and Post-Conflict Colombia

The Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC) held a conference on May 18th and 19th focused on the situation of armed groups in Colombia and the implementation of the Colombian Peace Accords.

*The recent peace agreement was ratified by the Colombian Congress in December 2016 and provides assistance for development and reconstruction throughout the country.*
The situation of armed groups in Colombia and the implementation of the Colombian Peace Accords were discussed at the International Conference on Armed Movements and Post-conflict Colombia that was held on the USF Tampa Campus.

The event was organized by the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC) and co-sponsored by the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), USF World and Research One.

This event provided an important space for discussion about the history and current situation of armed groups and the armed conflict in Colombia. The conference featured presentations by Colombian academics who have devoted their professional lives to studying this conflict.

The first session, “Armed Movements in Colombia: Past, Present and Future” addressed the origins and development of the peace process in Colombia and the situation of the armed movements after the peace agreement.

The second session, “Colombia’s Peace Accords: A Foundation for Peace?” focused on the details of the Peace Accords and the negotiation process, the influence of the discourse surrounding peace, and the challenges for the post-conflict era.

The third panel, “Reincorporation of Armed Actors” presented work about the future of the former armed men and women, and strategies for their re-insertion into civilian life.

The final panel’s topic was “Post Conflict: Reconstructing the Social Fabric and Memory”, and it focused on the strategies for social reconstruction and the creation of a collective memory of the conflict.
Dr. Harry Vanden's retirement

After a long and dedicated career, Dr. Harry E. Vanden (Professor Emeritus, SIGS) is retiring. We would like to thank Dr. Vanden for his dedication and outstanding work as a Latinamericanist scholar. Dr. Vanden came to USF in 1975 as an Assistant Professor of political science, but he already had a demonstrated interest in and commitment to the emerging field of Latin American Studies. He founded and directed the first LAS Committee in 1979, and founded the Caribbean and Latin American Studies Center (the predecessor of ISLAC) in 1993 and served as its Director until 1997.

Dr. Vanden is also the author and editor of numerous publications, including *The New Global Politics: Social Movements on a Global Scale*; *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*; *Rethinking Latin American Social Movements: Radical Action From Below*; and *U.S. National Security Concerns in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Dr. Vanden has also long exemplified his commitment to social justice and progressive politics in his teaching and scholarship. He has been a voice for fairness and justice both at home and abroad for his entire career. He has been a resource and a point of pride for ISLAC and for USF for decades, and he is simply irreplaceable. This Institute and Latin American Studies at USF and more broadly in the United States will always be indebted to his pioneering work.

Congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Hordge Freeman!

Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman (Professor/SIGS) was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure this year!

She published “Contesting Black Beauty: Afro-Aesthetics, Beauty Competitions and Racial Resistance in Brazil” in the *Harvard Review of Latin America and Between Power and Marginality: Gaining Access and Navigating the Field in Multiethnic Settings* (co-editor). She also received another book award for *The Color of Love*. Her USF proposal enhancement grant was funded for her research “From Recovery to Reintegration: Race, Housing, and Child Victims of Human Trafficking”; and she also received a grant from the USF College of Arts & Sciences for her pilot study “Afro-Latino Families and Colorism.” Dr. Hordge Freeman will be teaching “Global Human Trafficking” and “Sociology of Families” this upcoming academic year (2017-2018).
Bernd Reiter (Professor / SIGS) has been awarded the Florida Education Fund President’s Award in 2016. Dr. Reiter also participated in USF TED talks with his presentation “The Crisis of Liberal Democracy and the Path Ahead.” He also participated in the panel “Bridging Scholarship and Activism” at the Multicultural Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He published The Crisis of Liberal Democracy and the Path Ahead, and three articles: “Theory and Methodology of Exploratory Social Science Research;” “Alternatives to Representative Democracy and Capitalist Market Organization: The Wintukua, Guardians of the Earth;” and “Los Wintukua: Guardianes del Mundo.” Dr. Reiter is currently working on his forthcoming book “Constructing the Pluriverse.”

