



Latin American Studies

2003-2004 LASC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Latin American Studies Committee

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LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Ranging from political activism to history, linguistics, indigenous-made documentaries and classic feature films, our Latin American Studies committee provided the NAU community with a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives on life in El Salvador, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Chile and the U.S. Latino community. Thanks to all of you who participated, making 2003-2004 another great year! A special thanks as well to Jerónimo Vásquez, whose diligent work as the LASC Graduate Assistant/political organizer made for exciting and well attended events throughout the year.

Bob Neustadt, LASC Chair

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LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES FORUM SERIES

**THE “STATE” SPANISH IN THE
US: Maintenance or Loss?**

Dr. Susana Rivera-Mills gave a talk on October 13th about the internal and external variables affecting the maintenance of Spanish in the United States. Dr. Rivera-Mills is a native of El Salvador and a second-generation immigrant currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Modern Languages at Northern Arizona University.



Dr. Susana Rivera-Mills currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Modern Languages at Northern Arizona University.

THE METHODS OF HISPANIC COMMUNICATION IN THE UNITED STATES: Information, Culture, Entertainment, and Its Linguistic Quality?

On Tuesday February 17th, Mauricio Rivera Quijano spoke about visible elements typical in television and the Hispanic written press in the United States. Quality of the language was the main focus of the discussion, while the objective was to expose the public to the fact that there is more to media than entertainment and that different modes of communication have a social, cultural, and educative obligation.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES EVENTS

COLOMBIAN UNION ACTIVIST SPEAKS OUT

Luis Adolfo Cardona, a Colombian trade unionist spoke on campus on October 21. Cardona spoke about his personal experience as a Union leader in Colombia. On December 5th, 1996, a paramilitary death squad came to the

Carepa bottling plant and shot and killed lead union negotiator Isidro Gil. Luis Adolfo Cardona was kidnapped later that afternoon, but escaped and was forced to flee his home. The following day, union negotiations with Coca-Cola were suppose to begin, but the paramilitary death squad burned down the union hall of the food and beverage workers union, SINALTRAINAL. Then Coca-Cola Management printed up a letter of resignation and forced all the union workers to sign it.

The Coca-Cola death squads continued to threaten and hunt for Luis Adolfo. A semiprofessional soccer player, Luis dodged the paramilitary death squads' attempts to catch him in various towns and cities. Death squads continue to publicly threaten Luis, his wife, and daughter.

Luis Adolfo was brought to the U.S. under the protection of the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center. Various local unions—SEIU, Teamsters, UFCW, UNITE, USWA—have hosted or helped Luis Adolfo Cardona and the Consumer Campaign against Coke. Luis has spoken at various colleges and schools around the country about the Coca-Cola boycott and stopping Plan Colombia, the \$1.2 billion dollar U.S. Government war plan for Colombia.



Luis Adolfo speaking about human rights abuses in Colombia

EMPOWERING YOUTH: Redirecting violence

October 30th guest speaker Luis Ruan, the founder and Executive Director of the Beyond Limits program spoke about

his efforts to incorporate Hispanic and Indigenous American cultures in programs for high risk youth. He spoke about his experiences working with youth throughout the country. He has worked with various youth, their parents and communities to teach them the negative consequences of gang involvement.

Afterwards, he preformed with his band, *Raices*, featuring Indigenous American instruments, such as the charango, zampoña, bombo, jarana, and cajón. The NAU Mariachi band also performed.



NAU Mariachis performing

Thank you Florencia Riegelhaupt for bringing Luis Ruan to NAU.

THE PINOCHET FILE: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability

Peter Kornbluh spoke at NAU's Ashurst Auditorium on January 27th. Kornbluh is senior analyst with the National Security Archives in Washington DC and author of *The Pinochet File: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability* (2003). He presented on the recently declassified U.S. government documents delineating the U.S. role in the overthrow of the democratically elected



Peter Kornbluh

government of Chile in 1973. Kornbluh has led the campaign for the release of documents on the U.S. role in the coup that removed President Salvador Allende and led to the Pinochet dictatorship.

A huge thanks to our chair, Dr. Neustadt for arranging Mr. Kornbluh's visit, and everyone else who made the event possible!

