

CLASP Notes

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Editor, [Valerie McGinley Marshall](#)

Report of the Steering Committee

First Latin American Studies Program Meeting

This meeting was hosted by the Latin American Center at [UCLA](#). (Some [photos](#) of the event)

Program

Friday, November 8

- 1 p. m. **Opening Remarks:** Elizabeth Mahan, CLASP Steering Committee; Carlos Torres, Director, Latin American Center, UCLA
- 1.15 - 3.15 **Keynote Address: The Future of Area Studies** Gil Merkx, University of New Mexico
- 3.30 -5.30 **Organizing and Providing Outreach Services** Julie Kline, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee; Valerie McGinley Marshall, Tulane University; Elizabeth Mahan, University of Connecticut

Saturday, November 9

- 9.30 - 11.30 **Getting Started: How to get Latin American Studies off the Ground** Tom Davies, San Diego State University
- 11.30 - 1.30 **Lunch Break**
- 1.30 - 2.30 **Language Programs** Sharon Mújica, Duke-UNC Latin American Studies Program; Mary Joe Dudley, Cornell University

- 2.30 - 4.30 New Directions for CLASP Elizabeth Mahan, University of Connecticut

This was the first meeting organized by the Steering Committee on the general topic of Latin American Studies in the USA. With the UCLA meeting we are initiating a triennial cycle of CLASP program meetings. We will continue to meet every year and a half at the LASA congresses (Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1997), but every third year --a calendar year in which LASA does not meet --we will hold a CLASP program meeting in a different part of the country.

Since the present Steering Committee was elected before CLASP's formal separation from LASA, it represents a transition team whose term of office will expire in 1998. Participants at the UCLA meeting will therefore be voting on the new CLASP bylaws which establish, among other things, the procedures for electing new Steering Committee members.

Elizabeth Mahan, CLASP Chair, University of Connecticut.

Language Teaching Committee Report

Sharon Mújica, Chair, Duke/University of North Carolina

Students in our universities and programs have the unique opportunity to study and travel abroad and more and more of them do so each year. They go for many reasons and to many countries. Most of them go to learn another language and as a sign in our UNC Study Abroad office says, "those who speak only one language will soon be extinct..."

In an effort to help with this learning process, the CLASP Committee on Language Teaching has been maintaining a comprehensive list of summer programs in lesser taught Latin American languages. This information is available on the CLASP homepage. Other links have been made with websites across the country and into Latin America. We are also happy to supply anyone who asks with a hard copy of this list. Information on other known summer Spanish language programs was added last Spring. However, to keep this list up to date, we need your help and interest. Please continue to send us in a timely fashion, information on your program so that the list constantly remains current. Otherwise, we will be back to the days when knowing what was taught, where, and when was an even greater frustration! Also, if you have students who have had an exceptionally good experience with a language program, we would be glad to post information on that program as well. Please send all information and updates to:

- Sharon S. Mújica
- DUNCPLAS 223 E. Franklin St. CB 3205
- University of North Carolina
- Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3205
- Fax: (919) 962-0398; or [E-mail](#)

Please be sure to include your name and program. Join our forum at the CLASP meeting at UCLA where we will be discussing cooperative language programs and examining what elements are needed to offer a successful summer language program abroad.

Committee on Outreach Report

Activities of the Committee

Américas Book Award:

Tonight, by Sea by Frances Temple (Orchard Books) was honored with the 1995 Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature, presented in a ceremony at the Library of Congress on July 19, 1996. The program was sponsored by the Hispanic Division and the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, and CLASP, with additional financial support provided

by Orchard Books. the award consisted of a \$200 check, a recognition plaque, and a backstrap loom weaving from Guatemala, symbolic of the weaving of stories.

In *Tonight, by Sea* as governmental brutality and poverty become unbearable, Paulie joins with others in her small Haitian village to help her uncle secretly build a boat they will use to escape to the United States. The story, told from Paulie's point of view, sensitively weaves political and economic issues into cultural fabric of the characters. Beyond the poverty, Temple shows the strength and community that media images often fail to capture.

The Américas Award is given in recognition of a U.S. published work of fiction, poetry or folklore (from picture books to works for young adults) in English or Spanish which authentically and engagingly presents the experience of individuals in Latin America or the Caribbean or of Latinos in the United States. The award and accompanying commended list recognizes books based on quality of story, cultural sensitivity, and potential for classroom use.

1995 Américas Review Committee members included: Lorelle Henry (Borough of Manhattan Community college), Graciela Italiano (Weber State University), Linda Hahn Miller (Queens College), Christi Rentsch de Moraga (Farmington Public Schools), and Julie Kline (UW-Milwaukee). Replacing Julie Kline on the committee in 1996 is Patricia Enciso (Ohio State University). Julie Kline will now serve as Award Coordinator. Nominations for the 1996 Américas Award are now being accepted. For information contact Julie Kline. The annotated lists (1993-1995) may be requested by sending a SASE to the above address. They are also available at http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLA/outreach_americas.html.

