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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The past two decades have not been kind to NCCLA. In the early 1990s, we could count on about 80 participants for each annual meeting, but beginning in 1996 only half that number attended. For our last two conferences at Mankato and Eau Claire, we do seem to be on the upswing: both registered about 60 participants. Yet, this hopeful trend is balanced by the downward trend in our professional membership which peaked as recently at 1995 at 157 and since 2002 has remained around 60.

NCCLA seems to have a declining relevance to the professional life of our area's Latin Americanists. My impression is that this is not simply related to the number of scholars of Latin American in the region. In the last decade, Spanish language enrollments have been on the rise and language departments have largely met the demand with hires of Latin American specialists instead of peninsular specialists. At the same time, other campus department are often hiring faculty with Latin American research interests for the first time. Perhaps a good proxy of this phenomenon is the number of "Regional Faculty Associates" who belong to the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee). These are, largely, scholars who actively research and teach on Latin American issues at non-Research I institutions; the same kind of institutions from which NCCLA has traditionally drawn its membership. Yet while there are currently 120 "Regional Faculty Associates" only 25 are currently NCCLA members.

For some time I had speculated that perhaps our respective national professional associations were increasingly filling the role that NCCLA had previously held as literary scholars, for instance, chose to present their work at the MLA or MMLA instead of NCCLA and historians thought first of the AHA or LASA as the venue of choice. Yet, a small meeting last month of a dozen Wisconsin Latin Americanists on the UW-Milwaukee campus persuades me otherwise. We met to discuss how those of us who teach on relatively small campuses might coordinate efforts in order strengthen our programs. What was clear, however, was the kind of untapped enthusiasm of Latin Americanists on our campuses to meet with their peers and share ideas with an engaged, interdisciplinary group of fellow regional scholars. Of the twelve who attended only three were members of NCCLA. But the ideas put forward in terms of collaborating on teaching (projects such as sharing syllabi or partnering to create curriculum that we could share) and sharing research (with workshops that allowed a substantial discussion of

research that has a broad potential interest) are ones that overlap substantially with some of the strengths of the NCCLA annual meeting.

Clearly, there remains much we can do to make participation in NCCLA a relevant and exciting contribution to our members' professional life. Two of the chief virtues of its annual meeting are how welcoming its interdisciplinary participants are to discussing works-in-progress and that it offers an important opportunity for graduate students and advanced undergraduates to present their work. This is a good base to build upon.

Seth Meisel
Associate Professor of History
UW-Whitewater

2008-2009 NCCLA Executive Committee

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CONFERENCES & CALL FOR PAPERS

CALL FOR PAPERS The Association of Academic Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean (AAPLAC) seeks proposals for papers and panels for its 20th Annual Conference, to be held at Central College in Pella, Iowa, on February 19-21, 2009. In honor of AAPLAC's 20th anniversary, the 2009 Conference theme is: *The Role of Study Abroad in Preparing the Next Generation for the New "Global Century"*.

Please submit proposals for panels and/or abstracts of papers to:

Dr. Diana Rodríguez-Lozano
Department of Foreign Languages
Mount Saint Mary's University
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Email: lozano@msmary.edu
Phone: 301-447-5820 / extension 4826
Fax: 301-447-5806

Deadline for submissions of proposals for panels or abstracts is November 15, 2008.

For more information about AAPLAC, please visit our website:
<http://www.aaplac.org/>

CALL FOR PAPERS Cornell University's Latin American Studies Program (LASP) and Syracuse University's Program on Latin America and the Caribbean (PLACA)

Regional Identity in Times of Globalization and Diaspora: An interdisciplinary conference combining issues of political economy, migration, art and humanities. April 2-3, 2009, at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

PLACA and LASP invite participation from graduate students and faculty, especially from the social sciences, arts and humanities, to examine the boundaries and limits of the cultural space called Latin America and the Caribbean. Among possibilities, participants are invited to explore implications of the self and the collective, the inside and the outside, and the regional and the global ways that political, social, technological, historical and literary processes are being negotiated in the region.

Territorial boundaries and national sovereignties are undergoing change. Influenced by twin forces of nationalism and neoliberalism, regional identities and understandings of citizenship are being reconfigured. Consequently, the co-evolution of Latin American and Caribbean cultures and identities is expected to give rise to new conceptualizations and claims. This conference will address some of these issues through invited papers and posters that will complement centerpiece discussion by an international panel. Panelists include: Cornell A. D. White Professor-at-Large and famed Colombian writer Laura Restrepo, Héctor Abad-Faciolince, Jaime Manrique, Gustavo Mejía and Edmundo Paz-Soldán (moderator).

Deadline for Abstracts: December 15.

