Latin American and Latinx Studies Program

Note from the Director

I am happy to present this newsletter on behalf of the newly renamed Latin American and Latinx Studies Program (LALSP) at Saint Joseph's University to highlight the exciting events and impressive accomplishments of LALSP students and faculty during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years.

The updating of the program name reflects the expansion of the scope and course offerings of the program to include topics related to American–born Latinos and Latinas in addition to the Latin American region. Dr. Elaine Shenk, Associate Professor of Spanish and Linguistics, explains Latinx in the adjacent column.

The LALSP Advisory Committee is proud to announce the establishment of the Kief, Bach, Beirne, Caulfield, Deal Award for Latin American Studies (Kief Fund). Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Richard Kief ’73, the new fund, named in honor of Mr. Kief’s enduring friendships with fellow Latin American Studies Program participants from the Class of 1973, financially supports SJU students to pursue academic study in the Latin American region. We extend our gratitude to Mr. Kief for endowing this fund and invite you to read the profiles of those who have been awarded the Kief Fund Award for Latin American Studies on p 2.

Finally, SJU students continue to benefit from the generosity of alumni and donors who contribute to the Charles F. Shreiner ’50 Fund for Latin American Studies, which provides monetary grants to students to support their travel to Latin America.

Richard N. Gioioso
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Why the Name Change?

by Dr. Elaine Shenk
Associate Professor of Spanish and Linguistics

You may have noticed the recent addition of Latinx to the name of our program. The interconnectedness of Latin America and the United States has been evident since long before the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, when the Mexico–U.S. border was moved south, leaving many Mexican citizens as residents of the United States. The ongoing interconnectedness of the regions along the Mexico–U.S. border, the vaivén of Puerto Rican migration between the Island and the United States, U.S. involvement in Central America and its impact on subsequent migration patterns, and much more have contributed to today’s vibrant U.S. Latinx population that also forms an integral part of Latin American Studies at Saint Joseph’s University.

As the program has increased its course offerings on relevant themes (e.g., Latin American–U.S. Migration; Sociology of Migration; Language Contact and Politics in the U.S.; Spanish in the Community service learning; Spanish as a Heritage Language), we are now deciding to highlight this dynamic reality in the name of our program. The Latin American and Latinx Studies Program (LALSP) seeks to make visible the inclusion of Latinx populations in the United States as part of the relevant field of study, as is done in many other programs around the country. The x in the name reflects both a growing linguistic practice of gender-inclusive language that extends well beyond our university, as well as the use of an analytical lens in the classroom that takes into account gender, race, and class as we analyze historical, political, social, linguistic, and cultural movements in Latin America and the United States.
CHARLES F. SHREINER '50
FUND FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Summer/Fall 2017 Awardees
Hailey Miller '18, Communication Studies & Becky Ward, '18, Sociology
Fair Trade in Ecuador

Spring 2018 Awardees
Elaine Estes '19, Education and Spanish
Indigenous Religions, Economic Globalization and Human Rights class and study tour in Bolivia in March 2018

Johanna Neece '19, Political Science
Semester at the Universidad Alberto Hurtado in Santiago, Chile

Fall 2018 Awardee
Paul Ammons '20, Sociology
Semester at the Universidad Alberto Hurtado in Santiago, Chile

Spring 2019 Awardees
Cassidy Kovisto '21, Political Science
Alyssa Matanin '20, Environmental Studies
Margarita Parker '20, Criminal Justice
From Co-op to Cup: Fair Trade Coffee class and study tour to Costa Rica in May 2019

KIEF, BACH, BEIRNE, CAULFIELD, DEAL
AWARD FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Fall 2018 Awardees:
Samuel Berman '19, Interdisciplinary Health Services
Samantha Knapp '19, Interdisciplinary Health Services
Just Health Care in Developing Nations class and study tour to Cuba in January 2019

Spring 2019 Awardees:
Julia Fox '20, Business Intelligence and Analytics
Emily Waystack '19, Interdisciplinary Health
Indigenous Religions, Economic Globalization & Human Rights study tour to Bolivia in March 2019

