



SPRING 2007

Building Community in Panama

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By Richard Potter
(PhD student in Communications)

When I first arrived in Panama City, in Panama, it was October of 2000 -- less than one year since the United States had officially handed complete authority over the former Canal Zone to the Panamanian government. My bus crossed the Panama Canal via the Bridge of the Americas, from whose heights I could see the Panamax freighters stretched out toward the Pacific horizon, waiting their turn to pass through what is arguably the world's greatest engineering marvel and indubitably Panama's greatest claim to fame. Outside of the Canal and the surf spots, I'd discovered on my way down from Costa Rica my knowledge of Panama's history and people hardly surpassed that of the average gringo. I knew there had been a coup in 1968, which had ultimately led to Manuel Noriega's ruthless rise to power and the 1989 U.S. military invasion that separated him from it, and I suspected that the official versions of those events were far from complete. I had no idea, however, that for the next five years of my life I would call Panama my home.

It turned out that way, however, as a friend from university offered me a job



Richard Potter surrounded by Panamanians from the Comarca Ngöbe-Buglé, in the western highlands summer 2006.

editing his short movie, and one thing led to another as tends to happen.

During those five years, I made documentaries, music videos, installation art, a fictional film, and some wonderful friends. I learned Panama's rapid-fire, Caribbean inflected Spanish from the street up, and I spent long, lazy days on the beaches and in the mountains. I also confirmed my suspicions about those official versions of the way things went down, and I came to grasp the history and interconnectedness of abstracts such as colonialism, imperialism, international finance, poverty, development, and corruption; more importantly, I witnessed their concrete manifestations.

I learned that most of Panama had long since been deforested, and that the "impenetrable" Darien rainforest is moving all-too-quickly toward the same fate. I learned that Panama's wealth inequality ranks second in Latin America and that child malnutrition in the country's indigenous regions reaches as high as 68 percent. I saw the people riot when bus fares went up by 10 cents and march on the presidential palace when their social security system was in jeopardy. I watched a friend and single mother try to raise her baby on a \$170-month maid's salary, and I started thinking hard about what role I might be able to play in bringing about changes for the better.

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Our Mission

We are an interdisciplinary unit within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that brings together faculty and students who have a common interest in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Through colleges and departments across the campus, we seek to support and enlarge an interdisciplinary faculty who maintain an active research agenda and teach courses on Latin American subjects. We support faculty and graduate research, travel, and dissemination of research results. We promote the presentation of Latin American art, literature and music, and scholarly research to the larger community through exhibits, performances, and lectures. We also assist the Latin American Collection at the University Library in purchasing teaching and research materials.

Finally, we sponsor conferences, symposia, colloquia, and outreach activities on current affairs and other matters of scholarly and general interest.

The University of Illinois and the University of Chicago form a consortium that is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and constitutes a "Title VI" National Resource Center in Latin American Studies. The combined resources of the consortium provide one of the largest concentrations of human and material resources on Latin America in the United States, with over 120 core faculty, over 11,000 course enrollments, and 700,000 library volumes that constitute one of the three largest Latin American library resources in the nation.

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Director's Corner



Since I took over the direction of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, my year has been filled with exciting challenges and extraordinary experiences. I am pleased to report that CLACS has been working tirelessly to reach out to the community, both on campus and beyond it. We have made a concerted effort to increase our visibility and become a more valuable resource throughout Central Illinois.

As the following pages clearly show, CLACS has supported a wide array of programming and activities. Our "2006 highlights" include numerous lectures, panels, forums, and workshops on Latin American culture, politics, and scholarship. We have also developed exciting new activities in the community, such as the Latin American film festival and the "Spanish Time" events held at local libraries. These events have greatly enhanced the visibility and impact of the Center, and we

look forward to building on their success in the future.

As you will note in the items featured in this issue, U. of I. Latin Americanists continue to distinguish themselves in a wide array of disciplines. The faculty that joined us in 2006 have proven to be an enormous asset, augmenting the breadth and depth of our expertise. Our undergraduate courses are drawing record enrollments, and the number of students majoring in Latin American Studies is steadily increasing. This year, we were able to recruit a stellar team of instructors and teaching assistants for our introductory course, and their efforts have contributed immeasurably to the success of our program. The summary of the Tinker workshop and feature stories vividly demonstrate the incredible work of our graduate students, which—not surprisingly—has earned many of them awards, funding, and other professional opportunities.

So, I invite you to enjoy the impressive array of accomplishments featured here. Believe it or not, they offer only a small taste of the vibrant intellectual life that I have been fortunate enough to experience in the Center this year ■

CLACS Reception



Mahir Saul (left), Joe Love, and Guohui Dong



Nelly Gonzalez, Latin American Head Librarian



More than 100 people came to the reception. Food was provided by Dos Reales, Mexican restaurant.

2006 Highlights

CLACS designated NRC

The U.S. Department of Education has designated CLACS a National Resource Center (NRC) for Latin American Language and Area Studies.

CLACS is one of the few centers in the country that has been funded uninterruptedly - as a consortium with the University of Chicago - since 1976.

