

Winter 2007–08

Life & Letters

Vida y Cartas

Gateway to the Americas and Changing U.S. Demographics



Winter 2007–08 Volume 7, Issue 1

Life & Letters

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Ambassadors of Hospitality

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Message from the Dean



Randy Diehl
Dean, College of Liberal Arts

You are part of this story. Liberal Arts graduates join a network of 100,000 alumni whose professional careers help shape communities, locally and internationally.

WHEN THE WORLD HAS QUESTIONS ABOUT LATIN America, reporters, educators and policymakers turn for answers to the College of Liberal Arts at The University of Texas at Austin.

This year, U.S. News and World Report ranked the university's graduate program in Latin American history No. 1 in the country. Through the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, the College of Liberal Arts is uniquely poised to forge innovative research collaborations that call upon the interdisciplinary talents of such nationally recognized programs as Anthropology, English, History, Spanish and Portuguese, and Sociology.

You are part of this story. Liberal Arts graduates join a network of 100,000 alumni whose professional careers help shape communities, locally and internationally.

For more than 35 years, graduates from the Population Research Center have been playing leadership roles in Latin America's government, business and community organizations.

Throughout the United States, UTeach graduates are among the best-prepared teachers to address communities' critical educational needs, including increased foreign language instruction.

Presidential Priority

This is an exciting time for your College of Liberal Arts. President William Powers Jr., who is expanding the university's cross-border collaborations with Mexico, has identified Liberal Arts as a top priority. In 2006, the president pledged \$1.3 million in recurring funds to support the History Department's research and teaching programs. This year, he committed similar support for the English Department.

During the next year, we will begin working with alumni and friends of the college to prepare for the university's capital campaign that will provide an opportunity to promote and support the college's departments, centers and students.

We will introduce you to the researchers, professionals, students and friends of the college who are defining the role of Liberal Arts in the 21st century through three theme-oriented issues of Life and Letters: Gateway to the Americas and Changing U.S. Demographics (Winter 2007-08); The Human Condition (Spring 2008); and The American Citizen and Modern Democracy (Fall 2008).

Gateway to the Americas and Changing U.S. Demographics

In the "Gateway to the Americas" section of this issue of Life and Letters, Ken Greene examines Mexico's evolving political landscape, while Wendy Hunter and Kurt Weyland explore the internal pressures Brazil faces despite its role as the region's economic juggernaut.

As Jonathan Brown leads a tour of Castro's Cuba, Nora England helps Mayas reclaim their culture after an era of violence in Guatemala.

In the "Changing U.S. Demographics" portion of the magazine, Cristina Cabello de Martínez and Peter Ward explain the cultural significance of the Dia de los Muertos celebration, and Domino Perez sheds light on the legend of La Llorona.

You will meet distinguished alumna Diana Natalicio, whose voice and vision shape the national dialogue on bi-national issues and Hispanic education. We also will introduce you to Robert Hummer, who leads the college's team of renowned sociologists to tackle the most pressing health and economic development issues facing the country and the world.

We hope you enjoy reading about the college's community of scholars, whose timely and relevant research touches upon every critical issue of our day—from politics and economics to social justice and culture.

Please keep in touch. We look forward to hearing from you—and to sharing your stories. ¶¶¶

Rankings

- 1**
Latin American History
- 5**
Sociology of Population
- 12**
Psychology
- 14**
Sociology
- 19**
English and History
- 25**
Economics and Political Science

This year, U.S. News and World Report named the university's Latin American History program the best in the United States. Seven other Liberal Arts programs made the list, based on expert opinion about program quality and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research and students.

Source: 2008 rankings of America's Best Graduate Schools, U.S. News and World Report.

— Randy Diehl

Bienvenidos: Texas Serves as Gateway to the Americas

Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies

BY CHRISTIAN CLARKE CÁSAZ

WITH ITS GEO-graphic, historical and cultural connections, Texas is uniquely poised to serve as the world's gateway to Latin America. And with long-standing academic and personal connections throughout the hemisphere, researchers at The University of Texas at Austin are uniquely qualified to serve as ambassadors to the Americas.

Internationally savvy scholars capitalize on the strengths of Texas to create the best academic programs, including the country's No. 1 Latin American history program, according to the 2008 U.S. News and World Report magazine rankings.

Housed in the College of Liberal Arts, the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS) draws from the talents of more than 30 academic departments, including government, economics, art, sociology, history, public policy and business.

"Conversations are key," Bryan Roberts, director of LLILAS, explains. "The university is a leading contributor to Latin America's development because we create mutually beneficial relationships throughout the region.

"Our researchers do not study the politics and people of Latin America from a distance. Instead, we engage people in their own settings as they research their own issues and develop solutions for their communities. In this way, we are both researchers and resources."

Every year, LLILAS researchers conduct south-of-the border studies throughout the Americas—from meeting with voters during the contested Mexican elections to providing on-the-ground observations from Cuba during Fidel Castro's hospitalization to tracking social and economic changes in Argentina and Peru.



"Our researchers do not study the politics and people of Latin America from a distance. Instead, we engage people in their own settings as they research their own issues and develop solutions for their communities. In this way, we are both researchers and resources."

— Bryan Roberts

International researchers turn to the Latin American Network Information Center, the university's electronic portal to Latin America, for connections to nearly 12,000 Web sites. Each month, the site—available in English, Spanish and Portuguese—receives more than four million visits.

Whether preserving endangered languages, reviewing political policies or analyzing trade deals, the university's prize-winning professors bring their experience to the classroom, where students gain invaluable insight into Latin America's role in the ever-changing international arena. ¶¶¶

Compadres: Friends of the Institute

Founded in 1940, LLILAS is the oldest center for Latin American studies in the United States. It has developed into an internationally recognized institute of academic inquiry due to the talented faculty members who secure research awards and the friends of the college who generously support the institute.

In 2000, **Joe and Teresa Lozano Long** created a \$10 million endowment to support the institute's research, scholarships and educational endeavors. And, the **C.B. Smith** Chairs in U.S.-Mexico Relations promote binational studies across disciplines throughout the college.

Recent Book Releases

Faculty members who work with LLILAS published books during 2007, including:

Arturo Arias, professor of Spanish and Portuguese, wrote "Taking Their Word: Literature and the Signs of Central America" (University of Minnesota Press), which examines why the region's cultural production remains little known to North Americans despite its representation as of the largest Latin American populations in the United States. He examines the literature of Central America's liberation struggles during the 1970s and 80s, the effect of peace treaties, the emergence of a new Maya literature, and the rise and fall of testimonio.

In "The Judicial Response to Police Killings in Latin America: Inequality and the Rule of Law" (Cambridge University Press), **Daniel Brinks**, assistant professor of government, explores the effect of social inequality, political influence and institutional design on the effectiveness of Latin American legal systems.

With "Resisting Brazil's Military Regime: An Account of the Battles of Sobral Pinto" (University of Texas Press), **John W. F. Dulles**, professor of American studies, completes his two-volume biography of the most unflinching opponent of the regime of dictator Getúlio Vargas, who ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985. Dulles provides new insights into this important period in recent Brazilian history and Pinto's tireless defense of human rights.

Shannon Speed, assistant professor of anthropology, is the author of "Rights in Rebellion: Indigenous Struggle and Human Rights in Chiapas" (Stanford University Press), which examines the global discourse of human rights and its influence on the local culture, identity and forms of resistance.

In "The Archaeology of the Caribbean" (Cambridge University Press), **Samuel Wilson**, chair of the anthropology department, provides a comprehensive synthesis of Caribbean prehistory dating from the earliest human settlements more than 4,000 years BC to the European conquest of the islands between the 15th and 17th centuries.

Spring Conferences

Transitions in the Cuban Revolution Feb. 21-22

North America and the Dilemma of Integration: Perspectives on the Future of the Region Feb. 25-29

Maya Meetings – Copan Archaeology and History Feb. 25–March 2

The Performance of Leftist Governments in Latin America: What Does the Left Do Right? March 6-7

Image, Memory, and the Paradox of Peace: Fifteen Years after the El Salvador Peace Accords (1992–2007) April 17–18

The Cultural and Political Economies of Water in the 21st Century April 28-29

For more information, visit www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/llilas.



Latin American Ambassadors: (from left) Jonathan Brown, associate director of the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies; Carolyn Palaima, senior program coordinator; **4** Bryan Roberts, director; Henry Dietz, graduate advisor; Natalie Arsenault, outreach director; Marco Muñoz, assistant director; and Paloma Diaz, program coordinator.



Mexico: A Country in Transition

Dominance Defeated as
Democracy Takes Hold

BY TIM GREEN



THE BOTTOM-LINE MESSAGE OF KENNETH GREENE'S book, "Why Dominant Parties Lose: Mexico's Democratization in Comparative Perspective," is laid out on the cover.

A poster resembling a ballot shows a box for Mexico's long dominant Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) marked with an "X." Next to the box, a man is pulling a chicken off a grill is next to the box.

As long as the PRI had enough chickens—in other words, money from state-owned enterprises that it used to dole out patronage jobs, cash, scholarships and other goodies—it remained Mexico's dominant party.

But, as the Mexican economy shifted to a free-market model, the PRI lost the public money it used to pay for its largesse, and the electoral playing field leveled.

"The answer to why dominant parties lose is they run out of chicken," Greene, an assistant professor of government, says.

While the cover art reveals Greene's sense of humor, the text inside builds a serious case for the process by which powerful political parties are eclipsed.

Greene counts 16 countries where dominant parties have run out of chickens. His book focuses on Mexico, his area of expertise, but

includes in-depth case studies of Italy, Taiwan, Malaysia and Japan.

He explains dominant political parties stay in power by using the revenue of the state to pay for their patronage. Because they control public coffers, they don't need to rely on fraud or military power to maintain dominance.

"Dominant parties persist when they can politicize public resources," Greene says. "Essentially, they steal money from the public budget and reroute it for political use."

Greene's research included 1,500 in-person interviews conducted by a team of more than 30 college students, his own in-depth interviews with party leaders and high-level activists, and his on-the-ground observations of party building in several Mexico City neighborhoods

Maintaining Power Under the Old Regime

After studying Mexican politics for two decades, Greene identified two key measures a dominant party must put in place to maintain power.

First, it has to control the federal agencies and offices that maintain access to the public budget.

"If hiring and firing were merit-based these guys (bureaucrats) would probably say, 'Now you can't have that,'" Greene says. "They have to ensure hiring and firing is completely patronage based so that they can control the public bureaucracy."

Second, the dominant party must increase the size of the publicly controlled economy. One way to do that is to nationalize industries.

"That expands the pie from which they can take liberal slices," Greene explains.

An example in Mexico is Pemex, the state-owned oil company. Today, it's the largest remaining government-controlled business, but there used to be many more.

The beginning of the end of PRI's grip on power in Mexico was the financial crisis of 1982, which led to reforms, including privatizing much of the country's economy.

Before the crisis, state-owned enterprises accounted for nearly 23 percent of gross domestic product. By the presidential election in 2000, it had decreased to 5.5 percent.

"The portion of the Mexican economy that was publicly owned decreased from 1/5 of GDP to 1/20. This had a huge impact on the PRI's ability to generate illicit patronage resources," Greene explains.

During its decades of dominance, the PRI won elections with such commanding majorities that other parties were left gasping for air.

"This put opposition parties, if they formed, at a tremendous disadvantage," he says. "They were outspent at every turn. They were out-campaigned."

So who formed or joined these parties?

"Only people who were so anti-status quo that the voters probably weren't going to like them anyway," Greene says. "In these dominant party systems, there are fairly radical opposition parties

that are polarized to the left and right, parties pushing ideological platforms that the average voter just isn't interested in."

New Politics Emerge

As the dominant party's influence waned, the opposition parties picked up more support and members.

What happened to their ideologies as they attracted more members?

In surveys of national-level leaders and high-level activists in Mexico, Greene found a strong relationship between their level of radicalism—on the left or right—and the time period they joined the opposition.

"People who joined the opposition during the '60s and '70s were the most radical in their parties," he says. "The people who joined more recently, during the 1990s, were more moderate."

But the moderates didn't necessarily help shape a more moderate party platform, Greene says. The long-standing members had more power in the party and could hew the platform planks to their liking.

"It took time and a lot of debates for those more moderate voices to have an effect," he says.

The right-wing National Action Party (PAN) incorporated those moderate voices much better than the left-wing Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). And the PAN became more effective than the PRD.

"PAN better allowed individuals to float to the top of the party organization based on their talent," Greene says. "The PRD privileges groups. Leaders have to be part of an organized social movement with the force of the community behind them to propel them upward in the party. That takes an incredibly long time. So it's been hard for those moderate voices to be heard in for the PRD."

A Scholar Enters the Field with College Contacts

Greene's interest in politics and Latin America began when he was a teenager in California. As a high school and college student, he protested the United States' policy toward Central America.

"I grew up in California where there was a lot of debate about what was going on in Latin America. I wanted to do something about the issues, so I became politically active."

Greene studied in Mexico and spent time with community organizations focused on housing and urban services. Some of his closest contacts in these groups have become high-ranking members of the PRD, including the current president of the Chamber of Deputies.

Through the years, Greene has worked across the political landscape in Mexico, including in Chiapas where he researched the Zapatista movement and the politics of upper-class conservative neighborhoods in Mexico City.

"Learning about Mexican politics from the bottom up has been critical to my research," Greene says. "Mexico is a country in transition. Understanding how politics will evolve requires listening to communities throughout the country." ▮▮▮

University Leads Delegation to Mexico

Powers Meets with Ambassador Garza, University Alumni

BY CHRISTIAN CLARKE CÁSAREZ

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO ANTONIO GARZA, university alumnus, welcomed President William Powers Jr. to Mexico City where hundreds of university alumni met with an Austin delegation and the university's partners on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

During 2007, Powers joined Kirk Watson, Texas senator, and Jorge Guajardo, Mexico's consul general to Austin, to exchange ideas on the future of binational relations with a delegation of Mexican and Central Texas business, academic and government leaders.

Hon. Carlos Rico Ferrat, Mexico's undersecretary for North American affairs, provided the keynote address. Thompson and Knight, a Texas law firm with offices in Mexico City and Monterrey, sponsored a private breakfast for the group.

The university partnered with the International Partnership of Greater Austin (IP Austin) to promote the growing, close bilateral relationships between Central Texas and Mexico in key areas—from research and education to government collaboration and business exchange.

"Texas gains strength from our diverse population and from our border with Mexico," Powers said. "We are collaborators in education, in commerce, in scientific research and in the arts. It's vitally important that our ties remain close, that our interactions remain open and effective, and that our partnerships be strengthened by new and creative initiatives."

Donna Wilcox, IP Austin's president, said it is important—for business and governmental leaders to work with the university to expand the influence and benefits of its international programs."

In order to contribute to the development of a vibrant Central Texas culture and economy," she said, "we must reach out,

embrace and encourage the change created in our community by international influences: foreign students, international companies, visitors, foreign innovation, international trade, and influences from art, music and literature."

The university has more than 1,200 Mexicans among its international alumni. Nearly 300 students from Mexico are at the university pursuing undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees.

The Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS) and its Mexican Center continue to attract the hemisphere's most respected professors and researchers.

The meetings in Mexico City are part of the university's cross-border efforts to encourage scholarship and dialogue about the evolving relationship between the United States and Mexico.

During the spring semester, researchers and policymakers explored

binational issues such as politics, media, immigration, poverty, technological exchange and global competitiveness as part of the conference, "NAFTA and U.S.-Mexico Relations: In Retrospect and Prospect."

LLILAS also collaborated with professors throughout the university to expand the discussion beyond the trade agreement in a week-long series of activities titled, "Deepening U.S.-Mexico Collaboration Beyond NAFTA." Read about the 2008 activities at www.utexas.edu/cola.



Terri Givens, associate professor of government and vice provost, is expanding the university's international reach, which includes scholarly collaborations throughout Latin America.

"Texas gains strength from our diverse population and from our border with Mexico...It's vitally important that our ties remain close, that our interactions remain open and effective, and that our partnerships be strengthened by new and creative initiatives."

— President William Powers

Senator Welcomes Mexicans and Spaniards to the Texas Capitol

Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo), chair of the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee, joined the Texas Exes and Laredo National Bank/BBVA to welcome University of Texas at Austin students from Mexico and Spain to the Texas capitol during the 2007 spring semester.

Senators unanimously adopted Senate Resolution 410, which recognized the students for strengthening international relationships through education. Chair of The University of Texas System Board of Regents James Huffines; Chancellor Mark Yudof; and President William Powers Jr. joined more than 80 students at the post-session reception.

Zaffirini established the annual event in 2002.



Scholars Access Mexican Databases to Tackle South-of-the-Border Poverty

The University of Texas at Austin entered into an agreement with Mexico's Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) to exchange social policy information and resources.

Marco Muñoz, assistant director of the university's Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS), brokered the partnership, which grants researchers access to the most complete databases on poverty and public policy in Mexico.

Félix Vélez Fernández Varela, SEDESOL sub-secretary of prospective, planning and evaluation, and Juan Sanchez, the university's vice president for research, signed the agreement, which will provide faculty and students with valuable new resources for their research on Mexican social policy.

After the signing in October, Varela delivered a public lecture, "Poverty in Mexico and the Government's Reply." Varela, an economist, has served in Mexican academic, civil and governmental organizations including the Presidency, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico.

Poverty reduction and job creation are two of Mexico President Felipe Calderon's top priorities. Forty percent of Mexico's population lives below the poverty line and income distribution is severely unequal.



CUBA

Cuba After Castro

**Professor Sees Little
Change Since Fidel Ceded
Power to His Brother**

BY JENNIFER MCANDREW



“**R**AÚL, RAÚL, RAÚL!” CHANTED THOUSANDS OF government supporters as acting president Raúl Castro took the stage at Cuba’s 26th of July rally. The anniversary of the Cuban revolution is the country’s most important national holiday.

Notably absent was Raúl’s brother, Fidel, who was last seen in public at the 2006 commemoration. In an hour-long speech, Raúl said Cuba suffered “a hard blow” when Fidel fell ill and relinquished power, but the island had avoided the economic collapse many predicted.

Jonathan Brown, professor of history at The University of Texas at Austin, was in Cuba when Castro’s illness was announced in July 2006. He was one of the few Americans to observe the reactions of the Cuban people firsthand.

Brown was traveling the revolutionary trail of the Castro brothers, visiting the famous Presidio Modelo (Model Prison) on Cuba’s Isle of Youth when he heard the news.

“Given that Castro is the world’s longest-serving leader, the announcement was quite stunning,” Brown says. “However, Cubans reacted to the transition calmly and seemed to proceed with their lives as normally as possible.”

State-controlled Radio Havana followed news bulletins on Castro’s health with the characteristic exhortation, “Patria o muerte, venceremos” (“Fatherland or death, we will vanquish”).

Brown was surprised that Cubavisión TV showed images of Cubans in Miami dancing in the street. “Even those critical of the regime were appalled to see the exile community celebrating Castro’s illness,” he says.

“Yet most of my conversations with locals were a mix of contradictions,” Brown continues. “Cubans are tired of their humdrum diets. They are tired of their substandard housing, of the long lines and rationed goods. They long for a new car and yes, traffic jams.”

A billboard near Havana’s Plaza de la Revolución depicts a smiling Fidel saying, “Vamos bien” (“We’re doing well”).

“One Cuban said he hated this slogan the most,” Brown says. “However, this longing for a better quality of life may not mean a lack of support for the present revolutionary government.”

Cuban foreign policy seems to be reaping dividends. Recent elections of socialist leaders in Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia and Nicaragua who admire Castro have raised Castro’s stature in Latin America.

Brown is particularly intrigued by Cuba’s role as the linchpin in the United States’ relationship with Latin America. He is writing a book, “Cuba, the United States, and the Secret War for Latin America, 1959-67,” that will explore how the revolutionary struggle within Cuba became an international issue and ultimately set U.S. policy toward Latin America on a reactionary course.

