U-M remembers
Fernando Coronil
Hilaria Supa
2012 Award Winners
Fall 2012 Events

U-M President
Mary Sue Coleman
TO VISIT BRAZIL
How exciting to return to LACS at a moment when so many wonderful projects are underway and several new opportunities are beginning to unfold!

We all held our breath, last year, when the Department of Education announced a reduction in Title VI funding for National Resource Centers across the country. But, after consulting with the advisory council and former directors, outgoing LACS Director Richard Turits, Assistant Director Lenny Ureña, Outreach and Brazil Initiatives Coordinator Bebete Martins, and Unit Manager Peggy Phelps, responded to the cuts with a creative and forward-thinking revised budget. We were forced to let some planned activities go. But we were able to preserve our Quechua Language Program (which had record enrollments this year), to continue our outreach initiatives with schools and community groups, and to offer our usual array of exciting activities on campus, including the Bate Papo series. We held a fantastic conference on human rights and the environment in the Andes, hosted a Cuban Hip Hop duo, and published our translation of the remarkable testimony by historian Luis Felipe de Alencastro before the Brazilian Supreme Court, in the case which ultimately upheld the legality of affirmative action. We hosted a Fulbright Scholar from Brazil, historian Flavio Limoncic. We continued to award FLAS fellowships to graduate and undergraduate students, to award the Gutiérrez Dissertation Grant, and to offer an undergraduate minor and concentration, as well as a graduate certificate.

Meanwhile, a major new opportunity presented itself. President Mary Sue Coleman will travel with a U-M delegation to Brazil in September with a plan to establish institutional collaborations with three Brazilian universities and three foundations. The visit will allow us to build on our extensive existing collaborations with Brazilian scholars in the fields of health sciences, sustainability, and “Diversity, Human Rights, and Social Justice.” The trip will also create new sources of funding for collaborative research and teaching by colleagues at U-M and Brazilian partner institutions in all fields. LACS faculty associates Sueann Caulfield (History and RC), Maria Carmen Lemos (SNRE), and Michele Heisler (Medical School), will all be part of the delegation. Bebete Martins, who has long coordinated Brazil Initiatives at LACS, has been instrumental in coordinating the academic partnerships and planning the academic events to be held on the trip.

In June we received more exciting news. The Mellon Foundation accepted a proposal from the International Institute to fund Quechua and other less commonly taught languages at U-M for the next three years. This will allow us to shore up our Quechua program, while rededicating some Title VI funds to other priorities. In still more good news, this year Alfredo and Luz María Gutiérrez generously added to the endowment for the Gutiérrez Dissertation Grant. We are fortunate to have dynamic faculty associates, brilliant students, and a talented staff: Lenny Ureña, Bebete Martins, Peggy Phelps, David Merchant, and Cheryl Israel. We are hopeful that through campus collaborations, foundation support, and the support of alumni through the upcoming capital campaign, we will be able to continue to expand funding for research and internships for our students, and to continue our traditions of academic programming, outreach, exchange, and scholarly excellence for many years to come.

Letter from the Director

Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof, Associate Professor of History and American Culture
Hilaria Supa Huamán, an activist and former member of the Peruvian Congress, was the guest of honor for a March 2012 two-day research symposium co-sponsored by LACS at which she delivered two lectures and participated in lively discussions. Supa, who currently serves in the Andean Parliament, has spent over twenty years advocating for human rights causes, including the rights of women and indigenous peoples, as well as multiculturalism and multilingualism. She is also an activist for environmental protection, which was the subject of her keynote lecture, “The Impacts of Climate Change in Peru.”

The research symposium, entitled “Transforming Landscapes in Andean Societies,” was organized by the Círculo Andino “Micaela Bastidas Phuyuqhawa” (Andean Circle), an interdisciplinary group of faculty and graduate students from U-M and elsewhere who study the Andes. The speakers were selected to “provide a scope of the immense struggles faced by marginalized indigenous peoples – from Quechua and Aymara speakers in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, to coastal Afro-Colombian populations – in their fight for social and environmental justice,” in the words of the organizers. Speakers included Allison Davis (Oberlin College), Bruce Mannheim (U-M), Keely Maxwell (Franklin and Marshall College), Tom Perreault (Syracuse University), Corinne Valdivia (University of Missouri), Kiran Asher (Clark University), and Catherine Badgley (U-M).

“Forced Sterilization of Indigenous Women in Peru” was the topic of a lecture by Supa on the first day of the symposium. She discussed the sterilization campaign of former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, which from 1996 to 2000 forcibly sterilized many thousands of indigenous and poor women and men. Supa led a group of Quechua-speaking activist women known as the “Anta 12” who denounced these atrocities during the Fujimori regime. A principal theme of her talk was the continuing failure of the Peruvian authorities to bring the perpetrators of these atrocities to justice.

Supa delivered this talk in Spanish and Quechua, assisted by interpreter Margarita Huayhua (PhD ’10), currently a postdoctoral fellow at Rutgers University. The Congresswoman began with excerpts from victims’ testimonials, from an archive collected as evidence of the atrocities of the Fujimori regime. Supa then discussed the role of victims, activists, journalists, and others in bringing the sterilization campaign’s abuses to light after 2000. She presented periodical articles on the atrocities, brochures containing denunciations and calls to action, and commentary on post-2000 Peruvian governments’ mixed responses to victims’ demands for justice. A screening of the film El vientre de las mujeres (The Women’s Womb) followed Supa’s presentation. This film, directed by Mathilde Damoisel, detailed the sterilization campaign’s effects on individual victims, indigenous communities, and Peru as a whole. Over 50 people attended this lecture and film screening, including Michigan faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and members of the community.