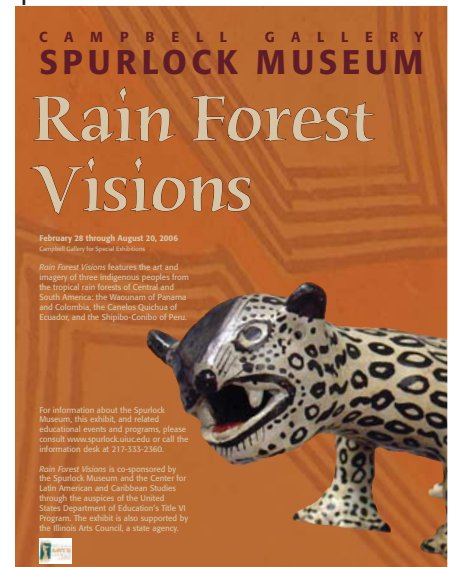
National resource centers are selected through a peer review process conducted on a four-year cycle. The U.S. Department of Education provides grants to establish, strengthen, and operate language and area or international studies centers for teaching any modern

Listen to our Podcasts

Visit CLACS to listen to interviews and lectures: <http://www.clacs.uiuc.edu>

Exhibit featured Rain Forest art

Curated by Dorothea Scott Whitten and Norman E. Whitten, Jr., the exhibit "Rain Forest Visions" presented the art and imagery of indigenous peoples from the rain forests of Central and South America, as well as lectures and gallery talks from February to August at the Spurlock Museum.



Castro and Beyond

The discussion focused on the implications of Fidel Castro's transfer to power and the future of the Cuban revolution. Speakers: Dara Goldman (CLACS/Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese); Marc Perry (African American Studies and Research Program/Anthropology); and Alysya García (PhD Student, Anthropology) on Oct. 25 at Allen Hall.



Venezuela Forum

The forum on the Venezuelan presidential elections included Damarys Canache (Political Science); Jonathan Hill (Southern Illinois University - Anthropology); Cristobal Valencia (PhD Student, Anthropology); and moderator Kensey Amaya (PhD Student, Animal Science) on Nov. 20 at 101 International Studies Building.



The Future of the Latin American Left

Moderated by Dara Goldman (CLACS/Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese), the panel was comprised by William Castro (Span/Ita/Port), José Cheibub (Political Science); Ellen Moodie (Anthropology); and Marc Perry (African American Studies and Research Program/Anthropology) on Feb. 22 at the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.





2006 Highlights

CAS/MillerComm Lecture Series Fall 2006

Culture and Politics in Mexico: The Symbolism Behind Political Campaigns Sept. 6



Thanks to the support from the Center for Advanced Studies, CLACS invited Prof. Larissa Adler Lomnitz from the Universidad Autónoma de México to offer a MillerComm conference entitled "Culture and Politics in Mexico: The Symbolism Behind Political Campaigns." Her presentation focused on the symbolism and the uses of social networks in the last campaign of the PRI, the dominant party for the past 75 years, and the nature of Mexican democracy at the turn of the 21st century. By presenting the structure, beliefs and practices of Mexican political parties, she stressed the vertical and clientelistic nature of Mexican politics. Using an ethnographic approach, and combining it with methods from political science and communication studies, Lomnitz examined Mexican political culture through its political practices, rituals, institutions, mentalities and legal norms. Her analysis presented a detailed description of the campaign activities, its visual and verbal messages, the use of public spaces as well as the use of the cosmology employed by the PRI. This perspective allowed her to focus on the tension and the interrelationship between the formal structure of the Mexican state -- a democracy with division of powers -- and informal practices arising from an underlying political culture, characterized by clientelistic procedures and highly polarized power relationships.

Besides this main conference, Prof. Lomnitz participated at CLACS in an informal presentation on the influence of the Chilean political culture in Mexico and discussed her ideas of trust and social networks in the informal economy with the Transnational Seminar in the department of Sociology.

Indigenous Rights in a Global Arena: Globalization from Below Nov. 14

Organized by the department of Anthropology and co-sponsored by CLACS, among other units, Dr. Luis Macas came to campus to offer a MillerComm conference "Indigenous Rights in a Global Arena: Globalization from Below." Macas has long been at the forefront of the struggle for political rights for indigenous peoples in Ecuador as a founder and then president of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE). He is now reaching beyond borders to make intercontinental alliances in the emergent pan-global indigenous peoples' movement. In this talk he discussed this grassroots form of globalization, pointing to challenges and successes of indigenous people's movements across the Americas and beyond. A member of the Saraguro indigenous community (part of the Quichua-Kichwa nation), Luis Macas was also the Ecuadorian presidential candidate for Pachakutik Plurinational Unity Movement, the political branch of CONAIE, in the 2006 elections. Macas' talk was given in Spanish and simultaneously translated by Professor Linda Belote, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota at Duluth. Later that week, Macas offered an informal talk for students and faculty affiliated in CLACS about "Recientes elecciones en América Latina: ¿Qué nos espera?"



The First Annual Latin American Film Festival at Boardman's Art Theatre

By Angelina Cotler

Between Feb. 23 and March 1, 2007 the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies in collaboration with the department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese organized the First Annual Latin American Film festival in Boardman's Art Theatre in downtown Champaign. Thanks to the monetary support of 11 units/programs in the University of Illinois, two local businesses, and the generous support of Boardman, my dream came true.

After 10 months of planning, contacting and negotiating with distributors, and selecting among 20 released films, I selected these five excellent movies: Machuca (Chile, 2004), Havana Blues (Cuba, 2005), Blessed by Fire (Argentina, 2005), Hopeless (Colombia, 2005), and Favela Rising (Brazil, 2005). Each film represents a different and unique genre and raises specific contextual issues. From poverty and violence, social class differences, musical success, memories of war, the loss of a loved partner, and coming to age, each film depicts the main problems and hopes of these selected countries. The availability

...the outcome of the event exceeded my expectations.

of the film and international recognition by prestigious awards determined my selection, and I hope that in the future I can include films from other countries that have a large film industry, such as Mexico.