CHIAPAS MEDIA PROJECT

Alexandra Halkin, founding director of the Chiapas Media Project came on March 4th to screen the projects newest indigenous-made films, *Caracoles: New Paths of Resistance, Water and Autonomy, Reclaiming Justice: Guerrero's Indigenous Community Police and Song of the Earth*. She discussed the current situation in Chiapas and the project. The Chiapas Media Project is a bi-national partnership that provides video equipment, computers and training to enable indigenous communities in Southern Mexico to create their own media.



Dr. Neustadt with Alexandra Halkin

Thank you for all the various contributors who made the Chiapas Media Project presentation possible! The contributors were the Anthropology Department, the Communications Department, the Criminal Justice Department, Dean Roger Lavery, the History Department, the Humanities Department, the Modern Languages Department, the Political Science Department, and the Cline Library.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY SPEAKER FORUM

Tuesday, March 9th a panel of several Indigenous activists spoke about the significance of the March 11th 2004 Indigenous People's Day Declaration. March 11, 2004, was recognized by the City of Phoenix, the City of Flagstaff, the State of Arizona, and various tribal entities as being declared Indigenous Peoples Day, Nican Tlakah Ilhuitl.

The presenters included: Elsa Beatriz Son Chonay representing the Cachiquel Maya from Guatemala as a Cultural ambassador for the Mayan people; Sonia Smallacombe, a member of the Maramanidji people from the Daly region of the Northern Territory, Australia; Tonya Gonnella Frichner translating for Elsa Son Chonay founder of the American Indian Law Alliance, from the Onondaga Nation, Haudenosaunee, Iriquois Confederacy; Tupac Enrique from Tonatierra representing the Xicano Nahuatl Nation.

The panel of indigenous activists was moderated by Dr. Octaviana Trujillo, Chair of the NAU Applied Indigenous Studies Department.



(left to right) Dr. Neustadt, Sonia Smallacombe, Dr. Octaviana Trujillo, Elsa Beatriz Son Chonay, Tonya Gonnella Frichner, & Tupac Enrique after the forum

Thank you to all the co-sponsors of the event, the Applied Indigenous Studies Department, the Black Mesa Water Coalition, and the Associated Students for Women's Issues.

JUAN SOLDADO: Rapist, Murderer, Martyr, Saint

On April 1st, Paul Vanderwood, *Emeritus Professor of History, San Diego State University*, presented about Juan Soldado, a 24-year old Mexican soldier accused of the 1938 rape and murder of an eight year old girl in Tijuana, Mexico. He confessed to the crime and was publicly executed in the town cemetery. All this occurred within four days. Curious people visiting the grave site of the soldier reported signs at the site: blood bubbled up out of the ground; the soldier's soul was said to be crying out for revenge. People began to suspect that some injustice had occurred, and they knew that those unjustly executed sit close to God. Those close to God are especially effective intercessors, and believers began to pray to him for favors: health, safe passage for illegals crossing the border, automobiles, improved family relations, good grades in school, and employment. Miracles followed. The faithful called the soldier Juan Soldado and proclaimed him a great miracle worker. They erected a shrine at the burial site, and today that shrine is visited daily by believers. Juan has become known as the patron saint of those who cross the line into the United



States, although his miracles cover all phases of daily life.

Thank you Dr. Susan Deeds for inviting Dr. Vanderwood.

Thank you Dr. Juanita Heredia for coordinating the film festival.

PEDRO INFANTE FILM FESTIVAL

Over the course of the first two weeks of April, four Pedro Infante films were screened. The films screened were: *Nosotros, los pobres* (1947), *Ustedes, los ricos* (1948), *A Toda Máquina* (1951) and *Angelitos Negros* (1948). The film *Ustedes, Los Ricos* was accompanied by a performance by the NAU Mariachi band.



Pedro Infante was born in Guamuchil, Sinaloa, Mexico, on December 17, 1917. Undoubtedly, Pedro Infante was -and continues to be- the idol of Mexico. His fame and the phenomenon of his stardom has not been matched by any movie star in the years following his death. His death on a plane crash in 1957 is still one of the most remembered tragic events in recent Mexican history. Since then, his popularity has grown reaching younger generations born after their idol was gone. This festival of four films paid homage to Pedro Infante in memory of his death in the month of April forty-seven years ago. As the popular saying goes in Mexico, "*Pedro Infante no ha muerto,*" his spirit lives on.

