

# Latin American Studies

The Newsletter of the Latin American Studies Committee  
Northern Arizona University

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## 2001-2002 LASC Newsletter



### LASC Report

Ranging from literature and film to political activism, archaeology and drama, this year our Latin American Studies Committee has provided the NAU community with an interdisciplinary view of life in Chile, Cuba, El Salvador,

Honduras and Mexico. Thanks to all of you who organized events on campus, having made 2001-2002 a very productive year. Many thanks as well to Brendon Clark whose efforts as the LASC Graduate Assistant made for successful events throughout the year. For the 2002-2003 academic year we welcome our new GA, Josefina Vásquez! Josefina, an archaeologist from Ecuador who is currently pursuing an M.A. degree in Anthropology, will come on board in August and is eager to put her organizational and computer skills to work

Bob Neustadt, LASC Chair

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### LASC Events

Every year the Latin American Studies Committee sponsors events that celebrate the academic, artistic, and cultural contributions of Latin Americans and about Latin America through financial, planning, and promotional assistance.

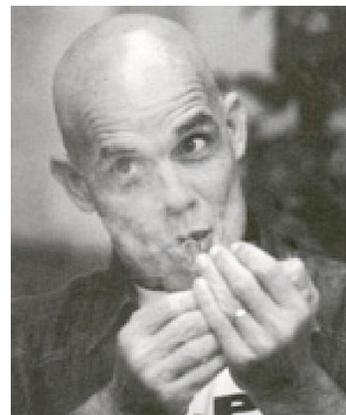
### Pedro Juan Gutiérrez

On October 11, 2001, renowned Cuban artist and writer Pedro Juan Gutiérrez presented a lecture titled "Verdad y mentira en la literatura" ("Truth and Lies in Literature") to a packed house in LA 135. Gutiérrez is one of Latin

America's most talked-about contemporary authors and his recent novels (*Dirty Havana Trilogy*, *The King of Havana*, and *Tropical Animal*) have been published in Spain, France, Portugal, Brazil, Germany, Italy, England, and the U.S. After the talk a reception was held for Pedro Juan at the Wine Loft in downtown Flagstaff, during which the artist's paintings and visual poetry were on display. During his weeklong stay on campus, Pedro Juan visited several Spanish classes and shared with students his insights into literature and life in Cuba. Before becoming a full-time creator, Pedro Juan worked for many years as one of Cuba's top journalists. He also has published several volumes of poetry and short stories. He resides in Havana.



Pedro Juan Gutiérrez began his working life at age eleven as an ice cream vendor and newsboy. The author of several acclaimed novels and books of poetry, this former journalist lives in Havana, where he writes and creates art.



### Dirty Havana Trilogy:

"Every now and then you come across a writer, like Kerouac, Miller, Bukowski, who sets you on fire, who inspires you (and this is not a bad thing) to drink, fornicate, go mad—to seek solace any way you can. Pedro Juan Gutiérrez is such a writer. He puts his soul and his city—one and

the same? —on the line for all to see. And his city, Havana, is a place of beauty and torment—a glorious, lewd, moveable orgy" — Jonathan Ames, author of The Extra Man.

## Andrea Jeftanovic



Andrea Jeftanovic visited NAU during Fall 2001 and participated in a bilingual literary performance with Bob Neustadt from her novel, *Escenario de guerra* (Alfaguara 2000). The performance was preceded by a short film by Nely Jiménez, "The memory of the senses," which is based on Jeftanovich's novel. Born in Santiago, Chile in 1970, Andrea Jeftanovic

is a sociologist and writer who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Hispanic American literature at UC Berkley. Her first novel, *Escenario de Guerra*, was awarded the *Premio Nacional Consejo del Libro* for the best novel published in Chile in 2000. "The complex notion of representation—as both an aesthetic and political process—forms a central image in *Escenario de guerra*. The novel underscores representation and drama on every level." Jeftanovic's unique presentation of her work brought the novel to life during her visit to NAU.

