

BOGOTÁ 2010

CLAG's 40TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

MAY 26 - 28, 2010

The Center for Development Studies (CIDER) and the Department of History at Universidad de los Andes will be hosting the 2010 Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) meeting in Bogotá from Wednesday, May 26th to Friday, May 28th, 2010. The meeting will take place at the campus of Universidad de los Andes.

2010 marks the 40th anniversary of CLAG. This event will also be the 30th CLAG meeting. This is the second time CLAG comes to Colombia. Back in 1977, CLAG had its 7th meeting in [Paipa](#).

This meeting is a great opportunity to meet new colleagues and renew old friendships in the Columbian Andes. These are only some of the many reasons to come to Bogotá. We hope to see you in Colombia!!!

The website for CLAG's Bogotá 2010 meeting is online in both Spanish and English, and is now accepting both registration. Deadline for Registration is March 31st, 2010, to give the Organizing Committee enough to to prepare the schedule and program. The web site addresses are:

En español: <http://eventos.uniandes.edu.co/CLAG/>

In English: <http://eventos.uniandes.edu.co/CLAG/en>



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LETTER FROM CLAG'S CHAIR

With the deadline passed for the upcoming AAG meetings, we are looking forward to many exciting Latin Americanist sessions in Washington, D.C. The diversity of the proposed paper and panel sessions shows an interesting paradox: more thematic sessions, and fewer explicit ones on Latin America. Perhaps it is that our membership is saving its "A-game" regional work for the 2010 CLAG meetings in Bogotá, Colombia (May 26-28). I would encourage both CLAG and LASG members to come and participate in the special Ethics of fieldwork panel session, whether it is to listen, question, or to directly draw from this experience in shaping your own ethical field practices as a geographer.

I would like to remind members to apply, and encourage your students to apply, for our Field Study Awards and our Student Paper Awards. The field award amounts have been increased for 2010, in an effort to help graduate students with the ever-increasing costs of travel to and in Latin America. Our student paper award, as usual, is meant for those intending to attend the CLAG 2010 meetings in Colombia, but with a real chance of getting some significant financial backing to do so. The calls for proposals and papers, respectively, are out and available in .pdf format on our CLAG website, just above the Colombia 2010 graphic at: <http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm>

It is a pleasure to announce the newest members of the CLAG Board, who will serve for a three-year term (2009-12). My personal and our collective thanks to David Robinson for handling the ballot and election counts.

New Board Members:

Craig Revels (Central Washington University)
Andrés Guhl (Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá)
Joby Bass (University of Southern Mississippi)
Kristen Conway-Gómez (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)

I do hope that many of you will be able to attend both AAG and the upcoming CLAG meetings in 2010. For the time being, I wish you the best from Santa Fe, Nuevo México!

Saludos y abrazos,

Eric Perramond, Colorado College
CLAG Chair 2008-10, on sabbatical 2009-10



LETTER FROM LASG CHAIR

Saludos a todos desde Tucson, Arizona! Bom dia desde Tucson!

We have had a great year in the Latin America Specialty Group (LASG).

Among our accomplishments:

- doubled the number of our student awards—from 1 to 2 awards! We now have a Field Study Travel Award and a Best Paper award, both at the doctoral and master's levels. Award amounts vary annually depending upon the balance in our LASG coffers. In 2009, we awarded a total of \$1,650 to two doctoral students and two master's students.
- co-sponsored a social reception for LASG and CLAG members after the business meeting at the annual meeting 2009 in Las Vegas
- increased membership slightly to 494 total members from 481 last year.
- See 2010 Student Awards information below!

The LASG Annual Report 2009 from the LASG Chair is available on the AAG website at:
http://www.aag.org/sg/sg_display.cfm#Geographic%20Information%20Science%20and%20Systems

AAG 2010 ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Last year, LASG sponsored 19 sessions at the meeting in Las Vegas. This year, we'd like to top that number. As of the time of this writing, we're about halfway there.

LASG SPOTLIGHT ON ETHICS OF RESEARCH PRACTICES

The LASG officers are drafting a revised mission statement, including an ethics statement, that will be presented to the membership for discussion and a vote at the LASG Business Meeting in Washington, D.C. Also, we are sponsoring a featured panel on Research Ethics, which is covered in more detail in a separate article in this edition of the *Newsletter*.

LASG 2010 AWARDS

We are looking for faculty willing to serve on selection committees for the LASG Field Study Travel Award and the LASG Best Paper Award.

