

Latin American Studies

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Chair's Corner

Quisiera agradecer muy sinceramente a todos aquellos que ayudaron a organizar y coordinar los eventos que patrocinamos durante el año académico que recién termina. Especialmente van mis agradecimientos a Javier Guerrero por su ayuda y entusiasmo. Nuestro desafío es atraer a más gente a que participe para continuar siendo una presencia académica y cultural de importancia en el campus de NAU. Nos veremos en Septiembre del 2000. Que tengan todos un verano excelente.

Cordialmente,

Cecilia Ojeda

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LASC Chair Latina Legacies and Links: An Arizona Focus on Chicana and Latin American Women

The symposium, *Latina Legacies and Links*, featured presentations by Arizona scholars intended to demonstrate how the history, identity, political participation, representation, and imagining of Latina/Chicana women are crucial to understanding the larger history of the Americas. The symposium was held on Saturday, February 19, 2000, in an auditorium of the new Forestry building on the NAU campus.

Ms. Liz Archuleta, chair of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, gave the welcoming speech, emphasizing the importance of Hispanic women*s civic participation in Northern Arizona. The symposium featured three panels of presentations by a total of eleven scholars with moderators who facilitated interactive discussions with the audience. Participants from NAU were: Sara Alemán (Social Work), Miroslava Chávez (History), Susan Deeds (History), Sheryl Lutjens (Political Science), Irene Matthews (English), Penny Medina (Cline Library), Delia Muñoz (Cline Library), Cecilia Ojeda (Modern Languages), Karen Powers (History), and Sandra Serpas (Modern Languages). There were four visiting scholars: Donna Guy (History) and Eliana Rivero (Spanish) from the University of Arizona and Asunci*n Lavrin and Lynn Stoner from the History Department at Arizona State University.

The presentations raised questions about stereotypes, images, and empowerment of women that have relevance to northern Arizona residents. The audience of over 100 people consisted not only of students and teachers from NAU, but also Mexican Americans and other minority groups, as well as other women and men from the community. The first panel featured four historians of Latin American and/or Chicana/o history. In their examinations of women under Spanish and Mexican rule (16th-19th centuries), they demonstrated with a number of colorful anecdotes that, despite the predominant emphasis on male conquerors and colonized, many women eluded sexual

conquest, defied norms of propriety, and carved out spaces for themselves, refuting many of the stereotypes ascribed to them. They also showed how ethnic and class divisions could undermine women*s solidarity, meaning that women*s resistance and persistence was not necessarily unified. The second panel consisted of scholars from three different disciplines: history, Spanish literature, and comparative literature. Using historical records and women*s testimonies, they showed how Latina women have continued to play crucial roles in resisting oppressive authority and patriarchy. They highlighted women*s strategies for standing up to the brutal repression of military dictatorships in Argentina, Chile, and Guatemala during the 70s and 80s, and explained their central role in defending basic human rights and advocating social justice and democracy. The third panel also crossed disciplinary lines with presentations by an historian, a literature specialist, a political scientist, and a local expert who has been compiling a collection of oral histories and photographs from the Flagstaff Hispanic community. These panelists focused on how Latina women have identified themselves in specific circumstances and how they have been portrayed in the popular imagination. Using slides and other visual aids, they illustrated how gendered images have often misrepresented Latina/Mexicana/Chicana women in local, national, and global contexts.

Dr. Susan Deeds

History Department

Leonardo Padura

During the week of November 27, renowned author Leonardo Padura Fuentes visited the campus to discuss his writing in the context of Cuba's rapidly-evolving artistic and literary scene. On Monday Padura visited SPA 452, a new course on Cuban literature taught by Dr. Stephen Clark. Prior to his visit, students read several of his highly acclaimed short stories which reveal many of the unseemly aspects of life in contemporary Cuba. Padura made a short presentation on his work which was followed by a rich dialogue on Cuban literature and politics. The following evening Padura presented an informal lecture titled "Literature and the arts in Castro's Cuba" to a packed house in Liberal Arts 135. His talk was followed by a question and answer session that dealt with a wide array of topics ranging from the US embargo to the phenomenal success of the Buena Vista Social Club album and movie.

Dr. Stephen Clark

Modern Languages Department

María Isabel Domínguez. Ph.D.

