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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Costa Rica: A Political "Earthquake" Underneath the Surface

I first lived in Costa Rica in 1986, returning in 1988 as a Visiting Artist (pianist) at the University of Costa Rica, and again between 1992 and 1994 as the Associate Director of the academic programs of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM). The ACM established its initial program in Costa Rica in 1964. (It remains an outstanding program in Latin America for undergraduate field research in the natural and social sciences and the humanities.) I last lived in Costa Rica between January of 1999 and June of 2000. Since then I have made visits to Costa Rica and I have continued to be interested in Costa Rican political and social life.

Educated Americans probably assume that it is "politics as usual" for the region based on the return to power of Oscar Arias in Costa Rica last May and Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua in January. Two aging men who were presidents of their respective countries in 1990 have again achieved their ambition. However, in the case of Costa Rica, domestic politics in 2007 are very different from politics in 2000. In the year 2000 Miguel Angel Rodríguez of the Partido Unidad Socialcristiana was the president and his party, along with the Partido Liberal Nacional, were clearly the two majority parties of Costa Rica.

The presidential candidate, Abel Pacheco, of the Partido Unidad Socialcristiana won the presidency in 2002. Ottón Solís had launched a new party Acción Ciudadana and came in a strong third to Dr. Pacheco and Mr. Rolando Araya of Liberación Nacional in the presidential contest. It seemed that the fate of Mr. Solís might be comparable to that of Ross Perot in the U.S. versus Bill Clinton and George H. Bush in 1992, a strong showing but decidedly not that of a majority party candidate and then a fading of support over the years.

However, by 2006, former President Rodríguez as well as former President Rafael Angel Calderon, both of the Partido Unidad Socialcristiana, were under house arrest due to charges of corruption, and Abel Pacheco's presidency was widely viewed as having been a failure. Three major figures of Unidad Socialcristiana were under attack. Mr. Solís campaigned vigorously for the presidency but faced a field that included many candidates, one of whom was the formidable Oscar Arias Sánchez. Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987, Arias had been the most popular political figure in Costa Rica since he left office in 1990. However,

until a recent change in the interpretation of the Constitution he had been unable to run for a second four-year term.

Yes, Oscar Arias did win again but barely. He defeated Ottón Solís by a little over 1% of the vote. Mr. Solís pursued the issue of corruption as he had in 2002 and also vigorously opposed the proposed free trade agreement with the U.S. Dr. Arias seemed less concerned about corruption in his public remarks and supported the free trade agreement. The results of the 2006 national elections appear to be a significant change in Costa Rica politics. Not only did Mr. Solís nearly win but the candidate of the Partido Unidad Socialcristiana received less than 4% of the vote. In the Asamblea Legislativa of 57 deputies Unidad Socialcristiana has been reduced to the status of a minority or fringe party. The party lost 14 of 19 seats. The dominant parties in the national legislative body are by far Liberación Nacional with 25 seats and the "upstart" Acción Ciudadana with 17.

So, on the surface, it seems that Costa Rica is an example of continuity with the return to the presidency of Oscar Arias in Costa Rica and the plurality his party Liberación Nacional holds in the Asamblea Legislativa. But consider what Acción Ciudadana has achieved. It is the equivalent of a third party in the United States replacing the Democratic or Republican party as a majority party within the country. What seems impossible in the U.S. is the reality of a fellow democracy, Costa Rica.

Nancy Paddleford  
St. Olaf College

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### CONFERENCES & CALL FOR PAPERS

CONFERENCE 13th Congress of FIEALC (FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE ESTUDIOS SOBRE AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE) **International Federation of Latin American and the Caribbean Studies** *Latin America-Caribbean and Asia-Pacific in the 21st Century* will be held in Macau S.A.R., China, September 25-28, 2007.

