

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Where passion and excellence encounter knowledge

In This Issue

News from the Director

New Student
Introductions

Summer Spotlights

Alumni Highlights

ISLAC Global

Upcoming Events



News from the Director

Dear ISLAC family and friends,

Summer of 2023 brought good news and changes to USF: our University has joined the Association of American Universities (AAU), which brings possibilities for growth and recognition to USF in general, and ISLAC in particular. “This invitation historic invitation will provide new federal funding opportunities for USF research, strengthen its role in meeting workforce demands and attract the brightest faculty, staff and students to Tampa Bay. Congratulations!”

This past May, ISLAC travelled to Granada, Spain to participate in an international seminar on Academic and Scientific Mobility. The seminar focused the discussion on the implications of the internationalization of higher education, interculturality and mobility programs. There, I met with Glenda Vaillant Cruz, our former ISLAC student, who spent a year studying and doing research at the University of Granada. Now, she is back, starting a PhD program in Anthropology and continues to be affiliated with ISLAC. A picture of the Team is included in the newsletter.

Two of our Associated Faculty got ISLAC Research Grants. Professor Felipe Mantilla (USF-SP/SIGS), who carried out fieldwork in Lima, Peru, will be working on a project entitled “The dynamics of protest and state repression during Peru’s most recent constitutional crisis”. Professor Alejandro Marquez, (USF Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences) will continue to advance his research on “Everyday Forms of Collective Identity in the Immigrant Rights Movement”. Congratulations and we look forward knowing more about these exciting projects in the future.

I also got support from CAS - Centers and Institutes, to conduct further research on Venezuelan migration in Argentina. I spent several weeks in Mendoza, Argentina, reconnecting with the Venezuelan migrant families I had interviewed in 2019 before the pandemic. My research focus was on how they managed during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to reassess their migration experience. It was a very productive summer/winter and a lot of writing is expected to be done this coming semester. In addition, I took ISLAC to Melbourne, Australia, to the World Congress of the International Sociological Association (ISA), where I presented my work on gender, public policies and refugees, and co-chaired a panel on Gender-based Violence and Migrations: Global Perspectives.

This academic year **2023/2024**, ISLAC has big plans. First, we will be sponsoring several academic events related to Hispanic Heritage Month, starting next week, so look out for our emails with details. ISLAC will also co-sponsor talks and book presentations. From October to December, ISLAC will host Professor Isabela Cabral Felix de Sousa, from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who will spend 3 month studying scientific training with an international perspective. She will be available to meet with USF faculty and students.

In the Spring semester, ISLAC is planning a conference where ISLAC faculty and students will share their research on Latin American, Caribbean and Latino issues with the USF and Tampa Bay communities. If you have news to share, please let me know. More to come soon.

Beatriz Padilla



New Student Introductions

The Master's in Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies Program is excited to welcome 2 new students this fall semester: Anabela Vaquer and Julissa Ramirez Perez. Each student shared with us their "Why?" for joining ISLAC at USF, thrilled to have them here with us! WELCOME!!!!



"I applied to join the MALACS program because it offers the tools to get a comprehensive understanding about the complex situation of Latin America in social, political and economic terms. In consequence, that knowledge will allow me to promote and participate in regional and international processes of cooperation."

~ **Anabela Vaquer**



"I am excited to embark on the journey of pursuing a Masters in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies, a path deeply rooted in my personal experiences and academic pursuits. Hailing from Costa Rica and later immersing myself in a vibrant Latino community, I've been fortunate to witness and appreciate the cultural tapestry that stretches across Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. These encounters sparked a passion within me to delve into the histories and diverse cultures of these regions. As I look ahead, I aspire to expand my grasp of globalization's influence on population flows and migration patterns within Latin America.

With a keen interest in the intersection of indigenous populations and migration dynamics, I aim to preserve the continuity of ancestral communities while understanding the realities of their migration experiences. The vibrant presence of Mexican communities in the Tampa Bay area offers an opportunity for on-the-ground research, aligning seamlessly with the strengths of the ISLAC program. "

~ **Julissa Ramirez**

Summer Spotlights

Exploring Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies: Student Adventures

Barbara DePaula



This summer, Barbara DePaula, second year student in the MALAC's program, interned for Stories Inspiring Movements (SIM) which is an organization that advocates for immigrant youth rights and was founded on the campaign for tuition equity in Massachusetts. This aimed to provide youth, regardless of immigration status, the right to in-state tuition. Barbara shared that she has been working on the campaign team this summer as the representative for Martha's Vineyard. During the first week of August, Governor Maura Healey signed the tuition equity bill into law in Massachusetts. Barbara is now working with her team to plan for the implementation of these new policies.

In addition to her internship, Barbara shared that she has "been working on collecting interviews from key informants and Brazilian youth living in Martha's Vineyard. This research has been used to guide her work with SIM on the MA tuition equity act that passed and is now being implemented.



