

NUESTRO MUNDO

News for Notre Dame Latin Americanists



Latin American Studies Reception Connects Graduate Students, Undergraduates, and Faculty

Learn more inside:

Faculty-undergraduate dinner

Lunches at Greenfields

Latin American Studies Presentation night



Inner Strength and a Positive Environment Key to Graduate Student's Success

Graduate student Lourdes Hurtado Meza is in her fifth year in the Latin America program of study in the Department of History at Notre Dame.

After receiving her B.A. in Anthropology from Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima, Peru, her home, Lourdes Hurtado worked for a research NGO. There, she focused on women and issues of political violence and the military. She also worked for the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 2002-2003.



Hurtado with her dog Linda in Peru

Following this experience Hurtado decided it was time for some scholarly reflection. It was the right time in her life to travel and she began to look at universities in the U.S.

Hurtado wanted to take a closer look at the military culture in Peru during the period 1968-1980. Initially unsure which discipline was best suited to pursue – a

masters/Ph.D., anthropology? Sociology? History? – Hurtado decided on history, believing that a historical perspective was necessary to help her to answer the question she was most deeply interested in – why the military behaved the way they did during the Peruvian civil war.

Deciding where to study was the next step. A professor friend of hers in the U.S. told her that a new graduate program of study in Latin America was being launched in the Department of History at Notre Dame. Hurtado was familiar with the Kellogg Institute from working at the NGO Instituto de Estudios Peruanos and was impressed by the research on Latin America coming out of the Institute. She was also excited about being a part of launching the new track in Latin America.

Arriving at Notre Dame in the fall of 2005, Hurtado says that graduate school at Notre Dame has been positive overall. The adjustment to being abroad took time, and, coming from a public university in Peru, the

adjustments were academic as well as personal. Hurtado was especially surprised by the volume of reading and writing required and initially experienced feelings of loneliness, missing her country, language and culture. In time, she learned to dress for a Midwest winter, the writing and reading got easier and she developed friendships which helped immensely. “When you’re abroad,” Hurtado reflects, “friends become your family.”

The focus of Hurtado’s dissertation has evolved. While most scholars have focused on reformist revolutionary policies, economics and the nationalization of industry during military rule, Hurtado is looking at gender ideology - the rituals and symbols used under military rule to portray what made suitable Peruvian men and women.

With regard to the future post Ph.D, Hurtado says, “I am realistic. With the kind of education I have received, I could find a good job here in the U.S. The jobs in Peru aren’t very well paying.” She would like to continue to do academic research and discovered through her experience as a T.A. that she really enjoys teaching. “I love the fact that you can transmit things to students that they might not have thought about before.”

Above all, Hurtado lists two essentials of a successful graduate school experience: “inner strength and a positive environment.” She also credits the patience and encouragement of her advisor, Ted Beatty, and other faculty to continuing to make her time at Notre Dame a rewarding experience.

Graduate Students

Awards, Grants and Fellowships Deadlines

Kellogg Institute

Dissertation Year Fellowships: Monday, February 15

Supplemental Awards for PhD Students: Tuesday, February 16

Graduate Research Grants: Monday, February 22 @ noon

Quechua Summer Language Fellowships: Monday, March 15

For more information about Kellogg grants and fellowships, see

<http://kellogg.nd.edu/students/grad/grants/index.shtml>

Research Grants

Graduate School -

<http://graduateschool.nd.edu/html/financial.support/>

Nanovic Institute - <http://www.nd.edu/~nanovic/programs/index.html>

For more information, contact:

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Quechua Comes Alive in Callalli's Classroom

Inés Callalli Villafuerte is a visiting assistant professional specialist in Iberian and Latin American Studies.



Callalli in traditional dress

When Inés Callalli Villafuerte was a girl, a friend of hers left their Peruvian mountain village to go to school in the city. When she returned she had forgotten how to speak Quechua – Callalli was horrified. How could you forget your language? Callalli was determined never to lose her language. She has never stopped speaking Quechua – as she explains, “It (Quechua) is my identity.”

This incident and the sacrifices of her grandfather to give her an education are what motivate Callalli to leave her family for months at a time to teach Quechua in the United States.

Growing up in the mountains of Peru, making a three to four hour trek through three ecosystems to get to school was not unusual. At the age of nine, Callalli's teacher recognized her love of and aptitude for learning and urged her grandfather to find a way to help her continue her studies. This prompted Callalli's grandfather to sell three llamas so she could go away to school in Lima, the first of many sacrifices he made to continue her education. No matter how far from home, Callalli never stopped speaking Quechua. As she says, “God has destined that I be a Quechua speaker because it is a part of my being.”

