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# **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on the Americas**

*sponsored by*

**The Americas Council  
University System of Georgia**

*and*

**hosted by**

**Augusta University**

**Departments of History, Anthropology & Philosophy and English & Foreign  
Languages of Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences**



**February 9<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**All sessions will be held in the Jaguar Student Activities Center (JSAC) on  
Summerville Campus, 2500 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30904  
Musical Presentations, Lunch, and Keynote Address: JSAC Ballroom**

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on the Americas

**Friday, February 9, 2018**

**12:00-5:00 pm**

**Registration**

**Table Outside JSAC Ballroom 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**1:00 - 1:50 pm**

**Opening the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference**

**JSAC Ballroom 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**Alvis Dunn, PhD, University of North Carolina, Asheville**

**Invited Plenary Speaker**

**North Georgia to Central America and Plenty of Stops in Between: A Confederate General in Belle Epoch Guatemala**

Pierce Manning Butler Young was raised on Walnut Grove Plantation in North Georgia. He was the youngest cavalry general in the Confederate Army and described as dashing on numerous occasions. Inheriting the family property, he never quite made a successful go of farming in the aftermath of Reconstruction, but served four terms in the US House of Representatives, was Commissioner to the Paris Exhibition, Consul to St. Petersburg, Russia and finally, Minister Plenipotentiary to Guatemala and Honduras. In his relatively short life, General Young enjoyed high society and basked in the notoriety that his war record and public service brought.

**2:00 - 3:15 pm**

**Session 1A**

**JSAC Coffeehouse**

**Panel Title: AU Academic Provider Network: A Community of Partners for Hispanic Farmworkers and Their Families**

This panel presentation will focus on the Costa Layman Outreach program, which has become a series of opportunities to provide outreach to the Hispanic Farmworker community on the South Carolina/Georgia border, while training nurses, doctors and other healthcare providers in civic and professional responsibilities in rural care. Panelists will discuss how this community outreach model promotes an improved quality of life for farmworkers with little or no medical care, and problems with healthcare access.

**Moderator: Pamela Cromer, DNP, MS, PhD, Augusta University**

Director of Augusta University's largest inter-professional outreach program for the last eleven years, having the opportunity to bring together a coalition of partners and resources to provide comprehensive health screening, examination, and referrals to Latino horticulture farmworkers. The Charm Study population specific health data supports health interventions.

**Panelists:**

**Mary Lou Davis, PhD, PNP-BC, Augusta University**

Focus concentration on African American and Latino families who are experiencing health disparities. Significant programs directed are the Douglass Elementary Reading program and the grant funded Healthy Grandparent Program, which are operated to promote improved physical, social-emotional health outcomes among high-risk children and families.

**Debbie Layman, BSN RN, Costa Layman Farms**

Co-founded Layman Wholesale Nurseries in Trenton, South Carolina. The organization is now known as Costa Layman Farms. Thirteen years ago, in collaboration with the College of Nursing, an annual health fair for the farm workers was initiated. Ten years ago an annual clinic for Women's Health was added. Over 4000 free screenings have been completed between the two events.

**Haidong Zhu, MD, PhD, Augusta University**

This ongoing longitudinal study focuses on the characterization of cardiometabolic risks in Hispanic/non-Hispanic migrant farmworkers based on the annual Costa-Layman Health Fairs through community health partnership. Aiming to help develop early prevention and intervention strategies in this underserved vulnerable population; to engage clinicians, faculty and students cross-disciplines to fully integrate the Costa-Layman Health Fairs with the research entity; and to provide research training opportunities for future physicians, nurses and other health care professionals.

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on the Americas

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**2:00 – 3:15 pm**

**Session 1B**

**Butler 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
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**Graduate Panel Title:**

**21<sup>st</sup> Cenury Applied Linguistics: Latin America**

**Moderator:**

**Chris Botero, PhD, Augusta University, English and Foreign Languages (EFL)  
Coord. of programs in Foreign Language Ed., Co-Director of Linguistics Certificate, & Asst Chair**

***Rachelle Sabrina Udell, MA candidate, Applied Linguistics/ESL, Georgia State University*  
“Language Related Issues in Aviation, Safety Concerns Affecting Mexico and South America”**

English is the official operating language of the aviation industry. Even so, approximately 70% of airline safety problems can be attributed to communication breakdowns and intercultural misunderstandings of language (Matthews, 2015). This presentation outlines the current challenges in English proficiency training and assessment faced by the aviation industry and will focus specifically on the needs of non-native English-speaking trainees from Latin America. Ideas for training design and classroom activities will be discussed.