Rachel May (Director of ISLAC/ SIGS) spent much of the last year preparing her most recent book on armed revolutionary movements in the Caribbean Basin (co-authored with Alejandro Schneider and Roberto Gonzalez) for publication with Cambridge University Press. The book will be in press with CUP during the Fall of 2017. She also presented her work comparing post-conflict Central America to the newly emerging Colombian case in the Catedra de la Americas at the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla Colombia. While in Barranquilla she worked with colleagues at UniNorte on a new opportunity for USF students to pursue an MA in history at UniNorte while they are pursuing the MALACS degree at USF, and also for UniNorte graduate students to simultaneously pursue the MALACS degree while working on their MA in history. In October 2016, she attended a conference hosted by Virginia Tech University on "Reconciliation after Civil Wars", where she presented her collaborative work on post conflict Colombia with her research partner, Paula Lezama. She and Ms. Lezama are in the process of preparing this initial work as a book chapter with their colleagues from Virginia Tech.
Kathleen de la Peña McCook (Professor, School of Information) published “Introduction to Public Librarianship” this last year. Dr. De la Peña will be teaching “History of Libraries,” “Wikipedia & Knowledge Management,” “Librarianship & Human Rights,” and “Public Library Seminar” this upcoming year.

Elizabeth Aranda (Professor, Sociology) had several publications this year: “Moving Up and Down the Ladder: Perceived Social Mobility and Emotional Dispositions among South Florida’s Immigrants” (co-author); “Emotional Challenges of Undocumented Young Adults: Ontological Security, Emotional Capital, and Well-Being” (co-author); and “Response to Valdez and Golash-Boza.” She also received funding from the National Science Foundation for her research about “Ontological Security in Uncertain Times: Legal Status and the Social and Emotional Well-Being of Undocumented Young Adults.” Dr. Aranda will be teaching the course “Immigrant Communities” this upcoming year.

Barbara Cruz (Professor, Education) published “Discussing Global Issues through Contemporary Art” (co-author); and “Who is Afro-Latin@? - Examining the Social Construction of Race and Négritude in Latin America and the Caribbean” (co-author). Dr. Cruz will be teaching the courses “Secondary Social Studies Teaching Methods” and “Practicum in Social Science Education”.

Heike Scharm (Professor, World Languages) will be publishing “Postnational Perspectives on Contemporary Hispanic Literature” this Fall. Dr. Scharm will also be teaching the course “Dystopia and Utopia in Spanish and Latin American Literature and Film” this upcoming year.

Christian Wells (Professor, Anthropology) had several publications this year: “Plantation Soilscape: Initial and Cumulative Impacts of Colonial Agriculture in Antigua, West Indies” in The Environmental Legacies of Colonialism in the Northern Neotropics (co-author and editor); “Agroindustrial Soilscape in the Caribbean: A Geochemical Perspective from Betty’s Hope, Antigua” (co-author); “Chemical Signatures of Ancient Activities at Chan b’i - A Submerged Maya Salt Works, Belize” (co-author); “Geochemical Characterization of Inorganic Residues on Plaster Floors from a Maya Palace Complex at Actuncan, Belize” (co-author); and “Reclaiming Development: Community-Based Heritage Conservation and University-Engaged Research in Seine Bight, Belize,” (co-author).

Linda M. Callejas (Professor, Behavioral & Community Sciences) published the following titles: “The Development and Evaluation of a Natural Helpers’ Training Program to Increase the Engagement of Urban, Hispanic Families in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy” (co-author); “Latinos’ Views of Co-Morbid Chronic Disease and Minor Depression” (co-author). Dr. Callejas will be teaching the course “Applied Qualitative Research Methods” in the Spring of 2018.

David Arbesú (Associate Professor, World Languages) recently published the book Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and the Conquest of Florida, and he also published the article "Juan de Paiva’s Chronicle on the Apalachee Ball Game" in the Anuario de Estudios Americanos. Dr. Arbesú will be teaching “Cervantes (Don Quijote)” this year.

