

CLASP Notes

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Editor, [Valerie McGinley Marshall](#)

Report of the Steering Committee

At the CLASP meeting in Guadalajara last April, the Executive Committee and assembled members approved a number of new ventures. Most notable among them are the CLASP Outreach Grants (COG) and a joint project with AAPLAC, the Association of Academic Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, to collect information on study abroad programs in Latin America and to develop criteria for evaluating them.

The CLASP Committee on Outreach will coordinate the COG program (see page 2), under which we will award two types of grants: (1) \$500 matching grants to non-Title VI member programs or non-member K-12 institution to support workshops and institutes for K-12 or postsecondary teachers; (2) small grants (up to \$100) to enhance the honorarium of a Latin America-related speaker at a non-Title VI member's campus who participates in an educational or public outreach program. For more information on COG grants, contact Julie Kline, co-chair of the Committee on Outreach. Her address, phone number, etc. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, are listed later in CLASP Notes.

Our joint project with AAPLAC stems from the need to know more about the fast growing number of study abroad programs in Latin America. No longer primarily traditional junior year abroad programs focused on formal academic classes in a university, many programs now also offer students a range of possibilities for language study (from beginning to advanced levels), experiential education, and internships. It seems, too, that new programs spring up almost monthly. How can we know which are academically sound and well run? What do academically sound and well run mean? AAPLAC and CLASP plan to develop criteria for classifying and evaluating study abroad programs in Latin America that will help us advise students who wish to internationalize their secondary, college or postgraduate education. This project joins CLASP's expertise in Latin American Studies to AAPLAC's hands-on-knowledge of study abroad programs in Latin America and the Caribbean to produce guidelines and develop more efficient ways to disseminate information about study abroad opportunities. Carmen Madariaga Culver (SUNY Plattsburgh), CLASP's liaison with AAPLAC, will keep members of both organizations informed about the progress of this project through CLASP Notes and the AAPLAC Newsletter.

Implementing the COG program and working with a sister organization to encourage the operation of high quality study abroad programs in Latin America and the Caribbean are signs that CLASP is completing its transition from being the institutional arm of LASA to being an organization actively engaged in providing support for the study of Latin America and the Caribbean in formal and informal educational programs. In choosing to concentrate on this narrow but far-reaching goal, we have begun to be the clearinghouse that many of us who direct or work in Latin American Studies programs have long called for. Through the CLASP homepage and this newsletter, CLASP promotes collegiality and efficiency as member share with each other and a wider public the fruits of their individual and institutional efforts. Recognizing the distance we've come since deciding to go it alone in 1994, the members assembled at the Guadalajara meeting voted to change the name of the body that will guide CLASP into the future. Thus, the Steering Committee became the Executive Committee, and a nominating committee was formed to develop a slate of candidates for terms on the EC. Ballots for the Executive Committee elections will be sent to paid member early in 1998.

I hope that current members will continue to support CLASP and that those of you who have watched us from sidelines will decide to join us. Together we can strengthen and enrich Latin American Studies for students throughout the nation. Please return the membership form with your 1998 dues to the CLASP Secretariat as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Mahan, CLASP Chair
University of Connecticut

Outreach Committee Report

Outreach Grant Opportunity

Julie Kline University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

CLASP now offers two small grant opportunities supporting the educational outreach efforts of member programs that are not currently funded Title VI centers.

Category I: CLASP will provide up to four \$500 matching grants per year to member Latin American studies programs or non-member K-12 institutions to support a workshop/institute for K-12 or post-secondary teachers. The funding is intended to encourage the introduction or expansion of the study of Latin America in the curriculum. Collaborative projects linking K-12 and post-secondary institutions are especially encouraged. Topics may be either language or area studies focused. (Matching support may include in-kind contributions.)

Category II: CLASP will provide up to ten grants of \$100 per year to enable a Latin American-related speaker invited to a member's campus to also give an outreach-oriented presentation (to a community group or a teacher workshop, for example).

Eligibility: Non-Title VI Latin American studies programs who are currently paid members of CLASP or any K-12 institution (public or private). Preference will be given to those applicants who have not received a CLASP grant within the previous year.

To apply: Please submit a two-page description, detailing: a) intended use of the funding; b) information on the target audience; c) how the event will be advertised; and d) how the activity will strengthen your Latin American studies program. (For Category I funding, also provide a proposed budget, showing matching contributions.) Submit proposals to Julie Kline (address on page 4).

Deadlines:

Program scheduled for: Application deadline:

January - June October 1

July - December March 1

Activities of the Committee

Julie Kline University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Mary Jo Dudley Cornell University

Americas Award: *In My Family/En mi familia*, by Carmen Lomas Garza (Children's Book Press) and *Parrot in the Oven*, by Victor Martinez (HarperCollins) were honored with the 1996 Americas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature, presented in a ceremony at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC on July 18, 1997. Americas Award Honor Books for 1996 were *Down by the River: Afro-Caribbean Rhymes, Games and Songs for Children* compiled by Grace Hallworth and illustrated by Caroline Binch (Scholastic) and *So Loud a Silence* by Lyll Becerra de Jenkins (Lodestar). For the list of Americas commended titles, send a SASE to Julie Kline, or see http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLA/outreach_americas.html.

Title VI Centers K-12 and Post-Secondary Outreach

- Duke/University of North Carolina

From November 9-24, the Outreach Office will present the XI Latin American Film and Video Festival. The festival, held on six university campuses in the area, is free and open to the public. This year's festival, Indigenous Cultural Preservation and Political Action Through Film, will feature 27 feature films and documentaries. Twelve of these are made by indigenous film makers and spoken in Amerindian languages.

