From the President…

Last fall, LACS members enjoyed a successful SHA conference in scenic St. Pete’s Beach in Florida. As we look forward to our next meeting in Dallas, Texas, I would like to encourage our members to make plans to attend the SHA conference and to invite their colleagues and graduate students to join our organization. As a historian of Latinos and the U.S. Southwest, I have been encouraged by the welcoming atmosphere of LACS-SHA to borderlands topics and scholars. I would like more borderlands historians to join LACS-SHA and become active in its activities. As part of this effort, I have invited Professor Neil Foley (Southern Methodist University) to be our luncheon speaker at our next meeting. Professor Foley is the co-director of the Clements Center for Southwest Studies at SMU, and has long been active in the SHA. He has graciously agreed to give a talk on historical and contemporary immigration issues.

For scholars of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the borderlands, the past few years and current political moment have presented several opportunities to educate the public about our respective fields. Despite hopes that U.S. policy towards Latin America would change under the Obama administration, many troubling continuities persisted including the support of neo-liberal policies and right-wing politicians at the expense of the region’s workers and democratic movements. The United States failed to join the OAS and the UN in condemning the 2009 coup in Honduras, supported the 2010-11 disputed elections in Haiti, and contributed to destabilizing the democratically-elected, but increasingly authoritarian, Venezuelan government. While the Obama administration created the DACA Program (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) to protect undocumented immigrant youth, it also supervised the largest number of deportations of any previous presidential administration and failed to pass comprehensive immigration reform. However, in perhaps one of the most dramatic breaks from past U.S. policy on the Caribbean, the Obama administration restored diplomatic relations with Cuba and ended the “wet foot, dry foot” policy that gave Cubans preferential treatment over other Latin American and Caribbean immigrants.

The rise of authoritarian governments highlights the importance for scholars to provide critical commentary that will educate the public and hold U.S. government officials accountable. The
role of informed scholars is critically important in light of the current administration’s calls for a “border wall” along the U.S.-Mexico border, the renegotiation of NAFTA, an increase in deportations, and attacks on Sanctuary cities and campuses. This rhetoric has led to increasing xenophobic attacks on immigrants, the criminalization of Latin American immigrants and Latino residents, and plans for more funding to continue the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border and private immigrant detention jails. While these events are troubling, the response of scholars, students, and the U.S. public has been heartening. As they did during the previous administration, scholars have spoken out in favor of DACA and against deportations that separate immigrant families. More than 630 university presidents signed a statement supporting the continuation of DACA, while students and professors rallied across the nation to demand that colleges remain “sanctuaries” from immigration authorities. In addition, national and international professional organizations of historians and scholars have issued statements condemning the current administration’s misguided travel bans and proposed cuts to the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The role of historians as educators, expert witnesses, and public intellectuals is critical to combat the current domestic and international threats to democracy. As political and economic turmoil continues to engulf nations like Brazil and Venezuela, scholars must educate university students and the public about the historical legacies that created these problems. Scholars must continue to serve as expert witnesses in deportation and detention cases to explain the risks which immigrants face in their home countries and the value of their contributions to the U.S. If NAFTA is renegotiated and immigration reform is proposed, historians should give media interviews and write opinion pieces about the importance of protecting workers’ rights, creating fair trade deals, and establishing humane immigration laws. We must also speak out in favor of a free press (at home and abroad), intellectual freedom, and the importance of the humanities. It has been encouraging to witness the growing prominence of blogs, public humanities projects, and policy advocacy from historians and historical organizations because the current political climate requires informed, educated, and rational analysis.

I encourage LACS members to write opinion essays, provide media interviews, and join public advocacy projects about Latin America and the Caribbean. While we continue to teach our courses, conduct research, and publish, it is also important that we use our expertise to inform the public and policy makers about the importance of understanding the history of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the borderlands.

Finally, I would like express my gratitude to the LACS executive committee as well to the members of the various prize committees for their service. I would also like to thank Catherine Nolan-Ferrell for her work as 2017 Program Chair.

