

# Latin American Studies Center News



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**ON THE COVER:**

LASC Launches "Agenda, Cultura y Democracia"

**INSIDE . . .**

LASC Publications..... 2

Jaime Torres: The Foremost Argentine Charango Player at UM by Faccio .....3

Collaborative Institute for Policy Studies between UM and three Venezuelan Universities by Hilde.....4

Study Abroad - Latin America .....6

Afro-Colombian Communities subject to Massive Displacement by Salazar.....8

LASC Leads Pedestrian Safety Campaign "Use the Cross-Walk" by Goulias .....9

LASC Affiliate Faculty Judith Freidenberg launches Consultation for Community Museum Project in Langley Park .....10

LASC Faculty Profile ..11

Briefly Noted .....12

## LASC Launches "Agenda Cultura y Democracia"

As part of its ongoing project, "A Culture for Democracy in Latin America," LASC gathered a group of experts to consider new venues aimed at promoting policies and best practices that may contribute to the consolidation of democracy. NGO representatives and scholars from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador and the University of Maryland, convened in March to exchange national and regional experiences in the development of democracy since the 1990s, in an effort to draw lessons learnt and main areas that could profit from the collective work of the group.

Following a preliminary document prepared by UM participants the panel addressed the need for a new democratic agenda that must emerge from an innovative analysis of political styles and practices in LA. Rather than identifying limits, weaknesses and deviations from the normative democratic model, the analysis must be geared --according to the participants-- towards locating the potentials and strengths of the actual political, cultural and institutional practices in civil society. The discussion must build on existing modes of political, economic and social practices that pertain to LA's historical heritage.



*Panel participants*  
Photo by Paula Halperin

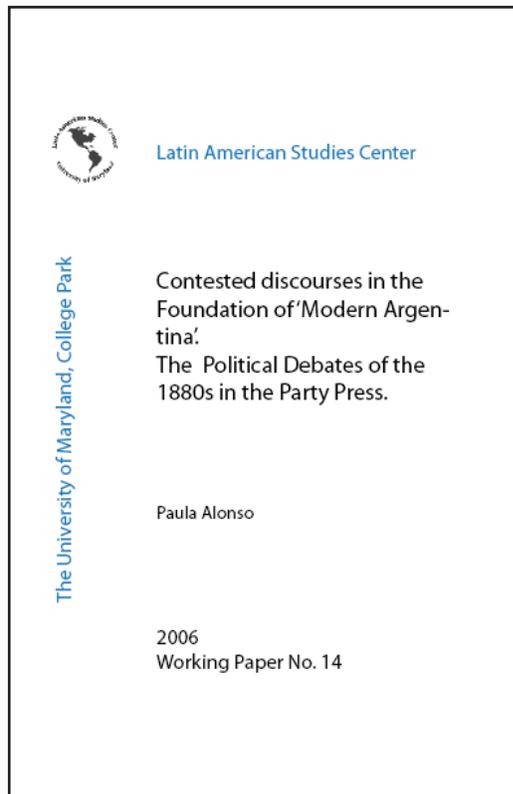
Some main concerns and ideas that emerged were the importance of strengthening political practices that include, among others, the political parties' representative system, the democratic participatory instances and the grassroots organizations, and the need to facilitate and promote civil society's engagement in these practices, through shared mechanisms of communications among different social sectors.

*Agenda continued on page 5*



The University of Maryland, College Park

# LASC Publications



## **Contested discourses in the Foundation of 'Modern Argentina'.**

### **The Political Debates of the 1880s in the Party Press.**

*by Paula Alonso*

This new Working Paper by LASC Post-doctoral Fellow Paula Alonso (Associate Professor of the Universidad de San Andres, Buenos Aires, Argentina), "Contested Discourses in the Foundation of 'Modern Argentina'. The Political Debate of the 1880s in the Party Press", addresses Argentina's national politics through an analysis of the party in power over the decade, the Partido Autonomista Nacional (PAN). The paper reconstructs the party's ideology and the use of its newspapers as the vehicle to publicize ideas, gain support and construct shared beliefs.

Through an analysis of the press, Alonso reconstructs the PAN's ideological battles, examining the ways in which the party defined its political and institutional project, how it changed over the years and how it confronted opposing representations to impose its own.