In the second portion of the symposium, two panels examined the causes of environmental degradation in the Andes, the inequitable economic development associated with this degradation, and the role of local and foreign activists and scholars in combatting these injustices. Panelists and an audience of more than 30 continued the conversation in three roundtables. Participants and audience members also discussed topics raised in Supa’s keynote address, including the many deleterious effects of global warming in Peru, indigenous conceptions of humankind’s relationship to the Earth, and international legal measures to preserve the environment (which are based in part on indigenous notions of environmental stewardship).
University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman will lead a delegation to Brazil in September 2012 to establish and strengthen research and academic ties with Brazilian educational institutions. On this visit, which will last from September 22-28, Coleman and the delegation will seek to develop new exchange programs with Brazilian universities and enhance existing ones. They will also work closely with Brazilian partners to establish new avenues for funding for research and teaching conducted jointly by faculty at Michigan and their Brazilian counterparts. Coleman's delegation will consist of Vice Provost for International Affairs Mark Tessler; LACS Director Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof; LACS-affiliated faculty from LSA, the Medical School, and the School of Natural Resources and Environment; and representatives from the Graham Sustainability Institute.

The delegation plans to visit the Universidade de São Paulo, the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, and the Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro as well as three leading foundations. At each stop, faculty delegates will hold meetings with internationally renowned Brazilian scholars to plan academic exchanges and collaborations. These efforts will build on the partnerships that are already in place between the University and Brazilian institutions, including many developed by LACS, in a wide array of disciplines, from environmental studies, to health sciences research, to history and the arts. The delegation will also meet with university administrators on each campus, and government education officials in Brasília, Brazil’s capital, to discuss institutional partnerships. Brazil’s expanding economy has given a boost to already vibrant traditions of academic research and has given rise to growing numbers of Brazilian students seeking university education in the United States and increase in government-funded scholarships for Brazilian students to study abroad. President Coleman will also host events for U-M alumni living in Brazil.

In addition to fostering new and strengthened research partnerships and new opportunities for University of Michigan students to learn in and about Brazil, the trip is designed to raise U-M’s global profile. Coleman has made international partnerships and global education a major focus of her tenure. She has made previous trips to Africa and China, where she negotiated agreements similar to those that she will pursue in Brazil. A trip to India is planned for 2013.
LACS COLLABORATES WITH UMS ON BRAZILIAN PERFORMANCES

Over the past decade LACS has worked with the University Musical Society (UMS) to produce a wide variety of events that bring world-renowned Brazilian performers to Ann Arbor every year. Together we have organized educational seminars, K-12 teacher workshops, roundtable discussions, and other public events led by many invited artists, including Caetano Veloso, Gilberto Gil, Daniela Mercury, Gal Costa, Milton Nascimento, Badi Assad and The Assad Brothers, Luciana Souza, the Orquestra de São Paulo and the dance companies Grupo Corpo and Balé Folclórico da Bahia. We are especially excited about the return of Gilberto Gil to the University this fall (ums.org/performances/gilberto-gil). On November 16, this legendary guitarist, singer, composer, and former Brazilian Minister of Culture will deliver a performance with a six-piece band that will feature songs drawn primarily from the Baião style of northeast Brazil. This concert is part of the UMS Global Series, a six-performance subscription package that includes the best in world music, including Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, January 27, 2013.

SPECIAL OFFER: Save 10% on advanced ticket purchases for Gilberto Gil’s performance. Contact Sarah Wilber, Group Sales Coordinator, at (734) 763-3100 or saka@umich.edu and mention the promotion code LACSNEWS!

FACULTY NEWS

Alberto Wins Roberto Reis Book Award

Paulina Alberto, Associate Professor of History and Romance Languages and Literatures, won the 2012 Roberto Reis Book Award for Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil (University of North Carolina Press). The Brazilian Studies Association gives the Reis Award in recognition of the “two best books in Brazilian Studies published in English” in each two-year cycle. The book traces the writings of black thinkers and activists in Rio, São Paulo, and Salvador over the 20th century. It shows how they made use of shifting ideas about race and Brazilian national identity, including the claim that Brazil was a “racial democracy,” to pursue their own, varied and evolving projects of racial equality. Professor Alberto, a native Argentine, is one of two professors teaching advanced classes in Portuguese at U-M. She also offers popular classes in English and Spanish. She is the recipient of the Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award, for “excellence as a teacher of undergraduate students.”

Scott and Hébrard Publish Freedom Papers

Rebecca J. Scott is the Charles Gibson Distinguished University Professor of History and Professor of Law at U-M, and Jean Hébrard is a Professeur Associé at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris). Their new book, Freedom Papers: An Atlantic Odyssey in the Age of Emancipation (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012), draws upon archival collections on three continents to tell the story of a family’s struggle for freedom and equal citizenship over five generations in Africa, the Caribbean, North America, and Europe. Scott and Hébrard show that the members of this family used and shaped documentation and the law in their struggles for equality and dignity. Professor Hébrard is also the Director of the Center for the Study of Contemporary Brazil, at EHESS, and editor of the Journal Brasil. He has been Visiting Professor at U-M since 2003, and has been a major figure in LACS Atlantic Studies and Brazil Initiatives.

