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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Americanization within Limits

During the twenty-year period between 1986 and 2006 I lived several times in Costa Rica. There were evident signs of Americanization during that time period: more and more fast-food restaurants (Taco Bell, Burger King, etc.), a rapid increase in the number of American tourists, the start of English-language programs in public schools, privatization promoted by the U.S. government, for example, private banks WERE FINALLY allowed, more and more large supermarkets and malls, and more divorce, although still not approaching the high rate characteristic of the United States. In these and other ways, Costa Rica seemed to some observers to be increasingly a replica in miniature of the United States.

However, there are at the same time elements of continuity in Costa Rican life. Most notable is the case of family life. Among our friends it was not uncommon to live near members of the extended family. Our friend Pepe Zeledón had a number of relatives, including his mother, living on the same street in the city of Guadalupe. At one time don Pepe organized the repair of the street and now it is one of the streets in the best condition in the metropolitan area of which San José is the major city.

The government is generally slow to repair streets and at times the work is not well done. Another example would be the extended family of Carlos Jiménez in the same community of Guadalupe. Among THE MANY FAMILY MEMBERS who live nearby are one of his sons, Carlos Alberto, his wife Helen and their two children. They live NEXT DOOR to don Carlos and his wife.

Even closer is the other son, Gustavo, who is over thirty years of age and lives at home. In addition, there are about 80 extended family members of the Jimenezes in a several-block area. All of these circumstances are considered to be good, to be desirable and to be normal in Costa Rica. Many Americans might think otherwise.

Those who visit a country such as Costa Rica as tourists should remind themselves that appearances can truly be deceiving. Beneath the surface there is still a vibrant Costa Rican way of life for many who live in that society.

¡Que lo pasen bien este verano! Nos veremos en la reunión del NCCLA en UW-Eau Claire. Hasta octubre.

Nancy Paddleford
St. Olaf College

2007-08 NCCLA Executive Committee

President: Nancy Paddleford (St. Olaf College)

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Program Chair: Analisa DeGrave (UW-Eau Claire)

Past President: Mariano Magalhães (Augustana College)

Nominations for 2007-08 officers are being accepted until July 15. See:

www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLACS/nccla/forms/callnominations.html

CONFERENCES & CALL FOR PAPERS

North Central Council of Latin Americanists

Call for Papers

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

October 12 & 13, 2007

Latin America: Change, Identity and Movement

an interdisciplinary conference

NCCLA invites proposals for panels, round tables, and papers from all disciplines that address the conference theme. Interdisciplinary and comparative analyses are most welcome. Proposals may focus on any region and may be written in English, Spanish or Portuguese. Teaching panels concerning pedagogical strategies, teaching and learning methods, and in-class or long distance innovative approaches are especially invited.

Some suggested topics:

- Change, identity and movement as expressed in the arts and letters
- Economics (free / fair trade, privatization, remittances, & globalization)
- Globalization
- Hispanic/Latino communities in the Midwest
- Immigration, migration and exile
- Memory and *déjà vu*: political legacies and change in Latin America
- Past, present and future in Cuba
- Religion in Latin American today
- Tensions of the Right and Left in Latin America

Proposals (250-300 word abstracts) must be submitted by **July 15, 2006**. Please enclose a cover sheet stating professional affiliation, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of each participant. Please also state need for audiovisual support. E-mail submissions are encouraged.

Graduate and advanced undergraduate students are encouraged to participate. A limited number of student travel grants of up to \$150 each are available. Grants are for full-time students who are not professionally employed. See application at <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLACS/nccla/awards.html>.

Conference presenters are eligible for NCCLA Research and Teaching Awards (see following)

Send abstracts and proposals to:

Analisa DeGrave
NCCLA Program Chair 2007
UW-Eau Claire
Foreign Languages
105 Garfield Ave, 353 Hibbard Humanities Hall
Eau Claire WI 54702-4004
WK PHONE 715-836-4546
FAX 715-836-2922
degravae@uwec.edu
<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLACS/nccla/index.html>

NCCLA Research and Teaching Awards

In order to promote good scholarship and to recognize the accomplishments of our members, the Executive Committee of the NCCLA voted in 1984 to institute a program of annual cash awards for work in three areas of scholarship. The amounts of these awards are subject to annual approval by the Executive Committee; it is expected that prizes will be awarded every year in all categories where materials have been submitted for presentation at the conference except when

compelling reasons can be shown for not doing so. Only conference participants are eligible to submit materials for consideration.

