

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program celebrates

SABERES SIN FRONTERAS

25 Years of Knowledge Without Borders

Amigxs y colegas,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of LACS, I am so glad to welcome you all back to campus! Our joy, however, is tempered by the terrible sadness that has come in the wake of hurricanes and seismic forces. As we begin another year in this beautiful part of the Americas, many of us have family, friends, and colleagues in the Caribbean and Mexico whose lives and homes have been torn apart by the terrible forces of nature.

As students of Latin America and the Caribbean know, however, there is no such thing as a natural disaster. The terrible forces of the earth and sky do not hit all equally. The 2010 earthquakes that struck Chile (8.8 magnitude) and Haiti (7.0 magnitude) did more damage in Port-au-Prince than in Santiago; one more reminder that the histories of urbanization, capitalism and uneven development are often themselves disasters in slow motion. And yet, these stories are not only tales of despair. The 1985 earthquake in Mexico City, despite its destruction, is remembered for unleashing the power of civil society as Mexicans came to each other's aid and also organized against the cruelty and ineffectiveness of the state.

The current conversation in the US and elsewhere over immigration, border walls, detention, and deportation serve to remind us that the states can dislocate and dispossess just as surely as the wind and rain.

Disasters are moments of suffering and solidarity. We encourage you to visit these resources¹ to support those affected by recent tragedies. We also invite you to join us as we reflect on our own histories of connection and community.

This year, 2017-2018, marks the 25th anniversary of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies undergraduate program, and we are celebrating this milestone in the spirit of remembering the suffering of the past but also the heroic resilience of our continent and peoples. Understanding the challenges of the present political moment, we have organized a year of events under this guiding idea: *Saberes Sin Fronteras, 25 Years of Knowledge Without Borders*.

Events over the fall, winter, and spring will illustrate not only the interconnectedness of our hemisphere but also serve to strengthen the links between the UW and knowledge-producers in Seattle and across the Americas. Our anniversary will culminate in the spring in a symposium organized by graduate students affiliated with LACS and a gala event, with music, food, and dance, three ingredients that have healed our communities for over 500 years. For more on these events, see our [LACS calendar](#).

If you have ideas for how to expand and improve our network of solidarity, we hope to hear from you in person and via social media.

En solidaridad,

Tony Lucero
Chair, Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Donation Sites:

For victims of Hurricane Maria and the earthquake in Mexico:

hispanicfederation.org/donate

For victims in Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Mexico (organized by UW graduate students Rebeca de Buen and María Vignau Loría):

<https://www.gofundme.com/7hfgzh-mexico-earthquake-relief>

Global Giving:

Mexico

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/mexico-earthquake-relief-fund/>

Puerto Rico and Dominica

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/fuel-relief-hurricane-maria-puerto-rico/>

Victims of Hurricane Irma

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/hurricane-irma-relief-fund/>

Victims of Hurricane Harvey

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/hurricane-harvey-relief-fund/>

Houston:

Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund:

<https://ghcf.org/hurricane-relief/>

DACA Students (Washington State):

Fuerza Colectiva

<https://www.youcaring.com/dacarecipients-938791>

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

<https://www.nwirp.org>



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