Dr. Alonso has authored numerous articles on Argentine history as well as a book, translated into English as *Between Revolution and the Ballot Box. The Origins of the Argentine Radical Party in the 1890s* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). She recently edited a book on the role of printed media in the formation of nation-states in Latin America, *Construcciones impresas: Panfletos, diarios y revistas en la formación de los estados nacionales en América Latina* (Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2003).

*Contested Discourses in the Foundation of 'Modern Argentina'. The Political Debates of the 1880s in the Party Press (39 pages) ISSN 1535-0223*

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# Jaime Torres: The Foremost Argentine Charango Player at UM

by Fabián Faccio

On December 10, 2006, the foremost Argentine charango player performed at the Hoff Theater on the College Park campus. Sponsored by the LASC and ELA, Jaime Torres' performance was once again a tribute to his brilliant artistry, which is well documented in many award-winning recordings. His first record, called *Virtuosismo en Charango*, was released in 1964, followed by *Charango* (1965) and *Aplausos para un charango* (1967). Born in San Miguel de Tucumán, he learned to play this traditional instrument at a young age, while taking lessons from Bolivian musician Mauro Nuñez.

This concert had the audience enthralled throughout and there were times when I could almost see the South American Indian dancers and the highland profile he was playing for. Indeed, his music has the power to transport the listener through Andean landscapes, conjuring scenes and people from another place and time. The crowd, made up of people of all ages, turned out in large numbers, almost filling the theater.

The charango is a small string instrument created by the Andean Indians. Based on the Spanish vihuela, it has a set of double strings and is constructed out of the shell of a quirquincho, a regional animal from the family of the armadillo. Maestro Torres often shares the concert platform with internationally known musicians, but this time he was surrounded by a deserving group of talented artists that brilliantly heightened the range of their instruments.

In 1974, Jaime Torres and his band participated in the opening show for the world soccer championship in Germany. A year later, he organized a local encounter for instrumentalists, repeating that same experience with children in 1980. In 1988 Torres composed the music for the Oscar nominated movie *La deuda interna*. He has performed in the most important venues of the world, in the US, Europe, Russia, and East and South Asia. Music halls in

New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Stuttgart, Berlin, Brussels, Malaysia, Singapore, Tokyo and many other places have had the honor of hearing his musical interpretations. He reigns supreme over the world of virtuoso charanguists because he exhibits qualities that are seldom contained in one person. His brain-teasing technical agility is contained in his charisma; Torres is an unaffected interpreter whose native language is music.

Jaime Torres is recognized by audiences all over the world because of his ability to communicate the emotional and intellectual depths of his native music. As a supreme master of his instrument, his accomplishments as an interpreter have earned him a place among the world's most revered musicians.



*Jaime Torres and his musicians*

Photos by  
The Argentinean Embassy





# Collaborative Institute for Policy Studies between UM and three Venezuelan Universities

*by Tom Hilde*

I was invited this past November to Venezuela by Universidad Católica Andrés Bello and The Polar Foundation as a Fulbright Senior Specialist to lecture on globalization and the pragmatic conceptions of experimentalism and democracy (John Dewey and Thomas Jefferson viewed democracy as an ongoing “experiment”; not merely the establishment of basic institutions such as the vote and then you’re all done). I can think of no better place in the world right now to be than Venezuela for thinking through these issues, looking at real practices, and working on genuine bridge-building between the different groups of what is a highly polarized society.

I met with a number of people in Venezuela, including former government ministers and present Chávez ministers, the president and the CEO of the Polar Company, poor people in the slums (ranchos), some of the greatest contemporary writers in Venezuela, respected artists, various other opposition and government figures, young idealistic government functionaries, journalists, professors, students, and other local people of all stripes. The common

denominator of discussion with nearly everyone was politics in general and Chávez in particular.

