Letter from the director:

Another year has come and gone and Latin American Studies has continued to offer educational and cultural programs that deepen our understanding of Latin America in all of its rich, complex diversity! Events this year focused on Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Atzlan (the Arizona/Mexico borderlands). During April we collaborated with the student chapter of NAU-No More Deaths and presented nearly 20 events about the border and immigration! We brought in speakers, leading experts, advocates, activists and presented films on border issues. In fact, I believe we offered what may have been the most comprehensive series of border events ever presented anywhere!

Congratulations to our Latin American Studies Student of the Year, Sara Larsen! Sara, a Spanish major and LAS minor, has become an expert on the environmental impact of security practices on the border. She recently shared her knowledge with students from NPA and NAU on a student panel during Immigration Awareness Month. Sara embodies the attributes of an ideal minor—she is enthusiastic, brilliant, well rounded (she is a Wilderness First Responder) and she is deeply committed to issues of environmental stewardship and social justice.

Congratulations as well to Emily O’Neil (last year’s LAS Student of the Year and our current Program Assistant) who won a new award, the Latin American Studies Social Justice Award, and the Cesar Chavez Award (presented at the Hispanic Student Convocation). Emily’s work as the defacto leader of the NAU student chapter of No More Deaths / No más muertes has been amazing—and I do not use that adjective lightly! She has sold Border Songs CDs, organized Immigration Awareness Month and helped to spearhead a rally on April 5th in solidarity with the undocumented community. Emily’s contributions as Program Assistant for LAS and as an activist are inspiring!

Ryan Kashanipour, Assistant Professor of Latin American History, has received and accepted a prestigious two-year research fellowship at the College of William and Mary. We congratulate him on this accomplishment, not at all surprising, and thank him for his service over the last two years. I’m already looking forward to his return. We’re also excited that the History Department will be hiring a two-year Visiting Assistant Professor of Latin American History. It will be difficult to fill Ryan’s size 13 shoes, but we’re looking forward to gaining a new colleague.

It is with sadness that we bid good-bye to Rose Caraway, our expert on religion in Cuba, who has accepted a tenure-track position at Iowa State University. It is really a shame that NAU could not find the means to offer Rose a long-term position. We wish her the very best!

If you have ideas or suggestions for events next year please feel free to let us know. We’re always open to planning events with and for you!

Qué tengan un buen semestre!

Bob Neustadt
In October, we had two special cultural performances back to back!

**October 1st: La Hojarasca**

*Hojarasca*, from Colombia, is a musical trio that specializes in contemporary Andean music. Their music blends the traditional and the contemporary to give a fresh voice to traditional Andean song and folklore. This trio, directed and composed by Lucas Rodas, specializes in contemporary Andean music. *Hojarasca* gave an intimate and beautiful performance at the Native American Cultural Center on campus. Their music combines traditional Andean instruments with more contemporary sounds bridging the old and new worlds.

**October 2nd: Dios de la Adrenalina**

On October 2nd we presented “Dios de la Adrenalina” a spectacular bilingual poem and stilt dance performance. Performed in the grassy lawn in front of the Native American Cultural Center, the dancers from the Colombian Teatro Nemacatoa and CarpetBag Brigade from San Francisco danced on stilts while interpreting the poem performed by Verbo Bala from Tucson and the live music from Hojarasca. This amazing performance depicted the complex relationship between Colombia and the United States with an emphasis on the impacts of neocolonialism and the drug exchange through the intermingling of dance, spoken word and music.

*No (2012)* directed by Pablo Larraín.