Please email Margaret Wilder, LASG Chair, if you are willing to serve:
mwilder@email.arizona.edu

LASG Field Study Travel Awards 2009 - please see excerpts from the reports of our 2009 Award Winners, Zoe Pearson, Ohio State University and Brittany Davis, University of Arizona in this issue of the Newsletter.

LASG Field Study Travel Award 2010. Application deadline: February 15, 2010.

LASG BEST PAPER AWARD 2010. Application deadline: February 15, 2010.

More details can be found in this edition of the *Newsletter*.

Margaret Wilder, University of Arizona
LASG Chair

LASG SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR

The Latin America Specialty Group is actively seeking nominations for the CHAIR and VICE-CHAIR positions for the 2010-2012 period. Elections for both of these positions will be held at the AAG Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. at the business meeting. The new chair and vice-chair will take office immediately after the 2010 meeting.

It's a great opportunity to get to know more geographers working in the Latin America region and to advance important work such as increasing student support via awards, increasing membership, and taking the LASG in expanded directions. We need good colleagues to step up and take on these two important leadership roles.

Please email current Chair, Margaret Wilder at: mwilder@email.arizona.edu with your nomination (please check with the individual first to ensure s/he is willing to serve. Self-nominations are also very welcome!

FEATURED PANEL ON RESEARCH ETHICS SPONSORED BY LASG & CLAG AT AAG 2010

The Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) and Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) invite you to an important featured panel session at the AAG 2010 Washington, D.C. Co-sponsors include Cultural and Political Ecology, and Developing Geographies Specialty Groups.

The objective of the featured panel discussion is to have a constructive, non-confrontational, open and meaningful discussion of a variety of ethical problems and situations that can arise (or have arisen) for those of us who conduct geographic research in Latin America. Discussions of difficult field settings, adapting from one regional setting to another, funding sources, and disclosure to affected communities are all fair game. No less important is how we, as instructors, disclose our own ethical engagement with communities and we can learn from difficult situations. How can we not only discuss the results of research in Latin American settings, but the very nature of our research in an ethical way, with students?

Each panelist will make a brief presentation of no more than 10 minutes. The chairs of CLAG and LASG will then moderate a discussion involving Q and A with the audience and among panel members.

Session Organizers and Chairs:

Margaret Wilder, LASG Chair, University of Arizona; Eric Perramond, CLAG Chair, Colorado College

Panelists:

Miguel Aguilar-Robledo, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí
Peter Herlihy, University of Kansas
Kendra McSweeney, Ohio State University
Alec Murphy, University of Oregon
Tad Mutersbaugh, University of Kentucky
Marie Price, George Washington University



IN MEMORIAM: CLINTON EDWARDS, 1926–2009

Clinton Edwards passed away this November, at the age of 83. Born 17 April 1926, Edwards received his Ph.D. from the University of California—Berkeley. He was the second to last advisee of Dr. Carl O. Sauer, and his dissertation was titled “Aboriginal watercraft of western South America: distribution, history, and problems of origins.” Edwards taught at the University of Virginia from 1962-1966, and then at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee from 1966 until his retirement in 2003. He was a historical geography and skilled in the paleography of early Spanish. His specialties included *relaciones geográficas*, aboriginal watercraft, the Yucatán region, and the history of discovery in the New World, especially Columbus. Edwards was a long-time editor in geography for the Handbook of Latin American Studies, Library of Congress.

LASG STUDENT AWARDS 2010

LASG Student Awards 2010

LASG Field Study Travel Award 2010. Application deadline: February 15, 2010.

Applications are invited for the 2010 LASG Student Field Study Award. Awards will be made at the PhD level (\$600) and the MA/MS level (\$300) in 2009. This award is intended for a graduate student member of the AAG Latin America Specialty Group to support preliminary or reconnaissance fieldwork for intended thesis or dissertation research in Latin America. The award is not intended to cover all fieldwork costs, but rather to assist students working toward the master’s to undertake a short period of field research, or to facilitate study site identification and preliminary research for doctoral students undertaking their dissertation research. Applications will be available by December 1, 2009 on the LASG website.

LASG BEST PAPER AWARD 2010

Applications are invited for the 2010 LASG Best Paper Award. Application deadline: February 15, 2010.

Awards at the Ph.D. level (\$500) and Master’s level (\$250) for best submitted paper. Papers must be presented at the 2010 AAG Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. and applicants must be LASG members. Applications will be available by December 1, 2009 on the LASG website.

SPANISH TRANSLATION OF AAG’S EDGE PROJECT BOOK

The AAG has made available for free download online the Spanish translations of five chapters from the AAG’s EDGE Project’s acclaimed book, *Aspiring Academics : Time Management, Academic Publishing, Active Learning, Preparing Competitive Research Grant Proposals, and Advising Students*.

http://www.aag.org/EDGE/docs/AAG_AspirantesAcademicos.pdf

The main page for the project is here: <http://www.aag.org/EDGE/index.cfm>

ECUADOR SUMMER STUDY ABROAD

Environment, Society, and Culture of Ecuador

July 27 - August 15, 2010

Eastern Illinois University invites undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, friends and adult family to experience the land and people of Ecuador, the Amazon rainforest and the Galapagos Islands July 27 through Aug. 15, 2010. All majors are welcome to learn about geography, earth science, culture and history in this four-credit course titled "Environment, Society and Culture of Ecuador." Program fee includes first rate lodging, international and in-country airfares, meals, boat and ground transportation, estimated \$6,600 plus tuition. Out of state participants welcome and pay in-state tuition in the summer. For details, visit

<http://www.eiu.edu/~edabroad/programs/facultyled/smith>

or call Betty Smith at 217-581-6340 or 217-549-4900 (cell) or e-mail besmith@eiu.edu

Here are a few cool links for a pretty poster and a power point viewable on the web

<http://www.eiu.edu/~edabroad/pdf/large%20ecuador%20poster%202010.pdf>

<http://www.eiu.edu/~edabroad/pdf/Ecuador%202010.pdf>

XI COLOQUIO INTERNACIONAL DE GEOCRITICA LA PLANIFICACIÓN TERRITORIAL Y EL URBANISMO DESDE EL DIALOGO Y LA PARTICIPACION

Buenos Aires, 3 al 7 mayo de 2010 - Instituto de Geografía / Departamento de Geografía Facultad de Filosofía y Letras - Universidad de Buenos Aires

La planificación territorial y el urbanismo están conociendo profundas transformaciones, pero tal vez deberán asentarse en unas bases nuevas, que acepten como punto de partida el diálogo y la participación. Normalmente la planificación es realizada por técnicos especializados (arquitectos, ingenieros, geógrafos, etc.). La constitución, a veces, de equipos multidisciplinarios y la previsión de una fase de alegaciones representan, sin duda, avances importantes en la realización del planeamiento. Hoy, sin embargo, eso no basta. Los graves problemas que muchas veces origina el mismo planeamiento indican bien la necesidad de un cambio profundo. Es preciso pasar a un tipo de planeamiento elaborado de una forma diferente, y basado en la participación y el diálogo entre todos los agentes interesados y el conjunto de los ciudadanos. Sin duda, son necesarios equipos interdisciplinarios de técnicos competentes y bien formados, abiertos además a la relación interdisciplinaria. Pero los proyectos se han de elaborar a partir de las necesidades y las demandas claramente formuladas por la población y los poderes políticos democráticamente elegidos, y con la aceptación de un diálogo continuado con ellos. Debe reconocerse que no es un proceso fácil, pero necesitamos explorar distintas vías para ponerlo en marcha. El Coloquio centrará la atención en los cambios en las políticas de planeamiento así como en el examen y valoración de experiencias novedosas que se hayan realizado en el planeamiento urbano y territorial a escalas y en contextos diferentes.

Contacto e Informes: geocritica2010@filo.uba.ar



EXCERPT FROM LASG'S 2009 (MASTER'S LEVEL) FIELD STUDY AWARD WINNER'S

This summer I traveled to Ecuador and spent eight weeks conducting research for my MA research project "Oil, Conflict, and Territory in Yasuní National Park, Ecuador." This research was made possible through the generous support of the Latin America Specialty Group of the AAG...[and other funders].

After almost ten hours of travel I arrived at the research station of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador in the block 16 oil concession portion of Yasuní. I spent three weeks in this northern part of the park staying in Waorani (indigenous nationality) communities and the research station. I engaged in participant observation and conducted semi-structured interviews and some focus groups with Waorani in four communities (adult women and men of all ages including community leaders), scientific researchers, and Repsol oil company employees (security, medical, engineering, and "community relations" professionals). Participant observation with Waorani included weekly travel to the Saturday market outside of the park, fishing trips, collecting food from *chacras*, and travel to the Repsol camp for medical care and water collection.

Another week was spent in El Coca and Puyo, capitals of two Amazonian provinces. In Coca I conducted semi-structured interviews with officials from the local branch of the Ministry of the Environment, who are in charge of park governance. I spent time with Waorani who were visiting the local capital, and learned about local community development and environmental initiatives.....

This research trip afforded me the opportunity to collect all of the information and evidence I need for my current research project. The experience enriched the ways in which I view my project, and I learned more than I expected. The fieldwork I conducted will allow me to complete my MA thesis and degree, will hopefully lead to a publication, and has given me a foundation in research practice that will serve me well into the future.