Each year the Duke-UNC Program offers the two week in-residence summer workshop Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Culture and Civilization of Latin America. This workshop is for instructors from four-year and community colleges and consists of daily lectures and seminars by U.C. and Duke core faculty members. This year the geographical scope has been broadened to include applicants from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, the Washington DC area, New Jersey and Delaware. Applications will be sent out in February 1998.

In cooperation with the new North American Studies Center at Duke University, the Outreach Office will offer a three-year teacher workshop on Mexico. Year one will be devoted to modern Mexico, comparing and contrasting it to Canada and the USA. In year two the workshop will focus on life, culture, the environment and political world view of the indigenous groups of Mexico. During year three, 15 teachers, who have attended the two previous workshops, will be selected to travel to Mexico for a two week field experience. These workshops will be open to teachers from 7-12. Presently the Outreach Office is working with the Governor's office on a statewide initiative with Mexico. Part of this initiative is to send 30 high school principals to Mexico this spring.

- Tulane University

This past summer the Center for Latin American Studies, including the CRC, finally moved to a new building on the Tulane campus. Despite the challenge of moving the lending library, we were fortunate not to have lost anything although we may have misplaced a couple of requests for materials. If you attempted to borrow materials from us this summer and didn't receive a response, please try again, we are now up and running.

This fall's workshop for teachers will be "Religion in Latin America" and is scheduled for Thursday, November 13. The featured speaker will be Dr. David Clawson, author of Latin America and the Caribbean: Lands & Peoples and professor of geography at the University of New Orleans. Dr. Clawson will lead off the workshop with a discussion of Catholicism in Latin America. Other topics to be discussed include: pre-Columbian belief systems, Afro-Latino Religions and the rise of Protestantism in Latin America. All K-12 teachers from southern Louisiana and Mississippi are invited to attend, please call for more information.

- University of Kansas

The Center of Latin American Studies received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a Fulbright-Hays Group Study Abroad Seminar in Costa Rica to take secondary school teachers to Golfito, Costa Rica, for language, economics, ecology, and culture studies from May 31 to July 5. Professor Susan Twombly (School of Education) led the seminar in which twelve Kansas secondary school teachers participated.

A pre-seminar orientation on the University of Kansas campus provided background lectures, readings, and "survival skills" for the in-country seminar. The on-site seminar included an introductory week in San Jose, three weeks in Golfito, and an individual travel week. Lectures in Costa Rica included information on ecotourism, history, the impact of the United Fruit Company's departure from Golfito, activities of local women's groups, the fishing industry, the flora of the tropical world, various ecosystems and ecology issues. Field trips took seminar participants to a coffee plant, the Irazu volcano, a small business development bank, Proyecto Zamia (a model sustainable development project) and a banana plantation, the rain forest of Golfito, as well as other economic centers and interesting locations connected with the interdisciplinary topics of focus.

- University of Pittsburgh

Along with several other outreach programs (including a model U.N. for high school students and Spanish immersion days for area language teachers), this fall CLAS is cosponsoring with Asian Studies and Russian and East European Studies a five-week course for social studies teachers entitled: "Putting to Rest Cultural Stereotypes." Sessions will include: 1) Stereotypes: Methods and Perspectives; 2) Government and Culture: The

Legacy of State in the former Soviet Union and East Europe; 3) Family and Education in East Asia: A Cultural Perspective of Confucian Values; 4) Time and Space: Important Cultural Aspects of Latin America; 5) Introducing Cultural Stereotypes: Practical Applications for the Classroom.

Report of the Language Teaching Committee

Once again, the Language Teaching Committee of CLASP is compiling a list of upcoming summer programs in lesser taught Latin American languages offered in universities throughout the United States. We think everyone has been pleased with our combined efforts to make this information available on our web site. This year we hope to compile a list which will include well established summer programs in Spanish as we have received many requests for such information.

Please send a report or your offerings including dates, deadlines and contacts, to Sharon Mújica, Chair of the Language Teaching Committee, via regular, fax or e-mail by early January 1998. If you would like to see this year's report, the CLASP web page can be reached at the following address: <http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/clasp/langcom.html>

Suggestions and comments are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Spotlight on Cornell University's Latin American Studies Program

DIRECTOR: Debra Castillo

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: Mary Jo Dudley

PHILOSOPHY: To stimulate teaching and research in all of Cornell's school and colleges. Program strengths are diverse including languages and literature, agricultural sciences, anthropology, history, and city and regional planning. LASP also coordinates collaborative research efforts with numerous universities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

SCOPE OF OUTREACH: LASP's outreach activities are broad, addressing the needs of primary, secondary and post-secondary teachers, business and media professionals as well as the general public. LASP sponsors a weekly seminar, bi-weekly film series, conferences and numerous educational and cultural events.

PUBLICATIONS: LASP publications include the LASP dissertation series, the LASP newsletter, LAS Noticias (a special newsletter for teachers), conference proceedings, and the LASP Occasional Papers Series including Economic Restructuring in the Americas, Threats to Democracy in the Andean Region, Women's Voices from Latin America: A Dialogue for Change Among Artists, Writers, Activists and Scholars, and the Quechua Qosqo-Qollaw I & II, basic and intermediate level Quechua textbooks.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: Special projects include summer intensive language institutes, short courses in Mexico and Bolivia, teacher training institutes, conferences on Economic Restructuring, microfinances in Latin America, Transforming Cultures, and other relevant topics. LASP supports collaborative research programs throughout Latin America and the Caribbean with Special Projects in Central America, the Andean region including Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic.