

La crónica / A crônica

The newsletter of the Latin American & Latinx Studies Program at The University of Scranton

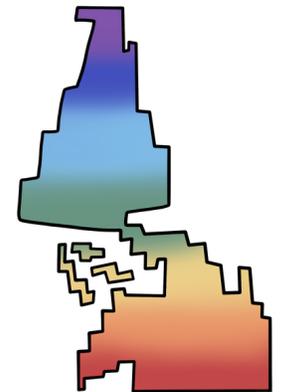


Director's Note

Aiala Levy, PhD

It's been another action-packed year for Latin American and Latinx Studies! The South Side Restaurant Tour, Hispanic Heritage Month panel, semesterly film series, Concentrators Charla, fall lecture, El Carnaval, and end-of-year celebration (see left) now constitute an annual rhythm, engaging University and community members in timely discussions about and celebrations of Latin and Latinx

Americas. Accompanying this rhythm were a handful of collaborative events, including an interactive introduction to Latin American and Latinx Studies for middle-school students in the STARS program. Additionally, program concentrators pioneered a new genre of events: the LALS beverage hour. LALS students prepared and served Mexican *champurrado* in the fall and a selection of *aguas frescas* in the spring, along with materials explaining the beverages and LALS, to nearly 100 attendees! (Much more on this and other events in the pages below.) LALS concentrators, and especially Erika Aguilar '23, also took the lead designing a LALS icon (see right) to visually explain the program's scope and identity on promotional materials. The icon challenges viewers to rethink Latin/x



America as well as our worldview.

Speaking of our innovative students, I'm happy to share that LALS tripled its number of concentrators during the 2022-2023 academic year! We warmly welcome new students to the program as we bid farewell to our small but mighty senior class, spotlighted on page 5.

It's also time for me to bid a bittersweet farewell to LALS, at least for the time being. I am grateful to the faculty on the LALS Steering Committee for their hard work, passion, and collegiality. Many thanks are also due to Erika Aguilar '23 and Elizabeth Anzures '24, LALS's work-study students this past year, and Donna Rupp, LALS administrative assistant, for making possible all that the program does.

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LALS Program Director
Assistant Professor, History

Michael Allison, PhD

Professor, Political Science

Roxana Curiel, PhD

Assistant Professor, Spanish

Susan Méndez, PhD

Professor, English & Theatre

Yamile Silva, PhD

Professor, Spanish

Janice Voltzow, PhD

Professor, Biology

LALS Affiliate Faculty

Ovidiu Cocieru, PhD

Assistant Professor,
Management, Marketing, and
Entrepreneurship

Will Cohen, PhD

Professor, Theology and
Religious Studies

Meghan Rich, PhD

Professor, Sociology

Habib Zanzana, PhD

Professor, Spanish and Arabic

LALS Staff

Donna Rupp

Department Secretary

Erika Aguilar '23

Elizabeth Anzures '24

2022-2023 Work-study
Students



Dr. Michael Allison, Political Science

With the third edition, Dr. Allison joined Dr. Gregory Weeks as a co-author on *U.S. and Latin American Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). Dr. Allison also published "*Guatemala: The Ongoing Struggle Against Corruption and Impunity*" in *Latin American Politics and Development, Tenth Edition*, edited by Harvey Kline and Christine Wade (Westview Press, 2022). Dr. Allison additionally shares his expertise with a broad audience. He provided a short commentary on "Who Has the Edge in Guatemala's Presidential Race?" for the *Inter-American Dialogue's* daily *Latin America Advisor* (April 11, 2023), as well as expert witness testimony in approximately 20 Guatemalan and Salvadoran asylum cases in 2022-2023. In spring 2023, eleven students completed the Faculty Student Research Program with Dr. Allison while working on asylum cases.