Check out our website:
www4.nau.edu/las/

OTHER EVENTS

IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

On September 24, the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride (IWFR) tour stopped in Flagstaff. The LASC was a co-sponsor of the IWFR visit to Flagstaff.

VICENTE FOX ASSMEBLY TRIP

On November 4, the LASC organized a group of students to see Mexican President Vicente Fox speak at the Phoenix, Civic Plaza.

SUNNYSIDE MURAL PROJECT

Over the course of the Spring semester, LASC Graduate Assistant Jeronimo Vasquez has been working with the Sunnyside community on designing a new mural for the Ponderosa Headstart building in the Sunnyside neighborhood on the East side of Flagstaff. A group of artists will begin painting the mural on May 10th. Volunteers are welcomed. For more information contact Jeronimo Vasquez at 523-0064.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Geeta Chowdry, Professor of Political Science has been teaching and researching interests in development related issues. She also teaches World Politics and Globalization, thus understanding Latin America is critical to her research and teaching endeavors. She had the unique honor of introducing the Internationally known feminist Vandava Shiva during a guest lecture presentation in March.

Susan Deeds, Professor of History, won two awards from the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies in March 2004. Deeds won the Thomas F. McCann Memorial Prize for the best book on Latin American History (2003) for *Defiance and Deference in Colonial Mexico: Indians under Spanish Rule in Nueva Viscaya* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003). She also won the Edwin Lieuwen Memorial Prize for the Teaching of Latin American Studies and a Southwest Book Award from the Border Regional Library Association. At the time of the conference in March, Deeds was in Spain, where she presented a lecture titled “Misiones y etnicidad en el norte de México: siglos XVII y XVIII,” in the Departamento de Historia de las Américas of the Universidad de Seville, Seville, Spain, on March 18, 2004.

George Gumerman IV, Associate Professor and Chair of the Anthropology department is an archaeologist currently researching prehistoric food and culture on the north coast of Peru. The Moche Floodways Archaeological Project aims to understand Moche culture through the study of food (see <http://moche.nau.edu>). Moche culture is consumed by death, warfare, and human sacrifice. Gumerman’s discovery of a large

funerary feasting complex at the extraordinary site of El Brujo indicates that feasting also revolved around death. Gumerman also has a broad interest in public archaeology including the development of an interactive educational CD-ROM: The Interactive Archaeology of the Grand Canyon and Colorado Plateau (<http://idig.nau.edu>). Fourth through sixth grade students create a virtual museum exhibit by exploring who lived in the Grand Canyon and how they existed. In addition, Gumerman is collaborating with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, educators, elders, and archaeologists, to develop a Hopi culture curriculum for Hopi schools. The Hopi Footprints project is an incredible opportunity to improve teacher quality that uses archaeology and elder oral history as a foundation to build a standards-based cultural curriculum.

Juanita Heredia, Assistant Professor of Spanish, presented papers at the following professional conferences: 1) “Caramelo: Crossing Borders in Translating Golden Age Mexican Culture” at the Fourth International Conference on Chicano Literature in Seville, Spain, May, 2004; 2) “Latina Writers Traveling with a Transnational Vision: The Politics of Identity, Gender and Race” for the panel, “Transnational Imaginary, Transnational Practice,” at the National Association of Chicano and Chicana Studies in Albuquerque, NM, April, 2004; and 3) “Geographies of Feminism in Recent Latina Narratives” at Desert Rain: Fourth Annual Women of Color conference at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, February, 2004. Her article, “From Golden Age Mexican Cinema to Transnational Border Feminism: The Community

of Spectators in Loving Pedro Infante" has been accepted for publication by the leading journal of Chicano studies at UCLA, Aztlán. She also coordinated the Pedro Infante Film Festival for the first time this spring at NAU. In April, she discussed her co-edited book *Latina Self-Portraits* (UNM press) for a radio broadcast in Austin, Texas. She was also awarded the 2004 Northern Arizona University Intramural Grant for her work on transnational feminism.