Frye Translates Rama’s Writing Across Cultures

David Frye, a longtime student advisor for LACS and now a full-time instructor in Anthropology, is the translator and editor of Ángel Rama’s Writing across Cultures: Narrative Transculturation in Latin America (Duke University Press, 2012). The book, originally published in 1982, is an extended discussion by one of twentieth-century Latin America’s most prominent literary and intellectual historians. Rama traces the relationships between literary movements in the region and global social and economic forces. He also builds on the Cuban anthropologist Fernando Ortiz’s famous concept of “transculturation” by applying it in novel ways to cultures throughout Latin America. Frye’s introduction explains the historical, cultural, and literary contexts for the book and examines the intellectual legacy of its author, who died tragically the year after the original version of the book was published. Frye is a prolific translator who has produced editions of Juan Guaman Poma de Ayala, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, and others.

SPECIAL OFFER: Save 10% on advanced ticket purchases for Gilberto Gil’s performance. Contact Sarah Wilber, Group Sales Coordinator, at (734) 763-3100 or saka@umich.edu and mention the promotion code LACSNEWS!
On April 13, 2012, LACS and the U-M community held a commemoration in honor of Fernando Coronil, a brilliant and beloved scholar and teacher who passed away from cancer in New York on August 16, 2011. Fernando was born in Venezuela in 1944. After receiving his BA in Social Thought from Stanford in 1967, he attended the University of Chicago, earning his MA in 1970 and his PhD in 1987. Fernando joined the U-M faculty in 1988 as a fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows. He and Julie Skurski, his spouse and intellectual partner, then remained at Michigan, both jointly appointed in Anthropology and History. They became central figures in the joint doctoral program in Anthropology and History, which Fernando directed for several years between 1997 and 2007, and at LACS, where Fernando served as Director from 2003-2007. Fernando and Julie helped to train several generations of students and to build the national reputation of these programs while producing their own groundbreaking scholarship. Fernando

LACS K-12 AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

From its inception, LACS has worked to promote greater knowledge of Latin America in Michigan and the US. A central aspect of this mission is its outreach activities to K-12 teachers, students, and the general public. Each year, LACS sponsors or co-sponsors nearly 100 public events including lectures, performances, and discussions involving scholars and artists from many parts of Latin America. These events offer students of all levels and members of the public numerous opportunities to learn more about the region.

Our partnership with K-12 teachers has long served to enhance students’ understanding of this vital region. U-M professors and graduate students, as well as visiting scholars and artists from Latin America, often share their expertise with teachers and students at in-class presentations at local schools.

LACS also works closely with Michigan school districts and senior teachers to develop curricular offerings that conform to Michigan social studies curriculum benchmarks. LACS representatives and Michigan teachers also collaborate at annual meetings of organizations such as the Michigan Council for Social Studies (MCSS) and the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education (MIIIE).

In line with the university’s mission to serve the state and the country, LACS distributes materials designed for K-12 instruction at many of its public events, which include exhibits of photography and other forms of art; book readings by authors; and film screenings, concerts, and lectures featuring top scholars from Latin America and the US. LACS also maintains a digital resource directory for K-12 instructors on its website with links to sites on topics ranging from contemporary Latin American politics to environmental issues to human rights (see www.ii.umich.edu/lacs/educationalresources/k12materials).

Please see our website for more details on our many outreach activities.

A TRIBUTE TO

FERNANDO CORONIL

(1944-2011)
was promoted to Associate Professor in 1997 and to Professor in 2008. From 2009 until his passing two years later, Fernando was Presidential Professor of Anthropology at the City University of New York Graduate Center. Fernando was also Emeritus Professor of History and Anthropology at Michigan. He is survived by Skurski and their two daughters, Mariana and Andrea, who generously returned to Ann Arbor to share in our commemoration of Fernando’s life and work.

The commemoration began with an afternoon roundtable discussion by colleagues and former students on the wide-ranging and profound influence of Fernando’s scholarly work. Prominent in these memories was Fernando’s role as a program builder and a mentor. Professor Gary Wilder, a former colleague at CUNY, recalled that Fernando and Julie “helped to make Michigan the dynamic center of an insurgent movement within historical anthropology and colonial studies whose impact resonated across the human sciences.” According to one of his former graduate students, Laurent Dubois (now Professor of Romance Studies and History at Duke University), Fernando’s warmth and ability to “make any gathering of minds a gathering of equals” broke down barriers between professor and student; for Fernando, rank or status mattered much less than the willingness to engage in a shared intellectual enterprise and to question established paradigms. “What truly tied many of us together [in the U-M Anthropology program],” Dubois said, “was Fernando, with his rare ability to make scholarly debate a form of joy, conviviality, and solidarity.”

Speakers added reflections on the impact of Fernando’s scholarship. In his first book, The Magical State: Nature, Money, and Modernity in Venezuela (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997), Fernando detailed the political, economic, and social conditions that enabled the oil-rich Venezuelan state to present a mythical image of itself as “a transcendent and unifying agent of the nation.” He argued that these nationalist myths were a strategy for retaining power, facilitated by the dominance of oil. He also meticulously documented other consequences of petroleum wealth, including the polarization of Venezuelan society and the entrenchment of political patronage and economic dependence. As several students noted, Fernando’s writings also offered a crucial revision to Marxist theories of political economy, emphasizing the role of the environment and natural resources in the interplay between capital and labor.

Fernando’s subsequent scholarship, which explored the deep interconnections between the political and economic development of so-called “Third World” nations and that of “Western” countries, laid much of the foundation for important work that has redefined or rejected old paradigms of empire, nation, and the Western/non-Western binary. Several speakers reflected on the importance of a paper that Fernando gave at the University of Michigan on the concept of “Occidentalism.” Furthermore, Javier Sanjinés, Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures at U-M, remembered Fernando’s impact on post-colonial and subaltern studies in Latin America. Fernando “convincingly showed that the postcolonial and the decolonial are two different, although interrelated projects,” Sanjinés stated. According to Sanjinés, Fernando argued that post-coloniality “responds more to the market” while the concept of decolonial implies a conscientious undoing and rethinking of colonial legacies. Former students also recalled the influence of a conference held at Michigan, which Fernando and Julie later edited and published as States of Violence (U-M Press, 2006). Fernando and Julie argued that violence was and is at the heart of the making of the modern world—especially the emergence of modern states. They noted “the ordinariness of seemingly extraordinary violence” in the intertwined realms of politics, gender relations, labor, law and criminal justice, and social movements.