Every effort will be made by the Awards Committee to announce the winners of awards at the annual meeting. Those individuals who want their work considered should submit it to the Awards Committee (via the Program Chair) by **September 14, 2007** as an email (Word) attachment.

The following awards are available:

The Raquel Kersten Professional Research Award

A \$200 award may be given for a research work dealing with Latin American Studies in any relevant academic area. Papers will be judged first, as to their contribution to new knowledge of Latin America, secondly, on the thoroughness and appropriateness of research and methodology, and thirdly, on the style or form of presentation. Papers may be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese and must be unpublished when submitted.

Professional Teaching Award

A \$200 award may be given for an effort in the field of teaching Latin American Studies. This effort can entail the development of audio-visual materials, curriculum materials, theoretical or practical papers, or any other project designed to improve the teaching of Latin American Studies. Projects may be directed towards the primary, secondary or university level, or for the education of the general public.

Student Research Award

A \$200 award may be given to a research paper submitted by a student currently enrolled at an institution of higher education. Papers will be judged on the same basis as the professional research awards.

CALL FOR PAPERS – Midwest Association of Latin American Studies (MALAS) 2007
Annual Joint Meeting, November 2-4, 2007, co-sponsored by ISA Foreign Policy Analysis Section. To be held at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark. Submit MALAS paper proposals to: Phil Kelly, MALAS Secretary-Treasurer, Box 4032, Emporia State university, Emporia, KS 66801. Email proposals are preferred Kellyphi@emporia.edu. Deadline **July 27, 2007**.

Roundtable proposals are encouraged! Proposals should include full contact information (name, affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email) of all participants, titles, and a brief abstract (250 words). Also please include a list of recent publications (2006-2007) to be included in the conference program.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS - International Conference on Caribbean Literature (I.C.C.L.)
November 7-9, 2007, St. Lucia

Proposal deadline:

Submit abstracts (one page) and/or proposals for sessions before **August 31, 2007**.

Contact information:

In French, Kreyól, & Spanish
Dr. Jorge Roman-Lagunas
Telephone: (219) 989-2502
E-mail: roman@calumet.purdue.edu
Or cip@calumet.purdue.edu

Additional information:

Dr. Melvin Rahming
Telephone: (404) 614-2800
Email: mrahming@morehouse.edu

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS Symposium - **The Latin American Studies Program at Grand Valley State University** invites abstracts relating to the theme, *Persistent Divides: Marginalization and Social Exclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Allendale, MI, March 14-15, 2008.

There is a distinguished history of scholarship and advocacy related to inequalities along the axes of class, race/ethnicity, and gender in Latin America and the Caribbean. More recently, scholars have begun to look at other arenas of inequality and social exclusion such as those related to sexual minorities, incarceration, human rights and the rule of law, and environmental degradation. Our goal in this symposium is to open up a dialogue among scholars exploring these different axes and arenas of exclusion and marginalization in the region both historically and in contemporary contexts. We invite submissions of abstracts of no more than 250 words from across the disciplines on one or more of these forms of marginalization and social exclusion. Proposed papers may explore empirical dimensions or cultural and artistic representations of marginalization and social exclusion. We ask that those submitting abstracts make explicit how their proposed paper connects to the symposium theme.

Please send completed abstracts no later than **October 15, 2007** to areastudies@gvsu.edu or Barb Blankemeier, Area Studies Center, Grand Valley State University, 117 Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale, MI 49401

Please direct inquiries to: Joel Stillerman, Director, Latin American Studies Program, Grand Valley State University, 616-331-3129, stillejo@gvsu.edu.