Thank you very much for your support.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN SEMI-ARID REGIONS - ICID 18

Fortaleza, Brazil, August 16 to 22, 2010

Deadline for abstract submission - Nov 1, 2009

<http://www.mma.gov.br/igid>

Forest Landscapes and Global Change: New Frontiers in Management, Conservation and Restoration to be held in Bragança, Portugal, September 21 to 27, 2010

<http://www.ipb.pt/iufro2010/>

Deadlines for symposium proposal submission - Oct. 30, 2009

Deadline for abstract submission - Dec. 20, 2009

INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HAZARDS IN THE AMERICAS

Anticipated impacts of climate change increase the likelihood and extremity of hazards, and when coupled with the largely unpredictable ways in which local communities may experience new or different kinds of events, the importance of supporting integration at the hemispheric scale rises to a critical level. The Institute for Integration of Research on Climate Change and Hazards in the Americas will address these topics and foster a region-wide community of scholars and practitioners. Up to 50 graduate students and post-doctoral scholars from the US and Latin America will be supported to participate in a two-week long institute in Panama City, Panama to be held in June 2010. The institute will offer lectures, demonstrations, technical training, group discussions, and work sessions at the advanced graduate and post-doctoral level. Participants will collectively produce a research agenda and a set of white papers, and will support development of an online knowledge and collaboration environment before, during, and after the event.

The event, co-organized by the Association of American Geographers (AAG), the PanAmerican Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) of the Organization of American States, the US Geological Survey (USGS), the National Communication Association (NCA), and the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP), will take place in collaboration with the Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá and will be led by an expert interdisciplinary team of 12 lecturers from the US, Panama, Chile, Brazil, and Mexico. The desired result of the program is a clear roadmap and collaborative mechanism for developing and sharing the knowledge necessary for responding to climate change and hazards in the Americas in an integrative way, using geographic tools and methods as a research and communication framework. Funding for the institute comes from the US Department of Energy and US National Science Foundation sponsored Pan American Advanced Studies Institute Program (NSF PASI).

Graduate students, post doctoral students, or early career scientists within 6 years of receiving the PhD, and who are US citizens or permanent residents or are currently enrolled in a US university or academic institution in any field may apply to attend as US Participants. Underrepresented groups and students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges are encouraged to apply. Graduate students, post doctoral students, or early career scientists within 10 years of receiving the PhD who are citizens of and residents in any country in Latin America may apply as Regional Participants. Selected participants must attend the full two week institute in Panama and will receive airfare, lodging, local transportation to institute events, training materials, and some meals paid for by the program. Application forms, instructions and selection criteria are available on the website at <http://www.aag.org/Grantsawards/pasi.html> .

Deadline for submissions is January 16, 2010. For questions or additional information, please contact Patricia Solís at psolis@aag.org .

Dr. Patricia Solís, Director of Outreach and Strategic Initiatives
Association of American Geographers
1710 Sixteenth Street NW
Washington, DC 20009-3198
Telephone 202-234-1450 ext. 222
Direct Line 202-558-7491
Fax 202-234-2744

5TH ANNUAL UA TINKER SYMPOSIUM ON GRADUATE FIELD RESEARCH IN LATIN AMERICA

The University of Arizona's Center of Latin American Studies sponsored the 5th Annual Tinker Symposium on Graduate Field Research in Latin America on Thursday, October 29th, at the Tucson University Marriott Hotel.

With grant money from the Tinker Foundation, the University of Arizona funded over 25 graduate students from 7 departments across campus who conducted original research this past summer in Latin America. This year's research topics spanned multiple disciplines, and addressed issues such as politics and the environment, immigration and identity, and development and public health.

A full schedule of the symposium, including project abstracts is available online:
<http://clas.arizona.edu/tinker/symposium/>

Several graduate student members of CLAG and LASG were funded for summer research by this program and presented at the symposium. Dr. Margaret Wilder and Dr. Marcela Vásquez-León were co-organizers of the event.

WATER SECURITY IN THE US-MEXICO BORDER GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITY AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

The Dr Wendy Jepson (<http://geography.tamu.edu/profile/WJepson>) in the Department of Geography at Texas A&M University (College Station, TX, USA) is announcing a 2-year studentship in Human-Environment Interaction for research on the US-Mexico Border funded by a National Science Foundation award. She seeks students who are interested in water issues on the US-Mexico Border, with particular focus on poverty, environmental disparities, and political ecology. The studentship will offer a tuition & fees and standard monthly stipend for research assistantship during two years. Students will also be eligible for Teaching Assistantships for subsequent years.