All of the speakers remarked on the ways that Fernando refused to think of politics, theory, and research as distinct spheres. Former doctoral student Edward Murphy (now an Assistant Professor of History and Global Urban Studies at Michigan State University) reflects that Fernando had a boundless drive to “make the production of knowledge an engaged, transformative, and even utopian process.” This was evident in his thinking about colonialism and in his more recent work, including an essay that grew out of his seminar and speaker series, “What’s Left in Latin America?” in 2006-2007. When Fernando passed, he was working on a book on the 2002 coup against Hugo Chávez, entitled Crude Matters, as well as a collection of essays called Beyond Occidentalism: Towards a Critical Academy.

In the evening portion of the commemoration, family members, friends, colleagues, and former students gathered to share memories, art work, video tributes, a slideshow, and a reception. Those who spoke emphasized his warm personality, commitment to social justice, and joy in life. Fernando practiced a form of scholarship that was inseparable, not only from his politics, but also from his expansive and generous sociability. Friends remembered his participation in countless discussion groups, reading circles, and dinner parties—many hosted by Fernando and Julie in their home. One account after another revealed that Fernando thrived in a wide range of different environments, creating spaces of warmth and intellectual energy wherever he went. He was as much at home at a Vodou ceremony in Paris as he was conducting a graduate seminar. He counted among his friends some of the most prominent intellectuals of his time as well as “outsider artists” living and working in marginalized communities in Venezuela. He was as intensely engaged on the salsa dance floor as in a late night tertulia, so long as the dancing or talking was shared with friends over a glass of wine or rum. He was a lover of music, art, poetry, film, sculpture, and quiet contemplation in the comfort of his hammock. Our sadness is mixed with admiration and wonder at the memory of this singular life.
Georgia Ennis graduated from U-M in December 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Anthropology, and Spanish. Her LACS senior thesis, “The Social Functions and Implications of Voseo in Quito, Ecuador,” won a prize as Best LACS Honors Thesis in 2011. She is currently teaching English at the university level in Ibarra, Ecuador, on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. In addition, she is studying Kichwa, an indigenous language, and volunteering at a foster home. Ennis will return to the University of Michigan in Fall 2012 to pursue a PhD in linguistic anthropology, and will return to LACS to complete FLAS funded Quechua language study. Her blog on her experiences in Ecuador is available at: iimichigan.wordpress.com/2012/02/15/the-path-to-ibarra/.

Sergio Miguel Huarcaya, who received his PhD from U-M in Anthropology and History in 2011, is a post-doctoral researcher at Royal Holloway, University of London. His research focuses on the ways in which indigenous performance in festivities and social protest has transformed notions of indigeneity in the Ecuadorian Andes. Huarcaya shows that, in the 1970s and 1980s, indigenous persons in Otavalo, Ecuador were able to challenge dominant constructions of social identity. New expressions of indigenous identity, he argues, contributed to the rise of the Ecuadorian indigenous movement. Originally from Lima, Peru, Huarcaya served as a video producer and instructor for the Ecuadorian indigenous movement from 1999-2001. He has an MA in Latin American Studies from the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito, Ecuador.

Claire Insel received her PhD from Michigan in linguistic anthropology in 2011. Her dissertation, “Shifting Publics and Shifting Alignments in a Sprachinsel in Southern Brazil,” examined language maintenance and usage among German-speaking communities in Brazil. Insel is an independent editor, writer, translator, tutor, and volunteer in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She is currently working on compiling the works of an author who reads her stories on local public radio and translating a German text into English. Insel is also developing materials for the Workers’ Justice Center of Springdale, Arkansas, to assist Spanish-speaking immigrants who suffer injustices in the workplace. Finally, Insel is working on a novel about her time at the University of Michigan and her fieldwork experiences with German speakers in Brazil.

Graham Nessler is an Ad Interim Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University — Commerce. He received his PhD in History from U-M in 2011. A scholar of emancipation, re-enslavement, migration, and racial formation in Hispaniola and the circum-Caribbean in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Nessler is working on a book manuscript that examines conflicts over liberty and citizenship in Santo Domingo (modern Dominican Republic) during the Haitian Revolution. He has published in Slavery and Abolition, New West Indian Guide, and the Dominican journal Estudios Sociales.

Tiffany Joseph, earned Sociology PhD (with a graduate certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies) in 2011. She is now a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Scholar at Harvard University (2011-2013), where she is working on two projects: a book manuscript that explores the influence of migration to the US on Brazilian return migrants’ conceptualizations of race, and a study of the impact of documentation status on Latino immigrants’ access to and use of the health care system in the Boston area. Joseph’s other research interests include the relationships between immigration, the construction of race, and health policy in the US as well as minority faculty members’ experiences in academia. She has published in Ethnic and Racial Studies, Gender and Education, and Race and Social Problems. In Fall 2013, she will begin an Assistant Professor of Sociology position at Stony Brook University.
Edward Murphy is an assistant professor in the Department of History and in the Global Urban Studies Program at Michigan State University. Murphy received his PhD from U-M in 2006 in Anthropology and History. As a specialist on urbanization, inequality, state formation, and social mobilization in the post-World War II era, Murphy is currently completing a book manuscript entitled A Home of One’s Own: Property and Propriety in the Margins of Urban Chile, 1960-2010. He is also the author of Historias poblacionales: hacia una memoria incluyente (Santiago: CEDECO, 2004), a collection of collaborative oral histories, and the editor of Anthrohistory: Unsettling Knowledge, Questioning Discipline (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2011).

