MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & PERFORMERS

Dr. Michael Matthews is a native of Vancouver, Canada and received his PhD in Mexican history from the University of Arizona. He has been Assistant Professor of Latin American and World History at Elon University since 2008.

Alejandro Sánchez is the Director of Institutional Development at the Latino Community Credit Union in Durham, NC. He is originally from Bogota, Colombia, and holds a degree in industrial engineering from Universidad de los Andes and an MBA with a focus in social entrepreneurship from Duke University.

Jon Metzger is a renowned jazz musician and Elon University Artist in Residence and Associate professor of music. Among numerous other honors, he has served as Jazz ambassador to twenty countries; cultural envoy at the US Embassy in Ankara, Turkey; and been featured in the Martin Williams Jazz Concert Series at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

Dr. Lisa Paulin received her PhD from UNC Chapel Hill in journalism and mass communication. She is currently an assistant professor in the Department of English and Mass Communication at North Carolina Central University. She was the Director of the Foreign Language Department at the Tecnologico de Monterrey in Mexico City from 1994-2002.

Evelina Solís is the Founder and President of Sol2Sol, an academic & life coaching and inspirational speaking resource. She was featured in the newly-released book Aim High: Extraordinary stories of Hispanic and Latina Women by Laura Contreras-Rowe, and is releasing her own book, The Little Book of Words Every Latino Should Know.

The Ballet Folklorico Guadalupano is a performance group dedicated to promoting Mexican history and culture in the Triad area. Based in Asheboro, NC, the group features dances from Mexican states and regions with a variety of traditional songs and Maya rituals that represent folkloric history across Mexico.

Dr. Rissa Trachman is assistant professor of anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Elon. She specializes in Mesoamerican and Maya archaeology and has been conducting archaeology field research in Mesoamerica since 1999.

Dr. David Coates is the Worrell Professor of Anglo-American Studies at Wake Forest University. He has authored and co-authored numerous works, and most recently co-edited, along with Dr. Peter Siavelis, Getting Immigration Right: What Every American Needs to Know (Potomac Books, 2009).

Dr. Peter Siavelis is Associate Professor of Political Science at Wake Forest University. He has held visiting appointments at universities in Chile and Spain, and has written extensively on Latin American legislative and electoral politics. He is also the co-editor, along with Dr. David Coates, of Getting Immigration Right: What Every American Needs to Know.

Dr. Janyth Frederikson is president of Burlington-Alamance Sister Cities. She was an early member of Sister Cities and chaired the committee that chose Soledad, San Luis Potosí, Mexico as Burlington’s Sister City. Janyth is retired as Executive Vice President at Alamance Community College following a career in higher education. She served in the Peace Corps in Peru, has traveled widely, and considers Mexico her favorite country.

Dr. Hannah Gill is the Assistant Director of the Institute for the Study of the Americas and research associate at the Center for Global Initiatives at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the author of Going to Carolina del Norte: Narrating Mexican Migrant Experiences. (UNC Press, 2010).

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Stephen R. Kelly is a career U.S. Foreign Service Officer who has served in both Canada and Mexico. In January he will become a Visiting Professor of the Practice at Duke University, where he has been assigned for the past two years as the State Department’s Diplomat in Residence. Besides Canada and Mexico, his foreign assignments include Indonesia, Mali, Belgium & the Netherlands.

Stephen Brereton was appointed Consul General of the Consulate General of Canada in Atlanta in September 2009. Mr. Brereton is a career diplomat with a distinguished background in international trade policy. Most recently he served as Consul General at the Canadian Consulate General in Buffalo, NY (2005-2009). His foreign service career has included assignments as the Trade Policy Counselor at the Canadian Mission to the EU based in Brussels along with several other overseas and headquarters assignments.

Dr. Antonio Ortiz Mena is currently the Head of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Mexican Embassy in the United States. He has taught, held a research position and served as the Director of the Department of International Studies in the Center for Economic Education and Research (CIDE). He had authored a myriad of articles and published book chapters regarding International Economic Relations. He belongs to the Latin American Network of Trade Policy, is member of the International Advisory Board of the University of Geneva’s MBA in International Organizations and is a Senior Fellow of the Center for North American studies at American University.

Kent Shigetomi is the Director for Mexico, NAFTA and Caribbean Affairs at the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). He is responsible for guiding the work of the various NAFTA committees and working groups, and coordinating public outreach related to NAFTA. Kent negotiated the U.S.-Mexico agreement regarding trade in tequila, as well as changes to the rules that determine which products are eligible for duty free treatment under the NAFTA. He has also served on many other negotiating teams and as the lead negotiator for chapters in the Chile, Singapore, and U.S-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement.

Dr. Roderic Camp is presently the Philip McKenna Professor of the Pacific Rim at Claremont McKenna College. He is one of the leading scholars on Mexico in the world today. His extensive professional portfolio includes three Fulbright and numerous other research grants and fellowships, as well as hundreds of articles and 20 books on Mexico.