[www.fiealc2007.org](http://www.fiealc2007.org)

CALL FOR PAPERS The *9th Annual Conference on Hispanic and Lusophone Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics* will take place in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the **University of California, Santa Barbara**. This conference is organized by graduate students in order to give other graduate students an opportunity to share their current work. We invite and encourage all submissions relating to these topics in any area of Humanities and Social

Sciences, including Literature, Linguistics, Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Film Studies, History, Sociology and the Fine and Performing Arts.

Please submit a 250-word abstract postmarked by **February 15, 2007**. Abstracts may be sent via post or e-mail. Abstracts may be sent to the graduate student conference selection committee via e-mail at: [ucsbgradconference@yahoo.com](mailto:ucsbgradconference@yahoo.com) or via post-mail: Attention: Lauren Applegate (Grad Student Conference)/University of California at Santa Barbara, Department of Spanish and Portuguese / Phelps Hall / Santa Barbara, CA, 93106-4150.

There will be a \$25 Registration Fee. For more information go to the Conference website: <http://orgs.sa.ucsb.edu/hlcconference/>

**CALL FOR PAPERS** Jewish Buenos Aires, an NEH Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers, July 9-27, 2007, Buenos Aires.

**Description:**

The seminar will focus on six major works of Argentine Jewish writers, basically from the twentieth century. Through a detailed examination of these works as literary texts that interpret the Jewish immigrant experience in Buenos Aires, the seminar will provide 15 participants with an important grounding in Argentine urban immigrant culture. Participants will be college and university professors of Latin American studies, some of whom may have some familiarity with Argentine. The latter will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of Argentine literature, while other participants will receive a solid introduction to Argentine Jewish culture through major literary texts. The language of the seminar will be Spanish, and participants must have an advanced command of the language for purposes of reading the texts, discussing them, and preparing written essays. An important aspect of the seminar will be several lunches a week with prominent Jewish artists, intellectuals, and writers (“Almorzando con Buenos Aires Judío”). Proposal deadline **March 1, 2007**

For information please contact [david.foster@asu.edu](mailto:david.foster@asu.edu) or visit the website of the 2006 seminar on Contemporary Urban Brazilian Culture: [http://www.public.asu.edu/~atdwf/neh\\_summer/](http://www.public.asu.edu/~atdwf/neh_summer/).

**CONFERENCES** In 2007 the **University of Nebraska at Omaha** will be host for two major conferences:

The Missouri Valley History Conference will celebrate in March 1-3, 2007 its 50th birthday in Omaha, NE. Major events are planned for the MVHC golden anniversary. See: <http://www.unomaha.edu/mvhc/>

The Third Cumbre of the Great Plains will assemble in Omaha, NE 26-29 April 2007. The Conference theme is *Understanding Immigration and the Changing Communities of the Americas*.

**CALL FOR PAPERS** The **39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians**, May 7-11, 2007 in Kingston, Jamaica.

Papers with abstracts in English, French and Spanish (maximum 250 words) must reach the LOC by **30 March 2007** for duplication. Presenters should send a diskette or CD, and a hard copy (no fax or email please) of their paper.

For more information see <http://www.geocities.com/achbulletin/jamaica.htm>.

CONFERENCE **The Colonial Americas Studies Organization (CASO) and the Universidad San Francisco de Quito** will hold the *Third International Interdisciplinary Symposium* in Quito, Ecuador, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June of 2007.

**Contact Information**

Carmen Fernández-Salvador  
School of Liberal Arts  
Universidad San Francisco de Quito  
Diego de Robles s/n  
Quito  
[caso@usfq.edu.ec](mailto:caso@usfq.edu.ec)

CONFERENCE **XIII International Research Conference of Latin American Jewish Studies Association (LAJSA): *Jewish Cultural Productions in Latin America***, July 29-31, 2007, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The conference will explore facets of Jewish cultural production in Latin America.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS
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FELLOWSHIPS Junior and Post-Doctoral Fellowships at the **Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University**. Deadline: **February 22, 2007**

**Description:**

The Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University is accepting applications for three Junior and Post-Doctoral fellowships for an academic year of study, teaching, and residence in the Center. The CHI Fellows Program offers research opportunities to those trained in the humanities as traditionally defined and to others seriously interested in humanistic issues; research projects must be humanistic, but fellows may hold the Ph.D. in any discipline. We especially seek applicants and projects that will benefit from and contribute to the interdisciplinary nature of the group of Fellows and the work of the CHI.