Phil Smith (Professor, Education) will be teaching “Current Trends in FLE”; “Curriculum & Materials Development Teaching ESOL”; and “Cross-Cultural Issues” in the upcoming year.
FACULTY NEWS

Arlene Calvo (Professor, Public Health) had several journal articles published this year: “Efficacy of 10-Valent Pneumococcal Non-Typeable Haemophilus Influenza Protein D Conjugate Vaccine Against Acute Otitis Media and Nasopharyngeal Carriage in Panamanian Children - A Randomized Controlled Trial” (co-author); “Maternal Health, Pregnancy-Related Morbidity and Death Among Indigenous Women of Mexico and Central America: An Anthropological, Epidemiological and Biomedical Approach” (co-author); and “Effectiveness of In-Line Chlorination of Developing World Gravity-Flow Water Supply.” Dr. Calvo will be teaching the courses “International Health Education”; “International Perspectives in Women’s Health Issues”; and “Diploma in Clinical Research” in the upcoming year.

Ismael Hoare (Professor, College of Public Health) will be teaching "Global Health Program Development and Administration," and "Global Health Applications in the Field" in the upcoming academic year.

Noel Smith (College of The Arts) was promoted to Deputy Director at the USF Contemporary Art Museum!

USF ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to Alicia K. Long, USF Alumnus and Adjunct Instructor, for being selected as the chair of the Pura Belpré Award Committee 2018! Alicia is an Argentinian-born, bilingual librarian and educator with experience working in public and academic libraries, teaching higher education, and leading projects that facilitate multicultural awareness, promote literacy and foster diverse communities.

The Pura Belpré Award was established in 1996, to honor Pura Belpré, the first Latina Librarian at the New York Public Library. The award seeks to recognize a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose outstanding work of literature for children and youth, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience.

The award is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, an ALA affiliate. The Pura Belpré Award is presented alongside awards such as the Caldecott Medal or the Newbery Medal, all from the American Library Association. Alicia graduated with an M.A. in Library and Information Science and a B. A. in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences both from the University of South Florida. She recently published ‘Youth Services.’ In K. de la P. McCook’s, Introduction to Public Librarianship (3rd. ed.). Alicia will be teaching “Multicultural Materials for Children and YA” this coming Fall 2017 at the Tampa campus.
By Paula Lezama, ISLAC Assistant Director

Another exciting and productive year passed by, leaving great memories and open doors for collaboration and personal enrichment. From being a visiting scholar at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali in July 2016, to being part of LASA and starting as a graduate student in sociology, this has been a gratifying year! Besides continuing with my regular administrative duties in ISLAC, in July 2016 I was a visiting scholar at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali, in the department of economics. I was able to discuss ongoing projects for ethnic minorities and the defense of their collective rights, as well as to advance joint work on Sen’s “Capabilities” with Dr. Maribel Castillo Caicedo, chair of the department. In October 2016, I presented at the conference “Reconciliation after Civil Wars: Global Perspectives”, a conference sponsored by the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention at Virginia Tech. The work presented was part of an ongoing project in collaboration with Dr. Rachel May on community initiatives for peacebuilding in post-conflict Colombia. During the month of February 2017, Dr. May and I visited a community organization in the Colombian region of Northern Cauca in relation to this ongoing project. We visited a peasant organization that works for the empowerment of local producers as part of the enduring process of peacebuilding in my home country, Colombia.

At the end of April 2017, I had the opportunity to participate in LASA 2017, with a paper entitled, “Peace Building from the Bottom up: A Guide for Post-Conflict Colombia.” The paper was part of a panel of USF graduate students.

I also wrote a short reflective essay that explores the impact of the rhetoric used by the current elected president on Latino Families. The essay was published in Newschaser: The Rhetorics of Trump, Essays, and Commentaries, a book edited by Dr. Daryl Taiwo Harris from Howard University.

Finally, I am ready to start the coming academic year 2017-2018 with tons of energy for new projects and opportunities. I will be a regular graduate student in the Department of Sociology where I will be pursuing my second MA degree. I will continue in my roles as ISLAC Assistant Director and will continue collaborating with ISLAC faculty and students on different projects and initiatives.