Thanks to the Charles F. Shreiner '50 Fund, we have established an ongoing cycle of scholarship awards to students participating in study abroad or study tours in Latin America. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients!
The Greater Philadelphia Latin American Studies Consortium (GPLASC) awarded two SJU LALSP students Travel Research Grants for Summer 2018! Congratulations to:

**2018 PAAP JANICE BOND AWARD WINNER**

Presented by The Pan American Association of Philadelphia (PAAP) at the annual Pan American Day luncheon in April, the 2018 winner of the Janice Bond Award is Julian Zuzarte '18, an International Relations major with minors in Spanish, LALSP, and Faith-Justice Studies.

(Julian, pictured left, with his plaque and below, with the group of fellow awardees.)

**LALSP FACULTY AWARDED 2018-2019 SABBATICALS**

Dr. Heather Hennes is currently on sabbatical preparing the English translation of Minou Tavárez Mirabal's book titled "Mañana te escribiré otra vez. Minera y Manolo. Cartas / I'll Write again Tomorrow: A Journey through the Correspondence of Minerva Mirabal and Manolo Tavárez." This book contains the personal correspondence between these two leaders of an underground resistance during the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, framed by the memoir of their daughter, Minou.

Dr. Warren is conducting research for a book on Sara Yorke Stevenson (1848–1921), an archaeologist, advocate for women’s suffrage, civic reformer, and international affairs activist. She spent the first two decades of her life in Second Empire Paris and then in Mexico City during the French Intervention, later settling in Philadelphia. Here she became a key member of a group of writers and scholars who helped shape modern university and intellectual life in the U.S. Dr. Warren's book will provide contemporary audiences with a compelling portrait of Stevenson and the dramatic events to which she contributed and bore witness.

**2018 GREATER PHILADELPHIA LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CONSORTIUM (GPLASC) STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS**

The Greater Philadelphia Latin American Studies Consortium (GPLASC) awarded two SJU LALSP students Travel Research Grants for Summer 2018! Congratulations to:

Elaine Estes '19, Education and Spanish

"Exploring Educational Experiences and Practices in Cuba"

Jason D'Antonio '19, Political Science

"Use of Public Space and Transportation in Havana"

Elaine and Jason successfully completed their travel in July and August 2018, respectively, and will be presenting their summer research at the GPLASC Student Conference in April 2019, hosted and co-sponsored by Bryn Mawr College.

(Photos taken during their time in Cuba!)
**MEXICAN CONSUL AT SJU**

The Charles F. Shreiner ‘50 Fund for Latin American Studies 2017 Lecture was given by the Consul of Mexico, Alicia Kerber, on November 11, 2017.

The Consul addressed bilateral challenges and opportunities in Mexico–U.S. relations, with a focus on trade and immigration.

This event was co-sponsored by Latin American and Latinx Studies, the Office of Inclusion and Diversity, SJU Alumni Relations, and the Pan American Association of Philadelphia.

(Pictured from left to right: Mr. Charles Shreiner; Mexican Consul Alicia Kerber.)

(Pictured bottom right: Mr. Richard Kief ’73, Provost Jeanne Brady, Dr. Richard Gioioso ’98, Mr. Charles Shreiner ’50, Mr. Jim Beirne ’73, Mr. John Caulfield ’73, Dean Shaily Menon, Mr. Carl Bach, Mexican Consul Alicia Kerber.)

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**FAIR TRADE IN ECUADOR AND NICARAGUA**

**OCTOBER 19, 2017**

The Latin American and Latinx Studies Program, the Department of Sociology and SJU Fair Trade Initiative co-sponsored a presentation on the educational travel to Nicaragua and Ecuador to learn about fair trade. Both presenters were awarded a Shreiner Travel Award in support of their study in Ecuador.

Congrats and thanks for sharing your experiences with the SJU community: Hailey Miller ’18, Communication Studies & Becky Ward ’18, Sociology

A key point of discussion was strengthening advocacy at SJU to remain a Fair Trade Certified University.