Edward Waters Hood Professor of Spanish published an article—"From Poet to Novelist: Gioconda Belli and the Sandinista Revolution," in *Ixquic* No. 4 (2003): 48-58—a reference entry—"Manlio Argueta" (*Reference Guide to World Literature*. Snohomish, WA: Full Circle, 2003) 66-67—interviews—"Mario Monteforte: un testigo del siglo xx" (*La Prensa Literaria* [suplemento literario de *La Prensa*, Managua, Nicaragua] 13 septiembre 2003) and "Manuel Zapata Olivella y Gabriel García Márquez" (*Ciberayllu*, 16 enero 23004) and several reviews—García Márquez, Gabriel. *Vivir para contarla* (*World Literature Today* 77.2 (2003); Moreiras, Alberto. *The Exhaustion of Difference: The Politics of Latin American Cultural Studies* (South Eastern Latin Americanist. Winter/Spring (2003); and Castillo, Roberto. *La guerra mortal de los sentidos* (*WLT* 77.2 [2003]). In March, through a President's recruitment and retention grant authored with Modern Languages chair Joe Collentine, Hood and colleague Elisa Rosales visited Yuma High School's "fluent speakers" Spanish classes.

Bob Neustadt, Associate Professor of Spanish, served as chair of Latin

American Studies for the third year. He published an invited book chapter, "Diamela Eltit: Performing Action in Dictatorial Chile" in the collection, *Holy Terrors: Latin American Women Perform* (Ed. Diana Taylor and Roselyn Costantino. Durham and London: Duke U P, 2003. 117-34). Another article, "Music as Memory and Torture: Sounds of Repression and Protest in Chile and Argentina" will be published in this May's volume of *Chasqui: Revista de literatura latinoamericana*. Bob accompanied four NAU students to El Salvador where they performed three plays in the 2ndo Festival Internacional de Teatro Universitario. He was also offered a Distinguished NEH Visiting Professorship at SUNY, Potsdam. He will be teaching for the University Studies Abroad Consortium in Heredia Costa Rica next fall, and will then be going on Sabbatical.

Verónica Pérez Rodríguez is a first year Assistant Professor of Anthropology, who specializes in Mesoamerican archeology. This year she was awarded the 2004 Northern Arizona University Intramural Grant for her work on *Specialized Craft Production and Social Complexity in Formative Mixteca Alta*. She also co-authored the article, "Monte Negro and the Urban Revolution in Oaxaca, Mexico" in *Latin American Antiquity*, and presented the paper, "Terrace Construction and Household Labor in the Mixtec Cacicazgo", in the session, "Oaxaca Archaeology", at the Society for American Archaeology 69th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada. Currently Pérez Rodríguez is working on, *Household Intensification in the Mixtec Cacicazgo: Excavation of a House and Terraced Field*, an article length

summary of dissertation results, and co-authoring the [untitled] monograph on results of the Central Mixteca Alta Settlement Pattern Project. She is also working on co-authoring the article *Epopeya de la Mixteca: Como se hace y rehace la civilización.*

Dr. Susana Rivera-Mills is an Associate Professor of Spanish, with research interests in sociolinguistic studies of the Central American "voseo", particularly as it is used in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. Currently, she is conducting a comparative study of the use of the "voseo" among third generation Salvadorans living in the United States and those residing in El Salvador.

Daniel R. Serpas, Instructor in Spanish, spent March 16th to March 23rd as an international observer in the Presidential elections in El Salvador. There were more than 4000 invited observers from more than 40 countries. He also served as a translator for international observers who did not speak Spanish in the days before the elections, and was able to travel the country with the presidential candidates.

Jerónimo Vásquez, Graduate Assistant for Latin American Studies and Master's student in Anthropology, has been involved in developing several community based projects. These include working with the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association on a community mural, developing his internship with a grassroots organization in Guatemala, and writing funding proposals for the Museum project his internship is based on. He will be in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala for his internship over the summer. In October,

he attended the International Indian Treaty Council 2003 conference in Sac and Fox Oklahoma and spoke on a panel about Sacred Sites on behalf of the Black Mesa Water Coalition. In March he spoke at a Colombia Action Network gathering about campus organizing. Later that month he was a facilitator for a workshop on youth organizing at the Indigenous Peoples Day event in Phoenix March 13th.

Miguel Vasquez, Professor of Anthropology, serves as trainer and consultant with the RARE project-Rapid Assessment Response and Evaluation, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sponsored program to develop effective community-based interventions to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in African American and Latino communities across the United States. For his long time work in enhancing diversity at NAU, he was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the NAU Commission on Ethnic Diversity at their annual awards reception on April 20th.



Lake Atitlán, Guatemala

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