Acceptance decisions will be made by November 15, 2007 and the deadline for accepted papers is February 1, 2008.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Fulbright Senior Scholarship Grants. The 2008-2009 Fulbright Scholar competition currently underway supports academic collaboration across all disciplines with universities and other centers in some 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Award descriptions and application materials are available at www.cies.org. For more information, contact Carol Robles at crobles@cies.iie.org or 202-686-6238. The application deadline is **August 1, 2007**.

Fulbright Scholar Program. The traditional Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year. Grantees lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) assists in the administration of the Fulbright Scholar Program for faculty and professionals.

Deadline **August 1, 2007**. For more information see http://www.cies.org/us_scholars/us_awards/

Cornell University Society for the Humanities Fellowships, 2008-2009.

The focal theme for 2008-2009 is *Water, A Critical Concept for the Humanities*. Six to eight Fellows will be appointed. Selected Fellows will collaborate with two Senior Scholars in Residence.

The Society for the Humanities calls for scholarly reflection on critical concepts of water from a broad range of disciplinary and inter-disciplinary perspectives. While well-established as a subject of literary, historical, political, and aesthetic analysis, water also traverses emergent fields of inquiry such as ecopoetics and ecopolitics, ancient studies, critical geography, mapping and cartography, environmental humanities, oceanic studies, indigenous studies, and studies of diasporic arts and cultures. Scholars have considered water as an object of conflict and contest, as boundary, and as divider of regions and cultures, but also as a source of life and wealth, and as a medium of communication, migration, transport, commerce, and redistribution.

Fellows should be working on topics related to the year's theme. Their approach to the humanities should be broad enough to appeal to students and scholars in several humanistic disciplines.

Applicants must have received the Ph.D. degree before January 1, 2007. The Society for the Humanities will not consider applications from scholars who received the Ph.D. after this date. Applicants must also have one or more years of teaching experience which may include teaching as a graduate student.

Application and more information can be found at:
<http://www.arts.cornell.edu/sochum/html/index.html>.

Applications must be postmarked on or before **October 1, 2007**.

Send applications and letters of recommendation to:

Program Administrator
Society for the Humanities
A.D. White House
27 East Ave.
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-1101

For further information:

Phone: 607-255-9274

Email: <mailto:humctr-mailbox@cornell.edu>

Website: <http://www.arts.cornell.edu/sochum/>

Awards will be announced by the end of December 2007.

The John Carter Brown Library fellowship program was created to give scholars from this country and abroad an opportunity to pursue their work in proximity to a distinguished collection of primary sources. Approximately twenty-five fellowships are awarded each year for periods of time usually ranging from two to ten months. Fellowships are available for any qualified researcher, the main criteria for appointment being the merit and significance of the candidate's proposal, the qualifications of the candidate, and the relevance of the project to the holdings of the Library. The fellowship selection committees look closely at the potential shown by the candidate for creative utilization of the Library's resources.

The application deadline for fellowships for 2008-2009 is **January 10, 2008**. For forms or more information write to: The John Carter Brown Library, Box 1894, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. Phone: 401-863-2725, Fax: 401-863-3477, Email: JCBL_Fellowships@Brown.edu, Website: <http://www.jcbl.org>.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Margaret Champion (retired, Chapel Hill, NC) recently published *Peru and the Peruvians in the Twentieth Century* (Vantage Press, 2006). The book combines research with personal records of the key political figures in Peruvians history to examine the political, economic and social history of Peru from the time it gained independence from Spain to the present. The result is an engrossing balance between the history of a nation and the history of its leaders.

IN MEMORIAM

(from Virginia Gibbs, Luther College)

Long-time NCCLA member **Robert Davis (History, Luther College)** has died. He was a professor of Latin American history at Luther and was one of the very active members of NCCLA until he was diagnosed with M.S. in 1987. He died in Jacksonville, IL where he had recently gone to be closer to family. He passed away in his sleep at home. Until very recently he had kept active in research on Latin America and also local history despite his illness. He went to Mexico almost yearly despite being in a wheel chair.