The Department of Geography at Texas A&M University has been ranked in the top 10 geography departments for faculty productivity. The Department comprises 23 faculty and has strengths in biogeography, climatology, geomorphology, human geography, human-environment relationships, GIScience, and geographic education.

To apply, follow the regular procedure to apply for the graduate program. In addition, contact Dr Wendy Jepson: wjepson@tamu.edu with a personal statement that describes your experience and interest in this research and 2-page CV. The deadline for application is January 1st 2009.

For details of the graduate program, go to
<http://geography.tamu.edu/prospective-students/graduate-students/533?new=article>

FUNDED NSF-IGERT DOCTORAL TRAINEESHIPS AT TEXAS A&M FOR APPLIED CONSERVATION RESEARCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Doctoral Traineeships are available through the Applied Biodiversity Science (ABS) NSF-IGERT Program at Texas A&M University. The vision of the ABS Program is to achieve integration between research in the natural and social sciences and on-the-ground conservation practices. Research teams of faculty mentors and students, in collaboration with partners from sites in Latin American and the US-Mexico border region, develop complementary dissertations related to two research themes: (A) Communities and Governance; and (B) Ecological Functions and Biodiversity. It is the primary goal of the ABS NSF-IGERT to train scholars prepared to understand ecological functions ecosystems and the activities and needs of surrounding communities in wider social, economic, and political contexts. The ABS NSF-IGERT Traineeships are two years and include an annual stipend of \$30,000 plus \$10,500 toward cost of education (tuition, fees, health insurance, and other benefits), as well as funding for field research and participation in a field course in the Peruvian Amazon. See the ABS website (<http://biodiversity.tamu.edu>) for more information. Interested students should first contact prospective advisors from among the ABS faculty associates and are required to apply to the doctoral program of the advisor's home department. Departmental deadlines vary. The application deadline for the ABS NSF-IGERT Traineeships is *JANUARY 20, 2010*. Please contact Elizabeth Shapiro, ABS Program Coordinator, at absigert@tamu.edu with more specific queries.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Awards

1) Wendy Jepson, National Science Foundation award, "Household water security in low income, rural and peri-urban communities in south Texas" (Geography and Spatial Science, 8/2009-1/2013), \$127,000.

Social scientists recently exposed the myth of universal water services coverage in the United States: migrant farm workers, Native Americans, the rural poor, and urban homeless communities face substantial deficiencies in water and sanitation infrastructure. Although institutional and location factors are thought to explain limited water and sanitation services, scholars have overlooked two key aspects of the water-poverty nexus: (1) access to water infrastructure does not guarantee water security, which is defined as adequate, reliable, and affordable water and sanitation for a healthy life and (2) considerable water security variability and differentiation exist *within* low-income communities. This project aims to address these gaps by examining household water security in low-income Mexican-American communities in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, one of the poorest regions with the largest population lacking suitable water supply and basic sanitation in the United States. The region is characterized by low-income, rural and peri-urban communities called "colonias." Nearly half of the 238,000 colonia residents face known infrastructure deficiencies in water, sanitation, or both, while nearly one-fifth have unknown water and sanitation status.

(continued on page 11).

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, CONTINUED:

2) Wendy Jepson, Glasscock Stipendiary Fellowship, "On the Poverty of Water: Discourses of Water Scarcity and Poverty in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas," [Glasscock Center for Humanities Research](#), Texas A&M University, 9/2008-9/2009 (1,500). Funded archival research at Stanford University at the Special Collections, Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund papers.

Publications

- [Brannstrom, C.](#) (2009) "South America's neoliberal agricultural frontiers: Places of environmental sacrifice or conservation opportunity?" *Ambio* 38(3): 141-9
- [Brannstrom, C.](#), Neuman, M. (2009) "Inventing the 'Magic Valley' of South Texas, 1905-1941," *Geographical Review* 91(2): 123-45
- Millington, A. and [Jepson, W.](#) (eds.) (2008), *Land Change Science in the Tropics*. Springer Publications, Boston
- [Jepson, W.](#), [Brown, J.C.](#), and Koeppe, M. (2008). Agricultural Intensification on Brazil's Soybean Frontier in Southern Rondônia. In Millington, A. and Jepson, W. (eds.), *Land Change Science in the Tropics*. Springer Publications, Boston.
- [Jepson, W.](#), [Brannstrom, C.](#), and Stancato, R. (2008). Brazilian Biotechnology Governance: Consensus and Conflict over Genetically Modified Crops. In Otero, G. (ed.), *Food for the Few: Neoliberal Globalism and Biotechnology in Latin America*. University of Texas Press, Austin, pp. 217-242.