The Américas Award competition will again 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 1996 orientation program will be followed by a February 1997 Américas Book Discussion at the CCBC, UW-Madison.

Title VI Centers K-12 Outreach Activities

- Duke/University of North Carolina

The Dunk/UNC Outreach Office will be celebrating the tenth annual Latin American film festival during the month of November. In addition to films shown on the Duke and UNC campuses, the festival provides further outreach by offering film showings at North Carolina State University, North Carolina Central University, Guilford College, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. This year's free series will focus on women in Latin America and women in film in Latin America, with a special focus on Mexico. Guest directors will include Marcela Fernández Violante and Patricia Torres.

The Outreach Office has also instituted a New Visiting Poets' Series in which poets from around the country will come to share their works with local high schools and the community. the goal of the series is to bring to the community a broader cultural awareness of the vast number of "Latino" cultures existent both inside and outside the United States.

- Latin American Curriculum Resource Center, Tulane University

This fall the CRC will be publishing its new curriculum guide, *Environmental Literacy Across the Curriculum: COSTA RICA*. This guide will include text and slides divided into four units: Regional Development and Land Use, Alternative Development, Conservation Strategies and Environmental Education, and Eco-tourism. There is also a section of activities designed to promote the interdisciplinary study of the environment. The packet is designed for use at the high school level. This project conducted in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee which is publishing a hands-on activities collection designed for use at the middle school level, *Bananos, botas y biodiversidad: interdisciplinary environmental activities about Costa Rica, grades 6-9*. the entire collaborative project will culminate in a summer workshop on teaching environmental literacy at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in June of 1997.

The CRC is also placing its lending library catalogues on the World Wide Web. Finishing touches are now being made to the catalogue. Visitors to the CRC's homepage will be able to browse both the General Catalogue and the Feature Film Catalogue. We hope that by making these catalogues available we will be able to greatly reduce

paper costs for both the CRC and lending library users. To check on our progress please visit the CRC homepage at: <http://www.tulane.edu/~clas/CRCHome.html>.

The outreach director, **Valerie McGinley Marshall**, will also be making a presentation at the November meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign languages (ACTFL) titled *Free!? Utilizing Title VI Latin American Outreach Centers to Enhance Classroom Instruction*. The meeting is scheduled for November 22-24 in Philadelphia. If you are going to the meeting, please be sure to attend this session.

- University of New Mexico

Latin America Data Base (LADB), an on-line news and educational service based at the Latin American Institute, University of New Mexico, is pleased to announce its new World Wide Web site for educators: Resources for Teaching about the Americas (RETAnet), located at <http://ladb.unm.edu/www/retanet>.

The RETAnet site is designed for educators interested in Latin America and the Caribbean. The site contains several databases of lesson plans, resource materials, and teacher partners, as well as a photo archive of images of Latin America and lists of links to embassies and 100 other Internet sites dealing with Latin America of teacher materials.

RETAnet is the result of a two year project, Resources for Teaching about the Americas, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The 64 original lesson and unit plans were written by secondary teachers during a teacher training workshop that focused on Latin American affairs, alternative teaching methodologies and the Internet, which LADB hosted during summer 1995.

For further information: please visit the web site: <http://ladb.unm.edu/www/retanet>, or e-mail the project coordinator, Lisa Falk, at ladb.unm.edu, or call the Latin America Data Base at 505-277-6839.

- University of Texas

Additional K-12 resources can be found on UT-LANIC, including: 1) Latin American Resources; 2) K-12 Schools by Country; and 3) General Resources. Go to: <http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/k-12/>

Spotlight on : University of Florida-Center for Latin American Studies

219 Grinter Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611

- Director: Charles Wood

- Philosophy:

The University of Florida, one of fourteen National Resource Centers for Latin American Area and language studies, is dedicated to teaching, research and public service. Its Outreach program is designed to meet the needs of schools and teachers by providing resource materials and on-site consultative services.

- Scope of Outreach

Curriculum lending library, traveling suitcases, curriculum development, speakers Outreach: programs and in service workshops for teachers.

- Publications:
 - *DIALOGO*: A free outreach newsletter aimed at pre-college level teachers. Published twice each academic year, it includes information on resources, services, grants, programs of interest to teachers, and lesson plans for practical use in the classroom lesson.
 - *OUTREACH RESOURCE CATALOG*: Contains descriptions of the more than 400 resources on Latin American and Caribbean topics that can be borrowed from the Outreach Library.
 - *LATINAMERICANIST*: A free biannual academic newsletter that contains articles based on original research by students and information on all Center for Latin American activities.
- Special Projects

Colloquium Series: University of Florida faculty and outside experts are regularly invited to give informal talks in order to share the results of their research. Offered about twice each week, colloquia are open to the public. Annual Conference: Brings together leading scholars from the United States and Latin America to examine a major hemispheric issue. The March 1997 Conference will focus on Cuban agriculture. Conference is free and open to the public.