Greetings from the Director:

“In a Good Place”

I’ve been thinking a lot recently about place. To me, place has always been important. I still associate family with Tidewater Virginia and the North Carolina Piedmont. In my research as a dialectologist, I consider the critical nature of place for shaping the way we talk. And indeed, place is what brings us all together as affiliates of our Center: Latin America is central to our scholarship and to our teaching.

But now we miss our places. The coronavirus pandemic has consigned us all to our kitchen tables and to a Zoom-enabled corner of cyberspace, and we long for the places that give our lives and our work special meaning. In our exile, we miss even the lecture halls and seminar rooms of our past lives, so of course we also miss the dynamic cities, the far-flung villages, and the tropical glaciers and rain forests of our cherished Latin America.

Curiously, CLAS is no less a place now than before the stay-at-home order was issued in March, given that our staff didn’t share an office to begin with. Our place is one that we all construct together: affiliated faculty and students from all (continued on next page) across the
university who are engaged with Latin American peoples, cultures, languages, organisms, landscapes, nations, systems, and environments.

I am particularly disappointed to be missing out on campus interactions because this was my last year at Ohio State. After 36 years in this very special place, I’ll be retiring on June 30. But as in the case of those students who have graduated in these strange times, my good-byes have had to be virtual or, as in this case, in writing. I will therefore use this platform to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made these five years of my directorship so rewarding—most importantly CLAS Assistant Director Megan Hasting—even as I urge you to engage enthusiastically with the Center this summer and as a new Director assumes that position in the fall.

Indeed, we offer quite a bit to engage with. This report hits the highlights of the 2019-2020 academic year, which include everything from major events to individual faculty research projects, and from K-12 workshops to the honors bestowed upon our affiliates. Such a wide range of activities is made possible by National Resource Center funding, which has allowed us to welcome Fiscal and Program Associate Juan Abel, Outreach Coordinator Patti Vocal, and Student Assistant Syd Velotta to our staff.

Even during the moratorium on education abroad and in-person events here at home, CLAS keeps you connected to all things Latin America. In this report, you can read about our weekly virtual coffee hours, our Global Teacher Seminar, and our graduate and undergraduate students whose FLAS fellowships pay them to study Quechua and Portuguese online this summer. Virtual programming has allowed us to expand our reach in ways unforeseen even four months ago, as partners from throughout the world are able to join us in our corner of cyberspace. Look for such opportunities to continue through the fall, regardless of whether in-person events return to campus.

The coming year is our third in the four-year Title VI funding cycle. In spite of the fiscal hardship expected to characterize state and local governments over the next year, CLAS is poised to sponsor a wide array of research, teaching, and outreach projects, including faculty travel, innovative language instruction, K-12 collaborations, and partnerships with minority-serving institutions.

Though CLAS is not a place at all, it is in a very good place. It’s where I hope you’ll join our colleagues as the Center continues to facilitate research, teaching, and outreach about the Place that means so much to all of us.

Director, Center for Latin American Studies
Professor of Hispanic Linguistics
Center News

CLAS Director, Terrell Morgan, retires

Dr. Morgan’s impact and leadership during transition

After nearly five years leading the Center for Latin American Studies (September 2015 - June 2020), Dr. Terrell Morgan is stepping down from the director position and retiring from Ohio State.

Dr. Morgan’s unrelenting optimism and dedication to the Center has ushered in a new era of enthusiasm for Latin American Studies on campus and stronger ties with the community through a renewed focus on service and outreach. Under his leadership, Dr. Morgan was successful in securing over $2 million in external funding, including the competitive Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies funding for 2018-2022. This funding supports student fellowships, strengthens less commonly taught language instruction, promotes knowledge and expertise about Latin America through academic programming, enhances K12 outreach and teacher training, develops sustainable collaborations with minority serving institutions and community colleges, and creates experts that meet national needs.

Promoting less commonly-taught languages and supporting K12 educators were two main priorities for Dr. Morgan. Since 2015, CLAS supported Quechua language instruction not only at Ohio State, but it also created pathways for this instruction to be shared with Oberlin University, Indiana University, Purdue University, and starting this autumn, Penn State University. Dr. Morgan also supported the Portuguese Language Program, by creating an undergraduate study abroad program in Curitiba, Brazil, providing funds to seed a new Portuguese Language Program Coordinator position in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and establishing the Intensive Portuguese Abroad for Spanish Teachers program (postponed until 2021). As founder and director of Ohio State’s annual Summer Seminars Abroad for Spanish Teachers (SSAST), he has taken 29 groups of K12 teachers to the Spanish-speaking world since 1991, to introduce educators to both Hispanic linguistics and less-commonly taught languages in immersion contexts. This program has impacted 581 educators from across the United States.