Brown plans to examine classified documents from

U.S. government security archives that recently have been made public.

“Secrecy in Cuba is dissipating,” Brown says. “Previously, a book on this topic was impossible due to the lack of available source material. But the Cuban Council of State recently has made many documents from this time period public, which opens up new opportunities for scholarship.”

In contrast, Castro’s health remains a state secret, and Cuban government officials insist he is continuing to recuperate from the emergency intestinal surgery he underwent in 2006.

“The challenge for Raúl will be to make enough economic changes to satisfy the population’s desire for more freedom without threatening the power of the Communist Party.”

— Jonathan Brown

Brown notes that throughout his discussions with Cubans about Castro’s illness and legacy, many remained guarded and few mentioned him by name, instead stroking an imaginary beard to signal discussion of the ailing leader.

The younger Castro brother’s provisional government set the stage for him to be named president after Fidel announced his resignation Feb. 19. Raúl’s recent promise of economic reforms and offer to engage the United States once the Bush administration concludes, signals that glasnost in Cuba is no longer the improbable dream it once was under Fidel, Brown says.

“The challenge for Raúl will be to make enough economic changes to satisfy the population’s desire for more freedom without threatening the power of the Communist party,” says Brown. “Raúl has visited China and is impressed with how the Chinese encourage economic growth while maintaining rigid political control.”

Despite the longstanding hostilities between the United States and Cuba, for the most part Brown found the Cuban people received him warmly.

When Cubans asked: “De donde es Ud.?” (“Where are you from?”), Brown would reply, “De los Estados Unidos—soy el enemigo” (“I’m the enemy”), to which Cubans would respond, “Oh, no, no! We love Americans!”

New Texas-Havana Partnership (see p. 40)

Who is Raúl Castro?

Gen. Raúl Castro (born June 3, 1931), younger brother of Fidel has been named president of Cuba. Prior to assuming provisional control of the country in 2006, he served as first vice president of the Cuban Council of State and commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR). In 1953, he began the revolution at his brother’s side. Since 1959, he has commanded the Revolutionary Armed Forces and nurtured the development of a loyal, ideologically trained officer corps.

Raúl joined the Communist Party long before Fidel proclaimed his membership. He has ranked No. 2 in the party’s Central Committee since 1965. Raúl reportedly befriended Ernesto “Che” Guevara in Mexico City and brought him into Fidel’s circle of revolutionaries.

Raúl has been a central figure in the institutionalization of the Cuban Revolution. Though he lacks Fidel’s gift for oratory and is as reclusive as his brother is outgoing, the Communist state will likely support him, as will the FAR.

Following his assumption of presidential duties in August 2006, Raúl commented on his public profile: “I am not used to making frequent appearances in public, except at times when it is required ... I have always been discreet, that is my way, and in passing I will clarify that I am thinking of continuing in that way.”



Anthropologist Studies Marginal Communities

Jafari Sinclair Allen, assistant professor of anthropology, reveals how Black men and women interpret and transform racial and sexual identities in his forthcoming book, “¡Venceremos?: Erotics and Politics of Black Self-Making in Cuba’s Special Period” (Duke University Press, Perverse Modernities series, 2009). By adding a question mark to the book’s title, “¡Venceremos?” (“Will we win?”), the scholarship challenges an important political slogan of the 1959 Cuban Revolution (We will win!). Allen researched the everyday experiences and reflections of Black Cubans in Havana and Santiago de Cuba, from activists for Black consciousness and HIV education to fans of hip-hop and la monia (rhythm, blues and soul music). “¡Venceremos?” argues these marginal communities could become the country’s new revolutionaries.



CUBA

Brown's Revolutionary Trek



JONATHAN BROWN
History professor

BROWN'S TRAVEL GRANT TO CUBA, MADE possible by the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, provided support for his research on the Cuban Revolution.

Brown is planning a broad-based textbook that chronicles the movement founded by Castro and Che Guevara. On his first research trip to Cuba, his itinerary included the sites of major events in Fidel and Che's revolutionary trail, where he found that the State had commemorated many of the sites with museums, re-creations and national monuments.

"The revolution has been transformed by the State into a kind of civic religion for the people," Brown says, "complete with their own set of saints and martyrs. And Che is the biggest martyr of all."

1 PLAZA DE LA REVOLUCIÓN, HAVANA

The square is dominated by a 426-foot monument to José Martí. Behind the tower are the offices of President Castro and opposite is the famous Che Guevara image with the slogan, "Hasta la Victoria Siempre" ("Forever Onwards Towards Victory"). Major political rallies take place in the square.



Jonathan Brown

2 MUSEO DE LA REVOLUCIÓN, HAVANA

The museum is dedicated to the Cuban Revolution of the 1950s and located in Old Havana. Its rooms and open areas provide a detailed panorama of the struggle of the Cuban people to achieve sovereignty.



Jonathan Brown

3 MONCADA BARRACKS, SANTIAGO DE CUBA

The barracks are the site of an armed attack by a small group of rebels led by Fidel Castro that sparked the Cuban Revolution. The date of the 1953 attack was adopted by Castro as the name for his revolutionary 26th of July Movement, which claimed power in 1959.



Jonathan Brown

4 COMANDANCIA DE LA PLATA, SIERRA MAESTRA MOUNTAINS

After returning to Cuba from exile in Mexico, Fidel Castro, survivors of the failed attack on the Moncada Barracks and new recruits, including Che Guevara, hid in the Sierra Maestra Mountains where they established their command post for guerrilla warfare.



Kath Bateman

5 MAUSOLEUM OF CHE GUEVARA, SANTA CLARA

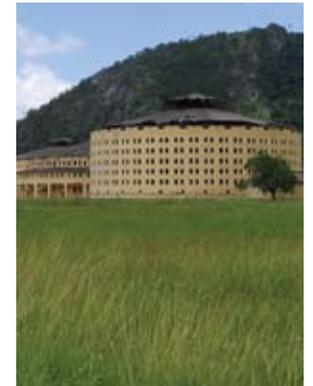
In 1997, Che's remains were unearthed in Bolivia and interred at this site. Under the monument is the Museo Histórico de la Revolución, a museum that preserves the history of Che's life and role in the revolution. More than 170,000 people visit the monument annually.



WikiCommons

6 PRESIDIO MODELO, ISLE OF YOUTH

The model prison of Panopticon design is located on Cuba's Isla de la Juventud (Isle of Youth). Most of the survivors of the rebel attacks on the Moncada Barracks, including Fidel and Raúl Castro, were imprisoned there. Today, the prison serves as a museum and national monument.



WikiCommons



CUBA

From Tuskegee to Havana

Black Hemispheric Linkages



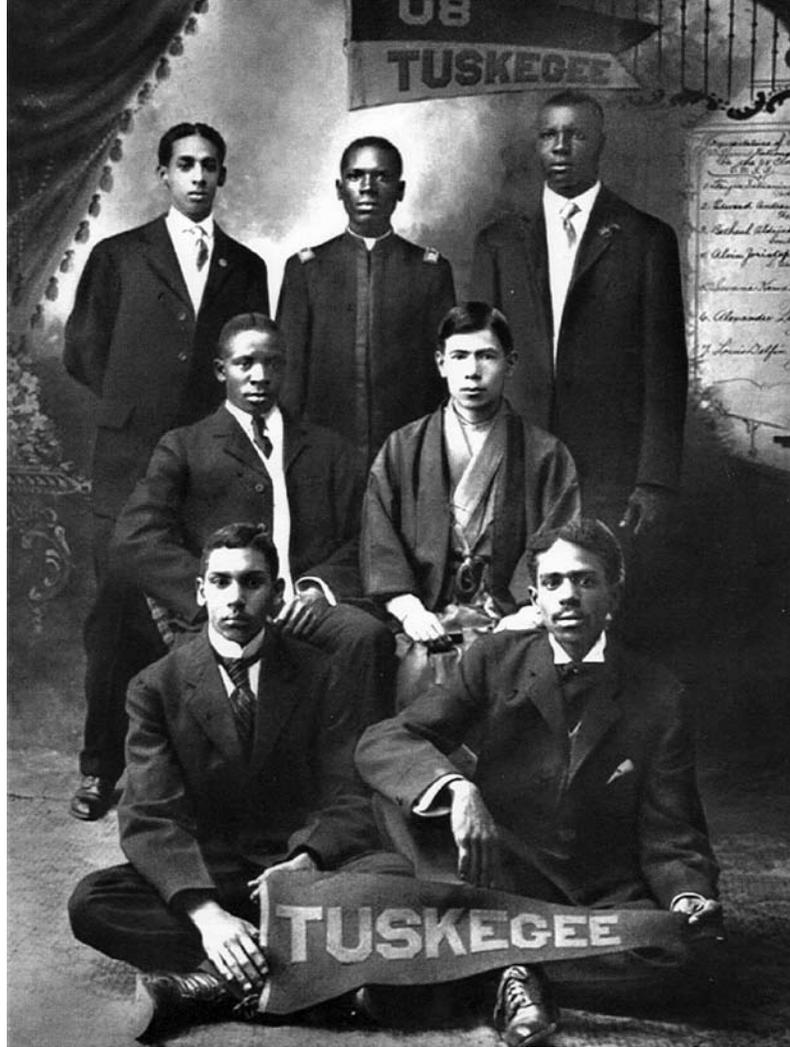
BY FRANK A. GURIDY
Assistant professor of history

RECENT DEBATES ON LATINOS AS THE NEW “majority-minority” population in the United States are frequently accompanied by anxieties about assumed tensions between Latinos and African Americans. These discussions often overlook a long history of interaction between African Americans and Latin Americans. These populations have been in contact, not just in large urban centers, such as New York, Miami and Los Angeles, but in unexpected places such as Tuskegee, Ala., where Cubans and other Latin Americans studied during the opening decades of the 20th century.

After the War of 1898, Cubans of African descent attended Tuskegee Institute, the school for African Americans founded by Booker T. Washington. Under Washington’s leadership, Tuskegee championed industrial education, arguing it provided African Americans with skills necessary to pull themselves up from the vestiges of slavery.

Washington became a world-renowned figure, thanks to the widespread dissemination of his autobiography, “Up From Slavery” (1900). His rise from slave status to one of the most powerful black public figures in the United States inspired many Afro-Cubans, whose own experiences were less than two decades removed from slavery.

While Washington’s story, particularly his debates with W.E.B. Du Bois on the merits of industrial vs. liberal arts education, is well known in U.S. history, his influence in other parts of the Americas—in particular Cuba—is more obscure.



Members of the 1908 graduating class of Tuskegee Institute. Luis Delfin Valdés (front row, right).

The U.S. government, which occupied Cuba for nearly four years after the 1898 war, aided Booker T. Washington and American philanthropists for three decades in recruiting hundreds of Cubans to study at Tuskegee and the Hampton Institute, Washington’s alma mater.

These schools provided educational opportunities for Cubans of African descent when few existed. While some students had difficulty navigating the social and cultural challenges they faced as foreign students in the heart of the Jim Crow South, others flourished, using their experiences at Tuskegee as vehicles of upward mobility.

The Tuskegee connection to Cuba provided more than a path of upward mobility for Afro-Cubans. It helped lay the groundwork for subsequent connections.

Luis Delfin Valdés, who was among the first wave of cross-Caribbean travelers, studied architecture at Tuskegee and graduated in 1908 (see photo, left). After graduation, he returned to Cuba, establishing a successful career as an architect.

Valdés employed the skills he learned at Tuskegee to design the headquarters of the Club Atenas (Athens Club), the most important Afro-Cuban society on the island before the Cuban Revolution of the 1950s. In an era when recreational activity was often racially segregated, societies such as the Club Atenas provided important social and cultural centers for Afro-Cubans. Valdés’ building still stands at the corner of Zulueta and Apodaca streets in Havana today (See photo, below).

The Club Atenas was a manifestation of the social and cultural connections that began with Afro-Cuban experiences at Tuskegee. It became a space of cultural exchange between Cubans and U.S. Americans of African descent.

The club was an important destination for African American travelers to Cuba, including the poet Langston Hughes, whose writings about the island were significantly influenced by encounters with Afro-Cuban cultural and recreational life in the club’s halls.

The history of Cuban students at Tuskegee is one of countless examples of Latino/African American linkages throughout the history of the Americas. A hemispheric perspective allows us to more fully understand the interaction and collaboration between the populations that we today call “African American” and “Latino.” ■■■



Old Club Atenas building under reconstruction as a day care center, July 2006.



BRAZIL

A Tale of Two Countries

Alongside Brazil's sparkling beaches and intoxicating nightlife lie vast areas of mountainside shantytowns and extreme poverty.

BY TRACY MUELLER

SAUDADE IS A UNIQUELY PORTUGUESE WORD, similar to, but more complex in meaning than the English word “nostalgia.” It is a kind of longing mixed with unfulfilled hope—feeling happy and sad simultaneously. A.F.G. Bell describes saudade in his book, “In Portugal,” as “a turning towards the past or towards the future; not an active discontent or poignant sadness but an indolent dreaming wistfulness.”

“If there is a more Brazilian emotion, I am not aware of it,” said Fernando Henrique Cardoso, president of Brazil from 1995 to 2002, who visited The University of Texas at Austin in 2006.

Understanding saudade is crucial to understanding Brazil. The paradoxical emotion—acutely expressed in the melancholy songs of bossa nova—is indicative of both the triumphs and struggles of Latin America’s largest nation.

“Brazil is a country of contrasts and divisions,” says Kurt Weyland, government professor at The University of Texas at Austin. He researches democratization, market reform and social policy in Latin America and is the author of “Democracy Without Equity: Failures of Reform in Brazil.”

An undeniable juggernaut in Latin America, Brazil boasts the region’s largest economy. During the past two decades, it successfully expanded its exports beyond crops to include modern goods such as airplanes and electronics, and, along with the United States, is one of the world’s top producers of bio-fuels such as ethanol. In 2006, Brazilian companies invested more money overseas than multinational corporations invested in Brazil, making the country a net foreign investor for the first time in its history.

After years of rampant inflation—levels reached 5,000 percent by the end of 1993—President Cardoso introduced his “Real Plan” in 1994. The economic program tied Brazil’s newly minted currency, the real, to the American dollar and drastically lowered inflation rates, which remain under control.

“Brazil’s relatively stable economy is the foundation of its current success,” says Wendy Hunter, an associate professor of government who studies comparative politics and economic globalization in Latin America, with an emphasis on Brazil.

Political stability accompanied economic growth. After decades of coups and military rule, Brazil returned to full democracy in 1989, electing leaders such as Cardoso and current president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who have positioned Brazil as a nation on the rise.

Brazil enhanced its international standing when it took control of the United Nations peacekeeping effort in Haiti in 2004.

“Previously, Latin American militaries often were asso-

BRAZIL

BY SIDNEY HALL

ciated with coups and human rights violations, so this was an important moment for Brazil's global reputation," Hunter says.

Brazil garnered additional attention when it led the South American trading bloc Mercosur in rejecting the U.S.-backed Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) at the Summit of the Americas in 2005. Brazilian officials had concerns the FTAA would increase inequality in South America. The rejection proved to be a lasting impediment, and most experts agree the FTAA will not be realized.

The country also has been a key player in the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization talks, Hunter says. Partnering with India, Brazil has called on the United States and the European Union to reduce farm subsidies and increase support for agriculture in developing countries.

"As a moderate nation in an increasingly left-leaning region, Brazil maintains unique bargaining power with the United States, which needs an ally in Latin America to counter populist, anti-American leaders such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and Bolivia's Evo Morales," Hunter says.

Yet Brazil's social challenges—namely deficient education and widespread poverty—keep it chained to the past, unable to establish itself as the world leader it so desperately wants to be. It is saudade in action; power and potential alongside sadness and struggle.

The Brazilian education system needs an immense overhaul. Brazil is home to several prestigious universities, but the rest of the system fails to serve its citizens adequately, Weyland says. Millions of children from poverty-stricken regions stop attending school after the 4th grade.

"Brazil needs to significantly broaden its secondary education, so universities and employers can draw from a larger pool of highly skilled candidates," Weyland says. "Investment in human capital is critical right now."

The basic and secondary education system is struggling in large part because of a lack of government funding. Financing for education at those levels is woefully low compared to Brazil's notoriously oversized government employee pension plan.

"The government spends 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) to support the public employee pension fund, which pays employees 100 percent of their salary once they retire," Weyland says. "But it uses less than half of 1 percent of the GDP to fund Brazil's signature education assistance program for poor families."

Financial imbalance is a serious problem that extends far beyond the federal budget. Next to its sparkling beaches and intoxicating nightlife lie vast areas of mountainside shantytowns and extreme poverty.

"Brazil has one of the most skewed income distributions of any nation," Weyland says. "Ten percent of Brazil's population receives half of the nation's income, compared to the United States, where 25 percent receives half of all income."

The elite control the poor with a divide-and-conquer strategy that encourages dependency vertically through class levels, while stimulating conflict within the lower class, Weyland explains. People use their personal networks of friends and relatives to ask for favors that benefit a very narrow group. Members of the lower class are seen as competitors, not friends.

"Many of Brazil's poor do not form trade unions or organize mass movements to rise up against the elite," Weyland says. "The lower class is quite fragmented, with each sector focusing mainly on its own special interest."

Brazilian politics operate in a similar fashion. The govern-

maintained the status quo. Even his Bolsa Família (Family Grant) government welfare program, the cornerstone of his social platform, is a redesigned version of policies begun by his predecessor Cardoso.

The reluctance of Brazilian politicians to implement drastically different policy is somewhat understandable. In the past, a change in power was often accompanied by street violence, politically motivated arrests and stifling tension throughout the country. For modern leaders wary of repeating history, compromise and moderation are the order of the day.

While Brazil has been more successful politically and economically than other Latin American countries, its recent stretch of modest economic growth and slow-moving politics prevent it from becoming a truly global competitor.

Weyland says Brazil is falling behind peer nations Russia, India and China. Those four countries, also known as the BRIC countries, are the world's top emerging markets. From 2000 to 2005, Brazil's economy grew an average of 2.5 percent annually compared to more than 6 percent in Russia and India and more than 9 percent in China.

The country's limited developmental achievements also hinder its rise as an international leader. The United Nations ranked Brazil 69th on the 2004 Human Development Index, behind Croatia, Malaysia and Cuba. The index measures average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.

Brazil's immobility tarnishes its global profile, yet protects its welfare. Skyrocketing inflation, turbulent political battles and a crippling debt crisis in the 1980s severely damaged Latin American countries. Brazil experienced some of these problems, but suffered far less than other nations because of its political stability and strong domestic economy.

In particular, President Cardoso implemented promising and beneficial initiatives during his two terms that laid the groundwork for potentially increased economic growth and improved social conditions.

"There are no miracle cures to resolve Brazil's longstanding problems," cautions Weyland. "Instead, patient determination will be required to build on the advances already initiated and enact further economic, social and political reforms."

To feel saudade is to feel both happy and sad, longing for both the past and the future. The emotion reflects Brazil's contradictory nature. A country of success and failure, of troubled history and ambitious hope, Brazil is indeed a country of contrasts and divisions. And, yet, it remains a country of possibility. ▮▮▮



"Patronage is the constant currency of Brazilian politics...No party has a majority, so politicians must form coalitions across party lines to have any hope of seeing their agendas passed." — Kurt Weyland



"As a moderate nation in an increasingly left-leaning region, Brazil maintains unique bargaining power with the United States, which needs an ally in Latin America to counter populist, anti-American leaders such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and Bolivia's Evo Morales." — Wendy Hunter

ment exists on a tangled network of alliances and favors. With more than 20 parties represented in the National Congress, politicians must master the game of give and take in order to gain any traction.

"Patronage is the constant currency of Brazilian politics," Weyland says. "No party has a majority, so politicians must form coalitions across party lines to have any hope of seeing their agendas passed."