Venezuela is a beautiful, warm and welcoming country. It is also a highly politicized country. I found political discussion to be exhilaratingly high-caliber and well-informed. But Venezuelan politics



is also very emotional, and constantly teeters at the edge of civil war. Even one’s choice of beer at a bar can be political. The emotional element of Venezuelan politics permeated not only discussions over dinners, in taxis, in cafés, but also the contexts of the various presentations and faculty seminar I gave. The middle terrain is inhabited by only very few people, “bridge-builders,” and they can be ostracized by both political sides at the same time. Nothing, however, is as clear as the internal polarization would seem to suggest or as American policy and rhetoric towards Venezuela makes it out to be or as Chávista anti-imperialist Bolivarian rhetoric suggests. As an outsider, I found some interesting policies by the Chávez government and I found some legitimacy to opposition claims. I also found myself constantly probed and mined for signs of which side I would take, especially by opposition members. There are only two sides, after all, and you are on one or the other. My own tentative



conclusions at the end of the trip keep me straddling the middle ground. This is the luxury of the outsider. It is both a moment of great potential in Venezuela and a moment of tentative bridge-building. There are, of course, good reasons to be wary, but the best-case scenario could be a novel model for democratic, inclusive, and just governance in the so-called developing world. If the bridge-building succeeds, we could see a country of wealth and beauty and intelligence form a just democratic society and decent economy on its own terms. To this end, colleagues in Venezuela and I are developing a collaborative institute for policy studies. The institute will hopefully create an immediate bridge between the University of Maryland and the three main universities in Caracas. This bridge will be comprised of student and researcher exchanges,

conferences, and collaborative hands-on projects. There are resources and tremendous opportunities on the Venezuelan side that already cross some of the political and financial divides that exist in the country. The longer-term project will be to create an ongoing exchange of ideas, practical policy work, research, and good-faith relations between political opponents and countries with seemingly different objectives. As someone who studies globalization and democratic development, this is especially interesting to me. Venezuela's situation raises questions about the nature of globalization and localized versions of democratic development. It raises these questions not only for Venezuela itself but also for the globe as diverse nations seek out better formulations of development than the orthodox models.

*City of Caracas*

Photo from  
<http://en.wikipedia.org>



continued from page 1

In order to research and develop a program that addresses these issues, participants decided to create a network of academic institutions, NGOs and other civil society associations, private sector and social movements, in charge of articulating a research agenda leading to action projects in the region. "Agenda Cultura y Democracia" expects to profit from the expertise and practical experience that its participants bring to it, and from the innovative perspectives and proposals that have emerged from the group.

*Participants:*

*Raul Gangotena, Miembro de Directorio de las Corporaciones Empresariales Indígena y Afroecuatoriana*  
*Jose Teixeira, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brasil*  
*Gerardo Caetano, Universidad de la República, Uruguay*  
*René Mayorga, CEBEM, Centro Boliviano de Estudios Multidisciplinarios, La Paz*  
*Marcelo Cavarozzi, Director de la Escuela de Política y Gobierno de la Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina*  
*María Esperanza Casullo, Georgetown University, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina*  
*María Alejandra Szvetaz, Directora Ejecutiva "Poder Ciudadano", Argentina*  
*Saúl Sosnowski, Associate Provost for International Affairs*  
*Patricio Korzeniewicz, Department of Sociology, UM*  
*Marcia Bebianno Simoes, LASC, UM*  
*David Crocker, Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy*  
*Edy Kaufman, Center for International Development and Conflict Management, UM*  
*Leticia Goulias, Coordinator, LASC, UM*  
*James Riker, Associate Director, Office for International Programs*  
*Leandro Benmergui, LASC, UM*  
*Roberta Lavine, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, UM*

# Study Abroad - Latin America

Study Abroad held six Winter programs in Latin America. What follows are some comments by students that attended.

## Costa Rica

*by Irene Liu*

As an average American shopper, I never considered the origins of my food until participating in “Sustainable Tropical Ecosystems,” one of the Maryland-sponsored study abroad programs to Costa Rica. Led by faculty from UCR, my classmates and I spent eleven days in January visiting co-ops, compost factories, and produce and livestock farms, where we learned about the minimal-impact agricultural techniques that have established Costa Rica as a leader in the movement for natural resources protection. We also visited Volcán Arenal, Volcán Poás and Monteverde National Park, sites as famous for their successful conservation efforts as their breathtaking natural beauty. Joining this program left me with a clearer idea of the challenges of sustainable development and a renewed enthusiasm for the field of conservation biology, which I hope to study after graduation. I’m grateful for the science classes at Maryland that provided the academic background for this trip and the Spanish professors who taught me how to enjoy it to the fullest. And after returning to the States, I’ll never look at grocery stores in quite the same way again.

