All events take place on the Augusta University Summerville campus at 2500 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30904. Free parking will be set aside for out-of-town guests in the highlighted areas above. All panels, Plenary, Keynote and luncheon will be held in the Jaguar Student Activities Center (JSAC) highlighted above and pictured below. The Registration table will be located outside the Ballroom on the 1st floor and the Coffeehouse and Butler Room are located on the 2nd floor. Welcome all!
The 22nd Annual Conference on the Americas

Friday, February 23, 2019

12:00-5:00 pm
Registration
Table Outside JSAC Ballroom

1:00 – 1:30 pm
Plenary Speaker
JSAC Ballroom

David O’Hara, faculty, Augustana University, North Dakota
Mountains Swimming Home: Why Alaskan Salmon And Guatemalan Vines Matter in GA

Two species that are not indigenous to Georgia give a picture of the interconnectedness of species across the Americas - including our own species. The Guatemalan water vine is a subtropical species and the Alaskan salmon thrives in Arctic waters. So what do they have to do with Georgia, and why should Georgians care? Dr. David O’Hara, an Environmental Humanities professor in South Dakota, will present on his field research in the Arctic and Central America, explaining in accessible terms how simple ecological principles can help us to understand everything from our food supply to immigration pressures, border walls, and the legal, political, and economic challenges facing indigenous peoples in the Americas.

1:30 – 2:30 pm
Session 1A
JSAC Coffeehouse

Panel Title: Addressing Cancer Screening Disparities for Hispanic Women Using Linguistic and Culturally-Appropriate Electronic Assessment Tool
Moderator: Pamela Cromer, faculty, Augusta University

The literature supports that breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer related mortality and with higher rates of cervical cancer mortality among Hispanic women as compared to non-Hispanics. In this session, panelists will address cancer-screening disparities, education needs and a web-based bilingual and culturally appropriate interactive digital tool for clinic operations that allows Hispanic women to participate in a self-assessment of their breast and cervical cancer screening needs while removing the language barrier and facilitating communication with healthcare providers.

Gabrielle Helfgott, DNP, CNM – Certified Nurse Midwife AU Medical Center, Dept. OBGYN
Emily Bailey, DNpc – RN employed at AU Medical Center in the Cardiac Care Unit
Lauren Tiernan, DNpc - RN at Augusta Univ. Health Center, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit
Tamara Coleman, DNpc - RN & part-time clinical instructor at AU College of Nursing.
Monique Germany, DNpc – RN at Augusta Veterans Administration Medical Center.
Faculty welcome—Come join the Americas Council and help in the planning process as the conference moves to the University of North Georgia next year.

Congratulations to Drs. Donna and George Danns for being selected to be next year’s conference hosts!

Special Thanks to each of the following:

* To the Americas Council 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 Regional Council (SCIE) for creating the World Councils;
* Luise Strange de Soria of GSU for handling all communications, general inquiries, and more;
* To our AU moderators for volunteering to run the sessions: P. Cromer; J. Walker, C. Botero, J. Wall, H. Van Tuyl, G. Biasetti, and G. Masse
* Huge thanks to contributions from Augusta University: Advisement Center, Career Services, CURS, Experiential Learning, ACS, Jagstore, Registrar, 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 community members and supporters, we appreciate your interest and participation;
* To our many faculty, staff, and Pamplin Student Ambassadors for their time and energy helping this event run as smoothly as possible;
* To our presenters, pianists, and visitors from out of town for their energy and effort coming to the CSRA (Augusta), we hope to see you at the 23rd Conference on the Americas!

Check out the Americas Council homepage at https://www.augusta.edu/pamplin/hist-anth-phil/americas-council/index.php

On Twitter at https://twitter.com/AmericasCouncil

On Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/americascouncil/

And, on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/AmericasCouncil/

Share your photos and your thoughts at #2019AmericasGA

Closing of the 22nd Annual Conference of the Americas

2:30 – 4:00 pm Americas Council Spring Business Meeting JSAC Ballroom

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Language learners of Spanish are steadily packing university classrooms in Georgia. According to the Pew Research Center, 9% of Georgia’s population is Hispanic with about 923,000 in residence. Those numbers are increasing, as is the likelihood that our students will have the opportunity, and perhaps the necessity, to understand Spanish language and culture as they move into the professional environment after graduation. What is the status of Spanish language programs in Georgia and how are we preparing our students for the future?

Karen Guffey, faculty, Georgia State College, Atlanta, Georgia
Hispanic Culture: Is it in the DNA?

Recent DNA studies have shown that the Irish have no Celtic DNA. That study has caused Celticists to suggest that Latin Americans might prove to have little Spanish DNA. The comparison is flawed for various reasons, and studies show that Latin Americans do indeed have Spanish DNA. Television commercials for the DNA companies suggest that DNA and culture are strongly related, but we have ample cause to question that implication, which we will do with a comparison of Celtic heritage/DNA and Latin American heritage/DNA.

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2:45 – 3:45 pm
Session 2B
Butler Room
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Panel Title: Spanish Language Session
Moderator: Giada Biasetti, faculty, Augusta University

Álvaro Torres-Calderón, faculty, University of North Georgia, Dahlonega, Georgia
La posmodernidad y el género en la narrativa de Gioconda Belli y Dainá Chaviano

El presente ensayo presenta la ruptura de estereotipos en torno a la reflexión sobre la narrativa de dos escritoras: la nicaragüense Gioconda Belli y la cubana-america Dainá Chaviano. El objetivo es analizar en el marco de la posmodernidad el concepto de la identidad como parte de su narrativa hispanoamericana y más allá de ésta. Las escritoras buscan democratizar la discusión del tema del género, usando la fantasía, el sarcasmo y la ironía.

