

## *CLASP Notes*

*Vol. 4, No. 2, Fall, 1998*

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Published by the Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University

Editor, [Valerie McGinley Marshall](#)

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### *Report of the Steering Committee*

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I was pleased to report at CLASP's open meeting at the Latin American Studies Association Congress in Chicago in September that our membership has increased and diversified over the past few years. Our forty-seven members represent Latin American Studies programs at large universities, small and medium-sized four year colleges, and community colleges. The emergence of Latin American Studies at two-year colleges is particularly gratifying for two reasons: first, it reinforces our belief in the continuing relevance of Latin American Studies in the age of globalization (see CLASP Notes, vol. III, issue 1, Spring 1997); and second because two-year colleges will be sending students to the courses and programs at four-year colleges and universities.

To foster the development of Latin American Studies in two-year and community colleges, CLASP has initiated a multifaceted project, to be spearheaded by Mary Jo Dudley (Cornell), co-chair of the Committee on Outreach. Working one of our newest Executive Committee members, Terry Perrin from Austin Community College in Austin, Texas, the Committee on Outreach will identify two-year colleges with Latin Americanist faculty, help them organize panels on developing Latin American Studies in two-year schools at the regional Latin American Studies meetings, and arrange consulting visits to budding programs. Along the same lines, Tom Davies, a.k.a. CLASP's Secretary-Treasurer, will be working on a project to develop Latin American Studies in a nine-member consortium of community colleges in San Diego.

Also discussed at the meeting in Chicago were plans for CLASP's triennial conference (we meet on our own in the year LASA does not meet), scheduled for May 1999 at the University of Texas at Austin. The focus of the 1999 conference will be developing effective outreach programs to a variety of constituents. See the special announcement in this issue of CLASPnotes for details about the program.

Our meeting closed with the election of new members to the Executive Committee. This election was particularly significant as it signaled the end of CLASP's transition from institutional affiliate of LASA to a full-fledged, independent organization. The Executive Committee will consist of six members elected to staggered three-year terms. (Chairpersons of the CLASP working committees, Language, Outreach, CLASPnotes, and CLASP Web Site, are appointed by the EC and serve as ex officio members of the Executive Committee.) Stepping down from the EC "transition team" created in 1994 are Rod Camp (Claremont McKenna College) and Georgette Dorn (Library of Congress). New members of the Executive Committee are Diana Liverman (University of Arizona), who will serve a one-year term; Terry Perrin (Austin Community College) and Lance Grahn (Marquette University), elected to two-year terms; and Carmen Culver (SUNY Plattsburgh) and James Huck (Albright College), serving three-year terms. The terms of the new EC members begin January 1, 1999. The Executive Committee will name a Nominating Committee to develop a slate of candidates to fill vacancies on the EC; voting for two new members will be held yearly in October beginning in 1999.

Elizabeth Mahan, CLASP Chair  
University of Connecticut

## **MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Meeting on Outreach in Latin American Studies  
May 6-8, 1999  
University of Texas at Austin  
sponsored by:  
University of Texas at Austin  
CLASP

The goal of this meeting is to bring together those involved in Latin American Studies who provide outreach services to K-12 and college/university educators, journalists, business representatives, community members, etc. . . Panels will be lead by facilitators but the emphasis will be for all participants attending the meeting to contribute to the discussions. We have tentatively set aside two hours for each session in order to facilitate the exchange of information. Current session topics include: Outreach to the Media, Outreach to the Business Community, Teacher Development: How to Recruit and Maintain Teacher Involvement, Working with K-6 Teachers, Forging Partnerships with Community Organizations, Study Abroad and Fulbright Projects for Teachers and the Community, and Using Technology in Outreach,. We also hope to be able to invite the Program Officer for Latin America from the U.S. Department of Education's Center for International Education to speak to us about outreach priorities and the reporting process on outreach activities (i.e. Table 3). If you are interested in attending this meeting please contact one of the coordinators in order to be put on the announcement list.

Co-coordinators:  
Kate Bennett  
Outreach Coordinator  
Institute of Latin American Studies  
University of Texas at Austin  
SRH 1.310  
Austin, Texas 78712  
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e-mail: [katebennett@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:katebennett@mail.utexas.edu)

Valerie McGinley Marshall  
Outreach Director  
Latin American Curriculum Resource Center  
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Tulane University  
100 Jones Hall  
New Orleans LA 70118  
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e-mail: [crcrts@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu](mailto:crcrts@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Seventh Annual  
Latin American Studies Symposium  
April 23-24, 1999  
Birmingham-Southern College  
Birmingham, Alabama USA

Every spring, Birmingham-Southern's Latin American Studies Program gathers students, faculty, and professionals for two days of intense discussion about current Latin American topics. This conference has two main objectives: to promote undergraduate student research and to increase dialogue among faculty members.

PAPER PROPOSAL: If you are an undergraduate student with an interest in Latin American Studies, we encourage you to submit a one-page abstract for a paper involving original research. All topics relating to Latin America are welcome.