*by Rebecca Malamud*

The “Pura Vida” Experience

Stepping off the plane and onto Costa Rican soil was the beginning of a three-week immersion into a culture that I still embrace and admire. Inhaling the tropical air immediately put us into the relaxed, slow-paced state of living that our study abroad group would take with us from rural Nicoya to cosmopolitan San Jose. Whether we were gliding on a cable 50 feet above the rain forest floor or eating arroz con pollo in a local restaurant, everyone in the “Exploring Society and Culture through Service-Learning” program knew that we would never let the incredible beauty of the land and the generosity of the people leave our minds or hearts.

## Belize

*by Sami Tannouri*

From the brief time I spent in Belize, the most surprising, yet startlingly apparent aspect of life there was the Americanization of their culture. No doubt there are strong Mayan roots in the country of Belize, as evidenced by the bustling cultural tourist trinkets for sale, the presence of a local airline called Mayan Air, and the preservation of many Mayan ruins. However, throughout the country, billboards advertised American products from Coca-Cola, to Dickies. On top of this, an overwhelming majority of the cars were American-made, the movies sold in the markets were American dubs, and I was hard-pressed to find a single Belizean who did not speak fluent English. This was a very concrete example of the American cultural ‘imperialism’ that has been taking place in South America since World War II. Belize hopefully will be able to retain its unique cultural heritage, and one promising sign indicates that it may: the native Belekin Beer remains the dominant and most widespread beverage in the country. It is even touted as “the only beer worth drinking.”



# Argentina

by Rachel Zazanis

Never did I think I could hold a baby goat in the Andes, eat dinner in a sidewalk café at midnight, tour the Ricoleta and Casa Rosada, see a ton of anti-George Bush propaganda, and learn about the effects of globalization in Argentina all in three weeks. I had never crossed the equator before, but now I will have a strong mental picture of Argentina for the rest of my life. One thing Argentina taught me was to block the assumption that everyone lives the same as in the US. On my trip I learned to face and accept these differences. Argentina for me was an eye-opening experience.

by Deborah Bekele

The study abroad program in Argentina with Dr. Judith Freidenberg was an experience that I know none of us students will ever forget. In the three weeks we spent in Argentina we traveled through and visited three provinces, multitudes of cities in those provinces, and exposed all our sense to the beauty of South America. Throughout the trip we were all in disbelief of how the selected students got along so well, how the program was stressful, invigorating, emotionally straining, and exciting all at the same time; overall it had the essence of perfection. If this was a tour rather than a study abroad experience I would recommend it to all my friends, family and even strangers. Upon my return I was not able to explain in just one word or phrase on the impact this program had on me and I am sure on the other girls; this program cannot be described in one word or phrase. Dr. Freidenberg deserves more than a standing ovation for the time, dedication, organization and planning, that she invested into this program because truly without her and the team of outstanding volunteers and hosts that donated their time and skills, this program would not be worth mentioning or recommending.

by Laura Rosalyn Messing

I went on the study abroad program in Argentina not knowing what to expect. As a freshman at the University of Maryland as well as an independent traveler, I have been conditioned to expect surprises. The trip proved to be a constant rollercoaster of sky rocketing experiences and dips, challenging us to question our definitions of ourselves and our culture. Through being exposed to a multitude of cultures within a three week time constraint, as anthropology students, we had more than a mouthful to chew on; even when our plane landed in Washington DC, the conversations continued. This course was more than just three credits, it was a life lesson in coping both with other cultures as well as our own. We were a very dynamic and diverse group, and although it was trying at times, we managed to overcome our own boundaries as “students,” while beginning to explore cross cultural boundaries as foreigners in a different country. In numerous ways, we have all taken a piece of Argentina back with us, and will be eternally grateful for that.



# Afro-Colombians Communities Subject to Massive Displacement

by Jamie Salazar

After hundreds of years of slavery, servitude, and abuse, black people in Colombia are still subject to discrimination and prejudice in today's society. Even as constitutional reforms have granted them official land rights, their political struggle is on the rise. Their very existence as an ethnic group is threatened by the ongoing civil war, constant displacement, and lack of protection.



Afro-Colombians have always dealt with issues of displacement, land ownership, and poverty. For most of Colombia's history, black and indigenous peoples have been denied civil rights and marginalized. Most live in extreme poverty and are concentrated in the departments of Chocó and Bolívar, where poverty strikes over 50% of the population. These areas suffer from violation of rights, from scarcity of basic resources and lack of basic education. Almost 50% of rural Afro Colombians are illiterate and over 60% lack basic healthcare.