The main goal of the festival was to bring Latin American culture to the community and to stress the rich and diverse cultural heterogeneity of Latin America.

To be fair the outcome of the event exceeded my expectations. The local press coverage was fan-

tastic. Students, faculty, and community residents filled the theatre every night. People stayed and watched two films in a row and let their friends know about the event. On Saturday, after the screen of Favela Rising, the spectators enjoyed a live performance by the Capoeira Club of the University. And, as a good Latin American event, we closed the week dancing at Kofusion to the rhythms of Sandunga, a local band that plays Cuban music,

and the beats of DJ Mambo Italiano. The response from the public was phenomenal. For instance, Linda Tabb, a professor at Parkland College wrote in an e-mail: "This is such a worthwhile event. I took in all five films, two on Friday and the other three on Saturday... Thanks for your help in bringing it to this community." For all that, I look forward to planning the next film festival and hopefully everyone will enjoy it again ■



Despite the cold, hundreds of people attended the Film Festival, organized by Angelina Cotler, on Feb. 23 to March 1, 2007 at Boardman's Art Theatre.



2006 Tinker Workshop on Pre-Dissertation Field Research

The workshop showcases graduate student's travel research in Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula. Supported by a grant from the Tinker Foundation, the program is designed to encourage preliminary travel and exploratory fieldwork by graduate students in any field who are in the process of defining their future research and/or Ph.D. proposals.

Communal Participation & Resistance: Experiences from Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico

Marisa Zapata, Urban and Regional Planning
Richard Potter, Institute of Communications Research
Jose Peralta, Sociology
Commentator: Faranak Miraftab, Urban and Regional Planning

Textual & Visual Representations: The Southern Cone and Peru

Diana Arbaiza, Span/Ita/Port (SIP)
Marcos Campillo Fenoll, SIP
Yolopattli Hernandez, SIP
Commentator: William Castro, SIP

Ethnic Identity & Violence in the Andes

Julie Williams, Anthropology
Paola Leon, Social Work - LAST
Sara Rowe, Anthropology
Commentator: Alan Durston, History

Linguistic Analysis: Costa Rica and Ecuador

Marco Shappeck, Linguistics
Patricio Carrasco, SIP
Commentator: Anna Maria Escobar, SIP

Race & Festivals: Dominican Republic and Mexico

Ellen Tillman, History
Sonia Mariscal, History
Commentator: Marcelo Bucheli, History/ Business

Puerto Rico & Spain: Two Different Approaches to Cultural Formation

Maria del Mar Gonzalez, Art History
Carmen Ripolles, Art History
Commentator: Oscar Vasquez, Art History

Political Resistance & Reggeaton: Experiences from Venezuela and Puerto Rico

Cristobal Valencia, Anthropology
Maritza Quiñones-Rivera, Institute of Communications Research
Commentator: Marc Perry, Anthropology/ Afro-American Research Program

Body, Fear & Identity: Representations of National Contexts

Maria del Carmen Rubio, SIP
Jose Miguel Lemus, SIP
Rachel TenHaaf, SIP
Commentator: Joyce Tolliver, SIP

Congratulations to all Tinker recipients for summer 2007!

Ana Vivancos	Unit for Comp. Literature.	Spain
Andrew Eisen	History	Mexico
Ashlee Mclaughlin	Urban & Regional Planning	Mexico
Carolina Sternberg	Geography	Argentina
Christa Olson	English Writing Studies.	Ecuador
Claire Baldeck	Conservation Biology	Panama
Evelina Jagminaite	Agricult. and Consumer Econ.	Brazil
Kate O'Brien	Anthropology	Ecuador
Maria delMar Soria	SIP	Spain
Peter Tanner	Art & Design	Argentina

The Art of Maraca

By William Hope
(PhD Student in Anthropology)

"Matamoros makes it sound so easy," Jesús laughed as he continued to work at cleaning out the güira. It was Friday afternoon, and I was sitting on the banks of the small Río Bano, along the northern boundary of Reparto Caribe, Guantánamo, Cuba, with Jesús Miguel Fernández Alfonso and his son, Carlitos. Earlier in the day, we set out on our project of making a pair of maracas.

Jesús is the director and laudista of Grupo Amancer, a Guantánamo música campesina ("country" music) group, with whom I've been studying the laúd, a twelve-stringed instrument similar to a very stout mandolin, since 1998. He's widely recognized as the best laudista in the province of Guantánamo, some would argue in all of Oriente. He also prides himself for making a decent pair of maracas. Taught by his uncle José Morejón, as a child Jesús honed his skills by making maracas for his father's group in Camagüey and he continues to do the same for his own groups.

As Matamoros points out in the song lyrics (next page), it is essential to find güira (the local name for both the tree and the fruit), preferably two that are roughly the same size. The fact that the two güira fruit will never be exactly the same contributes to the dynamics of the sound, one is inevitably slightly stronger sounding than the other. Thus, we began our search for the right güira. As we crossed the river on two railway ties that serve as a makeshift bridge, Jesús greeted a man walking the same direction and asked him if he knew of any güira along the river. The man responded that it just so happened that he had a tree in his yard and we should accompany him to his house to pick some. Later when I asked Jesús how long he had known the man that kindly supplied us with the two nicely shaped güira, he stated that they had just met right then on the

Maraca Making: A Tinker report from Cuba



Grupo Amancer

bridge.