Dr. Roxana Curiel, Spanish

Dr. Curiel was awarded the University of Scranton Faculty Development Grant for the project "*De muxe a muxe: Meuxeidad and the Third Gender in Zapotec Culture.*" She spent the summer performing an ethnography of two muxe artists, Elvis Guerra and Luka Avedaño, which is part of her book manuscript, *Machorras: Embodying Identity Against Mexicanidad*. She also co-created and performed at the Archivo de la Ciudad de México a drag performance, "Robles," which interweaves the story of Colonel Amelio Robles and their transition during the Mexican Revolution (1910) with recent stories of violencia machista against trans women. Dr. Curiel completed a chapter, "Drag Bunny: Travestismo, feminismos y reggaeton," in *Teoría Queer en México: Disidencias, Diversidades y Diferencias*, and her 2021 article in the journal *Hispania*, "Mujeres rifle: Masculinidad femenina en el evento fotográfico de la Revolución Mexicana," received an Honorable Mention

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Faculty Updates

(continued from previous page)

for the 2023 Outstanding Scholarly Publication Award by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Congratulations! Dr. Curiel has been active around campus creating a workshop series on “Latinidad, Art, and Identity” for STARS students (see our blurb about [STARS](#) on page 13), co-directing a Hispanic Heritage Month panel on how Latino/x/e communities navigate their identity, and giving a talk for the Ellacuría Initiative’s Women’s & Gender Justice Teach-In, titled “Drag Me! Ethics and Politics of Performing Masculinities in Mexico. (Notes From a Femicide State).”



Dr. Aiala Levy, History

Dr. Levy hit the road this past year after two years of remote events, presenting bits from her book project, **Cosmopolis: Theaters and the Making of an Urban Public in São Paulo, Brazil**. In January, at the joint annual meetings of the Conference of Latin American Historians and American Historical Society, Dr. Levy discussed “The Urban Citizen at the Theater: Defining Social Belonging in Early Twentieth-Century Brazil.” On International Women’s Day, March 8, Dr. Levy gave a talk, “Consuming Theater, Engendering the Urban Public in c.1900 São Paulo, Brazil,” at Bowdoin College about the third chapter of her book. She’ll expand on the topic this July at the 50th Berkshire Conference of Women, Genders, and Sexualities with a presentation titled, “Babes and Bonbons: Consuming Female Respectability in c.1900 Brazil.” Before reaching the Pacific, Dr. Levy is off to the Atlantic, participating in a two-week seminar, *Archives as Data*, organized by Columbia University’s [History Lab](#) and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In the coming year, you can find Dr. Levy in Indiana, where she hopes to finish writing her book while a Scholar-in-Residence at Wabash College.

Dr. Susan Méndez, English & Theatre

This past year, Dr. Méndez continued to contribute to the field of Latinx literature with two articles: “The Thinking Self and Discourse of Love Lead to Self-Knowledge in Iris Gomez’s *Try to Remember*,” published in **Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction** (November 2022), and “The Potential and Limitations of Love and Differential Consciousness in Héctor Tobar’s *The Tattooed Soldier*,” published in **Ciberletras: Revista de Crítica Literaria y de Cultura** (July 2022). In April, Dr. Méndez participated in the 5th Biennial Latinx Literary Theory and Criticism Conference (City University of New York, Graduate Center), presenting a talk titled, “A life rendered will always be incomplete: Discourses to counter Anti-immigration Policies in Patricia Engel’s *Infinite Country*.”

Faculty Updates



Dr. Yamile Silva, Spanish

*Dr. Silva has been busy publishing, presenting, and reviewing this past year! Publications include the chapter, "Space, Land and Territory in Gerónimo de Ypori's Relation (1580)," in **Colonial Latin American Literature in Transition** (Cambridge University Press, 2023), and "Narrativas de lo gótico en «La extraña» (1922) de Abigail Mejía" in *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* (2022). Additionally, Dr. Silva completed archival transcriptions for the Texas Data Repository; contributed to Unlocking the Colonial Archive, organized by the LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections at the University of Texas at Austin, the Digital Humanities Hub at Lancaster University, and Liverpool John Moores University; presented at conferences based in Peru and Spain; and organized and chaired the 2022 Latin American Studies Association's Colonial Section panel on "Representations of Space in the Latin American Colonial Period." Dr. Silva also extensively contributed to the academic community as committee chair of the Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award in Colonial Latin American Studies, supervisor or reviewer of graduate theses, member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Gender and Sexuality Studies*, peer reviewer for multiple other journals, and reviewer of the National Endowment for the Humanities' Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education Program.*



