



The University of Georgia

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Date: 01-04-06

To: Hugh Ruppensburg, Senior Associate Dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

From: Brent Berlin, CLACS Director
Paul Duncan, CLACS Assistant Director

Re: CLACS Undergraduate Certificate Name Change

Current Name of the Certificate: Certificate in Latin American Studies

Proposed Name: Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Justification for Certificate Name Change:

The University of Georgia Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, a unit of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, serves faculty, students and staff at the University of Georgia to promote research and study of the Latin American and Caribbean regions.

While it is reasonable to suggest that parts of the Caribbean are Latin American (most prominently Cuba and the Dominican Republic), and that the Caribbean and Latin America are closely tied geographically and culturally, there are significant portions of this region with their own cultural and linguistic identities that do not readily fall under the label Latin America.

Since CLACS moved to its new permanent location at 290 Hull Street in 2002, each academic year we have fielded queries from students who consider themselves “Caribbeanists” centered on why the undergraduate certificate does not include the word Caribbean. Given that some students pursue the certificate specifically because of their interest in the Caribbean region, it is appropriate that the certificate properly reflect the regions represented. Additionally, UGA maintains active academic exchange, study abroad, research and memoranda of understanding with universities in the Caribbean, including Cuba, the Virgin Islands and Trinidad and Tobago.

Indeed, other major Centers for Latin American and Caribbean Studies in the United States offer such a LACS certificate, minor or major, including the University of Michigan, St. John’s University, UCONN, Dartmouth College, Emory University, and Indiana University. With the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) major slated to initiate at UGA in the Spring of 2006, the timing is appropriate to make this small but important change in the name of the CLACS undergraduate certificate.

Please reply to:

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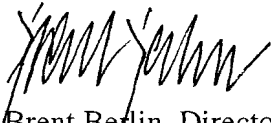
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Effective Date for Certificate Name Change:

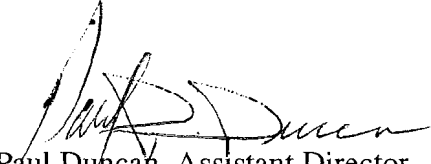
CLACS would like to have the name change in place by the time of awarding certificates to students graduating at the end of Spring semester 2006.

Student Impact:

Those students who have a strong academic interest in the Caribbean region will most appreciate the change, as discussed above. Most students already pursuing the certificate or planning to do so usually assume that the certificate is called the Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies to reflect the name of the Center and the course requirements and electives for the Certificate, which include the language options of Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese and French. The French language option has specifically been provided to accommodate Caribbeanists pursuing the certificate with an interest in the francophone Caribbean.



Overton Brent Berlin, Director
CLACS



Paul Duncan, Assistant Director
CLACS