## Archaeology Speakers

In March 2002, the Latin American Studies Committee hosted three archaeologists from Mexico, all of them specialists in the connections between pre-Columbian



cultures in Mexico and the U.S. Southwest. They spoke to an audience of about 50 on March 5 and showed slides of their work. The main speaker was Dr.

Marie-Areti Hers, a researcher in the Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas at the National University in Mexico City (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), where she coordinates the interdisciplinary Hervideros Project. She is the author of *Los toltecas en tierras chichimecas* (UNAM, 1989), and she recently edited a festschrift for another well-known archaeologist of northern Mexico, Beatriz Braniff, entitled *Nómadas y sedentarios en el norte de México* (UNAM, 2000). An expert on the Classic Period in Durango, Zacatecas, and Jalisco, Mexico, Dr. Hers talked about the relationships between the Chalchihuites culture in Durango and cultures of the U.S. southwest, giving special attention to the flute players found in rock art. She was joined by Dr. Patricia Carot from CEMCA (France's Center for Mexican and Central American Studies) and Fernando Berrojalbiz, a

doctoral student from UNAM. Dr. Carot showed other Mesoamerican designs from Michoacán in southwest Mexico that corresponds with motifs and images found in Arizona and the U.S. southwest. Mr. Berrojalbiz discussed the origins of the present-day culture of the Tepehuan Indians who live in Durango, speculating that they are not descended from the classical Chalchihuites culture but from groups that migrated to Durango from Sonora after the Classic Period. The presentation was co-sponsored by the Departments of History and Anthropology and by the International Studies Office.

## Spanish American Theater

On April 30 and May 1, 2002, students from Bob Neustadt's Span 322 class presented four one-act plays from Latin America in the Clifford E. White Theater. The plays presented--Cuban Virgilio Piñera's "Estudio en blanco y negro," Guatemalan Carlos Solórzano's "Los fantoches," Argentine Griselda Gambaro's "Decir sí," and Mexican Emilio Carballido's "El censo"--provided the NAU community with the opportunity to see drama written by some of Latin America's most important playwrights.



Solórzano's "Los fantoches," explores the existential meaning of life and death through the interactions of a group of puppets that realize they are destined to be blown-up as part of a popular street celebration. Piñera's "Estudio en blanco y negro" is a comical study of social interaction and conflict in a public plaza. Gambaro's "Decir sí" places the conventions of a so-called "theater of cruelty" in the



context of an enigmatic everyday encounter in Latin America. Carballido's "El censo" represents, though humor, Mexican-

working peoples' distrust in their government. Through donations taken at the door and with the support of the Latin American Studies Committee, the Modern Languages Department and the Theater Department, this event created one-time \$600 scholarship for a student studying on an NAU program in Latin America during Spring 2003. The scholarship will be awarded to a Spanish major and/or Latin American Studies minor on the basis of merit and inancial need. The details of the scholarship will be released in the fall.

## Mural Inauguration

On September 28, 2001 Modern Language Chair Bob Johnson, Professor Isa Ponce, and Artist Brenda Lewis unveiled a colorful mural during a reception in the foyer of the Modern Languages Building (Babbitt Academic Annex). The mural is the first step toward bringing artistic life to the multicultural learning environment. The mural



projection began as a vision by Isa Ponce to create a more pronounced multicultural presence in the Modern Languages Building. After overcoming numerous

bureaucratic and logistical hurdles, with the proceeds from a fund-raising raffle (prizes included three paintings donated by Penny Medina) and contributions from LASC, Brenda Lewis painted a Latin American election day gathering. The inauguration reception was well attended with food, drink, music, poem readings, and colorful international dress.

