18th Annual Conference on the Americas

sponsored by

The Americas Council
University System of Georgia
&
Georgia College
Armstrong State University
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Perimeter College
Kennesaw State University
University of North Georgia

Hosted and sponsored by

Georgia College
Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Center for Engaged Learning and College of Arts & Sciences

February 6th-7th 2015

All sessions will be held in Atkinson Hall on Main Campus
Lunch and Keynote Address: MSU Banquet Room
The 18th Annual Conference on the Americas
Friday, February 6

1:00 – 1:45 pm    Registration

1:45 – 3:00 pm    Session 1A    Room A

Moderator:  Dr. Ernie Guyton, Georgia Perimeter College

Mariana Stone and Dr. Kristi Hislope, University of North Georgia, “The Spanish Major: Traditional and Contemporary Program Organization”

This paper presents the traditional organization of Spanish undergraduate programs and the distribution of courses between Spanish and Latin American culture and literature classes. This traditional view shows an underlying remnant of colonial influence. We believe that organizing literature and culture classes by regions would be a better reflection of current times. We discuss how some USG universities organize their Spanish program and propose a change for UNG’s major.

Dr. Tim Craker, Mercer University, “The Americas and General Education”

In this paper I want to try out an argument for making the study of the Americas as a whole the focus of general education. The first part of the argument consists of using essays by Anne Marie Slaughter and Hillary Clinton from when they were in the US State Department. The second part of the argument consists of a brief “reading” of a poem by Victor Montejo. Finally, there will be discussion about considering the Americas as a protected hub of connectivity by the Atlanta World and Pacific Rim.

1:45 - 3:00 pm    Session 1B    Room B

Moderator:  Dr. Álvaro Torres-Calderón, University of North Georgia

Dr. Mary Barnard, Fort Valley State University, “Sex, Disease, and Globalization in Animal de humo by Cusco's Grupo Kapuli”

Cusco, Peru’s economy depends upon tourism, but the city struggles to maintain its cultural heritage as it continues to insert itself into a global economy. Grupo Kapuli delves into Cusco’s complicated relationship with tourism in its 2007 work, Animal de humo. In this work, Grupo Kapuli addresses the issues associated with being an international tourist destination and the attraction that a wider globalized world wields over its citizens by metaphorically connecting sex, disease, and globalization.
Dr. Donna Danns, University of North Georgia and Dr. George Danns, University of North Georgia, “Challenging the Dominance of the World Bank and the IMF: An analysis of the Implications of the Emergent BRICS Bank for Latin American and Caribbean Countries”

The IMF and World Bank are the pre-eminent multilateral financial institutions. Their roles have evolved and today they are viewed as dictating access to development aid and promoting free-market policies. The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) have created the multilateral BRICS Bank which may be perceived as challenging the dominance of the IMF and World Bank. This paper seeks to assess the implications of the BRICS Bank for Latin America and Caribbean countries.

3:00 – 3:15 Coffee Break

3:15– 4:15 pm Americas Council Meeting
Chair: Dr. José de Arimatéia da Cruz, Armstrong State University
Saturday, February 7

8:30 – 9:00 am    Registration

9:00 – 10:15 am    Session 2A    Room A

Panel Title: *African Culture and American Identities*

**Discussant:** Dr. Beauty Bragg, Georgia College & State University
Sarah Carpenter, Madison Exner, and Melanie Ford, Georgia College & State University

This panel features student research on identity in African diaspora cultures. Each explores an example of diaspora identity as a fluid process shaped by historical and cultural context. Sarah Carpenter shows how one Haitian novelist utilizes Vodun as a symbol of national identity. Madison Exner’s essay examines the use and development of salsa music by Caribbean emigrants in the United States, and Melanie Ford examines Puerto Rican *Bomba* as an example of Caribbean cultural flexibility.

9:00 – 10:15 am    Session 2B    Room B

Moderator: Priscilla Dodds – Georgia Perimeter College

Paul Duncan, University of Georgia, “The University of Georgia Latin American Ethnobotanical Garden: Exploring Latin America through Plants”

The Latin American Ethnobotanical Garden is found on UGA’s north campus. It serves as a living laboratory for UGA faculty/student research and instructional use and LACSI encourages it for educational outreach among schools and the public. LACSI works with schools to develop ethnobotanical gardens and carries out workshops for K-12 teachers and students. This paper provides an overview of the Garden and highlights the uses of such gardens to provide age-appropriate learning opportunities for educators.

Melanie DeVore, Georgia College & State University, and Sandra Voegeli, UC Berkeley Hastings Natural History Reservation and San Salvador Living Jewels, “Protecting Bahamian Reefs and Sustainable Dive Tourism: Why Dive Tag Programs are Essential”

Sustainable reef tourism requires: 1) protected marine areas for diving and snorkeling; and 2) best practices for minimizing human impact. We will discuss the dive tag program established by the San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation with the Bahamian National Trust (BNT). The Bahamas can maintain and fund marine protected areas using dive tag programs. Best practices for reef management, in conjunction with programs offered by the Bahamian Environmental Education Foundation, will be discussed.
Panel Title: Literature, Society and Women in Latin America

Discussant: Dr. Myron A. Ávila, Georgia College & State University

Azaria Hogans, Ellis Fields, Marta Galindo, Colleen McGlade

This panel features multifaceted student research on women, literature and societal issues in Hispanic America. Azaria Hogan explores the theatrical production of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz in Colonial Mexico as evidence of her feminism avant la lettre. Marta Galindo discusses the possible influence of her travels through Hispanic America in noted Spanish philosopher María Zambrano’s writings. Ellis Fields addresses why the ongoing brutal human rights violations against Guatemalan women have made critics label it femicide. Finally, Colleen McGlade discusses the female quest for knowledge in which Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz embarked with her poetic masterpiece Primero sueño.

