



Latin American Studies 2004-2005 LASC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Latin American Studies Committee

Northern Arizona University

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Latin American Studies Committee Report

It was a busy year for the Latin American Studies Committee. We showed films and sponsored lectures on Mexico, Honduras, Colombia and Cuba on topics ranging from literary criticism in Central America to indigenous peoples in Mexico, Jews in Castro's Cuba, García Márquez, and art history in Mexico. A major interdisciplinary event involving lots of time and effort to plan and coordinate was Brazil Week, a labor of love for Rodrigo de Toledo (Visual Communications) and Irene Matthews (English) who were determined to place our largest hemispheric neighbor in NAU's consciousness. We are happy to report there are now a lot of people out there who know where Brazil is and who recognize the name Lula! We are very grateful to all of you who participated in making the 2004-2005 a success in enlightening the NAU and Flagstaff communities on culture and politics in Latin America. We especially want to thank our multicultural and multilingual student coordinator, Hanna Dahlström, for a job well done. We wish her well as she continues her Latin American journey, this time in Ecuador where she will be doing community development.

Susan Deeds, LASC Chair

Check out our new website:
www.cal.nau.edu/las

Thank you Tim Darby!

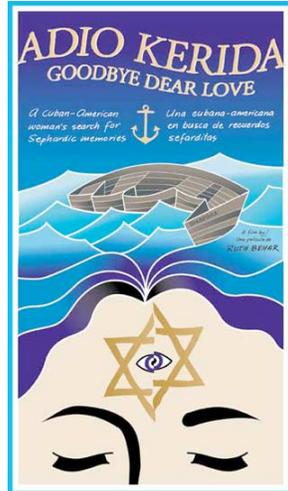
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Latin American Studies Events

Adio Kerida

The very first event of 2004-05 was the screening of the film *Adio Kerida*, co-sponsored by Latin American Studies, Women's Studies, and the Martin Springer

Institute in celebration of Jewish history month. *Adio Kerida*, is a personal documentary directed and produced by Ruth Behar about the search for identity and memory among Sephardic Jews with roots in Cuba.



Literatura y cultura centroamericana post-1990

On October 11th, Dr. Héctor Miguel Leyva Carías, professor of la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras spoke about contemporary Central American literature and culture. He holds a Ph.D. in Latin American literature from la Universidad Complutense de Madrid where he studied narrative and Central American revolutionary processes. His published works include: *El fatalismo en la literatura y en la cultura de Honduras* (2003) and *Literatura y tradición oral tawahka* (2000). He has carried out research on culture and

development for the United Nations Development Program in Honduras. The presentation was in Spanish with translation into English and was co-sponsored by the department of Modern Languages.

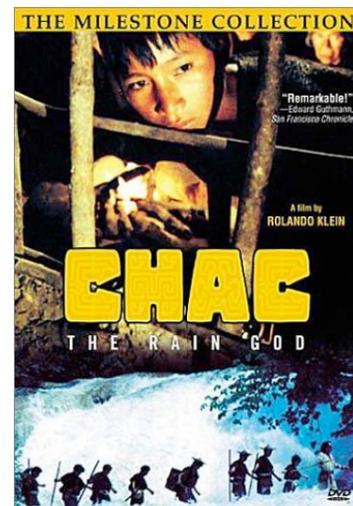
Thanks to Edward Hood for bringing Héctor Leyva Carías to NAU!

Chac: The Rain God

On the good advice of professor Miguel Vásquez, on October 25 the Latin American Studies screened the film *Chac: The Rain God* which, not seen for decades after its original run, was restored from the original 35 mm negative for a 2000 theatrical run and this video release. Desperate for relief from a devastating drought, the residents of a small Tzeltal village set out on a quest to save their people from starvation. They seek assistance from a Diviner who lives in the mountains, and he takes them on an odyssey to summon Chac, the Rain God.

The film is in Tzeltal and Mayan dialects with English subtitles. Dr. Miguel Vásquez, NAU professor

of anthropology, introduced the film and led a discussion afterwards. This film is now available to check out at Cline Library.



