

CLASP Notes

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Editor, [Valerie McGinley Marshall](#)

Report of the Steering Committee

The CLASP Steering Committee met at the LASA convention in Washington, D. C., to formulate a plan of action to enable the organization to support a range of Latin American Studies programs. For the foreseeable future, we will focus our energy and resources in three primary areas: outreach, consulting services, and communication.

Outreach

The CLASP Committee on Outreach will continue to sponsor the **Americas Children's Book Award** and to organize a workshop for teachers at each LASA congress. New initiatives include sponsorship and financial support for Latin American Studies program-related sessions at the annual meetings of the regional Latin American Studies organizations. We begin this fall at the meeting of the North Central Council on Latin American Studies at Ripon College on October 26-28, when Donna Guy, a member of the CLASP Steering Committee and professor of history at Arizona State, will conduct a workshop on **Developing and Teaching Interdisciplinary courses in Latin American History**. CLASP will also provide up to four \$500 matching grants per year to member Latin American Studies programs wishing to offer an in-service institute for K-12 or post-secondary teachers. Each year, CLASP will also provide up to ten grants of \$100 to enable a Latin America-related speaker invited to a member's campus to speak to a community group or conduct an in-service teachers' workshop. Details on how to apply for both of these grants will be mailed with the January 1996 dues mailing.

Consulting Services

CLASP will help Latin American Studies faculty and program directors locate and arrange for a site visit by experienced Latin American Studies program personnel. CLASP will cover the cost of round trip transportation for the consultant; the host college or university must cover all local expenses. Support for site visits is not limited to paid CLASP members; we intend to support programs at all stages of development.

Communication

CLASP will continue to communicate with members through the semiannual CLASP Notes, and to organize meetings for outreach providers and program directors at each LASA congress. In addition, every three years, CLASP will sponsor a major conference on Latin American Studies program development. Our first such conference will take place in the fall of 1996 at the University of California at Los Angeles. We are in the process of creating a home page for CLASP (this is it!) that will provide current information about our programs and serve as a clearinghouse for listings of summer language institutes and visiting speakers. As in the past, we will continue to use mailings and e-mail to keep members and interested others up-to-date.

Elizabeth Mahan, CLASP Chair (University of Connecticut)

Language Teaching Committee Report

Sharon Mújica, Chair, Duke/University of North Carolina

More information regarding Summer Language Institutes will be available in the Spring 1996 edition of CLASP Notes.

Latin American Lesser Taught Languages. You can subscribe to the list of Lesser Taught Languages set up by CLASP, through Sharon Mújica's office by using gopher. You can also get the information on the web where there is an alphabetical listing of all Less Commonly Taught Languages.

1996 Summer Intensive Introductory Course in Yucatec Maya: June 10- July 19. This annual intensive beginning course in the living language of the Yucatec Mayans will begin on June 10 on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and end in the Yucatán on July 19. The course is for anyone interested in learning Yucatec Maya and incorporates components on literature and culture.

Committee on Outreach Report

Julie Kline, Chair (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Activities

Américas Book Award

The recipient of the 1994 Américas Children and Young Adult Literature Award was **The Mermaid's Twin Sister: More Stories from Trinidad**, by Lynn Joseph (Clarion Books). The book highlights the diversity of Trinidad's culture and the sharing of stories from the oral tradition across generations.

The award was presented in a short ceremony on June 16 at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; the ceremony and reception were co-sponsored by the Hispanic Division and by the Center for the Book. A copy of the 1994 commended list is available upon request, and submissions for the 1995 award/commended list are now being solicited. Contact Julie Kline at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In addition, the Américas Award competition will serve as the basis for a staff development program, organized by the Cooperative Children's book Center (CCBC) and the Madison Metropolitan School District. A fall 1995 orientation program will be followed by a February 1996 Américas Book Discussion at the CCBC, UW-Madison.

The Mesoamerican Tapestry: Pre-colombian Culture and the Living Legacy This CLASP-sponsored teacher workshop, was held at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Congress in Washington, D.C., September 19, 1995. The workshop organized by Sharon Mújica (Duke/UNC), attracted an audience of 75 D. C. area educators.