**ISLAC/SIGS DEGREES**

- Master of Arts (M.A.) Program in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- Undergraduate Certificate in Latin America and Caribbean Studies
Hi, my name is Michelle Rocha. I am from Brazil, and I have been in the U.S. since 2010. I graduated from USF in 2016 with my Master of Arts in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies, with concentrations in human rights and sociology. My thesis research was about human trafficking and Latinos in the U.S.

My goal through my studies was to analyze anti-trafficking legislation and reintegration programs that contribute to the invisibility and discrimination of immigrant human trafficking survivors, making it harder for their recovery and reintegration into the U.S. – specifically in Florida.

During my ethnographic research, I interviewed law enforcement, service providers, and immigrant survivors of trafficking. I have observed through my studies how the voices of survivors have been squelched, and my goal was to return their voices. Additionally, my aim was to help create effective strategies to improve the anti-trafficking programs in Florida by taking into account the life experiences of immigrant human trafficking survivors, service providers, and law enforcement.

What changed after I got my Master’s Degree, and how has my MA contributed to my work with immigrants in Florida? As an international student I am legally allowed to work in the U.S. for 1 year. After my graduation, I got a job working as a substitute teacher at the Hillsborough County Public Schools; and a job at the Hillsborough Community College. Those opportunities have been wonderful because I am learning more about being an American. In addition, I have enjoyed learning about how the public educational system works in Florida. During this period, working in a community college and in public schools in Tampa, I discovered my passion for teaching English as a Second Language (ESOL) to high school and middle school students. During my daily contact with students, I was able to understand how the educational system needs to change in order to help immigrants succeed. Through my personal experience in the U.S., I could understand the difficulties that thousands of immigrant students from public schools are facing daily. I clearly saw how many problems exist in the educational system in the
state of Florida. These problems have hampered the integration and learning of immigrant students. After
experiencing those gaps and seeing the frustration of several immigrant students, and aiming to help
victims of human trafficking and other types of crime, I decided to help my Latino
community by becoming a volunteer instructor teaching Latino refugees in a non-governmental
organization in Tampa Bay called CARIBE. When I applied for the job, I did not know what to expect. I
confess I was scared and apprehensive. On my first day as a volunteer, CARIBE gave me the total liberty to
help teach English to refugees. Gradually I started to plan my own classes, and I tried to figure out the
best way to teach ESOL classes for adult refugees, mainly from Cuba. My first day was enough to fall in
love with my refugee community. After all the current political problems linked to refugees in the U.S, and
after hearing the stories of many Cuban refugees about how they struggled to get to the U.S., I felt sure
about the field I want to work in. Their daily struggles and my experiences in the public schools helped me
to comprehend the significant need for skilled people to help effect change. After a deep analysis of the
educational system in Florida, I discovered the importance of my education. We, students of Latin
American Studies can help to change how our community is treated through small actions.

"Today, after almost one year working in my field, I am sure that I am going on
the right path. Sometimes finding opportunities in our field can be a
challenge. The work still needs to be
done. Never give up and keep trying.
Our community needs you."
"ARGENTINA BEYOND THE CLASSROOM" TRIP

The Honors College organized the "Argentina Beyond the Classroom" 2017 trip, that was held from May 8 to May 20 for students from different majors to have a cultural experience and to learn more about the Argentina’s health care system.

The 13-day trip introduced participants to sites discussed throughout the semester in the Honors Geographical Perspectives course, taught by Dr. Rachel May. The theme of the course was human rights, so in addition to sites of political and cultural significance (e.g., El Cabildo, La Viruta Tango Club, and Café Tortini), participants visited sites related to the period of state terrorism: ESMA and el Parque de la Memoria.

One of the additions this year was an overview of Argentine healthcare. Most of the participants are interested in health professions. A group visited three sites in Pilar: a pharmaceutical plant (Gador, S.A.), a “posta sanitaria” or wellness post, and the Hospital Austral (which sponsors the posta Sanitaria). We also had the honor of visiting the Superintendent of Health Services (Superintendencia de Servicios de Salud). The Superintendent, Dr. Luís Alberto Scervino, and the General Manager, Mr. Sandro Taricco, spoke to students and warmly welcomed us. We also visited the Ezeiza Regional Hospital.