A hallmark of Dr. Morgan’s tenure as CLAS Director will be the emphasis he placed on bridge-building and strengthening collaborative partnerships. He increased the number of faculty affiliated with CLAS, enhanced collaboration with departments and interdisciplinary units on campus, and utilized his connections with student alumni to create new partnerships with community colleges, minority-serving institutions, and universities across the region. During his 36-year career, Dr. Morgan has made indelible contributions to his home department of Spanish and Portuguese, as well, where he built curricular offerings, held multiple leadership positions, expanded education abroad opportunities, and served as a role model and mentor to countless faculty and student colleagues over the years.

Dr. Morgan’s dedication, mentorship, and guidance has been critical to CLAS success, and he will be dearly missed by his faculty, staff, and student colleagues. On behalf of CLAS, please join us in congratulating Dr. Morgan on his retirement and thanking him for his years of commitment to Latin American Studies.
Dr. Fernando Unzueta Appointed Associate Vice Provost

The Office of International Affairs at The Ohio State University has named Fernando Unzueta, professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, as associate vice provost for global strategies and international affairs. His appointment began on September 3, 2019.

Unzueta has a long-standing relationship with the Office of International Affairs, having led an education abroad program to Bolivia for many years, as well as serving as the director of the Center for Latin American Studies from 2002 – 2006. He also was chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese from 2004 – 2013, and is currently a faculty affiliate of the Center for Latin American Studies.

Unzueta joins Gil Latz, vice provost for global strategies and international affairs, in overseeing administrative and academic units that fall under the umbrella of the Office of International Affairs, including education abroad, international student and scholar services, area studies centers, the global gateway offices, the Global One Health initiative and international partnerships. Unzueta also works closely with the vice provost in the formulation and implementation of global strategies for the university and represents OIA in a variety of activities both on and off campus.

“As the Office of International Affairs works with the Office of Academic Affairs on a university-wide effort to broaden Ohio State’s global footprint, Professor Unzueta brings a unique understanding of the university and a deep commitment to international scholarship, teaching and service,” said Dr. Latz. “I am delighted he has agreed to accept a leadership appointment with OIA that will allow him to share a wealth of administrative experience and international academic expertise.”

Unzueta’s academic and research expertise is in literature and history in the Spanish American narrative, national identities and subject formations and 19th century Latin American literature and cultures. He has published on a wide range of topics, including colonial and post-colonial subjects, the relations between literature and history, the discursive production of national identities and early newspapers. He holds a PhD in Spanish from the University of Texas at Austin, a master’s in Spanish from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a bachelor’s in industrial engineering from SUNY at Buffalo.

Michele Saraiva Carilo hired as Coordinator of the Portuguese Language Program

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese hired Michele Saraiva Carilo as the Coordinator of the Portuguese Language Program, a new position partially supported by CLAS NRC funds. Her interests include Applied Linguistics, Portuguese as a Heritage/Foreign/Additional Language, Celpe-Bras, Language Assessment, and Critical Pedagogy. Dr. Carilo has published several articles on Celpe-Bras, language assessment, strategies for curriculum development and syllabus design, and pedagogical perspectives for teaching and learning Portuguese as a Foreign Language (PFL) contexts. Before joining the Ohio State University in 2019, Dr. Carilo developed a 12-month specialization course for PFL teachers at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul in southern Brazil.
New CLAS Staff Hires

Patricia Vocal hired as Outreach Coordinator

Patricia Vocal was hired as the Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Latin American Studies in November of 2019. In her role, she designs outreach activities that increase the knowledge and understanding of Latin America on campus and in the community. She assists with event planning, oversees outreach program development, and facilitates linkages with external stakeholders, local educators, and other organizations.

Patricia earned her B.A. in English and Psychology, with minors in Spanish and Community Service Studies from DePaul University. She earned her M.Ed. in Foreign Language Education (Spanish) through the ASPIRE Program at The Ohio State University. She taught Spanish for several years in Columbus, Ohio. She is pursuing her PhD in Education (Literature for Children and Young Adults), focusing on Latinidad, identity and mental health. While born in California, she considers herself a Chicago native. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, weightlifting, running and spending time with family and friends.

Juan Abel hired as Fiscal and Program Associate

Juan Abel was hired as the Fiscal and Program Associate for the Center for Latin American Studies in September of 2019. In his role, he provides fiscal and programming support to the Center. Juan processes and reimburses travel for CLAS affiliates, assists with event planning, and contributes to Center grant management activities.

Juan earned his B.A. in International Studies with a specialization in World Economy and Business from The Ohio State University. As a student, Juan was active in The Office of Student Life, Recreational Sports Program, the Global Leadership Initiative, and the Latino Student Association. Before joining the Center for Latin American Studies, Juan coordinated the fiscal and administrative activities for the Office of Diversity, Outreach & Inclusion at The Ohio State University College of Engineering.

A New York City native, Juan has lived and studied in both the United States and the Dominican Republic, where his parents were born. In his spare time Juan enjoys reading, writing, cross training, yoga, and spending time with family and friends.