For many decades, Afro-Colombians struggled to establish a collective identity. A new National Constitution issued in 1991 granted collective territorial rights to the black communities of the region and recognized black and indigenous communities as separate ethnicities that are part of Colombia's population. But even after such formal recognition,

these groups have continued to live in conditions that threaten their integrity as well as the territorial. They are no longer invisible under the law but are still ignored.

The absence of gubernatorial agencies in the Chocó territory has left its black communities at the mercy of insurgent movements and paramilitary groups. Since the onset of the Colombian conflict, black and indigenous groups have been systematically displaced from their territories and communities. Almost 26% of these populations were forced to abandon their land to migrate to urban areas in order to escape from the threats imposed by armed groups. Displacement has altered the patterns of in and out migration, mobilizing these populations to different parts of the country, altering the structure of the population, the land and its resources and, ultimately, making it impossible for people to return to their communities. The Colombian Pacific coast has become a battlefield, in which the targets of the conflict have been the territorial, social, and cultural integrity.

To make matters worse, once Afro-Colombians leave their lands, they are subject to harsh racial discrimination, particularly in areas with very low black population like Bogotá. Generally, the majority of Colombia's Andean population considers the Pacific region and its populations an example of cultural and economic backwardness. Many capitalinos use derogatory terms and stereotypes to depict them; Afro-Colombians are seen by them as lazy, noisy and full of 'malas mañas'.

Organizations of black communities do not see President Uribe as a leader concerned with marginal populations. They argue that his attention is focused on fighting the insurgent groups and the war on drugs, rather than on providing solutions to victims of the armed conflict. Various groups of Afro-Colombian activists, like the organization of displaced Afro-Colombians (AFRODES), the activ-

*Afro-Colombians*

Photo from  
<http://www.corpouraba.gov.co>

ist group Process of Black Communities, among other, have opposed the policies proposed by Uribe, which would imply amending the constitution of 1991. They want to create international awareness of the situation of Afro-Colombians and the indiscriminate violation of their civil rights, all the worse when massacres continue along the coastal regions of Colombia. The massacre in Bojayá- Chocó on May 2, 2002 was a wake-up call to all parties in the conflict, as they acknowledged the death of 116 Afro-Colombians, of whom 46 were children.

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# LASC Leads Pedestrian Safety Campaign "Use the Cross-Walk"

by Leticia Goulias

The Latin American Studies Center, the Police Department and the Latino Student Association of the University of Maryland in coordination with the Maryland Highway Administration, and the Prince George Highway Safety Office launched a Pedestrian Safety Campaign "Use the Cross-Walk, Save Your Life."

Our goal is to increase awareness and safety precaution crossing the roads in neighborhoods with large Latino population. An important component of this campaign is that UM Latino students are going to be visiting elementary and middle schools teaching kids the importance of safety while walking; this is a key element to the goal of the campaign because children could communicate the message of pedestrian safety to their parents.

The Latino students from Latino Student Union (LSU), Enlaces Latino Americanos (ELA), Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and the Hispanic Heritage Coalition (HHC) have been targeting the Latino neighborhoods posting and handing information in businesses, corner shops, restaurants, hair salons, and all business servicing the Latino community. Our main targets are Langley Park, Edmonston, Hyattsville, Greenbelt, Wheaton and Gaithersburg in Maryland, but our goal is to extend the campaign into DC and Virginia through the Latino student associations in universities of the metropolitan area.

If you want to volunteer your time or help us expanding this campaign, please contact us at [LASC@umd.edu](mailto:LASC@umd.edu)



# LASC Affiliate Faculty Judith Freidenberg launches Consultation for Community Museum Project in Langley Park

Dr Judith Freidenberg, department of Anthropology, is leading a project to develop an unusual museum on immigrant contributions to America. On Sunday, March 12th, Dr. Freidenberg organized a community meeting in Langley Park to build support for the idea – an education project she is nurturing to help Americans appreciate the continuing contributions

to offer ideas on how to tell neighbors about their culture. Experts and community leaders led the discussion and presented sample exhibits.

In an earlier community “consultation” Freidenberg found a core of interest and support in Langley Park’s Latino community, which makes up the majority of the area’s immigrants. This community meeting extended the reach to other groups, including Asian, West African, Indian and Caribbean residents of the area.

