



Tori Akerley »

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

TORI AKERLEY DIDN'T COME TO THE COLLEGE with plans to study Latin America and the Caribbean. But she took a Freshman Year Seminar – Visions of Brazil – and everything changed. Now, she's thriving in this major and making big plans for a career that fully utilizes her academic background.

"That first class introduced us to Brazilian culture and language in unique ways," Tori explains. "We studied Brazilian film and got to know the background behind national holidays and celebrations. It really set the hook for me."

Since then, Tori has deepened her experience, both in the classroom and in a number of Latin American countries. "I spent a semester studying in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and it was awesome. I took classes that were taught in English and Spanish, and I lived with a host family. I also traveled around a lot and had great exposure to contemporary literature, cultural elements and politics. There's so much going on politically in Argentina. I feel like I really got to tackle that city."

She also traveled to Honduras one spring break to participate in a microfinance initiative. "I didn't know much about that form of business going into the trip, but I learned quite a bit about it while also getting to deepen my use of Spanish and learn about another Latin American country."

Some of Tori's favorite classes have been Spanish literature courses in the LACS major. "Studying literature in Spanish is compelling. You get to understand more precisely what the writer is saying. I'm studying the Boom and Post-Boom eras in Latin American literature and there are some amazing authors we're reading."

Working with her advisor, Tori arranged a summer internship in Merida, Mexico. "I'll be teaching English, but I'll also be studying the culture of that region. And that's really the beauty of this major. It allows you to pursue a wide range of interests. It could be history, or art, or literature or environmental studies, and all those you could pursue in the context of a different culture. I think that's a very effective way of understanding the world around you." 🌍



COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES,
CULTURES, AND WORLD AFFAIRS

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES PROGRAM

NADIA AVENDAÑO
program director

843.953.5364
avendanon@cofc.edu
lacs.cofc.edu

OUR PROGRAM INTEGRATES COURSEWORK AND RESEARCH IN THE LANGUAGES, LITERATURE, HISTORY, POLITICS, ART AND CULTURE OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. THE PROFESSORS WHO TEACH IN LACS REPRESENT A SIMILAR RANGE OF EXPERTISE. WE PROVIDE OUR MAJORS WITH FULL LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL IMMERSION BY REQUIRING THEM TO SPEND A SEMESTER OR A SUMMER ABROAD IN ONE OF THE MANY PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY LACS AND AT RENOWNED UNIVERSITIES AFFILIATED WITH THE COLLEGE. THIS PROGRAM IS ALSO COMMITTED TO ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH POST-GRADUATION JOB SEARCHES BY TAILORING INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO EACH MAJOR'S SPECIFIC INTERESTS.

» OUR PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE FEW IN THE U.S. THAT ENABLES STUDENTS TO STUDY FOR A FULL SEMESTER IN CUBA.