

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University Libraries – Post MLIS Diversity Residency
Two Year Residency Report
Nataly Blas, 2012-2014

Introduction

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) University Libraries has established a two-year Diversity Residency in order to guide and develop a new librarian's professional growth while investing in the libraries' commitment to diversity within the field of librarianship. In the first year of the program, the Resident rotates between different functional areas of Jackson Library gaining valuable experience in multiple service areas of academic librarianship. The Resident also participates in diversity initiatives and outreach activities for both the library and the university. The second year of the Residency aligns with the goals and interests of the Resident and is designed to be spent in one department getting more in-depth experience in a particular area of the academic library profession.

Nataly Blas: 2012-2014

Nataly Blas was selected as the third Diversity Resident Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). This report details each of the two years of her residency.

Year One Summary

During her first year at UNCG, Nataly rotated between three departments within Walter Clinton Jackson Library: Reference and Instruction Services (RIS), Technical Services, and Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA). Her rotation highlights include:

- While working in Reference and Instruction Services Nataly created and maintained several libguides (Multicultural Resource Center, Mosaic, Library Career Resources, and ENT 206), provided reference in-person and online, co-taught general information literacy (IL) sessions and co-taught IL sessions for business, participated in library outreach efforts, and delivered career workshops for UNCG LIS students. Nataly was also an active liaison for the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

- While working in Technical Services Nataly participated in both the Acquisitions and Cataloging department. Nataly kept up-to-date with current trends in technical services and attended the NC Serials Conference in Chapel Hill. Nataly's primary tasks were to

identify, evaluate, edit, and create original bibliographic records following national guidelines and local procedures. Nataly also helped catalog several electronic thesis to add to NC DOCKS, the Institutional Repository for UNCG.

- While working in Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) Nataly met with archivists and staff to better understand the various special collections. Nataly provided research help at the SCUA reference desk and shadowed some SCUA tours and instruction sessions. Nataly processed the Margaret Maron papers from the Manuscript Collection and processed the archival records from the Women's and Gender Studies Program at UNCG.

In addition to her work for each department Nataly was active in several library committees and participated in several professional development activities. Nataly was the chair and co-founder of the Social Media Committee, a group that formed to streamline and effectively utilize the various social media tools across the library departments. Nataly also served on the University Libraries Diversity Committee, ALIANZA UNCG (committee supporting Latino issues in higher education), and was the SOAR coordinator. Other highlights include:

- Nataly attended several diversity related conferences, including the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) in Kansas City and the 8th National Conference of African American Librarians in Cincinnati.
- During the 8th National Conference of African American Librarians, Nataly participated in a panel session discussing residency programs and presented a poster on academic success for first-generation college students.
- Along with Gerald Holmes and Kathy Bradshaw, Nataly delivered several career workshops for UNCG LIS students and provided mock interviews for UNCG ACE Scholars.
- Nataly worked on several assessment projects including a Distance Education Survey (Beth Filar-Williams) and the Diversity & Inclusion Survey (Kathy Crowe).
- Along with Emily Mann, Nataly delivered several cross cultural workshops for Jackson Library staff, the UNCG community, and the Metrolina Information Literacy Conference.
- Nataly was invited to participate in the ALIANZA UNCG Executive Committee, a group dedicated in promoting academic success among Latino/Hispanic students.
- Nataly served as liaison for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the living-learning community, Mosaic, ALIANZA UNCG, and served as coordinator for all the orientation events including SOAR and Destination UNCG.

- Nataly received the ACRL Friend's Fund Award for JCLC and the ACRL 2013 Spectrum Scholar Travel Grant.

Year Two Summary

The second year of the Diversity Residency is designed to be spent in one department gaining in-depth experience in a particular area of the academic library profession. Due to Nataly's interest in business librarianship, she dedicated her final Resident year in Reference and Instruction Services (RIS), in particular serving as co-liaison for the Bryan School of Business and Economics under the direction of the Business Librarian, Steve Cramer. She was able to gain experience in instruction, collection development, and faculty outreach in regard to business librarianship. Also, due to Nataly's interest with outreach, she remained active in the University Libraries marketing and outreach activities, including: coordinating SOAR, managing the UL display cases, programming for the Diversity Committee, and more. Nataly attended ALA Annual in Chicago and was part of the 2014 Emerging Leaders program in ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia.

Highlights of Nataly's second year as a Resident include:

- Nataly served as an embedded librarian in the course Campus Entrepreneurs, a research intensive course where students had to create a business plan.
- Nataly was asked to serve as Web Editor for the Association of College and Research Libraries, Residency Interest Group (RIG).
- She was very active in the ALIANZA UNCG Executive Committee by participating in a UNC Hispanic faculty forum, diversity events, and high school college fairs.
- In collaboration with several colleagues, Nataly presented four sessions in the NCLA 60th Biennial Conference in Winston-Salem, NC. Her sessions included: a poster on social media strategies, a presentation on library career stages, a panel on residencies, and a workshop on cross cultural communication in libraries.
- Nataly participated in the UL Diversity Programming subcommittee, where she organized the library's first Hispanic month celebration and helped plan a panel on international libraries.
- Nataly participated in the University Libraries scholarly communication efforts by creating a libguide on the subject and attending relevant webinars.
- Nataly was selected to participate in the 2014 ALA Emerging Leaders Program and her participation was sponsored by ACRL's University Libraries section.

Nataly Blas hoped to find a library position that would allow her to receive her MBA and continue with her interest in business librarianship. Nataly accepted a position at Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles) as a Reference and Instruction Librarian for Business.