Jonathan DeVore is a PhD candidate in Anthropology and the recipient of the 2012 Gutiérrez Award. DeVore’s dissertation focuses on several land reform communities in Bahia, Brazil. Based on twenty-two months of ethnographic fieldwork carried out in 2009-2010, this research details the historical formation of these communities through the twentieth century and their members’ efforts to adapt to changing political, social, and economic circumstances. DeVore traces the way that concepts such as freedom, equality, and electivity have entered local usage and have powerfully influenced the ways in which the members of these communities negotiate their social relationships.

Kristen Hopewell, is a PhD candidate in Sociology and the co-recipient of the 2011 Gutiérrez Award. Her dissertation analyzes the rising power of Brazil, India and China at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and their impact on the multilateral trading system. Hopewell argues that the increasing economic influence of these emerging powers has challenged the hegemony of the United States and halted the WTO’s agenda of trade liberalization within a neoliberal framework. Hopewell’s project draws on fifteen months of field research conducted at the WTO in Geneva, as well as in Beijing, New Delhi, São Paulo, Brasilia, and Washington. Hopewell has been a visiting fellow at Beijing University, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (HEID) in Geneva, and the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin.

Emma Amador, is a PhD candidate in History and co-recipient of the 2011 Gutiérrez Award. Her dissertation is a history of welfare in Puerto Rico and among Puerto Rican migrants in the United States. She shows that public assistance has been central to Puerto Rican experiences of citizenship, class, race, and gender under US colonial rule. Using case files, she traces the lives of Puerto Rican women who became clients in welfare agencies, between the 1940s and the 1970s. She also tells the story of the middle class women who worked in welfare agencies. In 2012, Amador received a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.

The Alfredo Gutiérrez Award is made possible by a generous donation from Alfredo D. and Luz María P. Gutiérrez. One award is made annually to support dissertation writing by a Michigan doctoral student working on a dissertation related to Latin America. Alfredo Gutiérrez, who received his PhD in Economics from U-M, enjoyed a successful career in international banking and finance, and he has endowed this fellowship with his wife in order to give back to the University of Michigan.
FLAS RECIPIENT PROFILES

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships provide tuition and stipends to students interested in learning designated modern foreign languages in combination with area studies or international aspects of professional studies. The priority is to encourage the study of less commonly taught languages. The FLAS fellowships administered by LACS may be primarily used for the study of Brazilian Portuguese and Quechua, and with prior approval, another less commonly taught Latin American language during the academic year or summer. The U.S. Department of Education funds these awards under the provisions of Title VI of the Higher Education Act.

In the summer of 2012, Amy Afonso completed her second summer FLAS course of study in Brazil. She spent six weeks in Rio de Janeiro, where she undertook coursework in Portuguese and Brazilian cultural studies through the University of Florida and Georgetown University Summer Study Abroad Program. The cultural studies component, called “Cidades Brasileiras” (Brazilian Cities), entailed a close examination of the growth and development of Brazil’s urban centers from the perspectives of numerous disciplines such as urban studies, art, history, and sociology.

Afonso, who also received a FLAS fellowship to study Portuguese in Salvador, Brazil, in the summer of 2010, plans to graduate from U-M in May 2013 with a concentration in LACS and a minor in Portuguese. She hopes to pursue graduate studies in visual media and communications. In the Winter Semester 2013, she will take her next step towards this goal by spending the semester in Florianópolis, Brazil, where she will enroll in the Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina (University of Southern Santa Catarina) and work with a program that provides internships related to media. She aims to become fluent enough in Portuguese to pursue a career involving Brazil in some capacity, and she is grateful to LACS and the FLAS program for their assistance in helping her attain her goals.

Scott Burgess studied Portuguese for six weeks in Salvador, Brazil, on his FLAS fellowship in summer 2011. Burgess recently completed his master’s degree at the Ford School of Public Policy, and he currently coordinates the University of Michigan Peace Corps Office. Prior to coming to U-M, Burgess received his BA in Environmental Biology and Psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2004. After his undergraduate studies, Burgess worked in Colorado with two nonprofit organizations as a coordinator and counseled individuals with developmental disabilities. He then served in the Peace Corps as an Environmental Education Volunteer in Paraguay from 2007-2009.

Burgess’s studies in Salvador, one of Brazil’s oldest and most vibrant cities, enabled him to not only improve his Portuguese but also to participate in cultural activities such as capoeira dancing, drumming and cooking. His interest in Portuguese stems from his aspirations to do nonprofit work in South America related to global climate change and deforestation. Though Brazil’s current economic boom has brought many blessings, it has also heightened concerns among many in Brazil and elsewhere regarding the need to protect the environment as Brazil’s economy and population continue to grow. Burgess hopes to contribute to these efforts, and his FLAS enabled him to take an important step towards this goal.

Lauren Cooper recently earned her master of science degree from the School of Natural Resources and Environment and her master of urban planning degree from U-M’s Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Her summer FLAS enabled her to study Quechua in Peru in 2011, and she was able to continue her studies of the language at Michigan with an Academic Year FLAS for the 2011-2012 year. The FLAS provided her with the opportunity to study this language in Cusco and to learn more about the Andean region, where she plans to focus her professional efforts. In Cusco, she studied at the Centro Tinku with a small group of other US students, including two others from the University of Michigan. During her time there, she participated in a variety of festivals, ceremonies, and other cultural experiences.