Omar Valerio-Jiménez
University of Texas at San Antonio
LACS Officers, 2017

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omar.valerio-jimenez@utsa.edu
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LACS Program Chair (Birmingham, 2018)
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2017 LACS Committee Members

2017 LACS Program Committee (Dallas)

Catherine Nolan-Ferrell, University of Texas at San Antonio (Chair)
Frances Ramos, University of South Florida
Tiffany Sippial, Auburn University

2017 Prize Committees

Murdo J. Macleod Book Prize

Victor Uribe (chair), Florida International University
Lisa Sousa, Occidental College
Gerry Cadava, Northwestern University
Tamara Spike (ex officio), University of North Georgia

Kimberly Hanger Article Prize

Bonnie Lucero (chair), University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Zeb Tortorici, New York University
Samuel Truett, University of New Mexico
Tamara Spike (ex officio), University of North Georgia

Richmond F. Brown Dissertation Prize

James Wood (chair), North Carolina A&T State University
Justin Wolfe, Tulane University
Ángela Vergara, California State University, Los Angeles
Tamara Spike (ex officio), University of North Georgia

Ralph Lee Woodward Jr. Prize

Courtney Campbell (chair), University of Birmingham
John McKiernan-Gonzalez, Texas State University
Robinson Herrera, Florida State University
Tamara Spike (ex officio), University of North Georgia

For more information about LACS/SHA, its officers, prizes, and meetings, see our website at

www.tnstate.edu/lacs
LACS Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Tamara Spike reports that LACS had 83 paid members as of mid-February, 2017. The LACS treasury holds approximately $5310. Last year, $3,425 was donated by LACS members to the newly established Richmond Brown prize for graduate students. If you are interested in donating to the Brown prize or any LACS prize (now 501(c)6 eligible on your taxes!), information is available at http://www.tnstate.edu/lacs/payment.aspx

Murdo J. MacLeod Book Prize, 2016

Victor Uribe-Uran

Fatal Love: Spousal Killers, Law, and Punishment in the Late Colonial Spanish Atlantic (Stanford, 2015).

The 2016 Murdo McLeod Book Prize Committee unanimously selected Uribe-Uran’s deeply researched and masterfully executed study as the recipient of this year’s award. The committee members recognize the book as an example of top-notch social and comparative history. Framing the “world of spousal murders” within a broader Atlantic framework, Uribe-Uran located 206 fascinating criminal cases within archival holdings in Mexico, Colombia, and Spain. The author utilizes a variety of analytic lenses (social history, legal history, cultural history, gender history, and sexuality studies) to present very convincing arguments for the import of this approach to historical development. His expert analysis of these cases sheds new light on the workings of the colonial state, the culture of honor, shifting understandings of law and justice, the enduring challenges of family violence, and the agency of women in colonial Latin America. The award committee congratulates the author on a remarkable study that is sure to make a significant and enduring impact on the field.

Thanks to Committee Members: Tiffany A. Sippial (chair), Alan McPherson, Melina Pappademos, and Tamara Spike (ex officio).

Kimberly S. Hanger Article Prize, 2016

Zeb Tortorici
New York University

Zeb Tortorici’s article “Sexual Violence, Predatory Masculinity, and Medical Testimony in New Spain” was selected for the Kimberly Hanger article prize. The prize committee all agreed that his article offered an in-depth and nuanced treatment of the intersections of gender, judicial-medical expertise, and sexually-violent men and their victims in New Spain’s judicial system. Tortorici brings to light the naturalization of violent masculinity with an eye to the instances in which it is punished, highlighting its contested nature but not denying its persistence. His comparative analysis of rape and sodomy cases reminds us that a heteronormative assumption of
sexual abuse deserves closer scrutiny. Without being presentist, the article nonetheless resonates with contemporary society in terms of today's differential treatment of sexual violence in the judicial system (in the U.S. and elsewhere), the overlooking of sexual violence perpetrated by men against men and boys, and the persistent normalization of violent masculinity to the detriment of men and women alike. It offers, in this sense, an example of ways to approach these subjects and sources in other places and times, beyond the article's specific geographic and chronological limits. This article contributes to the history of science, sexuality and gender.