Interdisciplinary Teaching of Latin American Studies CLASP will cosponsor a workshop for upper Midwest faculty on **Interdisciplinary Teaching of Latin American Studies**, led by Donna Guy (Department of History, University of Arizona), at Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin. The workshop will be featured at the October 26-28 annual conference of the North Central Council of Latin Americanists (NCCLA).

Outreach at the K-12 and College/University level

For more information regarding the following activities, please contact the respective centers. Addresses, phone numbers, and contacts are given here.

Cornell/University of Pittsburgh

Cornell's Resource Kits are designed to aid teachers in presenting units on Latin America. The kits include hands-on materials, and are accompanied by study guides and instructional units especially for grades 3, 5 and 9. Currently kits are being prepared for Guatemala, Bolivia, Venezuela, Mexico and Colombia.

Pittsburgh is planning a graduate in-service credit course for middle and high school educators on **Societies in Transition in Today's World**. The course is being sponsored by the four Pittsburgh NRCs (Latin American, Asian, Russian and East European, and West European). Seminar sessions will focus on contemporary political issues of transition, evolving economies, technology and media for the classroom, the role of women, and ethnicity and nationalism. The Department of Education's Institute for International Studies in Education will work with the participants to assist them in developing lessons from the information presented during the course. Lessons developed will also be added to Pittsburgh's resource library.

Three other K-12 outreach workshops are planned this fall

- Instructional Resources and Approaches to Teaching about Latin American Cultures
- Information (Resource) Fair w/country booths
- Using the internet for lesson demonstrations.

As a consortium activity, the University of Pittsburgh and Cornell are designing a newsletter specifically geared to the K-12 educational community. The first issue should go out before the holidays.

San Diego State University ISTEP and the Center for Latin American Studies will host a lecture on the art and history of Día de los Muertos on October 7, followed by a bus trip to Los Angeles and a guided tour of the exhibit, **En Calavera: The Papier-Maché Art of the Linares Family**, at UCLA. A packet of classroom appropriate materials will be distributed to participants.

Duke/University of North Carolina The Latin American Film Festival, sponsored by the Duke-UNC Outreach Office is held on six university campuses in the Triangle area. Six nights, one on each campus, will be dedicated to films from and about Cuba. Jesús Vega, a critic and poet who works with the Cuban national film institute (ICAIC) in Havana, will be present to discuss 6 different Cuban films as well as to give a lecture on Cuban film. He will be on hand opening night to talk about the recently released 35mm **Yo Soy Cuba (I am Cuba)**. Other Cuban films scheduled are **Havana Nagila: The Jews in Cuba**, **Madagascar**, **Reina y rey**, and **El elefante y la bicicleta**.

Another highlight of the festival will be the screening of **Mayan Voices: American Lives**, an award-winning documentary about a community of Mayan Indians who have fled Guatemala's political violence to settle in Indiantown, Florida. The director, Olivia Carrescia, will be present at the screening on November 9 in Chapel Hill

The Outreach Office will host the fifth annual workshop for school teachers in North Carolina on May 3-4 as part of its series on Latin American Society and Culture. This year, the workshop, **A Celebration of the Culture and Civilization of Latin America** will be held at Appalachian State University in Boone in an effort to reach teachers in the western part of North Carolina.

Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Culture and Civilization of Latin America is the annual two-week workshop led by Fred Clark, Professor of Romance Languages at UNC. The workshop is open to instructors in North And South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky, and its purpose is to develop an interdisciplinary course on the culture and civilization of Latin America. This workshop will be held on June 10-21.

University of Chicago/University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

A workshop for high school teachers, **Sustainable Development**, planned for November 11 will give educators the tools to use elements of the October 26-29 conference, **Sustainable Development in Rural Latin America: Human and Environmental Consequences**, in their classrooms. The morning will focus on conference themes and their relevance to various high school disciplines. The afternoon will highlight classroom-oriented readings, discussion questions, projects and games. Attendance at both the conference and the teachers workshop is recommended, if possible.