Beyond Embargo, Cuban Realities in the 2000s: A Panel Discussion on Cuba.

On Dec. 1, the LASC put on a question and answer forum moderated by Dr. Sheryl Lutjens (Director of Women's Studies and Professor of Political Science). The lively and well-attended forum discussed topics that included tourism, education, U.S. policy, religion, food, culture, economy, and politics.

The panel members represented a wide spectrum of interests, from NAU undergraduate student Katie Curran's educational trip to study organic farming, to NAU professor Dave McKell's insights on spirituality and religion in Cuba. The other panel members were Beth Brown, Dan Cothran, Cheryl Cothran, Jennie Duran, Juanita Heredia, Mary McKell, Mary Ann Steger, and Carolyn White. After the panel officially ended, many people stayed to ask more questions.

Thank you to Sheryl Lutjens for organizing this event!



Brazil Week

The biggest event of the year by far for Latin American Studies was Brazil Week, held April 4-9, when Latin American Studies introduced students, faculty and the community to our largest hemispheric neighbor. The week's activities highlighted the efforts of Brazilian local communities and



indigenous groups to organize, to represent themselves, and to promote democracy,

environmental sustainability, and social justice in the wake of globalization and neoliberalism.

The week opened with a performance by the NAU capoeira group followed NAU School of Music's own Ricardo Pereira who sang Brazilian art song by Villa-Lobos, Ernani Braga and others, accompanied by Rita Borden on the piano.

The next day, it was time for another opening, this time of a gallery show in the School of Communication, curated by Rodrigo de Toledo, entitled "Brazil Design: New Talents – Interactive Display" with environmental photography by Francisco Pontual, a selection of Brazilian design, and still shots of contemporary documentaries.



Film director Cristiana Grumbach with Rodrigo de Toledo, NAU School of Communication.

The same evening, film director Cristiana Grumbach introduced a mini film festival, a selection of six documentaries and feature films from some of Brazil's most innovative directors. The festival opened with *Fala Tu* – "Speak Up" – directed by Cuilherme Coelho and Nathaniel Leclery, which showed the daily life of a number of "rap" composer-singers from some of the poorest areas of Rio de Janeiro. *Fala Tu* won the prize for best documentary at the Brazilian Film Festival in Rio, 2003; it was also an official selection at the Berlin Film Festival in the same year.

The LASC was also honored to be present at the premiere of Grumbach's own documentary *Maria de Todas as Horas*, co-directed with André Horta. A short documentary shot in Aparecida, São Paulo, on October 12, 2004, when 170,000 *romeiros* (pilgrims) paid homage to Nossa Senhora da Aparecida, it features Dona Canô Veloso and Maria Bethânia, who sang four songs during the ceremony in the *Basílica Menor*.

In addition, Brazil Week also screened a documentary by Dr.

Cliff Welch, a historian of contemporary Brazil. *Grass War! Peasant Struggle in Brazil* (now also available in Cline library) was directed by Cliff Welch and Toni Perrine. Dr. Welch also gave a presentation entitled "Moving Toward Orthodoxy: Brazil and the Ironies of Democracy" on April 6 in the evening. He chronicled the 20th-century history of Brazil, and gave an up-to-date appraisal of Brazil's iconoclastic president, Luis Ignacio da Silva (Lula). He also discussed Brazil's relations with the United States and the rest of the world. Dr. Welch is currently a visiting professor at Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo, on leave from his position as Associate Professor of History at Grand Valley State University.