Cooper’s interest in the Quechua language stems from her wish to pursue international development in this region. Her passion for sustainable development and addressing climate change vulnerabilities through adaptation has led her to pursue a career working closely with Andean communities to solve environmental problems and to promote environmentally-sustainable practices.
Howard Tsai, who received his PhD from U-M in Anthropology in 2012, used his FLAS to travel to Cajamarca, Peru to study Quechua in the summer of 2011. Tsai took a course on the Cajamarca variety of the language at the Quechua Academy of Cajamarca under Professor Dolores Ayay. Tsai undertook these studies in order to communicate with Quechua-speakers in Cajamarca and to share his research findings with them. For his dissertation, he directed the excavation of Las Varas, an archaeological site located in the Jequetepeque Valley, in order to investigate exchange and interaction between coastal, mid-valley, and highland communities during the 11th century. His team of Peruvian and American archaeologists excavated ancient houses, plazas, ritual platform, and cemeteries; his findings revealed a previously unknown culture in the mid-valley that displayed a blend of coastal and highland practices. In the future he will continue to explore and conduct excavations in the Jequetepeque Valley, which is a natural corridor connecting the coast to the mountains of Cajamarca.

Cajamarca, today a city of 217,000 in the northern highlands of Peru, is renowned for its rich history as well as its hot springs and thriving dairy industry. Cajamarca was where the Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro captured Atahualpa, the Inca emperor, on November 16, 1532. As part of the ransom for Atahualpa’s release, the Spaniards received a shipment of gold and silver that filled the room in which Atahualpa had been held hostage. But eventually Atahualpa was put to death in the plaza of Cajamarca on July 26, 1533.

SUMMER 2012 FLAS STUDENTS
- Amy Afonso (undergraduate, LACS), Portuguese, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Allison Caine (PhD student, Anthropology), Quechua, Cusco, Peru
- Christine Donahue (Master’s student, School of Social Work), Q’eqchi, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala
- Gabriel Horowitz (PhD candidate, Romance Languages and Literatures), Guarani, Asuncion, Paraguay
- Page Rafoth (PhD student, Romance Languages and Literatures), Portuguese, São Paulo, Brazil
- Diana Sierra Becerra (PhD student, History/Women’s Studies), Portuguese, Bahia, Brazil
- Martin Vega (PhD candidate, Romance Languages and Literatures), Nahuatl, California State University, Los Angeles
- Brian Whitener (PhD candidate, Romance Languages and Literatures), Portuguese, São Paulo, Brazil
- Silvina Yi (PhD student, Romance Languages and Literatures), Portuguese, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

ACADEMIC YEAR FLAS (2012-2013)
- Sarah Thompson (undergraduate, LACS), Portuguese
- Taima Attal (undergraduate, LACS), Quechua
- Allison Caine (PhD student, Anthropology), Quechua
- Georgia Ennis (PhD student, Anthropology), Quechua
- Karla Peña (Master’s student, School of Natural Resources and Environment), Quechua
- Claudia Sanchez (Master’s student, School of Public Health), Quechua
- Diana Sierra Becerra (PhD student, History/Women’s Studies), Portuguese

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

LACS has offered a Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies since 2001, affording graduate students in every field the opportunity to acquire an interdisciplinary and context-based expertise on the region. Those who successfully complete the program will obtain a non-degree certification on their transcripts. Any student admitted to or currently enrolled in a master’s or doctoral degree program at U-M is eligible to apply for the LACS certificate program (please see the website link below for details on the application process). The certificate program thus offers students considerable flexibility in designing their own courses of study, approved by the LACS graduate committee. In order to successfully complete the program, students must also show their proficiency in at least one Latin American language.

For more information on the LACS graduate certificate program, please see www.ii.umich.edu/lacs/academics/graduatestudents/graduatertificateprogram
From Sunday, October 2 to Saturday, October 8, 2011, Alexey Rodriguez and Magia López, who comprise the Cuban Hip Hop group Obsesion, visited U-M and gave a concert for Cuba Week 2011. Cuba Week is an annual series of events developed by Professor Ruth Behar and the students who went on her University of Michigan Semester Abroad Program in Havana, Cuba, in Winter 2011. The events of the inaugural Cuba Week consisted of a dinner reception on Monday, visits to classrooms by Rodriguez and López, a film screening and panel discussion, and the culminating concert headlined by Obsesion. All events were free and open to the public, and all were very well attended and received.

Obsesion, founded in 1996 in Havana, is one of Cuba’s premier Hip Hop groups whose songs address subjects ranging from love to complex political and social problems. Cuban Hip Hop draws upon both American rap and Cuba’s rich musical heritage, which derives in large part from Afro-Cuban music. Obsesion’s contributions to this distinct genre, along with the resonance of their songs, have enabled them to not only gain a wide following in Cuba but also to perform in Venezuela, France, Brazil, Canada, the UK and the US.

During the Winter 2011 study abroad trip to Cuba, Behar introduced her students to Alexey and Magia (along with the band’s DJ, Isnay Rodriguez, who was unable to visit Michigan for Cuba Week). Alexey and Magia invited the students into their home studio and to their weekly Hip Hop workshop in Havana, held at Club Amanecer. The duo also encouraged the students to cultivate their own performance abilities. “The students were in awe of the amazing music [that these musicians] produce with basic resources,” Behar said. “By the time we left Cuba, the students felt very close to Alexey and Magia and asked me if I could assist them in bringing Obsesion to U-M,” Behar elaborated. Upon their return to Michigan, Behar and her students applied for and received several grants, including major support from the Center for World Performance Studies, that enabled them to bring Alexey and Magia to the University for Cuba Week.