Stipends of \$38,500 will be offered to Junior and Post-Doctoral Fellows, along with a research budget of \$2,000, office space in the Center, and library access. Application forms and further information are available on our website at [www.chi.emory.edu](http://www.chi.emory.edu) or from the Center for Humanistic Inquiry at 404-727-6424.

GRANTS 2007 Library Travel Grant Center for Latin American Studies, **University of Florida**. Deadline: **March 01, 2007**

**Description:**

Library Travel Research Grants for Summer 2007 are funded by a grant from the U.S.

Department of Education. Their purpose is to enable faculty researchers from other U.S. colleges and universities to use the extensive resources of the Latin American Collection in the University of Florida Libraries, thereby enhancing its value as a national resource.

As many as 12 awards of up to \$750 each will be made to cover travel and living expenses. Awardees are expected to remain in Gainesville for at least one week and, following their stay, submit a brief (2-3 pp.) report on how their work at UF Libraries enriched their research project and offer suggestions for possible improvements of the Latin American Collection. Researchers' work at the Latin American Collection may be undertaken at any time during the summer, starting May 15th, but must be completed by August 14, 2007. At least one grant will be made to a scholar from a Florida college or university.

**Contact information:**

To apply for a Library Travel Grant, send a letter of intent, brief library research proposal, travel budget and a curriculum vitae to:

Patricia Sampaio  
358 Grinter Hall  
P.O. Box 115530  
Gainesville, FL 32611-5530  
Tel: 352-392-0375 ext. 806  
Fax: 352-392-7682  
E-mail: [psampaio@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:psampaio@latam.ufl.edu)

**RESEARCH ASSOCIATE Postdoctoral Research Associate Center for the Americas at Vanderbilt University. Deadline: March 1, 2007**

**Description:**

The Center for the Americas at Vanderbilt University is offering one or two appointments for recent Ph.D. graduates.

The Center is committed both to advancing knowledge in specific academic fields and to using research to help diagnose and solve real-world problems.

Eligible research areas for 2007-2009 are:

- Democracy in the Americas
- Chronic disease management in Latin America and the Caribbean (emphasis on diabetes)
- Transnational literacies and Hispanic migration
- DNA and the peopling of the ancient and modern Americas
- Cultural literacy in the context of computer technology and the natural sciences

Applicants' own research projects must connect closely with the work of one of the Center's research groups in these areas and complement and advance that group's collective efforts. For further information about the Center and its research, see [www.vanderbilt.edu/americas](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/americas) .

Relevant disciplines and fields include Anthropology, American Studies, Biological Sciences, Business Management, Computer Science, Economics, Education, History, Latin American Studies, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Public Health, and Sociology.

Requirements: Ph.D., teaching experience, demonstrable cross-disciplinary research interests, and willingness to engage in collaborative research.

Starting date: September 1, 2007. This one-year appointment is renewable for an additional year. Salary is competitive and depends on field and expertise.

**Contact information:**

Send letter of application, cv, a 3-page proposal (detailing exactly how the proposed project would tie in with one of the Center's current research groups), a relevant published or unpublished writing sample, and three letters of reference to:

Professor Vera M. Kutzinski  
Director, Center for the Americas  
Station B # 351535  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN 37235-1535  
USA

or via email to [cfa@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:cfa@vanderbilt.edu)

FELLOWSHIPS 2007-2008 Post-Doctoral Fellowship Latin American Studies Center at the **University of Maryland, College Park** <http://www.lasc.umd.edu/Academics/pdg/index.htm>  
Deadline: **March 1, 2007**

**Description:**

Proposals for fellowships for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 should focus on culture and democracy, governance and civil society, literature and ethnicity, and migration from Asia to Latin America.