Jesús, Carlitos, and I made our way up the river, taking advantage of the shade and the relative coolness of the river to escape the mid-day heat of eastern Cuba, no easy task. With the aid of two pieces of copper wire and a pocketknife, we sat down to clean out the pulpy mass and seeds of the güira. When the majority of the pulp was out, we filled the güira with small rocks and broken bits of glass, shaking them for another 30 to 45 minutes in order to completely clean out the inside. The cleaning of the güira is the most time and labor-intensive part of making maracas, and it was this, more than anything else, that tío José had Jesús doing as a child.

The next evening, Jesús cut a stick into two small pieces, which we then shaved and sanded down so that they would make a perfect fit into the hole of the now cleaned and polished güira. After the güira were more dried out, we filled them with a red and black seed from a reed called pepusa. Jesús explained that any small, rounded, hard object

would serve, be it shot (municones) as Matamoros suggested or the dried seeds of pepusa or quimbombó (okra). The final step was placing the sticks through the güira and a small tack in the top, securing the güira to the palito, thereby converting the various assorted materials into a new pair of maracas. Y ya está.

I offer this anecdote as a brief description of a moment shared during my Tinker-sponsored summer field research on the roles of musicians and musical production in the Cuban Revolution and the influence of the social revolutionary process on the musical traditions of Cuban Son and Punto Guajiro. In addition to providing a how-to guide for aspiring maraqueros, it is my intention to suggest ways in which the ethnographic project can ground interpretation and analysis of broader social and cultural moments in consideration of the lived experiences of real people. In this case, these include the transformation of natural resources into expressive cultural tools, ongoing processes of cultural

transmission and innovation in the art of instrument making across generations, and the significance of sound in the formation and maintenance of collective identities, be they local, regional, national, or transnational.

“Y luego a tocar...” well, that’s another story altogether ■

LAS MARACAS DE CUBA

By Miguel Matamoros

“Nace en mi Cuba la güira,
en oriente las maracas
Y en el mundo se destaca
su rimbombar que me inspira.

Ahora te voy a explicar,
como se hacen las maracas
Se coge la güira, se le abre un hoyito,
la tripa se saca y se pone a secar,
y por el hoyito con buenas razones,
echar municiones se le mete un palito,
se raspa un poquito se mueve un poquito,
y luego a tocar y ya está.”

**

English translation:

CUBA’S MARACAS

“The güira is born in my Cuba
In Oriente, the maracas
And throughout the world they’re outstand-
ing
Their explosions inspire me

Now I’m going to explain to you
How to make maracas
Get hold of the güira, you open a little hole
Take out the core and lay out the güira to
dry
And in the hole, with good reason,
Throw in some shot and put in a little stick
Scrape it a little, move it a little
And later, play them, that’s it”



Cover story

Building Community in Panama con't



The newly constructed community and visitors' center in Achiote represents a positive change that Panamanian communities need now more than ever, as concerted efforts by the government have sparked an inflow of foreign investment that largely bypasses the impoverished rural areas.

That thought process ultimately brought me to the Institute of Communications Research at U. of I., where I work to integrate ethical theory with political economic analysis in order to derive on-the-ground practices that will enable communities to take charge of the narratives that shape and express their existence. Toward this end, I applied for a 2006 Tinker Field Research grant that enabled me to return to Panama and investigate the current and potential levels of community participation in the communicative aspects of development projects being facilitated by the Panamanian Center for Research and Social Action (CEASPA).

One of the projects is in Achiote, a community of perhaps 80 residents that sits at the edge of the San Lorenzo Protected Area in what used to be the U.S. Canal Zone. CEASPA has been working to implement a community centered vision for the care of San Lorenzo's

~46 square miles of rainforest and wetlands, including the superabundance of avian life that has earned it worldwide fame among bird-

...the application of local talent to communal projects provides a tangible manifestation of the cohesiveness and pride that the broader initiative has generated...

watchers. The new community and visitors' center in Achiote is meant, in part, to attract eco-tourists and generate economic opportunities for the San Lorenzo community. Of this initiative's many components, my attention was drawn to a community art project that em-

phasizes the representation of local wildlife and cultural traditions. My guide in Achiote was the project's facilitator, Alberto Sanchez, a professional graphic designer and graduate from Panama's most esteemed pedagogical academy. He had conducted several workshops on drawing and painting in the community center, as part of a program that supplements the training of local birdwatching guides, generally young adults, who transmit knowledge gained from their naturalistic depictions to tourists who are much less familiar with the local wildlife. Alberto stressed, however, that the application of local talent to communal projects provides a tangible manifestation of the cohesiveness and pride that the broader initiative has generated, and he proudly showed me some nearby examples, including a decorated bus stop and a series of roadside signs that feature not only wildlife but local cultural traditions, the Canal, and even

a map of the area as it was during the Canal Zone era.

Alberto also brought me to a small farm, tucked into a narrow valley, where one of his more active students lived with his family growing rice and tending cattle. I'd met the shy young man years before when I'd created a short video on the San Lorenzo region, but he only recalled me when I mentioned the camera. Then he opened up a little more, explaining that the head of the local public school had seen the work of the art group and requested that several of the members embellish an existing but rudimentary mural on an exterior wall facing the school's recreation area. He had some brushes, since CEASPA provided them as part of the workshop, but the school had paid for the paint as well as a nominal wage for the artists. I asked if the art group was planning on producing more of the souvenirs that I had seen on sale in the visitor's center, and he explained that the group was having difficulties getting organized outside of the CEASPA sponsored workshops. This proved to be an important observation as it highlights one of the common problems of participatory production initiatives such as the community art project – while tech-

nical knowledge and tools are made available, the skills needed for group self-organization are often elided so that projects have a hard time gaining the vital quality of self-sustenance that would reduce or remove their dependence on the facilitation of outside "experts" and make of them truly community run endeavors.