TAMU Graduate Student News

Texas A&M University's IGERT -[Applied Biodiversity Science: Bridging Ecology, Culture, and Governance for Effective Conservation](#) in Latin America) has awarded three PhD traineeships to students working in Geography with CLAG members Christian Brannstrom and Wendy Jepson. They are (1) Audrey Joslin; (2) Dhananjaya Katju; and (3) Craig Hutton.

Graduate Studentship Opportunity. Dr. Wendy Jepson in the Department of Geography at Texas A&M University (College Station, TX, USA) is announcing a 2-year studentship in Human-Environment Interaction for research on the US-Mexico Border funded by a National Science Foundation award. She seeks students who are interested in water issues on the US-Mexico Border, with particular focus on poverty, environmental disparities, and political ecology. Students must be interested in pursuing a degree in the Department of Geography.

The studentship will offer a tuition & fees and standard monthly stipend for research assistantship during two years. Students will also be eligible for Teaching Assistantships for subsequent years.

To apply, follow the regular procedure to apply for the graduate program. In addition, please contact Dr Wendy Jepson (wjepson@tamu.edu This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it) with a personal statement that describes your experience and interest in this research and 2-page CV. The deadline for application is January 1st 2009.

RECENT LATIN AMERICANIST ACTIVITIES AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY (LSU)

Andrew Sluyter reports that doctoral student at LSU have been real busy with active involvement in Latin Americanist geography. Richard Hunter graduated with the PhD in 2009 after completing a dissertation on "People, Sheep, and Landscape Change in Colonial Mexico," won the CLAG Student Paper Award, and published an article in JLAG. Amy Potter advanced to ABD with a dissertation topic on "Transnational Barbudans, Common Property, and Environment," won a Dissertation Research Grant from the Association of American Geographers, and published an article in the *Geographical Review*. James Chaney continues to work on his dissertation topic on "Transnational Social Networks and Hispanic Workers." Case Watkins has just joined the doctoral program with interests in "Landscapes, Economies, and Ecologies of the Oil Palm." Andrew Sluyter published in the *Journal of Historical Geography* and *Progress in Human Geography*, and he received two grants from The Louisiana Board of Regents to conduct further research on topics relevant to Latin America.

In the past year, Kent Mathewson has presented a number of papers on Alexander von Humboldt's Latin American travels and articulations (CLAG, Humboldt conferences at LSU and Vanderbilt, visiting lectureship at Univ. of Denver), several of which will be published. He has presented (AAG) on field-work on traditional gardening in Nevis. The Nevis research (summer 2008) was funded and carried out as part of the American Geographical Society's Bowman Expeditions. LSU Press published his co-edited book (with Bill Denevan) *Carl Sauer on Culture and Landscape*, and LSU's Geoscience and Man series published his co-edited (with Peter Herlihy and Craig Revels) festschrift volume *Ethno-and Historical Geographic Studies in Latin America: Essays honoring William V. Davidson*. He had essays in both volumes, "Carl Sauer and His Critics," and "Coastal Ecuador's Montubios in Ethnographic and Historical Perspective" along with various introductory pieces.

Jörn Seemann is completing his dissertation on "Regional narratives and qualitative cartographic methodologies in the Cariri region of Brazil" while on a Dissertation Writing Fellowship from LSU's Grad School. Seemann spent two months in Brazil (summer 2009) doing dissertation field-work and visiting archives. He also has published a chapter on the state of art of geography education in Brazil in *Geography Education: Pan American Perspectives*, edited by Osvaldo Muñoz-Solari and Richard Boehm, and published by Texas State University.

LSU geography graduate student Russell Fielding studied artisanal fishing practices on Nevis (summer 2008) as part of the Bowman project. Fielding also researched artisanal whaling in St. Vincent as part of his dissertation on artisanal whaling in the North Atlantic and Caribbean. He returned (summer 2009) to the Caribbean (St. Vincent and St. Lucia) for additional research on whaling practices.

MAUREEN HAYS-MITCHELL, COLGATE UNIVERSITY,

has been awarded a Mellon Foundation Sabbatical Enhancement Grant to support her fieldwork in Peru for a project titled, "Claiming Citizenship: Political Engagement of Marginalized Populations in Post-Conflict Peru".