Students enjoyed “walking” Buenos Aires: Plaza de Mayo, El Cabildo, la Catedral Metropolitana, Recoleta, and Plaza del Congreso. Everyone enjoyed the visit to La Boca, had fun dancing Tango at La Viruta Tango Club/Club Armenio; and had the opportunity to participate in a traditional asado party!
VISITING SCHOLAR

Alfredo Juan Guevara Martínez is a visiting scholar from Brazil. He’s a doctoral student from San Tiago Dantas, an integrated graduate program in International Relations between the university of Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP), University of Campinas (UNICAMP), and the Pontificia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (PUC-SP), located in Sao Paulo, Brazil. His doctoral work is being supervised by Dr. Luís Fernando Ayerbe. At San Tiago Dantas he is a member of IEEI (Instituto de Estudos Económicos e Internacionais), and of INCT-INEU (Instituto Nacional de Ciência e Tecnologia para Estudos sobre os Estados Unidos). He is a Cuban-born citizen who grew up and spent most of his life in Brazil.

He came to ISLAC to spend a year with us in order to advance his dissertation research under Dr. Harry Vanden’s supervision. He is researching and writing part of his doctoral dissertation focused on US-Cuba relations, specifically on the context of change that surrounded the normalization process initiated by the Obama and Raul Castro administrations in December of 2014.

While doing research for his Master’s thesis on Pontifícia Universidade Catolica de Minas Gerais (Brazil), he focused his studies on the decision process of the Cuban Adjustment Act, from 1966 to 2014. This work lead to his interest in studying why the foreign policy strategy toward the Island shifted during Obama’s administration.

He will be digging into the several actors and interests that play a relevant role in defining US foreign policy towards Cuba. He will be talking to Cuban-American organized interest groups, politicians, and academic experts to further his research.

His current research focuses on understanding why a hard political line towards Cuba was promoted by several administrations even after the end of the Cold War, and then was interrupted during the Obama administration. The empirical work will focus on getting interviews from primary sources and collecting official documents that can inform his research. The more theoretical part of his work gravitates around political science and history, and with Dr. Vanden’s help he is digging into US bibliography on the country’s policy towards Cuba.

Alfredo has also studied Venezuela and Brazil in the larger framework of International Relations, and he did his Bachelors degree in Business Administration with a focus on International Commerce, switching to the area of Social Sciences and International Relations for his graduate studies. If you want to talk and met Alfredo, feel free to pass by the ISLAC offices where he is housed.

“I’m thrilled to be here. As a Cuban, I am near my culture, and as an academic in International Relations, it is very fulfilling to be able to be here at ISLAC. The experience has been very enriching, both in the personal and academic spheres. I am excited to be working with such excellent experts in the area of Latin America such as Dr. Vanden, Dr. May and Dr. Reiter – among many others! – and everybody has been wonderfully nice in receiving me. I hope that this experience will not only benefit my own research but also keep an open bridge with the academic community back in Brazil. I am here to learn, help, and to get the most out of this experience!”
BULLS SERVICE BREAK PROGRAM ON IMMIGRANT ISSUES

By Rosario Duran, ISLAC Student Assistant

Growing up in a mixed status household, where both my mom and oldest sister were undocumented, I was always vaguely aware of an omnipresent fear that engulfed my family. March 1st, 2012 started like any other day. I woke up, got ready, and went to school, but once I got home I knew something had gone terribly wrong. Walking through my front door the aroma of my mom's cooking that typically greeted me was missing. My usually loud household was completely silent, and my dad was crying. My biggest fear had come true. My mom was being detained by ICE officials and would soon be deported. I spent the rest of my high school years trying to run away from my mom's deportation. I was embarrassed by it. I lied to my friends about it, and I tried to not let it define me nor determine my future. I decided that for college I needed to start over where no one knew me, and where I could better shape the narrative of my life. USF became that fresh start I so desperately longed for. I came to USF embarrassed about my mom’s actions and blaming her for the hardships caused by her deportation. Funny enough, it is at USF that I met people who had similar upbringings, and realized America had a broken immigration system that left thousands of immigrants, like my mom, vulnerable. This past Spring break, I was lucky enough to be a part of the Bulls Service Break Program on immigration issues.