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

Cultural Memory Resistance, Faith, and Identity

By Jeanette Rodriguez and Ted Fortier

The common "blood" of a people—that imperceptible flow that binds neighbor to neighbor and generation to generation—derives much of its strength from cultural memory. Cultural memories are those transformative historical experiences that define a culture, even as time passes and it adapts to new influences. For oppressed peoples, cultural memory engenders the spirit of resistance; not surprisingly, some of its most powerful incarnations are rooted in religion. In this interdisciplinary examination, Jeanette Rodriguez and Ted Fortier explore how four such forms of cultural memory have preserved the spirit of a particular people.

Cultural Memory is a multicultural work, with four distinct case studies: the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the devotion it inspires among Mexican Americans; the role of secrecy and ceremony among the Yaqui Indians of Arizona; the evolving narrative of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador as transmitted through the church of the poor and the martyrs; and the syncretism of Catholic Tzeltal Mayans of Chiapas, Mexico. This landmark work in cultural studies is a conversation between a liberation theologian and a cultural anthropologist on the religious nature of cultural memory and the power it brings to those who wield it.

ISBN: 978-0-292-71663-6, \$45.00, hardcover, no dust jacket,

ISBN: 978-0-292-71664-3, \$16.95, paperback, **Web Special: \$11.36**

The University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713, Phone: 1-800-252-3206 or FAX: 1-800-687-6046, Website: www.utexas.edu/utpress/.

Globalization in Rural Mexico Three Decades of Change

By Frances Abrahamer Rothstein

When the ever-intensifying global marketplace "modernizes" rural communities, who stands to gain? Can local residents most impacted by changes to their social fabric ever recover or even identify what has been lost? Frances Abrahamer Rothstein uses thirty years of sustained anthropological fieldwork in the rural Mexican community of San Cosme Mazatecochco to showcase globalization's complexities and contradictions.

Employing rich ethnography and broad analysis, Rothstein focuses on how everyday life has been transformed by these processes, but shows also how important continuities with the past persist. She strikes a delicate balance between firmly grounded scientific study and a deep compassion for the subjects of her work, while challenging contemporary views of globalization and consumption.

ISBN: 978-0-292-71631-5, \$45.00, hardcover, no dust jacket, Web Special: \$30.15,

ISBN: 978-0-292-71632-2, \$19.95, paperback, Web Special: \$13.37.

The University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713, Phone: 1-800-252-3206 or FAX: 1-800-687-6046, Website: <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/>.

Mayan Voices for Human Rights Displaced Catholics in Highland Chiapas

By Christine Kovic

In the last decades of the twentieth century, thousands of Mayas were expelled, often violently, from their homes in San Juan Chamula and other highland communities in Chiapas, Mexico, by fellow Mayas allied with the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). State and federal authorities generally turned a blind eye to these human rights abuses, downplaying them as local conflicts over religious conversion and defense of cultural traditions. The expelled have organized themselves to fight not only for religious rights, but also for political and economic justice based on a broad understanding of human rights.

This pioneering ethnography tells the intertwined stories of the new communities formed by the Mayan exiles and their ongoing efforts to define and defend their human rights. Focusing on a community of Mayan Catholics, the book describes the process by which the progressive Diocese of San Cristóbal and Bishop Samuel Ruiz García became powerful allies for indigenous people in the promotion and defense of human rights. Drawing on the words and insights of displaced Mayas she interviewed throughout the 1990s, Christine Kovic reveals how the exiles have created new communities and lifeways based on a shared sense of faith (even between Catholics and Protestants) and their own concept of human rights and dignity. She also uncovers the underlying political and economic factors that drove the expulsions and shows how the Mayas who were expelled for not being "traditional" enough are in fact basing their new communities on traditional values of duty and reciprocity.

ISBN: 978-0-292-70620-0, \$50.00, hardcover, no dust jacket, Web Special: \$33.50

ISBN: 978-0-292-70640-8, \$19.95, paperback, Web Special: \$13.37.

The University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713, Phone: 1-800-252-3206 or
FAX: 1-800-687-6046, Website: <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/>.