## Rafael Menjivar Ochoa

Author of the novel "El Salvador: Literature and the Myths of war" and Director of Literature at the National Council on Culture and Arts of El Salvador, Rafael Menjivar Ochoa visited NAU in March. Rafael and NAU professor



Karen Shairer gave a bi-lingual presentation about Rafael's literary work. Rafael was born in El Salvador in 1959. He Attended the National University (UNAM) in Mexico City where he studied English Literature. He

has published 10 books including novels, essays and poetry in Mexico, Central America and France. He has won several International awards for his work including the French National Center for Literature Prize. Currently Rafael is completing a book on Testimonial Literature of Central America entitled "The vision of the other" in collaboration with Dr. Karen Schairer of NAU. Following the literary presentation, Mariachi NAU performed while the audience enjoyed food and drink from El Salvador. The event concluded with the viewing of the Mexican film "La ley de Herodes."

## LASC Accomplishments

### Cecilia Ojeda

Cecilia Ojeda was organizer and presenter in the panel "Nuevos discursos literarios en el CHILE postdictatorial" at the XXIII International LASA convention in Washington, D.C. in September 2001. The participants in the panel were Dr. José Promis of the University of Arizona, Dr. Juan Armando Epple from the University of Oregon and Edith Dimo from California State University. The discussant was Marisol Vera from Editorial Cuarto Propio in Santiago. During the Fall of 2001, Dr. Ojeda taught the class "Con/Texts of memory and Exile" for the Master's of Liberal Studies Program at NAU. This course explored the work of Argentine and Chilean authors who shared the experience of exile stemming from the military dictatorships of the 70s. Cecilia Ojeda's article about Diamela Eltit's novel *Vaca sagrada* (Sacred Cow) was accepted by *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* for publication this May of 2002. She will be on sabbatical during the Fall semester of 2002 doing research both in Chile and the United States.

### Bob Neustadt

Bob published the book *CADA día: La creación de un arte social* (Santiago: Cuarto Propio, 2001) in December of 2001. He also published the essay: "(E)Facing the Face of Nationalism: The Use of Wrestling Masks in Mexican and Chicano Performance Art." *Studies in Twentieth Century Literature*. 25.2 (summer 2001): 414-32. Additionally, Bob published an interview with Cuban-American author Virgil Suárez: "Naked Truth and Invented Memory: An Interview with Virgil Suárez." *Confluencia: Revista Hispánica de Literatura y Cultura*. 16.2 (2001): 126-35. Bob also published two reviews: Review of Fox, Claire F. *The Fence and the River: Culture and Politics at the U.S.-Mexico Border*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1999. 188 pp. *Studies in Twentieth Century Literature* 25.2 (2001): 516-18. Review of: Jeftanovic, Andrea. *Escenario de guerra*. Santiago: Alfaguara, 2000. 185 pp. *Chasqui: Revista de literatura latinoamericana*. 30.2 (2001): 155-7. Bob received an Intramural Grant Program award for the summer of 2003. He was also awarded Promotion to Associate Professor with tenure, to take effect in August of 2002.

### Edward Waters Hood

Ed published an Article with Werner Mackenbach titled: "La novela y el testimonio en Nicaragua: una bibliografía tentativa, desde sus inicios hasta el año 2000." *Istmo* 1 (enero-junio 2001) [<http://www.wooster.edu/istmo/proyectos/edwardwatershood.htm>]. He also published two literary interviews: "El expediente literario de Linda Berrón." *Caribe* 4.1 (2001): 40-47. "Una odisea artística: entrevista con Mario Bencastro." *Istmo* 3 (2002) [<http://www.denison.edu/istmo/foro/odisea.html>]

## Lance R. Blyth

Ph.D. candidate in History, Lance R. Blyth had an article, "Encomienda System," accepted for the Dictionary of American History 3rd Edition, Stanley I. Kutler, ed. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, forthcoming). Published four entries, "Mexico: Armed Forces"; "Mexico: French Intervention, 1863-1867"; "Central America and the Caribbean: Armed Forces"; "South America: Armed Forces," in the Reader's Guide to Military History, Charles Messenger, ed. (Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001). Reviewed Writing Violence on the Northern Frontier: The Historiography of Sixteenth-Century New Mexico and Florida and the Legacy of Conquest (Durham: Duke University Press, 2000) by José Rabasa, for the Florida Historical Quarterly 80:3 (2002). Presented a paper, "La Frontera: Making Borders in Mexico's Far North," at the American Historical Association, 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 2002.