Her determination continues today in South Bend, Indiana at Notre Dame. This academic year Callalli teaches beginning and intermediate Quechua in addition to an intermediate-level

Spanish class on Quechua culture to undergraduate and graduate students. Sabine MacCormack, Kellogg Faculty Fellow and Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, Professor of Arts and Letters, institutionalized the study of Quechua at Notre Dame through a \$500,000 endowment of the Latin American Indigenous Language Learning Program. Funding for the endowment originated in the Mellon Foundation's Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities, which MacCormack received in 2001 and brought with her to Notre Dame.

Callalli doesn't hesitate to extol the benefits of learning Quechua. “Certainly,” she says, “it is necessary to improve research skills for anyone interested in studying the region.” Her main goal “is for students to be able to communicate” – unless one can speak the language one never truly will understand its people.

Quechua Culture Night

6:30pm, Wednesday, February 24
C-103 & Great Hall, Hesburgh Center

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the indigenous people of Peru? Have you seen Quechua classes and fellowships offered but really don't know much about the language and culture? Join us for an evening of music, dance, film, language learning and more. Professor Inés Callalli, a native of Peru, will share her traditions.

Alumna Shares her Career Path with Notre Dame Students



This past October, Notre Dame and Latin American Studies Program alumna Clare Ribando Seelke ('98) returned to her alma mater to share her career and research experience in two separate talks, “From N.D. to D.C.: Pathways to Careers in the Federal Government” and “Get out of the

Library and into the World: Taking Advantage of Overseas Research Opportunities.”

Seelke spoke with Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students about her position as a specialist in Latin American Affairs at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) as well as other careers with the federal government. Seelke identified many offices that require international knowledge and experience. She offered students advice about where to look for jobs in the federal government and how best to prepare for

them. She noted the value of international travel and spoke of her own international experience doing research in Bolivia as an undergraduate and the long-term impact that experience has had on her career.

Seelke's career path preparation began at Notre Dame where she majored in government and international studies and received a Kellogg Institute Research Grant the summer of her junior year to travel to Bolivia. After graduation she pursued a Master of Public Affairs and Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She joined the CRS, the research arm of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) and completed rotations with the State Department in the Dominican Republic and with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Washington D.C. Currently, her research covers Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Mexico, as well as a number of cross-cutting issues such as gangs, energy, and trafficking in persons.

Events

Cultural Events

Friday, February 12

8:00 pm - midnight
South Dining Hall

12th Annual Celebration of Brazilian Carnaval

Vibrant Brazilian dance rhythms will transport revelers from South Bend to the streets of Rio de Janeiro during the 12th annual celebration of Brazilian Carnaval. The Brazilian celebration of Mardi Gras, Carnaval will feature professional Brazilian dancers performing and teaching dance steps to the authentic axé and samba music of Chicago Samba. Directed by Moacyr Marchini, Chicago Samba features Brazilian musicians who have performed together for 20 years. *The family-friendly event is free and open to the public.*

Wednesday, February 24

6:30 pm
Great Hall & C103

Quechua Culture Night

(For more information, see page 3.)

Thursday, March 25

7:00 pm & 9:30 pm
DeBartolo Performing Arts
Center
Tickets: \$15 - \$40

Romero Days/Film Screening "Romero: A Man for the World"

On Monday, March 24, 1980, Monseñor Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, was killed by a professional hit man as he stood at the altar of his chapel celebrating a memorial mass. His assassination became the catalyst for the Salvadoran Civil War, a conflict which lasted for twelve years and cost 75,000 civilian deaths. This film tells the amazing story of the last three years of Romero's life. Visit <http://performingarts.nd.edu> for more information.