Latin American Studies showed a free screening of the movie *No (2012)* directed by Pablo Larraín on the 50th anniversary of the Chilean military coup. The film is set in 1988 Chile after General Augusto Pinochet agrees to hold a referendum to decide his permanence in office. A “yes” vote would allow Pinochet to remain in power for eight more years while a “no” vote would allow Chileans a free election, the first since the military coup in 1976. The “no” campaign takes an unusual move by hiring René Saavedra, a young advertising executive, to direct the campaign broadcast. For the audience, it was a story of triumph over a whole generation of fear and intimidation employed by General Pinochet and the military government.
Katia Cardenal Concert

On October 24th, Katia Cardenal and her daughter Nina Cardenal gave a wonderful performance of music and stories to the audience in Ashurst Auditorium. Katia Cardenal is a world famous artists who has recorded with Jackson Browne, with the great Cuban singer/ songwriter Silvio Rodríguez (and many others). Cardenal has shared the stage with Jackson Browne, Melissa Etheridge, Mercedes Sosa, Nancy Griffith, Bruce Cockburn, John McCutcheon, Pete Seeger and many more. Latin American Studies was very fortunate to have Katia and her daughter perform. Katia’s brother and musical partner from Dúo Guardabarranco, Salvador Cardenal, passed away in 2010. Since his death, Katia has been touring with her daughter Nina who plays the guitar. This performance was the first time Katia Cardenal had performed in Flagstaff in twenty years when she performed with her brother as Dúo Guardabarranco at the Coconino Center for the Arts.

In addition to this concert, Katia and Nina Cardenal performed at the Border Songs CD Concert in the Coconino Center for the Arts the following night, October 25th.

The State of Arizona

This year Latin American Studies had the opportunity to show a free sneak peak preview of the new documentary film The State of Arizona (2013) directed by Carlos Sandoval and Catherine Tambini. The documentary explores the political divisiveness of immigration policy with a focus on Arizona. The themes of immigration and race are examined throughout the film as it follows the trajectory of one of the most controversial immigration laws, SB 1070. Both sides of the political spectrum are examined as the film plays off these themes through a variety of different characters and their response to the new bill. We had an overwhelming turnout of students to this event!
Pete Seeger Commemorative Concert with singer songwriter Joel Rafael

Latin American Studies hosted a remarkable concert with singer songwriter Joel Rafael in memory of the late folk artist, Pete Seeger on January 27th.

Seeger was the most influential folk singer in recent history, and a lifelong activist for civil and human rights as well as the environment. In 1955 he testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee and refused to answer what he considered inappropriate questions: "I am not going to answer any questions as to my association, my philosophical or religious beliefs or my political beliefs, or how I voted in any election, or any of these private affairs. I think these are very improper questions for any American to be asked, especially under such compulsion as this. I would be very glad to tell you my life if you want to hear of it." Joel Rafael continues to follow in the tradition of Woody Guthrie, a friend and influence for Pete Seeger, for many years.

Todd Miller, author of Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security

On March 11th, we presented a book reading by Todd Miller whose new book, Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security exposes the paradox of politicians and corporations making large profits off of the militarization of the border while millions of people experience the humanitarian consequences. Border Patrol Nation shows us in stark relief how the entire country has become a militarized border zone, with consequences that affect us all. Miller signed books after the reading for audience members. His book is on sale at the University bookstore.

Miller read various passages from his new book and offered the audience some insight into his personal experiences writing the book.
Immigration Awareness Month

With the help of NAU MEChA, NAU No More Deaths, the Olson Scholars, Student Activities Council, AmigosNAZ, and many wonderful volunteers, NAU was host to the very first Immigration Awareness Month. The month was a great success with over 16 educational events and two fundraisers. Speakers from all over Arizona such as West Cosgrove, Linda Green, Robin Reineke and Mike Wilson all whom have extensive knowledge about human rights, immigration and border policies were a part of this Immigration Awareness Month. NAU students who attended were encouraged to use this information to form their own educated opinions.

Special thanks to:
Robert Neustadt
Sarah Salmon
Jorden Rae Aguirre
Sarah Neville
Conrad Felix
Frank Moraga
Sara Larsen
Mollie Muchna
Alberto Campos
Nathalie Dart
Reyna Cardenas
Gina Paoli
Brianna Barrios

Week One

April 1st

West Cosgrove of the Kino Border Initiative has worked on the border in Juárez, El Paso and in Nogales for over 15 years. His presentation focused on push and pull factors of immigration, issues with current immigration policies and subsequent impacts on migrant communities.