Dr. Janice Voltzow, Biology

*This past fall, Dr. Voltzow taught the popular course, *Environmental Issues in Latin America* (BIOL 204). Students end the semester with a final project in which they investigate a specific environmental issue in Latin America. Topics include, but are not limited to, cooperative projects between the private and public sectors, debt-for-land swaps, agricultural or fishery projects, scientific studies of biodiversity, or local attempts at sustainability. Students research the pertinent geologic, geographic, natural, and land-use histories of the area, explain all sides of the current issue, and propose a reasonable, sustainable solution. They are encouraged to identify an organization or group that is working to promote a sustainable solution to this issue. They write a report and present their project to the class orally. To strengthen the connection between this project and the real world, students collect free-will donations during the presentations. After the last presentation, students may make a pitch to argue that the organization they featured most deserves the class's support. The students take a vote, and the funds are donated to the winner. Last fall, the class donated \$80 to Parley for the Oceans!*

Spotlight on Graduating Latin American and Latinx Studies Concentrators

Erika Aguilar



Pronouns: she/they

Major: History

Minor: Spanish

Extracurricular activities: New Student Orientation, String Orchestra

Plans after graduation: work in the legal field and apply for law school

What LALS has meant to you while at the U: "LALS has allowed me to reconnect with my roots and simultaneously learn about ongoing issues within the community. This program has allowed me to expand my viewpoint beyond the United States and towards my culture, whose colonial and modern history I've had the pleasure of learning."

Mollie Murphy



Pronouns: she/her

Majors: Secondary Education and Spanish

Honor Societies: Alpha Mu Gamma (national honor society for students of foreign languages)

Extracurricular activities: ESL tutor volunteer for UNC, mentor for STARS youth.

Plans after graduation: teach high school

What LALS has meant to you while at the U: "LALS has been a bigger part of my experience at the U than I thought it would be originally. I have learned so much, made friends with likeminded people and had so many opportunities for cultural experiences. I'm so happy I made the decision to concentrate."



2022-2023 LALS Courses

BIOL 204 Environmental Issues in Latin America (J. Voltzow)

Survey of the biogeography and biomes of Latin America, the current challenges to these environments, and programs aimed at achieving sustainability in the region.

ENLT 252 Latinx Literature (S. Méndez)

Explores a variety of genres and authors within the writings of Latino/as in the United States.

Topics can include identity formation and negotiation in terms of language, race, gender, sexuality, class; immigration and migration; colonialism and de-colonialism.

HIST 125 Colonial Latin America (A. Levy)

An introduction to colonial Latin American history. Examines pre-Columbian indigenous societies; Spanish, Portuguese, and French conquest and colonialism; independence movements; and race, class, and gender in colonial societies.

HIST 126 Modern Latin America (A. Levy)

An overview of the diverse societies, cultures, ideas, economies, and governments of Latin America since independences. Emphasizes nation building, revolutionary movements, mass culture, race, class, and gender.

MGT 474 Managing a Multicultural Workforce (O. Cocieru)

Addresses the skills and knowledge managers must develop to deal with an increasingly culturally diverse workforce. Specific topics to be covered include diversity in ethnicity, nationality, religion, culture, gender, age, sexual orientation and disability.

PS 219 Latin American Politics (M. Allison)

Overview of the political cultures and political dynamics of Latin America. A series of representative nations is examined to provide a general overview of the region. Topics include historical figures and events, the processes of democratization and modernization, and contemporary politics.

PS 333 United States-Latin American Relations (M. Allison)

An introduction to the political, economic, and security relations between Latin America and the United States from the beginning of the 19th century through the present day. Present day topics include regional trade arrangements, democracy promotion, drug trafficking, immigration and the impact of 9/11.

SPAN 311 Spanish Conversation (Silva, Curiel)

Reading-based conversation stressing development of self-expression in Spanish. Practice in oral composition. Taught in Spanish.

SPAN 312 Spanish Composition (Y. Silva)

Intensive writing practice stressing grammar, writing analysis, and composition. Taught in Spanish.

SPAN 314 Latin-American Culture and Civilization (Y. Silva)

The course examines the diverse cultural, historical, linguistic, religious, and political features of Latin America. Taught in Spanish.

SPAN 315 Spanish for the Health Professions (R. Curiel)

Designed for the student who plans to work in any area of health care, this course focuses on the needs and problems of Spanish-speaking patients. Students learn specialized vocabulary and improve communicative ability through conversation and composition and develop an increased awareness of health issues often of particular concern to Hispanics. Taught in Spanish.

SPAN 320 Introduction to Hispanic Literature (Y. Silva)

An introduction to the principal genres of literature (poetry, short essay, essay, drama and novel) through analysis of representative works in the Hispanic tradition. Taught in Spanish.