One of the most pleasurable stops in my tour of the art group's output was the Cascá, a recently constructed restaurant whose name comes from a local bird and whose main wall is covered with an intricate mural, painted by community members, which depicts all sorts of local birds perched on a twisting pattern of leafy vines. The building site had formerly been a community run nursery (also a CEASPA initiative), but that project had failed. After tasting the wonderful food served by the several women working in the small kitchen, it was hard to think that the Cascá would suffer the same fate. We ate fried whole fish, a puree of ñame (which is something like a cross between sweet potato and yucca), salad, and one of the most delicious beverages I've tasted yet. I had no idea what was in it but told

Alberto and my other companions that it tasted like Christmas to me. They got a real kick out of that, as did the women of the Cascá who explained that it was made from zapallo, a gourd common to the Panamanian kitchen that is not unlike a pumpkin. Thus, with a touch of spice, the drink wasn't far from liquefied pumpkin pie, and my odd connection bore a degree of sense.

An engineer (man with hands on knees in foreground) shows the plans for a water system to the social auditors Meeting in the Comarca Ngöbe-Buglé, in the western highlands. The water comes from springs in the mountains and is channelled through PVC tubing to the community.



Roadside sign in Achioté, Costa Abajo, Provincia de Colón.

My time in Achioté also included walks along a boardwalk behind the visitor's center and a nature trail not far down the road. Neither had existed when I had first visited Achioté a few years back. At that time, the visitor's center was just a frame; now it has indoor bathrooms, two dorm rooms, a kitchen, an office, and a lushly landscaped front drive. The front door is beautifully decorated with a mural conceived by Alberto and detailed by community members. The list goes on and it represents the type of positive changes that Panamanian communities need now more than ever, as concerted efforts by the government, including a recently approved Canal expansion project, have sparked a dangerously rapid and concentrated inflow of foreign investment in real estate, infrastructure, and tourism that largely bypasses the impoverished rural areas. I hope my observations, from an academic perspective, can play some role in furthering community based initiatives for a more people centered development in all parts of the world. Panama, however, will always hold a special and profoundly significance for me ■



Faculty News

Murillo Campello (Finance) was nominated fellow to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Damarys Canache (Political Science) presented a lecture "Recent Elections, Ideology, and Democracy in Latin America" at the Center of Interamerican Studies, Laval University, Quebec, Canada on Dec. 1, 2006.

Jose Antonio Cheibub (Political Science) published his book "Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy," part of the Cambridge Series in Comparative Politics, November 2006.

In November 2006, **Don Johnson** (Geography) participated in a field course in Quaternary Geology in Tierra del Fuego, where he studied all aspects of glaciation, loess, peat bogs, and general landscape evolution, from one end of T. del F. to the other, and at many different elevations. After the field course, Johnson -- together with two other participants/ colleagues -- executed a 3,000 km physical geographical research tour, via auto, of southern Patagonia (S. Cruz Province). Much material was collected for the book he is working on, provisionally titled: *The Biomantle* (Cambridge U. Press).

Mariselle Meléndez (Span/Ita/Port) published "¡Si tal era el dedo, cuál sería el cuerpo!: The Archival Project of María Josefa de la Santísima Trinidad (1783)." *Hispanic Review* 74.3 (2006): 251-277; and "Patria, Criollos, and Blacks: Imagining the Nation in the Mercurio peruano, 1791-1795." *Colonial Latin American Review* 15. 2 (2006): 207-227.

Jordana Mendelson (Art History) organized an exhibition at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid titled "Revistas y Guerra 1936-1939/ Magazines and Guerra 1936-1939." The exhibition is accompanied by a Web site that was funded by several on-campus grants, includ-

ing an NCSA-UIUC Faculty Fellowship, with additional support from CHASS, the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, and the School of Art & Design, and a monographic book. An international symposium on "Magazines, Modernity and War" was held immediately following the opening on Jan. 17 and 18.

H. Adlai Murdoch (French) presented "Making Frenchness Plural: How France Contends with its 'Others'" at the "Boundaries and Limits of Postcolonialism: Anglophone, Francophone, Global" International Colloquium, under the auspices of the Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies and the Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, 2006. He also presented "European Caribbean Communities: Articulating Diaspora and Identity" to the conference "AfroEuropeans: Black Cultures and Identities in Europe," IV conference on African Studies, Leon, Spain, Oct. 18 to 21, 2006.

Andrew Orta (Anthropology) is spending 2006-07 as a LAS Study in a Second Discipline Fellow, undertaking a course of study in the U. of I. MBA program at the College of Business. He has also received a research Fellowship from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research for a related project titled "An Ethnography of International Business Education." In 2006, Orta published "Ethnography: South America : Highlands" *Handbook of Latin American Studies* Volume 61: 112-124; and "Dusty signs and roots of faith: the limits of Christian meaning in highlands Bolivia." In *Christian Ritual and the Limits of Meaning*, edited by Matt Tomlinson and Mathew Engelke, pp. 165-188. Oxford: Berghahn Books, 200

Carolina Rocha (Span/Ita/Port) presented "Resisting Globalization Hollywood-style in the Argentine Chaco" at the Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago on Nov. 10. She also published "Perla

Suez: La memoria y el desafío de la lengua." *Chasqui* 35.1 (2006): 69-76. and "Interview to Angélica Gorosdicher" *Letras Hispanas*, 3.1 (2006): 133-138

Norman Whitten (Anthropology Emeritus)'s book is in press for 2007 (with Dorothea Scott Whitten) *Puyo Runa: Imagery and Power in Modern Amazonia* 380 pp ms. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Whitten conducted the following presentations, among others: 2006a *American Ethnologist: The early years, a history*. University of Iowa workshop on 30 years of the *American Ethnologist*. Iowa City: March 3-4; 2006b (with Dorothea Scott Whitten) *Introduction to Rain Forest Visions*. Spurlock Museum Celebratory Opening, 12 March; 2006c *The Longue Durée of Racial Fixity and the Conjunctions of Racial Fluidity*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in the session *Entre 'lo Indio' y 'lo negro': Interrogating the effects of Latin America's NewAfro-Indigenous Multiculturalisms*. San José, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting -- also chaired this session--San Jose, CA, November 17. Articles published: 2006c *Excerpts, From Myth to Creation: Art from Amazonian Ecuador*, among others.

