Letter from the Director

We are honored to present you with the 2012 – 2013 Latin American Studies newsletter! As you’ll see in the pages to come, LAS organized a wide spectrum of events including musical performances, film screenings and presentations on history and literature, helping all of us to understand better the diversity of Latin American culture and politics.

Given the importance of immigration in Arizona, as well as the role our state plays in national discussions and debates on the subject, we have continued to program events focusing on the US/Mexico border. Most noteworthy was Immigration Awareness Week—thirteen immigration-related events in one week!—which we co-sponsored alongside the student chapter of NAU- No More Deaths. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. Some of our featured speakers, Mike Wilson and West Cosgrove, extended their stays to be able to attend other events. A number of students commented that the week included the most memorable events that they had attended in their college careers!

Our LAS program continues to grow stronger. We now have three times the number of Minors as we did just a few years ago. We have begun to explore further enhancing the program by creating an Introduction to Latin America Studies course. Throughout the year we provided a weekly Blog, in Spanish and English, providing the community with important news items about Latin America that they may not have heard about. We again made it possible for people to enjoy Latin dance and to improve their Spanish with free weekly classes.

Now, while we wrap up this year we’re already at work planning more events for next year.

Please join me in congratulating Emily O’Neil, who we recognized as the Outstanding Latin American Studies student of the year!

Finally, I want to thank Heather Craigie, the 2012-2013 LAS Program Assistant, who made it possible for us to take on such an ambitious agenda this year. The position of LAS Program Assistant entails an incredible range of responsibilities. Heather’s contributions to the program, on so many different levels, were indispensable.

Have a wonderful summer!

Bob Neustadt
Events from Fall 2012

Which Way Home
September 27, 2012

LAS sponsored a free screening of Which Way Home, a film following several unaccompanied child migrants as they journey through Mexico en route to the U.S. on a freight train they call "The Beast." As the United States continues to build a wall between itself and Mexico, Which Way Home shows the personal side of immigration through the eyes of children who face harrowing dangers with enormous courage and resourcefulness as they endeavor to make it to the United States. These are stories of hope and courage, disappointment and sorrow.

Los Románticos
October 10, 2012

Los Románticos is a professional musical ensemble dedicated to preserving and promoting Mexico and Latin America’s finest romantic music. In a concert entitled, "Romantic Rendezvous: October Moon Serenade", Los Románticos presented music from across Mexico, Mesoamerica, and Latin America.

From Painting to Writing: Mario Bencastro’s Artistic Odyssey
October 11, 2012

Mario Bencastro, a Salvadoran writer and painter, elaborated on his transition from a visual to a literary artist through presentation of his paintings and readings from works including A Shot in the Cathedral (Disparo en la Catedral), Odyssey to the North (Odisea del Norte), and Portable Paradise (Paraiso Portátil). NAU students who had read some of Bencastro’s work in classes participated in the presentation by offering bilingual readings of his literature.

Which Way Home

Discussion of the film followed, facilitated by LAS Program Assistant and former Education Director at BorderLinks, Heather Craigie. The film provoked questions and conversation about immigration, including stories from audience members’ family experiences.

Los Románticos

Members of the Los Románticos ensemble are: Dr. José ‘Pepe’ Villarino, Jesús ‘Chuy’ Valdez Jesús ‘Chuy’ Molina, and Marco Antonio “Diablo” Rodríguez. Some members of the band worked with and played music with Cesar Chavez, and they remain involved with social justice and humanitarian issues today.

Mari0 Bencastro

Bencastro is the author of award-winning novels, short stories, and plays that explore the drama of the Salvadoran civil war, the diaspora of millions of Latin American emigrants, and the difficulties of the bicultural and bilingual life of many young Latinos of the United States.
Border Songs Concert

October 12, 2012

Border Songs, a compilation of spoken word and music, addresses the catastrophic effects of US border policy. All proceeds from CD sales directly benefit the Tucson-based humanitarian group No More Deaths. A CD release concert was held in Flagstaff on October 12, 2012, followed by subsequent concerts in Tucson and Sedona.

Modern Languages and International Day

Friday, November 2, 2012

This event, organized by professor Erika Hess, brought 250 students from Northern Arizona high schools to NAU to learn about a variety of cultures via visual art, dance and workshops offered by Modern Languages faculty and graduate students.

