

# Latin American Studies

## NEWSLETTER

2010-2011

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### Note from the Director



What a year this has been! Arizona charged into the international spot light with a series of laws focusing on immigration and Latin American Studies played a lead role in helping to educate the NAU community on the issues. Only by sorting out the facts and educating ourselves can we hope to find viable solutions to these difficult and divisive issues.

With so many of our core committee members retiring and/or leaving NAU in recent years, the LAS committee has been reduced to a very small group. I'm happy to report that in the fall we will welcome a new tenure track Latin Americanist in History. Ryan Kashanipour, whose dissertation (UofA) explores Mayan medicinal practices in the Yucatan during the *Colonia*, will be a fabulous addition to our faculty. Not only is Ryan's research cutting edge, he is an innovative teacher whose interests span from Colonial

Mexico to present day Latin America. Once he arrives in August, Ryan promises to be an active member of LAS!

I hope you enjoyed the diverse series of programs that Latin American Studies brought to campus. This year's speakers included some VERY high profile guests—Thomas Saenz, Luis Valdez, Margaret Randall and Peter Kornbluh—speakers accustomed to visiting institutions with much larger endowments and budgets than NAU. By combining the resources of CAL, CIE, Comparative Cultural Studies, Community Culture and Environment, English, Ethnic Studies, Modern Languages, Politics and International Affairs and Women and Gender Studies, we were able to provide programming of the caliber of an Ivy League powerhouse. I want to thank each of these units for their help in allowing us to fund our programs.

In addition to guest speakers and films, our academic program also had a very successful year. LAS minors have increased almost three-fold since the beginning of Fall Semester, 2010.

Lastly, I want to thank our student worker, Alix Rael, for her efforts over the course of the year. We wish her the best in her next phase of life as a graduate student in Teacher Training at the University of New Mexico. We also bid farewell to Victor Gonzalez, our AMITY intern, who is returning to Costa Rica to finish his degree. In addition to helping out as a volunteer at Latin American Studies events and in Spanish classes, Victor's Latin Dance classes during Spring Semester (drawing from 26-56 students!) provided opportunities for students to learn about Latin American culture and language in a fun and enjoyable context. *¡Pura vida!*

Have a wonderful summer everyone!

Robert Neustadt, Director of Latin American Studies

# SB1070 and the Battle Over Immigration

**SB 1070 and the Battle Over Immigration**  
a Three-Part Series

**Part 1: Debating the Issues**  
Monday, October 4 • 7 p.m.  
High Country Conference Center • 201 W. Butler Ave.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**  
**Thomas A. Saenz**  
President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
**Jessica Vaughn**  
Director of Policy Studies, Center for Immigration Studies  
Featuring the NAU Debate Team

**Part 2: Facts and Stories**  
Monday, October 11 • 7 p.m.  
High Country Conference Center • 201 W. Butler Ave.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Jack Chin**  
*Who the People – The Constitutionality of Arizona Immigration Laws*  
Chin is a Professor of Law and the Director of the Program in Criminal Law and Policy, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.

**Community Concerns**  
Representatives from the migrant community, law enforcement, the Interfaith Council, and City Council will voice their concerns in a panel discussion.

**Part 3: Rights and Reform-Call to Action**  
Time and place to be announced.

Sponsors include: Martin Springer Institute, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Ethnic Studies Program, Latin American Studies Program, Program in Community, Culture and the Environment, College of Arts and Letters.

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY**  
College of Arts & Letters  
Martin Springer Institute  
cal.nau.edu/msi/

**FREE EVENT**

During Fall Semester, Latin American Studies collaborated with the Martin Springer Institute, the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, Ethnic Studies, Program of Community, Culture and the Environment, and a team of interdisciplinary faculty to produce three events about SB1070 and the battle over immigration.