Submit electronically (Word document) an abstract of 250 words or less, specifying preference for oral or poster presentation, to Treva Levine, Program Manager, LASP, tlv4@cornell.edu. Persons selected for oral presentations will receive preference for financial assistance to defray travel and lodging expenses.

For more information, contact Robert Blake of LASP (rwb5@cornell.edu) or Tom Perreault of PLACA (taperrea@maxwell.syr.edu).

CALL FOR PAPERS The Ohio University Latin American Studies Program (LAS) 8TH Ohio Latin Americanist Conference (Links and Involvement in Our Ever Changing Continents)
February 27-28, 2009, Ohio University, Bentley-Gordy Hall, Athens, OH 45701-2979.

The LAS program seeks panelists and workshop presenters on all levels from colleges and universities, community colleges, and other post-secondary institutions.

Send the director of LAS a 300-word proposal for a 20 minute presentation that we will organize into an interdisciplinary thematically appropriate session.

Send proposals to partyka@ohio.edu by **JANUARY 11, 2008**

See website for registration information and forms <http://www.ohiou.edu/latinamerican/>

For more information contact:
Betsy Partyka
Director Latin American Studies

Ohio University
Gordy Hall 231
Athens, OH 45701-2979
Phone: (740) 593-2764
FAX: (740) 593-0729
E-mail: partyka@ohio.edu

CONFERENCE Re-Union: Manifesting the Collective Power of Haitian Ingenuity,
November 6-8, 2008, club Indigo Resort Hotel, (Côte des Arcadins), Montrouis, Haiti. Haitian Studies Association, Twentieth Anniversary Conference.

The Haitian Studies Association (HSA) will re-examine the ethos of unity that enabled the Haitian people to achieve independence against seemingly insurmountable odds in 1804. This ethos, which proclaimed freedom for all, is represented in Haiti's national credo, *l'Union fait la force!* What has transpired since 1804 may be seen as multiple fragmentations of that unity, as divisions along lines of class, gender, race and ideology have shattered Haiti's original ideal for national solidarity. At the HAS conferences over the past two decades, numerous scholars have examined these divisions through the lens of Haiti's history, socio-economic structures, religions and culture. However, to secure a more promising future for the country, much remains to be understood about how these divisions and their resulting inequities have been overcome by the individual and collective ingenuity of the Haitian people.

For more information Email: has@umb.edu Website: <http://www.haitianstudies.umb.edu>.

CONFERENCE - Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies, 2008 Conference
November 7-8, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. For more information, visit the PCCLAS website at <http://pcclas.org/>

CONFERENCE - Midwest Association for Latin American Studies (MALAS), *Latin America: Dealing with the Heritage of the Past, Building Bridges to the Future.* November 20-22, 2008, San Juan, Puerto Rico. For additional information visit website www.malasnet.org.

CONFERENCE - University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies 58th Annual Conference *The Urban Divide in Latin America: Challenges and Strategies for Social Inclusion,* January 29 - 30, 2009, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA
<http://www.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/LAS/>.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

FELLOWSHIP Friends of the Princeton University Library Research Grant Program

Each year, the Friends of the Princeton University Library offer short-term Library Research Grants to promote scholarly use of the research collections. The Program in Hellenic Studies also

supports a limited number of Library Research Grants in Hellenic studies, and the Cotsen Children's Library supports research in its collection on aspects of children's books. The Maxwell Fund supports research on materials dealing with Portuguese-speaking cultures.

These Library Research Grants, which have a value of up to \$2,500 each, are meant to help defray expenses incurred in traveling to and residing in Princeton during the tenure of the grant. The length of the grant will depend on the applicant's research proposal, but is ordinarily one month. Library Research Grants awarded in this academic year are tenable from May 2009 to April 2010, and the deadline for applications is 15 January 2009.

Applicants are asked to submit a completed application form <http://www.princeton.edu/rbsc/fellowships/application.pdf>, budget form http://www.princeton.edu/rbsc/fellowships/budget_rev08152006a.pdf a résumé, and a research proposal not exceeding three pages in length. Applicants must also arrange for two confidential letters of recommendation to be sent directly to the Library Research Grants Committee at the address given below.

The proposal should address specifically the relevance to the proposed research of unique resources found in the Princeton University Library collections. Prospective grantees are urged to consult the Library's home page at <http://libweb.princeton.edu> <http://libweb.princeton.edu/> for detailed descriptions of the collections, especially those in the Rare Books and Special Collections Department, and for the names of curators and reference staff. Applicants should have specific Princeton resources in mind—not simply a desire to make use of a major research library—as they prepare their proposals.