““To date, my favorite things about working for CLAS have been the Quechua Alliance conference and the Tinker Talks. These events required months of planning, coordination, and collaboration across several different units. Participating in them gave me a much clearer understanding and appreciation for what we do, and why we do it.””

- Juan Abel
Academic Programming

Review of 2019-2020 programs
26 lectures, conferences, and events offered to the campus community, reaching over 1,100 community members

- **LECTURE**: “Feminism for the Americas: The Making of an International Human Rights Movement” by Dr. Katherine Marino, University of California, September 19, 2019

- **SPECIAL EVENT**: Latin American Music Celebration: “De aquí y de allá: A Kaleidoscope of Latin American Music” hosted by the Dept. of Music at The Ohio State University, September 24, 2019

- **SPECIAL EVENT**: Latin American Music Celebration: “Guest Artist Recital” by Fabio Mazzitelli and Omar Cyrulnik, National University for the Arts, September 26 & 28, 2019

- **LECTURE**: Global Comics Lecture Series: “Towards a New, Transamerican Artivism: Triangulating Narrative Strategies of Resistance in Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer” by Dr. Brittany Tullis, St. Ambrose University, September 26, 2019

- **SPECIAL EVENT**: Latin American Music Celebration: “Matre io de los Primores”, Women’s Glee Club, The Ohio State University, September 29, 2019

- **EXHIBITION**: Indigenous People’s Day celebration, with Pop-Up Traveling Exhibit “The Hidden Life of Things: Andean and Amazonian Cultural Artifacts and the Stories They Tell”, The Ohio State University, October 12, 2019

- **SPECIAL EVENT**: Día de los Muertos, The Ohio State University, October 19, 2019

- **LECTURE**: “Ambiguities of the Landlord State in Argentina” by Charles Dolph, City University of New York and CLAS Visiting Scholar, October 21, 2019

- **LECTURE**: “History and Personal Experience as Sources of Narrative Journalism: Why and How I Returned to the Falkland/Malvinas Battlefields 25 Years Later” by Dr. Roberto Herrscher, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, November 1, 2019

- **SPECIAL EVENT**: Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Celebration, The Ohio State University, November 7, 2020

- **FILM SCREENING**: “Ukamau y ké” by Andrés Ramírez, November 15, 2019

- **LECTURE**: “The weight of ‘native-ness’ and unspoken Whiteness: Lessons from race talk with White-identified Spanish professors” by Dr. Adam Schwartz, Oregon State University, February 7, 2020

- **SPECIAL EVENT**: Dr. Subhendu Ghosh Visit, University of Delhi, February 13-14, 2020

- **LECTURE**: “Discussion on U.S.-Mexico Trade Relations” by Dr. Carlos Arévalo, Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey, February 20, 2020

- **TINKER TALK**: Lindsey Hernandez, Luana Lamberti, and Lucia Benetti, The Ohio State University, February 27, 2020

- **CONFERENCE**: Ohio Latin Americanist Conference, Ohio University, February 28-29, 2020

- **FILM SCREENING**: “The Bridgemaster’s Daughter” by Elisa Stone and Matthew Leahy, March 4, 2020

- **TINKER TALK**: Jack McCoy, Forrest Schoessow, Shane Scaggs, and James Leow, The Ohio State University, March 04, 2020
Featured Academic Programming

¡Día de los Muertos!

On Saturday, October 19, 2019, the Ohio State community gathered to celebrate the fourth annual Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead Celebration. Students, faculty and staff, and the community came together to celebrate the holiday, participating in music, face painting, Junior’s tacos, and a screening of “The Book of Life” at Gateway Film Center.

From there, a procession led participants to Sullivant Hall, where more activities took place. Dance Brazil and Suzan Bradford Kounta, artistic director of the Thiossane Institute, collaborated to demonstrate dance migrations of the African diaspora within the Americas in their performance entitled, “How Movement Moves: Dancing Across Borders, from West Africa to the Americas”. To close the afternoon, the Department of Spanish & Portuguese held a reception with a colorful altar, and exhibit showcase, “Comics Past, Present and Future”. The Día de los Muertos celebration is made possible through the support of several campus units and departments. Visit https://u.osu.edu/diadelosmuertos/ for more information.

K’acha Willaykuna Artist in Residence

Sebastián Calfuqueo Aliste’s residency was hosted by the K’acha Willaykuna Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Arts and Humanities Collaboration, an interdisciplinary Global Arts + Humanities Discovery Theme initiative.

Sebastián Calfuqueo Aliste is a contemporary Chilean artist of Mapuche origin who creates ceramics, installations, performances and video art to reflect critically on the Mapuche subject’s social, cultural and political status. Calfuqueo’s art explores cultural similarities and differences, as well as stereotypes produced at the intersection of indigenous and western ways of thinking. Sebastián Calfuqueo participated in a week of workshops, performances, reflections, project support and exploration.