The proliferation of alliances—often between ideologically dissimilar factions—is part of the reason Brazil has not seen many sweeping policy reforms or profound social changes. There often is little variation from one presidential administration to the next.

Lula, the current president, represents the Partido dos Trabalhadores, (Workers' Party). Traditionally left-wing, Lula moderated from extreme socialism the closer he moved toward the presidency, finding little electoral and congressional support for radicalism, Weyland says.

Rather than push for dramatic change, Lula essentially has



Riots, Rugby and the President of Brazil

Passions, Curiosity Forge Dynamic Journalism Career

BY TRACY MUELLER

FOR UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ALUMNUS Brian Winter, the journey from humble newsroom intern to presidential confidant began with a plane ticket and a penchant for the unknown.

Inspired by study abroad stints in Spain, Guatemala and Argentina, Winter (Spanish and History '99) moved to Buenos Aires immediately after graduation. He imagined a best-case scenario in which he taught English there for six months before returning to Texas. But plans soon changed.

"I fell in love with Argentina," Winter says. "None of my friends knew anything about it. It was far away and mysterious – I felt like it was a secret discovery."

He arrived in Buenos Aires with no job, but eventually landed an internship with international news agency Reuters. While in school, he was associate editor of the campus newspaper, *The Daily Texan*, but never had formal training in journalism.

"I don't believe journalists need to major in journalism," Winter says. "It's more important to have a broad body of knowledge and a healthy amount of curiosity. Studying fields I was passionate about paid off in my career."

In fact, it was a contact Winter made through a Spanish professor that eventually led to the Reuters internship. After attending a Latin America conference hosted by the university, one of Winter's professors went salsa dancing with conference attendees, including the Latin America bureau chief for Reuters. She knew Winter was interested in journalism, and put him in touch with the bureau chief.

The contact helped Winter get his foot in the door with Reuters in Argentina. After several months working as an

intern, he was assigned to cover a local rugby match – a topic he knew nothing about. Winter quickly learned the rules of the game, watched a few matches online and wrote an adequately knowledgeable article that convinced his editor to hire him full time.



"I wanted to become a true Latin Americanist, and even though Mexico is next door to the United States, I knew nothing about it except what I saw in movies."

— Brian Winter

Then in 2001 Argentina's economy collapsed when the government defaulted on its \$132 billion public debt. It devastated the country but provided Winter with intriguing and rich stories. Reporting from the heart of a country in crisis, he covered violent protests, massive strikes, looting and deadly riots.

Winter's work stands out in an era when international news coverage is on the decline. A recent report from the Carnegie Corporation noted that American network television cover-

age of foreign news in 1995 was one-third of what it was in 1975. Print and broadcast news agencies are closing foreign bureaus at a rapid pace, and most publications allocate no more than 10 percent of their space to foreign news.

International news coverage surged after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, but eventually returned to previous levels. Winter hopes it's a trend that will reverse, and thinks people will benefit from increased exposure to the world.

"Traveling to other countries and learning about the world brings out something better in myself," says Winter, who describes journalism as "an excuse to go into strange places and ask questions."

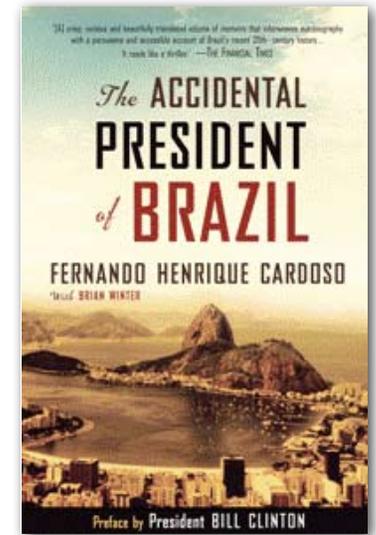
In addition to Argentina, he worked extensively throughout Latin America, reporting on social unrest in Bolivia, presidential elections in Panama and gang violence in Honduras. Then in 2004, ready for a change of scenery, Winter moved to Mexico City.

"As a reporter, it's helpful to go into a foreign environment with fresh eyes," Winter says. "I got too close to the story in Argentina. I wanted to become a true Latin Americanist, and even though Mexico is next door to the United States, I knew nothing about it except what I saw in movies."

Winter soon discovered a Mexico far more vibrant than the one portrayed in films like *Traffic*, where drug wars and kidnapping take center stage. He describes Mexico City as a mecca of modernity, with hip citizens (chilangos) who love films and rap music, sophisticated cafes and taking walks in city parks.

"Mexico was all about variety," Winter remembers. "I could never quite pin it down."

After a year in Mexico, Winter stepped away from journalism to write a travel memoir about his time in Argentina. Publishing house PublicAffairs, a division of Perseus Books Group, accepted Winter's book proposal and then offered



the Latin America enthusiast another project he couldn't turn down. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, president of Brazil from 1995 to 2002, needed a co-author to help pen the English version of his memoirs for an American audience.

The then 26-year-old knew little about Brazil. He spent three weeks interviewing Cardoso, one of Latin America's most successful modern leaders and a highly respected sociologist who has written 30 books.

"We were the odd-couple," Winter says. They conducted the interviews mostly in Spanish, Cardoso's third language behind Portuguese and French. "Neither one of us was speaking his first language, and there was a half-century age difference between us. I was very nervous."

Winter's unfamiliarity with Cardoso compelled the former president to share simple yet illuminating details about his life. As a result, they were able to write a more personal

version of his memoirs than the Portuguese edition, which focused mainly on Cardoso as a politician. In one particularly touching section, Cardoso recalls the heartbreak he felt when, while living in exile in Chile, he received news that his beloved father passed away.

President Bill Clinton wrote the forward for the book, "The Accidental President of Brazil," and critics praised it for its incisive storytelling. The Washington Post calls it "an honest, personable and engaging" book.

Winter's own memoir, "Long After Midnight at the Niño Bien," turns its attention to Argentina's famed tango dance halls, of which he was a regular visitor. It was published July 2007 (see sidebar).

Committed to foreign news, Winter joined USA Today as deputy foreign editor. He will coordinate coverage of Iraq and the Middle East. ■■■■

Winter's Year of Unrest in Argentina



State workers shout anti-government slogans to protest President Fernando de la Rúa's economic policies and reject plans to privatize the social security system (Nov. 13, 2001). The resignation of the new Social Security Minister, Patricia Bullrich, brought a new blow to De la Rúa as he sought political unity to deal with economic crisis and fears of debt default.



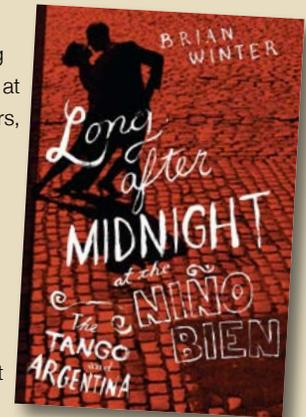
Argentine federal police officers arrest a demonstrator during clashes near the Casa Rosada government house (Dec. 20, 2001). Thousands gathered at the Plaza de Mayo square to demand the resignation of President De la Rúa, whose government struggled to save the country's economy from nearly four years of recession, 18.3 percent unemployment and the biggest sovereign debt default ever.



An employee at a Buenos Aires money exchange house stands next to the electronic board that shows the Peso exchange rate blank against the world's major currencies, on a day of uncertainty in the Argentine financial crisis (Dec. 6, 2001). The price of the dollar rose seven percent against the Peso in exchange houses, with few sellers on the market. Argentina drifted without a lifeline after the IMF cut off aid, condemning the debt-laden country to a likely economic crash.

The Dance Begins

Winter's own memoir, "Long After Midnight at the Niño Bien," (PublicAffairs, 2007) turns its attention to Argentina's famed tango dance halls and Winter's encounters with a local dance instructor known as El Tigre (The Tiger). Part travelogue, part history, it chronicles Winter's attempt to learn the mysterious tango and discover the spirit of the country that invented it.



"A few months before the supermarket riots started, I had asked El Tigre to give me my first private lesson. He looked me up and down, his eyebrows wrinkled with disdain, his eyes halting on my mud-stained tennis shoes. 'I don't traffic in miracles,' he sighed, knocking back the rest of his double-malt whisky, the color slowly returning to his weathered face, 'and that's obviously what's needed here. So you'd better start praying to whichever god you prefer. I make no promises. But, if you meet me on Thursday at midnight outside the door at the Niño Bien, I'll give you my best effort.'

The following week, I dutifully did as told, and I even managed to borrow a freshly buffed pair of black dress shoes for the occasion. At a quarter till one, El Tigre finally materialized out of the shadows and into the copper glow of the streetlight, his colossal frame practically floating down the sidewalk, a grin on his face and his fingers twitching with nervous anticipation. 'To war,' he whispered with a nod. We bounded up the marble stairway two steps at a time, paid our five peso admission, and turned the corner into the Niño Bien's grand salon."





PERU



BY HENRY A. DIETZ
Professor of government

Act Two: Garcia Takes the National Stage Again

PERUVIAN PRESIDENT ALAN GARCIA, THE ARCHITECT of that country's greatest economic failures, may be poised to lead the country into the modern marketplace.

Garcia's 2006 inauguration flies in the face of all conventional political wisdom. During his first term as president in the 1980s, Garcia wreaked havoc on his country. His misguided economic policies drove inflation up 7,600 percent by the end of his term in 1990 and transformed Peru into an international pariah. His inability to confront the Shining Path, a violent Maoist insurgent group, resulted in almost 70,000 deaths. A prison massacre killed hundreds. After barely completing his term, Garcia left the country and only returned years later when accusations against him petered out.

Garcia's dismal record is well remembered by Peruvians. Yet, they re-elected him amid a field of 20 candidates. The reasons are clear: As a politician, Garcia possesses more highly developed political instincts and skills—especially as a campaigner—than all of his opponents combined. As the undisputed head of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), Garcia leads Peru's only institutionalized political party. The country's other campaigns serve as personalist movements fueled solely by their leaders' charisma and desire to govern.

During the first round of elections, Ollanta Humala, an ex-

military officer involved in a failed coup attempt, developed a raucous following based on his nationalist platform, which echoed the rhetoric of Bolivia's Evo Morales and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. Garcia campaigned against Humala by attacking his connection to the Venezuelan leader with the slogan, "Peru or Chavez."

Humala won a plurality during the first round of the elections, leaving Garcia in a hard fought battle for second place against a right-of-center political favorite of the middle and upper classes. In the end, Garcia defeated Humala with 53 percent of the vote, compared to Humala's 47 percent. Despite the victory, the results revealed a severely fragmented country: Garcia took Lima and the North; Humala won

throughout the Central and Southern Andean sierra.

Given Garcia's disastrous first term and the splintered results of the election, what grounds are there for optimism for his second administration?

So far, Garcia has sent all the right messages and met with all the right people, internally and externally. He is distancing himself from his failed economic policies and promoting the stabilization of the Peruvian market. This is a departure from his 1985 populist pledges to restrict payments on the foreign debt.

On the contrary, he has met amicably with officials at the



Peruvian President Alan Garcia

International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. He named Luis Carranza the new minister of finance. Carranza, who does not belong to Garcia's APRA party, brings experience from the U.S. Federal Reserve and the IMF. The former deputy finance minister and director of Peru's Central Reserve Bank has a reputation as a hard-liner on spending.

In addition, Peru has progressed dramatically since 1985, when Garcia inherited a weak economy and an unchecked Shining Path insurgency. Although vastly unpopular, outgoing President Alejandro Toledo leaves Garcia in an enviable position. Peru boasts consistent positive economic growth and a much-improved public debt situation – all welcome news to international observers and investors.

Garcia has promised to build on Peru's recent successes, but pitfalls remain. Due to record world prices for its mineral exports (copper, lead, zinc, silver, gold), Peru has filled its coffers, but the new administration must prepare itself beyond the boom. In addition, the never-ending pressure to generate new jobs will challenge Garcia and every other Latin American president to make bold changes to fuel an economic engine for the region.

Politically, given the popularity of Humala's nationalist rhetoric in the campaign, Garcia and his party, which holds a minority position in Congress, may be tempted to indulge in Chavez-like policies in their effort to bolster support during the upcoming regional and municipal elections. But any alignment with Venezuela and the extreme left would likely chill foreign investment in the country.

In Latin American politics, few presidents are offered an encore to recast their legacy. Now one of Peru's "failed" presidents has a second chance to redress himself by forging a new role for his country in the modern market and securing a new position for Peru in the political and economic landscape of the ever-changing Americas. ■■■

Henry Dietz is a distinguished teaching professor of government. He is the author of "Capital City Politics in Latin America: Democratization and Empowerment" (2002, co-edited with David Myer), "Urban Elections in Democratic Latin America" (1998, co-edited with Gil Shidlo) and "Urban Poverty, Political Participation and the State: Lima 1970-1990" (1998).

Plan II Passport: CarMax Founder and Wife Bolster Study Abroad

BY CHRISTIAN CLARKE CÁSAREZ

CARMAX FOUNDER AUSTIN LIGON AND HIS WIFE, Samornmitr “Pan” Lamsam, donated \$1 million to the Plan II Honors Program to support study abroad. The donation is one of the largest single gifts to the nationally recognized College of Liberal Arts program.

The gift will substantially increase support for Plan II’s international travel awards. Last year, Plan II awarded about \$33,000 in U.S. and foreign travel grants to 27 students. Through the Ligon-Lamsam fund, Plan II will award about \$250,000 annually during the next five years.??

“In a world growing smaller every day, studying abroad is an important and necessary experience,” says Michael Stoff, interim director of Plan II. “This extraordinary gift will help to transform the lives of our students by allowing more of them to study abroad and immerse themselves in foreign cultures they will come to know up close.”

Ligon is the founder and first president and CEO of CarMax, a Fortune 500 company and the nation’s largest retailer of used cars. Ligon retired from CarMax last summer. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the Plan II Honors Program in 1973 and his master’s degree in economics from the university in 1978. Lamsam is a former merchant banker and independent financial consultant.

The Phi Beta Kappa and Tejas Club member spent his senior year studying in Peru, an experience he credits with transforming his perspective—and life.

“It opened my eyes to the fact that my perspective on the world was just one tiny little portion of the ways in which the

“In a world growing smaller every day, studying abroad is an important and necessary experience. This extraordinary gift will help to transform the lives of our students by allowing more of them to study abroad and immerse themselves in foreign cultures they will come to know up close.”

— Michael Stoff

world could be viewed,” Ligon says. “I was just a kid from West Texas, but the experience in Peru gave me a chance to work for a worldwide company.”

After leaving the university, Ligon attended the Yale University School of Management and worked for Boston Consulting Group in London. He also was an independent financial consultant in Bangkok. In addition to his work at CarMax, Ligon has served as vice-president of Circuit City and Marriott. ¶¶¶



Lamsam and Ligon

Peru



CAPITAL Lima

GOVERNMENT

Constitutional Republic, led by President Alan García

POPULATION 28 million

LANGUAGES Spanish and Quechua (official); Aymara and a large number of minor Amazonian languages

EXCHANGE RATE

3.20 new soles per U.S. dollar

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

Copper, gold, fishmeal

MAIN EXPORT DESTINATIONS

United States, China, Chile

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

Intermediate goods, capital goods, consumer goods

MAIN ORIGINS OF IMPORTS

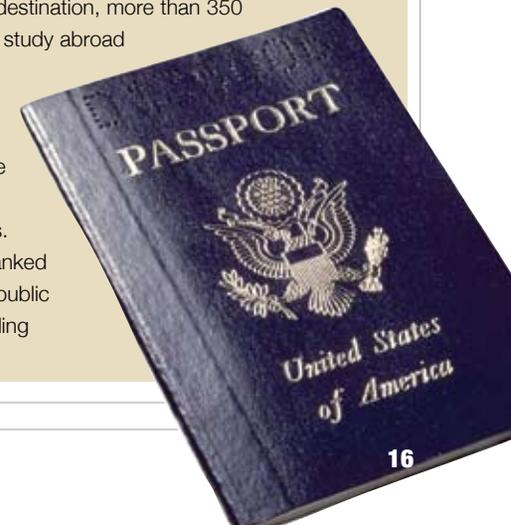
United States, China, Brazil

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

76.7

Mexico and Argentina, Top Study Abroad Destinations

The University of Texas at Austin sent more than 2,000 students abroad during the 2005-06 academic year. Nearly half of the students are from the College of Liberal Arts. Though Europe remains the most popular destination, more than 350 students chose to study abroad in Latin America, with Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico hosting the highest numbers of visiting students. The university is ranked third among U.S. public institutions in sending students abroad.





LANGUAGE PRESERVATION

Voices of Change

BY TRACY MUELLER

Finding Their Voice



“Mayas typically speak very quietly in public spaces. They’ve grown up with this popular mythology that belittles them and that doesn’t recognize their language as being valid.”

— Nora England

PEOPLE IN GUATEMALA CALL IT SIMPLY “THE Violence.” The country’s 36-year-long civil war between guerilla forces and military regimes profoundly altered its citizens. The war was particularly brutal for the indigenous Mayan population, which lost 200,000 people as a result of government-led genocide.

Many of the friends whom linguistics professor Nora England made on her numerous research trips to Guatemala died during the war, and on one visit in 1980 she saw a man shot in the head as she rode in a taxi from the airport to her hotel. After that, her friends told her not to come back.

When The Violence ended in 1984, England did return. She had work to do as part of what she calls her “lifetime commitment” to the country. England is staunchly dedicated to researching and preserving the 21 languages spoken by the nearly five million Mayas in Guatemala.

England specializes in grammar and language structure, but her work also is a form of social activism. Mayas are the minority group in Guatemala—the tribes comprise 40 percent of the population—and many non-Mayas, or Ladinos, view them as second-class citizens. In fact, Ladinos will often hush Mayas speaking their native tongue, and insist they use Spanish instead.

“Mayas typically speak very quietly in public spaces,” England says. “They’ve grown up with this popular mythology that belittles them and that doesn’t recognize their language as being valid.”

But England helps them find their voice. In addition to conducting research, she teaches linguistics to Mayas. By examining the grammar and learning its intricacies, students find a way to legitimize their language. They gain confidence in their culture and begin to speak up, empowered by the

notion their language has a place in society.

“One of my former students went to a bar with some friends, and the doorman told her she wasn’t welcome there because she was dressed in traditional Mayan clothing,” England says. “She stood up for herself and raised a commotion, but a lot of Mayas would have kept quiet.”

The change England sees in her students as they complete the linguistics program also is transforming the education system in Guatemala. When she first visited the country in the mid-1970s, many children didn’t have access to education beyond elementary school, and there were no college graduates in the Mayan population. Teachers spoke only in Spanish and would routinely show up for class only two days a week.

Today, Mayas are advancing in school more quickly and graduating at a higher rate. Students often become teachers and return to their villages to provide other Mayas an opportunity to study in their native language. Six Mayas have earned doctorates, and several more are enrolled in doctoral programs. One of those students, Irma Alicia Velásquez, earned her anthropology degree at The University of Texas at Austin, and two more are currently writing their dissertations.

The rest of the country is changing too, albeit at a slower pace. The Constitution was translated into Mayan, but England says Mayas often have more access to public information in the United States than at home. For example, a Mayan defendant in the United States is provided with a translator, but activists are still trying to establish translation services in Guatemalan courts.

“Working on these languages really hits home for Mayas,” England says. “It’s not just theoretical for them. They are defining their culture and identity and improving their quality of life.” ¶¶¶

Nationally Noted Historians Launch Institute

Inaugural Theme: Global Borders

DURING HIS 2006 INSTALLATION ADDRESS, PRESIDENT William Powers Jr. identified the Department of History as a strategic priority, committing \$1.3 million in new, recurring funds that will support research, teaching and the new Institute for Historical Studies whose inaugural programs will focus on “Global Borders.”

“In the great universities throughout civilization, the teaching of history has always been fundamental,” Powers says. “Historians and history teachers not only preserve the past, they enrich the long narrative of events and human interaction, so that we better understand who we are now and what the future holds.