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**MEXICAN CONSULATE’S EDUCATION WEEK**

May 12, 2018

SJU Admissions represented the university at the Mexican Consulate of Philadelphia's Semana De Educación and engaged with community members to strengthen our multifaceted relationship with the Consulate and Mexican community in the Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey area.

SJU recruiters provided educational information and guidance about Saint Joseph's various programs of interest to members of the Mexican and Hispanic community, especially to young adults.
Three Latin American Studies minors attended the event with Dr. Elaine Shenk, Associate Professor of Spanish and Linguistics.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Edwin Meléndez, Professor of Urban Affairs at Hunter College and Director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at CUNY, addressed various pressing issues in Puerto Rico and for Puerto Ricans on and off the island, including post-Hurricane Maria recovery efforts.

(Pictured from right to left: Claudia Fuentes ’18, Francisco López-Font ’18, Mayra Herrero)

Community Organizing and Keys to Resistance in Pre- and Post-Olympic Rio de Janeiro

April 12, 2018
Dr. Theresa Williamson

Dr. Williamson is founder and executive director of Catalytic Communities (CatComm), an empowerment, communications, think tank, and advocacy NGO working since 2000 in support of Rio’s favelas. Theresa is an outspoken, respected advocate for the recognition of favelas’ heritage status and their residents’ right to be fully served as equal citizens.
**INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM**
March 9, 2018

Latin American Studies alumna, Gabby Rosazza '16 (International Relations), has been working in defense of labor rights, with a focus on Latin America, since graduation. In early 2018, Gabby participated on a panel hosted by the Solidarity Center and the International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) to discuss a case of labor rights violations by the Guatemalan government. Other panelists included Lance Compa (Cornell University) and Brian Finnegan (AFL–CIO).

To see more of Gabby's work in support of workers rights in Honduras in the news outlet, 'In These Times,' click here.

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**LALSP & CAMPUS MINISTRY COLLABORATION**

In Fall 2017, LALSP faculty met with student participants in the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, who traveled to Washington, DC to hear keynote speakers, attend breakout sessions, and do advocacy on Capitol Hill around immigration reform, racism and mass incarceration.

In Fall 2018, LALSP faculty also met with 60 students in preparation for Campus Ministry’s Winter Immersion Programs to Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, El Paso, and Los Angeles – to discuss Latin American immigration to the U.S.

LALSP is happy to foster greater synergy between Campus Ministry on Latin American and Latinx issues.

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**THE LATIN AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION SOCIETY - 6TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN PHILADELPHIA**
March 30–31, 2018

Elaine Estes '19, attended the symposium, whose theme of Schooling in Latin America: Reproduction, Resistance, Revolution, combined her interests in and passion for Secondary Education, Spanish and Latin American Studies. The Symposium brought together diverse groups of people from across the Americas to cultivate communities of inquiry made up of scholars, activists, K–12 teachers, and university students. The event consisted of presentations, dialogue, and debate.

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**CIVIL SOCIETY IN CUBA: TRANSITION WITHOUT CHANGE?**
December 5, 2018

The LALSP and Department of Modern and Classical Languages hosted Dr. Nelson Cárdenas from the University of Texas in El Paso to speak on the political transition in Cuba exploring the recent economic and social changes.

**FAMILY SEPARATION AT THE BORDER**
October 1, 2018

40 students attended a panel hosted by LALSP, Campus Ministry, the Department of Sociology, and the Department of Theology and Religious Studies on family separation at the U.S.–Mexico border. Led by Kimberly Quintero of the Aquinas Center in South Philadelphia, Dr. James O'Sullivan from Theology and Religious Studies, and Dr. Susan Clampet-Lundquist from Sociology, main points included the consequences of family separation policy and possible advocacy steps that can be taken.
**COURSE OFFERINGS**

**SPRING 2019**
- Art of Colonial Latin America
- International Trade
- Latino/a Literature in the U.S.
- Introduction to International Business
- Indigenous Religions, Economic Globalization, and Human Rights in Bolivia with study tour
- South American Religious Traditions
- Fair Trade and 2019 study tour to Costa Rica
- Intermediate Spanish II
- Spanish Conversation
- Spanish Composition
- Intro to Latin American Cultures
- Language Contact and Politics in U.S.