These events were co-sponsored by the Global Arts and Humanities Discovery Theme, Center for Latin American Studies, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Spanish and Portuguese Colloquium Series, Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design, and Livable Futures Project.

The K’acha Willaykuna Andean & Amazonian Indigenous Arts & Humanities Collaboration is partially supported by the CLAS Whitten Fund, which supports the Andean & Amazonian Studies Cultural Artifact Collection. To learn more, visit: https://u.osu.edu/aaac/.
Ohio State hosts the 4th annual Quechua Alliance Community Event

The Ohio State University hosted the 5th annual Quechua Alliance Community Event, which aims to celebrate the relevance and vitality of Quechua in a context of increasing interest in Indigenous languages and cultures of the Americas. Founded by Américo Mendoza-Mori (University of Pennsylvania), Carlos Molina-Vital (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Gladys Camacho-Rios (University of Texas at Austin), the alliance is a gathering open to anyone in the country to celebrate Quechua. Ohio State was selected as the host institution for this year’s event due to the vibrancy of indigenous languages and cultures of Latin America, and its growing Quechua Language Program.

The one-day gathering included cultural activities, lectures, games, dialogues, as well as two keynote addresses by Diego Tituña (Maurice R. Greenberg Fellow at Yale University) and Devin Grammon (Assistant Professor of Spanish Sociolinguistics at the University of Oregon). This year, Luis Morató Peña, former Quechua instructor at Ohio State and Quechua language educator, was honored with the 2019 Quechua Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more information about the Quechua Alliance event, visit: http://thequechua.org.

“Throughout its years of existence, the Quechua Alliance has become a valuable resource to strengthen an active community of Quechua speakers, learners and enthusiasts in the United States. By hosting the Quechua Alliance’s 5th edition, Ohio State University reaffirms its mission as a leading institution for Andean Studies, and celebrates the relevance of Indigenous peoples and cultures.”

– Américo Mendoza-Mori

Luis Morató Peña, former Quechua instructor at Ohio State and Quechua language educator, was awarded the 2019 Quechua Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Quechua Alliance Community Event on November 16, 2019.

Luis is a native Quechua speaker from Cochabamba, Bolivia. He studied Law, Linguistics, and Journalism at the University of San Simón, and was the first Bolivian to broadcast Quechua programs at radio stations in Cochabamba. He founded the Colegio Mariscal Santa Cruz and the “Instituto de Idiomas Tawantinsuyu”, which taught Bolivian and Peruvian Quechua, Aymara and Spanish. For five decades, Morató Peña dedicated his time to the research and teaching of Quechua and Spanish.

He was a professor of Quechua and Andean Culture at the Universidad Mayor de San Simón, Maryknoll Language Program, French Alliance, Centro Pedagógico Portales, the South Andean Pastoral Institute (Cuzco, Peru), Consulate of the United States, and others. The Radialists of Oruro, as a tribute to his research and teaching of Quechua, awarded him the “Medal of Merit” for outstanding work as a Bolivian speaker of Quechua. In 1982, the municipality of Cochabamba declared him a “Meritorious Citizen” for these efforts as well. He has also taught in this country at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Chicago, the University of Texas at Austin, and Cornell University. He retired from teaching Spanish and Quechua at The Ohio State University in Columbus in 2016.
Outreach Programming
Review of 2019-2020 programs

18 programs impacted over 850 teachers, business leaders, students, and community members

♦ SIGNATURE PROGRAM: Global Teacher Seminar, “Global Environmental Issues: The Problems, Solutions and Potential Outcomes” led by Dr. Roger Williams, June 3-7, 2019 at Ohio State

♦ FILM SHOWING: Summer Linguistics Institute for Youth Scholars, “Nosotros Los Nobles”, July 9, 2019

♦ COMMUNITY EVENT: Festival Latino, August 10 - 11, 2019

♦ K12 OUTREACH: “Introduction to Argentinian Music” by Fabio Mazzitelli and Omar Cyrulnik; September 24, 2019

♦ SIGNATURE PROGRAM: 2019 Americas Award Workshop and Ceremony, Washington, D.C., September 27, 2019

♦ SPECIAL EVENT: Latin American Music Celebration: “Wind Symphony at Upper Arlington High School”, Wind Symphony, The Ohio State University, October 3, 2019

♦ K12 OUTREACH: Kecoughtan High School, Virginia Hispanic Linguistics Presentation by Dr. Terrell Morgan, October 18, 2019

♦ K12 TEACHER TRAINING: Columbus City School District World Language Professional Development Day, November 5, 2019

♦ K12 OUTREACH: International Week, Emerson Elementary School, Columbus, Ohio, November 19, 2019

♦ K12 OUTREACH: Quechua in the K12 Classroom, Centennial High School, Columbus, Ohio, November 13, 2019

♦ K12 TEACHER TRAINING: World Language Professional Development Day, Unioto High School, Chillicothe, Ohio, November 15, 2019

♦ K12 OUTREACH: Introduction to Latin America, Granville High School, Granville, Ohio, November 16, 2019