New Faculty



Miguel I. Gómez is Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics. He holds a BS in Industrial Engineering from the

Universidad de Los Andes (Bogotá) and a PhD in Agricultural and Consumer Economics from the University of Illinois. His areas of expertise focus on the food sector and include marketing and price analysis, agribusiness, applied econometrics, and industrial organization. His current research focuses on economics of the food industry, contracts between food suppliers and supermarkets, customer satisfaction in retailing, price analysis and market

Visiting Scholars

Leigh Binford

power. He teaches a Food Industry Seminar at the Universidad de Los Andes and conducts executive education programs in Latin America. His work has been published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Review of Agricultural Economics*, among others. He has served as consultant for various national and international public and private institutions.



Robert L. Thompson holds the Gardner Chair in Agricultural Policy. The first 19 years of his academic career were spent working mainly on agricultural trade in the

Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. Thompson was away from academia for a decade in administrative roles in international development organizations. In Latin America his research has focused principally on Brazil, where he worked as a visiting professor at the Federal University of Viçosa. Both his M.S. and Ph.D. theses dealt with Brazil. In his Ph.D. thesis Thompson studied the sources of differences in agricultural productivity among states in Brazil. He has done extensive research on the growth in Brazil's soybean production and exports. Thompson has also followed agricultural developments in Argentina. His current international work focuses principally on the WTO international trade negotiations and on understanding the changes occurring in international competitiveness in agricultural production.

Markus S. Schulz is a sociologist with a special interest in new media and globalization. Schulz won national and international awards for his research, including the Bielefeld Prize for the Internationalization of Sociology. His current work focuses on the social shaping of the Internet and its impact on social movements, public discourse, and democratization. Prior to joining U. of I., Schulz taught at New York University and the Bauhaus-University of Weimar in Germany. He earned his PhD at the New School for So-

I'm an anthropologist who has worked in various areas of Mexico and El Salvador, as well as New York and Ontario, Canada on peasant and peasant artisan production, rural class formation, violence and civil war and international migration. I obtained my doctorate at the University of Connecticut and taught there for 12 years--with shorter stints at the University of New Hampshire and Michigan State--before moving to Puebla, Mexico in 1997 to take up a position at the Social Science and Humanities Research Institute at the University of Puebla. During my sabbatical, I'm attempting to wrap up two projects: one involves a study of contract labor migration between three communities in the state of Tlaxcala, Mexico and southern Ontario, Canada; the other is a testimonio of a former peasant agriculturalist, catechist and guerrilla political activist (during El Salvador's civil war) named Fabio Argueta.



Nancy E. Churchill

I earned a Master's in Anthropology at the University of Connecticut and a Master of Science in Public Affairs at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. My doctoral studies were in Anthropology at the University of Connecticut, where I found a way to combine cultural process and practice, public policy and social justice in my dissertation on the U.S. welfare reform in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1997, I was offered a position in the Sociology Graduate Program at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Puebla, Mexico, where I have spent the past 10 years teaching and doing research on urban development, planning and policy, cultural heritage, popular culture and everyday life. I have published articles on these subjects in *Social Justice*, *Bajo el Volcan*, the *International Journal of Cultural Property*, among others. I am currently working on a book on popular culture and heritage in and around a tourist-oriented development project in the historic city center of Puebla, and a co-edited volume on the everyday lives of women in Mexico.



Guohui Dong

Dong graduated from Nankai University in Tianjin, P. R. China, receiving M. A. in 1995 and Ph. D in 2001 both in History. He was the Lecturer of the Center for Latin American Studies at Nankai University from June 1995 to December 2002, when he became the Associate Professor of the College of History at Nankai University. At the same year, Dong was appointed as the Academic Secretary of the Latin American History Research Association of China. Dong has published two monographs, *Studies on the Economic Thought of Raúl Prebisch* (Nankai University Press, 2003) and *Human Rights, Sovereignty, and Hegemony: The American Human Rights Diplomacy in Perspective* (World Knowledge Publishers, 2003), and some articles concerning Latin American problems. His current research focuses on the American policies toward ECLA and the Argentine political, economic, and cultural history.



cial Research's Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science, after obtaining undergraduate degrees from the Free University of Berlin in Philosophy and Sociology. Schulz is co-author of the multi-volume book series *Internet and Politics in Latin America: The Regulation and Usage of the New Information and Communication Technologies in the Context of Political and Economic Transformations* (in German, 2003). His published articles include, among others, "Collective Action Across Borders," *Sociological Perspectives*, and "Political Violence, Human Rights, and Military Strategy," *Forum International*.