“Every UT student, no matter his or her major, should study history in order to enjoy the full range of the intellectual experience.”

Alan Tully, chair of the department, and Randy Diehl, dean of the college of liberal arts, announced the launch of the institute at the reopening of Garrison Hall, the recently renovated home to the nationally recognized program.

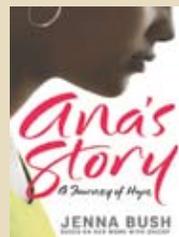
The Institute for Historical Studies builds on the department’s impressive publication record and competitive research funding from national agencies and research institutions.

As part of its 2008 rankings of America’s Best Graduate Schools, U.S. News and World Report ranked the university’s Latin American history program No. 1 in the nation and the department No. 19.

The historians have built strong research enterprises in the areas of empires and globalization, diaspora and migration, the borderlands, cultures, gender, religion and transnational history. The department includes a Pulitzer Prize-winner and several Guggenheim Fellows.

For more information, visit www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/historicalstudies/.

Alumna Jenna Bush Writes About Work with UNICEF in “Ana’s Story”



IN 2006, LIBERAL ARTS ALUMNA Jenna Bush (English, ’04) left her job as a public school teacher in Washington, D.C. for an internship with UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund, in Panama. Her task: documenting the lives of children in Central America living in extreme poverty.

During a visit with an HIV support group, Bush met Ana, a 17-year-old single mother and orphan infected with HIV at birth. “We are not dying with AIDS; we are living with it,” Ana declared as she glanced at the baby daughter balanced on her hip. “We are survivors.”

The Panamanian mother’s maturity, confidence and vitality moved Bush. Their meetings during the next six months emerged as “Ana’s Story: a Journey of Hope” (HarperCollins, 2007), which the first daughter describes as a work of narrative non-fiction. Bush spins the tale of Ana’s life in a mosaic of vignettes about her childhood with a strict grandmother, the sexual abuse she endures and her struggle to break free from the culture of silence about HIV.

After a judge sentences Ana to a juvenile detention center, an unplanned pregnancy adds a new level of hardship to her poverty-stricken life. Bush’s prose is spare (chapter six is only four sentences long), but moves with an assured fluidity that belies the upheaval and emotional turmoil of Ana’s journey.



Left: Geography student Ericka Garcia uses a Global Positioning System to help Maya workers map the farm's territory. The data will help the cooperative negotiate a loan to pay off their debt and plan new farm projects to create revenue for the nearly 130 families who work the land. *Right:* Mayas tilling hillside cornfields on the Cuchil Coffee Farm where they have greatly increased production since taking ownership of the land. The workers now have access to sufficient land in order to provide for their families.

Co-op Coffee Farm in Tucuru

ANTHROPOLOGISTS CHARLES R. HALE AND Edmund T. Gordon work with indigenous and African-descended communities in Central America in their struggle for rights to land they have historically occupied but not owned. The two conceive and carry out their research, known as activist anthropology, in collaboration with the people they study. Hale collaborates with Latin American studies professor Guillermo Padilla and Maya Indian coffee workers in Guatemala, who are securing ownership of farms and creating cooperatives. Undergraduate and graduate students are working on the project, mapping the farmland, documenting the workers' oral history and designing a meeting space for cooperative members.

Hale is the author of "Mas Que un Indio" (More Than an Indian): Racial Ambivalence and Neoliberal Multiculturalism in Guatemala" (School of American Research Press, 2006).

Linguists in Latin America

Researchers explore one of the world's most linguistically diverse regions

Chasing Chatino

Anthony C. Woodbury, professor of linguistics, and Emiliana Cruz, graduate student of anthropology, and Hilaria Cruz, graduate student of linguistics, document the Chatino family of languages of Oaxaca, Mexico. The University of London funds their work with researchers and indigenous speakers to gather information for literacy classes and local preservation initiatives.

The (New) ABC's of H-u-p

Patience Epps, assistant professor of linguistics, journeys along twisting Brazilian rivers in an open motorboat for three days to reach the small villages where the Hup language is spoken. Since 2000, Epps has recorded narratives, conversations and

songs in the language spoken by approximately 1,500 people in the Vaupés region of northwest Brazil and eastern Colombia. She developed a practical writing system for the language, as well as grammar and alphabet books.

Reviving an Endangered Language

Since 2002 Lev Michael, linguistics graduate student, and Christine Beier, anthropology graduate student, have led a team of researchers to document Iquito, a highly endangered language of the Peruvian Amazon with approximately 25 remaining elderly speakers. Partnering with community members they trained in basic linguistics, they compiled an Iquito-Spanish bilingual dictionary and a large collection of translated and transcribed historical, traditional and personal narratives. They are writing a comprehensive descriptive grammar of the Iquito language. These collections, together with additional teaching resources, are used in the community to revitalize the language.



Preserving Endangered Languages on the Web

The Archive of Indigenous Languages of Latin America (AILLA) in the Department of Linguistics received a \$350,000

grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation to document endangered languages. AILLA will digitize and archive eight major collections on languages in Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Venezuela, adding to the more than 100 indigenous languages in its archives.

"When an ancestral language stops being used, it spells the end of many cultural traditions, and an abrupt unraveling, restructuring and reevaluation of others," Anthony Woodbury, AILLA co-director and professor of linguistics and anthropology, says.

"Latin America is one of the most linguistically diverse regions in the world, but most of these languages are disappearing as the speakers succumb to social and economic pressure to speak only Spanish or Portuguese." The collections will be used in multicultural courses around the world.

AILLA offers high-quality recordings of native speakers sharing stories, singing songs and explaining the history of their cultures are available to the public to download for free from the Web site. A collaboration between the Departments of Linguistics and Anthropology and the General Libraries, AILLA is a valuable resource in language and culture preservation and education.

To learn more, visit www.ailla.utexas.org. ▮▮▮



BOLIVIA

Keeping the Peace

Peace Corps volunteers gain experience by teaching job skills

BY TRACY MUELLER

WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD. The University of Texas at Austin's motto serves not only as an ideal to which students aspire, but also as a declaration of the many accomplishments of Texas Exes. And for one group of Liberal Arts graduates, changing the world is all in a day's work.

Javier Garza (Government, '70) directs 130 Peace Corps volunteers in Bolivia, including five University of Texas at Austin alumni. Four are graduates of the College of Liberal Arts. Garza takes great pride in the university's strong presence in Bolivia, one of Latin America's poorest countries.

"Bolivia is a tough place to live and an equally tough place to serve as a volunteer," Garza says. "It's wonderful we have this network of UT graduates who want to use their knowledge and passions to help others."

The University of Texas at Austin ranks sixth in the nation in the number of graduates who join the Peace Corps, which operates in more than 70 countries across the globe. Volunteers serve two-year stints, working on projects that fall into four major categories: education, health and HIV/AIDS, business development and the environment.

Joy Casnovsky (Geography, '04) runs a recycling and environmental club at a boys' orphanage in the town of Vallegrande. Casnovsky teaches boys how to care for the environment and helps them collect, sort and bag paper to sell to a recycling company in Santa Cruz City. In 2006 the club sold more than 6,000 pounds of paper and earned enough money for a field



Joy Casnovsky (Geography, '04) runs a recycling and environmental club at a boys' orphanage in the town of Vallegrande in Bolivia.

trip to Samaipata, an historical town home to pre-Incan ruins.

"In Samaipata, the boys saw the big picture of how recycling contributes to environmental conservation," Casnovsky says. "They learned about the local flora, fauna and cultural riches of the area. Additionally, since the recycling project teaches new job skills, the boys were able to explore future career options as park guides and in tourism."

In a country where more than half the population lives in poverty, job training efforts are vitally important. Volunteers **Ashley Bessire (Latin American Studies, '05)** and **Shannon Trilli (Government and History, '01)** also help Bolivians develop new job skills. Working in Bolivia's oil- and cattle-rich easternmost region of Santa Cruz, they train local community groups and governments to foster tourism and small business development.

A centerpiece to their efforts is the promotion of San Jose de Chiquitos and Santiago de Chiquitos, previously forgotten towns that are home to a collection of Jesuit missions widely considered architectural marvels. Built during the 16th and 17th centuries, the churches and grounds are in remarkably good condition. In 1992, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization declared the Chiquitos temples world cultural sites. With their expertly carved columns and brightly painted exteriors, the missions are gaining popularity among

both Bolivian and foreign tourists, despite the remote location.

"I know my time here is limited, and the work I have done has to be sustainable for years to come," says Bessire, who routinely travels 15 hours by train to reach her work site in San Jose. "When I leave, I want to know that I've made a huge difference, and have impacted those around me in a way that enables them to continue the work we started."

Meanwhile, on Bolivia's southern border, in a hot, dusty town called Palmar Chico, **Andrew McCown (Latin American Studies and Geography, '05)** helps community members improve agricultural productivity. He works with a resident to build and stock fish ponds. He also connects local beekeepers with volunteers to learn new honey production techniques, and hosts workshops for women to learn cake and pastry design and how to sell their goods at regional markets.

During a campaign speech in 1960, John F. Kennedy challenged university students to serve their country by volunteering abroad. One year later, the Peace Corps was formed, and now more than 40 years later, Americans are still answering that call to service.

In Bolivia, residents cope with narcotics trafficking, governmental corruption and underdevelopment, but Peace Corps volunteers teach citizens how to utilize their country's natural resources in order to improve their lives and communities. ▮▮▮

Top Shelf

Aged 80 Years, the Nettie Lee Benson Collection Attracts Latin America Connoisseurs from Around the World

BY JENNIFER MCANDREW

IN 1577, SPAIN'S KING PHILLIP II ORDERED A COMPREHENSIVE survey of the New World. Questionnaires sent to Spain's territories in the Americas requested information about population, demographics, languages, terrain and vegetation.

Of the more than 200 responses, called the *relaciones geográficas* (see inset), one-fifth reside in the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection at The University of Texas at Austin. The *relaciones geográficas* are just a few of the many priceless artifacts acquired by the collection since its establishment in 1926.

Today, the Benson Collection is the largest university library of Latin American materials in North America, attracting scholars and visitors from around the world and providing essential support to the research and teaching of the internationally renowned Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS).

The Collection's curators acquire and provide access to materials on Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and the Hispanic presence in the United States. Mexican and Brazilian materials are collected with special intensity, but holdings for the study of all South and Central American and the Spanish Caribbean have earned international recognition for their depth.

Laying the Foundation (1920-41)

The university's development of a Latin American Collection began in 1920 with a chance encounter on a Mexico City street. Professor Charles Wilson Hackett and University of Texas Regent H. J. Lucher Stark traveled to Mexico for the inauguration of President Álvaro Obregón. As they were strolling down Madero Street, they spotted a first edition of conquistador Bernal Díaz del Castillo's *Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España* ("True History of the Conquest of New Spain," Madrid, 1632) in a bookstore window.

"That book should be in the library of The University of Texas," exclaimed Hackett, to which Stark responded, "Let's buy it."

That single purchase led Hackett and Stark to discover the



Acapistla (now Yecapixtla, Morelos), Mexico. 1580.

availability of the unique private library of Genaro García, Mexican senator, historian and bibliophile. The García library, which the university purchased from his heirs six months later in 1921, became the nucleus of the Latin American Collection. It contained more than 25,000 books about Mexico, the Americas, the West Indies and Spain, and 250,000 pages of original manuscripts reflecting four centuries of Mexican history, education and law.

The library's first curator, historian Carlos E. Castañeda, added many other important collections after the initial García library purchase

Foremost among these were 247 volumes of manuscripts and books acquired in 1937 from the Joaquín García Icazbalceta library. This included the unmatched series of *relaciones geográficas* and 45 of the first books printed in the New World between 1542 and 1600, on language, science, history, music and religion.

Noteworthy among the library's rare books is the "Doctrina breve muy provechosa," a catechism written by Bishop Juan de Zumárraga. Printed in Mexico in 1543, it is the oldest extant New World imprint.

Castañeda also appealed to government agencies and universities throughout Latin America, who sent materials to the library devoted to their culture and history.

Growth and Expansion (1942-75)

However, it was during the leadership of the indefatigable Nettie Lee Benson, noted historian of Mexico and head librarian from 1942 to 1975, that the comprehensiveness and quality of the Collection attained worldwide renown.

During her tenure, Benson nearly doubled the number of volumes in the library and expanded a publication exchange program with Latin American institutions by which duplicate books in the library are exchanged for publications from Latin America. The Benson Collection continues to acquire nearly a third of its books by those means, some through agreements drawn more

than 70 years ago.

As the reputation of the Collection grew, so did its benefactors. Donations of publications from governmental agencies, corporations and non-governmental organizations constantly enrich the Collection with rare documentation. Nearly one-fourth of all books added annually to the library are through private gifts.

Benson also recognized the need for a library resource that focused on Latinos in the United States, now the country's largest minority.

Prior to her retirement, Benson lent strong support to a student initiative that established the Mexican American Library Program, which collects all relevant current and retrospective books and materials related to Latinos and Mexican Americans and assists the scholarly activities of the Center for Mexican American Studies.

Benson's role in sustaining the Collection's growth and contemporary relevancy was honored in 1975 when the university's Board of Regents named the library in her honor.

Contemporary Focus (1975-present)

Though the Benson Collection's archival holdings relate predominantly to the Spanish colonial era and the post-independence period of the 19th century, the current focus is on developing 20th-century holdings from all of Latin America.

Recent acquisitions include collections about Latin American human rights issues; Brazilian contemporary music; George O. Jackson, Jr. "Essence of Mexico" photographs detailing community fiestas; the Agradánchez Collection of Mexican Cinema; the José Gómez Sicre papers on Latin American artists, especially from Cuba; and literary and historical papers of U.S. Latino organizations and authors, such as feminist theorist Gloria Anzaldúa.

The Collection adds nearly 16,000 volumes annually, many of which are donated through the generosity of friends, faculty, staff and students. Head librarian Ann Hartness expects the Collection to reach one million volumes in 2008.

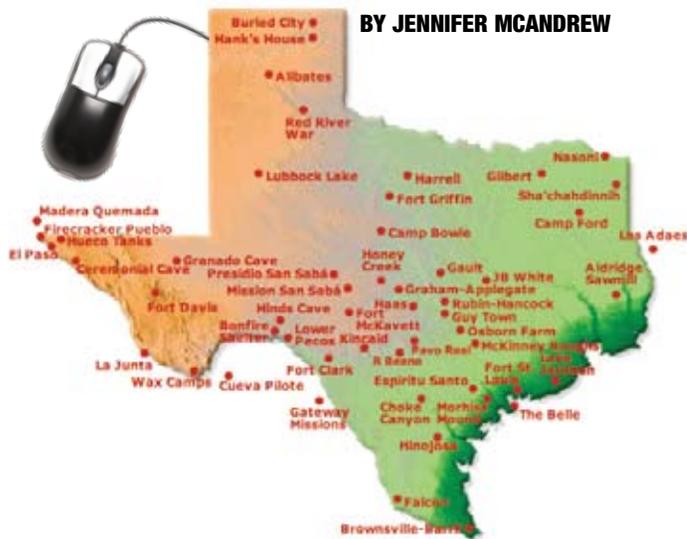
Benson Collection staff employ several strategies to increase the library's holdings, including standing arrangements with Latin American book dealers, exchange agreements with more than 800 Latin American institutions, acquisitions through U.S. sources for Latino publications, active solicitation of gifts and acquisition trips.

As the 21st century unfolds, the library will continue to grow by adding both traditional and innovative sources of information that reflect people's lives, work, culture, governance and the natural resources and international relations of approximately 40 countries.

Eighty years after its establishment, the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection is considered a national and international treasure and serves as the crowning achievement of The University of Texas at Austin's commitment to Latin American studies. ■■■

Dig Up Texas History Online

BY JENNIFER MCANDREW



THROUGHOUT HISTORY, BORDERS HAVE OFTEN been places where cultures collide, identities are contested and wars are fought. The Texas borderlands are no exception. Exploring the state's unique history under Spanish, French and Mexican rule is an ongoing focus of TexasBeyondHistory.net (TBH), a virtual museum created by the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL).

With more than 50 million artifacts, TARL is the largest and oldest archeological repository in Texas. University archeologists and researchers add 10,000 artifacts each year. As a working laboratory, the facility is primarily open to accredited researchers.

In order to share the fruits of more than 80 years of archeological research with the public, TARL created the Texas Beyond History Web site in 2001. In 2006, the site had more than five million virtual visitors from 125 countries.

FALCON RESERVOIR

Beneath the watery expanses of Falcon Reservoir in Southwest Texas lie the ruins of small villas and ranchos, ghostly reminders of once-thriving 18th-century Spanish settlements. Archeological investigations in the 1950s secured important artifacts before the structures were permanently submerged.

GATEWAY MISSIONS

In 1700, Missions San Juan Bautista, San Bernardo and San Francisco de Solano were established on the Rio Grande to serve native people. During the 1970s archeologists rediscovered the site, which played a major role in sustaining trade routes across the northern frontier.

LOS ADAES MISSION AND PRESIDIO

Few Texans know that from 1729 to 1770, the Spanish capital of Texas was actually located in Louisiana at Los Adaes. Though the Spanish crown forbade settlers to engage in commerce with the French, frontier survival led to contraband trade among the Spanish, French and Caddo Indians.

MISSION SAN SABÁ

Archeologists discovered the tale of the 10-month life of the doomed Mission San Sabá in 1993. In 1758, an allied force of 2,000 Wichita, Comanche, Tonkawa and Caddo Indians, angered by the Spanish lust for gold and native souls, sacked the mission and burned it to the ground.

MISSION ESPÍRITU SANTO

Spanish friars at Mission Espíritu Santo first targeted the coastal Karankawa and then the Aranama Indians for conversion. Archeologists tracked this mission across four localities to learn about its history and how the Texas cattle industry was born.

LANIC: Electronic Gateway to the Americas

THE LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK INFORMATION CENTER (LANIC) serves as an electronic gateway to Latin America, offering nearly 12,000 Web sites on the region. LANIC—which receives more than four million hits per month—is affiliated with the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS).

The online resources are designed to assist researchers throughout the world—from university scholars to primary and secondary school teachers to private and public sector professionals.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the College of Liberal Arts help fund LANIC, which is a key component of the International Information Systems, also based at the university. Log on at <http://lanic.utexas.edu/>.

Podcasts and Portuguese: You say “Adios,” I say “Adeus”

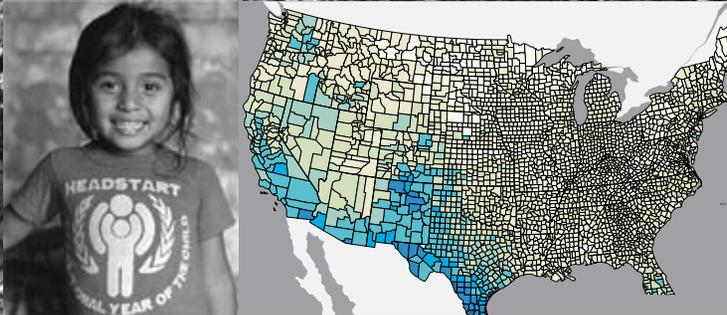
SPANISH SPEAKERS OFTEN STRUGGLE TO MASTER Portuguese, which is deceptively similar. False cognates, different vocabulary and a new grammar system prove particularly challenging for people with a Spanish background.

“Tá Falado” (It’s All Been Said), created by the Texas Language Technology Center (TLTC), is an online learning tool featuring podcasts of Portuguese pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary lessons. Users can download transcripts and ask questions as part of a discussion blog. Podcast dialogs illustrate specific sound differences between Spanish and Portuguese and highlight cultural contrasts between the

United States and Brazil.

TLTC transforms foreign language learning through emerging technologies. Funded by a three-year, \$540,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, TLTC is a leader in developing no-cost digital scholarly resources free from most copyright and licensing restrictions. These resources also are known as open access projects.