Overall, this article was innovative, well-written, and pushes scholars to think about the violence of conquest and colonial rule and the ways in which we address sources in a highly nuanced manner.

*Thanks to Committee Members:* Kristen McCleary (chair), Alison J. Bruey, Bonnie Lucero, and Tamara Spike (ex officio).

Richmond F. Brown Dissertation Prize, 2016

Mary Ellen Hicks
University of Virginia

The LACS Dissertation Prize Committee is thrilled this year to award the prize to Mary Ellen Hicks (UVA) for her work, "The Sea and the Shackle: African and Creole Mariners and the Making of a Luso-African Atlantic Commercial Culture, 1721-1835." Hicks draws on an impressive body of archival research to document the involvement of free and slave, African and creole black mariners in the maintenance of transatlantic trade. She documents informal, illicit, and licit trade relations mediated by black mariners, reconstructing a social world of shipmates, patrons, militias, and Catholic brotherhoods from West Africa to the Bahia. She argues that in the absence of a stark divide between the treatment, compensation and trading privileges accorded enslaved and free mariners, black seafarers enjoyed an unprecedented level of social mobility that often allowed them to purchase their freedom and in rare cases become independent transatlantic traders in goods and slaves. Uniformly, the committee was deeply impressed by the breadth and depth of her sources, her prose, and the importance of her subjects.

Thanks to Committee Members: Chad Black (chair), Joshua Nadel, James A. Wood, and Tamara Spike (ex officio).

Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr. Graduate Student Paper Prize, 2016

Jorge Felipe Gonzalez
Michigan State University

The Committee is pleased to select Jorge Felipe Gonzalez the recipient of the Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr. Graduate Student Prize in recognition of his paper, “The Cuban Slave Trade, a Reassessment (1790–1808).” Gonzalez’ work, based on a quantitative survey of archival sources on the slave trade to Havana from 1790 to 1808, addressed two major questions: which nations were involved in the Cuban slave trade and the origin of those enslaved persons. Focusing on the years in which the expansion of sugar production and Cuban slavery transformed the island, Gonzalez reveals new insights into the nature and operation of Cuban slavery and the Inter-American slave trade. Cubans initially worked with foreign traders on both sides of the Atlantic to transform their society and acquired the skill and networks they would need to continue that expansion as their partners in the slave trade removed themselves from it. Those skills and networks would allow Cuban to continue importing slaves for a half century.

Thanks to committee members: Sarah Franklin (chair), Sarah Franklin, Nicola Foote, Christoph Rosenmüller, Tamara Spike (ex officio), University of North Georgia
Call for Submissions

2017 LACS Prizes

Murdo J. MacLeod Book Prize
The 2017 Murdo J. MacLeod Book Prize will be awarded for the best book published in 2016 in the fields of Latin American, Caribbean, American Borderlands and Frontiers, or Atlantic World history. Authors must be or become LACS members at the time of submission.

Deadline: May 15, 2017

Send one hard copy of the book to each of the following committee members:

Victor Uribe, Committee Chair
Florida International University
Department of History, MMC, Suite DM 398
Miami, FL 33199

Lisa Sousa
Occidental College
4831 Galendo Street
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Gerry Cadava
Northwestern University
Department of History
1881 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208

Tamara Spike, ex officio
University of North Georgia
Department of History, Anthropology, & Philosophy
82 College Circle
Dahlonega, GA 30597
**Kimberly S. Hanger Article Prize**

The 2017 Kimberly S. Hanger Article Prize will be awarded to the best article appearing in 2016 in the fields of Latin American, Caribbean, American Borderlands and Frontiers, or Atlantic World history. Authors must be or become LACS members at the time of submission.