José Antonio Cheibub is Associate Professor of Political Science and the Boeschstein Scholar of Political Economy and Public Policy. He is also associated with the Center for the Study of Democratic Governance. Cheibub received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. His interests are comparative politics, political economy and democratic institutions. Currently he is working on a project that seeks to account for the adoption of mixed democratic constitutions (often referred to as "semipresidential" constitutions), as well as their implications for democratic performance; a study of the "electoral connection" in proportional representation systems, focusing initially on Brazil; and, a study of the relationship between elections and civil conflict in democratizing countries. He is the author of *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy*, Cambridge University Press 2007, the co-editor (with Robert Dahl and Ian Shapiro) of the *Democracy Sourcebook* (MIT Press, 2003) and the co-author (with Adam Przeworski, Michael Alvarez and Fernando Limongi) of *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), among others.

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Faculty Interview Werner Baer

A renowned expert on Brazilian development, Werner Baer has been professor of economics at the University of Illinois since 1974. In December 2006, a conference in honor of Baer, titled "Economic Development in Latin America," gathered leading scholars and economists from Latin America.



CLACS: What attracted you to the field of Latin America?

Baer: I became interested in Third World Country problems at the end of my graduate studies. One of my professors got me involved in a project on the industrialization of Puerto Rico. I learned Spanish and went there a few times to collect data. I then decide that I liked Latin society and that it would be more meaningful to study one part of the developing in depth – knowing its history, institutions, etc. I then went to the Economic Growth Center of Yale, which had plenty of funding at the time and they told me to choose another country to do another industrialization study. I looked at the map and saw this giant called Brazil, with lots of interesting problems, and I was not scared to learn still another language. So I decided on Brazil and they sent me there for a year. I went to Rio de Janeiro at the Fundacao Getulio Vargas. After that I fell in love with Brazil and have gone back many times and even lived there a few times for longer periods.

CLACS: Who and what works influenced you?

Baer: In Graduate School John Kenneth Galbraith and Alexander Gerschenkron influenced me quite a bit. After that, the works of Albert Hirschman and Celso Furtado had a great deal of intellectual influence on me.

CLACS: How has the university changed since you came in 1974?

Baer: Most notable are the large quantities of international students. Also the Center for Latin American Studies has become more dynamic than in my early days at the U. of I.

CLACS: In 1982 you fostered the creation of a Masters of Policy Economics. What is the significance of this degree?

Baer: This degree offers a more advanced training of individuals who are usually in government service – such as finance ministries, Central Banks, etc. The graduates have done very well professional after they finished this degree and quite a number are in high positions in Latin America and Asia.

CLACS: What are the major challenges you encountered as a Latin Americanist economist over the years?

Baer: The more I study Latin America, the more I am convinced that the blind application of abstract economic theory leaves a lot to be desired. One needs to know institutions and the culture of a country to make meaningful policy decisions. Some aspects of economic analysis are universal, but applying principles of economics without knowing institutions can lead to grave mistakes. In other words, economists should know how to find out about the capacity to implement policies, not just to formulate ideal policies without institutional knowledge – the biggest challenge in Latin America is how to combine the efficient application of resources and at the same time improve the distribution of income and property.

CLACS: What do you consider your greatest achievements?

Baer: I have some success in various types of activities. I believe that I made some contributions in studying the process of industrialization in Latin America, the role of the state and of foreign capital in the development of Latin America, the impact of neo-liberal policies (especially privati-

zation). I also contributed some time ago when I was an advisor to the Ford Foundation and helped guide funds into the creation of graduate programs in various Brazilian universities, and also in some universities in Peru and Argentina. Finally, I take great pride in the success of our students from Latin America in getting their graduate degrees in the United States, especially in the U. of I, that is, success in both the academies and in public service.

CLACS: Many of your former students are in leadership positions in Latin America: most recently, Rafael Correa, president of Ecuador. What do you attribute to the success of your students?

Baer: They are talented and received excellent training at the U. of I.

CLACS: What do you want your students to take from your teachings?

Baer: Better understanding of what lies behind some of the region's major contemporary problems, and also an understanding that socio-economic problems have no easy solutions, that is solutions that can be reduced to a simple mathematical equation.

CLACS: You have also been acclaimed for increasing the academic ties between the United States and Latin America. Was it a conscious effort on your part or did it occur gradually?

Baer: Both. I recruit students, I stay in touch with them after they return to their country, I try to have them participate in conferences. It is most important for teachers to look beyond the classroom. I look at my students as part of my family, trying to help them in their careers, and trying to see to it that they help each other over the years. To me teaching and research and continued human contacts are what make my profession as a professor something exciting.

CLACS: What do you hope will be your legacy?

Baer: I hope to have established the U. of I. and its Latin America Studies as a permanent center of excellence for both Americans and Latin Americans ■

Brown Bag Lecture Series Spring

TH January 25

Nancy Churchill. Visiting Scholar CLACS, Universidad de Puebla, Mexico

The Meaning(s) of Heritage in Historic City Centers: The Case of Puebla, Mexico

TH February 1

Ricardo Fregulia. PhD Student, Department of Economics-University of São Paulo-Brazil. Research Scholar-REAL, Regional Economics Applications Laboratory.

Estimation of Inter-Regional and Inter-Industrial Wage Differentials in Brazil: A Panel Data Analysis

TH February 8

Irune del Rio. Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

Dragging the Family onto the Global Stage: Sirena Selena vestida de pena and the Case of Puerto Rico

TH February 15

Kirstie Dorr, Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow in African-American Research Program

Mapping El Condor Pasa: On Sonic Migrations in the Global Era

TH February 22

Joel Outtes, University of Oxford, Head, GEST-Group for the Study of Society and Territory, UFRGS-Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul

Disciplining Society through the City: The Genesis of City Planning in Brazil and Argentina (1894-1945)

FEBRUARY 23- MARCH 1: THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL AT BOARDMAN'S THEATRE, CHAMPAIGN

TH March 8

Elaine Peña. Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Latina/Latino Studies Program

Las Guadalupanas de Querétaro: Embodied Devotion, Political Economy, and the Production of Sacred Space



Brown Bags are at Thursdays at noon at 101 International Studies Bld. Above, Joel Outtes' presentation on Feb. 22.