University of Kansas

Selected participants from the recent summer seminar, **Popular Culture and the Arts in Latin America** (secondary level), sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council, will present at the Kansas Council for the Social Studies October conference in Wichita. The presenters will also share **ready-for-the-classroom** activities developed during the week-long seminar.

A one-day workshop on **THE INTERNET Resources for Foreign Language Teachers** will be held in October at the University of Kansas. The morning session will be a general **show-and-tell** demonstration of curriculum possibilities for K-12 Language teachers using the Internet hookups. The afternoon session will be a hands-on workshop to let novice users get a feel for the simplicity of utilizing the Internet.

University of New Mexico

The Latin America Data Base, a part of the Latin American Institute at the University of New Mexico, will be making available lesson plans and a searchable database listing resources for teaching about the Americas. Both the lesson plans and the teaching resources database will be available free of charge via the Internet in a World Wide Web site. The lesson plans were developed by secondary teachers who participated in summer workshops at LADB. The resource database is an on-going database of information provided by museums, Latin American study centers, and others. These electronic resources will be available in late Spring.

University of Texas

Texas will participate in three K-12 conferences this fall, in collaboration with the three other UT-Austin area centers (Middle East, Asian, and Post Soviet-Eastern European). Presentations will feature **UT-LANIC** and the other electronic resources available through Austin. The books, **Latin American Art and Music**, **A Handbook for Teaching** and **Vamos a Brasil**, will be used as conference resources. Additionally, several graduate students with teaching experience are eager to participate in a Junior Speakers Bureau and/or direct K-12 outreach programs in selected schools.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee/University of Wisconsin- Madison

Twelve middle school teachers of science, social studies, language arts and Spanish from Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota participated this summer in a five-week Fulbright Group Project on environmental literacy in Costa Rica, organized by the Milwaukee Center, in collaboration with Tulane University. In addition to presenting at least two extension presentations upon their return, the participants have just completed drafts for the resultant curriculum, which will be marketed nationally.

McKenna Brown (Humanistic Studies, UW-Green Bay) organized a study tour for Wisconsin teachers in Guatemala, July 1-15, 1995, with Milwaukee support. Participating in the graduate credit course were sixteen teachers, who spent one week in Antigua with one-on-one Spanish instruction, homestays and cultural activities, and one week traveling in the Guatemalan highlands. The program incorporated extensive opportunities to learn within indigenous Maya communities.

The Latin American and Iberian Studies Program, UW-Madison, is collaborating extensively with the Madison's Children's Museum on **Bridges between Wisconsin and Brazil: A Year-Long Celebration of the Arts and Cultures of Brazil**, an exhibit which opens October 14 and runs through May 1996. Related activities will involve performing arts events and teacher/school programs.

Spotlight on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Latin America

P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201

Director: Howard Handelman

Philosophy: The Center for Latin America promotes Latin American Studies to campus audiences, through teaching, research and public programs, and to K-12 and college educators through provision of diverse outreach resources.

Primary Activities: Kindergarten through post-secondary outreach

Scope of Outreach: Workshops for K-12 and college educators, curricula materials and educational video development, free loanof audiovisual collection.

Publications:

- Environmental Activities on Costa Rica for Grades 6-9 (forthcoming)
- Latin America: Curriculum Materials for the Middle Grades (revised 1989)
- Educational videos on culture and current issues
- Discussion Papers

Special Projects: Development of curriculum activities from a Fulbright Group Project in Costa Rica on environmental literacy, in collaboration with Tulane University (projected publication is Spring 1996); resource lists and programs on the theme of Latin America in Children and Young Adult Literature (ongoing).

Support CLASP!

CLASP promotes teaching and learning about Latin America by sponsoring and facilitating teacher and program development workshops at national, regional, and local meetings. Additional benefits of membership include: clearinghouse for summer language programs and professional development.

CLASP dues for 1995 are \$100, payable to the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs. Please send your payment to:

CLASP Secretariat, Center for Latin American Studies, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-4446

Employer ID No.: 33-0637085

We appreciate your payment of 1996 dues.

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Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs Dues Invoice 1996