FACULTY PARTICIPATION: Aside from undergraduate students' research papers, we invite professors to propose and lead round table discussions. Professors may also organize a panel and serve as the chair/discussant. This is an excellent opportunity for you to "showcase" the best and brightest from your institution.

REGISTRATION: There is no registration fee to attend the conference. However, participants will be asked to preregister in order to be included in the luncheons and special receptions that the College will host during the conference.

**SUBMISSIONS:**

Please send your paper proposals or panel ideas to:

Dr. Gama Perruci

Director, Latin American Studies Program

Birmingham-Southern College

900 Arkadelphia Road

Birmingham, AL 35254

e-mail: [gperruci@bsc.edu](mailto:gperruci@bsc.edu).

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: January 29, 1999

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## *Outreach Committee Report*

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### Activities of the Committee

Julie Kline University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Mary Jo Dudley Cornell University

#### AMÉRICAS AWARD

The 1998 Américas Awards for Children's and Young Adult Literature were presented at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. on Monday, June 29, 1998 during the American Library Association (ALA) summer conference. Over eighty people attended the event, cosponsored by the LC Hispanic Division and the Center for the Book, with CLASP, principal sponsor of the Award. Additional financial support was provided by Clarion Books. Recognized were *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jiménez (University of New Mexico, 1997) and *The Face at the Window* by Regina Hanson and illustrated by Linda Saport (Clarion, 1997). The 1997 Américas Award Honor Books were: *Mayeros: A Yucatec Maya Family* by George Ancona (Morrow, 1997) and *Fruits: A Caribbean Counting Poem* by Valerie Bloom and illustrated by David Axtell (Holt, 1997).

Nominations for the 1999 Américas Award are now being accepted. For information contact Julie Kline. The annotated lists of commended titles (1993-1998) may be found at: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLA/outreach\\_americas.html](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLA/outreach_americas.html).

#### OUTREACH GRANTS

CLASP offers two small grant opportunities supporting the educational outreach efforts of member programs. Category I supports K-12 or post-secondary teacher workshops; Category II provides modest support for outreach speakers. Non-Title VI Latin American studies programs who are currently paid members of CLASP or any K-12 institution (public or private) are eligible to apply. Deadlines: October 1 (for programs scheduled January-June) and March 1 (for programs scheduled for July-December). For complete guidelines contact Julie Kline.

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### Title VI Centers K-12 and Post-Secondary Outreach

- San Diego State University (Center for Latin American Studies)

The Center sponsored numerous recent community events, including a lecture by Chilean Luis Soto entitled, "Current Events in Chile and the 25th Anniversary of the Coup," and a reading by Norma Cantu (Chicana writer and English professor, Texas A&M University), from her book, *Canicula, Snapshots of a Girlhood en la Frontera*. In addition, award winning photojournalist, John Mraz lectured on Mexican Photojournalism earlier this fall. Luis Martín Lozano, internationally recognized art critic and art historian, gave a lecture entitled "Diego Rivera and Mexican Modern Artists in the International Exhibition of Surrealism" in November. In addition, the Center for Latin American Studies sponsored a showing of the film "La Ofrenda: Days of the Dead." The *Ventana Latina* film series continued with such features as "Ernesto Che Guevara: The Bolivian Diaries," "Maya Lords of the Jungle," "Borderline Cases" and the "Panama Deception." The Center is currently sponsoring a clothing drive for needy families in Tijuana, Mexico.

- Tulane University (Latin American Curriculum Resource Center)

This summer the CRC added two new slide packets to the publications that it offers for sale. "Colonial Presence in Modern Uruguay" (20 slides) focuses on the colonial architecture of Colonia del Sacramento and Montevideo. "Education in Argentina" (39 slides) provides an excellent overview of the Argentine educational system, explaining academic divisions from elementary school to the university. Both packets are available for purchase through the CRC. Plans for the spring include the release of updated versions of the curriculum packets, *La Tierra Mágica: Una Exploración de América Latina* and *Latin America: Land of Diversity*. These two packets have been the CRC's most popular publications and have been purchased by many teachers and school systems across the country.

- UCLA

UCLA's International Studies and Overseas Programs sponsored the 17th Annual International Studies Summer Institute for Educators during summer 1998. The Institute consisted of five concurrent seminars dealing with world areas, including Latin America, and offered analyses of major themes related to each global region as well as comparative, cross-regional perspectives, sessions dedicated to curriculum and resources-including Internet, the usage of literature and the application of sheltered techniques, field trips, media presentations, and cultural activities. In addition to expanding and improving its commitment to interactive web technologies via Forums, ISOP also introduced MediaVisions-an interactive web tool designed by Global Learning Outreach to explore television and radio throughout the world. Visit the website at: <http://www.isop.ucla.edu/institute>

- University of Florida

On November 10th, local Spanish teachers participated in an afternoon workshop with Professor Cristina Sanz of Georgetown University. Sanz offered ideas to participants on ways to best introduce students to a new language, including a discussion on the benefits of language immersion approaches.