On **Monday October 4, 2010**, NAU's award-winning debate team debated SB1070's effectiveness, constitutionality and relevance. Following the NAU debate team, Sara Vaughn, from the Center for Immigration Services, and Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund debated the issues surrounding SB 1070.

**Part 2: Monday October 11, 2010:** The second part of the series addressed community impact and the constitutionality of the bill itself. Dr. Jack Chin, Chester H. Smith Professor of Law at the University of Arizona, spoke on the constitutionality of SB1070, a controversy that has clouded the issue since the bill was first signed in April 2010.

**Part 3:** On **Tuesday October 12, 2010**, students, faculty, and local community member gathered to discuss what action might be taken concerning this law. Representatives from No Más Muertes (No More Deaths), Repeal, and Northern Arizona Interfaith Council (NAIC) gave presentations followed by an open conversation with those who attended.

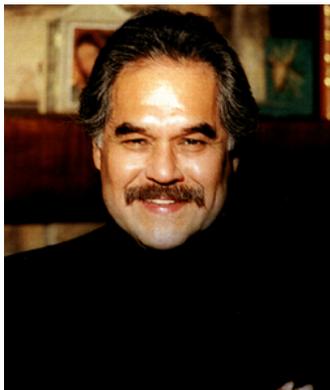
# Wild Versus Wall

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, Dan Millis, Borderlands Campaign Organizer for Arizona's Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club gave a presentation on the ecological effects of the wall on the US / Mexico border.,. The presentation began with a screening of the Sierra Club border film, *Wild Versus Wall*. Illustrating the ecological effects of enforcement and infrastructure in the four states that share boundaries with Mexico (CA, AZ, NM, and TX). Millis also presented a slideshow, featuring more in-depth aspects of the areas that have been affected. The presentation demonstrated the ineffectiveness of the border wall and stressed the importance of addressing root causes of border migration such as unfair trade policies and quality of life.



Millis showed endangered animals and plants whose habitats have been destroyed by the wall. The environmental terrain has been altered to support an unnatural structure. Destroying water flow, plant growth, animal survival and habitat has made this wall not only an act of American power and isolationism but also of inhumanity as it destroys the environment and lives of more than just borderland human inhabitants. The significance of Millis's message and presentation was not lost on the audience.

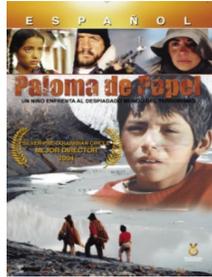
## Luis Valdez



Latin American Studies co-sponsored this year's Cline Lecture, "An Evening with Luis Valdez" on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Chicano playwright and film director Luis Valdez talked about his life and experiences working with Cesar Chavez when he founded *Teatro Compesino* during the 1965 Delano Grape strike. Valdez's message to turn problems into positive issues proved moving and inspirational to the audience.

Latin American Studies was proud to help in hosting an event featuring this influential, playwright, film-maker, artist and activist.

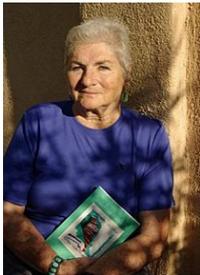
# Andean Film Festival



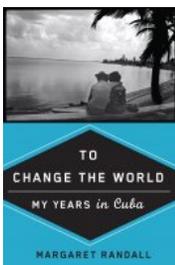
Juanita Heredia, Associate Professor of Spanish in the Modern Languages Department, organized this film festival. On the nights of Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup>, Latin American Studies screened three Andean films: *Paloma de Papel* (2003, dir. Fabrizio Aguilar), *Soy Andina* (2007, dir. Mitchel Teplitzky), and *La Teta Asustada* (2009, dir. Claudia Llosa). Through history, women's issues, and politics, these films illustrate the culture, history, and present of Andean Peru.

These films interlace major themes often taught in Latin American Studies such as women's issues, transnationalism, culture, politics, and history.