W. GEORGE LOVELL, QUEENS UNIVERSITY, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, will spend Winter Term 2010 in Seville, where he is Visiting Professor in Latin American history at Universidad Pablo de Olavide (www.upo.es). Any *CLAGista* visiting Seville should feel free to contact him for a tour of the Archive of the Indies and a walk around the city that was the heart of imperial Spain's New World operations. He will attend a conference in Liverpool in May 2010 related to his involvement in a collaborative SSHRC-funded project on the Hispanic baroque (www.hispanicbaroque.ca). George plans to be in Guatemala in August to participate in celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the publication of Severo Martínez Peláez's classic study of colonial Guatemala, *La patria del criollo*, now available in an English-language edition (Duke University Press, 2009, www.dukeupress.edu) in which he was involved as translator, editor, and presenter. With Christopher H. Lutz, in anticipation of the anniversary celebrations, George has co-authored *Historia sin máscara: Vida y obra de Severo Martínez Peláez* (USAC/FLACSO, 2009). A new (revised and expanded) edition of *A Beauty That Hurts: Life and Death in Guatemala* will be published in spring 2010 by the University of Texas Press.

Though his editorship of *MESOAMÉRICA* has ended, George serves on the journal's editorial board and urges all *CLAGistas* to support *MESOAMÉRICA* by submitting work to it, and by taking out subscription to it or arranging for their institution to do so: details related to these matters are available at <http://www.mesoamericarevista.org/2009rates-Mesoamerica.pdf>. He was also recently invited to serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Historical Geography*, another excellent forum in which to consider publishing research findings on Latin America.

CYNTHIA POPE, CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY, has received a Dean's Initiative Grant from CCSU called "The Revolution Will Be Twittered: Cyber-Geographies of Political Dissent in Cuba." The project's primary objectives are to 1) Examine how cyberspace is changing the political and cultural landscape of Cuba; 2) Analyze how bloggers view and interpret their roles in a changing Cuban society; and 3) Analyze the cultural and political networks, within Cuba and internationally, that have resulted from the establishment of blogs. She will be traveling to Havana from March 20-27 with some faculty members from CCSU and would be happy to have CLAG members come along. Please contact her at popec@ccsu.edu for more details.

GABRIELA VALDIVIA started a tenure-track position in July 2009, at the **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA - CHAPEL HILL**, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography.

TONY ABBOTT, STETSON UNIVERSITY, took a group of undergraduate students to Ecuador in May 2009 for a field study experience. The overall goal was for students to evaluate tourism as a development strategy in terms of economic, social, and environmental effects in both urban and rural settings. The trip was completely funded by the Hollis Mentored Field Experience Endowment of Stetson University. During the trip the group visited the provinces of Pichincha, Imbabura, Azuay, and Loja, as well as Podocarpus National Park and Las Cajas National Park, museum, and churches.

FROM MATTHEW TAYLOR, DENVER UNIVERSITY

Kevin Anchukaitis (Columbia University, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory), and I are very grateful to receive \$200,000 from NSF for a project entitled "Collaborative Research: Developing multicentury drought reconstructions from Guatemala and the context for past and future hydroclimatic change."

I received a 15k grant from my university (University of Denver) for a project entitled "Tourism and Development along Nicaragua's Southern Pacific Coast."

Also, thanks to colleagues who reviewed my tenure packet. I am grateful for your time and hope to perform similar service in the future. Michelle and I are on sabbatical for the year conducting research in both Guatemala and Nicaragua. We enjoy revisiting old research sites and also the "leisure" of extending our academic contacts here. We will also initiate new research projects in Nicaragua.

TAYLOR E. MACK, LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY (Department of Social Sciences) and Stephen Webre (Department of History) received a Louisiana Board of Regents Undergraduate Education Enhancement Grant for a program titled "**The Maya and the World: Interdisciplinary Inquiry in the Liberal Arts**," to bring in speakers who worked in the Maya region to come to the campus in Ruston, Louisiana, during the Fall 2009 Quarter. Each speaker did presented to the university community, and in addition, as a service project to the local community spoke to a general audience at the Lincoln Parish Library, Ruston, Louisiana. Speakers included:

Robert M. Carmack, Professor Emeritus, University of Albany, Albany, New York, Oct 8th, Lincoln Parish Library: "Conducting Anthropological Research in a K'iche'-Mayan Community of Guatemala," and Oct 9th, Louisiana Tech: "Maya Historiography: The K'iche'-Mayan Case of Guatemala".