Summer Spotlights

Yasmeen Armoush



Armoush pictured in the front in the grey dress.

Yasmeen Armoush, a second year MALACS student is on the committee for Tampa-Barranquilla Sister Cities. This event was the first time that Tampa Sister Cities hosted a “welcome city tour” for the students from Universidad del Norte (UniNorte). Over 35 students attended this event. Students began at USF with a presentation by USF World. Next, Tampa Sister Cities provided a charter bus for the tour to a walking tour of Ybor City, lunch at the Italian Club, and then to Armature works. Yasmeen Armoush said “This was an exciting day to connect the students with both campus groups and local organizations who want to support them in this next chapter here in Tampa”.



Summer Spotlights

Barbara Herrera



This summer, Barbara Herrera spent time working with youth in Tampa FL, guiding them, and creating pieces of art from different media. She pursued this opportunity to acquire more experience with children and to get a better understanding of teaching styles that are offered to children, given that she is studying the modes of teaching and learning for her master's thesis.



During the summer, she also focused on applying for various scholarships. She received scholarships from the Tampa Gardens Club and Grace Allen USF Women's Club Endowment. In addition, she devoted much of her summer to the application process for Fullbright with the goal of spending 10 months in the Dominican Republic for the coming Fall of 2024 to study the ethnobotany of the urban communities in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.



Summer Spotlights

Laurel Lee



Laurel Lee, second year MALACS student, had the opportunity to visit Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. There, she had the opportunity to learn about the Dominican Development Group which is a non-profit organization within The Episcopal Church that assists the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic with funding support. This was a new experience for Laurel, as she learned about fundraising and the administrative side to an international non-profit.



Laurel Lee pictured second from the left with other DDG supporters and staff.

Alumni Highlights

Andrea Cetré Castilblanco



Andrea Cetré has spent the past month diligently working at the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF). Serving as an adviser within the general division at the national level, Andrea's role has been instrumental in promoting the implementation of an intersectionality approach, particularly concerning Afro-Colombian and Black communities in Colombia.

Notably, her efforts have been concentrated in the Pacific Colombian region, where a significant Afro-Colombian population resides. Andrea has immersed herself in her work, journeying to remote rural areas where basic services are scarce. Through firsthand experience, she has gained a profound understanding of the pressing need to enhance the lives of children and adolescents, a priority group for ICBF. She emphasizes that access to basic services and a secure environment are pivotal factors in children's development. Tragically, many rural areas in the Pacific region are still grappling with post-conflict challenges stemming from non-state armed groups. Consequently, these circumstances force people to abandon their communities and relocate to urban centers, often without established social networks.

Amidst numerous challenges faced by Colombian children, Andrea's dedication to crafting improved solutions aligns with the goals of the new government agenda. She wholeheartedly embraces her role in supporting this mission. Reflecting on her time at ISLAC, Andrea expresses her appreciation for the enriched understanding of theories like intersectionality and methodologies that can be practically applied. Intersectionality has proven to be a pivotal tool in devising innovative solutions, enabling a holistic perspective that considers children's identities as they intersect with categories such as race, gender, rural versus urban environments, and disabilities, among others.

ISLAC Global



Last May, Dr Padilla and Glenda Vaillant Cruz presented their work in **Granada, Spain**, at the International Seminar on International Academic and Scientific Mobility, held across the beautiful Alhambra. In Granada, they were hosted by Dr Antonia Olmos Alcaraz.

In June, 2023, Dr Padilla was invited to give a lecture in her Alma Mater, the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina, on Migrations: Global and Regional Agendas. She was hosted by the Vice-president, and both universities, USF-UNCuyo, are working on an agreement that envisions establishing futurer collaborations.



IOC PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO STRICTO SENSU EM ENSINO EM BIOCÊNCIAS E SAÚDE

SEMINÁRIO TEMÁTICO EM ENSINO EM BIOCÊNCIAS E SAÚDE

“SAÚDE E MIGRAÇÕES: INDICADORES DE INTEGRAÇÃO”

MEDIADORA: ISABELA CABRAL FELIX DE SOUSA (DOCENTE PG-EBS E EPSJV/FIOCRUZ)

BEATRIZ PADILLA (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA - EUA)

06 Setembro, 2023

15 HORAS VIA WEBCONFERÊNCIA

LINK DE TRANSMISSÃO:
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/C/ENSINOEMBIOENCIASEAUDEFIOCRUZ](https://www.youtube.com/c/ensinoembioenciaseaudefiocruz)

Dr.Padilla gave a guest lecture on “Health and Migrations: Integration Indicators” in the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Brazilian National School of Public Health - Department of Education on Biosciences and Health. The event was broadcasted in youtube.

This is one of the activities planned in collaborations with this well-known Brazilian institution. Next month, Dr Isabela Cabral Felix de Sousa, is arriving ad will be spending three month with us in ISLAC, as an exchange visitor, conducting research and getting to know the community and the Tampa Bay Area. She will also be meeting with Salud Latina in the College of Public Health.