SEMANA DO BRASIL
APRIL 4 - 8

APRIL 4 :: 5 pm :: Old Main Gallery	Brazil Week Opening Reception
APRIL 4 :: 7 pm :: Ashurst Auditorium	Ricardo Pereira acc. by Rita Borden Sings Brazilian Art-Song, by Viba-Lobos, Ernani Braga and Others.
APRIL 5-8 :: 9-5 pm :: COM Gallery	COM Gallery (School of Communication :: Bldg. 16) Gallery Show :: Curators: Rodrigo De Toledo Opening Reception on April 5th 10:30-11pm Brazil Design: New Talents - Interactive Display Environmental Photography by Francisco Pontual Contemporary Documentaries - Posters and Still Shots
APRIL 5-7 :: 6:30-9 pm :: LA135	Contemporary Brazilian Documentaries - Presented by Filmmaker Cristiana Grumbach April 5 :: 6:30-9pm Batuque na Cozinha (30 min.) April 6 :: 2-5pm Maria de Todas as Horas (20min.) April 7 :: 2-5pm Fala Tu (74 min.) Edificio Master (100 min.) Rio de Jato (23 min.)
APRIL 6 :: 12:30-2:30 pm :: LA135	Film Series A Pessoa é para o que nasce (34 min.) Aranha Azul (25 min.) Grass War! Peasant Struggle in Brazil
APRIL 6 :: 6:30-9 pm :: LA135	"Moving toward Orthodoxy: Brazil and the Irony of Democracy" Cliff Welch, historian, Grand Valley State University, Visiting Professor Catholic University São Paulo, Grass War! Peasant Struggle in Brazil.
APRIL 7 :: 5:30-7 pm :: LA135	"Brazil Design: New Talents"- Rejane Spitz, international scholar/techno-artist, Head of the Department of Art & Design at the Catholic University Rio de Janeiro.
APRIL 7 :: 7 pm :: LA135	"The Caratinga Alliance: Forek for the Marigui, Water for the Farmers" Francisco Pontual, Conservation Biologist and Fellow of the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, discusses extinction concerns, reforestation and conservation programs in Central Brazil and Amazonia.
APRIL 8 :: 2-5 pm :: LA135	Conversation: Brazil Revealed - Interactive Panel with all speakers

Organized by Northern Arizona University Latin American Studies and the Visual Communication Program

Contributors: Departments:	Departments: Arts & Religion	Programs:	Others:
Applied Indigenous Studies	Modern Languages	Latin American Studies	College of Arts & Letters
Anthropology	Political Science	Latin American Studies	Office of the Provost
Biological Sciences	Visual Communication	Program in Community, Culture	International Office
English	Women's Studies	Environment	School of Communication
History			

More information visit: www.cal.nau.edu/las • email: hanna.dahlstrom@nau.edu



Thank you to Patricia Murphey, NAU School of Communication for the graphic design work!

Rejane Spitz, Professor of Cultural Studies and an interactive artist spoke on April 7. Her presentation, "Brazil Design: New Talents," showcased the latest in Brazilian contemporary design. Dr. Spitz is currently the head of the Department of Art & Design at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.

Last, but not least, was a presentation on environmental efforts in forested areas where farmers are learning new techniques for sustainable development. In his talk with power point images, "The Caratinga Alliance: Forest for the Muriqui, Water for the Farmers," Francisco Pontual, conservation biologist, photographer, and Fellow of the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, discussed extinction concerns, reforestation and conservation programs in Central Brazil and Amazônia.

Thank you to the team of Susan Deeds (History), Irene Matthews (English), and Rodrigo de Toledo (Communication) for organizing and coordinating this extraordinary interdisciplinary event.

Thanks also to the many others who made Brazil Week possible! Organized by the Latin American Studies Committee and the Visual Communication Program, a number of other programs contributed: the departments of Anthropology, Applied Indigenous Studies, Biology, English, History, Humanities, Arts & Religion, Modern Languages, Political Science, Visual Communication,

and Women's Studies. Also, we would like to thank Masters of Liberal Studies program, the Program in Community, Culture & Environment, the College of Arts and Letters, Office of the Provost, the International office, the School of Communication and the Cline Library.

Images and Miracles at the Colonial Missions of Northern New Spain

This event on April 28 brought a full house to LA 135 thanks to the lecture and slide presentation by Dr. Clara Bargellini, Professor of Art History at the Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City. Dr. Bargellini received her Ph.D. in Art History from Harvard and is one of Mexico's foremost historians of colonial Mexican art, with an emphasis on the art and architecture of Jesuit and Franciscan missions of northern Mexico and the southwest United States. Dr. Clara Bargellini gave a talk on the art of colonial missions in northern Mexico/US Southwest, focusing on the iconography of different saints. She has been a visiting professor at many institutions in the U.S.