♦ K12 TEACHER TRAINING: Latin America in the K12 Classroom, The Ohio State University, January 23, 2020

♦ K12 OUTREACH: Portuguese in the K12 Classroom, Hilliard Davidson High School, February 4, 2020

♦ K12 CONFERENCE: ONE Community Conference, Olentangy High School, February 8, 2020

♦ SIGNATURE PROGRAM: K12 Global Fellowship Program: “Water Governance in Latin America and the Perils of Weak Environmental Institutions” by Dr. Ramiro Berardo, Ohio State, February 15, 2020

♦ SIGNATURE PROGRAM: Columbus Council on World Affairs, “Climate Change and the Future of the Amazon” by Dr. Daniel Nepstad, March 10, 2020

♦ K12 OUTREACH: “Service and Fair Trade to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America” by Connie De Jong Granville High School Virtual Visit, March 11, 2020

In January 2020, Elvia Andia Grágeda presented a Quechua language lesson for Spanish students at Centennial High School. Students interacted with instruments, practiced creating sentences in Quechua and learned about Andean culture. In attendance were 18 students and two educators.
Featured Outreach Programming

30 years of Summer Seminars Abroad for Spanish Teachers

The Summer Seminars Abroad for Spanish Teachers (SSAST) program is designed to provide K12 educators and teachers of Spanish with an opportunity to analyze and practice the Spanish language in a natural linguistic and cultural context. SSAST has been offered annually since 1991, moving to a new site every two years as a way of presenting as many faces as possible of the Spanish-speaking world to educators.

Dr. Terrell Morgan, Professor of Hispanic Linguistics and CLAS Director, has served as the lead instructor since it was first launched. Most recently, SSAST was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, where it was hosted by Academic Uruguay in Ciudad Vieja. SSAST will reconvene in Montevideo in July 2021. The program is a cornerstone of CLAS’ outreach efforts to K12 educators across the United States.

Climate Change has been one of the most, if not the most, talked about global issues in the last year. In response to the 2019 Amazon rainforest fires, the Center for Latin American Studies partnered with the Columbus Council on World Affairs (CCWA) to host a Signature Luncheon, titled “Climate Change and the Future of the Amazon”. The event featured Dr. Daniel Nepstad, President and Founder of Earth Innovation Institute.

Dr. Nepstad has worked in the Brazilian Amazon for more than 30 years. He co-founded the Amazon Environmental Research institute and has been published in more than 160 papers and books on the ecological processes, frontier dynamics and public policies that are shaping the Amazon region. Dr. Nepstad holds a PhD in Forest Ecology from Yale University.

This event brought critical information about the relevance of climate change and the economic complexity of environmental conservation to over 80 Central Ohio business professionals, community leaders, and Columbus public in attendance.
Responding to COVID-19 through virtual programming

In the weeks following the initial stay-at-home order in March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all CLAS events and programs were canceled or modified for a virtual environment. CLAS faculty affiliate, Jeff Cohen (Professor of Anthropology), reached out to Center staff with the idea to host a weekly conversation hour that would encourage faculty engagement and socialization during the crisis. After the first two sessions, it was clear that there was a real demand from our faculty, staff, and student stakeholders for content and conversation.

The series, Virtual Coffee Hours, is designed to continue offering ways to network and engage with CLAS affiliates on topics and themes related to Latin America. These virtual discussions take place on Zoom every Thursday from 1:30 - 2:30 PM. CLAS plans to continue these events throughout the summer. Topics and themes vary, and affiliates are encouraged to suggest new themes and/or lead future discussions based on your own personal or professional interests. Previous topics have included:

- 4/16: COVID-19 and its Impact on Latin America
- 4/23: Academic Adjustments to Teaching From Home
- 5/7: COVID-19 Impact on Indigenous Communities in the Americas, Part II

Summer sessions include “Portrayals of Andean & Amazonian Indigeneity in Children’s Film”, “Byrd Polar Research Center in Latin America”, Quechua language mini-lessons, cooking demonstrations, and more! Contact clas@osu.edu for more information.

Faculty News

Review of Faculty updates from 2019-2020

CLAS has 131 faculty affiliates, representing 15 colleges/schools and 46 departments across campus

Elvia Andia Grágeda (Quechua Instructor, Spanish and Portuguese) was awarded the Premio Nacional de Literatura of Bolivia in the category of Lengua Originaria. The selection of recipients of the Premio Nacional de Literatura is undertaken by a panel of literary personalities and specialists in Bolivia and constitutes the most important recognition of literary work in the country. The category of Lengua Originaria was established in 2011 in order to promote the written and oral traditions of the indigenous and Afrobolivian populations of a plurinational Bolivia. Andia wrote her work, Pirqakunawan parlaspa ‘Speaking with the walls’.