## Margaret Randall



On the afternoon of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Margaret Randall gave a reading of her poems about borders—a reading that she compiled specially for NAU. She had never presented a reading that focused on borders and did so at the request of Latin American Studies. When choosing the poems, she found that she had a wide range of poetry that addresses different types of borders. In addition to the highly contested border between Mexico and the United States, her poetry explores the border between Israel and the occupied territories. Other of her poems focus on the Berlin Wall. Additionally, Margaret read poems about the still crumbling borders of queer identity and the obstinate border between those who have and those who always end up "being had."



At 7pm Ms. Randall read from her book, *To Change the World: My Years in Cuba* (2009) and from a new manuscript of observations about contemporary Cuba. The book is a memoir from several perspectives including that of a political activist, a feminist, a writer, and a social commentator. It is her journey of struggle and choice as she bounces back and forth between her commitment to the Cuban Revolution and to her own family. She writes with frank honesty about her idealistic dreams from the early stages of the Revolution, as well as the Revolution's triumphs and failures.

# Pantaleón y las Visitadoras

On March 22, 2011 Latin American Studies presented the film *Pantaleón y las visitadoras* (2000, dir. Francisco J. Lombardi) made from Mario Vargas Llosa's novel of the same name in the Gardner auditorium (School of Business). Juanita Heredia, Associate Professor of Spanish in the Modern Languages Department, gave an overview of the career of Vargas Llosa who was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 2010. This humorous parody about the Peruvian army provided lots of laughs, as well as serious fodder for thought related to power, authority and gender.



## Peter Kornbluh



On April 26, 2011 Peter Kornbluh, director of the National Security Archive's Chile and Cuba Documentation Projects, visited Northern Arizona University for the second time. In 2004 Peter came to NAU to talk about his ground-breaking book, *The Pinochet File: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability*. This year, he came to discuss the CIA-led Bay of Pigs Invasion in Cuba on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Kornbluh presented startling images via original CIA documents concerning the planning, execution and aftermath of the invasion in Cuba. He also told humorous and personal stories about meetings that he himself organized between CIA officials, former Kennedy administration members, members of the original invasion brigade, Fidel Castro and his government for the 40<sup>th</sup>

anniversary. Kornbluh's lecture inspired MANY questions and comments from an audience that was clearly intrigued by his presentation.

## TV Serrana

On April 22, 2011, Cuban documentary film-maker Carlos Rodríguez spoke about TV Serrana, a project that trains people in the rural mountainous area of the Sierra Maestra to film, edit and produce their own documentaries. Since its inception in 1993, TV Serrana has produced nearly 500 documentaries, some of which have won important prizes and been shown on Cuban national television. The four films that he screened gave tangible evidence of how the project has transformed the community, giving voice to its members and allowing them a way to critique and change the conditions and limitations that define their lives. Thematically, these films focus on local culture, local conditions and demonstrate the concern of members of the community with regards to their future. The presentation projected a unique perspective: Not only did the audience learn about a unique Cuban media project, we also were able to see how people live in the interior of Cuba, an area seldom visited by US citizens due to the complex political relationship between the two countries. Alex Halkin, founder of the Chiapas Media Project and currently the director of the America's Media Initiative accompanied Carlos Rodríguez on this 13 University tour. This was the first time Rodríguez has visited the United States. The tour and his visit to NAU constituted true cultural exchange. For more information on TV Serrana, see: [http://americasmediainitiative.org/?page\\_id=25](http://americasmediainitiative.org/?page_id=25)



## "6000 Bodies"

During "dead week" (May 1-5, 2011) members of our community had the opportunity to experience the art installation, "6000 bodies" in the quad behind the Franke College of Business. The installation, organized by Bob Neustadt and Shawn Skabelund (and executed in collaboration with a great number of faculty, students and community members including the group No More Deaths / No más muertes), placed 6000 crosses in a field to commemorate and honor the more than 6000 men, women, and children who have died while attempting to cross the border from Mexico into the United States since 1994. The group built and placed the crosses in an effort to call attention to the humanitarian crisis occurring on our border. "6000 bodies" does not proclaim any one



Photo by Jeff Strang

political perspective or ideology. Whereas the question of immigration is complex, it is our hope that people from both sides of the political spectrum can repudiate the fact that people are dying in the desert.