Fellows (one for fall and one for spring) are required to be in full-time residence at the University of Maryland during the period of award (Fall: late August-mid December, Spring: end of January-mid May). They will be asked to teach a seminar within the unit appropriate to the Fellows' discipline.

Resident fellowships are limited to post-doctoral applicants (Ph.D. or equivalent). Senior and junior scholars from any country are eligible. Applicants need not have an academic affiliation.

Fellows receive \$20,000 for one semester.

Complete applications are due **March 1, 2007**. Announcement of awards will be made in April, 2007.

For further information and applications contact: The Latin American Studies Center 0128-B Holzapfel University of Maryland College Park, MD 20742. Phone: 301-405-6459 Fax: 301-405-3665 E-mail: [lasc@umd.edu](mailto:lasc@umd.edu)

**FELLOWSHIP Yale University Library, LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION** Library Visiting Fellowship Program 2007. Yale University Library is pleased to invite applications for one short-term library visiting fellowship to promote scholarly use of its collections of Latin Americana. The fellowship includes a stipend of \$10,000 plus modest funds towards the cost of travel and supplies which are meant to help defray expenses in traveling to and residing in New Haven, Connecticut during the tenure of the fellowship, which will be for three months. This fellowship is tenable from May to October 2007.

Candidates for this fellowship must have a Ph.D. and be U.S. citizens. Applicants (junior faculty, independent researchers) are asked to submit a research proposal not exceeding three pages in length and a resume to the Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies at the address given below. Applicants must also arrange for two confidential letters of recommendation (in English) to be sent to the same address. The proposal should address specifically the relevance of the Yale University Library collections to the proposed research.

Application materials and letters of recommendation are to be mailed to Library Visiting Fellowship Program, Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies, Yale University, 34 Hillhouse Avenue, Suite 342. P.O. Box 208206, New Haven, CT 06520-8206. Materials mailed to the committee must be postmarked no later than **April 2, 2007**. Electronic communications to the Committee may be sent to [jean.silk@yale.edu](mailto:jean.silk@yale.edu) <mailto:latin.america@yale.edu>. Materials submitted by e-mail must be received no later than **April 2, 2007**. Prospective fellows are invited to consult the Library's home page at <http://www.library.yale.edu/>

**FELLOWSHIPS** The Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at **the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University**, 2007 Summer Research Fellowships for College Teachers.

The Consortium will award at least three fellowships of up to \$1,000 each to faculty from four-year colleges and HBCUs to use the Duke and UNC-CH libraries and other campus resources.

The fellows will be chosen in a competition targeting regional faculty from institutions of higher education in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic, with preference for regular faculty from four-year colleges and historically black colleges and universities. We will also give priority to proposals to create a new course on Latin America or the Caribbean, or to add substantial Latin American content to an existing course at the candidate's institution. The proposed project must have a clear focus on Latin America or the Caribbean. The project should take place between June 1 and August 14, 2007, and the length of stay should be at least one week. The awardees will be assigned to one of the two campuses. There are no other program participation requirements of the award.

**HOW TO APPLY:** – Candidates should submit a complete application, which includes a cover letter explaining how this fellowship will further professional and institutional development, the attached data form, a two-page description of the project, a current CV, and a letter from their dean or department chair endorsing the application and verifying employment. **The deadline is April 13, 2007**, awards will be announced by May 15.

For more information about this competition, or to submit an application, contact Beatriz Riefkohl Muñiz at the UNC-CH Institute of Latin American Studies (223 E. Franklin Street, Room 305, CB#3205, 962-2418, [riefkohl@email.unc.edu](mailto:riefkohl@email.unc.edu)) or Natalie Hartman at the Duke Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (2114 Campus Drive, Box 90254, 681-3983, [njh@duke.edu](mailto:njh@duke.edu)).