## Florencia Riegelhaupt, Roberto Luis Carrasco, and Williard Gilbert

Florencia Riegelhaupt, Roberto Luis Carrasco, and Williard Gilbert presented a paper entitled at the National Association of Bilingual Education Conference from March 19-23. They also presented a paper entitled "Un modelo holístico de la adquisición continua del español de los hijos de padres mexicanos en los Estados Unidos: ("A Holistic Model for the Continued Acquisition of Spanish of Children of Mexican Parents in the United States") at the Primer Congreso Internacional y Cuarto Nacional sobre Lengua Escrita y Textos Académicos en la Universidad de Hermosillo, Sonora from May 3-6. Riegelhaupt also presented a paper entitled "El desarrollo de la escritura por parte de los hispanohablantes en los Estados Unidos" ("The development of writing on the part of Spanish speakers in the United States") at the above-mentioned event. Riegelhaupt and Carrasco's paper entitled "Science, Language, Culture and the Sacred: Issues and Concerns in Science Curriculum Development for Navajo, Apache, Zuni and Hopi Schools" has been included among the lead papers at the Sociology of Language and Religion International Colloquium to be held at the University of Surrey Roehampton in London, England from June 20-22. They also will present a paper entitled "META: A model for documenting mother tongue acquisition and attrition at a Conference on Mother Tongue Attrition at the University of Amsterdam at the end of August.

The following provides information on Mariachi NAU: Mariachi NAU has participated in numerous university and community events thus far this semester. These include three performances for Hispanic Heritage Week, one as part of the Hispanic Film Festival sponsored by Modern Languages, one for the Multicultural Center, and a third at the Chester Montessori School in Camp Verde. They also were filmed for a television spot on Mariachi music for a nationally aired instructional children's television show for children learning Spanish. Mariachi NAU perform at

Barnes and Noble for the Hispanic Book Festival, and at the two performances for the Spanish Theatre Club in April. Mariachi NAU also performed at Hispanic Graduation on Saturday, May 1. Should anyone, faculty, staff, students and community members be interested in becoming a member of Mariachi NAU, contact the Director, Dr. Florencia Riegelhaupt at 523-8006.

## Susan M. Deeds

Susan M. Deeds, profesor of History, published an article: "Resistencia indígena y vida cotidiana en la Nueva Vizcaya: Trastornos y cambios étnico-culturales en la época coonial," in Claudia Molinari an Eugeni Porras, eds., *Identidad y cultura en la sierra tarahumara* (Mexico City: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 2002). In February, she attended the annual meeting of the Mexico-North Research Network in Mexico City. Mexico-North is a consortium designed to promote exchange and collaboration among institutions, professional scholars, students, and local communities on innovative projects in research, education, and outreach focused on northern Mexico and the southwestern United States. NAU is a founding member of the consortium, and Dr. Deeds serves as a member of the Board of Directors. Dr. Nicholas Meyerhofer (International Office) and Claudette Piper (Grants & Contracts) also attended the meeting; both serve on Mexico-North advisory boards.

## Brendon Clark

Brendon presented a paper titled "The Opportunity of Disaster: Harnessing Social Adrenaline During a Temporary Housing Project" at the International LASA XXIII convention in Washington, D.C. in September 2001. The paper focused on local capacities during disaster relief activities in Latin America based on his experiences in a 6.8 earthquake in rural Bolivia in 1998. In May, Brendon completed his M.A. in Anthropology here at NAU and his concluded his tenure as graduate assistant for LASC. He will now apply his skills to work in international development and disaster relief.



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**<http://www4.nau.edu/las>**

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