

CLASP Notes

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From the Executive Committee

Chair: Elizabeth Mahan, University of Connecticut

One important action taken at the CLASP meeting held last May at the University of Texas at Austin, was the revision of the bylaws and constitution, in an effort to streamline and formalize our operating procedures. Following CLASP's longstanding practice (not everything changes), a Nominating Committee was formed to develop and present to the Executive Committee a slate of candidates to fill two positions on the EC and the newly created positions of President and Vice President-President Elect. That having been done, I am pleased to announce the new officers of the CLASP, who will take office on January 1, 2000. **Mary Jo Dudley** (Cornell University) and **Ronald Mendez-Clark** (Fordham University) will join the Executive Committee for two-year terms. **Terry Perrin** (Austin Community College) has been elected President, and **Carmen Madariaga Culver** (SUNY Plattsburgh) Vice President-President Elect. Carmen will assume the presidency on January 1, 2001.

The 1999 elections represent something of a milestone for CLASP. Five years ago, we opted to work independently of LASA to promote teaching and learning about Latin America in the K-postsecondary community. Thanks largely to the unstinting commitment of Tom Davies, Julie Kline, Valerie McGinley Marshall, Sharon Mújica, and David Robinson and the good example, wishes and moral support of Dick Greenleaf, CLASP forged a new identity and reinvigorated its programs. The new officers and EC members, new editor of the CLASP web page (**Kate Bennett**, UT-Austin) and of CLASP Notes (**Kristin Jannke DeMuzzio**, University of Connecticut) confirm the success of the "transition team" in defining CLASP's mission and demonstrating its value to colleagues throughout the nation. Indeed, after participating in a number of national meetings during the past five years, I am convinced that CLASP stands out in the broader area studies community as a model for cooperation among colleges, universities, and K-12 schools.

I write my final "From the Executive Committee" note with mixed feelings: a good deal of relief, to be sure, but also immense satisfaction at what we have accomplished. The committee reports included in each issue of CLASP Notes detail the progress we continue to make together to promote Latin American Studies.

Membership Committee Report

Chair: Rosaling Eannarino, University of Pittsburgh

The primary mission of CLASP is the development and improvement of the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. We do this by helping to strengthen existing programs, supporting new program development, and establishing partnerships between Latin American Studies Centers. CLASP also benefits members by serving as a clearinghouse for information on summer language programs, professional development, and education, business and public outreach programs.

With the mission in mind, this committee will be working to increase membership in CLASP. Our goal is to double the number of members over the next two years. Reaching this goal will enhance CLASP's potential to build partnerships and support established programs as well as new ones. The Membership Committee will be developing a brochure describing the benefits of CLASP membership and mailing it to Latin American Studies programs throughout the United States, as well as to selected Canadian and Latin American institutions.

Let me take this opportunity to remind readers that CLASP has created a new category for individual membership. We realize that not all institutions are ready to be members even though their faculty may be working on putting a Latin American Studies Program in place. The new category will allow these faculty access to CLASP membership benefits as individuals.

CLASP Member Announcements

LASA2000

XXII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association

Preregister until January 31, 2000

March 16-18

Miami, Florida

LASA2000 will be a monumental event in the annals of the Latin American Studies Association: it promises to be both grand in scope and rich with insights into the field of our endeavors! Scholars and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines and countries have submitted a series of interesting proposals dealing directly or in part with the LASA2000 theme of "Hands Across the Hemisphere: Cooperation and Connections for the New Millennium." It will feature panels, workshops, and special sessions with a multitude of topics and approaches to research in the field of Latin American studies. CLASP will also hold its annual meeting during LASA2000 to introduce its new officers and EC members, and to discuss plans for the future. For more information, contact LASA at (412) 648-7929 or visit the LASA website at <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu>.

CLASP Website Has a New Face

This summer, the CLASP website was relocated to UT-Austin. The new address is <http://lanic.utexas.edu/clasp>. With the help of ILAS student Jeremiah Spence, the site was also updated and reorganized. Among changes made, the page that lists Title VI outreach centers now has links to the centers and contact persons, and issues of CLASPnotes are archived back to Fall 1995 (Vol. 1, No. 2). You can also access information on the outreach grants sponsored by CLASP, and there are links to language programs. In addition to highlighting CLASP projects and programs, an added regular feature will highlight member outreach projects, which can serve as examples for other member institutions.

The CLASP listserv, an e-mail_based form of communication, is designed to encourage dialog between Latin American Studies programs. Listserv members may post messages relating to CLASP as well as events and updates. To join the listserv, please send a message to katebennett@mail.utexas.edu.

We would like to keep information on the CLASP site as current as possible, so please inform us about any programs and projects you would like highlighted. We welcome your feedback on the website's usefulness. Please feel free to send comments to CLASP webmaster Kate Bennett at katebennett@mail.utexas.edu.

Language Teaching Committee Report

Chair: Sharon Mújica, Duke/University of North Carolina

We are pleased to welcome Professor Gamaliel Perruci of Marietta College in Ohio to the CLASP Language Teaching Committee. Professor Perruci is a member of the faculty of Marietta College's McDonough Center for Leadership and Business. We know that Professor Perruci's role in CLASP and on the Language Committee will be very beneficial.

In Spring 1999, the Committee sent a request to all CLASP members and Title VI Centers for information on "quality" summer Spanish language programs. We have received some responses but we did not receive as many as we had hoped for. At the May 1999 CLASP-sponsored Outreach Meeting at the University of Texas at Austin, we discussed this matter further and defined such programs as those offering academic excellence, individual safety and home university confidence. Please look critically at any language programs with which you are familiar and send information you have on "quality" Spanish language summer programs that fit these criteria. They will be included in the Spring issue of the CLASP Notes along with the lesser taught language programs. Please provide us with a brief description of the program, the contact information and comments you might like to make about the program itself. Please send as an email attachment to smujica@email.unc.edu. This will be helpful to all CLASP members and will ultimately serve our students and faculty.

Each year the CLASP Language Committee publishes a comprehensive list of summer programs in lesser taught language programs on the CLASP website and in hardcopy form. Please send us all pertinent program information by **January 10, 2000**. The Language Committee has been looking into ways to fund students who wish to enroll in the lesser taught language programs. Last summer, we were successful in helping various Title VI Centers use their extra FLAS fellowships monies to fund qualified students at other Title VI Centers and some non Title VI campuses to attend the language programs. We will continue to foster this process.

Committee on Outreach

Co-chairs: Valerie McGinley Marshall, Tulance University
Julie Kline, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

Title VI Centers K-12 and Post-Secondary Outreach

- **Austin Community College**
Texas Appleseed, a private legal foundation, in partnership with Austin Community College, the African-American Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association, and the Travis County Bar Association is launching a mentorship program called "Project One-to-One." Project One-to-One is a year-long pilot program designed to provide mentoring to community college students from under-represented populations, to pursue careers in law. During the program, student scholars receive individualized attention from mentors, while also benefiting from contact with a variety of colleagues in the classroom and work environment. The program was conceived by Prof. Terry Perrin, Associate Director of the Latino/Latin American Studies Center at Austin Community College, with the support of prominent Austin attorney Chrys Dougherty and Texas Appleseed. The program is recruiting its first group of students in November 1999, thanks to the work and dedication of representatives from Austin's legal and educational communities, including attorneys Jim George, Michael Marin, Liane Shartin; and Donna Hagey, Director of the Community Mentor Program at St. Edward's University, and Dr. Mariano Diaz-Miranda and Prof. Terry Perrin from ACC.
- **David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University**
Over the last year the Center attracted a new audience: a group of 40 bilingual students from the Walsh Middle School in Framingham, Massachusetts who explored Mapuche dreams and art on their visit to see the exhibit "Heavens of the Imagination" at DRCLAS. DRCLAS also supported the Teachers as Scholars Program, which sponsors in-depth academic seminars for high school teachers from the greater Boston area. The Center has also formed valuable partnerships with nonprofit organizations and other educational institutions, allowing DRCLAS to connect directly with communities locally and internationally. Teachers and psychologists engaged in an intense discussion of Brazilian history, culture, and society in a workshop that DRCLAS co-sponsored with the World Affairs Council on "Brazil: Beyond Soccer and Samba"; many of the participants work with the burgeoning Brazilian community in the greater Boston area. With Grassroots International, DRCLAS co-sponsored a presentation in which representatives of the Landless Workers' Movement from Brazil (Movimento Sem Terra, or MST) spoke of the mobilization of the landless in Brazil's most severely impoverished region.
- **Latin American Studies Consortium of New England**
From July 1-30, 2000, the Latin American Studies Consortium of New England, in collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico, is sponsoring its third annual teachers' Summer Institute in Puerto Rico. Funded by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, *New Perspectives on Cultural Transformation in the Spanish Caribbean* is an intensive, four week interdisciplinary course for secondary school Spanish teachers. Four core seminars combined with enrichment activities, pedagogy sessions, cultural events, and field trips will engage participants in discussions of the history and culture of the modern Spanish Caribbean. Participants will develop curricula that bring cultural context into second language teaching. *MERENGUE: Music and Dance*, a new Latin American music curriculum developed jointly by the Yale and UConn Outreach programs, is available as an in-school field trip. During this one day workshop, students explore the role of merengue in Dominican society, as not only a type of music that people dance to at parties and family events, but also as an integral part of the culture. As students rotate through 4 forty minute "stations" with their teachers, they enjoy a variety of thought-provoking interactive activities: 1) videotaped interviews with young and old Dominicans, as well as interviews with Dominican and United States scholars; 2) interpretations of songs by popular singers; 3) a video of a recent National Merengue Festival in the Dominican Republic; 4) merengue dance lessons. The workshop concludes with a merengue dance party which features a dance contest complete with prizes, MTV videos and typical Dominican food. The Yale Outreach program will conduct two workshops on migration from the Caribbean titled "Moving North." The first workshop includes an introduction to migration, the film "Nueba Yol" about a Dominican man who desperately tries to find his way to Nueba Yol (New York) only to find that what he sees is not quite what he had imagined, and a student panel about growing up in the Caribbean and the United States. At the end of the workshop teachers receive a copy of *Moving North* from the Caribbean Connections series. In the spring, "Moving North Part II" will provide a more in-depth look at reasons for migration and the specific groups who have come to the United States. Finally, from July 10-14, 2000 Yale's Outreach program will host a one-week teachers' summer institute, "Teaching About Latin America: Focus on the Caribbean." This institute is designed to provide participants with an in-depth look at the Spanish speaking

Caribbean. Days will consist of lectures by Consortium faculty members and an in-depth exploration of diversity and multicultural education: issues and perspectives. Films, and Salsa and Merengue dance lessons are among the evening activities. An optional one-week trip to the Dominican Republic will follow the institute.