**Deadline: May 15, 2017**

Send one *electronic copy* of the article to *each* to the following *four* prize committee members:

Bonnie Lucero, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Committee Chair  
Email: bonnie.lucero@utrgv.edu

Zeb Tortorici, New York University  
Email: zt3@nyu.edu

Samuel Truett, University of New Mexico  
Email: truett@unm.edu

Tamara Spike, *ex officio*, University of North Georgia  
Email: tamara.spike@ung.edu

**Richmond F. Brown Dissertation Prize**

The 2017 Richmond F. Brown Dissertation Prize will be awarded to the best dissertation completed and defended in 2016 in the fields of Latin American, Caribbean, American Borderlands and Frontiers, or Atlantic World history. Dissertations defended at any institution in the US South and adjacent states (i.e. any state in which the SHA has held a meeting) will be considered. Authors must be or become LACS members at the time of submission.

Submit two files to each of the committee members below: a title and one-page abstract and an electronic version of the dissertation.

**Deadline: May 15, 2017**

James Wood, North Carolina A&T State University, Committee Chair  
Email: woodj@ncat.edu

Justin Wolfe, Tulane University
Email: jwolfe@tulane.edu

Ángela Vergara, California State University, Los Angeles
Email: avergar@exchange.calstatela.edu

Tamara Spike, University of North Georgia (ex officio)
Email: tamara.spike@ung.edu

Tamara Spike, *ex officio*, University of North Georgia
tamara.spike@ung.edu

*Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr., Graduate Student Prize*
The 2017 Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr. Prize will be awarded for the best graduate student paper presented at the Dallas Meeting of the SHA (November 2017) in the fields of Latin American, Caribbean, American Borderlands and Frontiers, or Atlantic World history. Students must be or become LACS members at the time of the meeting to be considered from the prize. Students will be asked to submit electronic versions of their paper to the committee members shortly after the 2017 meeting (the deadline will be set by the committee shortly after the meeting).

Courtney Campbell, University of Birmingham, Committee Chair
Email: c.j.campbell@bham.ac.uk

John McKiernan-Gonzalez, Texas State University
Email: jrm259@txstate.edu

Robinson Herrera, Florida State University
Email: herrerahistory@gmail.com

Tamara Spike, *ex officio*, University of North Georgia
tamara.spike@ung.edu
2018 LACS Call for Papers

SHA Meeting
Birmingham, AL
November 8-11, 2018

Deadline: October 1, 2017

The Latin American and Caribbean Section (LACS) of the Southern Historical Association welcomes individual paper and panel proposals for the 2017 SHA meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, November 8-11, 2018. LACS accepts papers and panels on all aspects of Latin American and Caribbean history, including the fields of the borderlands and the Atlantic World. Panels and papers that highlight the connections between people, cultures, and regions are especially welcome.

Submissions should include a 250-word abstract for each paper and brief curriculum vitae for each presenter. We encourage faculty as well as advanced graduate students to submit panels and papers. Graduate students are eligible for the Ralph Lee Woodward Jr. Prize, awarded each year for the best paper presented by a graduate student in a panel organized by LACS.

Please note that the program committee may revise proposed panels. All panelists are required to be members of LACS. For information about membership, please visit the website at: http://www.tnstate.edu/lacs/ or contact Tamara Spike of the University of North Georgia tamara.spike@ung.edu. For more information about the Southern Historical Association, visit the website: http://www.uga.edu/~sha/

Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2017. Complete panels are appreciated, but not required. Submit panels and papers (with a preference for electronic submissions) to:

Tiffany Sippial
Auburn University
tat0004@auburn.edu
THE HISTORY OF LACS

About LACS

LACS was formally established in 1998, at the SHA meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Founded in 1934, the Southern Historical Association is the professional organization of historians of the South, but also of those in the South. In recent decades it has perhaps become more recognized as the former, but through the European History Section and the Latin American and Caribbean Section, and the affiliated groups, the Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH) and the Southern Conference on British Studies, it also supports the work of historians located in the US South whose research and teaching areas fall outside of the region in which they happen to be employed.