Thomas H. Guderjan, President, Maya Research Program, Fort Worth, Texas & Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of Texas at Tyler, Oct 15th, Lincoln Parish Library: "The End of The World as They Knew It! What we really know and don't know about the collapse of the ancient Maya Civilization." Oct 16th, Louisiana Tech: "Understanding the Ancient Past at Blue Creek, Belize"

Grace Lloyd Boscopé, Project Director, Maya Research Program, Forth Worth, Texas, Oct 22nd, Lincoln Parish Library: "Contemporary Recycling: Uses of Ancient Tools by Modern Maya," Oct 23rd, Louisiana Tech: "Threads of the Past Enrich the Present: The Maya Then and Now."

Monica Bontty, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Monroe, Louisiana; Oct 29th, Lincoln Parish Library: "Years Mayan and Hours: The Concept of Time in Ancient Maya and Egyptian Societies," Oct 29th, Louisiana Tech: "The Notion of Time in Egyptian and Mayan Society"

The series culminated in two presentations by **CLAG member W. George Lovell, Queens, University**, Kingston, Ontario, Nov 5th, Lincoln Parish Library: "At Peace in the Corn: A Story of Civil War and It's Aftermath in Guatemala," Nov 6th, Louisiana Tech: "Surviving Conquest: Geography, Colonialism, and Maya Peoples in Guatemala." Whilst in Ruston, George took advantage to enjoy the local cuisine as well as tours of Ruston's historic downtown district, neighborhoods, and peach orchards.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

CUBAN LANDSCAPES HERITAGE, MEMORY, AND PLACE

Joseph L. Scarpaci and Armando H. Portela

July 2009, 216 Pages, Size: 6" x 9"

Paperback: ISBN 978-1-60623-323-8, Cat. #3323, Price: \$30.00

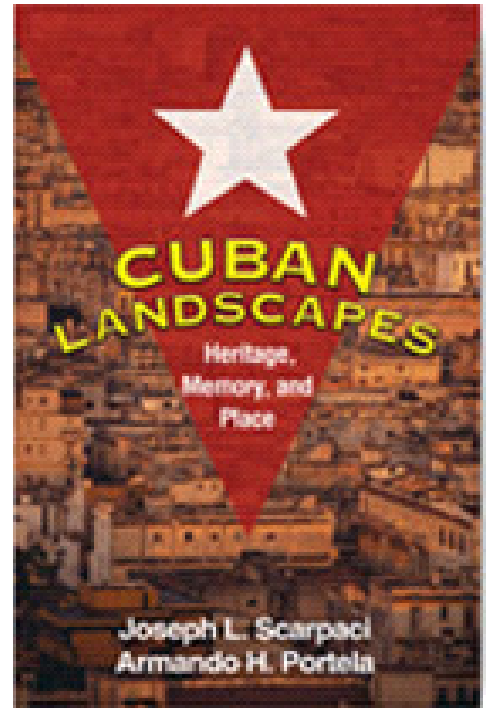
Hardcover: ISBN 978-1-60623-324-5, Cat. #3324, Price: \$60.00

Guilford Press: http://www.guilford.com/cgi-bin/cartscript.cgi?page=pr/scarpaci.htm&dir=geo/reg&cart_id=333088.32160, and other fine purveyors of the printed word.

This accessible book offers a vivid geographic portrait of Cuba, exploring the island's streetscapes, sugar cane fields, beaches, and rural settlements; its billboards, government buildings, and national landmarks. The authors illuminate how natural and built landscapes have shaped Cuban identity (cubanidad), and vice versa. They provide a unique perspective on Cuba's distinct historical periods and political economies, from the colonial period through republicanism and today's socialist era. Compelling topics include the legacies of slavery and the sugar industry, the past and future of urban development, and the impact of "islandness" on sociocultural processes.

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1. On Cuban Landscapes
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4. Heritage
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6. Information
7. Conclusions: Whither Cuban Landscapes?



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John L. Sorenson and Carl L. Johannessen are the 2009 authors of ***World Trade and Biological Exchanges before 1492***. Our book is published by iUniverse and available on Amazon or through me. The book records 124 species of biota that were moved across the oceans before Columbus's travels. Since we are able to demonstrate that 97 plants were transferred across the oceans with 84 of them departing from Americas and, of these, 50 were taken to India and 19 to China. This much maritime activity starting 7-8,000 years ago must imply that all tropical civilizations were in contact by these mariners. The entire early world history needs to be totally remodeled by social and physical scientists. It is a tremendous effort and Geographers can be at the forefront of the re-write of early history. At least your students can have a chance to make abundant discoveries with the knowledge that the block on this thinking is broken and they can actually discover something and get into print. Carl L. Johannessen, 1284 E. 21 Ave., Eugene, Oregon 97403. 541-342-2235, #30 soft cover, \$40 hard cover + \$4.50 shipping. Send to friends and scientists for Christmas.

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