## Victor Gonzalez Herrera



Latin American Studies and the Department of Modern Languages welcomed Victor Gonzalez Herrera this year as an intern. Victor volunteered for the Modern Languages Department and assisted Spanish teachers in classes. He also worked a conversant in the Spanish immersion program, tutored students and gave presentations as a guest speaker. He led the Spanish conversation table, "La tertulia" and offered dance classes in *salsa*, *cumbia* and *merengue* at the Recreation Center during Spring semester. We thank Victor for his invaluable contributions to NAU and wish him the best on his return to Costa Rica.

### INTERVIEW:

**Where are you from?**

I am from Costa Rica. It is 20 minutes by car from the Capital, San Jose.

**What is your home like?**

Costa Rica is excellent! I love my country. Everything is "Pura vida".

**How did you come to be at NAU?**

Coming to the USA was always a dream for me. I met Dr. Neustadt in Costa Rica and we started talking about options for me to come to Flagstaff. I started researching the Internet until I found Amity Institute. They bring students to the USA to help other students that want to learn Spanish. NAU and the Amity Institute arranged an internship for me and now I'm here!

**What has made the biggest impression on you living in the US and, more specifically, being at NAU?**

For me, living here in Flagstaff is amazing and completely different from my country. People are really nice and the food is really good! NAU is in my heart. I love people here. Like I said before, it is a really different system. In Costa Rica we go to "Uni" and we come back home every day. Here, we study and stay at the University, it's a second home.

**What are your plans after the semester ends?**

I'm going back to Costa Rica to finish my degree in Tourism. I need to find a job and start saving money so I may go to my next dream country, Germany.

**What has been the best part of your experience here in Flagstaff?**

I can't complain about anything. Everything here in Flag and in the USA in general is good. My oral English gets better every day and that was the major incentive for me to come here. I live with a family here in Flag and it is the best family ever in USA. They make my time here better. I have learned a lot about culture and different lifestyles. I learned the differences between life in a big country and a little one.

# LAS Minor

Latin American Studies Website: <http://www.cal.nau.edu/LAS/>

An interdisciplinary minor in Latin American Studies is open to all interested NAU students. Its aim is to provide students with a broad cross-disciplinary familiarity with the Latin American region. In this 21-hour program, students may choose from courses in a variety of disciplines including: Anthropology, History, Humanities, Literature, Music, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Spanish. Minors must select courses from at least three different disciplines. Students who must meet a language requirement for their bachelor's degree must fulfill the requirement in Spanish. It is also strongly recommended that students taking the Latin American Studies minor select electives in the Spanish language because linguistic familiarity is so essential to a useful appreciation of the Latin American region.

## **Core Courses**

\*These core courses are being offered in the Fall of 2011

### **ANTHROPOLOGY**

253*	Archeology of Ancient Mexico: Maya and Aztec
303*	Peoples of Latin America
307	Central America
548	The Anthropology of Development (with instructor's permission)

### **ART HISTORY**

365*	Art & Architecture/ Mesoamerica and Maya
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### **GEOGRAPHY**

240*	World Geography West
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### **HISTORY**

280*	Colonial Latin America
281	Latin America from Independence to Present
380	500 Years of Indian Resistance
381*	U.S.-Mexico Borderlands
382*	Mexico: Yesterday and Today
396	Chicana/o History: A History of Mexican Americans
480	Regional Studies in Latin America
481	Recent Latin America
483	Rebellion & Revolution in South America, 1880-Present

### **HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

281*	Latin American Ideas & Values, On-line and asynchronous
381*	Mexican Arts & Culture, On-line and asynchronous
382*	World Perspectives, On-line and asynchronous