EVENTS FROM SPRING 2013

Mario Martin-Flores
March 28, 2013

Mario Martín-Flores, PhD gave a presentation entitled, “The Culture of Baja California: Doublecrossings, Migrations, and other Emergencies”. He is co-author of La Mirada Pródigal/ The Giving Gaze: Una Topografía Íntima de la Frontera/An Intimate Topography Of The Border and co-editor of Double Crossings: Anthology of Research Articles Delivered At: 9th International Conference of Latino Cultures in North America.
Immigration Awareness Week
April 8-13, 2013

Crossing Arizona
April 8, 2013
Directed by Dan DeVivo, Crossing Arizona examines the effects of border policy on those most affected by it. Featuring interviews with migrants, ranchers, government officials, and humanitarian workers, the film offers a diverse array of viewpoints on this complex issue. Director Dan DeVivo was present to answer questions following the screening.

Art Exhibit Opening and Keynote Presentation by West Cosgrove
April 8, 2013
The exhibit, installed outside of the Martin-Springer Institute, included photographs by Michael Hyatt and Rex Koningsor, as well as an installation, “Toe Tags,” by Koningsor. The exhibit also featured photography and art by and students from NAU and the Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy who had traveled to the border.

Two Americans
April 9, 2013
Two Americans is a film featuring Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and an immigrant family arrested under his jurisdiction. The screening was followed by discussion with the filmmakers, Dan DeVivo and Valeria Fernandez, and powerful testimony members of the Figueroa family profiled in the film.

DAN DEVIVO
Director Dan De Vivo believes that films are a powerful resource for popular education and cross-cultural exchange. Dan studied Anthropology at Harvard and developed the skill set of a documentary filmmaker while living in New York City for a decade.

WEST COSGROVE
West Cosgrove, Director of Education at Kino Border Initiative, gave a talk entitled, “Globalization: It Depends on Where You Stand”, based on his decades of experience working on the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso/Juarez and Nogales, Sonora. Cosgrove helped the full house crowd understand the true motivations behind undocumented border crossings.

RESPONSE TO TWO AMERICANS
Esta oportunidad de ver el documental y escuchar a la familia en persona era una de las experiencias más poderosas durante mi tiempo en la universidad. - Carissa Gwerder, estudiante de NAU

This opportunity to see the documentary and listen to the family in person was one of the most powerful experiences during my time at the University. - NAU student Carissa Gwerder
PBS Need to Know documentaries
April 10, 2013
Directed by John Carlos Frey,
Crossing the Line at the Border (parts one and two) examined the Border Patrol’s alleged use of excessive force in an effort to curb illegal immigration.

“Border Patrol in Indian Country: Threat to Native Sovereignty?”
April 10, 2013
Mike Wilson, member of the Tohono O’odham nation and human rights activist, spoke about his humanitarian work in the Arizona desert with Humane Borders. Mike is the only humanitarian placing water on the Tohono O’Odham reservation, the most deadly corridor on the border. Mike also serves as Policy Director of the Border Action Network.

Sleep Dealer Screening
April 11, 2013
Sleep Dealer is a science fiction film depicting the exploitation of a virtual labor force across a fortified U.S.-Mexico border.

Discussion followed the screening, facilitated by NAU No More Deaths member Brianna Barrios. We are also grateful to Border Action Network Policy Director Mike Wilson for attending and sharing his personal experience working with one of the cases profiled in the film.

MIKE WILSON

“Nobody deserves to die in the desert for a cup of water” - Mike Wilson

Discussion of the film followed, facilitated by students from professor Judith Costello’s Cinema and Borders: Race, Migration, and Diaspora in Film and Media.
Arizona DREAMERS in Action
April 11, 2013
The Arizona DREAMers in Action group gave a powerful presentation entitled, “Arizona DREAMers in Action: Undocumented, Unafraid, Unapologetic. Demanding citizenship for 11 million DREAMers”. The event included immigration policy analysis and testimony from several group members.

Double Film Screening: The Fence and Flor de Muertos
April 12, 2013
Directed by Rory Kennedy, the HBO documentary The Fence investigates the impact of the U.S. government’s $3 billion dollar border fence expansion.

Nicaragua: Surviving the Legacy of US Policy
April 23, 2013
This multi-media presentation, based on a spectacular book of the same name, explored the effects of Nicaragua’s civil war through personal testimonies, music and photojournalism. The presentation included the history of U.S. involvement in Nicaragua, the authors’ process of locating individuals based on snapshots, “then and now” testimony from several of the Nicaraguans profiled, and some “New Song” music.