A committee consisting of members of the faculty, the library staff, and the Friends will award the grants on the basis of the relevance of the proposal to unique holdings of the library, the merits and significance of the project, and the applicant's scholarly qualifications. Awards will be made before 1 April 2009.

Application materials and letters of recommendation are to be mailed to Library Research Grant Committee, Princeton University Library, One Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544. Materials mailed to the committee must be postmarked no later than **January 15, 2009**. Facsimile transmissions may be sent to (609) 258-2324. Electronic communications to the committee may be sent to loliveir@princeton.edu. Materials submitted by e-mail or facsimile must be received no later than **January 15, 2009**. E-mail is the preferred method of submission.

Linda Oliveira
Senior Library Secretary
Rare Books and Special Collections
Princeton University Library
1 Washington Road
Princeton, NJ 08544
loliveir@princeton.edu
(609) 258-3155
FAX - (609) 258-2324

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Dan Breining, (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point), presented: “A German in Latin America: How Alexander von Humboldt Defined a People” at the 33rd Annual European Studies Conference at the University of Omaha, Omaha, NE, (October 2-4, 2008) and “The Sign of the ‘Other’ as Portrayed in the Latino Experience” at the 16th Annual Conference of the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies, Baton Rouge, LA (February 11-16, 2008). Also, he published: “An Empowered Latin America, A Shakespearean Deconstruction of the Colonies” in the *Journal of Intercultural Disciplines* 16 (2008).

Valentina Peguero (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point), published *Immigration and Politics in the Caribbean: Japanese and Other Immigrants in the Dominican Republic* available from Caribbean Studies Press.

Send News From Members for the Winter 2009 issue to Elia J. Armacanqui-Tipacti
Elia.Armacanqui-Tipacti@uwsp.edu

NEW PROGRAM

Columbia University's new Master of Arts in Regional Studies: Latin America and the Caribbean (MARSLAC) is now accepting applications for Fall 2009.

MARSLAC is a unique interdisciplinary program that provides a broad social science-based approach to modern and contemporary Latin America and the Caribbean. The curriculum features a year-long seminar in which students develop the methodological tools to conduct research on key issues, such as inequality, justice, democratic transitions, and the integration of the region in the global economy. Students fulfill their remaining requirements by taking courses in different disciplines throughout Columbia University

MARSLAC students deepen their knowledge of the political, economic, social and cultural processes shaping Latin America and the Caribbean, and emerge with the expertise to be leaders in a variety of fields, including government, non-profits, the private sector, and academia.

MARSLAC is housed at the Institute of Latin American Studies, the center for research, teaching and discussion on Latin America at Columbia University. Students benefit from the Institute's associations with New York City's financial, diplomatic, corporate, cultural and educational centers, including our partnership with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University, with which we form the New York City Consortium for Latin American Studies.

Please help spread the word about this unique new program. The application deadline is **April 1 for Fall 2009**.

Email: marslac@columbia.edu

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gsas/departments/latin-america-caribbean/department.html>

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

Reframing Latin America: A Cultural Theory Reading of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries by Erik Ching, Christina Buckley, and Angélica Lozano-Alonso.

“An excellent resource, explicitly designed for use in undergraduate courses in Latin American historical, literary, and/or cultural studies. This text is significantly, and laudably, more ambitious than a traditional anthology, for the authors, who have team-taught a course based on these materials for a number of years, have also formulated a systematic pedagogical approach to the shift from modernism to postmodernism.” (Susan Martin-Márquez, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers University)

ISBN: 978-0-292-70933-1, \$70.00, hardcover, no dust jacket, ISBN: 978-0-292-71750-3 \$29.95, paperback. The University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713. Tel: 1-800-252-3206, FAX: 1-800-687-6046, TTY: 1-800-735-2989. Website: <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/findabook/bkorders.html>

Immigration and Politics in the Caribbean: Japanese and Other Immigrants in the Dominican Republic by Valentina Peguero.

The little-known settlements of Japanese immigrants in the Dominican Republic are the basis for this richly informed history of 20th century migration to the Caribbean and Latin America. Yet the connection of Japan to the region is strong, with a considerable volume of trade and approximately 1.5 million individuals of Japanese descent in the area, with an estimated 60% of them in Brazil.

Dr. Peguero conducted extensive fieldwork in the Japanese settlements and weaves the history of racism and eugenics, war, colonialism, power, money, population, religion, food, language, and culture in a detailed study of immigration to the Caribbean.

ISBN: 978-1-58432-482-9, \$24.50, softcover. Caribbean Studies Press, 7550 NW 47th Ave., Coconut Creek, FL 33073. Tel: (954) 968-7433, Fax: (954) 970-0330. Website: www.caribbeanstudiespress.com.