SPAN 335 Service & the Hispanic Community (R. Curiel)

Focus on Hispanic cultures and traditions, the immigrant experience and cultural displacement. Each student, with assistance from local social service agencies, Collegiate Volunteers and the course professor, develops and carries out a service project to the local Hispanic community involving 40 to 45 hours of service work. Taught in Spanish.

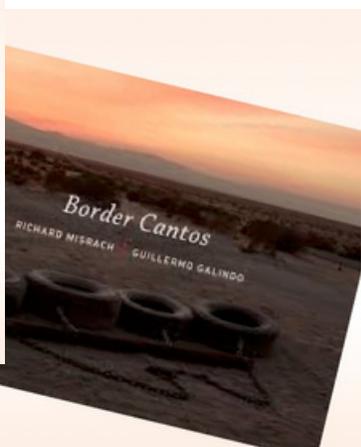
SPAN 384 ST: Bad Bunny: Race, Gender & Reggaeton (R. Curiel)

Analyzes the music and public persona of Bad Bunny to illuminate current issues surrounding Latinx communities. Emphasis on reggaeton's historic relationship with Black resistance, gender, and liberation struggles.

Events

SOUTH SIDE RESTAURANT TOUR

Organized by LALS and the Multicultural Center with the support of the Office of Community Relations and the United Neighborhood Centers, the second annual South Side Restaurant Tour occurred on Saturday, October 15. This event took students on foot through South Scranton to show how accessible—and delicious—the neighborhood’s offerings are! The first stop was at the South Side Farmers Market, where students received a tote bag and \$5 in Market Bucks to spend. With various stands set up at the indoor market, there was something for everyone! The next stop was La Libertad Pupuseria for an assortment of El Salvadorean pupusas, followed by Italo's, where Mexican enchiladas were the main dish. Finally, for dessert, students walked to the International Deli and Grocery Store, where they were able to choose their own Caribbean dessert. With a fee of just \$10, students were able to have two meals, learn about the farmers market, have dessert, and meet new students with similar interest in the neighboring community or Latin American cuisines and cultures. In a post-event survey, participants unanimously rated the event 5/5 (“amazing”) and expressed wanting to participate again next year. We hope to repeat it next year during Hispanic Heritage Month—all students are invited!



SOUTH SIDE RESTAURANT TOUR

MENU

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

THE COURSES

LA LIBERTAD

- Vegan pupusas (Loroco sin queso)
- Meat pupusas (Revueltas)

ITALO'S

- Vegan enchilada or fajita
- Enchilada with chicken or beef

INTERNATIONAL DELI & GROCERY

- Choose your own dessert!

PUPUSAS

A TRADITIONAL SALVADORAN DISH MADE OF A THICK, HANDMADE CORN TORTILLA THAT IS TYPICALLY FILLED WITH A BLEND OF CHEESES, REFRIED BEANS, PORK, AND/OR VEGETABLES. IT IS THEN GRILLED UNTIL NICE AND CRISPY AND THE CHEESE IS MELTED INSIDE. LOROCO IS COMMONLY USED IN PUPUSAS AND IT IS A TYPE OF FLOWER THAT HAS A DISTINCT FLAVOR THAT IS SOMEWHAT EARTHY AND NUTTY, WITH A HINT OF SWEETNESS.

FLAN

THE FLAN'S HISTORY IS TRACED BACK TO ANCIENT ROME WHEN EGG SURPLUSES WERE TRANSFORMED INTO CUSTARDS TO PRODUCE BOTH SWEET AND SAVORY TASTES. THE SPANIARDS TOOK IT TO AMERICA, WHERE IT BECAME A DELICACY. THE WORD IS THE FRENCH EQUIVALENT OF THE LATIN WORD FLADON, WHICH MEANS "FLAT CAKE."

ENCHILADAS

ORIGINATED IN THE YUCATAN PENINSULA IN WHAT IS NOW MEXICO. THE NAME ENCHILADA IS A SPANISH TRANSLATION OF THE NAHUATL WORD CHILLAPITZALLI, WHICH LITERALLY MEANS "CHILI FLUTE." YOU CAN MAKE A WIDE VARIETY OF ENCHILADAS WITH DIFFERENT FILLINGS AND SAUCES. THE MAIN CHARACTERISTIC IS THE TORTILLA WRAPPED AROUND YOUR FAVORITE FILLINGS TOPPED WITH A FLAVORFUL SAUCE.