Other online applications include “Cantar de mio Cid,” a multimedia oral presentation of the epic Spanish poem; and “Français Interactif,” a French curriculum that includes streaming video, grammar quizzes, verb conjugation tools and online polls and receives nearly one million hits per day.



Sociologists Lead the Field in Understanding Changing Communities

Hispanics comprise the largest and fastest-growing ethnic minority group in the United States. Almost 50 percent of Hispanics live in the Southwestern United States, primarily in California and Texas (see demographic map, inset). The growing Hispanic community has a relatively young population: 23 percent of children younger than 5 years old are Hispanic. From education and health to labor and immigration, liberal arts researchers examine the country's changing demographics to address tomorrow's issues today. Photos by Alan Pogue.

Changing U.S. Demographics: A Societal Call

Demographic Shift Presents Opportunities, Challenges



BY ROBERT A. HUMMER
Chair, Department
of Sociology

IN RECENT DECADES, TEXAS AND THE UNITED States have experienced one of the biggest population transformations in the nation's history, with three major trends: growth, aging and diversity.

Growth

In 2006, the U.S. population reached 300 million people and continues to grow at a rate of almost 1 percent per year. This is unique for a post-industrial society. Texas has continued to grow at an even faster rate than the U.S. population, and may reach 25 million people by 2010.

Aging

The first Baby Boomers will reach age 65 in 2011. And, the population aged 65 and older will grow rapidly during the next two decades. In Texas, the state data center projects between 16 and 20 percent of the population will be aged 65 and older by 2040, compared to 10 percent currently.

Diversity

The 2000 census revealed the nation is characterized by more racial/ethnic diversity than ever before, largely driven by relatively high levels of immigration and birth rates in immigrant communities during the past two decades. The

Hispanic population became the nation's largest ethnic minority group in 2000. Asian Americans and Hispanics continue to grow at faster rates than African Americans and non-Hispanic whites in the United States.

These fundamental shifts in the U.S. population's size and composition, as well as their causes and consequences, are central to the research and teaching missions of the Department of Sociology and the Population Research Center at The University of Texas at Austin. The nation will look quite different in the coming decades, presenting new cultural and economic opportunities but also new challenges in social and health services and education.

It is vitally important for us to understand the complex population shifts that are unfolding around us. Demographic change affects every community. How the country responds to this new demographic reality will shape the fabric of American life and culture for years to come. ¶¶¶

Robert A. Hummer is the chair of the Department of Sociology and a research associate at the Population Research Center. He researches the health and healthcare patterns of immigrant populations in the United States, who often face difficult economic and social situations.



Sociologists Spearhead Population Studies

NSF Supports Graduate Student Diversity

The National Science Foundation renewed a grant to support minority graduate students in the social sciences in the College of Liberal Arts. The renewal earmarks an additional \$427,000 for **recruitment and retention of students** in the Departments of Anthropology, Government and Sociology during the next three years. Since 2005 the NSF has supported more than 20 social science graduate students at the university with \$270,000 in federal funding for research fellowships and travel. “This type of federal funding helps make upward trends in diversity a reality, not just an aspiration,” says Bob Hummer, chair of the Department of Sociology.

Sociology Professors Among Most Highly Cited in Nation

Citation is a direct measure of a scholar’s influence in a field. When one researcher cites another’s work, he or she acknowledges the relevance of that work to current scholarship.

Thomson Scientific, a leading textbook publisher, tracks the top 250 researchers whose publications have received the most citations from 1981 to 1999.

In the social sciences category, five sociology professors affiliated with the Population Research Center made the prestigious list.

Christopher Ellison researches the implications of religion for mental and physical health; religious variation in family life, including childrearing and marital relations; and the role of religion in minority groups.

Norval Glenn specializes in family sociology, social change, aging and survey research methods. His recent research deals with marital success and psychological well being throughout life.

John Mirowsky studies social aspects of health and well-being. Current research examines effects on health of education, employment, economic hardship, neighborhood disadvantage and the sense of personal control.

Catherine Ross researches the effects of socioeconomic status, education, work, family and neighborhoods on physical and mental health, and men and women’s sense of control versus powerlessness.

Debra Umberson studies the sociology of mental health, gender, aging and the life course, and death and dying. Her recent publications explore how the effect of marital quality on health changes over time.



Cross-Border Contraception Use by Latinas

The federally funded Border Contraceptive Access Study is set in the unique bi-national setting of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, where oral contraceptive users may obtain the pill from either family planning clinics in the United States or pharmacies in Mexico.

Investigators **Joseph Potter** in the Department of Sociology and **Kristine Hopkins** at the Population Research Center lead this collaborative effort with researchers at the University of Texas El Paso and Ibis Reproductive Health. The team has completed a study of 1,300 women assessing their ability to self-screen for oral contraceptives. The researchers are conducting a nine-month, follow-up study of 1,000 users to determine not only why women choose a clinic or pharmacy, but also whether the source has any influence on satisfaction, continuation, and method failure.

The study also contains an ethnographic component led by Hopkins. And recently, the Center for Border Health Research funded a new module to assess hypertension and obesity among the population’s pill users.

The research will answer important questions about the appropriate role of medical supervision in oral contraceptive provision and inform policy regarding Hispanic fertility and contraceptive practice.

Researchers Examine Challenges of an Aging Population

Mark Hayward, director of the Population Research Center, leads research on health and aging. He studies the origins of health disparities at older ages and ethnic disparities in healthy life expectancy in several projects funded by the National Institute on Aging. **John Mirowsky**, professor of sociology, leads a study called “Aging, Status, and the Sense of Control,” which aims to explain the relationship between aging and changes in the sense of control over life. **Debra Umberson**, professor of sociology, focuses on the effect of marriage on health quality over time. She also examines how the death of a parent affects adult children in her book, “Death of a Parent: Transition to a New Adult Identity” (2006). **Jacqueline Angel**, professor of public affairs and sociology, leads the Conference Series on Aging in the Americas. Recent conferences have examined the social and economic causes and consequences of health problems among the aging Hispanic population of the United States.

Research Apprentices Study Minority Demography

Hispanic infant mortality, health care needs of elderly Mexican Americans, effects of immigration on health, adolescent sexual behavior and racial differences in disabilities are just a few of the issues examined by apprentices in the **Research Experience for Undergraduates** program in minority group demography. Each summer, the 10-week program offers undergraduates the opportunity to apprentice with a Population Research Center faculty affiliate and present their projects at fall meetings of the Southern Demographic Association. More than 150 students have participated in the program since its inception in 1989. Some alumni have pursued careers in academe, while others work in the public sector for organizations such as the Texas Department of Insurance and the United Nations Population Division.

Bridging the Disciplines

How do international migration, changes in marriage and family patterns and aging citizens affect nations' population structures? Undergraduates enrolled in the "Social Inequality, Health and Policy" concentration of the Bridging Disciplines Program investigate these questions and many more via coursework and internship experiences. Through the lenses of multiple disciplines, students explore the causes of disparities in health, life expectancy and medical care that exist in the world today. **Jacqueline Angel** and **Shannon Cavanagh**, sociologists, lead the faculty panel for the program. Learn more at www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp/programs/sihp/index.html.

Breaking the Silence: Incest in Mexican Society

Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez, assistant professor of sociology, recently completed fieldwork in four urban centers in Mexico for her study "Secretos de Familia: Incest in Mexican Society." Her research in Ciudad Juarez, Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey is one of the first projects to examine incest in Mexico from a feminist, sociological perspective. The intense, qualitative study consisted of in-depth interviews with 60 adults with a history of incestuous relationships and more than 30 professionals working on these issues from different disciplines. Interviews explored the social forces that contribute to incest and investigated the quality of participants' sexual health and intimate relationships. Preliminary findings will help train the professionals who work on these issues, as well as inform political activism designed to help children and women who have been exposed to sexual violence.

Sociologists Reunite to Explore Latin American Demography

More than 30 alumni of the Population Research Center returned to the university last spring to share the fruits of their research at the 2007 conference, "**Latin American Demography: Past, Present and Future.**" Conference topics included: family change and gender, social policy, international migration and border studies, reproductive health, aging and social and labor mobility. Notable alumni included **Jorge Balan**, a 1968 graduate who is a program officer at the Ford Foundation, and **Paulo Saad**, a 1998 graduate who is a population affairs officer with the United Nations. Participants traveled from universities across the United States and Latin America where they are leading the field of population studies.



Hispanics, Health and the Future

The population of the United States, similar to other nations, will age rapidly during the 21st century. It's unclear how this demographic trend will affect Latinos who are living longer and shifting from a youthful population to an increasingly older cohort. **Jacqueline Angel**, professor of sociology, edited "The Health of Aging Hispanics: The Mexican-Origin Population" (2007), which examines the connection between immigration and health and addresses political issues related to the debate on healthcare reform.

Top-ranked Population Research Center Taps Interdisciplinary Talents

Population Research Center Leads Successful Anti-Poverty Program



Huston

New Hope, an experimental program started by community activists and business leaders in Milwaukee to boost employment among the working poor and improve children's lives, can be a model for national anti-poverty policies, says **Aletha Huston**, professor of child development in the Department of Human Ecology and a faculty affiliate of the Population Research Center. She is the author of "Higher Ground: New Hope for the Working Poor and Their Children" (2007), which provides a compelling look at the program, drawing upon stories, surveys and employment records of individual participants. Participants in the New Hope program were required to work a minimum of 30 hours per week to be eligible for earning supplements and health and child care subsidies. They also had access to career counseling. The program not only increased work and reduced poverty, but also improved school achievement and reduced behavior problems for the children of participating adults. It also increased children's involvement in childcare centers, after-school programs and other structured activities.

"Most significant to public policy is the long-term positive effect of the New Hope program on children," Huston says. "The children weren't part of the program's intervention, but they clearly benefited from reduced poverty and access to health insurance and child care."

Latino Children Serve as Family Translators

Children of immigrant parents are often called upon to translate the English language for their parents in conversations at the bank or doctor's office. Known as "language brokers," these children are more than just translators, they are called upon to mediate adult social transactions that can be very stressful or difficult. **Su Yeong Kim**, an assistant professor of human ecology affiliated with the Population Research Center, launched a study to examine the role of language brokering on child development in Mexican American populations. Through interviews with parents and children, she hopes to untangle how the translation responsibility impacts child development, academic performance and acculturation.

Preserving the Past and Preparing for the Future

Hispanic Faculty Shape Scholarship in Fields from Spanish to Slavic Studies

Crossing Borders in Literature and Life

BY TRACY MUELLER

MIGUEL GONZALEZ-GERTH, WHO GRADUATED from The University of Texas at Austin in 1950 with a degree in romance languages, remains devoted to preserving the legacy of his mentor Harry Ransom.

Gonzalez-Gerth, a Spanish professor emeritus and 2006 Pro Bene Meritis recipient, has assisted the Harry Ransom Center in acquiring recent collections, including select materials from Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges.



Miguel Gonzalez-Gerth (right), Spanish professor emeritus, with Argentine writer Jose Luis Borges, who taught at the university in 1961.

He also serves as a special consultant to Thomas Staley, the center's director and professor of English who holds the Harry Hunt Ransom Chair in Liberal Arts.

Gonzalez-Gerth's international focus reflects his multicultural upbringing. While living in Mexico City, he attended a British school. When his father was transferred to Spain, the family traveled throughout Europe, visiting London, Paris and Berlin. Upon returning from Spain, Gonzalez-Gerth relocated to San Antonio to attend military boarding school.

Even his master's thesis, "Spanish Themes in American Romantic Literature," reflected this cross-cultural sensibility. Throughout his career, Gonzalez-Gerth has written his poetry in both Spanish and English and likened himself to an amphibious animal, at home in two different worlds.

His tenure at the university maintained a similar duality. As a professor and interim chair of the Department

of Spanish and Portuguese, he was an important part of the department's rise to national prominence. Yet he also found himself drawn to English literature and was a founding member of the university's weekly British Studies Seminar.

Borges, who taught at the university in 1961, shared Gonzalez-Gerth's enthusiasm for English literature, and the two poets bonded over their bi-national experiences.

"Borges' first encounter with North America was Texas," Gonzalez-Gerth says. "He felt at home here and saw many similarities in the history and landscape of Texas and his native Argentina. Borges remembered Texas in his poetry, and Texas has never forgotten him."

Texas

Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986)

Here as well. Here, as at the other
End of the hemisphere, an endless
Plain where a lone call-to-arms
Dies out. Here too the lasso, the Indian,
And the colt...as well as the bird
That no one sees singing over the roar
Of history to keep a single afternoon
Memorable. Here too the mystic
Alphabet of stars dictating to my pen
Names the unceasing labyrinth
Of days has not effaced: San Jacinto
And that other Thermopylae, the Alamo.
Here as well the utterly unfamiliar,
Anxious and brief thing called life.

— translated by Kurt Heinzelman, English professor,
for "Black Butterflies" (Mulberry Press, 2004)

Center leads Mexican-American Studies in the 21st Century

BY CHRISTIAN CLARKE CÁSAREZ

SINCE 1970, THE CENTER FOR MEXICAN-American Studies (CMAS) has supported scholarship on the country's fastest growing minority population.



Limón

Every year, the center brings the academy to the community through an extensive public programming calendar. The events range from cultural studies on the Virgin of Guadalupe and Selena to policy examinations about immigration and access to education.

"Scholars across the university are providing insight into the Mexican and Mexican American experience," says Jose Limón, director of the Center for Mexican American Studies. "They not only help us understand the broader Latino experience, they strengthen the presence of Mexican Americans and other Latinos in the intellectual terrain nationally and internationally."

In addition to offering academic programs, CMAS coordinates nationally recognized projects, including:

- **Latino USA**, a production partnership with KUT Radio. The award-winning radio journal of Latino news and culture is broadcast on about 180 stations.
- **Latino Financial Issues Program**, a partnership with business and community organizations to promote financial literacy and support research on wealth and asset accumulation.
- **Latinos and Educational Equity**, addressing the quality of education for historically underprivileged communities in Texas, most of which have high percentages of Latino and African American youth.
- **History, Culture and Society**, a publication series with UT Press, featuring more than 10 cutting-edge inquiries into politics, military history and the civil rights movement
- **World War II archive**, an oral history project led by Maggie-Rivas Rodriguez, CMAS affiliate and associate professor of journalism. In addition to interviewing men and women of the World War II generation, she is building a rich holding of artifacts, such as newspaper clippings, letters and diaries.

To learn more about CMAS and read Noticias (News), which the center has published for 15 years, visit www.utexas.edu/depts/cmas/.

Texas Heritage: Hinojosa-Smith Earns Lifetime Achievement Award

BY JENNIFER MCANDREW



Hinojosa-Smith

DURING THE 2007 TEXAS Book Festival, Rolando Hinojosa-Smith, the Ellen Clayton Garwood Professor of Creative Writing, was one of two Texas authors honored with the Bookend Award for lifetime achievement and contributions to Texas literature.

Hinojosa-Smith is best known for his “Klail City Death Trip” series, a collection of novels following generations of Anglos and Mexicans in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

“The presentation of the Bookend Award to Rolando suggests that the Texas literary establishment has finally recognized what Rolando has known for decades: that the culture and literature of the Texas-Mexico borderlands have become a central part of the state’s sense of itself,” John M. González, assistant professor of English, says.

The son of a Mexican American father and an Anglo mother, Hinojosa-Smith is a product of the U.S.-Mexico border’s cultural synthesis.

“Estampas Del Valle y Otras Obras” (published in English as “The Valley”), Hinojosa-Smith’s 1973 series about the lower Rio Grande Valley where he was born and raised, was recognized as a classic of the Chicano literary canon upon publication.

His recent novels include “Ask a Policeman,” “The Useless Servants,” “Becky and Her Friends,” “Dear Rafe,” “Rites and Witnesses” and “We Happy Few.”

Hinojosa-Smith has earned numerous literary honors during his prolific career. He was the first Chicano author to receive the prestigious prize in Latin American fiction, Premio Casa de las Américas, for “Klail City y sus alrededores” (published in English as “Klail City”) in 1976.

Earlier this year, Hinojosa-Smith was inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame. His work has been translated into numerous languages, including Dutch, French, German and Italian.

Hinojosa-Smith is the second professor at the university to receive the Bookend Award. In 1998, the Texas Book Festival honored the lifetime achievement of the late Américo Paredes, professor emeritus of anthropology and English, and founder of the Center for Mexican American Studies and Paredes Center for Cultural Studies in the College of Liberal Arts.

South Texan Takes on Transylvania

Garza Opens New Path for Latinos in Academe

BY CHRISTIAN CLARKE CÁSAZ

AS A TEENAGER, THOMAS JESUS GARZA WAS ON the road to becoming a lawyer. But shortly after enrolling at Haverford College in Pennsylvania, the South Texas native turned his academic energies to Slavic languages and vampire mythology.

Garza discovered the Russian language through an energetic professor, Dan Davidson, whose teaching techniques inspired—and transformed—him.

“I could feel myself changing in class,” Garza, director of the Center for Russian, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies and chair of the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, recalls. “I didn’t know Russian or much about the Soviet Union, but I was overwhelmed by the feeling that I had found my life’s calling.”

After Garza graduated from Harvard University in 1987, he worked at the U.S. Department of State before embarking on his career in academe, where he was a rare commodity—a Hispanic scholar who studied Russian applied linguistics and vampires.

Nationally, Hispanics comprise about 2.2 percent of professors and 3.1 percent of associate professors, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education’s 2007-08 Almanac. Although

Hispanics earn 7 percent of bachelor’s degrees conferred across the United States, they earn only 3.5 percent of doctorates.

“Many parents whose children are among the first in their families to graduate from college see an academic degree as a path to financial freedom, so they encourage students to attend a professional school in business, law or medicine. That makes good sense, but we must help students understand there is more to job prestige than money,” Garza says.

“In addition, universities need to provide incentives for students of color to enter academe, where they can help shape the country’s intellectual life and inspire the next generation of thinkers and leaders.”



Interview with the Vampire Scholar:

Thomas Jesus Garza (second from right) joined actors Josh Hartnett and Melissa Gilbert and director David Slade at the media premier for “30 Days of Night.”

Free Will Opens Dialogue for Today’s Thinkers

Scholar Leads Cross-Border Philosophical Exchange

BY CHRISTIAN CLARKE CÁSAZ



Sosa

WHEN DAVID SOSA COMPLETED HIS dissertation on “Representing Thoughts and Language” at Princeton University

in 1996, there were only 10 Hispanics who earned doctoral degrees in philosophy in the United States, according to the American Philosophical Association.

But entering the academy did not intimidate the second-generation philosopher. His father, Ernest, is a leading scholar of epistemology, the field of analyzing the nature of knowledge.

Today, Sosa is chair of the Department of Philosophy, where he serves as a national role model for students interested in the elite field, which offers one of the most rigorous and valuable learning experiences at a university.

In 2001, Sosa and his late colleague Robert Solomon appeared in “Waking Life,” an animated film by Richard Linklater. Sosa offered a monologue on physics and the problem of free will. He explained hard determinism, which holds there is no place for free action in a world governed by physical laws, since humans

are physical beings subject to these laws.

In academic articles, Sosa has explored themes such as “Skepticism about Intuition,” “The Import of the Puzzle About Belief” and “Consequences of Consequentialism” in Philosophy, Philosophical Review and Mind. He is an editor of “A Companion to Analytic Philosophy” (Blackwell, 2001), “Analytic Philosophy: An Anthology” (Blackwell, 2001), and “Philosophy for the 21st Century” (Oxford, 2002).

This year, Sosa and faculty members in the college’s highly ranked philosophy department expanded their collaborations with researchers at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (National Autonomous University of Mexico), the largest university in Latin America. This binational collaboration enables an exchange of ideas in epistemology, philosophy of mind, language, logic and ancient philosophy.

Working with the Mexican Center at the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, the Philosophy Department also has welcomed south-of-the-border scholars to conferences exploring such issues as justification and self-perception.

