**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE - WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT**

All in punchay (ah´-yeen poon´-chahy), which translates to ‘good day’ in Quechua, is a common greeting uttered among the Quechua, an indigenous group inhabiting the Andean region in South America. The purpose of this newsletter is to promote awareness of the history and rich socio-cultural traditions and customs of Amerindian groups in Latin America, which seems to be all too often ignored and disregarded relative to the ubiquitous Hispanic populations in the region. As these incredibly fascinating indigenous groups continue to survive, despite the lack of government support and public awareness, cultural and linguistic maintenance is in danger of heavy outside influence and possible extinction. Because of this, our collective mission is to inform UGAs and the greater Athens community of these indigenous populations and their vital role in Latin America.

While a greater focus will be placed on the Quechua, information concerning various Amerindian groups will be included to create a more general awareness of the indigenous as a whole and to shed light on the beauty and richness of the differences and similarities of these under-represented Latin American groups. You may not know it, but there are various individuals here in Athens, Georgia who have personally experienced their own inter-cultural exchanges with Amerindian groups, and we want to share their stories with UGA and the Athens community!

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE - WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT**

**QUECHUA**

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**BRIEF HISTORY: WHO ARE THE QUECHUA?**

While it’s true that Spanish and Portuguese are currently the most widely spoken languages in Latin America, some believe there were approximately 2,000 separate languages already being spoken by the various Amerindian populations when the Spanish conquistadors arrived to the Americas in the late 15th century. Among the most powerful Latin American indigenous groups during the Colonial period were the Nahuatl and Maya of Mesoamerica, the Quechua and Aymara of the Andean zone, the Guaraní of the Paraguayan area, and the Mapudungun of Chile (Escobar 2013).

The Quechua language is most popularly recognized as being the language of the Incan Empire, which was located in what is now Peru and had spread across the Andean region (referring to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia), expanding from southern Colombia to parts of Chile and northern Argentina. Even before the Spanish arrived to America, the Incas had conquered surrounding indigenous populations in the nearby region. This resulted in an extensive reach of the Quechua language, as the language was imposed upon the newly acquired populations following Incan takeover. Consequently, the Andean zone today consists of the most highly concentrated region of indigenous populations, and Quechua currently remains the most widely spoken indigenous language in South America. While the Ethnologue of the Summer Institute of Linguistics claims there are 8,912,820 speakers of Quechua (http://www.ethnologue.com), some suggest an exact number of speakers is impossible to determine and instead offer a more general estimate of anywhere between 8 to 12 million speakers (Escobar 2013). This is comparable to the population size of our Peach State!

**YACHANKICHU? (DID YOU KNOW?)**

Quechua words like kustur (condor), llama and ch'arki (jerky) have made it into the English language.

The Quechua term for their own language is Runasimi. The word is a conjunction of two words runa (man, person) and simi (mouth, language).

**WATUCHY? (RIDDLE)**

Imasmari, imasmari. (What am I? What am I?)

Warangamanta mikhuna. (What is eaten by the thousands, and by thousands?)

Look for the answer in our next issue, or visit http://www.lacsiuga.org/latin-american-indigenous-languages-initiative/
For the last several years, the primary mission of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute (LACSI; http://www.lacsi.uga.edu) at the University of Georgia has been to promote "research, education, and service and outreach on Latin America, the Caribbean, and US Latinos." As part of this mission, the Latin American Indigenous Languages Initiative (LAIL) was established in 2012 to foster awareness of the cultural and linguistic traditions of peoples native to Central and South America and the Caribbean. LACSI’s efforts were recently recognized when it was awarded prestigious grants from the US Department of Education’s Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) programs. These funds, totaling more than $2 million dollars over the next four years, will allow LACSI to expand its efforts to offer students, faculty, and the Athens community greater access to materials for learning and studying the cultures and languages of Latin America. Recently, the first cohort of students who will participate as FLAS fellows in Quechua was selected, representing a variety of different academic disciplines: Sarah Hubbel (Romance Languages), Courtney Parker (College of Public Health), Erin Rock (Journalism), and Christopher Walker (College of Education). These and other UGA students will further their studies of Quechua language and culture by taking QUEC 1002 in the upcoming spring semester. Competitions for Summer 2015 and Academic Year 2015-16 FLAS fellowships are now being offered.

For more information on events and opportunities related to the Latin American indigenous languages and cultures, please contact Chad Howe at chowe@uga.edu and consider joining the LAIL listserv LAIL-L@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU.

RECIPE - PUCA PICANTE

INGREDIENTS

• ¾ pound of pork (prepare the pork by cutting it into pieces)
• 150 grams of toasted peanuts (the peanuts will need to be prepared by being grinded)
• 1 lb of yellow potatoes
• 1 large red onion (prepare the onion by chopping it)
• 2 full tablespoons of grated garlic
• 1 large tomato (prepare the tomato by peeling it and then chopping it)
• 2 tablespoons of creamy mirasol pepper (red, spicy pepper)
• 1 tablespoon of creamy yellow pepper
• 2 cups of water
• Salt, pepper and cumin to taste

PREPARATION

Boil the potatoes. At the same time, using the oil, onion, garlic, yellow pepper, red pepper, tomato, salt and pepper and cumin make a seasoning. Use the salt and pepper as well as the cumin to taste. Once you mix the above to make the seasoning, add the crushed peanuts along with the pork and the water. Incorporate the potatoes to the mixture. Cover and cook until the pork is done. Serve the pork and potatoes with sides of rice and creole sauce. Enjoy!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

UGA NAHUATL STUDY GROUP
Chocolotl, tomatl, coyotl. Do you recognize these words? That’s right, we get chocolate, tomato, coyote, and many other words from Nahuatl, the language of the Aztec empire that is still spoken by 2 million people in Mexico and parts of Central America. Join the UGA Nahuatl Study Group Mondays at 2:30 at the LACSI house!

SARAH HUBBEL
Editorial Manager
Email Sarah at SLowman23@uga.edu

STORY TIME FOR NATIVE LANGUAGES

This is a one-hour story time session in a range of Latin American Indigenous Languages. It will be held on Fridays at 4:30 PM at the Athens Clarke County Library. The upcoming dates are: February 20th, March 20th, and April 17th.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute (LACSI)
200 S. Hall Street, Athens, GA 30602
University of Georgia
Email: lacsi@uga.edu
Phone: 706-542-9079

LAIL Listerv
LAIL-L@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU

Dr. Chad Howe
LAIL Coordinator
Email: chowe@uga.edu

Bethany Bateman
Graduate Editorial Manager
Email: batemanbl@uga.edu

Marcela Reales
Graduate Editorial Manager
Email: mreales@uga.edu

Jaynie Chandler
Undergraduate
Editorial Manager
Email: jaynicc@uga.edu

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Phone: 706-542-9079

LAIL Listerv
LAIL-L@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU

Dr. Chad Howe
LAIL Coordinator
Email: chowe@uga.edu

Bethany Bateman
Graduate Editorial Manager
Email: batemanbl@uga.edu

Marcela Reales
Graduate Editorial Manager
Email: mreales@uga.edu

Jaynie Chandler
Undergraduate
Editorial Manager
Email: jaynicc@uga.edu

WORD SEARCH

TULLPI (COLORS)

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KULLI
PANTTI
PUKA
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Q’ILLU
Q’OMER
UQI
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