Pedro Hoyos-Salcedo, faculty, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia
Venezuela antes del 23 de enero, 2019 y Venezuela despues del 23 de enero, 2019

Esta presentación se refiere a la situación política, social y económica de Venezuela durante los últimos 20 años. El sistema anti democrático establecido por el dictador Hugo Chávez Frías, durante 14 años, un mes, y continuado por el dictador Nicolás Maduro Moros durante cinco años, nueve meses, ha destruido las instituciones gubernamentales, la sociedad civil y política, y las infraestructuras de las ciudades. Todo este caos está cambiando cuando se nombra al presidente constitucional interino de Venezuela Juan Guaidó.

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12:00 - 1:00 pm
Lunch is Served
JSAC Ballroom
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1:00 – 2:15 pm
General Session/Keynote
JSAC Ballroom
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Welcome: José de Arimatéia da Cruz, Chair, Americas Council

Introduction of Keynote Speaker: H. J. Chiero, Conference Organizer, Americas Council

Keynote Address:

Sergio Quesada, PhD, University of Georgia, Anthropology & LACSI Undergraduate Coordinator/Senior Academic Professional at The University of Georgia

Not all immigration results from poverty or drug and gang violence. I discuss how a 1990’s (pre-NAFTA) World Bank-financed hydroelectric project in rural Mexico forced the resettlement of Mexican peasants and their later migration to the U.S. This smaller-scale project reveals an intertwining of Mexico’s economic and political development and U.S. interests, which can be viewed as a forewarning for the large-scale immigration issues occurring now on the US/Mexican border and within the U.S.
paradigms in the post-modern and post-structural geographic fade, presents nature as a social construct. It is between these Cartesian or Spinozan dogmas that mountains continue as targets for geographical inquiry. Using case studies from different sacred mountains in the Andes, I argue for integrating geocritical analyses in favor of Montology.

**Rachel D. Harris, PhD Candidate, Romance Languages, University of Georgia**

The Interfaces of Ixcanul: Blurring Linguistic and Epistemological Boundaries in Highland Guatemala through Feminized Mayan Mountainscapes

The film *Ixcanul* (2015) presents a microcosm of the current situation for indigenous women in the Guatemalan mountains. This presentation investigates how this reality is composed of interfaces that blur the hegemonic binarisms of language, gender, and epistemology. All revolves around the figure of the volcano and human-nature relationships. These relationships produce an illusion of a “third border-space” that constitutes those interfaces, which represent the fragile link between indigenous communities and Latin American mountainscapes.

**Jasmin Lopez, Honors Program, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia**

The Fight for Identity: A Cultural Genocide of Mexican-Americans, the 1960’s—1970’s

Determined to surpass the nearly unattainable progress older generations had sculpted, young adults channeled their voices into the Chicano Movement. Were Mexican-Americans a threat to peace and order established by law? Did any political party truly capture the this minority group’s demands? Because Hispanic culture was ripped out by xenophobia, Mexican-American youths fought to be heard on the civil rights agenda during the 1960’s and 1970’s, triggering a unique space for geographical inquiry.

**Dana Maller, Honors Program, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, Georgia**

**Necessary Gaps: The Deconstruction of the Contemporary Mexican Novel**

Examining three contemporary Mexican novels, this paper traces the confrontation of structural elements through the deconstruction of a text’s understood “reality.” Although literature appears to construct reality through the presentation of objects in relation, rather than a concrete or fundamental truth, it is the spaces between these juxtapositions that shapes a text. This allows a text to consciously deconstruct itself and its imbued “reality” to put purposeful gaps, ambiguity and rejection of assumed relations at the center of text’s meaning.
The 22nd Annual Conference on the Americas

Multiprofessional Health Residency (MHR) is a Brazilian postgraduate training program for health care professionals. Social workers engage with hospitalized clients to promote social wellbeing; to complete their socioeconomic profiles; to provide health education; and to explain their rights. In multidisciplinary clinical case conferences, they provide the data so that all professionals can understand their clients in social and economic context. Results show that the role of Social Work is fundamental to this program.

Amy Baldwin, faculty, Augusta University/UGA Medical Partnership, Augusta, Georgia
The path less traveled: Complications & lessons learned in an ongoing interdisciplinary, international collaboration in Grenada, WI

Promoting women’s health requires a deep understanding of the issues and barriers involved. Much can be learned by comparing and contrasting similar yet different cultural contexts for women in Grenada, WI and Georgia, USA. This project was formally established in January, 2017 between academic, governmental and non-governmental organizations. In this session, we will discuss building relationships, laying groundwork, challenges and lessons learned for our interdisciplinary, long-term women’s health initiative.

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Karen Williams-Jones, faculty, Georgia State Univ.—Perimeter College, Clarkston, Georgia
Reading the Natural World in Mayra Montero’s La última noche que pasé contigo
The lyrics of the bolero give rise to fields of polarized energy shifting between love and hate in Mayra Montero’s, La última noche que pasé contigo (1991). Mirroring the historical consumption of natural resources, people and culture, Celia and Fernando seek to escape the boredom of “modernity” in order to penetrate the dark pre-colonial primitivism of the Caribbean Islands producing a fear of Afro-Caribbeans and themselves, unveiling a crisis that puts into question the intersection of race, class and sexuality.

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Don Reginaldo Chayax Huex is one of only half a dozen people who grew up hearing the Maya Itzá language spoken. Now in his eighties, Don Reginaldo has dedicated his life to preserving his successes and the challenges that lie ahead; and some “fragments” of both the Itzá language and the eco-philosophy that Don Reginaldo hopes to pass on to the next generation.

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