Who you are is mostly a matter of the free choices that you make. You can only (be) respected for things you did of your own free will.

— David Sosa in “Waking Life”

Si Se Puede: Politicians Court Latino Voters

BY VIVÉ GRIFFITH

MODERN U.S. POLITICAL RHETORIC GENERALLY holds that elected leaders should “look like America.” But, while national demographics are changing rapidly, the face of the government is slow to follow.

Latinos represent more than 13 percent of the U.S. population, but the community and the promise of a political leader sometimes called the “Great Brown Hope” have yet to dramatically alter the landscape of American politics.

Jason Casellas, assistant professor of government and co-director with David Leal of the Public Policy Institute, examines Latino politics, telescoping from the national to the state and local levels. He studies how Latinos vote, the conditions

under which they are elected and what they do when they are in office.

Casellas cautions against being too quick to toss around the term “Latino voter.” There is hardly one type of Latino who votes.

“It’s difficult to speak of a Latino community because there are so many different groups,” Casellas says. “Mexican Americans comprise two-thirds of the Latinos in the United States. Puerto Ricans

and Cuban Americans comprise the next two largest groups. But, there also are Colombians, Dominicans and Nicaraguans. And, the Washington, D.C., community is heavily Salvadoran.

“To look at Latinos as a monolithic group does a disservice to the nuances of difference within the community.”

While lumping these individual ethnic identities together may be convenient, it doesn’t reflect how Latinos think of themselves. Studies reveal that when asked to identify themselves, Latinos use their national origin—whether Mexican or Cuban or Puerto Rican—before the broader descriptor of Latino or Hispanic.

While the media may ignore these differences, offering sweeping stories on Latino voters, those seeking the support of these voters are catching on to the complexity of the community.

“Political parties are pretty savvy,” Casellas says. “On one level they try to make mass appeals to Latinos, but their campaign ads are very selective. They use a different Spanish in Miami than they do in Texas. They are very sensitive when it comes to reaching specific communities.”

They also are hiring specialists who craft Latino outreach programs, speaking at conferences such as the National Council of La Raza, and appealing to Latinos on issues they care about, including education and jobs.

And then there’s speaking Spanish, something considered key to George W. Bush’s relative success with Latinos in 2004, when he won 35 percent of the

Casellas cautions against being too quick to toss around the term “Latino voter.” There is hardly one type of Latino who votes.

Politicos: Texas Politics and the National Elections

TEXANS APPEAR TO BE IN LINE WITH MUCH of the nation when it comes to choosing their favorite 2008 presidential candidate, according to a Texas Lyceum poll released during the summer. Many Texans remain undecided in the primary elections while trial ballots indicate a tight general election.

The Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan organization, conducted the poll during the spring of 2007. Four out of five of the approximately 1,000 respondents said they are registered voters. About a third of the respondents identified themselves as Hispanic, 11 percent as African American, and 54 percent as white.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES The leading Democrat among the registered voters in the survey was Hillary Clinton (33 percent), followed by Barack Obama (21 percent). Clinton did better than Obama with African Americans and Hispanics in the poll, while Obama had an edge with white voters on the Democratic side. The leading Republican among registered voters in the poll was John McCain (27 percent), followed by Rudy Giuliani (23 percent). Giuliani outdid McCain with white voters on the Republican side, while McCain did better with African Americans. Hispanics were split, giving Giuliani a slight edge.

POLITICAL INTEREST While 91 percent of whites and 88 percent of African Americans indicated they are interested in politics, only 61 percent of Hispanics did. Fifty-five percent

of whites said they vote most or all of the time, compared to 43 percent of African Americans and 28 percent of Hispanics.

FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES The majority of Texans (68 percent) support giving taxpayer money to religious organizations that minister to the poor and needy, while 28 percent oppose such programs. African Americans and Hispanics were more likely to support and less likely to oppose such programs than whites in the survey.





Casellas

Latino vote, the largest percentage secured by any Republican since Ronald Reagan. Casellas says Bush's Spanish helped him, as did his experience as governor of a state with a significant Latino population and his Latino family members.

Language alone, however, isn't enough.

"Latinos care about the issues and need to be spoken to as

intelligent citizens," Casellas says, "rather than offered superficial appeals based on language. Candidates should speak of a sensible immigration policy and what they're going to do about education."

Casellas focuses largely on Latino candidates, where an upswing in representation looks promising to this self-proclaimed optimist. The election of three Latino senators since 2000—Mel Martinez (R-Fla.), Ken Salazar (D-Colo.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.)—is a good sign.

State politics offer insight to the factors that put Latinos in office. Of the 220 Texas state legislators, it's not surprising most were elected from majority-Latino districts. Latinos are far more likely to vote for a co-ethnic candidate. In fact, having a Latino on the ballot will bring out more Latino voters, and having one in office will make them more likely to contact their representative.

More surprising is that voters are electing Latinos in predominantly white districts, as well. Latinos are more likely than African

Americans to win in majority-white districts and least likely to win in predominantly African American districts.

"During the 1970s, many people hoped there would be black-brown coalitions," Casellas says. "But there is not much evidence of that happening. Instead, we're seeing more coalitions develop with whites."

Latinos in office are no more monolithic than the Latino community. For example, Cuban American politicians are more conservative than Puerto Rican politicians, though they still vote to the left of white Republicans. In general, Casellas has found Latinos keep their constituents at the forefront.

But, they may have a disproportionate interest in issues that affect Latinos, even if they represent a district that isn't strongly Latino. As an example, Casellas cites Mario Goico, a Cuban American who serves as a Republican state representative in Kansas.

Goico, who came to the United States as a boy in the 1960s, represents a district that is more than 90 percent white and is conservative generally. Yet when a bill came up for a vote that would repeal a law allowing students "without lawful immigration status" to receive resident tuition at Kansas universities, community colleges and vocational schools, Goico shot the bill down.

In part, the vote may have been personal. Goico is an immigrant who received an American college education. But, it also could be seen as evidence that having Latinos in state legislatures may lead to different policy outcomes.

"There could be a Hispanic identity that's driving him," Casellas says. "Having someone who cares about these issues in the legislature can make a tremendous difference."

STATE OF THE COUNTRY, IRAQ AND IMMIGRATION Most of the Texans surveyed said they believe the country is on the wrong track (62 percent). When asked an open-ended question about the most important issue facing the country today, Texans overwhelmingly mentioned the War in Iraq/Supporting Troops (42 percent). The next biggest issue—Immigration/Border Control/Illegal Immigrants—was the top concern of one in ten respondents, followed by the economy, politics and government, and lack of values/morals.

TEXAS ISSUES Immigration and Education/School Funding tie as the top issues facing the state, each earning the top response from 22 percent of those polled. The list was rounded out with gas prices and other utility issues, health care and vaccinations, and the economy and employment.

SCHOOL CHOICE Almost two-thirds of Texans (65 percent) said they support a program "in which parents are given taxpayer money by the government that they can use to pay for a child's tuition at the school of their choice." Another 30 percent oppose

such voucher programs, 20 percent of them strongly. The racial breakdowns on vouchers tracked those on faith-based initiatives, with whites more likely to be in opposition and African Americans and Hispanics more likely to support the idea. Younger Texans were more supportive than older ones.

ECONOMIC FUTURE Only 20 percent of Texans said their children's economic situations would be the same as their own, while 47 percent expect their kids to do better economically, and 27 percent think their children will do worse economically. Hispanics were most optimistic, with 59 percent predicting their children would be better off, compared to 42 percent of whites and 33 percent of African Americans.

Daron Shaw, associate professor of government, is the Texas Lyceum poll director. **Jim Henson**, director of the university's Texas Politics project, assisted with the poll.

To learn more about the results from the Texas Lyceum poll, visit www.texas-lyceum.org. To learn more about the Texas Politics project, visit <http://texaspolitics.laits.utexas.edu/>.

What does that mean in the race toward the 2008 presidential election? How did New Mexico governor Bill Richardson, the former Democrat contender vying to be the first Mexican American president, play to a national audience?

Casellas says that remains to be seen. He says Richardson's candidacy was a great sign. As with African-American presidential contender Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), it suggests the political playing field may be opening up.

Richardson tried to reach beyond his Southwest base of support and beyond being seen as an ethnic candidate. His approach was informative, as well. In a country undergoing rapid change, Richardson appealed to the politics of commonality and not the politics of difference.

"He did not just portray himself as a one-issue person or a Latino candidate," Casellas says. "He sold himself as an American candidate."

Despite Richardson's short run, one thing is clear: The presidential candidates vying for Americans' votes in 2008 will no doubt look to Latinos for support, especially in the "swing" states of Colorado, New Mexico and Florida, all of which have significant Latino populations. ¶¶¶

Latinos in the United States

- More than 44 million people of Hispanic origin live in the United States. This represents 15 percent of the population as of 2006.
- The Hispanic community is the largest and the fastest-growing minority group in the country.
- In 2006, the median age of the Hispanic population was 27.4 compared with 36.4 for the population as a whole.
- 48 percent of Hispanics live in California or Texas. California is home to 13.1 million Hispanics and Texas is home to 8.4 million. The Hispanic population of Los Angeles County (4.7 million) is the largest in the nation.
- As of 2002, there were 1.6 million Hispanic-owned businesses. They generated \$222 billion in revenue.
- In 2004, 7.6 million Hispanic citizens reported voting in the presidential election.
- In 2005, the United States ranked as the third largest Hispanic community (42.7 million). Only Mexico (106.2 million) and Colombia (43 million) had larger Hispanic populations.
- By 2050, the projected Hispanic population will be 102.6 million, which is estimated to constitute 24 percent of the projected population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Facts, Hispanic Heritage Month, 2007

Generation Next: Shaping U.S. Education from the Borderlands

BY CHRISTIAN CLARKE CÁSAREZ



WHEN DIANA NATALICIO WELCOMES VISITORS TO the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, she often provides a driving tour of The University of Texas at El Paso campus, which is nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains within the Northern reach of the Chihuahuan desert.

As the UTEP president's SUV makes its way along University Drive, her guests scan the highway for some physical evidence of the international border. But there is no imposing structure or span of desert that clearly divides the borderlands into North and South.

In El Paso, the famed Rio Grande is not all that grande. And UTEP is located just a few hundred yards from the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Visitors are surprised to see how close the university is to the U.S.-Mexico border," says Natalicio, the College of Liberal Arts' 2007 distinguished alumna who earned her master's in Portuguese and doctoral degree in linguistics during the 1960s. "El Paso and its sister city, Ciudad Juarez, are close geographically. But they also form a close-knit community with strong economic, historical, cultural and personal relationships."

For people living along la frontera (the Southwestern United States' modern frontier), the border does not represent a point of separation. Instead, it is a point of connection, where the United States meets Mexico, an economic hegemon meets a developing country.

At UTEP, Natalicio leads a team of researchers who capitalize on the university's unique setting in the world's largest binational metropolitan area—a rapidly growing community of more than two million people—to create a living laboratory for cross-border

academic inquiry. Every day, scholars and students transcend geographic and intellectual borders to examine some of the world's most pressing issues—from health care and economic development to immigration and national security.

For almost two decades, Natalicio has worked to bring the borderlands perspective to the national stage, shaping the dialogue on U.S.-Mexico relations and informing discussions on how shifting U.S. demographics will change the face—and role—of higher education.

Policy makers, educators and business leaders often tap the president for her administrative expertise and community insights that generate results. Natalicio serves on boards of the Rockefeller Foundation, U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science, National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Trinity Industries and Sandia Corp.

Under her leadership, the university community has been recognized for:

- **Mirroring the demographics of its community.** During the past two decades, student enrollment at UTEP has evolved to reflect the El Paso community. Today, 72 percent of the university's more than 20,000 students are Mexican-American and the university is the No. 2 producer of Hispanic graduates in the United States.

- **Balancing access and excellence in admissions and academic innovation.** UTEP is the only doctoral-research university in the United States with a Mexican-American majority student population. This Carnegie classification places the university among the top 7 percent of all colleges and universities in the United States.

- **Robustly expanding its binational research portfolio.** UTEP's annual budget has tripled and doctoral program offerings have expanded more than tenfold. Today, UTEP ranks second in federal expenditures among the University of Texas System's nine academic institutions, and fourth among all public universities in Texas.

Last year, the Texas Exes honored Natalicio with the Distinguished Alumna Award for service to her alma mater and for her professional achievements, which include leading the national charge to break down the borders between universities and the communities they are designed to serve.

From Brazil to Baseball: A First-generation College Student Becomes a President

Natalicio, 68, was born in St. Louis in a blue-collar neighborhood where few students planned to attend college. After graduating from high school, the future university president worked as a secretary before continuing her education with the Jesuits at St. Louis University.

Bordering the Future: Diana Natalicio, Liberal Arts alumna

in Portuguese and linguistics, is president of The University of Texas at El Paso, a national model for providing educational opportunities to under-represented communities. UTEP is the No. 2 producer of Hispanic graduates in the United States and the only doctoral-research university (Carnegie classification) with a Mexican-American majority student population.

“My Spanish professors made language and literature come alive! They mesmerized me with their knowledge and I became hooked. I just could not drink enough from the fountain of learning,” recalls Natalicio, who graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in Spanish.

After completing a Fulbright fellowship in Brazil, she earned a master’s degree in Portuguese at The University of Texas at Austin and completed a Gulbenkian fellowship in Lisbon, Portugal.

Natalicio returned to Austin to pursue a doctorate in linguistics, which was a field in transition during the 1960s. Structuralism was being challenged by Noam Chomsky’s transformational grammar which was rapidly gaining adherents.

“We were caught up in the excitement of serving as warriors in the linguistics revolution,” she says.

After graduation, Natalicio accepted a teaching position in the West Texas town of El Paso.

“My colleagues and friends acted as if I were headed to the last stop on the stagecoach to nowhere,” she remembers. But, the Liberal Arts alumna was charmed by the binational city and quickly connected to the students, her colleagues and the community.

As Natalicio began her ascent into administration as interim chair of the modern languages department, she expressed the appropriate disdain for the position and asserted her administrative tenure would be short. But, she would be invited to continue through the ranks as dean of the College of Liberal Arts, vice president for Academic Affairs and eventually, president of the university.

In 1988, as UTEP’s first woman president, Natalicio faced questions about how she would administer the university and its athletic program. Some community members questioned whether she would move into the presidential residence since she was not married and did not have children.

At the time, there were few women leaders, so Natalicio turned to one of her favorite sports—baseball—to break the ice. When asked for a business card, she presented a baseball card with her educational “stats” and a picture of her throwing out the first ball at an El Paso Diablos game. The baseball-business card was later featured in U.S. News and World Report.

“Humor is a powerful icebreaker,” Natalicio says. “It helps put people at ease when they are unsure about how to approach a situation. Once people feel comfortable, it’s easier to concentrate on the pressing issues at hand.”

From the Margins to the Mainstream

Throughout the 1980s, UTEP, the second oldest academic unit of the University of Texas System, offered alumni bumper stickers that read “Harvard on the Border,” which seemed to isolate UTEP from its surroundings.

After Natalicio became president, the university countered that bumper sticker rhetoric to engage its community. In a

major institutional transformation, faculty and staff members began to address the many challenges—and opportunities—of the binational region, from business incubation and policy development to health care and education.

“The university woke up to the reality of its surroundings and began earnest efforts to serve as an authentic and responsible catalyst for the human development of an undereducated and economically under-performing region,” Natalicio says. “In the process of serving this region and its population, UTEP achieved the national recognition to which its earlier pretensions aspired.”

“The students have the talent. It is our job to create the opportunity.”

— Diana Natalicio

By moving away from the ivory tower image of many academic institutions, UTEP forged a new national model: a university dedicated to creating access to higher education for traditionally under-represented populations while simultaneously reinforcing its commitment to excellence in education and research.

“Although risk-taking is unavoidable when new collaborative lines open to previously underserved communities, these risks are manageable and offer great opportunities for institutional learning,” Natalicio says. “Access and excellence do not have to be mutually exclusive. The students have the talent. It is our job to create the opportunity.”

By capitalizing on UTEP’s historical strengths in science and engineering (the university was founded in 1914 as the Texas School of Mines and Metallurgy), the university began to expand opportunities for all of its students, pioneering pipeline programs that help students successfully transition from high school to college.

“Universities have the special responsibility to respond to the needs of their surrounding communities, particularly through K-16 initiatives and in economically distressed areas,” Natalicio says.

The National Science Foundation has recognized UTEP as one of six national Model Institutions for Excellence, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York has awarded the university one of its 11 “Teachers for a New Era” grants.

In 1992, Natalicio played a leading role in forming the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, an umbrella organization housed at the university that brings together the city’s education, community, business and civic leaders to implement high academic standards and achievement for students at all educational levels.

Within one year of unveiling a list of standards for academic excellence with former Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the collaborative garnered national praise from educators and the media, including the New York Times, which called El Paso an “educational bright spot in the nation.”

In 2001, Time magazine highlighted El Paso’s educational partnerships and long-term strategy in “The New College Try,” which showcased universities working to improve public schools and prepare under-represented children for the rigors of college.

The University of Texas at Austin has partnered with UTEP to create innovative and nationally recognized programs in such areas as law and pharmacy that tap the talent of the borderlands for the university’s elite education. After earning professional degrees, these culturally savvy professionals bring much-needed services to communities throughout the country, including under-served and growing areas such as El Paso.

Keeping an Eye on the Future

As UTEP continues to garner praise for its commitment to educating the nation’s future business, engineering, health and science professionals, Natalicio remains keenly focused on the pre-college programs that help determine students’ success at UTEP and other universities.

Even though the president regularly enjoys welcoming international political and business leaders to campus, some of her most important meetings are with elementary school children from the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

During university field trips, Natalicio reminds the children that UTEP will be waiting for them when they graduate.

“If we don’t see you here after graduation, we will come looking for you,” she says.

The children laugh, but this is a serious matter for Natalicio, whose vision and professional passions have helped to recast UTEP from a marginalized border institution to an international innovator working hard to ensure the next generation of scholars and leaders begin to prepare for college today. ▮▮▮

From the Classroom to the Board Room

Diana Natalicio has brought the U.S.-Mexico perspective to the national boards on which she has served, including:

- National Science Board, vice chair
- Rockefeller Foundation, board of trustees
- Sandia Corp., board of directors
- Trinity Industries, board of directors
- U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science, board of governors
- NASA Advisory Committee



MEXICO



Día de los Muertos

Unearthing Mexico's National Holiday

BY CHRISTIAN CLARKE CÁSAZ

AS NIGHT FALLS, A YOUNG WOMAN LIGHTS THE candles surrounding the altar she created in honor of her grandmother who passed away three years ago. The ofrenda, an offering embodied in an altar of remembrance, is part of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) traditions that welcome the departed home for food and festivities.

Rose petals and cigarettes line the path to the altar, which celebrates her abuelita's fondness for gardening and smoking. A heart-shaped box holding the matriarch's ashes sits beside a cup of coffee and a plate of pan dulce (sweet bread). Old family photographs provide a nostalgic black-and-white backdrop for the display. At the center, a pink and black prayer veil cradles a card bearing the grandmother's name: María del Refugio, which in Spanish evokes a prayer, "Mary be our Refuge."

For more than 3,000 years, communities—from ancient Mesoamerica to modern México—have provided refuge to the spirits of loved ones who traverse the world of the dead to commune with the living.

November begins with Día de los Muertos, a national holiday in México. Throughout the country, communities

diligently prepare for the two-day celebrations (Nov. 1-2) by creating altars and preparing special aromatic foods. Cemeteries bustle with visitors delivering flowers to gravesites and mausoleums. Papier mâché skulls line store-window displays and paper banners with images of dancing skeletons drape across walkways. At night, city plazas welcome revelers whose marigold-festooned altars display personal trinkets and treats in honor of the departed.

Although Día de Los Muertos coincides with Halloween in the United States, the south-of-the-border tradition does not focus on candy collection or mischievous tricksters. For Mexicans, the symbolic visits from the dead are neither morbid nor macabre. They are celebratory.