April 2nd

Robin Reineke, Executive Director of the Colibrí Center for Human Rights presented a talk, “Decomposition as Corporeal Politics: Postmortem Violence on the US-Mexico Border”, based on her research as a cultural anthropologist and her work with Colibrí Center for Human Rights.

The premiere screening in Arizona of Who is Dayani Cristal? (International Film Series) Winner of Sundance 2013 Cinematography Award. Robin Reineke, who is featured prominently in this film, was present at the screening for an informative Q & A.

April 3rd

Screening of The Immigration Paradox directed by Lourdes and Bryan Vasquez. The film takes a critical look at economic influences within the immigration paradox and stressed the importance of open and respectful dialogue. The directors led a thoughtful discussion about the impacts of Neo Liberal economics on immigration.
Week 2

April 8th

John Fife (Founder of Sanctuary Movement, co-founder of No More Deaths) presented his talk based on his work with the Sanctuary Movement and No More Deaths “Getting in the Way: Resistance Movements to Death on the Border.” Fife, a prominent and long-term immigration activist, inspired the audience with his stories.

April 9th

Screening of The Undocumented (2013 dir. Marco Williams). This cinéma vérité documentary exposes the impact of immigration and economic policies on people who are continually affected by them as well as the tragic humanitarian crisis which has arisen from these policies.

April 10th

Screening of Need to Know: Crossing the Line (Dir. John Carlos Frey) Winner of the June Sidney Award for Socially Conscious Journalism. This eye-opening series of films, investigative journalism, explores Border Patrol abuse, as well as the For Profit Prison system. Ricky Cheney from No More Deaths’ Abuse Documentation Project presented on his current work with the project and led a discussion with the audience after the film.

April 12th

A conference presented by the Olson Scholars in order to increase the awareness of students and community members of the injustices occurring on the U.S./Mexico border surrounding the issue of immigration. The conference included talks by Chelsea Halstead from the Colibrí Center for Human Rights, Victoria López, a lawyer from Phoenix ACLU, Mike Wilson, Tohono O’odham activist and Educational Director of Border Action Network, as well as a student panel.

Week 3

April 14th

NAU Student Panel: “Experiences on the Border” featured students Sara Larsen, Sarah Salmon, Mollie Muchna and Valeria Urquiza. All of the presenters had taken classes regarding border and immigration, have volunteered with No More Deaths, and continue to be social justice advocates.

April 15th

Dan Millis, Director of the Sierra Club Borderlands Campaign, presented “Wild Versus Wall: Border Impacts to Land, Air, Water and Wildlife” exploring the environmental impacts of Border Patrol policies on the fragile environmental corridors that bisect the border.

April 16th

Screening of Romántico as part of the International Film Series. The documentary focuses on the life of a migrant who returns home to Mexico to care for his ailing mother and his vain attempts to scratch out a living in his impoverished hometown.

April 17th

Screening of Two Americans (Dir. Valeria Fernández and Dan DeVivo). A powerful documentary which juxtaposes Phoenix’s Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the Figueroa family. When 9-year old Katia Figueroa returned home from school she happened to see both of her parents being arrested in an Arpaio raid on television. Katia became the spokesperson for the family as they fought to be reunited. The directors and the Figueroa family were present at the event for a memorable Q & A.
Week Four

April 21st

Linda Green, director of Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Arizona, presented her talk Liberalism, Nation-al Security and Migration: Notes from the Border-lands of the American Southwest. Prof. Linda Green is a socio-cultural anthropologist who has worked extensively on issues surrounding immigration and border policies.

April 23rd

Demetria Martinez author of the National Book Award-winning book The Block Captains Daughter (2012). Demetria Martinez is an author and social justice activist who has published six books, including novels, books of poetry and a children's book. Her talk focused on her work with Sanctuary Movement, her subsequent indictment and vindication as an author who uses her pen and words to describe ongoing human rights issues.

April 24th

Screening of The Graduates (2013) directed and produced by Bernardo Ruiz. The two-part, bilingual documentary explores pressing issues in education today through the eyes of six Latino and Latina adolescents from across the United States. The film offers first-hand perspectives on the barriers they must overcome in order to make their dreams come true.