Thank you Susan Deeds for inviting Dr. Clara Bargellini to NAU!

**Check out our website:
www.cal.nau.edu/las**

Other events

LASC also co-sponsored the following events:

4th World War, film

On October 30 the Student Action Network showed this independent film about global resistance in the Cline library auditorium.

Alejo Carpentier : 100 Years of Marvelous Reality

On November 16th, in celebration of the aniversario of Cuban writer Alejo Carpentier, Irene Matthews (English), and Cecilia Ojeda (Modern Languages) presented perspectives on his work.

Carpentier is widely regarded as one of Latin America's greatest writers, but also important as a theorist of its literature and as a historian of its music. This event was organized by the LLLT Study Group and the Department of Modern Languages and co-sponsored by the LASC.

Salsa, Celia Cruz and Afro-Cuban Culture

On November 18, Ethnic Studies organized a discussion, reading, and book signing with Dr. Monica Brown, Associate Professor of English & children's book author. Dr. Sheryl Lutjens (Women's Studies & Political Science), a Cuba specialist, gave a talk on Cuban culture, and Monica Brown read from her new bilingual children's picture book, *My Name is Celia/Me Llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/La Vida de Celia Cruz*. This

event was co-sponsored by LAS and Women's Studies.

Perspectives on Cuba: a talk by Tom Miller

On April 15, the LASC hosted a visit and talk by Tom Miller, author of *Trading with the Enemy: A Yankee Travels through Castro's Cuba, The Panama Hat Trail, On the Border, and Jack Ruby's Kitchen Sink: Offbeat Travels through America's Southwest*. Miller spoke on life in contemporary Cuba. This event was co-sponsored by the Department of History.

Faculty Accomplishments

Judith Costello, instructor of Spanish, had an article on Mexican cinema published in *REVIEW* magazine in May. She also did research in Panama over winter break and was awarded a CTEL grant to put her course, HUM 381, *MEXICAN ARTS & CULTURE*, on the web. She continued to present the Modern Language Film Series Wednesday nights in LA135

Susan Deeds, Professor of History and Latin American Studies Coordinator, spent the summer of 2005 in Mexico City, carrying out research in the Archivo General de la Nación for a new project on gendered aspects of criminality in colonial northern Mexico. In October 2004, she was a guest in a symposium at the University of Arizona that discussed the significance and impact of James Brooks' multiple prize-winning book, *Captives and Cousins*:

Slavery, Kinship and Community in the Southwest Borderlands (2002). In January 2005, she chaired the session of the Border/Frontiers Committee of the Conference on Latin American History, "Clerical Activities on the Frontiers of Empire," at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association Meeting, and she served as an evaluator for NEH collaborative research projects on Latin America in Washington, D.C. She organized two sessions for the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies meeting in Tucson at the end of March: "Peoples and Network in Colonial and Early National Period Sinaloa and Sonora," and "Genetics, Cultural Exchanges, and Ethnogenesis in the Greater Southwest." She gave a paper on the latter panel entitled "Biological and Cultural Mestizaje in Nueva Vizcaya."

Kelley Hays-Gilpin, Associate Professor of Anthropology, spent her 2004-2005 sabbatical leave exploring the last four thousand years of interactions among the peoples of central and northern Mexico and what is now the Southwestern U.S. She taught four seminars on Ancestral Pueblo and Hopi archaeology at the Universidad Autónoma de México in Mexico City, and presented a paper at the second Vías del Noroeste conference in Real de Catorce, San Luis Potosí. The conference explored ethnobotany, dance, music, architecture, and art associated with prehistoric occupation, migration, pilgrimage, and Spanish colonization in northern Mexico and the