PAUL DIX AND PAMELA FITZPATRICK

Pam Fitzpatrick and Paul Dix worked for Witness for Peace in Nicaragua in the 1980s. Paul was a photographer from 1985 to 1990. During that time he traveled throughout the country and documented attacks on civilians. In 2001, Paul reviewed his photographs and selected approximately 100 Nicaraguans for follow up. After four return trips, Fitzpatrick and Dix found nearly everyone they were searching for.
Clockwise, from top: the Figueroa family after the screening of Two Americans (photo credit Frank Moraga); Los Románticos performance; Mike Wilson and the “death map” of southern Arizona (photo credit Frank Moraga); Mario Martin-Flores presentation; Robert Neustadt and Peter Ragan at the Border Songs CD Release Concert.
Ryan Kashanipour, Assistant Professor of History, presented the following conference papers this year: "Towards a Pedagogy of Experiential Learning." RMCLAS Missionaries: Intercollegiate Strategies for Successful Conversion, Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, Santa Fe, New Mexico. April 4, 2013.


Edward Waters Hood- (Professor of Spanish) presented a paper, “Del ahogado el sombrero: el ahogado en la obra narrativa de Gabriel García Márquez,” at the 2012 AATSP Annual Conference, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.


T. Mark Montoya, lecturer of ethnic studies, with NAU graduate Nathania Garcia (sociology 2012), co-authored a paper "Indocumentado: The Depoliticization of Migrant and Queer Bodies in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands," for presentation at the Association for Borderlands Studies Annual Meetings/Western Social Science Association 55th Annual Conference in Denver, CO in early April.

Montoya also received the President’s Award for Ethnic Diversity, and was elected as a co-chair of the Commission on Ethnic Diversity for a two year term.

Judith Costello, Instructor of Comparative Cultural Studies, presented a paper titled, "The Farce of the Frontera: Blurring the Border on Film" at the The 60th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies in Santa Fe, New Mexico in April. She also sold 40 copies of the BORDER SONGS CD at the conference.

During Immigration Awareness Week Costello's HUM 232 class on Cinema & Borders presented the film, "Sleep Dealer." The students put forth an amazing effort to prepare their presentation and publicize it around campus. Judith is very impressed and appreciative of the energy and effort of her students!

Robert Neustadt was on the organizing committee and jury for Beyond the Border: The Wall, the People and the Land, a mixed media art show at the Coconino Center for the Arts, Sep. 22 – Oct. 31. He also co-produced, and performs on, Border Songs, a double CD of music and spoken word, in English and Spanish, about the border and immigration. All of the artists donated their work, as did the producers, and the project is donating all of the proceeds to No More Deaths / No Más Muertes, a volunteer organization that provides humanitarian aid to migrants and recently deported people on the Mexican side of the border. Since October, Bob has organized and performed at four Border Songs concerts, including the standing-room only CD Release Concert at the CCA in Flagstaff on Oct. 12, 2012. This year he has given 10 radio interviews about the Border Songs project (WORT-Madison WI, KLOE Eugene, OR, KCXI Tucson, AZ, KAIC Yuma, AZ, KFSR Santa Fe, NM, KBFF Santa Rosa, CA, KPFA Berkeley, CA, WMCX Greenfield, MA, KBRP Bisbee, AZ, and PBS News Hour). So far, the album has raised approximately $24,000 for humanitarian aid and has been recognized as “Album of Merit” and “Humanitarian Album of 2012” by the Global Music Awards.

Bob delivered two presentations on campus, the Joel Olson Memorial Conference, a public health class, and another invited presentation at the University of Mississippi. He presented at the Northeast Modern Languages association NELMA (in Boston), the Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference (in Lexington) and is scheduled to present at the Latin American Studies Association Congress in Washington DC at the end of May.

He published his article, “Looking Beyond the Wall: Encountering the Humanitarian Crisis of Border Politics” (about the fieldtrips that he leads to the AZ/Mexico border) in the May/June (print and online) issue of UTNE Reader: http://www.utne.com/politics/humanitarian-crisis-of-border-politics-zm013mjzbla.aspx UTNE Reader will also be publishing his article, “Re-tracing the Path of Migration: Valarie James and the Art of Migrant Trash,” as a BLOG.

Bob directed Latin American Studies and served as the faculty advisor for the student chapter of NAU — No More Deaths.