SCAN ME FOR ROUTE!

LALS LECTURE: DR. MARIANA ORTEGA

Dr. Ortega presented her recent work on aesthetics and social justice to a packed Brennan Hall 228 on December 1. Titled “Listening to Sorrow in Border Cantos,” the presentation explored how photographic practices open the possibility for re-orienting our cognitive, sensory, and affective ways of being in the world. Dr. Ortega homed in on the exhibit *Border Cantos* by Richard Misrach and Guillermo Galindo to show the importance of art in the process of honoring and mourning those who perish crossing the Mexico-U.S. border in search for better lives. Dr. Ortega is Associate Professor of Philosophy; Women’s Gender, and Sexualities Studies; and Latino/a Studies at Penn State University. She is also the founder and director of the Latina/x Feminisms Roundtable. The lecture was organized by Dr. Méndez, co-sponsored with the Department of English & Theatre, and supported by the CAS Dean’s Office and the Office of Equity & Diversity.

SOUTH SIDE RESTAURANT TOUR - PHOTOS



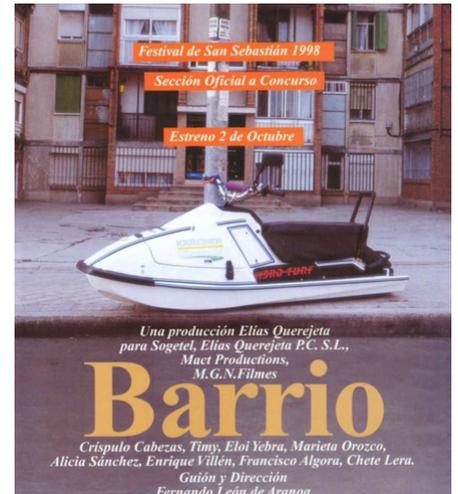
Events

FALL 2022 FILM SERIES: HUMAN/NATURE

EXPLORING THE COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANKIND AND THE WORLD AROUND US

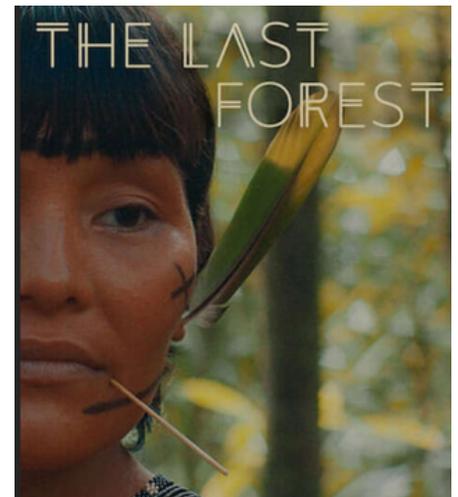
Que Viva el Barrio + Once Upon a Time in Venezuela (September 15)

On September 15, to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month, we screened two films about environmental justice. *Que Viva el Barrio* (US, 2022) is a short documentary that traces the fight by residents of San Diego's Barrio Logan for a less polluted future. *Once Upon a Time in Venezuela* (Venezuela, 2020) tells the story of the village of Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela, which is literally torn apart due to pollution and divisive, corrupt politics.



The Last Forest (October 13)

Our second film, screened on October 13 in commemoration of Indigenous Peoples' Day, was *The Last Forest* (Brazil, 2021). Visually stunning and created in partnership with a Yanomami leader, the movie blended documentary observation and staged sequences to narrate the threatened natural environment and ways of life of a Yanomami community in the Amazon rainforest.



Zama (November 10)

We wrapped up the series with *Zama* (Argentina, 2017), a critically acclaimed film based on the 1956 novel by Antonio di Benedetto. The film narrates the adventures of a colonial magistrate in a remote outpost of the Spanish Empire who does all he can to be reassigned closer to his family, including taking on a nightmarish mission.



Events

SPRING 2023 FILM SERIES: THE JOY OF BEING QUEER

Lemebel - Chile, 2019 (February 21)

Writer, visual artist and pioneer of the queer movement in Latin America, Pedro Lemebel shook up conservative Chilean society during Pinochet's dictatorship in the 1980s. The film is an intimate journey through Lemebel's risky performances dealing with homosexuality, human rights, and mortality.