Southwest. Hays-Gilpin then took part in a six-week National Endowment of the Humanities Summer Institute entitled "Mesoamerica and the Southwest: A New History for a New Land." Fellows are college and community college teachers from all over the U.S. Instructors, all experts in archaeology, history, art history, and literature, included David Carrasco, Timothy Kna, Karl Taube, J.J. Brody, Curtis Schaafsma, and Polly Schaafsma. The Institute was conducted in Mexico City for three weeks and included lectures and visits to important archaeological sites such as Teotihuacan, Tula, Malinalco, the Templo Mayor, and Tezcotzingo, as well as Catholic pilgrimage sites with Precolumbian antecedents, such as Chalma and the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Fellows visited Casas Grandes in Chihuahua and sites in the El Paso/Juárez area, and then settled at the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico for a few weeks to explore Pueblo history and culture at Pecos National Monument, Chaco Canyon, Canyon de Chelly, and other sites. As a result of her newly expanded horizons, Hays-Gilpin is already incorporating new material about Mexico into her archaeology classes, and hopes to offer a course on Southwestern and northern Mexican art soon. Together with Susan Deeds and Miguel Vasquez, she will help organize the next Vías del Noroeste conference, which will take place at NAU in the spring of 2006.

Juanita Heredia, Assistant Professor of Spanish, presented papers at several professional conferences. These included: 1)

"The Politics of Transnational Gender Identity in Contemporary Latina Narratives" at the American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, May, 2004; 2) XII World Congress of Comparative Education, Havana, Cuba, October, 2004; 3) "Transnational Critical Chicana Feminism: From Colonial Legacy to Global Histories" at the Division of Chicana and Chicano Literature, Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, December, 2004; 4) "Chicana Feminism" at the Regional MEChA Conference in Flagstaff, AZ, February, 2005. She also chaired a roundtable, "Mujeres in MEChA: Chicano Leadership Transforming" at the Women of Color Conference in Flagstaff, AZ, April, 2005. In addition, she participated on the panel, "Beyond Embargo: Cuban Realities in the 2000s" organized by Dr. Sheryl Lutjens in December, 2004. Her article, "*Caramelo: Crossing Borders in Translating Golden Age Mexican Culture*", has been accepted for publication by *Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos* at the University of Seville. She also contributed a book chapter and republished two interviews for a critical reader on the fictional works by Chicana writer Helena María Viramontes. Finally, she published five essays on Latino/a musicians from Joan Báez to Maná in *An Encyclopedia of Latino Popular Culture in the United States* (Westford, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004). In the fall, she was awarded an International Conference Travel grant to go to Cuba.

Edward Waters Hood, Professor of Spanish, presented "The Life and Works of Gabriel García Márquez" for the Cerritos (CA) Library's Nobel Laureates for Literature series and published "Un testigo del siglo veinte: entrevista con Mario Monteforte" (*Alba de América* 23.43/44 (2004): 607-613)—one of the last interviews with the Guatemalan novelist and intellectual Mario Monteforte Toledo (1911-2004)—and reviews in *World Literature Today*: Dorothy E. Mosby, *Place, Language and Identity in Afro-Costa Rican Literature* (78:3-4 (2004): 157); Stephen White, *El mundo más que humano en la poesía de Pablo Antonio Cuadra: un estudio ecocrítico* (73.3-4(2003):147); and Sergio Ramírez, *Sombras nada más* (73:3-4(2003): 142). A version of the interview with Mario Monteforte Toledo, published in *La Prensa Literaria* (Managua) in homage to the author, can be viewed at: <http://www-ni.laprensa.com.ni/archivo/2003/septiembre/13/literaria/en sayos/>

Eric Meeks, Assistant Professor of History, received recognition for his article, "The Tohono O'odham, Wage Labor, and Resistant Adaptation, 1900-1930," *Western Historical Quarterly* 34 (Winter 2003): 468-489, by garnering two prizes at the October, 2004 Western History Association Conference: the Bolton-Kinnard Award (2004) for the best article published in 2003 on the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands (awarded by the Western History Association) and the Oscar O. Winther Award (2004) for the best article

appearing in the *Western Historical Quarterly* in 2003 (awarded by the Board of Editors of the WHQ). He was also awarded a Clements Research Fellowship for the Study of Southwestern America, Southern Methodist University, fall 2005.



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