Heather Craigie served as the Latin American Studies program assistant for the 2012-2013 year. Heather holds a MA in LAS from the University of Arizona, where she conducted research on community organizing among internal migrant communities in Nogales, Sonora. In addition to teaching at the UA, Prescott College, and the Earlham College Border Studies program, Heather was the Education Director for BorderLinks, an binational organization devoted to education around immigration and border issues.
An interdisciplinary minor in Latin American Studies is open to all interested NAU students. Its aim is to provide students with a broad cross-disciplinary familiarity with the Latin American region. In this 21-hour program, students may choose from courses in a variety of disciplines including: Anthropology, History, Humanities, Literature, Music, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Spanish. Minors must select courses from at least three different disciplines. Students who must meet a language requirement for their bachelor’s degree must fulfill the requirement in Spanish. It is also strongly recommended that students taking the Latin American Studies minor select electives in the Spanish language because linguistic familiarity is so essential to a useful appreciation of the Latin American region.

Courses Summer/Fall 2013

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

**FALL**
ANT 303 1-LEC(7650) Peoples Of Latin America
ANT 306 1-LEC(3120) Peoples Of The Southwest *(note: Vasquez section only)*

**ETHNIC STUDIES**

**SUMMER**
ES 160 1/2-LEC(1171)/(1172) Introduction To Latino(a)/Chicano(a) Studies *online*

**FALL**
ES 160 1/3-LEC(5127)/7068- online) Introduction To Latino(a)/Chicano(a) Studies
ES 204 1/2-LEC(7064)/(7065) Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Cinema
ES 310 1-LEC(7735) Chicana Feminisms: Theory, Literature, And Activism

**FIRST YEAR SEMINAR**

FS 141 7-LEC(3462) Social & Political Worlds First Year Seminar: The Great Immigration Debate

**GEOGRAPHY**

**SUMMER**
GSP 240 1-LEC(1072) World Geography West *online*

**FALL**
GSP 240 1/2/3-LEC (3050)/(3280)/(6383- online) World Geography West

**HISTORY**

**SUMMER**
HIS 481 1-LEC(1753) Popular Culture In Modern Latin America *online*

**FALL**
HIS 280 1-LEC(6690) Colonial Latin America
HIS 300W 2-LEC(6691) Topics In History: Immigration and the Border
HONORS
HON 394 2-LEC(5067) Advanced Honors Seminar: Immigration: Fences and Neighbors

HUMANITIES
SUMMER
HUM 232 801-LEC(2201) Cinema And Borders: Race, Migration, And Diaspora In Film and Media-online
HUM 381 1/1-LEC(1242)/(1188) Mexican Arts And Culture-online
HUM 382 801-LEC(2202) World Perspectives In Humanities: Latin American Film-online

FALL
HUM 281 M16-LEC(8364) Latin American Ideals and Values

POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
SUMMER
POS 361 801-LEC(1556) Politics Of Developing Nations-online

FALL
POS 230 1-LEC(3344) Current Issues Politics: Comparative Revolutions
POS 361 1-LEC(5090) Politics Of Developing Nations

SPANISH
SUMMER
SPA 321 1-LEC(1764) Introduction to Literature in Spanish

FALL
SPA 321 1/2/3-LEC(1145)/(1398)/(6738) Introduction to Literature in Spanish
SPA 351 1-LEC(3925) Survey Of Peninsular Spanish Literature
SPA 354 1-LEC(4976) Survey Of Latin American Film
SPA 404 1-LEC(1147) Advanced Composition And Oral Expression
SPA 405 1/2-LEC(1148)/(6740) Culture And Civilization Of Spain
SPA 452C 1-LEC(3489) Topics In Spanish-American Literature
SPA 531 1-LEC(4980) Hispanic Writers in the United States (with instructor permission)

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES
WGS 260 1-LEC(4986) Introduction to Transnational Feminisms
WGS 310 1-LEC (7036) Chicana Feminisms: Theory, Literature, And Activism
WGS 360 2-LEC(7071) Topics In Global Feminisms: Women and Globalization
Thanks to an innovative collaboration between Ethnic Studies and Latin American Studies, it is now possible to combine both of these fields to comprise an undergraduate major in University Studies. This degree is an excellent option for students wishing to focus on Chicano/Latino Ethnic Studies and Latin American Studies as a major field of study. Alternatively, students studying Spanish can combine LAS and Spanish minors in a BUS major!

In addition to having completed 60 units of university coursework, students must be admitted into the program through the Gateway Student Success Center.

To pursue the Chicano/Latino Ethnic Studies and Latin American Studies focus within the BUS program, please contact the respective program directors listed to the right.

Don’t forget to follow the Latin American Studies blog:
latinamericanstudiesblog.wordpress.com

Each week, the LAS blog is updated with campus and community events, in addition to relevant news updates from Latin America. Come join the discussion!

To the left: NAU Student Angel Arzola with Red Bull cans found in the southern Arizona desert during a field trip to the border.
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