Lectures and Conferences

Thursday, February 4

4:15 pm
C103

Lecture: *Controlling the Airwaves: Incumbency Advantage and Community Radio in Brazil*, Taylor Boas, Department of Political Science, Boston University and Kellogg Visiting Fellow

Tuesday, February 9

12:30 pm
C103

Lecture

Daniel Brinks, Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame

Thursday, February 11

4:15 pm
C103

Lecture

Benjamine Junge, Department of Anthropology, State University of New York, New Paltz and Kellogg Visiting Fellow

Tuesday, February 16

12:30 pm
C103

Lecture

Amy Reynolds, Department of Sociology, Princeton University and Kellogg Visiting Fellow

Wednesday, March 17

6:30 pm
Auditorium

Lecture

Halbert Jones, Senior Fellow, Mexico and Central America Program, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies

Romero Days March 24 - 26

Wednesday, March 24
12:00 pm

Romero Days Lecture by Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini
Eck Hall of Law, Room TBA

Thursday, March 25
12:30 pm
C103

Romero Days Lecture: "The Palace of Justice: A Colombian Tragedy"
Ana Carrigan, Colombian-Irish journalist and cinematographer dedicated to exploring human rights issues in Latin America

For more information visit <http://kellogg.nd.edu/romero/Lecture.htm>.

Tuesday, March 30
12:30 pm
C103

Lecture
Nuno Senos, Research Fellow, Center for Overseas History, Universidade Nova de Lisboa's Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Thursday, April 1
4:15 pm
C103

Lecture
Valerie Sperling, Department of Government, Clark University

Student Events

Friday, February 5
11:30 am
Greenfields

LASP Lunches @ Greenfields
Guest Speaker: Yael Prizant, Department of Film, Television and Theatre and Department of American Studies, University of Notre Dame

Monday, February 15
6:00 pm
C103

LASP Faculty - Student Dinner
Faculty will speak about how they became interested in Latin America and the research they are currently doing.
To register, visit <http://kellogg.nd.edu/students/eventsregister.shtml>.

Monday, April 12
6:30 pm
C103 & Great Hall

LASP Presentation Night
Latin American Studies minors will present their research. Information regarding available grant funding will also be provided. (*For more information see pg.10.*)
A reception will follow the presentations.

Friday, May 14
4:30 pm
Auditorium & Great Hall

Senior Awards Ceremony & Reception



Senior Awards Ceremony & Reception

Faculty, family, and friends are invited to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating Latin American Studies minors, along with other graduating seniors of the Kellogg Institute's programs.
Students will be honored on

Friday, May 14

in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

A reception will begin at 4:30 pm followed by an awards ceremony at 5:00 pm.

All events are held in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies unless otherwise stated.

Finding Home Thousands of Miles from the U.S.

By Kelsey Conlon, Sociology and Pre-professional Studies major

Our words of warning before we met with our host families in Linares, Chile - a small, rural and impoverished town where our Spanish intensive pre-program was held - were, "There are no hot showers or heating and the houses are small and crowded, but the families are humble and will welcome you into their family with open arms." "No hot water!" I thought to myself, "Thank God I am only going to be here for two weeks." Little did I know that in those two weeks I would find my home and my family in Chile.

My host father was a small and quiet man who worked long hours in construction. He barely spoke and, when he did, he spoke too fast for me to understand much of anything. However, as he slowed down his speech and my understanding improved, we began to converse frequently. My host mother was a kind and humble woman who constantly made sure that I was comfortable. She started out too shy to talk to me, but, after a few days, we formed a habit of having coffee together. At night we talked about my host brothers and her stress once everyone else had gone to bed. My oldest host brother was talkative and worked to make sure I learned as much about Chile as possible. We talked about everything from the Catholic faith to the political tension in Chile to Harry Potter. My younger host brother was full of energy and ran around the house hiding from me. One of his favorite activities was giving me a Rubik's cube and helping me solve it.

My first night in the family we walked from the church to their house with my two suitcases. I was extremely embarrassed that I had so much stuff. We lugged my suitcases up to my bedroom and then came back downstairs for some cake and tea. The family would ask me questions, I would look blankly at them, and then they would get embarrassed and talk amongst themselves. The whole time, however, my host mother looked at me the way my real mother would, with true care and love. The whole family asked me repeatedly if I wanted more cake. At the end of the meal, we finally began to bond over one of the few

words that I knew in Spanish: *toÿta* (cake).

As the days went on, we began cooking dinner, watching movies, and reading books together. At first I felt like a guest because my host mother would not let me cut vegetables or help her clean. After a few days, however, she began ordering me around just as if I was one of her sons. Even though the results of my work often turned out very differently than expected - when she asked me to cut up potatoes, the outcome was disastrous - she kept giving me jobs so that I could improve my cooking. Upon my arrival in Chile, my family gave me my own room. However, as the days went on, I would arrive home to find one of my brothers watching TV on my bed or playing on my computer. Every day my family bombarded me with questions about my day and would drag me into their family life to cook dinner, watch a movie or play with a Rubik's cube. My host family had become my family and I had become their sister and child.