Rodriguez and López also spoke to Behar’s class on “Cuba and Its Diaspora” and to students in David Frye’s anthropology course on Latin American societies and cultures. In these classroom visits, the musicians held Q and A sessions with students and discussed comparisons between US and Cuban rap and the constraints that the island’s economic and political situation imposes on its artists. Obsesion also “talked about how music is an equalizer across national and geographic borders,” according to Angela Crumdy, a Cuba study abroad student who helped to organize the events.

On Wednesday, approximately 25 people attended a screening of U-M graduate student Vanessa Diaz’s documentary “Cuban Hip-Hop: Desde el Principio.” This film examines the political and social contexts for the rise of Cuban Hip Hop and the reasons for its emergence as a genre in spite of the quite limited opportunities for commercial success on the island. After the screening, Diaz, Behar, and Obsesion engaged in a panel discussion that elaborated on the film’s themes.

Finally, on Thursday, Obsesion performed to a full house at the Michigan League Underground. Following an opening act by the local Hip Hop group Tree City, López and Rodriguez presented a number of their songs. They were accompanied by electric guitarists and dancers, all of whom were current Michigan students or recent alumni.

Obsesion’s visit to the University facilitated dialogue between musicians, scholars, students, and music aficionados from both countries. It represented a welcome space of collaboration and constructive communication despite the longstanding tensions between the two countries’ governments. “This event exemplified the importance of intercultural exchange,” affirmed Crumdy. Such exchanges are at the heart of international education at U-M. According to fellow organizer and LACS alumnna Amara Lopez, these exchanges “serve to foster an international perspective, something ever more important in the world we live in today.”
Since the fall of 1998, U-M has offered courses in Quechua, a widely-spoken Andean indigenous language. Quechua was the language of the Inca Empire. Its diffusion under Inca and Spanish colonial rule made Quechua the lingua franca of much of the Andes, and today it claims the most speakers of any indigenous language in the Americas: ten million spread across Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile, Colombia, and Argentina. As one of only nine US post-secondary institutions where Quechua is taught, U-M is unique in offering beginning, intermediate, and advanced Quechua during the academic year. Students can also elect to study the language in a more accelerated and high-altitude environment in our summer Quechua program in Cusco, Peru, hosted by the Centro Tinku under the direction of Dr. Jean-Jacques Decoster. In this program, graduate and undergraduate students complete an entire academic year’s worth of language study—in only seven weeks. This course of study also enables students to take full advantage of living in Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire, which is now a modern city of 400,000 inhabitants. The Centro Tinku offers students numerous lectures on the rich history and cultures of Quechua-speaking peoples along with many excursions and cultural activities. Our academic year and summer programs, combined with the expertise of our Quechua instructor Martín Castillo Collado, make Michigan one of the best places to study Quechua in the United States.

LACS also works to spread awareness and knowledge of this language in southeast Michigan through initiatives such as our recent workshop on Quechua for high school students and teachers. In addition, in February, Castillo Collado, assisted by Howard Tsai (PhD ‘12), held a workshop on Quechua at Hartland High School in Hartland, Michigan in conjunction with the school’s “World Language Week.” In his hour-long session, Castillo Collado taught students some Quechua vocabulary, such as colors, pronouns, and greetings. This interactive session enabled students to participate in basic conversations in the language and to learn about aspects of life in the Andes. In the years to come, our Quechua program plans to undertake more such outreach activities and to create even more opportunities for U-M students and others who wish to learn more about the language and its speakers.
Upcoming Events


September 20, 2012, 4-6 pm, Room 2609 SSWB

Anne-Emmanuelle Birn, Professor and Canada Research Chair in International Health at the University of Toronto, will deliver a lecture that explores why Uruguay became a pioneer in children’s rights and health in the early twentieth century. Birn will discuss the origins, paradoxes, and global resonance of Uruguay’s initiatives in the 1930s that established the world’s first Ministry of Child Protection, created a “Children’s Code,” and implemented redistributive policies aimed at assuring children’s rights and well-being. This talk will also address the profound influence of Uruguay’s distinct approach to child welfare in the Americas and globally in the twentieth century.

Co-sponsored by the Center for World Performance Studies.

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Visit of U-M President Mary Sue Coleman to Brazil

September 22-28, 2012

President Coleman will lead a U-M delegation to Brazil in September 2012 that will aim to strengthen academic ties with Brazilian educational institutions. The delegation will visit several universities and foundations in Brazil in an effort to develop exchange programs and devise new sources of funding for joint research and teaching projects between U-M and Brazilian universities.

Nadith Johana Senejoo Cristancho, Rosny Portaccio Fontalvo, Arecio Manjarres García, Yudi Helena Pardo Santamaria, and Yesid Castro Triana will perform. Please see our website for details.

Co-sponsored by the Center for the History of Medicine and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society.

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Grupo Tucandira Artist Residency

October 8, 2012, 8pm, Michigan League Ballroom

The Grupo Tucandira, a five-member group of Colombian vocalists and musicians directed by Arecio Manjarres García, will perform music from the Llano Region of the Meta province of Colombia. Residency activities will include class presentations and a culminating public performance. The group will perform on a variety of instruments, including the harp specific to the llano region, the cuatro (a small four-string guitar), the pentola (a five-string guitar that is modeled on the four string bandola, invented by Manjarres García), the transversal flute, and percussion (especially maracas).