### **MUSIC**

360\* Topics in World Music: Latin American Music

**POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

366\* Latin American Politics  
357 \* Topics in Cultural Diversity  
421C\* Topics in Public Policy

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

380 Native American Religions (with instructor's permission)  
482C Mesoamerican Religions (with instructor's permission)

**SPANISH**

321\* Introduction to Literature in Spanish  
322 Hispanic Drama  
351\* Survey of Hispanic Literature: Peninsular  
352 Survey of Hispanic Literature: Spanish America  
353 Chicano & U.S. Latino Literature  
354\* Survey of Latin American Film  
404\* Advanced Composition and Conversation Latin/o American Cultural Studies  
405\* Hispanic Civilization: Spain (Yuma Campus Only)  
406 Hispanic Civilization: Spanish America  
452C\* Topics in Spanish American Literature  
531 Hispanic Writers in the United States (Instructor Permission Only)

**The following courses will also be accepted for Latin American Credit (This Section is Subject to Change):**

**There are currently no additional classes available.**

For more information contact Dr. Robert Neustadt (523-2411). Advising for this program is also available from the following members of the Latin American Studies Committee:

History: Dr. Victoria Spencer ([Victoria.spencer@nau.edu](mailto:Victoria.spencer@nau.edu))

Anthropology: Dr. Miguel Vasquez ([micheal.vasquez@nau.edu](mailto:micheal.vasquez@nau.edu))

Modern Languages: Dr. Edward Hood ([Edward.hood@nau.edu](mailto:Edward.hood@nau.edu)), Dr. Cecelia Ojeda ([Cecelia.ojeda@nau.edu](mailto:Cecelia.ojeda@nau.edu)), and Dr. Karen Schairer ([Karen.schairer@nau.edu](mailto:Karen.schairer@nau.edu)), and Juanita Heredia ([Juanita.Heredia@nau.edu](mailto:Juanita.Heredia@nau.edu))

Humanities: Judith Costello (online advising) ([judith.costello@nau.edu](mailto:judith.costello@nau.edu))

See preview pages for these courses, in some cases including a sample syllabus at: <http://classes.nau.edu/classes>

# Faculty Accomplishments

## Judith Costello

Judith Costello has been teaching Humanities and Film for the Latin American Studies Minor since the late 1990's. She currently teaches on-line. She will be receiving a Masters' in Liberal Studies: Film & Media Studies from ASU in May 2011. Since 2009 she has been volunteering with the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project as an interpreter, in addition to serving as a certified court interpreter in several Arizona counties and Federal jurisdictions. Judith also did on-air interpreting (LIVE!) for Spanish Language Radio in Phoenix as well as several translations. A return trip to Panamá over Winter Break was a highlight of 2010-2011.

## Susan Deeds

Susan M. Deeds, Professor Emeritus of History, is living in Mexico City where she continues to carry out research on colonial Mexican history. She served as the North American Coordinator for the 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of Mexican Historians held in Querétaro, Mexico, last October. In April she presented a paper at the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies in Santa Fe, entitled " 'El poco o ningún sigilo que se ha guardado': The Curious Case of Manuel de la Pro and Other Stories from Nueva Vizcaya." She has just published an article: "The Enlightened Colony," in *A Companion to Mexican History and Culture*, ed. William H. Beezley (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), 230-247.