On this trip, we flew out to the Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas and worked with La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), a local non-profit organization that helps empower the surrounding immigrant population. LUPE holds "know your rights" seminars to educate the population, provides low-cost vision and health checkups, and advocates for legislation that can help improve the lives of immigrants. In our current political climate, organizations like LUPE are crucial in the fight against the marginalization of our immigrant communities. This trip also helped me realize the importance of educating immigrant communities. Perhaps if my mom had had access to an organization like LUPE, that could have educated her about her rights, my story would be a different one.

Learning about the issues and injustices faced by the immigrant community helped empower me. That fear that once engulfed me is no longer there. I am no longer embarrassed by my mom's deportation story, I am emboldened by it. LUPE helped solidified my plans of working for the nonprofit sector upon graduation. For that, the trip will always be an experience that I’ll cherish and highly recommend to all my peers.

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Rosario Duran at the United States - Mexico border
Ana Lucia Mosquera Rosado (MA Student and ISLAC Graduate Assistant)
I joined the ISLAC team full of expectations and completely excited for this opportunity. After a year in the program I have to say the whole experience exceeded my expectations. I came here for the purpose of enriching my academic background and to apply this knowledge to my research interests, related to the construction of race, Afro-descendant communities, and media representations.
I was able to participate in the 1st Annual Graduate Conference on Afro Latin Studies at Harvard University, where I presented the preliminary findings of my research about the representations of Afro-Peruvians and the media. In addition to this, I participated remotely in a conference that framed the celebrations of Afro-Peruvian culture month in Peru. I got accepted to participate at the 5th Conference on Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean; and I became an official columnist for *Ethnicities Magazine*, a digital publication that reveals the essence of the Afro-descendant community.
The program has allowed me to have a broader academic perspective on Latin America and to develop some of my work by bringing new theoretical perspectives that have contributed to my scholarly research and my professional career. I am extremely grateful to be given this opportunity!

Mariela Ines Noles Cotito (MA Student and Teaching Assistant)
This year at USF has been very eventful, to say the least, and the staff and professors of ISLAC and SIGS have been nothing but supportive and encouraging. Indeed, I had the pleasure to be a teaching assistant (TA) for professor Harry Vanden, whose scholarship and academic career I admire deeply, which later lead to a collaboration with Dr. Vanden on one of his latest books. Further, I had the opportunity to present my academic research at the First Annual Afro-Latin American Graduate Student Conference at Harvard University, the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), and remotely for the Ministry of Culture in Peru. In addition, I published an article in the feminist, anti-racist Brazilian magazine *Fala Guerreira* about the political standing of Afroperuvian women. And finally, I was able to bring my skills to the United Nations while being part of the Peruvian Delegation to the United Nations 61º Commission on the Status of Women. Eventful indeed, and I brought USF with me, every step of the way!

Sharún Gonzales (Incoming MA Student and ISLAC Graduate Assistant) I am from Lima, Peru. I studied Journalism at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. I became involved in activism in the Afro-Peruvian movement when I was a child and was a founding member of a youth organization called Makungu para el Desarrollo. I have since continued to participate in activist projects for Afro-descendants in my country in conjunction with groups that have programs for youth and women, such as: Iwa Pele, CEDET, la Coalición de Mujeres Afroperuanas, and Presencia y Palabra.
As an incoming student in the M.A. program in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies, I am interested in themes of identity construction, racism, gender, and social development. My goal is to contribute to academic discussions from the perspective of my community.
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA JOINS WITH WELCOMING AMERICA AND HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES TO CELEBRATE NEW AMERICANS DURING WELCOMING WEEK

In cities large and small, rural and urban, people of all backgrounds are working to create stronger and more prosperous communities by standing up for their neighbors and affirming that the United States has a place for everyone. This September 23rd, the University of South Florida in partnership with the Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force, will celebrate National Welcoming Week by hosting the 3rd Annual Tampa Bay Welcoming Week Cultural Festival. The Festival will be a safe space to bring together immigrants, refugees, and native-born residents to interact through traditional games, artistic expression, music, and sports in an effort to find common ground.