April 25th

The Persecution of Ethnic Studies presented by NAU MEChA featured Dr. Samuel Bañales and Dr. Mary Roaf. The presentations discussed the history and importance of ethnic studies as a tool for greater inclusion and understanding of all ethnicities.

April 26th

7th Annual Dancing Across Borders. A night of dancing and fundraising for the humanitarian organization No More Deaths sponsored by the NAU Latin Dance Club.

Thank you to all who attended the Immigration Awareness Month events, the professors who encouraged their students to attend and to all of our volunteers.

Edward Waters Hood, Professor of Spanish had a paper, “La historia de Lluvia en Milagro de la Paz, de Manlio Argueta, y ‘La lluvia’, de Arturo Uslar Pietri,” published in Letralia: Tierra de Letras 289 (noviembre 2014):http://www.letralia.com/289/ensayo02.htm Spoken texts from The Lost Chronicles of Terra Firma, his English translation of Nicaraguan author Rosario Aguilar’s novel on the conquest of Central America La niña blanca y los pájaros sin pies (1992), were used in Peter Sellars’s operatic adaptation of Henry Purcell’s The Indian Queen (1695), which was performed at the Perm Theater in Moscow and the Teatro Real in Spain during fall 2014.http://www.teatro-real.com/en/season/opera/the-indian-queen. He also gave a public talk on “The Life in the Works of Gabriela Mistral and César López in Mexico, Colombia, the author’s hometown, on March 6, 2014, the author’s birthday, and presented papers on his literary works at the XII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica and at the annual Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies meeting. Sadly, the Nobel laureate died at the age of eighty-seven in April.


Nicolle Price, Professor of Spanish, Dr. Nicole D. Price presented papers at 2 conferences in March. Her paper at the XIII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica in Cartagena, Colombia was entitled, “¿El otro soy yo?: Reconciliando la identidad en Poniente y Retorno a Hansala de Chuz Gutiérrez.” Her paper at the 74th Annual Convention of the College Language Association in New Orleans, LA. was entitled “Whose Voice is it Anyway?: The Colonial Novel in Equatorial Guin-“a” Dr. Price was also promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in April.

Juanita Heredia, Professor of Spanish, earned a Scholarly and Creative Summer Grant in 2014 for her research on South American Latino/a authors in the United States. She also published the following: 1) “Afro-Dominican American Women Writers: Dialogues on Gender and Race in Angie Cruz’s Soledad and Nelly Rosario’s Song of the Water Saints.” Journal of American Studies of Turkey. Special issue: Transnational Latino/a Studies. (Spring 2014) 2) “From the New Heights: The City and Migrating Latinas in Real Women Have Curves and María Full of Grace.” Mester, Special Issue: Hemispheric Intersections. 42.1 (2013): 3-24. 3) “The Women in East Los Angeles: Gender and the City in Helena Maria Viramontes’s The World Came with Them.” Rebozos de Palabras: A Critical Reader on the Works of Helena Maria Viramontes and Others. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2013. 97-121. She was also invited to contribute an original chapter to The Cambridge History of Latino/a Literature edited by John M. Gonzále and Laura Lomas. She presented papers at the following international conferences: 1) “Afro-Dominican Diaspora Responds: Negotiating Transnational Experiences in The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz and Let It Rain Coffee by Angie Cruz.” 7th Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. October 30-November 2, 2013. 2) “The Latina Intellectual and the City: Negotiating Transnational Experiences in Hungry Woman in Paris and The World in Half.” 20th International Comparative Literature Association Congress. Université Paris-La Sorbonne (Paris IV), Paris, France. July 18-24, 2013. The graduate students of NAU’s Graduate English Organization also invited her to be part of a faculty panel for the Peaks Interdisciplinary Conference: Censorship and Silence that took place February 21-23, 2014. For Latin American Studies, Dr. Heredia invited New Mexican author and activist Demetria Martinez to give a talk during Immigration Awareness Month on April 23, 2014, at NAU. She also incorporated Martinez’s critically acclaimed works, Confessions of a Berlitz-Tape Chicana and The Block Captain’s Daughter, in her Chicano/U.S. Latino literature and culture courses in Spring 2014. The U.S. Latino/a Culture course was given for the first time at NAU.