María Isabel Domínguez. Ph.D. in Sociology and researcher at the Centro de Investigaciones Psicológicas y Sociológicas in Havana who specializes in Cuban youth, gave a public lecture to the NAU community on March 1, 2000. Dr. Domínguez analyzed the economic and social conditions affecting youth as a group, focusing attention on their educational opportunities, issues of social mobility, and modes of political participation during a decade of crisis called the Special Period . This was Maria Isabel Domínguez*s second visit to Northern Arizona University. She and Sheryl Lutjens, Political Science, are completing a four-province study of the participation of Cuban secondary students in their mass organization, the Federation of Secondary Students, with funding from the ACLS/SSRC Cuba Working Group program initiative.

Dr. Sheryl Lutjens

Political Science Department

School of the Americas Watch

The Flagstaff/NAU School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) capped off an eventful year with a talk by Father Roy Bourgeois in Cline Library on the 24th of April. Co-Presented with Latin American Studies, the event drew over 350 enthusiastic supporters of a more responsible U.S. policy toward our Latino neighbors. The SOAW has hosted numerous events hoping to offer a different perspective than found in mainstream media. On March 14, Guatemalan refugee Sandra Salazar shared her story of evading military death squads and her long journey to the United States. This event was in Spanish with translation by Isa Ponce. Two films were shown, Fiction of War (February) and Zapatista (September). The films provided insightful commentary on the conflicts in Colombia and Chiapas, explaining military alliance with paramilitary death squads as well as U.S. support of both repressive governments. Attendees to all events were asked to sign letters to JD Hayworth, Jon Kyl and John McCain, urging them to support a more humanistic resolve of these conflicts and to close down the School of the Americas. The main event occurred in November when seven Flagstaff locals drove a rented minivan to Ft. Benning and joined 12,000 others in protest of the school. If you missed this exciting demonstration, fear not, plans are already formulating for this year's protest on Nov. 18 and 19. For more information on fall videos and speakers please contact Beto at 779-2814.

Brian Heller

School of the Americas Watch

Chicana/o Symposium

On April 14th, scholars from NAU as well as from other parts of Arizona and the United States came together to engage in dialogues about Chicana/o history, politics, culture, and

the present and future state of Chicana/o Studies at the "Sowing Roots, Sembrando Raíces," Chicana/o Studies Symposium, organized by Miroslava Chavez, History Department. The symposium, which also featured a "Cultural Night--Noche de Cultura," consisted of three panel presentations, focusing on various issues and themes across disciplines: 1) Research, Teaching, and Building Chicana/o Studies; 2) Cultural Studies and Popular Culture in Chicana/o Studies; and 3) Interrogating Systems of Power: Gender, History, and Politics in Chicana/o Studies. The goals of the symposium focused on generating greater visibility and awareness about Chicana/o Studies at NAU and faculty and staff at NAU working in Chicana/o Studies.

Dr. Miroslava Chavez

History Department

Thomas Wake, UCLA

"Prehistoric animal use in Pacific Guatemala and Chiapas: What did competing chiefs eat?"

Tues, March 21st Dr. Wake, an archaeologist at UCLA's Costin Institute of Archaeology examined the prehistoric use of animal remains at several different sites along the coast of Guatemala and Chiapas. His results indicate that through time there was an overall increase in domesticated fauna--such as dog--and terrestrial fauna, such as deer. At the same time, there was a decrease in the use of marine resources as coastal societies became more complex.

Dr. George Gumerman IV

Anthropology Department

"Paulina"

The film "Paulina," sponsored by Women*s Studies and Latin American Studies, brought in an audience of over 250 viewers. "Paulina" is a non-fiction feature film by Vicky Funari and Jennifer Maytorena Taylor that was ten years in the making. The film tells the life of Paulina, a domestic worker in Mexico City who returns to Veracruz to confront her past.

Latin American Studies Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Edward Waters Hood

Novel in (English) Translation: Face of the Earth, Heart of the Sky [Señores bajo los árboles (1994)] by Mario Roberto Morales (Guatemala). Bilingual Press, 2000. ISBN: 0927534886 Article: "Búsqueda de identidad histórico-literaria en La niña blanca y los pájaros sin pies de Rosario Aguilar." In Visiones y revisiones de la literatura centroamericana, edited by Jorge Román-Lagunas. Guatemala City: Oscar de León Palacios, 2000: 189-199.