The project is currently funded with a grant from the Maryland Humanities Council.

The invited speakers included Smithsonian Institution’s Magdalena Mieri, director, program in Latino history and culture, National Museum of American History; Wanda Ramos, director, Langley Park Community Center; William Hanna, executive secretary, Action Langley Park and professor of urban studies, University of Maryland (who helped create Langley Park’s International Corridor); and Judith Freidenberg.

## Community meeting

Photos by  
Judith Freidenberg



made by immigrants.

“I know of no other museum like this,” Freidenberg says. “Most museums of this type look at the contributions of a single ethnic group. We’d like to show the cultural vitality that all immigrant groups bring to America. The ethnic diversity of Prince George’s County and Langley Park makes it a perfect location.”

The meeting invited community members to say what they think about a museum in the area and



# LASC Faculty Profile

## Daryle Williams Department of History



Daryle Williams (PhD, Stanford University, 1995) has been a member of the History faculty since 1994. His teaching is in Latin American history, and his primary research is in 19th- and 20th-century Brazilian history. Williams is author of *Culture Wars in Brazil: The First Vargas Regime, 1930-1945* (2001), a work about cultural politics in Brazil that won the American Historical Association's John Edwin Fagg prize. Williams has also authored several articles and book chapters on twentieth-century Brazilian cultural history, especially about the Vargas era. Other research has examined the cultural politics of World Heritage in Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay and humanities computing. Most recently, Williams

has been working on a book-length project about blackness in nineteenth-century Brazilian fine arts.

Williams has held grants and fellowships from the Fulbright Scholar Program, the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship Program, and the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities. From 2002-2004, Williams served as associate director of the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the African Diaspora. He currently serves as the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History and as Associate Editor of the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, housed at Maryland.

## Patricio Korzeniewicz Department of Sociology



Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz, a close collaborator of the Latin American Studies Center, is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology. He regularly leads Study Abroad seminars in Latin America. His latest Winter Term course focused on civil society and globalization in Argentina, while his 2006 Summer Term course is a special ACC seminar, co-taught with William Smith (University of Miami), on "The New Politics of Globalization: Democratization and Civil Society Activism in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay." Professor Korzeniewicz is currently completing two book-length manuscripts. The first one focuses on "Theorizing Inequality." This book, co-authored with Timothy Moran (SUNY Stony Brook), advances

the proposition that economic growth, unfolding through institutions embedded in time and space, produces a constant drive towards inequality that results, not in discrete nationally-bounded distributions, but in a multiple and overlapping matrix of distributional arrays—a global income distribution that is both systemic and historical. The second book, co-authored with William Smith (University of Miami) and Esperanza Casullo (Georgetown University), is tentatively entitled "Historical Patterns of Civil Society in Latin America." Drawing on research developed over the last five years, the study assesses the historical development of civil society in the region and its changing interaction with states and markets. During his 2007 year-long sabbatical, Patricio Korzeniewicz will be completing these projects at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York City and the Escuela de Política y Gobierno of the Universidad Nacional San Martín in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



## Briefly Noted

- Congratulations to the following students that are receiving the LASC Certificate: Stephanie Smith, Andrea Hernandez, Gladys Guzman, Rafael Merchan, Iquo Edim, Olivia Murray, Maria Luz Berbery, Marlene Rivas, Hanna W. Park, Shannon Wild, Monica Cevallos and Ashley Tease.

- Charles Barclay, Foreign Department Deputy Director of the Office of Caribbean Affairs, was invited by LASC to talk about US Foreign relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Barclay offered a very interesting presentation and students engaged in a lively debate on the topics he addressed.

- In April, LASC and Enlaces Latino Americanos (student organization) are offering a Documentaries Festival addressing Latin American topics. Please refer to the Center's web page for the program.

- World-known Anthropologist Wade Davis is invited by LASC and the Department of Anthropology to UM to talk about his most recent work on the Amazon and the Andes.

The presentation will be on Thursday May 4th, at the Arts and Sociology Bldg., room 1213.

- On February 23rd, LASC hosted Peruvian Ambassador to the OAS (Organization of American States) for a presentation on elections in Peru and the democratic transition. The talk was very informative, and was followed by a lively discussion on the topic.



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