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Sally Price, “The Scot and the Aborigine: La Différence Writ Large”

October 18, 2012, 4-6 pm, Room 411 West Hall

Sally Price is the Duane A. and Virginia S. Dittman Professor Emerita of American Studies and Anthropology at the College of William & Mary. What can happen to an ethnographic object that leaves its home territory and is entrusted – both physically and conceptually – to connoisseurs in a distant land in whose hands it will be evaluated, displayed, interpreted, and sometimes even physically re-made? And how does that process compare to the fate of similar objects that don’t travel from one cultural setting to another, but stay within culturally familiar ground? Two contemporary installations in Paris’s Quai Branly Museum – one from Scotland and one from Australia – reveal the inadvertent assumptions sometimes made about “Western” and “non-Western” artists and their creations...and the consequences of those assumptions for the museum-going experience.

Organized by the Doctoral Program in Anthropology & History.

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Richard Price, “From Fesiten to Fesibuku: The Changing Uses of Saamaka History”

October 19, 2012, 2-4 pm, Room 411 West Hall

Richard Price is the Duane A. and Virginia S. Dittman Professor Emeritus of American Studies, Anthropology, and History at the College of William & Mary. The paper presented for discussion begins with the largely-unfulfilled longings of 1960s ethnographers to be able to “give something back” to the people they studied and learned from. It then traces my own unexpected and growing involvements in attempts by the Saamaka People to harness international human rights instruments in their favor. A discussion of the tensions between human rights discourse and anthropological theory comes next, illustrated by my own courtroom experiences. In the wake of their most recent court victory, the Saamaka People requested Sally Price and me to translate First-Time into their own language so it could be distributed in Saamaka schools. The paper ends with discussion of the challenges—linguistic (and orthographic) as well as substantive—involved in this project. What will Fesiten mean to a generation of Saamakas accustomed to communicating through Facebook?

Organized by the Doctoral Program in Anthropology & History.
Susan Eckstein, “The New Cuba and the Impact of the New Cuban Diaspora in Transforming Their Homeland”  
October 26, 2012, 12-1:30 pm, Haven Hall, Room 3512

Susan Eckstein is Professor of Sociology and International Relations at Boston University. For the first thirty years of Castro’s rule the government created a “wall” between Cubans who emigrated and those who stayed loyal to the revolution, and Cubans in the diaspora supported an embargo of Cuba on both the state-to-state and people-to-people level as impermeable as possible, in hopes of thereby bringing Castro’s regime to heel. But after Soviet aid and trade ended, with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Cuba was forced to re-integrate into the capitalist world economy. Needing hard currency, the government transformed the diaspora into a dollar generating strategy, by facilitating and tacitly encouraging remittance-sending. In my presentation I will document how and why the government encouraged remittance-sending, tensions between its interests in remittances and those of recipients, and contradictions inherent in the hard currency accumulation strategy that are transforming socialism as Cubans knew it.

October 31-November 2, 2012, Hatcher Graduate Library and the Michigan Union

This fall, the University of Michigan will hold a major conference commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the summer 1962 meeting at Port Huron, Michigan, which resulted in the creation of The Port Huron Statement, a manifesto that outlined many of the aims and principles of student protest and the New Left for the rest of that decade. The Statement’s radical ideals of “participatory democracy” and its centrality in the history of the iconic Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) have made it enormously influential for subsequent activist movements in the United States and beyond, including the contemporary Occupy Wall Street movement. This event, organized by History Professor Howard Brick and colleagues from Afroamerican and African Studies, American Culture, and other units, will convene US and international scholars and activists, including some key founders of SDS and the prominent activist writers Barbara Ehrenreich and Naomi Klein. The event will feature lectures, a morning plenary session, and up to a dozen panels on topics such as gender, race, sexuality, and labor in the formation of the New Left; comparative discussions of the New Left in the US, Latin America, Europe, and elsewhere; the importance of colonialism and the global Cold War in the rise of the New Left; and the resonance of the New Left in today’s domestic and international political and economic climate. This conference highlights the special place of Ann Arbor and U-M in the history of the New Left and social protest during this critical decade. It also takes advantage of the University’s resources by offering a series of lectures by Michigan faculty in the months leading up to the event on the impact of “participatory democracy” on political theory, the influence of 1960s radicalism in reshaping academic fields, contemporary student activism, and other topics.

Co-sponsored by the Department of History, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, the Eisenberg Institute, and the Institute for the Humanities.

Winifred Tate, Lecture on Plan Colombia  
November 7, 2012, 4-6 pm, Room 1644 SSWB

Winifred Tate, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Colby College, will speak at the University of Michigan on Plan Colombia. Tate is an authority on human rights and activism in the military conflict in Colombia. Her first book, Counting the Dead: The Culture and Politics of Human Rights Activism in Colombia (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007) was a study of human rights discourses and institutions in the Colombian context.

Gilberto Gil, Concert  
November 16, 2012, 8pm, Hill Auditorium

The world-renowned Brazilian guitarist, singer, composer, and former Minister of Culture will return to the University of Michigan on November 16 to give a performance with a six-piece band that will focus on the baião musical style of northeast Brazil. For tickets and more information, please see ums.org/performances/gilberto-gil.

Hosted by LACS and the University Musical Society
The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) at the University of Michigan seeks to advance knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean and to heighten interest in this region among members of the U-M community and the general public. Through collaborative partnerships across the university, LACS fosters teaching and research on Latin America and the Caribbean in a wide range of disciplines and professional schools. LACS has been designated a National Resource Center by the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI program and is a member of the U-M International Institute.