## Juanita Heredia

Juanita Heredia, Associate Professor of Spanish, received a Faculty Summer Grant 2010 for research at the Dominican Studies Institute at the City University of New York. She published a book chapter, "The Dominican Diaspora Strikes Back: Cultural Archive and Race in Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*," in the edited collection *Hispanic Caribbean Literature of Migration: Narratives of Displacement* (New Directions in Latino American Culture Series, Palgrave Macmillan 2010). She also has a forthcoming interview with Peruvian American author Daniel Alarcón in *Latino Studies*. She was invited to contribute a chapter to *The Routledge Companion to Latino/a Literature*, edited by Frances Aparicio and Suzanne Bost. Furthermore, she presented two international talks: 1) "The Chicana Intellectual and the City: Negotiating Transnational Experiences in *Hungry Woman in Paris* and *Ugly Betty*" at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual American Studies Association of Turkey Conference in Alanya, Turkey, in November 2010; and 2) "The Latino Nerd: Transnational Experiences in Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*" at the Afro-Latin/American Research Association (ALARA) Conference in Lima, Peru, in August 2010. In addition, she organized a panel, which includes her talk, on "The Narratives of Sandra Cisneros in a World Context," that will take place at the Chicana/o Culture Conference in Cork, Ireland, in June 2011. For Latin American Studies at NAU, she presented an introduction to Mario Vargas Llosa, 2010 Nobel Prize Winner in Literature, and a film based on his novel, *Pantaleón y Las Visitadoras*, in March 2011. She also organized the Andean Cinema in the Americas film series, which included the Oscar-nominated Peruvian film, *La Teta Asustada* (directed by Claudia Llosa), in November 2010.

## Edward Hood

Edward Waters Hood (Professor of Spanish) has presented papers at conferences on the fiction and films of Gabriel García Márquez and of the Mexican Revolution, and two of his papers on Gabriel García Marquez's work, "Vida y ficción en *Vivir para contarla*" and "Los gringos de Gabriel García Márquez: los norteamericanos en su obra narrativa," were published in *Alba de América* and the *Proceedings of the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies*, respectively. He also contributed several reviews to *Hispania*. In July 2010, he taught a course on contemporary Central American testimonial narrative at the USAC study abroad program in Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

### **Eric Meeks**

This year my book, *Border Citizens: The Making of Indians, Mexicans, and Anglos in Arizona*, won the award for Most Significant Scholarly Work by a faculty member at NAU from the Office of the Vice President for Research. I chaired a panel at the Western History Association annual conference on comparative indigenous borderlands and presented on a panel on Race and Ethnicity in Arizona at the Tucson Festival of Books, and I published book reviews in *the American Historical Review*, *the Journal of American History*, *Ethnohistory*, and *Labor: Studies in Working Class History of the Americas*. I also became Coordinator of the Graduate Program in the History Department.

### **Robert Neustadt**

Robert Neustadt, Professor of Spanish and Director of Latin American Studies, gave four presentations at three conferences in Toronto (Canada), Santa Fe, NM and Lexington, KY. He also published three articles:

"Reading Spanish American National Anthems: 'Sonograms' of National Identity." *Music and Politics*. 5.1 (Winter 2011) : n. pag. Online. Internet. Available: <http://www.music.ucsb.edu/projects/musicandpolitics/archive/2011-1/neustadt.html>

"Whose *himno* is it? The Spanish National Anthem and the Communication of National Identity" Forthcoming in *Connections: European Studies Annual Review*. 6 (2011) : 9-13.

"Memoria del trauma colonial y herencia musical precolombina en la novela *Manchay Puytu* de Néstor Taboada Terán." *Huellas del mito prehispánico en la literatura latinoamericana*. Eds. Magdalena Chocano, William Rowe and Helena Usandizaga. Madrid and Frankfurt: Iberoamericana / Vervuert (2011) : 187-97.

In June 2010, Bob travelled to Guatemala to work on a documentary film about Guatemalan music that is based on his research. This summer's plans include writing the English subtitles. During Fall semester, he taught a Freshman Seminar that culminated with a five-day field trip to the US/Mexico border. In May 2011, he collaborated with Shawn Skabelund on the art installation, "6000 bodies", a piece that commemorates the more than 6000 men, women and children who have lost their lives while attempting to cross the US / Mexico border since 1994. Bob is currently the faculty advisor for the NAU student chapter of "No más muertes."