- **Latin American Resource Center, Tulane University**

The Latin American Curriculum Resource Center has gone through a slight name change to reflect the expanded nature of outreach activities conducted by the Stone Center for Latin American Studies. The CRC will now be known as the Latin American Resource Center or LARC. Everything else is still in place including the free lending library of audiovisual materials on Latin America for K-12 and postsecondary instructors. The lending library is available to any instructor in the United States, contact LARC for more information. This summer two major workshops were held for K-12 teachers. The first, *Teaching the Maya: Pre-Columbian to Present*, was a three-day workshop held in cooperation with the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Audubon Zoo. Every teacher spent one day at each institution, Tulane, the zoo and the museum, learning about Maya culture and history. Thirty teachers from the metro-New Orleans area participated in the event. Also, twelve teachers from around the U.S. were selected to participate in the *Summer Workshop for Teachers in Guadalajara, Mexico*, a two-week intensive program designed to expose teachers to Mexican history and culture. The program was a great success for both Tulane and the teachers. Fall workshop plans include a one-day on-campus event for teachers exploring the Caribbean influence on Louisiana culture and history titled "Louisiana as a State of the Caribbean: a Regional Culture."

- **Latin American Center, UCLA**

Among the UCLA Latin American Center 1999-2000 outreach activities to schools are: an instructional development library for teachers in Southern California; workshops and tours for students focusing on LA exhibits at UCLA museums; and a LA faculty classroom speakers' referral service. The LAC also sponsors 1 existing and 4 new web sites developed in cooperation with ISOP and other UCLA area studies centers that allow the LAC to deliver the academic resources of UCLA directly to teachers. The Intensive Training Seminar Institute (www.isop.ucla.edu) developed to supplement the LAC annual summer intensive area and language institute for pre-collegiate and community college instructors; *Global Village* (www.glo.org), where online learning communities are built; *Global Tools* offering a cornucopia of academic tools that facilitate study of global issues; *Global School House* our ongoing effort to link classrooms with the LAC and UCLA; and Global Learning Outreach which supports the development of web technologies for the classroom.

- **Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida**

In June, CLAS conducted a pre-departure orientation for K-12 and small college Fulbright Scholars participating in a study abroad program in Peru and Ecuador. The orientation provided the participants with an overview of the countries and an in-depth look at environmental literacy, Fulbright's subject of emphasis for this program. "Sweetener Markets in the 21st Century" is the title of the November 14-16 Outreach Colloquium for Business and Higher Education. Speakers and participants will converge in Miami to discuss the effects of free trade agreements on the future of the sweetener industry in Florida and Latin America.

- **Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas at Austin**

The Outreach Office at the Institute of Latin American Studies offers a variety of materials for loan, free-of charge to teachers nationwide. These include documentary and feature films as well as lesson plans. For a list of materials visit our website lanic.utexas.edu/ilas/outreach or write for a free printed copy of the catalog. On February 11-12, 2000, ILAS is cosponsoring World 2000: A Conference on Teaching World History and World Geography. The conference will include over 50 panels exploring all major regions of the world; instructional strategy sessions, led by master teachers, will follow most panels. www.dla.utexas.edu/world2000. In cooperation with the other area studies outreach centers at UT, ILAS Outreach is sponsoring a summer institute for teachers June 5-9, 2000 on Religion, Politics, and Identity. In addition to presentations by area studies experts, the institute will include discussions and activities to explore ways to incorporate these ideas into the classroom. In addition to these programs and services, ILAS offers several publications for sale, including *Latin American Culture Studies: Information and Materials for Teaching about Latin America*, and *Vamos ao Brasil!*, an exploratory language unit on Portuguese for middle school.

- **Center for Latin America, UW Milwaukee**

In partnership with Tulane University, CLA has entered into a 3-year collaboration with Iowa State University's Language Resource Center entitled, *Temas Añejos de América Latina: An LRC/NRC Collaboration on Standards-Based Thematic Units*. The partnership includes an Iowa teacher institute in summer 2000, development of LRC/NRC outreach guidelines, and regional extension teacher institutes in Milwaukee and New Orleans in subsequent years. Another partnership involves CLA support for an educational site being developed in Costa Rica by the Milwaukee Public Museum and Riveredge Nature Center. Under the theme, Tirambina: Linking the Temperate and Tropical Forests, this project will unite Wisconsin and Costa Rican teachers in curriculum writing, with workshops in both locations and teleconference follow-up activities.