***Genggeng Zhang, MA candidate, Applied Linguistics/ESL, Georgia State University*  
“The Readability of Aircraft Maintenance Manuals: Training Applications for Latin American Airline Maintenance Workers”**

Written in Simplified Technical English (STE), aircraft maintenance manuals aim to reduce reading difficulty for international pilots and technicians. However, the linguistic analysis of a corpus with Boeing 737 maintenance manuals shows that STE could not significantly enhance the readability on all aspects, including narrativity, word concreteness, syntactic complexity, referential cohesion, and deep cohesion. Implications and challenges for and in developing training program and materials for Latin American airline maintenance workers will be discussed.

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**3:15 – 3:30 pm**

**Coffee Break**

**JSAC Coffeehouse**  
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**3:30 – 4:45 pm**

**Session 2A**

**JSAC Coffeehouse**  
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**Panel Title:**

**Language Learning and Cultural Intersections in the Americas**

**Panelists:**

***Kristi Hislope, PhD, University of North Georgia, Dahlonega*  
“Beliefs about Birthmarks in the Americas”**

In this paper the researcher will present some common beliefs in different cultures in the Americas about why birthmarks appear on babies and what they mean. Many of these beliefs, or superstitions, exist today because in the past they were a way to explain the unknown.

***Giada Biasetti, PhD, Augusta University*  
“Learning Spanish: Visual Scanning and Pupil Dilation in Second Language Acquisition”**

This study focuses on the neurophysiology of second language acquisition to better understand how students learn a second language. If we can demonstrate that cognitive workload is directly related to the level of experience with Spanish as a second language, future studies will be designed that will use cognitive workload as a means of student learning and teaching strategies. Research Team: Drs. Chris Botero, Hannes Devos, and Maud Ranchet.

***Karen Guffey, PhD, Georgia State College*  
“Culture and Language: Essentials for Study Abroad”**

Gordon State College just finished setting down rules and guidelines for establishing faculty-led study abroad programs, and two requirements are a language component & a cultural component, both of which must include a defined plan for the program to be approved. A language immersion program is very easy to set up, but many fields require some thought, as well as a degree of imagination.

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on the Americas

3:30 – 4:45 pm

Session 2B

Butler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Panel Title (Spanish Language Session):**

**Colonial to Modern: Literature, Leaders in South America**

**Panelists:**

*Álvaro Torres-Calderón, PhD University of North Georgia, Dahlonega*

**“Hibridez de las tensiones culturales y coloniales en la poesía Quechua”**

Este ensayo intenta examinar las diversas polaridades coexistentes en Sudamérica después de la Conquista. Asimismo presenta explicaciones objetivas y fácticas del impacto de la colonización incluyendo el conflicto y conciliación de identidades en algunos poemas y/o cantos de Guamán Poma de Ayala, el Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, Juan Jualparrimachi, José María Arguedas, César Guardia Mayorga, Porfirio Meneses y otros autores anónimos.

*Pedro Hoyos-Salcedo, PhD, Augusta University*

**“El viacrucis de los venezolanos. Venezuela sin líderes”**

Buscamos objetivar la realidad venezolana de hoy. Se ha derrumbado la democracia y se han roto los hilos constitucionales. Hay nuevos cantantes, músicos, escritores y poetas. Hay una nueva cartilla de vocabulario venezolano, un bestiario popular, neologismos estudiantiles y cotidianos *lapsus linguae* y *lapsus calami* oficiales. Hay realismo mágico: dos Constituyentes simultáneas, dos Fiscales, un presidente (ilegal) muerto sin partida de defunción conocida y un presidente (ilegal) vivo sin partida de bautizo conocida.