Over the past three years, students and faculty from the Department of Global Health have played an active role in organizing and ensuring the success of this event. “Participating in this powerful and growing movement makes a statement about our commitment to those who now call Tampa Bay home,” said Elizabeth Dunn, faculty and Assistant to the Director of the Global Disaster Management, Humanitarian Relief, and Homeland Security (GHH) graduate program. “Recognizing the importance of human security and fostering a safe environment for some of the world’s most vulnerable populations allows us to build a stronger and safer community for everyone.” Ms. Dunn has played an important role in engaging USF students in volunteering at the event and she serves as a liaison between the university and members of the refugee task force which is comprised of over 60 agencies that support refugee resettlement and programs for immigrants.

Shifting the rhetoric, having an influence on the immigrant experience, asserting our values as citizens of the world and living up to them as a nation are enormous tasks that require everyone to come together. Over the past year, we have welcomed Cubans and Haitian entrants, as well as refugees from Colombia, Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Venezuela, Iraq, Burma and Afghanistan to Tampa Bay. Now it is a time to celebrate the values that unite us as neighbors, colleagues, parents, students and citizens, and to make our communities feel more welcoming.

Tampa Bay Celebrates National Welcoming Week on September 23, 2017, 11:00am – 2:00pm at the University Area Community Development Center, located at 14013 N 22nd Street, Tampa, FL 33613

ISLAC will have a table in the event!

For more information about how you can participate with the Tampa Bay Welcoming Week event, sign-up at www.tinyurl.com/NWW2017 and use #iWelcome to show your support.
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

ISLAC OPEN HOUSE

Please come, enjoy some snacks, and find out what we are doing this Fall, and learn about opportunities to get involved!

Bring friends who would like to be involved with ISLAC as well!

USF Librarians will be on hand from noon to 1pm to discuss new digital learning technologies

Wednesday August 30th, 11am-2pm
FAO 296
THE CRISIS OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY AND THE PATH AHEAD

DR. BERND REITER

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2017
3:00 - 5:00 P.M

GRACE ALLEN ROOM - USF LIBRARY

Open to the public.

A broad array of institutions and laws have been enacted in different places and at different times to block economic elitism and protect democratic self-rule. This book presents a number of such cases, historical as well as contemporary, where solutions to the problem of political and economic elitism have successfully been practiced. It then compares these cases systematically, to determine the common factors and hence the necessary conditions for ensuring, and protecting self-rule and equal opportunity. This book encourages the idea that alternatives to representative, capitalist democracy are possible and can be put to practice.
QUEEN FOR A DAY

Transformistas, Beauty Queens & the Performance of Femininity

MARCIA OCHOA

9/18 6 PM CWY 206

Reception and book signing to follow.
CWY: C.W. Bill Young Hall (Military Sciences Building). Visitor parking in Lot 21 and Collins Blvd garage.

This event is free and open to the public.

For reasonable accommodations, email mdanley@usf.edu.

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

USF
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
at the University of South Florida

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
WOMEN’S & GENDER STUDIES

metro
Health, Wellness & Community
August 30, 2017 - 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
ISLAC Open House
IBL Conference Room, FAO 296
Open to the public

September 7, 2017 - 3:00 PM - 5:00:00 PM
Presentation of the book "The Crisis of Liberal Democracy and the Path Ahead" by Dr. Bernd Reiter
Grace Allen Room, USF Library

Sept. 18, 2017, 6 pm. - CO SPONSORED by the Humanities Institute
"Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens, and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela"
by Dr. Marcia Ochoa.
CWY 206

October 5, 2017 - CO SPONSORED
Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off
Organized by Status of Latino Committee (SOL) and others

October 19, 2017
By Visiting Scholar Alfredo Juan Guevara Martinez
More information to come

November 13 - 17, 2017
Performing Protest: Activism and Art in Latin America
We will have international and local presenters
More information to come

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