Anna Babel (Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese) was awarded a Global Arts and Humanities Discovery Theme grant (with co-PIs Laura Wagner, Psychology; Leslie Moore, Teaching & Learning; and Kathryn Campbell-Kibler, Linguistics) to increase Spanish-language outreach activities with the Language Pod team at COSI, in concert with an American Museum of Natural History-sponsored exhibit on Cuba. The project is currently being modified to include digital outreach opportunities. Babel also published “Perceiving isn’t believing: Divergence in levels of sociolinguistic awareness” in Language in Society with Kevin McGowan.

Isis Barra Costa (Assistant Professor, Spanish and Portuguese) published “Other Forests: The Afro-Brazilian Literary Archive” in #BlackWritingMatters: Literary Interventions in the Afro-Américas (1959-Present), edited by Jennifer Carolina Gómez Menjívar. She also published, “Prefácio” in Comunicação, educação e a construção do conhecimento, edited by Catalina Mier, Andrea Versuti and Jamie Santinello, and “Por um arquivo literário afro-brasileiro: uma introdução à obra de Edimilson de Almeida Pereira” in Brasiliana: Journal for Brazilian Studies.
Rachel Bowen (Associate Professor, Political Science) received a grant from the Gerda Henkel Foundation to support fieldwork in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Panama. The research includes interviews with women survivors of violence about their social (NGO/ civil society), legal (e.g., filing complaints), and political participation. Bowen also received a Faculty Grant from the Mershon Center for International Security Studies to support research on “The Effects of Legal and Social Supports for Women Victims of Crime in Central America.

Rebecca Campos-Astorkiza (Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese) published “Laboratory phonology methods in Spanish phonology” in the Handbook of Spanish Phonology edited by Sonia Colina and Fernando Martínez-Gil. She also received Ohio State’s 2020 Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award.

Jeff Cohen (Professor, Anthropology) received a National Science Foundation grant for his research project, titled “Household Producer Effects of Rural Diet Transformation”. This project investigates how chapulineras (women who produce and sell toasted grasshoppers in Oaxaca, Mexico) are adapting to the changing market for their product.

Lúcia Costigan (Professor, Spanish and Portuguese) was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Mexico, where she will be researching “The Transformation of Portuguese New Christians into Heretics during the Union of the Spanish and Portuguese Crowns: 1580-1640” at the Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Biblioteca Franciscana and Biblioteca Palafoxiana. This award will expand her research on self and collective ethnic and religious identity among those who migrated from the from the Iberian Peninsula to the New World in search of a better life or to avoid religious discrimination in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Simone Drake (Professor and Department Chair, African American and African Studies) was named the 2020 Recipient of the Larry M. Lewellen Award for Distinguished Service. The award is given annually to a student, faculty or staff member who has rendered exceptional service to graduate students. Dr. Drake was also honored as the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Visiting Senior Fellow for the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art for Summer of 2020. In September 2019, Dr. Drake organized a successful, “This is Us: African American and African Studies at 50 Years” academic conference.

Alcira Dueñas (Associate Professor, History) was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Bolivia, where she spent six months researching “Legal Culture and Translation in the Colonial Pueblos de Indios”.

David Hedgecoth (Assistant Professor, Music) was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Brazil, where he will be researching “Sounds of Bahia: The People of Neojiba” at Instituto Clara Ramos, an educational organization specializing in cultural exchange between the United States and Brazil. The research will narrate the human elements of the organization and collected data will inform education advocates in the U.S. and Brazil about new types of outreach, curriculum and pedagogical practices.

Glenn Martinez (Director, Center for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) was awarded a seed grant from the Office of Research dedicated to COVID-19-related research for his project “Social vulnerability, sociolinguistic environment, and access to COVID-19 information among Spanish-speakers in Columbus, Ohio.” He also received an Engagement Impact Grant from the Office of Outreach and Engagement to collect pilot data on the impact of “The Heritage Language Health Professions Corps,” a collaboration with the South-Western City School District (in Columbus), the Wexner Medical Center, LASER, and Ohio Health.

Kendra McSweeney (Professor, Geography) was awarded the Distinguished Career Award by the Cultural and Political Ecology (CAPE) Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers. She was recognized for her breadth of scholarship and inspiring intellectual agility. A rare three-degree geographer, she has published on ethnobotany, forest dependency, demography, post-hurricane coping strategies, biodiversity conservation, topographic maps, urbanization of indigenous populations, rural households’ livelihoods, plantation agriculture among smallholders, forest recovery, climate disaster and opportunity, health surveys, economic geography
for land change science, fertility and power in indigenous health, conditional cash transfers, the illicit geography of cocaine, sexual harassment in academia, neocolonialism in corporate social responsibility, drivers of land-climate dynamics, and the military agro-industrial complex.

Geoffrey Parker (Professor, History) published Emperor: a new life of Charles V (Yale University Press), which has also been published in Spanish (Carlos V: una nueva vida del emperador).