Literary Interviews: "Entrevista con Galel Cárdenas: literatura y política en Honduras." Alba de América 18.33-34 (1999):387-395. "En torno al cuento: entrevista con Enrique Jaramillo Levi," Maga: Revista Panameña de Cultura Tercera Epoca 36 (1999): 21-27.

Dr. Stephen Clark Dr. Clark spent the summer in Havana interviewing important Cuban writers and gathering material for his new Special Topics course on Cuban literature and politics, which was offered for the first time during the fall semester to an overflow crowd. He presented a paper titled "AUTOBIOGRAFÍA Y REVOLUCIÓN EN CUBA: LA MALA MEMORIA DE HEBERTO PADILLA" at the Second Florida International University Conference on Iberian and Iberian-American literature, October 28-30, 1999. His bilingual critical edition of Venezuelan writer Denzil Romero's short stories was accepted for publication by University Press of America. Dr. Clark was awarded the prize for the Best New Course (SPA 201) at the NAU Honors Program awards banquet on April 15th. He translated Leonardo Padura Fuentes' most recent novel, Paisaje de otoño, winner of the 1998 Dashiell Hammett Award for best murder mystery in Spanish. Dr. George Gumerman IV

Dr. Gumerman received a National Science Foundation Grant for archaeological research in Perú. The Moche Foodways Archaeological Project examines the social aspects of prehistoric food systems to help us understand Moche (200-800 AD) social organization. (see web page: moche.nau.edu (don't use www)). The short blurb and photo of the project will be in the July issue of National Geographic Magazine

Dr. Cecilia Ojeda, Chair of LASC

Dr. Ojeda had two articles published both here and abroad: "La ardua legitimación de los Estudios de Género en Chile" in the Selected Papers from Latina Visions for Transforming the Americas published by Southern Connecticut University, and "Recuperando el sujeto femenino exiliado: Salir (la balsa) de Guadalupe Santa Cruz" in Acta Literaria of the Universidad de Concepción, in Chile. In addition, Dr. Ojeda presented a paper at the Asociación de Literatura Femenina Hispánica in Querétaro, México in October of 1999, titled: "Oralidad y saturación en El contagio," and a second presentation at the Latina Legacies and Links Symposium at NAU in February of 2000 titled "Weaving Feminisms in Chile: Julieta Kirkwood." Dr. Ojeda was the recipient of

an Organized Research Grant from NAU for her project-manuscript (Des)memoria y parodia: la narrativa chilena de los 90.

Dr. Susan Deeds

"Legacies of Resistance, Adaptation, and Tenacity: History of the Native Peoples of Northwest Mexico, " in *The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas*, Vol. II Mesoamerica, Part 2 (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000), 44-88. Dr. Sheryl Lutjens

The VII Seminario Científico sobre la Calidad de la Educaci*n: Intercambio de Experiencias de Profesionales Cubanos y Norteamericanos took place in Havana and Santiago de Cuba, January 31-February 4, 2000, with more than 50 participants traveling from the U.S. Sheryl Lutjens organized North American participation in the conference, which was hosted by the Asociaci*n de Pedagogos Cubanos. Graduate student Krisztina Pongratz Political Science, presented a paper at the VII Seminario, as did the following NAU faculty: Mark Beeman, Sociology; David Camacho, Political Science; Geeta Chowdhry, Political Science; Ray González, Instructional Technology Services; Kooros Mahmoudi, Sociology; David McKell, Social Work; Sheila Nair, Political Science; and Mary Ann Steger, Political Science. If you would like more information on these unique exchanges with Cuban educators, which draw participants from the entire U.S., including application materials for the VIII Seminario, slated for February 2001 in Havana, please contact Sheryl Lutjens (sheryl.lutjens@nau.edu).

Dr. Robert Neustadt

Dr. Robert Neustadt had a book published: *(Con)Fusing Signs and Postmodern Positions: Spanish American Performance, Experimental Writing and the Critique of Political Confusion*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1999. He gave three lectures: LASA (Miami), la Facultad de Artes y Letras de la Universidad de La Habana, Cuba, and ASU.