We talked about the hardships they face in Chile being part of the lower class and the things that should be done to help them. My host brother wants to go to college but, chances are, he will not receive any aid and he will not be able to pay to go. My host mother has many medical problems but she has to save up money to go to the doctor since they are uninsured and have to pay out of pocket.

Living with my host family, I gained an appreciation for the powerful role that family and tradition play in shaping lives and giving people strength. Without each other, my host family would have nothing. The bonds that hold them together, and now hold me to them, are some of the most powerful forces I have ever felt. They helped me to see that beauty and inspiration can exist amid some of the most hopeless conditions and this beauty comes from within the family and the love they have for one another. For me, this family has put four faces to the word "poverty" and has made me even more determined to do what I can to end the cycle of poverty.

After my two weeks were over and I was headed to Santiago, I began to cry as I said goodbye to my family. I had already made plans to go back to see them at least twice during my time in Chile. By that time, I had completely forgotten about "no hot water."



Conlon with her host family

El día de los muertos

By Colin Parker, Economics and Pre-professional Studies major

Day of the Dead may be Mexico’s biggest and most culturally significant celebration. Its roots reach back before the Spanish conquest to indigenous religions, while customs have mixed with Catholic holidays like All Soul’s Day. Many of us recognize the sugar skulls and the ‘well-dressed skeletons’ (*calaveñas*), or may have whiled away a Spanish class to indulge in authentic sweets. My experience of the celebration in Mexico was an indulgence not of candy but rather of a unique small-town tradition.

A celebration of death seems strange to us. Rather than a somber apology, can you imagine passing ‘congratulations’ at a funeral? But that’s a good way to look at it. A traditional Mexican attitude about death isn’t sad at all. The soul passes through death to the next exciting step in its journey, which culminates in its resting place.

The Day of the Dead ceremony recognizes days on which these souls can more easily travel and interact with our world. On November 1st and 2nd, many Mexicans believe their ancestors return to take the essence from food placed at *ofrendas* (offerings) in their homes.

I was fortunate enough to catch this monolithic holiday in the relatively unknown town of Ocotepéc. My Mexican family and friends had never heard of it; my guide book did not spare it an entry. But those who did recognize the name knew about the town’s rituals and special celebration for the Day of the Dead.

In Ocotepéc, *Mojelos*, families with members who passed away within the year, prepare many additional tributes to compliment the *ofrenda*. The first are elaborately decorated entryways to their homes (pictured). These entrances serve to entice the wandering souls to follow a path of marigolds to the *ofrenda*. They are equally inviting to the living, as visitors are invited to walk the same path. Upon

visiting the alter-like tribute and respectfully laying a bouquet of flowers or a gifted candle, every guest receives a plate of food. The celebration of passage by the family is shared throughout the community.

We wandered the streets, sidestepping candle and flower vendors, and picked out the houses with lush-green entryways. The initial uncertainty surrounding a foreign custom gave way following the warm welcome each family extended. We visited three homes that afternoon until our stomachs were full of tamales and tacos. At the third, we chatted with a growing bunch of neighborhood kids, who kept probing us to translate words in English and giggled at every response.

As the day progressed the celebration gathered steam as Mexicans and some other

tourists arrived throughout the afternoon. By evening, we might wait for half an hour in lines that stretched entire blocks to visit a home. I later discovered that these families continue to welcome and feed visitors up through dawn of the next morning.

The generosity exhibited by this community occurs across the country. It is truly astounding, for despite meager means, families open their homes and offer food to *evejyone*. For those in Ocotepéc, it is the only

appropriate way to honor the departed. It was a privilege to have helped call those wandering souls back to their families; you should try it.



Entryway



Plan to attend

LASP Presentation Night

**Monday, April 12, 6:30 pm
C103 & Great Hall, Hesburgh Center
for International Studies**

Students will present their research, detailing the questions they posed and their findings. This event is a great opportunity for underclassmen interested in research grants to gain ideas for potential research and to get advice from experienced students. Information regarding available grant funding for summer 2011 will also be provided.



A reception will follow the presentations.

Faculty, please encourage your students to participate.

LASP LUNCHES

@
**Greenfields
International Café**

***First Friday of every month
join your fellow LASP minors for lunch
with graduate students, faculty,
visiting fellows, and special speakers.***

To sign up, visit

<http://kellogg.nd.edu/students/eventsregister.shtml>