5:00-5:30pm

Special Session

JSAC Ballroom

**Piano Duet**

**Four hands, one piano. Music by Astor Piazzolla (Argentina) tango.**

*Martin David Jones, DMA, Augusta University*

*Clara Park, DMA, Augusta University*

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) was an Argentinean composer who is often referred to as the “Tango King”. He was an accomplished performer on the Bandoneon, performing in countless chamber music style groups throughout his career. His contribution to the tango idiom, called Nuevo Tango, was revolutionary in its unique sound and inclusion of jazz improvisation. Martin David Jones and Clara Park will perform several of his tangos arranged for four hand piano.

6:30pm-9:30pm

Dinner Out as a Group

Taqueria El Patron

*Join us for an informal dinner of good food and good times in a local restaurant to continue conversations, networking, and creating new opportunities for future collaboration. Advance notice kindly requested of the presence of you and any guests to Dr. Chiero at [hchiero@augusta.edu](mailto:hchiero@augusta.edu). Attendees responsible for their own transportation and meal costs (let me know if you need to carpool). Taqueria El Patron, 3107 Washington Rd., Augusta, GA 30907. (706) 210-5678*

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on the Americas

**Saturday, February 10, 2018**

8:00 – 2:00 pm

Registration

Table Outside JSAC Ballroom

9:00 – 10:15 am

Session 3A

JSAC Coffeehouse

**Panel Title:** Caribbean Basin: Economics, War, and Literature

**Panelists:**

*Donna E. Danns, PhD, University of North Georgia, Gainesville*

*George K. Danns, PhD, University of North Georgia, Gainesville*

**“The Impact of the Diaspora on the Caribbean Economies”**

The Caribbean diaspora has been playing an increasing role in enabling the economic development of the region. Remittances from the diaspora to some Caribbean countries amount to 25 percent of their GDP. This paper identifies and analyzes the varied dimensions of existing diaspora economic engagement with 15 CARICOM countries; pinpoints the incentives for and resistances to such engagement; and, assesses the impact of the diaspora on the development of CARICOM economies.

*Hubert Van Tuyl, PhD, Augusta University*

**“The ‘Spanish-American War’ in Military History”**

Technological superiority as a decisive factor in battle echoes in the world wars, but the visibility of this trend began in 1898. The ‘Spanish-American’ War represents an important turning point in the history of warfare, though, ironically, the post-1898 Philippines war did not prepare America for later counterinsurgency wars. This presentation surveys secondary source materials with an overview of the intersection of the industrial revolution and U.S. military technology on naval possessions and annexations.

*Guirdex Massé, PhD, Augusta University*

**“A Re-Imagination of Haitian Culture: Jacques Stephen Alexis and the Amerindian Past”**

By the time he was executed in 1961 by the Francois Duvalier regime, the Haitian writer Jacques Stephen Alexis had established himself as a powerful new literary voice in francophone Caribbean literature. While he is mostly known for the success of his first novel, the Marxist peasant/proletarian work *Compère Général Soleil (General Sun, My Brother)*, Alexis’ oeuvre compels readers to consider his evolving vision of the Caribbean as a hybrid social cultural space. Specifically looking at his second novel *Les Arbres Musiciens*, this paper examines Alexis’ presentation of an evanescent Amerindian presence in Haitian culture.

9:00 – 10:15 am

Session 3B

Butler, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Undergraduate Panel Title:** Immigration from and Study Abroad to Latin America, 1990-Present

**Moderator:** Juan Walker, PhD, Augusta University, College of Education  
Program Director, Dept. of Teaching and Leading

**Panelists:**

*Thomas Gardner, Spanish/French, Augusta University*

**“From practice to proficiency: Experiential learning abroad, El Salvador”**

Experiential learning, both in culture and language, is essential to mastering a foreign language. The presenter will show the importance of experiential learning as it pertains to second language acquisition through local internships. Then, he will further demonstrate its importance by documenting a recent medical trip to El Salvador. Experiential learning and immersion in the target language and culture are crucial to becoming proficient and ultimately fluent.