10:15 – 10:30 am Coffee Break

Panel Title: Undergraduate Panel: Opresión, género y resistencia en la literatura latinoamericana contemporánea

Moderator Dr. Nancy Tille-Victorica, Armstrong State University

Jessica Young, Eboné Robinson, Julianna Delgado, and Rima Patel, Armstrong State University

This panel focuses on representations of oppression and resistance in contemporary Latin American literature from a gender’s perspective. Young looks at concepts of masculinity and machismo in Vargas Llosa’s Los cachorros. Robinson’s analysis of “La mujer negra” by Morejón focuses on black women as symbols of resistance. Delgado studies gender discrimination as represented by Castellanos and Poniatowska. Finally, Patel explores the ways in which Ferré denounces gender inequality in two short stories. Papers read in Spanish.
10:30 – 11:45 am   Session 3B   Room B

Moderator: Dr. Lynn Fedeli – Kennesaw State University

José de Arimateia da Cruz, Armstrong State University, “Urban conflict in the Megacities in the twenty-first century”

This paper examines the megacities of the twenty-first as the new battle ground for conflicts in the future. The primary focus of the paper will be the city of Rio de Janeiro, the home city for the World Cup of 2014 and the Olympic Games of 2016 as well as the home to the largest shantytown "favela" in South America.

Mario Tumen, Georgia College & State University, “Fujimori’s Family Planning Program: Authoritarian Policies in Public Health”

This research analyzes the controversial family planning program in Peru during the 1990s. Although former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori was recently tried and convicted on several accounts of corruption and human rights violations committed during his time as president, his authoritarian practices in public health have remained largely ignored and unpunished.

Joseph Floyd, Georgia Perimeter College/Georgia State University, ‘A Killing in Quiriguá, Guatemala: Race, Nation and Empire in the Caribbean’

My paper describes racial violence between Hispanic and black West Indian workers on United Fruit banana plantations in Quiriguá, Guatemala in 1914. It argues that labor segregation was not a deliberate decision to limit social disorder, showing how racial tensions sparked violence and fuelled growing opposition to United Fruit. It uses Guatemalan efforts to restrict West Indian immigration to describe the decline of British imperial citizenship and rise of anti-black, anti-Yanqui nationalism.

10:30 – 11:45 am   Session 3C   Room C

Moderator: Dr. Myron Ávila – Georgia College

Clair Guy, Georgia College, “La igualdad de las desigualdades en La Edad de Oro de Jose Marti (The Equal Sum of Inequalities in Jose Marti’s La Edad de Oro.)”

This paper is an interpretation of The Equal Sum of Inequalities in Jose Marti’s La Edad de Oro.
Austin Nijenkamp, Georgia College, “Buenos Aires”

This paper is an overview of the architectural style, class based neighborhoods, and effects of immigration and twentieth-century economics shocks on the urban form of Buenos Aires.

Dr. Yunsuk Chae, Middle Georgia State College, “The Portrayal of Americas in María Paz Moreno’s Poems in Translation”

This presentation will introduce some of María Paz Moreno’s poems in translation, focusing on her portrayal of the United States and Mexico. Many of the poems provide landscapes of these countries and delve into the themes of humanitarianism and cultural and racial conflicts. The poems have been selected from Correspondencia atrasada (Belated Correspondence), Geografía enemiga (Hostile Geography), and Invernadero (Greenhouse). Born in Murcia, Spain, in 1970, Moreno is a professor of Spanish at the University of Cincinnati.
12:00 - 1:15 pm   Lunch is Served   MSU Banquet Room
1:30 – 2:45 pm   General Session   MSU Banquet Room

Mr. Anisio Martins dos Santos, Conference Chair

Welcome:   Dr. José de Arimatéia da Cruz, Chair of Americas Council
Introduction of Keynote Address:  Mr. Ernie Guyton, Georgia Perimeter College

Keynote Address:  Dr. Juan Carlos Galeano, Florida State University.
Professor of Spanish, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics
"Poetry as Natural History for the Anthropocene and Beyond"

Closing of the 18th Annual Conference of the Americas

Special Thanks to each of the following:

Mr. Napier Murphy – Murphy & Sibley
Dr. Aurora Castillo-Scott – Modern Languages and Cultures GC
Dr. Myron Ávila - Modern Languages and Cultures GC
Dr. Mariana Stoyanova - Modern Languages and Cultures GC
Dr. Oukada – Chair, Modern Languages and Cultures GC
Dr. Procter – Dean, College of Arts & Sciences GC
Dr. Womack – Director, Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity GC
Mr. Matthew Davis – Old Governor’s Mansion GC
Dr. Steve Elliott-Gower – Honors Program Director GC
Mrs. Wanda Ennis – Payroll and finance systems GC
Dr. Barbara Monnett – University communications GC

Dr. Luise Strange de Soria, for handling all communications

Dr. Lynn Fedeli and Dr. Jim Anderson for reading all of the abstracts

Dr. Stephanie Opperman and Dr. Myron Ávila for reading the student papers for the award.

To our moderators for helping run the sessions:

Ms. Priscila Dodds   Dr. Myron Ávila
Mr. Ernie Guyton     Dr. Nancy Tille-Victorica
Dr. Beauty Bragg     Dr. Lynn Fedeli
Dr. Álvaro Torres-Calderón