Robert Neustadt, Director of the Latin American Studies and Professor of Spanish, gave papers at the Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference and at the Latin American Studies Association Congress in Chicago. He also gave the keynote lecture at the Peaks Interdisciplinary Conference: Censorship and Silence: Reading Between the Lines at NAU, and a NAU Summer Seminar talk at the Museum of Northern Arizona. His photograph, “Seven musicians perform on a chromatic marimba doble” was included in the Guatemala Exhibit Rail at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, AZ (Nov. 2013- present). His essay, “Looking Beyond the Wall” (Originally published in UTNE Reader in May/June 2013: http://www.utne.com/politics/humanitarian-crisis-of-border-politics-zm013mjzbla.aspx#axzz38QKIFX1Z), was republished by invitation in a Women’s Studies textbook, Women’s Voices / Feminists Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings alongside of a leading list of intellectual thinkers and writers. He published an article in print and online about Valerie James’s art made from migrant trash, “Art Created from Immigrants Disasured Objects” (May/June 2013) (http://www.utne.com/politics/undocumented-immigrants-art-zm013esqzinl.aspx#axzz38QIFX1Z). His article about Colombian musician César López’s escopetarra, a guitar made from a machine gun, “Music, Guns, and Peace” (July 2014) (http://www.utne.com/articles/music-guns-and-peace.aspx#axzz38QIRZCWG) appeared online in UTNE Reader and will appear in the print version this fall. His essay “Border Songs: Bringing the Immigration Crisis to the Classroom with Music,” was published in Music and Politics during summer 2014, http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/mp/9460447.0008.104?view=text&rgn=main. In October he organized and played a Border Songs concert at the Coconino Center for the Arts. He gave multiple radio and television interviews for the Border Songs CD Project (http://www.bordersongs.org), a double cd of music and spoken word about the border which has now raised over...
Latin Americans Studies Minor

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 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 useful appreciation of the Latin American region.

Courses for Fall 2014

**Anthropology**

ANT 253 Aztec and Maya: Archaeology of Ancient Mexico  
2-LEC(15064)

ANT 306 Peoples of the Southwest  
1-LEC(5077) *Vasquez Section only*

**Geographic Science and Community Planning**

GSP 240- World Geography West  
1-LEC(4879)  
2-LEC(5536)

**Cinema**

CINE 232 Cinema and Borders: Race, migration, and diaspora in film and media  
01-LEC(13388)

**History**

HIS 280 Colonial Latin America  
1-LEC(12061)

HIS 382 Mexico Yesterday and Today  
1-LEC(15084)

**Honors**

HON 394 Immigration: Looking Beyond the Wall  
2-LEC(9726)

**Humanities**

HUM 281 Latin American Ideas and Values  
01-LEC(14057)  
02-LEC(14058)

HUM 382 World Perspectives in Humanities: Latin American Film  
01-LEC(14059)

**Ethnic Studies**

ES 160 Introduction to Latino(a)/Chicano(a) Studies  
03-LEC(14493)  
801-LEC(14435)  
01-LEC(9828)

ES 204 Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Cinema  
01-LEC(12229)

**Spanish**

SPA 321 Introduction to Literature in Spanish  
2-LEC(1322)  
1-LEC(1113)

SPA 322 Hispanic Drama  
1-LEC(11984)

SPA 351 Survey of Peninsular Spanish Literature  
1-LEC(7137)

SPA 354 Survey of Latin American Film  
1-LEC(9558)

SPA 405 Culture and Civilization of Spain  
1-LEC(1116)
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Why become a Latin American Studies minor?

A minor in Latin American studies will teach you about the unique history, culture and society of Latin America. With a minor in Latin American Studies, you can work abroad with non-profit organizations, international organizations, participate in research, as well as educational and corporate positions abroad and within the United States. This minor combines perfectly with Spanish, History, Anthropology, Political Science, Humanities and many other majors!

Want to donate to Latin American Studies?

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