TH March 15

William Castro. Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

The Novel After Terrorism: Testimony from El Salvador

TH April 5

Simone Dasilva. Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

Prostitution in Early Twentieth-Century Brazil: A Case of Tolerance and Repression

TH April 12

Tamara Falicov. Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Film. University of Kansas

New Argentine Cinema: Making Marginalized Identities Visible

TH April 19

Isabel Scarborough. Ph.D. Student, Department of Anthropology
Market Women Mothers and Daughters: Politics and Mobility in the New Bolivia

TH April 26

Jennifer Shoaff. Ph.D. Candidate. Department of Anthropology
Navigating Borders of Race and Gender: Mobile Haitian Women in the Dominican Republic

TH May 3

Cynthia Oliver. Associate Professor. Department of Dance
Winin Across Nation: Calypso Dancing and Transnationalism

Spanish Time brings music, stories and crafts

By Renata Johnson

Since October 2006, children of different backgrounds – African American, white, Asian and Latino – have participated in the Spanish Time at local libraries, a program that combines music, stories and crafts organized by CLACS in Urbana and Champaign.

It's not the first time that local libraries offer programs in Spanish. "We had activities such as this one in 2004 and 2005, but the person in charge, who spoke Spanish, left and the program was ended," said Amanda Raklovits, librarian at the Douglass Branch Library in Champaign. In fact, libraries all over the country are providing more and more services in Spanish given that the Hispanic population has reached 14 percent of the nation, according to the U.S. Census. So proposing a program in Spanish to libraries in town was an easy task. Both Raklovits in Champaign and Barb Lintner, head of the children's department, in Urbana, had a strong desire to support Latino programs and quickly agreed to feature the Spanish Time.

It had been less than a month since I started working as the Center's outreach coordinator, when Angelina Cotler, associated director, talked to me about the need to produce a library program. Cotler told me that one time when she was



Nancy Churchill at The Urbana Free Library

in a library in Lima, Peru, she saw a father reading stories in English to his child. This image stayed with her: "How fantastic! Why can't we do something similar here?" Angelina said, "Is there a better and more fun way to expose the Latin American culture and the Spanish language than through stories and music?"

With the help of Ann Abbot, a professor at the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, we found Ashley Mazzola, a senior in Spanish Teaching. Mazzola's leadership and commitment

Christmas. Mazzola puts an extra effort in coming up with ideas for the crafts. In October, children created a Mexican skeleton, in November an animal puppet and in December a Santa Claus mask. Later other people joined in as storytellers, such as Leigh Binford and Nancy Churchill, both visiting professors from Mexico.

The music was also Cotler's idea. The Spanish Time has relied on her pool of musician friends and CLACS collaborators: Eduardo Herrera, Adriana Cuervo and Clara Guerrero; Julian Noratoes, Mariza Sapatos and Sergio Cristancho; and William Hope and Martin Kowalewski. They all play in bands in town and generously take time aside to help with the program.

Through the music, we manage to attract non-Spanish speakers. The songs' words are shown on an overhead projector so everyone can sing along. Interestingly, some of our most assiduous participants are families who homeschool their children. This is an important aspect of the Spanish Time. It's crucial in a globalized world to foster the interest and the practice of foreign languages, both inside and outside the school setting.



William Hope (left) and Martin Kowalewski, doctoral students in anthropology, at the Douglass Branch Library.

At the same time, our goal is to provide a space to Latinos where their language and cultures are valued. We hope to promote cultural exchange and integration in the community.

On one hand, we can say that we are reaching our goal. Angela Supernaw, librarian in Urbana, said she is happy with the attendance of non-Spanish speakers. She put a small display of Spanish and Spanish/English books up around the time of the first story time. "It was primarily picture books, but we had to keep replenishing it so we even-

It's crucial in a globalized world to foster the interest and the practice of foreign languages, both inside and outside the school setting

tually put board books, junior fiction, and nonfiction on display as well." Then they moved the display to a larger space, doubled the amount of books on display. "And I still have to replenish it once a week!"

However, the greatest challenge is to increase the participation of Latin American immigrants. We had a special Spanish Time in the community center at the Shadow Wood Mobile Home Community, where 250 families live; yet no one from the complex came.

Still, we won't give up. Results are often not immediate but unfold in the long run. We will organize another Spanish Time at Shadow Wood during the summer. This time, we will do it outside, hoping that as soon as families hear the music, they will come along as well.

The Spanish Time is held on the second and third Saturdays of the month from February to April and from October to December. It's at 2 p.m. at The Urbana Free Library, 210 West Green St; and in Champaign: 1 p.m. at the Douglass Branch Library, 504 E. Grove St ■

Become a Volunteer!

If you would like get involved with the Spanish Time, please contact Renata Johnson at renata@uiuc.edu, telephone (217) 244-2790, or visit <http://www.clacs.uiuc.edu/>. We need more musicians and storytellers for the next academic year. Experience with children and a love for performing are welcomed but not required!



Sergio Cristacho (left), Mariza Sapatos, and Julian Noratoes at the Douglass Branch Library



Ashley Mazzola



Peter Tanner and his daughter, Exzandria, working on a Santa Claus mask



Children making a paper skeleton for the Day of the Dead

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