**FLAS FELLOWSHIP 2007 Summer Intensive Portuguese Institute University of Wisconsin, Madison** Deadline: **May 12, 2007**

**Description:**

Special eight-week course designed for people wishing to study intensively beginning Brazilian Portuguese. Graduate students, faculty, and other researchers, and advanced undergraduates who need to develop communication skills and reading knowledge for research will find this special Institute particularly useful. The Institute will take place during the eight-week summer session at UW-Madison, June 18-August 10, 2007. Knowledge of Spanish is required (2-3 years equivalency). A limited number of title VI FLAS Fellowships are available to graduate students in conjunction with the Institute.

**Contact information:**

LACIS, 1155 Observatory Drive  
209 Ingraham Hall  
608-262-2811

<http://www.lacis.wisc.edu/index.html>

**Additional information:**

Forms and details of the Institute are available from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
1018 Van Hise  
1220 Linden Drive  
UW-Madison, Madison  
WI 53706, 608-262-2093

<http://spanport.lss.wisc.edu/>

<b>BOOKS &amp; PUBLICATIONS</b>
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Mayas in the Marketplace Tourism, Globalization, and Cultural Identity by Walter E. Little. Selling handicrafts to tourists has brought the Maya peoples of Guatemala into the world market. Vendors from rural communities now offer their wares to more than 500,000 international tourists annually in the marketplaces of larger cities such as Antigua, Guatemala City, Panajachel, and Chichicastenango. Like businesspeople anywhere, Maya artisans analyze the desires and needs of their customers and shape their products to meet the demands of the market. But how has adapting to the global marketplace reciprocally shaped the identity and cultural practices of the Maya peoples?

Drawing on over a decade of fieldwork, Walter Little presents the first ethnographic study of Maya handicraft vendors in the international marketplace. Focusing on Kaqchikel Mayas who commute to Antigua to sell their goods, he explores three significant issues:

how the tourist marketplace conflates global and local distinctions.

how the marketplace becomes a border zone where national and international, developed and underdeveloped, and indigenous and non-indigenous come together.

how marketing to tourists changes social roles, gender relationships, and ethnic identity in the vendors' home communities.

Little's wide-ranging research challenges our current understanding of tourism's negative impact on indigenous communities. He demonstrates that the Maya are maintaining a specific, community-based sense of Maya identity, even as they commodify their culture for tourist consumption in the world market. ISBN: 978-0-292-70278-3, \$55.00 hardcover, no dust jacket, ISBN: 978-0-292-70567-8, \$22.95 paperback. University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713, Tel 1-800-252-3206, [www.utexas.edu/utpress](http://www.utexas.edu/utpress).

Writing Pancho Villa's Revolution Rebels in the Literary Imagination of Mexico by Max Parra. The 1910 Mexican Revolution saw Francisco "Pancho" Villa grow from social bandit to famed revolutionary leader. Although his rise to national prominence was short-lived, he and his followers (the villistas) inspired deep feelings of pride and power amongst the rural poor. After the Revolution (and Villa's ultimate defeat and death), the new ruling elite, resentful of his enormous popularity, marginalized and discounted him and his followers as uncivilized savages. Hence, it was in the realm of culture rather than politics that his true legacy would be debated and shaped.

Writing Pancho Villa's Revolution focuses on the novels, chronicles, and testimonials written from 1925 to 1940 that narrated Villa's grassroots insurgency and celebrated – or condemned – his charismatic leadership. This unique revisionist study of the villista novel also offers a deeper look into the process of how a nation's collective identity is formed. ISBN 0-292-70697-9 \$45.00 hardcover, ISBN 0-292-70978-1 \$19.95 paperback. University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713, Tel 1-800-252-3206, [www.utexas.edu/utpress](http://www.utexas.edu/utpress)