**SPRING 2018**
- International Trade
- Iconic Women of Latin America (first year seminar)
- Intermediate Spanish II
- Spanish Conversation
- Spanish Composition
- Visions of the Natural World in Latin America
- Documents of Slavery in Hispanic Caribbean Literature and Film
- Indigenous Religions, Economic Globalization, and Human Rights in Bolivia with study tour

**FALL 2018**
- International Trade
- Latin American Economies
- Philosophy of Liberation
- South American Religious Traditions
- Sociology of Migration
- Intermediate Spanish II
- Spanish Conversation
- Spanish Conversation for Heritage Speakers
- Latin American Cinema: History and Politics
- Spanish in the Community (Service Learning)
- Just Health Care in Developing Nations with January 2019 study tour to Cuba

**FALL 2017**
- International Macroeconomics
- Latin American-U.S. Migration (Service Learning)
- Iconic Women of Latin America
- Philosophy and Liberation (Service Learning)
- Global Political Economy
- Intermediate Spanish II, Spanish Conversation, Spanish Composition, Spanish for Heritage Speakers
- Current Events in the Spanish-Language Media: Latin America
- Culture, Dictatorship, and Exile in the Southern Cone, 1973–85
- Spanish in the Community
- Health Care in Developing Nations with study tour to Nicaragua in January 2018

LALSP Advisory Board members are always working to increase course offerings. New courses from English, Sociology, Education, and Marketing have been added recently!
LALSP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Director:** Dr. Richard Gioioso, Assistant Professor of Political Science

- **Dr. Keith Brown,** Associate Professor of Sociology

- **Fr. Peter Clark,** Professor of Medical Ethics and Director of Institute of Clinical Bioethics

- **Dr. Heather Hennes,** Associate Professor of Spanish

- **Fr. Daniel Joyce,** Executive Director of Mission Programs

- **Dr. John Neiva,** Professor of Management

- **Dr. Konstantinos Nikoloutsos,** Associate Professor of Classics

- **Dr. Cristian Pardo,** Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Economics

- **Dr. Elaine Shenk,** Associate Professor of Spanish and Linguistics

- **Dr. Enrique Téllez-Espiga,** Assistant Professor of Spanish

- **Dr. Richard Warren,** Professor of History

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FACULTY NEWS

Two SJU faculty members – Dr. Rich Warren, Professor of History, and Dr. Rubén Mendoza, Assistant Professor of Decision & System Sciences – participated in the Veterans National Education Program's Global Awareness Map as experts.

To see Dr. Warren’s work on Mexico, click [here](#).
To see Dr. Mendoza’s work on El Salvador, click [here](#).

Dr. Heather Hennes, Associate Professor of Spanish, published an article in *alter/nativas* Spring 2018, “Manuela Vuelve”: la amable loca as Foundational Myth in Venezuela.

To hear “Adiós to Castro, Hola to Change,” the sixth episode of “Good to Know: the Saint Joseph’s University Experts Podcast,” click [here](#).

To hear ‘Cuba Transition: What to Expect from a Post-Castro Cuba,’ on Knowledge@Wharton, click [here](#).

To see his interview on Bloomberg’s 'What Did You Miss?,' click [here](#).

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ACADEMIC YEAR INFO

**2017–2018**
- 21 declared minors
- 2018 Graduated Seniors with LAS Minor:
  - Claudia Fuentes – major: Intl Relations
  - Sarah Graziano – Intl Relations/Spanish
  - Francisco Lopez-Font – major: History

Honorable Mention for Sullivan Award
- John McGrath – major: Intl Relations
- Julian Zuzarte – major: Intl Relations

2018 winner of the Sullivan Award
- Spencer Mateikis – major: Intl Business

**2018–2019**
- 16 declared minors
- 9 Graduates in May 2019