Día de los Muertos remains an important and profound holiday laced with Christian religious symbols and figures, including Christ on the cross and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The celebration has a rich historical and cultural tradition that springs from the human hope to never be forgotten.

Perspective: Life in Death

Throughout Mexico's history, death

has been part of the mainstream culture.

"Mexicans revere death and do not fear the afterlife to the same degree as many other cultures," Peter Ward, a professor of sociology and public policy, says.

As Nobel Laureate Octavio Paz explains in "Labyrinth of Solitude," a Mexican mocks, caresses, sleeps with and entertains death. Paz places death among Mexicans' favorite playthings and calls it their "most enduring love."

His sentiments capture the cultural and emotional significance of Día de los Muertos in Mexico where conquest, wars and high infant mortality rates have made death a part of daily life.

"In a country where every family has been touched by death, learning to look the afterlife in the face is a powerful—and cathartic—exercise," Ward says. "In many cultures, once people are buried, they are permanently separated from the living. But, Mexicans confront death and view it as just another part of life. That's a healthy—and honest—attitude."

Ward holds the C. B. Smith, Sr. Centennial Chair in United States-Mexico Relations #2. During his classes on the society,

culture and politics of modern Mexico, he introduces students to the profound and religious nature of the country's most famous celebration.

According to Mexican legend, there are three types of death: The first occurs when all bodily functions cease and the soul leaves the body; the second occurs when the body is interred, returning one's physical shell to the earth; and the final, most definitive, death occurs when no one remembers you.

"Remembrance is powerful. So long as someone remembers you, then you will escape the third death," Ward says. "The Día de los Muertos rituals are meaningful reminders of the connections between life and death, between the living and the dead. On a fundamental level, there is something comforting about knowing you always will be remembered."

Celebration: The Rituals of Remembrance

The celebration of Día de los Muertos bears striking resemblance to the tradition of ancestor veneration practiced by ancient Mesoamericans. The Aztecs, Zapotecs, Maya and other indigenous groups did not envision the dead inhabiting a reality apart from the living, but rather viewed the worlds of the dead and the living as deeply intertwined.

The indigenous traditions continued throughout the pre-Columbian period and beyond the arrival of Europeans when the rituals merged with Catholic practices to create a trans-cultural blend of celebrations, scheduled to coincide with the Christian holidays of All Saints Day and All Souls Day in November.

Today during Día de los Muertos, family members and friends tend to the gravesites of their loved ones, clearing away grass and debris and adorning the space with favorite trinkets and food and drinks. The colorful and playful ofrendas include earthly tributes for both children and adults: toys and tequila top many of the tombstones.

Marigolds, also known as the flower of the dead (cempasúchil), adorn table settings, altars and final resting places. Above the bright orange flowers hangs colorful paper with cut out images (papel picado) of flowers, birds or skeletons. The images of the skeletons (calacas) are not fear-inspiring. Instead, they capture a joyful moment of dancing or drinking.

The first day (Nov. 1) is All Saints Day and focuses attention and prayers on los angelitos, or little angels representing the souls of children. The second day (Nov. 2) is All Souls Day and welcomes home adults.

In some homes, the family elder presides over the festivities, and place settings are reserved for the recently departed. At the end of the two-day celebration of the dead, the living partake of the feast for the now-departed honorees. They drink water and other favorite beverages and consume the specially baked bread of the dead (pan de muerto) and treats made from alfeñique (sugar). Among the most popular of the



powdered sugar figures are skulls (calaveras) that display the names of loved ones.

"Much of Día de los Muertos involves the senses," says Cristina Cabello de Martínez, a lecturer in the Spanish and Portuguese Department and the Center for Mexican-American Studies. "The celebration beckons one to see the bright orange

flowers, smell the incense and taste the flavors of our loved ones' favorite food and drink."

Cabello de Martínez says the uplifting and welcoming nature of the festivities has helped preserve and expand the holiday.

"Día de los Muertos survived the conquest because it embraced the Catholic belief that death is not an end," she says. "There occurred a synchronicity in spirituality between the indigenous and Catholic faiths. Each believed in the immortal nature of the soul."

Today, she says, the traditions continue to resonate with people even if they did not grow up with the holiday.

"The celebration has become a popular, mainstream event among immigrants and second- and third-generation Mexican Americans," she says. "And it continues to gain momentum in the United States among non-Latinos."

Día de los Muertos has been celebrated in areas with high concentrations of Hispanics such as Los Angeles, Chicago and New York City. In 1999, the New York Times reported New York's Archdiocese had yet to embrace Día de Los Muertos as part of Catholic beliefs, citing its rituals' pagan roots. But, as more immigrants from Mexico and Central America moved into the city, pastors of local churches began to allow parishioners to set up ofrendas.

In Texas, almost 35 percent of the population is Hispanic. Día de los Muertos has been popular along the U.S.-Mexico border in cities such as El Paso and Laredo. As more Texans of Mexican descent move into central and North Texas, there is an increasing awareness of the south-of-the-border celebration in communities such as Austin, Houston and Dallas.

There are regional variations in how Día de los Muertos



"In many cultures, once people are buried, they are permanently separated from the living. But, Mexicans confront death and view it as just another part of life. That's a healthy—and honest—attitude."

—Peter Ward

Día de los Muertos Glossary

abuelita: Spanish diminutive for grandmother

alfeñique: sugar

angelitos: little angels

calacas: skeletons

calaveras: skulls

cempasúchil: marigolds, also known as the flower of the dead

Día de los Muertos: Day of the Dead

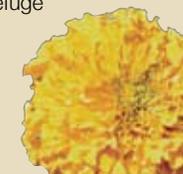
ofrenda: offering, also used to describe altars

pan de muerto: bread of the dead

pan dulce: sweet bread

papel picado: paper with cut out images

refugio: refuge



is celebrated, Cabello de Martínez says. In Los Angeles, there is a stronger connection to the indigenous roots of the holiday. The rituals are more orthodox, adhering to the symbolic arrangement of flowers and incense and the inclusion of native-language chants. Farther from the border, the traditions are more informal, reflecting regional styles and personal preferences.

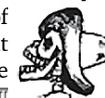
For Mexican Americans who grew up celebrating both Halloween and Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead stands in contrast to the candy-laden celebrations that drew their fascination and energies as children.

"Halloween evokes memories of fun and games, of dressing up as your favorite super hero or monster," Adan Briones, a law school alumnus who grew up in El Paso, says. "When I think about Día de los Muertos, I remember a deeper, more symbolic holiday that recognizes the past and honors the people you loved. As an adult, I think you can outgrow Halloween.

But, you can't really outgrow Día de los Muertos. As you mature, the holiday becomes more important and profound."

Briones predicts the Mexican holiday will continue to gain momentum north of the border, while remaining popular among Mexican Americans who want to preserve a connection to their heritage.

"More people are embracing Día de los Muertos because it confronts death in a real and meaningful way. It reminds you about the inevitable loss of life that comes with living, but it also allows you to find life beyond death," Briones says.



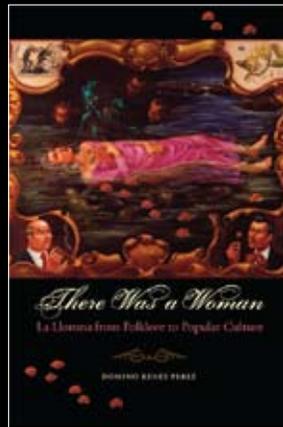


La Llorona's Revenge

The weeping ghost of the Southwest haunts canvasses, celluloid and cyberspace **BY JENNIFER MCANDREW**



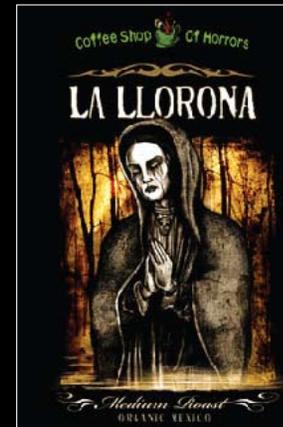
Domino Perez



Bookcover, "There Was a Woman," by Domingo Perez



DVD cover art. Courtesy Casa Negra Entertainment.



La Llorona coffee. Courtesy Coffee Shop of Horrors.



The band, La Llorona. From the graphic novel, "Love and Rockets," by Jaime Hernandez.

THE SOUTH TEXAS NIGHT AIR HELD AN uncharacteristic crispness as six-year-old Domino Renée crept toward the dark shapes huddled around a fire. It was late and she was supposed to be in bed, but the sound of familiar voices rising and falling in the sing-song cadence of storytellers made her risk a scolding from her mother.

A hush fell over the group when her cousin Ricardo began a new tale. On the way home from el baile he said, he passed a woman in white walking along the road. The hour was late and the road deserted, but he didn't think much of it. Then he passed the same woman a second time.

"La Llorona," he whispered, gripping the steering wheel a bit tighter. Ricardo sped around the next curve when suddenly, the figure appeared yet again, this time in the middle of the road. The tires screeched as he slammed on the brakes to avoid hitting her.

For a long moment, he stared at the mournful figure who extended her hand toward the windshield. He blinked. The apparition burst into a flock of white birds and disappeared into the night. All that remained was the smell of burnt rubber and two pale headlight beams illuminating the empty road.

Domino was terrified. As she raced back to the safety of her bedroom to huddle under the covers, she realized that although no one had caught her sneaking out of bed, she had been punished all the same. The tale of La Llorona (Spanish for "weeping woman"), would haunt her for the rest of her life.

Today, Domino Renée Perez is an assistant professor of English and affiliate of the Center for Mexican-American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. She has returned to the ghostly story from her childhood for inspiration. She spent 10 years researching the stories and images of La Llorona for her forthcoming book, "There Was a Woman: Cultural Readings of La Llorona from Folklore to Popular Culture."

Since the days of the conquistadors, the legend of La Llorona has haunted Hispanic culture in the Southwest. There are countless interpretations of the story, but they all carry the same theme: a weeping woman in white roams rivers and lakes, searching for children to send to a watery grave. Mothers scold unruly children with the admonition, "If you don't behave, La Llorona will come and get you!"

"La Llorona is one of the most famous figures in Greater Mexican oral and literary tradition," Perez says. "Many variations of the legend's origin exist. According to the traditional version, La Llorona is abandoned by the man she loved and left to raise their children alone. Grief or desire for revenge compels La Llorona to murder her children and throw their bodies into a river. Despair ultimately contributes to her death. In the afterlife, La Llorona is condemned to wander for all of eternity, crying, until the bodies of her children

are recovered."

The legend of La Llorona is as dynamic as it is old.

"She is alternately, and sometimes simultaneously, a person, legend, ghost, goddess, seductress, moral tale, metaphor, story and symbol," Perez says. "As her story has evolved, storytellers and artists both inside and outside her community continue to adapt her story to new contexts."

For example, many feminist scholars reinterpret the narrative as resistance to patriarchy, she explains. By focusing on the agency of women to both create and end life, women can revise and transform the tale into one of empowerment instead of despair.

"She is alternately, and sometimes simultaneously, a person, legend, ghost, goddess, seductress, moral tale, metaphor, story and symbol... Storytellers and artists both inside and outside her community continue to adapt her story to new contexts."

— Domino Renée Perez

In recent years, La Llorona has wandered out of the oral stories onto pages, canvasses, celluloid and cyberspace. Complicating this movement is the fact that La Llorona is used around the world to sell or promote items ranging from coffee and women's underwear, to films and academic conferences.

Record albums by Lhasa de Dela and Chavela Vargas, and a punk band in the graphic novel series "Love and Rockets" by the Hernandez brothers, are all named after her. Children's books by Rudolfo Anaya and Gloria Anzaldúa and sketches and paintings by artists such as Santa Barraza, Isaura de la Rosa, Elizabeth Lopez and Stevon Lucero, all feature La Llorona or her legend as subject.

In 2002, La Llorona appeared in a commercial for the California Milk Processor Board in which she is crying not for her children, but for milk. Her film career is well established in Mexico: four feature films have depicted her story, including the 1961 horror classic, "La Maldición de La Llorona"

("Curse of the Crying Woman"). In the United States, she has risen from a bit player in the David Lynch film, "Mulholland Drive," to a starring role in an episode of the CW's paranormal show, "Supernatural."

"The woman in white has not yet reached the commercial status of the Virgin of Guadalupe— we haven't seen La Llorona nightlights, dashboard figurines, or rear-window decals," Perez says. "But I suspect we soon will. In fact, I recently saw a bumper sticker that read 'Honk if you've seen La Llorona.'"

So what's behind the universal appeal of this ghostly Latino myth? Perez says some people like feeling scared, while others want to believe that after we die, our souls live on.

"Part of what inspires ghost stories is the fundamental desire to believe this isn't it, that there is more to life in the hereafter," Perez says. "And what makes ghost stories so universal is that they explore the full range of human emotions: greed, love, lust, anger, denial, grief, et cetera, and how we enact those emotions in our lives."

Though La Llorona stories may be found throughout Latin America, the sheer volume led Perez to confine her study to Chicano representations of La Llorona in the United States. During her research, she collected more than 200 artifacts featuring La Llorona and conducted more than 100 interviews with artists, writers and folklorists.

According to Perez, the research process for "There Was a Woman" has been characterized by strange happenings, such as the photocopier producing pages of inky blackness when Perez attempted to copy articles about La Llorona.

"I'm not sure if it's La Llorona being mischievous or just my complete lack of technical know-how at the time. What I do know is that when I called the technician, he found nothing wrong with the machine.

"Psychologists sometimes identify people who see ghosts as having hysterical hallucinations," Perez continues, "but folklorists don't take that view, and the people who tell La Llorona stories accept them as fact. I see folklore as our lens to read other stories, not just literature like 'Moby Dick' or 'Hamlet,' but also the stories that are happening right now, such as Susan Smith and Andrea Yates."

Ultimately, Perez views her research as a starting point for dialogue.

"I hope communities will find 'There Was a Woman' useful as both an archive for artifacts and as a guide to decipher the many complex representations of the legend of La Llorona," Perez says. "Many parallels may be drawn between La Llorona and other literary and mythological figures, such as the Greek Medea, Shakespeare's Ophelia and Irish banshees. I'm excited to find out where the dialogue takes us."

"There Was a Woman: Cultural Readings of La Llorona from Folklore to Popular Culture" is due from The University of Texas Press in 2008. ■■■■



What Language Does Your Personality Speak?

BY CHRISTIAN CLARKE CÁSAZ

WHEN PEOPLE WHO SPEAK MORE THAN ONE language cross international or cultural boundaries, they often comment on how their personality seems to change as they move between languages.

Nairán Ramírez-Esparza, a Mexico City native who earned her doctoral degree in social psychology in 2007, put the personal observations to the test by creating a binational research project that posed the question: Do people switch personalities when they speak another language?

Working with psychology researchers **Samuel Gosling** and **James Pennebaker**, Ramírez-Esparza analyzed the personalities of more than 200 people fully fluent in both English and Spanish in the United States and Mexico. They found bilingual speakers were more extroverted, agreeable and conscientious when they spoke English than when they spoke Spanish.

The findings may be surprising when compared to Mexican culture's emphasis on *Simpatía* (value for pleasant relationships)

and focus on community. Ramírez-Esparza says the discrepancy may be explained by the high scores of English speakers in assertiveness (extraversion) and achievement (conscientiousness), which are traits associated with American culture and its focus on the individual.

"This is a fascinating phenomenon that reflects how bicultural individuals change their interpretations of the world—depending upon their internalized cultures—in response to environmental cues such as language," says Ramírez-Esparza, who is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Washington.

As the ties between Mexico and the United States continue to evolve and expand, research into how personality shifts when people speak different languages is laying the foundation to better understand cross-border interactions, from business ventures to educational programs.

To test your personality, log on to www.utpsyc.org or www.outofservice.com.

RESEARCH

Briefs

Pentecostalism on the Rise in Guatemala

Virginia Garrard-Burnett, history professor, researches Protestantism and new religious movements in Latin America. Her forthcoming book, "Terror in the Land of the Holy Spirit: Guatemala under General Efraín Ríos Montt, 1982-1983," will examine genocide during the general's military rule. Ríos Montt was an ordained minister in the California-based evangelical Church of the Word, and Protestant denominations increased dramatically as a result of his leadership. Though Roman Catholicism remains the dominant faith in Guatemala, nearly 40 percent of the population identify themselves as Pentecostal Christians.

Mexico, Colonies and Empire

Susan Deans-Smith, associate professor of history, researches Colonial Latin America and the Spanish Empire with an emphasis on Mexico and the Andean region. She is the author of the award-winning "Bureaucrats, Planters, and Workers: The Making of the Tobacco Monopoly in Bourbon Mexico" (1992) and co-editor with Eric Van Young of "Mexican Soundings: Essays in Honour of David A. Brading" (2007). She is writing a book on the Royal Academy of San Carlos and co-editing "Race and Classification in Mexican America" with Ilona Katzew.

Mediating Mexican-American Identity in Literature

In 1929, Mexican-American activists fighting for civil rights in South Texas formed the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest Hispanic advocacy organization. Research by **John M. González**, assistant professor of English, explores how the emergence of a new Mexican-American identity in the 1930s was mediated by contemporary Mexican-American literature. Seminal works by historian-activists such as Elena Zamora O'Shea's "El Mesquite," Jovita González de Mireles' "Caballero" and Américo Paredes' "George Washington Gómez," refuted stereotypical depictions of Mexicans and helped create the bicultural, bilingual Mexican-American aesthetic visible in Chicano literature. Gonzalez is also a research affiliate of the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project at the University of Houston.

History through a Transnational Lens

Anne Martinez, assistant professor of history, researches the Mexican Revolution, specifically the role of religion in U.S.-Mexico relations and Mexican migration to the Midwest. Martinez is completing her book manuscript, "Bordering on the Sacred: Race and Religion in U.S.-Mexico Relations, 1910-1929." In her subsequent project, Martinez considers how religion and labor shaped the Mexican experience of race in Chicago during the 1920's. Martinez's interest in this period stems from her family history. Her grandmother's family left Guanajuato in the aftermath of the Mexican Revolution and eventually settled in Chicago. Media often tap Martinez for insight into the relationships among race, religion and nationalism for Mexicans on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Purchasing Whiteness in Colonial Spanish America

Stanford University Press will publish history professor **Ann Twinam's** book, "The Purchase of Whiteness in Colonial Spanish America," which examines petitions for "whiteness." During colonial times, mulattos and pardos could purchase the status from the crown as an official favor (gracias al sacar). Petitioners wrote about their ancestors, provided letters of recommendation and traced generations of service to the crown. The Spanish American whitening option has fascinated historians, but research stalled for decades due to the fragmented nature of archival documentation. Twinam facilitated the first complete collection of the petitions from the Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain. She also wrote, "Public Lives, Private Secrets: Gender, Honor, Sexuality and Illegitimacy in Colonial Spanish America" (1999).

Ethnobotanical Research in Mexico Takes Top Honors

Ingrid Haeckel, a graduate student in the Department of Geography and the Environment, conducted ethnobotanical research in Veracruz, Mexico on the use of bromeliad plants in large floral adornments for Catholic feast days. The flora arrangements often depict saints or religious iconography and are believed to be a remnant of pre-Hispanic Totonac and Huastec harvest rituals. Haeckel studied the evolution of the tradition in the Xalapa region and how local artisans manage

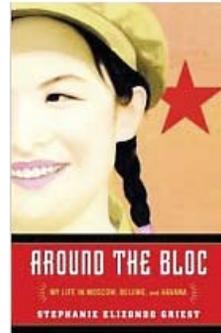
Multicultural Citizenship in Nicaragua

The Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Ford Foundation awarded government scholar **Juliet Hooker** a grant to study the institutional design of Nicaragua's Coseño regional autonomy and relations between indigenous and Afro descendants. As Nicaragua was one of the first countries

in Latin America to implement multicultural citizenship policies, it provides a rich environment to study the impact of such reforms on the population. Hooker will analyze political opinion survey data and travel to Nicaragua to conduct interviews with key leaders.