Barbara Piperata (Associate Professor, Anthropology) published “Tranquility is a Child with a Full Belly: Pathways Linking Food Insecurity and Maternal Mental Distress in Nicaragua” in Ecology of Food & Nutrition with Mariano Salazar, CLAS faculty affiliate Kammi Schmeer (Associate Professor, Sociology), and Andres Herrera Rodriguez. Piperata also published “Water insecurity and the composition and diversity of the gut microbiome of rural Nicaraguan children” in American Journal of Human Biology with Seungjun Lee, Alba Claudia Mayta Apaza, Adelaide Cary, Samuel Vilchez, Jiyoung Lee, Pallavi Oruganti, Rebecca Garabed, and Warren Wilson. Piperata also published “Secular trends in adult stature among the Makushi of Guyana in the 20th Century” in the American Journal of Human Biology with Warren Wilson, Janette Bulan, and Kathryn Hicks, and published “Localizing resource insecurities: A biocultural perspective on water and wellbeing” in Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Waters with A.A. Brewis, A.L. Thompson, and A. Wutich. The article sets an agenda for studying the household as a localizing nexus for manifesting the mental and physical health costs of managing water and other resource insecurities and highlights many cases from Latin America. Piperata also received two National Science Foundation grants to support research in Latin America over the next three years. The first, titled “Ecoculturing the Infant Gut Microbiome” seeks to understand how infants’ routines shape the formation of the infant gut microbiome during a critical window of development. The second grant, titled “Collaborative Research: IRES Track 1: International: Socio-ecological training in a tropical landscape” will provide research training for undergraduate and graduate students at Ohio State in Ecuador’s ‘Chocó Biogeographic Zone’, which is one of the world’s top 25 priority regions for protection of biodiversity. Using an interdisciplinary framework, students will evaluate how land-management practices by rural farmers and ranchers influence both environmental and human well-being within a tropical landscape. Recruitment of students will begin in the fall 2020.

Ana Puga (Associate Professor, Theatre) published “Performances of Suffering in Latin American Migration: Heroes, Martyrs, and Saints”, co-authored with Victor M. Espinosa.


Lisa Voigt (Professor, Spanish and Portuguese) received an American Council of Learned Societies Collaborative Fellowship for 2019-2021 with Professors Elio Brancaforte (Tulane University) and Stephanie Leitch (Florida State University), to research and write a book entitled “The Epistemology of the Copy in Early Modern Travel Narratives.”

Michelle Wibbelsman (Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese) published the chapter, “Northern Andean Cosmology and Otavalan Hip Hop” in The Andean World, edited by Kathleen Fine-Dare and Linda Seligmann (Routledge, 2019). She is also the lead co-PI of the Global Arts and Humanities Discovery Theme grant for Indigenous Arts and Humanities, K’acha Willaykuna Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Arts & Humanities Collaboration.

Welcome new CLAS affiliates!

- Tim Rehner (Dean, Lima Campus)
- Peter Shane (Jacob E. Davis & Jacob E. Davis II Chair, Moritz College of Law)
- Stephanie Porrata (MPK Diversity Resident Librarian, OSU Library)
- Richard Fletcher (Associate Professor, Arts Administration, Education, & Policy)
- Jera Niewoehner-Green (Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator for Community Leadership)
SPOTLIGHT: Meet Elvia Andía Grágeda, the world’s first certified OPI tester for Quechua, and the recipient of the Premio Nacional de Literatura

Elvia Andía Grágeda, Quechua instructor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at The Ohio State University, recently became the first American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)-certified Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) tester for Quechua. Andia, a native speaker of Quechua, is in fact the first certified OPI tester for any American indigenous language.

This is a significant milestone for the Quechua Language Program here at Ohio State, as well as for Quechua language instruction in the U.S. The OPI grants access to opportunities for young speakers of Quechua by offering certified proficiency testing. Dr. Liskin-Gasparro, Associate Professor Emerita of the University of Iowa and OPI mentor to Elvia, highlighted that the greatest benefit to working through the OPI interviewer certification process is washback in the classroom. As she said, after becoming OPI certified, instructors, “see the classroom differently.” Andia voiced this herself, commenting that she has redesigned the syllabi and activities of her Quechua courses to target the development of students’ communicative competence. In other words, students who want to learn to communicate in Quechua should take class with Elvia.

To add to Elvia’s success, she was recently awarded the Premio Nacional de Literatura of Bolivia in the category of Lengua Originaria. Each year, the Bolivian Ministry of Culture and Tourism awards this national prize to three authors, one in each of three categories: Novel, Poetry, and Lengua Originaria. These awards were established to promote the creation of literature in Bolivia and increase awareness of contemporary Bolivian authors. The selection of recipients of the Premio Nacional de Literatura is undertaken by a panel of literary personalities and specialists in Bolivia and constitutes the most important recognition of literary work in the country. The category of Lengua Originaria was established in 2011 in order to promote the written and oral traditions of the indigenous and Afro-Bolivian populations of a plurinational Bolivia.