Mucho, mucho amor: The Legend of Walter Mercado - US, 2020 (March 21)

Every day for decades, Walter Mercado—the iconic, gender non-conforming astrologer—mesmerized 120 million Latinx viewers with his extravagance and positivity. Why did he suddenly vanish?



Divine Divas - Brazil, 2016 (April 18)

Follows Brazil's first generation of transvestite artists as they reunite to perform one more time in Rio's historic Rival Theatre.

The film shows the intimacy, the talent and the stories of a generation that revolutionized the sexual behavior and defied the morals of Brazil under military rule in the 1960s.



EL CARNAVAL

El Carnaval, which took place on February 17 in the DeNaples Ballroom, showcased Latin American cultures and especially pre-Lenten carnival celebrations. Attracting nearly 100 participants, the event was organized with the Spanish Cultural Society (SCS) and the Multicultural Center with the triple aim of introducing students unfamiliar with Latin America to its diverse cultures, providing space for Latinx students to enjoy their culture in the company of peers, and promoting LALS and SCS. Attendees were able to eat a variety of Latin American foods, color tote bags, learn about carnival celebrations across Latin America, have their photos taken at a station hosted by the Photography Club, and even break piñatas!

EL CARNAVAL - PHOTOS



Events



HOT COCOA & AGUAS FRESCAS HOURS

Over the course of a month, LALS concentrators, led by Erika Aguilar, planned a Hot Cocoa Hour with the dual aim of increasing the program's visibility on campus and sharing a traditional Latin American drink. The Hot Cocoa Hour took place on a rainy, cold November 30, 2022, between 2pm and 3pm on the second floor of the DeNaples Center. Three LALS-affiliated students, Elizabeth Anzures, Mollie Murphy, and Bianca Tlatelpa, joined Erika in designing a posterboard with information about LALS and champurrado, a Mexican hot chocolate with cinnamon and masa. Along with the lauded champurrado, prepared by Erika's family, pastries from Mi Ranchito attracted dozens of passersby. The event's success propelled LALS concentrators to organize a second beverage hour on April 27, 11:30am-12:30pm. Although rain forced the event indoors, an assortment of aguas frescas, prepared by Erika Aguilar, Mollie Murphy, Bianca Tlatelpa, and Dr. Curiel, drew over 80 attendees to the LALS table on the second floor of DeNaples. Fantastic job, LALSistas!

Let's Talk LALS!

STARS SESSION

On April 25, LALS faculty and students had the opportunity to share their passion for Latin/x America with local middle-school students in STARS (Students Together Achieving Remarkable Success). STARS, which is based out of Marywood University and is directed by Jenny González, helps Latinx youth in grades 7-12 explore and prepare for a variety of careers. The students who attended the LALS session experienced the program's interdisciplinarity by rotating through three 15-minute stations: an introduction to Latin American poison-dart frogs and lab science with Drs. Vinny Farallo and Jong-Hyun Son (Biology), a conversation about studying LALS with Bianca Tlatelpa and Dr. Levy, and an interactive lesson on race and gender in Latinx music led by students in Dr. Curiel's course, SPAN 384 Bad Bunny: Race, Gender, and Reggaeton. STARS students had a blast! After sampling each station, students took a brief campus tour led by Admissions tour guides.



OPEN HOUSES

During the University's open houses on October 23 and November 6, high school students from across the region were welcome to walk around the Byron to learn more about the vast opportunities offered on campus. One of the (arguably best decorated) tables was dedicated to Latin American and Latinx Studies. Students came up to the table to learn about different courses being offered and the benefits of concentrating or majoring in LALS—and picked up Latin American candy to sweeten the conversation.

CONCENTRATION FAIR

On October 18, students had the opportunity to stop by the DeNaples Fireplace Lounge to learn about a few of the concentrations offered on campus. What's a **concentration**? Basically, a minor that includes courses from multiple departments. LALS and Women's and Gender Studies organized the event, with Dr. Levy and work-study student Elizabeth Anzures explaining the requirements for the LALS concentration and encouraging students to enroll in LALS courses. The fair served as an eye-opening experience for students that stopped by since a concentration can help focus courses used to fulfill general educational requirements! Many students expressed how, even as upperclassmen, this was the first time they had heard about concentrations and wished they had heard about it sooner.