On December 5th, a "Focus on Mexico" workshop will be held for teachers. This day-long event will feature presentations by UF faculty and experts on a wide range of topics relating to Mexico, including history, anthropology and contemporary political, immigration and environmental issues. Registration is free and twenty \$50 travel grants will be awarded on a competitive basis.

- University of Texas at Austin (Institute of Latin American Studies)

The Institute of Latin American Studies is currently working with Gloria Contreras of the University of North Texas to publish a new edition of *Latin American Culture Studies, Information and Materials for Teaching about Latin America*. The new edition should be released sometime before next fall.

ILAS Outreach is involved in several collaborative efforts with the other Title VI-funded centers at UT, including: 1) June 28-July 2, 1999: a week-long teacher institute, cosponsored with the Texas Council for the Humanities, titled "The Ancient Cultures of Our World." Attendance is limited to 25 teachers. For more information, please contact Frances Leonard at the Texas Humanities Resource Center at: [fleonard@public-humanities.org](mailto:fleonard@public-humanities.org); 2) June 14-18, 1999: the area studies centers will offer the second annual week-long institute for teachers. Travel and lodging reimbursements available. The proposed 1999 topic is "Urbanization and Development."

- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Center for Latin America)

CLA will be working with Professor Julio Rodríguez-Luis (Chair, Spanish and Portuguese), in supporting a five-week National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Seminar for School Teachers, entitled "Borges, Cortázar, García Márquez and the Unfinished Reality of Latin America." In addition to intensive reading of these contemporary writers, the seminar will look at their works within the specific cultural and social reality of the countries in which they wrote. This professional development program is open nationally to full-time teachers and also other K-12 personnel such as librarians or administrators. First consideration will be given to applicants who have not participated in an NEH-supported seminar or institute in the last three years. For application materials, contact CLA.

- Yale/UConn

"Mesolore and Indigenous Issues: Using Technology to Bridge Past and Present Mesoamerican Cultures" is the title of the July 5-16, 1999 institute organized by PIER-Council on Latin American Studies, Yale, and UConn's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. This interdisciplinary course is designed to make accessible Mesoamerican writing and the tales it narrates through the use of an interactive CD-ROM entitled "Mesolore." Speakers will discuss Mesoamerican history and culture as well as current issues such as human rights, land rights, cultural survival and reconstruction. Participants will develop curricula for use with the Mesolore CD-ROM as it relates to the contemporary issues discussed. This course will also include cultural events such as films and field trips, student panels and computer technology lessons. (Open to college professors, high school teachers and curriculum specialists). Registration materials will be available in January. Contact Annie Strah (PIER) or Courtney Gosselin (UConn) for more information.

## Spotlight on:

University of Arizona  
Latin American Area Center  
PO Box 210028, 103 Douglass Building,  
Tucson AZ 85721  
Email: [lacc@u.arizona.edu](mailto:lacc@u.arizona.edu)

DIRECTOR: Diana Liverman

OUTREACH CONTACT: Raúl Saba, Associate Director

PHILOSOPHY: To enhance the understanding of Latin America within the University of Arizona, the state and the nation, through high quality research, excellence in teaching, and outreach to the local community.

SCOPE OF OUTREACH: The Center undertakes a variety of outreach activities to complement the academic program and serve the community. These include weekly lunchtime seminars, internships, and many special events and speakers featuring prominent Latin American artists, politicians, researchers and other experts. The Center has a Curriculum Center with a collection of books, materials and more than 200 videos about Latin America. We work with regional schoolteachers and educators to provide information and training about Latin America, assist the local media in reporting on Latin America, and have organized courses for Latin American journalists, educators and local governments.

PUBLICATIONS: The Center publishes a newsletter, the student run journal *El Chasqui*, and maintains a Web page with on line course materials and links to sites about Latin America (<http://w3.arizona.edu/~laac/>). The University of Arizona Press publishes many books on Latin America and the US-Mexico border region.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: The Center is the secretariat for an annual conference on the US-Mexico border environment designed to support non-governmental and community organizations in the border region. The Center is also a focus for research concerning environmental issues in Latin America including El Niño and climate change.

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## *Report of the Language Teaching Committee*

### Call for Lesser Taught Latin American Language Program Listings

Please forward your summer offerings for lesser taught language programs by email to Sharon Mújica at Duke-UNC Program in Latin American Studies. These programs will be included in the Spring issue of CLASPnotes and will be listed on the CLASP web site. The deadline for submittal is January 4, 1999.

Each year CLASP publishes a comprehensive list of summer programs in lesser taught Latin American languages offered in or sponsored by universities throughout the United States. We also list any program offerings in Spanish when possible. We appreciate all the help that CLASP members have given us in keeping this page up-to-date. The email address for Sharon Mújica is <[smujica@email.unc.edu](mailto:smujica@email.unc.edu)>.

As promised at the CLASP Program Director's Meeting in Guadalajara, the Language Teaching Committee is looking into ways to help with funding for lesser taught language programs and we hope to publish a report in next spring's newsletter.