Although historians of Latin America, the Caribbean and the Spanish Borderlands have long been active in the SHA, particularly through the aegis of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS, founded in 1954), the relationship has sometimes been an awkward one. LACS was established to formalize relations between historians of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the one hand, and the SHA on the other hand, and to secure a place for Latin American and Caribbean specialists at the annual meeting. The late Kimberly Hanger, a talented young historian at the University of Tulsa who played an important role in establishing the group, was elected its first president. Tragically, Kim died just a few months into her term, at the age of 37. Jürgen Buchenau of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, another key figure in the establishment of LACS, completed Kim’s term in office and then his own term the following year. Jürgen later became the first LACS representative to the SHA Executive Council in 2002. The LACS representative was accorded full voting rights beginning with the 2005 meeting. Richmond Brown served LACS in multiple capacities, including as President, Program Chair, and longtime newsletter editor. He was LACS’ institutional memory and de facto historian. His loss, coming too soon in 2016, remains acutely felt. In recognition of his service, LACS named the Dissertation Prize in his honor.

For more on the history of LACS, see John Britton’s piece in the September 2008 newsletter at the LACS/SHA website: http://www.tnstate.edu/lacs/

LACS Officers and Awards, 1998-2015

President
Kimberly Hanger, University of Tulsa (1998-9)
Todd Diacon, University of Tennessee (2000-1)
Timothy Henderson, Auburn University Montgomery (2001-2)
Richmond Brown, University of South Alabama (2002-3)
Marshall Eakin, Vanderbilt University (2003-4)
Virginia Gould, Tulane University (2004-5)
Andrew McMichael, Western Kentucky University (2005-6)
Sherry Johnson, Florida International University (2006-7)
Barbara Ganson, Florida Atlantic University (2007-8)
Matt Childs, University of South Carolina (2008-9)
Jane Landers, Vanderbilt University (2009-10)
Juliana Barr, University of Florida (2010-11)
Brian Owensby, University of Virginia (2011-12)
Thomas Rogers, Emory University (2012-13)
Sarah Franklin, University of North Alabama (2013-14)
Robert Smale, University of Missouri, Columbia (2014-15)
William Van Norman, James Madison University (2015-16)
Omar Valerio-Jiménez, University of Texas at San Antonio (2016-17)

*Treasurer*
Andrew McMichael, Western Kentucky University (2003-2005)
Michael LaRosa, Rhodes College (2005-2009)
Matt Childs, University of South Carolina (2009-2013)
Tamara Spike, University of North Georgia (2013-present)

*Secretary*
Andrew McMichael, Western Kentucky University (2003-2005)
Theron Corse, Tennessee State University (2005-present)

*Program Chairs*
Todd Diacon, University of Tennessee (Louisville, 2000)
Timothy Henderson, Auburn University at Montgomery (New Orleans, 2001)
Richmond Brown, University of South Alabama (Baltimore, 2002)
Andrew McMichael, Western Kentucky University (Houston, 2003)
Jane Landers, Vanderbilt University (Memphis, 2004)
Michael Polushin, University of Southern Mississippi (Atlanta, 2005)
Jay Clune, University of West Florida (Birmingham, 2006)
William Connell, Christopher Newport University (Richmond, 2007)
Rosanne Adderley, Vanderbilt University (New Orleans, 2008)
Andrew McMichael, Western Kentucky University (Louisville, 2009)
Thomas Rogers, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Charlotte, 2010)
Ben Vinson, III, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, 2011)
Sarah Franklin, University of North Alabama (Mobile, 2012)
Robert Smale, University of Missouri, Columbia (St. Louis, 2013)
Justin Wolfe, Tulane University (Atlanta, 2014)
Peter Szok, TCU (Little Rock, 2015)
Frances Ramos, University of South Florida (St. Pete Beach, 2016)
Catherine Nolan-Ferrell, University of Texas at San Antonio (Dallas, 2017)
Tiffany Sippial, Auburn University (Birmingham, 2018)
**SHA Executive Council Representative**

Richmond Brown, University of Florida (2005-2007)
Sherry Johnson, Florida International University (2008-10)
Barbara Ganson, Florida Atlantic University (2011-13)
Matt Childs, University of South Carolina (2014-2016)
Robert Smale, University of Missouri, Columbia (2017-2019)

**Luncheon Speakers**

2000  Murdo MacLeod, University of Florida: “Native Cofradías in Colonial Guatemala”


2002  Franklin Knight, Johns Hopkins University: “Regional vs. Global History”

2003  Thomas F. O’Brien, University of Houston: “Inter-American History from Structuralism to the New Cultural History”

2004  John Chasteen, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: “What Dance History Teaches about the Latin American Past”

2005  Susan Socolow, Emory University: “Constructing the Nation: Monuments in Buenos Aires and Montevideo”

2006  Jane Landers, Vanderbilt University: “Ecclesiastical Records and the Study of Slavery in the Americas”

2007  N. David Cook, Florida International University: “Anecdotes from the Archives: The Times they are A-changing”

2008  Dauril Alden, Professor Emeritus, University of Washington: “Terror on Land and Sea: The Barbary Corsairs and Their Rivals, 16th to 19th Centuries”


2010  Lyman Johnson, UNC Charlotte: “Populist Politics in Late Colonial Buenos Aires”

2011  John Tutino, Georgetown University, “Capitalism and Patriarchy, Community and Revolution, Power and Resistance in Mexico, 1750-1940”
2012 Steve Striffler, University of New Orleans, “Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory: How we got from the 2006 Protests to the Alabama Immigration Law”

2013 Brodwyn Fischer, University of Chicago, “Intimate Inequalities and Emancipatory Histories in the Brazilian Northeast: Recife, 1870-1900”

2014 Jeffrey Lesser, Emory University, “How the Jews Became Japanese in Brazil”

2015 Kris Lane, Tulane University, “’Show Me the Money’: Lessons from the Potosí Mint Scandal of 1649”

2016 Lillian Guerra, University of Florida, “Heroes, Martyrs, Messiahs, and Pariahs: Excavating a History of Revolutionary Cuba”

**Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr. Prize Winners (Best Graduate Student Paper)**

2001 Matthew Smith, University of Florida: “Race, Resistance and Revolution in Post-Occupation Haiti, 1934-46”

2002 Barry Robinson, Vanderbilt University: “Treachery in Colotlán (Mexico): The Problem of Individual Agency in Regional Insurgency, 1810-1815”

2003 Sophie Burton, Texas Christian University: “Free Blacks in Natchitoches”

2004 David Wheat, Vanderbilt University: “Black Society in Havana”

2005 Magdalena Gomez, Florida International University: "La primera campaña de vacunación contra la viruela y el impacto del establecimiento de las Juntas de Vacuna en la administración de la salud pública, en el Caribe Hispano y la Capitanía de Venezuela, a comienzos del siglo XIX"

2006 Pablo Gomez, Vanderbilt University: “Slavery and Disability in Cartagena de Indias, Nuevo Reina de Granada”

2007 Tatiana Seijas, Yale University: “*Indios Chinos* in Colonial Mexico’s *República de Indios*”


2009 Sitela Álvarez, Florida International University: “Cuban Exiles’ Rejection of Imperialist Catholicism in Key West, 1870-1895”

2010 Mark Fleszar, Georgia State University: “’To See How Happy the Human Race Can Be’: A Colonization Experiment on Haiti’s Northern Coast, 1835-1845”

2012  Elizabeth Neidenbach, College of William and Mary: "Anciennes Habitantes de Saint-Domingue: Migration and Social Networks in Testaments of Refugee Free Women of Color in New Orleans"

2013  Charlton W. Yingling, University of South Carolina: ““Every day the risk of sedition grows”: Republicanism and Reaction in the Remaking of Race in Santo Domingo, 1791-1802”

2014  Nathan Weaver Olson, University of Minnesota: "The (Un)lettered Frontier: Power and Literacy on the Fringes of Empire"

2015  Neal D. Polhemus, University of South Carolina: "Captive Narratives and Colonial Erasures in the Caribbean and Early Modern Iberian Atlantic"

2016  Jorge Felipe Gonzalez, Michigan State University, “The Cuban Slave Trade, a Reassessment (1790-1808)"

Murdo MacLeod Book Prize Winners


**Kimberly Hanger Article Prize Winners**


Richmond F. Brown Dissertation Prize (inaugurated November 2013)


LACS Distinguished Service Award (inaugurated November 2012)

2012 Richmond Brown, University of Florida