Andia wrote her work, Pirqakunawan parlaspa ‘Speaking with the walls’, in Quechua, fusing fiction and the life-stories of her parents and grandparents to tell of the strength of indigenous women and their role in sustaining the language, practices, and customs of their communities. Andaia’s work will be promoted and distributed at national and international book fairs that take place throughout Bolivia, and its publication constitutes another step forward in bringing visibility to Quechua and the languages of indigenous communities in Latin America.

Big Ten Academic Alliance Course Share language programs are supported by CLAS to strengthen less commonly-taught languages of the Americas
Student News

Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)

CLAS awarded 8 FLAS Fellowships during Summer 2019, representing $61,495 of funding for students at Ohio State

Julian Baldemira, graduate student in Spanish & Portuguese, studied Portuguese at UNISUL in Brazil

Justin Bland, graduate student in Spanish & Portuguese, studied Quechua at Centro Tinku in Peru

Noah Diewald, graduate student in Linguistics, studied Wao Tededo at the Andes & Amazon Field School in Ecuador

Mark Kolat, graduate student in Spanish & Portuguese, studied Quechua at Centro Tinku in Peru

Alanna Radlo-Dzur, graduate student in Art History, studied Nahuatl at the University of Utah in the U.S.

Julianne Stamer, graduate student in the Master’s of Latin American Studies, studied Quechua at Pontificia Universidad Católica in Peru

Caroline Shipley, graduate student Spanish & Portuguese, studied Quechua at Pontificia Universidad Católica in Peru

Jaret Waters, undergraduate student in Economics, studied Portuguese at UNISUL in Brazil

CLAS awarded 19 FLAS Fellowships during Academic Year 2019-2020, representing $407,124 of funding for students at Ohio State

Stephanie Antetomaso, graduate student in Linguistics, studied Ecuadorian Kichwa

Brian Collins, undergraduate student in Spanish & Portuguese, studied Portuguese

Noah Diewald, graduate student in Linguistics, studied Ecuadorian Kichwa

Frances Dillon, undergraduate student in Linguistics, studied Quechua

Michael Freshwater, undergraduate student in Spanish & Portuguese, studied Portuguese

Megan Kafka, undergraduate student in Spanish & Portuguese, studied Portuguese

Sadler Kirk, graduate student in Spanish and Portuguese, studied Quechua

James Leow, graduate student in Spanish and Portuguese, studied Quechua

Sandra Martinez, graduate student in Social Work, studied elementary Portuguese

Hunter Rayfield, graduate student in City and Regional Planning, studied Portuguese

Riley Sayers, undergraduate student in International Studies, studied Portuguese

Caroline Shipley, graduate student in Spanish and Portuguese, studied Quechua

Taisse Torres-Lorenzo, undergraduate student in Psychology, studied Portuguese

Carrie Vereide, graduate student in Social Work, studied Portuguese

Sarah Wade, undergraduate student Spanish & Portuguese, studied Quechua

Jaret Waters, undergraduate student in Economics, studied Portuguese

Butch Wright, graduate student in Anthropology, studied Portuguese

Sarah Yannone, a graduate student in Nursing, who studied Portuguese
CLAS awarded 10 Tinker Field Research Grants to graduate and professional students to conduct research abroad during 2019

Lucia Benetti, “Infant-caregiver interactions through singing and its effect on childhood development and learning”, Music


Lindsey Hernandez, “Volcanic Hazard Assessment in Guatemala: Understanding magma plumbing systems using petrologic methods”, Earth Sciences

Luana Lamberti, “How Helvécia Afro-Portuguese represents the African Diaspora in Brazil”, Spanish & Portuguese


Emilio Mateo, “Debris-free glaciers and debriscovered glaciers in the Cordillera Blanca, Peru”, Geography

Jack McCoy, “Collecting novel Chile pepper accessions in Southern Mexico”, Horticulture & Crop Science

Flávia Mól Lanna, “Determining key traits that facilitate adaptation and invasion to dry environments”, Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology

Raphael Palermo dos Santos, “Production of comedy films in Brazil” Spanish & Portuguese

Palo Pinillos Chávez, “Migration and cross-dialectal changes: analyzing Matses Amazonian Spanish in the Iquitos urban space”, Spanish & Portuguese

Shane Scaggs, “Ecological effects of swidden agriculture and foraging on wildlife populations in southern Belize”, Anthropology

Forrest Schoessow, “Mapping and monitoring the effects of glacier retreat on water resources and geohazards in the tropical Andes of Cordillera Blanca, Peru”, Geography
Thank You!

to our generous supporters and advocates for a wonderful year

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University Libraries
Department of Spanish & Portuguese

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and a special thanks to CLAS staff:

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CLAS Director

**Megan Hasting**
CLAS Assistant Director

**Juan Abel**
CLAS Fiscal & Program Associate

**Patti Vocal**
CLAS Outreach Coordinator

**Sydney Velotta**
CLAS Student Assistant

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