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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	<b>Opening the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference</b>	JSAC Ballroom 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor
Alvis Dunn, PhD, University of North Carolina, Asheville		<b>Invited Plenary Speaker</b>
<b><u>North Georgia to Central America and Plenty of Stops in Between: A Confederate General in Belle Epoch Guatemala</u></b>		
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	<b>Session 1A</b>	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> Century 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 (illegal) muerto sin partida de defunción conocida y un presidente (illegal) 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). Taquería 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 Tuyll, 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.

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

*Nicholas Sidow, Pre-Dental, Augusta University*

**"Exploring the Impact of Latin American Immigration on US Health Care Policy, 1990-2008"**

This research outlines the impact that immigration from Latin America has had on the United States' health care policies during the time period of 1990-2008. Included in this paper will be the historical background of immigration from Latin America to the United States, what impact they had on the health care system, as well as the changes in policy that were as result or correlated to this immigration.

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**10:15 - 10:30 am**                   **Coffee Break**                   **JSAC Ballroom**

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**10:30 - 11:45 am**                   **Session 4A**                   **JSAC Coffeehouse**

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**Panel Title:**                   **Brazil in the post-Cold War Era**

**Panelists:**

*Matthew Flynn, PhD, Georgia Southern University*

**"The Neo-Development State & Local Production of Drugs: Brazil's Pharmaceutical Successes & Challenges"**

This paper details Brazil's experiences through a conceptualization of the neo-development state. Compared to previous ideas of development states, the neo-development state emphasizes new forms of state intervention in the economy, strong social rights protections, and participatory politics. The biggest challenge to the neo-development state is global capitalism characterized by new trade rules such as intellectual property rights, increasingly competitive global market, and financialization.

*José de Arimatéia da Cruz, PhD Georgia Southern University—Armstrong Campus*

*Joshua Kohler da Cruz, undergraduate student, Georgia Southern University*

**"Is Brazil still a Relevant Regional Power? Brazil in the new post-Cold War International System"**

This paper examines Brazil's role in the post-Cold War international system in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union. What is the importance of Brazil in the new system? What role will Brazil play? What is the new military function? How could other nations learn from Brazil's new international functions?

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**10:30 - 11:45 am**                   **Session 4B**                   **Butler, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

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**Panel Title:**                   **Latin American Diplomacy & Immigration Legality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Panelists:**

*Nicolas Hu, MA, University of North Georgia—Dahlonega*

**"Diminishing Diplomatic Presence of Taiwan in Central and South America"**

When Panama broke off its long-term diplomatic relations with Taiwan in June 2017 and with other countries on the precipice of switching alliance to the PRC, the diplomatic position of Taiwan entered into a critical stage. How can Taiwan survive the "checkbook diplomacy" rivalry versus China and what does the future hold for Taiwan in Central and South America?

*Elizabeth Combier, PhD, University of North Georgia, Dahlonega*

**"Comparison of the Mexican Legal System with the U.S."**

Many Hispanic immigrants to the United States have difficulty once they enter the legal system via law enforcement issues due to a variety of reasons. Besides lacking competencies for cultural knowledge and linguistic issues, understanding the legal processes is a huge challenge. This paper will examine some of the basic differences and similarities between the Mexican legal system and that of the United States' system.

*Baldomero Cuma-Chávez, Lic. Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala*

*Heather J. Chiero, PhD, Augusta University, translator/reader*

**"Central American Healthcare: An Indigenous History and Comparative Glance at Modern Medicine"**

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

This scholarship is the result of recent work by a Guatemalan Mayan Daykeeper and discusses the origins of certain indigenous understanding and practices related to illnesses, healing, and the intersection of cosmology and modern medicine. The author is a trained lawyer, linguist working with Tulane University in Kaqchikel Maya, and a practicing shaman in his community of Sta. María de Jesús, Saqatepequez. The presentation is given by the translator in lieu of Mr. Cuma-Chávez' presence.

|                                  |                                  |                                                         |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 12:00 - 1:00 pm                  | Lunch is Served                  | JSAC Ballroom                                           |
| 1:00 - 2:15 pm                   | General Session/Keynote Luncheon | JSAC Ballroom                                           |
| Welcome:                         |                                  | José de Arimatéia da Cruz, PhD, Chair, Americas Council |
| Introduction of Keynote Address: |                                  | "Amber" Heather J. Chiero, PhD, Conference Organizer    |
| Keynote Address:                 |                                  | Yana Yanakakis, PhD, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia |

This talk addresses how Mexico's native peoples resisted and accommodated Spanish colonialism through law. In particular, it focuses on how native people used the legal jurisdiction granted to them by the laws of the Indies, and how they expanded their legal authority through indigenous legal practice. In the southern Mexican region of Oaxaca, indigenous communities have used legal and extra-legal means to hold onto their lands through centuries of colonialism and agrarian reform, thereby maintaining the territorial control that undergirded native semi-autonomy. At the same time, legal territorial possession often came at the expense of neighboring communities. Oaxaca's prolific inter-indigenous territorial disputes provide a lens through which to analyze the layered sovereignty of native communities produced by imperial law and changing modes of native authority, including moral, religious, legal, and political. The violence engendered by inter-indigenous land disputes raises important questions about the limits of resistance and accommodation to state-centered legal regimes, and of indigenous semi-sovereignty in imperial and national contexts.

## Closing of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Americas

|                |                                                 |                  |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2:30 - 4:00 pm | <u>Americas Council Spring Business Meeting</u> | JSAC Coffeehouse |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|

Chair: José de Arimatéia da Cruz, PhD, Georgia Southern University—Armstrong Campus

### *Special Thanks to each of the following:*

- ❖ *To the Americas Council permanent members for continuing the mission of furthering the spread of knowledge about the Americas and supporting research and scholarship at all levels.*
- ❖ *The University System of Georgia's International Education System Council on International Education (SCIE) for creating the World Councils and for the dedication of the permanent members of the Americas Council.*
- ❖ *Luise Strange de Soria of GSU for handling all communications, general inquiries, and more.*
- ❖ *To our AU moderators for helping run the sessions: P. Cromer; J. Walker, C. Botero*
- ❖ *Huge thanks to contributions from Augusta University: Advisement Center, Career Services, CURS, Experiential Learning, ACS, Jagstore, Pamplin Dean's Office and supplies/printing from EFL and HAP.*
- ❖ *To Sodexo on Augusta University campus for the catering, especially Ms. Makeisha Lowe.*
- ❖ *To our presenters and visitors from out of town for their energy and effort coming to the CSRA (Augusta), we hope to see you at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference on the Americas!*

### *21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on the Americas Augusta University Planning Committee, 2018*

*Dr. Heather Chiero, HAP, Planning Committee Chair*

*Dr. Chris Botero, EFL, Dr. Giada Biasetti, EFL, Dr. Jana Sandarg, EFL, and Dr. Juan Walker, COE*