Alumni: Where in the World?

LALS ALUMNI ARE DOING AMAZING THINGS! WE TRACKED DOWN A FEW OF THEM TO SEE WHAT THEY'RE UP TO.

SHANNEL JULIUS '15

Shannel, a New York native, resides in Madrid, Spain, where she is pursuing a master's in Applied English Linguistics.

She possesses an undergraduate degree in Hispanic Studies from the University of Scranton and a master's in Literary Translation from Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Her specialty is the translation of African American Vernacular English and the transmission of African American cultural elements in linguistic translation. Her first master's thesis was a translation and analysis of Gloria Naylor's Linden Hills.



ISAIAH LIVELSBERGER '22



For the past ten months, Isaiah has served as a volunteer at the migrant shelter at Kino Border Initiative. Isaiah accompanies 90 (soon to be 120) residents, receives new people looking for a place to stay, and directs them to the variety of services that Kino offers. Recently, Isaiah also made a mural for International Women's Day displaying a violentómetro! Next year, on a Fulbright grant to Guatemala, Isaiah will be conducting research into post-war judicial corruption. Isaiah has cherished their time at Kino and hopes to continue similar work in Guatemala by volunteering at a migrant shelter there as well.

If you're an alum who would like to share your story in next year's newsletter, please send a brief update before April 15, 2024, to yamile.silva@scranton.edu.

Alumni: Where in the World?

LUIS MELGAR '18

Luis recently completed his Master of Divinity program at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry (STM), from which he also received the Ann Forest Morgan, Ed.D. Graduate Student Award. His experience as a first-generation Salvadoran-American and time within the Latin American Studies Program has been formative as he explores various career paths and his creative side (check out his poem, "The Winner is...", which he wrote for the STM's Night of the Arts event). His recent work with students in the Arrupe International Immersions program has allowed him to share his perspectives while amplifying the voices of the community and persons across Latin America. Luis is tremendously grateful for the Latin American Studies program and hopes to continue to explore ways of integrating his education from the program in future work.



KYLIE MIGNAT '18



After graduating from the U, Kylie worked with unaccompanied minors in removal proceedings as a Senior Paralegal at Kids in Need of Defense in New York City. Kylie also earned her master's degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from New York University in 2021. Her master's project explored the Guatemalan government's failure to support and protect Indigenous migrant youth. Currently, Kylie is a Virginia Public Service Scholar and rising 2L at the University of Virginia School of Law. After law school, Kylie intends to continue advocating for immigrant youth as an attorney.

CRYSTA O'DONNELL '22



Since graduating from Scranton, Crysta has been in Andorra, a tiny country in the Pyrenees, working as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant at the Escola Andorrana de Segona Ensenyança de Santa Coloma. Crysta teaches third- and fourth-year students, equivalent to American high school freshmen and sophomores. (All Andorran students complete mandatory education at 15 years old.) Crysta has delivered lessons on tourism, the '80s in the U.S., Martin Luther King, cultural and gender stereotypes, the importance of volunteering, and Shakespeare. Crysta is taking art and Catalan classes; improving her French; speaking Spanish with her new team, friends, and host family; and enjoying life to the fullest! And since the Andorran Ministry of Education has approved her Fulbright scholarship extension request, Crysta can't wait to continue this marvelous adventure next year!

Spanish Cultural Society

The Spanish Cultural Society (SCS) is a student club at The University of Scranton that promotes and educates students about the cultures and traditions of Latin American communities. You can follow their Instagram page @UofS_SCS.

We want to bid farewell to two of its graduating officers, President Arielle Contreras and Vice President Vanessa Ryan. We wish you the best for your future endeavors and thank you for everything you've done! LALS looks forward to collaborating with the 2023-2024 cabinet: President Adriana Piscoya, Vice President Megan Cavlov, Treasurer Wailly Lewis, Secretary Ariana Flores, Social Media Chair Liana Peralta, and First-Year Co-Chairs Zayury Ponce and Mia Sanguino.

Want to join the Spanish Cultural Society? You do not need to be a Spanish speaker or of Latin American descent to join. Sign up on RoyalSync!

Keep in Touch!



@UofS_LAXS



@UofS_LAXS



<https://www.scranton.edu/academics/cas/latin-amer-latinx-studies/index.shtml>

Or find us on campus in O'Hara 408 (we've moved)!