Upcoming Events

Hispanic Heritage Month

Calle 54 with Roberto Jiménez

October 6 | 6:30pm |

Historic Asolo Theater at The Ringling,
5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota, FL 34243

In Calle 54, Madrid-based filmmaker Fernando Trueba explores the wide and wonderful world of Latin jazz: a hybrid genre that fuses the clave, samba, flamenco, merengue, and other rhythms from Africa, the Iberian peninsula, and the Americas. The most touching scene is the emotional father-and-son reunion of Cuban pianists Bebo and Chucho Valdés, who were separated by Fidel Castro's revolution.

Join us after the film in a conversation with USF and ISLAC professor **Roberto Jiménez**.



USF CELEBRATES
HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH

Celebratory Luncheon

RSVP TODAY!
usf.edu/multicultural

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
DOORS OPEN AT 11:30AM
USF Marshall Student Center Ballroom

For reasonable accommodations,
email Neudy Nuñez at ncnunez@usf.edu

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
813-974-5111 • usf.edu/multicultural
MSC 2008, 2322, 2385 in the Student Life Tower

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
Student Success

Sana Sana Colita de Rana

Let's Talk about Latinx Health

Join Salud Latina USF faculty for a panel discussion recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month as we analyze Latinx health in the US and Latin America. The panel includes topics important to Latinx health, such as, infectious and non-communicable diseases, socioeconomic considerations, domestic violence, and protective factors.

September 19th, 5-6:30 pm at the USF Marshall Student Center, Rm 3707

USFHealth | Salud Latina | College of Public Health our practice is our passion | diversity | ISLAC

Let's celebrate our Latino roots and culture with OMA and Salud Latina!!!

Upcoming Events

Status of Latinos (SoL)

Make sure to participate in the USF Hispanic Heritage Poster Contest! Artwork is due by **September 18th**. Reach out to Leonor O'Relly (loreilly@usf.edu) with any questions you may have. Good luck!



USF Hispanic Heritage Celebration SoL Awards Breakfast

POSTER CONTEST
PRIZE \$300

Submit poster artwork [here](#) by
Monday, September 18, 2023



LESLEY MORALES, 2022 WINNER



SAVE THE DATE



AWARDS BREAKFAST

Thursday, October 5, 2023
9 a.m.
St. Petersburg Campus

Come celebrate the SoL awards at the St. Petersburg Campus!

Alianza Latina - Faculty and Staff Association

Alianza Latina Faculty & Staff Association (ALFSA)

GENERAL BODY MEETING

12 P.M. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

► <https://bit.ly/usfalianza0923>

WELCOME SPEAKER: USF PRESIDENT RHEA LAW

This meeting is open to all USF Latinx/a/o, Latin American, or Hispanic identified faculty & staff and allies interested in supporting and being champions for this community.

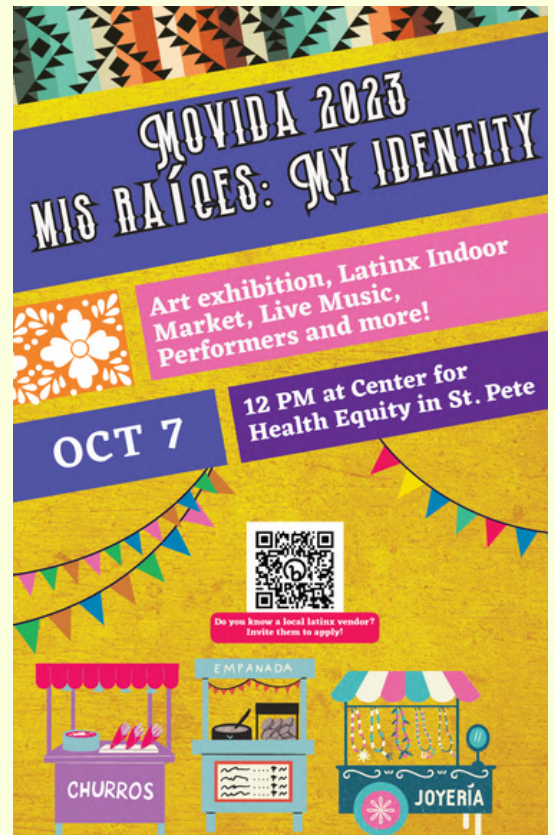


UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
Alianza Latina Faculty and
Staff Association

For membership inquiries, contact Laura Ferraz at alianza-latina@usf.edu.

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for events such as these celebrating Latin America, the Caribbean & Latinos in the community!





Welcome back Glenda!

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit ISLAC webpage
<http://islac.usf.edu/>

We would love to include other faculty publications and events in our next issue. Please reach out to Laurel Lee's email which is listed below.

If you want to donate to ISLAC to support our students, academic program or research, please do so in this page

<https://giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/390750/>

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