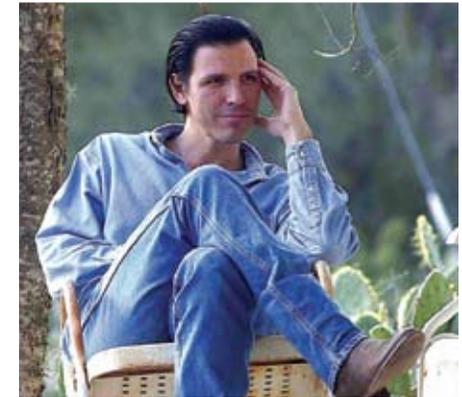
Alumna's Travel Memoir Selected for Mayor's Book Club



Since 2002, the Humanities Institute, in partnership with the Austin Mayor's Office and the Austin Public Library, has brought together readers from throughout the community for the Mayor's Book Club. The 2007 pick, "Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana" (2004), is written by **Stephanie Elizondo Griest**, a 1997 post-Soviet studies and journalism alumna. The absorbing tale describes her experiences as a volunteer at a children's shelter in Moscow, a propaganda polisher at the Chinese Communist Party's English-language newspaper in Beijing and a belly dancer among the rumba queens of Havana. In 2004, the National Association of Travel Journalists of America named the book "Best Travel Book of the Year." Griest also wrote the guidebook, "100 Places Every Woman Should Go" (2007). To learn more, visit www.aroundthebloc.com.

College Bolsters Scholarship in Latin American Jewish Studies

More than 400,000 Jews reside in Latin America, making it the fifth largest community of Jews after Israel, the United States, Russia and France. Their stories and experiences will be a focus of Jewish diaspora research at the college's **Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies**. Due to the university's strength in the field of Latin American studies, the center is hosting the Latin American Jewish Studies Association's Web site. Founded in 1982, the association supports scholarly research on Latin American Jewish identity and connects scholars around the world. "With our longtime strength in Latin American history and the newly formed Schusterman Center, UT offers an ideal environment for the Web site to flourish," says Naomi Lindstrom, professor of Spanish and Portuguese and member of the association's executive board who manages the site. Visit the Latin American Jewish Studies Association at www.utexas.edu/cola/orgs/lajsa/.



A Border Story: Writer Explores Brownsville and Fútbol

Oscar Casares, assistant professor of English and Brownsville native, is currently at work on a novel set in South Texas that tells the story of his family's migration from Mexico to Texas in 1850. The National Endowment for the Arts awarded Casares a creative writing fellowship in support of the project. His story, "Are You Ready for Some Fútbol?" appeared in "The Best of American Sports Writing" (2007), and his short story collection, "Brownsville: Stories," was published in 2003. Casares is a past recipient of the Dobie Paisano Fellowship Project, which provides writers the opportunity to spend six months living and writing at Paisano Ranch. More than 70 writers have holed up at the historic property, just 14 miles from Austin, writing stories that have shaped Texas literature. "Ultimately, the commodity we're after as writers is time," Casares says. "It's not about money and it's not about prestige or whatever other commodity you might think is necessary. It really comes down to time, and that's what Paisano was for me: time to write."

RESEARCH BRIEFS



Undergraduates Map the Borderlands

John McKiernan-González, assistant professor of history, recently launched a Web resource for undergraduate historical research, “Mapping the

Borderlands.” The site houses student research and resources developed in his courses “History of the Mexican American People” and “Latino History.” The site organizes research across five areas: culture, public policy, oral history, gender/sexuality and border crossing. Several students’ research projects were selected for presentation at Abriendo Brecha, a national activist scholarship conference hosted by the university. As the site grows, McKiernan-González aims to create a better understanding of how political and cultural events shape the way undergraduates approach research projects. Visit “Mapping the Borderlands” at www.laits.utexas.edu/borderlands/.

Cross-Border Voices: Indigenous Mexico in Native American Storytelling

James Cox, assistant professor of English, is working on a book, “Indigenous Mexico in Native American Storytelling Traditions: Immigration, Nationalism, Revolution,” that will draw from the fields of literature, history and anthropology. Cox will consider how writing

about indigenous Mexico by Native American authors contributes to 21st century discussions of immigration and border security. Cox argues the kinship between native people in the United States and Mexico transcends the border, suggesting a need to listen to native voices on the subject of international relations.



History Professor Earns Fulbright to Mexico

The Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board awarded a research fellowship to **Emilio Zamora**, associate professor of history. Zamora’s host institution in Mexico is the Centro de Investigaciones Humanísticas at La Universidad de Guanajuato in the capital city of Guanajuato. He will examine bi-national relations between Mexican communities on both side of the border during the first decade of the 20th century. Zamora will focus on

Mexico’s 1921 centenary celebration at Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato (the birthplace of Mexico’s independence movement), and the decision by Mexican officials to grant representatives of the Mexican community in the United States a place of honor during the festivities. Zamora is the author of, “Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas: Mexican Workers and the Politics of Job Opportunity, 1939-1947,” forthcoming from Texas A&M University Press.

Violence in Ciudad Juárez

Hundreds of unsolved female homicides in Ciudad Juárez are the focus of the book, “Entre las Duras Aristas de las Armas: Violencia y Victimización en Ciudad Juárez” (“Between the Hard Edges of the Arms: Violence and Victimization in Ciudad Juárez”) (2006). The work is co-edited by **Hector Dominguez-Ruvalcaba**, assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese. This is the first interdisciplinary study of the violence by scholars who live in the area. Contributors examine the maquiladora industry, narcotraffic, migration and the role of institutions in the perpetuation of gender violence. Dominguez-Ruvalcaba discusses how the economic and political structure of the border has imposed a behavior of silence and complicity toward violence.

Benson Library Receives NAFTA Negotiation Archives

At its 2007 “NAFTA and U.S.-Mexico Relations: In Retrospect and Prospect” conference, the Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies recognized the U.S.-Mexico Business Committee’s donation of its archive on the origins of the North American Free Trade Agreement). The archive, which has become a part of the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, includes documents generated during the 1980s and 90s when the **U.S.-Mexico Business**

Committee laid the foundation for NAFTA, a major bilateral trade liberalization initiative. The extensive collection reveals the legal and political scope of the negotiation and drafting of the agreement, its approval by the U.S. Congress and its initial years. Conference invitees, including cross-border policymakers and experts, examined the history and impact of the trade agreement.



Noted Historian Explores Nature and the Connection Between Puritans and Conquistadors

Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, professor of history, is an acclaimed author and scholar of early modern Atlantic history and colonial Spanish and British America. His award-winning book, “How to Write the History of the New World: Epistemology, and Identities in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World,” was cited among the Best Books of the Year by The Economist, Times Literary Supplement and The Independent in 2001. The American Historical Association honored the work twice: as the best publication on Atlantic history and the best publication on the history of Spain, Portugal or Latin America. Recently, Cañizares-Esguerra garnered high praise for his books:

- “Nature, Empire, and Nation: Explorations of the History of Science in the Iberian World” (Stanford University Press, 2007),

a collection of essays that explore how nature was interpreted and manipulated in the early modern Iberian world. Focusing on the history of early modern science in Spain and Spanish America, it covers a wide range of topics, including botany, cosmography, ecology and race; and

- “Puritan Conquistadors: Iberianizing the Atlantic, 1550-1700” (Stanford University Press, 2006), which presents a compelling case for the common characteristics of Spanish and Puritan colonization in the early Atlantic world. This breaks away from the traditional viewpoint focusing on the differences between Puritan and Catholic colonization. Cañizares-Esguerra argues both shared a desire to exorcise demons from the New World, and that the Puritan colonization of New England was as much of a crusade against the Devil as was the Spanish conquest.

Translating Brazil

The Biblioteca Nacional do Brasil (National Library of Brazil) awarded a translation grant to **Adria Frizzi**, lecturer in the Department of French and Italian, for a revised edition of the short story collection “Nine, Novena,” by noted Brazilian author Osman Lins. In 1995 Frizzi published the first English-language translation of the work, which was reviewed favorably by The New York Times. Lins is known for his experimental techniques ranging from shifting points of view to using graphic symbols to identify narrative voices. Other works translated by Frizzi include “The Queen of the Prisons of Greece” by Lins, “Whatever Happened to Dulce Veiga?” by Caio Fernando Abreu and “Stories from the Copan Building” by Regina Rheda.

Conservation Efforts in Ecuador

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation awarded \$1.9 million to **Rodrigo Sierra**, director of the Center for Environmental Studies in Latin America, and his collaborators at Ecuador’s Fundacion Ecuatoriana de Estudios Ecologicos (EcoCiencia). The grant supports a three-year biodiversity conservation and natural resource management program in Ecuador, which helps reduce deforestation of the region’s tropical rainforests by providing productive alternatives for land use. The team works with three indigenous groups in the Achuar, Shiwiar and Zapara regions.

Liberal Arts Professors Earn Prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships

The Guggenheim Foundation awarded 2007 fellowships to four College of Liberal Arts professors, who were among 189 artists, scholars and scientists selected from 2,800 applicants for awards totaling \$7.6 million.

DIANA DAVIS

Assistant Professor, Geography and the Environment

Davis is conducting research for her new book "Imperialism and Environmental History in the Middle East," forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

Davis also has earned research fellowships from the Environmental Protection Agency, National Endowment for the Humanities, American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council.

NEIL FOLEY

Associate Professor, History

Foley researches civil rights and Black-Latino relations in Texas and the Southwest from 1940 to 1965. His study will provide historical context to understand some of the issues that divide African Americans and Latinos today.

Foley also received grants this year from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Woodrow Wilson International Center and a Fulbright Fellowship for travel and research in Mexico City.

Since 1925, Guggenheim Fellowships have recognized professionals who demonstrate distinguished scholarly achievement and exceptional promise for future accomplishment in the fields of natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and creative arts.

CYNTHIA TALBOT

Associate Professor, History

Talbot will research medieval India and the cultural significance of Prithviraj Chauhan, often regarded as the last Hindu emperor. The project connects the heroic portrayals of Prithviraj to the rise of Indian nationalism and Hindu militancy.

Talbot has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies.

A. VAN JORDAN

Assistant Professor, English

Jordan's award-winning poetry has appeared in respected anthologies such as the "Pushchart Prize" and "Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century."

He is the author of "Rise" published by Tia Churcha Press in 2001, and "M-A-C-N-O-L-I-A" published by W.W. Norton in 2004. Van Jordan's new collection of poetry, "Quantum Lyrics," was published by W.W. Norton.

BREAKING NEWS

University Enters Agreement with University of Havana

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN HAS ESTABLISHED an exchange agreement with the Universidad de la Habana, Cuba, signaling a new era of academic cooperation with the country in the wake of Fidel Castro's resignation as president. The agreement includes the exchange of faculty and graduate students in the social sciences, humanities and sciences.

Terri Givens, vice provost for international affairs at the university, and Cristina Díaz López, vice rector at the Universidad de la Habana, signed the agreement in Cuba Feb. 8. Givens joined Jonathan Brown, history professor and associate director of the Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS), who negotiated the terms of the agreement during a trip to Cuba last year, and John Parke Wright, a Florida businessman, who was instrumental in arranging the dialogue between the universities.

LLILAS, directed by Bryan Roberts, sociology professor, will manage the academic exchanges under the agreement. Charles Groat, the Jackson Chair in Energy and Mineral Resources in the Jackson School of Geosciences, will coordinate the science activities.

This agreement is the first of its kind between a Texas and Cuban university, and formalizes many of the research collaborations already in place.

News Highlights

For full coverage and more College of Liberal Arts news, visit www.utexas.edu/cola.

Liberal Arts Launches Institute for Historical Studies

Garrison reopening showcases renowned historians

Anthem Foundation Renews Gift for Ayn Rand Research

Tara Smith, philosophy professor leads objectivism scholarship at the university

History News Network Honors Professors

Mark Lawrence and Madeline Hsu rank among top young historians

Liberal Arts Student Wins \$30,000 Truman Scholarship

Lauren Koehler recognized for leadership, volunteerism

Anthropologist Proposes Scanning Lucy the Famous Fossil

John Kappelman leads research team

President Powers Pledges Support for Liberal Arts

English and history departments identified as strategic priorities during State of the University address

College Names Director of Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies

Robert Abzug, history professor, tapped for leadership role

Language Flagship Program Meets Critical Need for Arabic Speakers

\$700,000 grant helped establish new program

College Graduates Less Likely to Abandon Religion

Sociologist Mark Regnerus finds religion, spirituality more accepted on campus

English Professor Wins Rome Prize for Renaissance Research

Jorie Woods earns prestigious fellowship

Ann Richards Students Prepare for Leadership Success

Center for Women and Gender Studies forges partnership to connect university to community

Robert W. and Maureen H. Decherd Create \$1 Million Endowment

Gift will create stipend for teaching literature, American society or U.S. media

Scholar Testifies in Congressional Hearing on Women in Science

Gretchen Ritter leads university task force on gender equity

40 Liberal Arts Students Accepted into Teach For America 2007 Corps

Graduates to serve for two years

Alumnus Named First State Historian

Jesús F. "Frank" de la Teja will serve as Texas' first State Historian

Gov. Perry Appoints Liberal Arts Leader to College Ready Commission

Linda Ferreira-Buckley advises on college readiness program

American Psychological Association Honors Animal Personality Research

Sam Gosling earns Distinguished Scientific Award for early career contributions

Creative Work Offers Health Advantages

John Mirowsky, sociology professor with the Population Research Center, spearheads study

Adapting to Pregnancy Played Key Role in Human Evolution

Anthropologist Liza Shapiro and alumna find male, female spine evolved differently

Do Women Really Talk More than Men?

James Pennebaker, psychology students refute popular belief

Get Connected and Stay Informed

Stay in touch with the College of Liberal Arts. Four times each year, the dean e-mails graduates an alumni newsletter with highlights about the college.

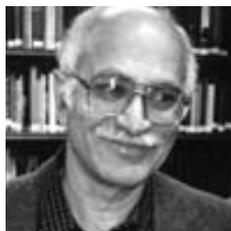
For in-depth coverage on research, student life and alumni profiles, read the college magazine, Life & Letters, online at www.utexas.edu/cola/.

2007 RETIRED PROFESSORS



JOHN FARRELL
English

Farrell taught at the university for 37 years. He specializes in the study of Victorian literature and 19th century intellectual history, is the author of numerous scholarly publications and a recipient of the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher Award.



ZULFIKAR GHOSE
English

Ghose held the McDaniels Regents Professorship in Creative Writing. He retired after teaching at the university for 38 years. He has published more than 20 books, including 11 novels, five volumes of poetry and four books of literary criticism. Both the "Review of Contemporary Fiction" and the Penguin Modern Poets series have featured Ghose's work.



WILLIAM GLADE
Economics

Glade began teaching at the university in 1971. A former director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, Glade researched comparative economics, development, economics of the arts and public/cultural diplomacy. Glade held numerous positions in agencies including the United States Information Agency, Council for International Exchange Scholars and various scholarly associations.



ROBERT HELMREICH
Psychology

Helmreich retired after 41 years of teaching at the university where he led the Human Factors Research Project. He received numerous awards for his research into aviation safety from NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Flight Safety Foundation. Most recently, Helmreich began to apply aviation safety concepts to medicine for which he earned the David Sheridan Award.



JOHN KOLSTI
Slavic and Eurasian Studies

Kolsti retired after 41 years of teaching at the university where he supported the creation of the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES). He published two books and numerous articles on Slavic poetry, folklore and history. Kolsti is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers and a recipient of the Harry Ransom Teaching Excellence Award.



DAVID WEVILL
English

Wevill, a Canadian-American member of the creative writing faculty, taught at the university for 37 years. He is the author of ten books of poetry, including the recent work, "Asterisks." Wevill is the recipient of E.C. Gregory Award, Arts Council of Great Britain awards and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

VINCENT GERACI
Economics

Geraci has held the Sue Killam Professorship for Economics and taught at the university since 1973. He published in the areas of econometrics, international trade and public finance. Geraci is the recipient of several teaching awards and served for two years on the National Commission for Employment Policy in Washington, D.C.

DOUGLASS PARKER
Classics

Parker taught at the university for 40 years. He is known for his research on Greek comedy and translations, in particular his translations of Aristophanes. Parker is a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Graduate School. He also has been a noted trombone player in the Austin jazz community.

CARLOS SOLÉ
Spanish and Portuguese

Solé taught at the university for 35 years. He researched Spanish language, historical and applied linguistics and teaching Spanish as foreign language. Solé is the author of numerous books on the Spanish language and served as a language consultant to organizations such as the Foreign Service Institute and the College Board.

IN MEMORIAM

GORDON BENNETT (Government and Asian Studies) died May 11 at the age of 67. Bennett specialized in the politics of China and Japan and served on the board of directors of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. He wrote "Huadong: The Story of A Chinese People's Commune" and "Yundong: Mass Campaigns in Chinese Communist Leadership."

ROBERT DAWSON (French and Italian) died June 4 in Paris at the age of 63. He taught at the university for 32 years, was an internationally respected authority on 18th century French literature, culture and bibliography, and senior curator for French materials at the Harry Ransom Center.

CAROL F. JUSTUS (Classics and Middle Eastern Studies) died Aug. 1 at the age of 67. Justus earned a doctorate from the university in Indo-European linguistics in 1973 and wrote more than 30 articles on such topics as Indo-European language, numerals and culture and Hittite.

WINFRED P. LEHMANN (Linguistics) died Aug. 1 at the age of 91. He specialized in Indo-European linguistics, Germanic languages and machine translation. In 1961, he founded the Linguistics Research Center, where he served as director until his death. He was the author of several influential books, including "Historical Linguistics."

JAMES W. MCKIE (Economics) died Oct. 30, following a long illness. He served as chair of the Department of Economics, held the Edward Everett Hale Centennial Professor of Economics Chair and was a recipient of the Pro Bene Meritis Award in 2002.

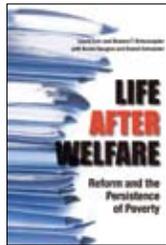
CARLOTA S. SMITH (Linguistics) died May 24 at the age of 73 after a long battle with cancer. The Dallas TACA Centennial Professor in the Humanities taught at the university for 38 years. Smith is the author of "Modes of Discourse" and "The Parameter of Aspect."

JOHN WARFIELD (African American Studies) died Oct. 25 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Warfield was an activist scholar who published in the area of race and sports and taught at the university for 26 years. He directed the Center for African and African American Studies from 1973 to 1986.

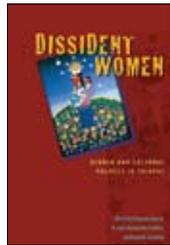
Professors in Print:

Recommended Reading from University of Texas Press

Check out these books by Liberal Arts faculty about Latin America and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands



LIFE AFTER WELFARE: REFORM AND THE RESISTANCE OF POVERTY (2007) by Laura Lein, professor of anthropology and social work, and Deanna Schexnayder.



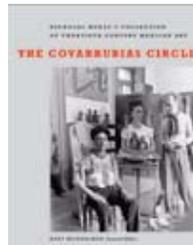
DISSIDENT WOMEN: GENDER AND CULTURAL POLITICS IN CHIAPAS (2006) edited by Shannon Speed, assistant professor of anthropology, R. Aida Hernández Castillo and Lynn Stephen.



ANCIENT MAYA COMMONERS (2004) edited by Fred Valdez, associate professor of anthropology, and Jon Lohse.



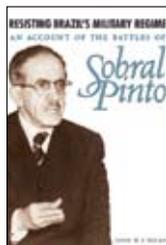
BRAZILIANS WORKING WITH AMERICANS: CULTURAL CASE STUDIES (2007) by Orlando Kelm, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, and Mary Risner.



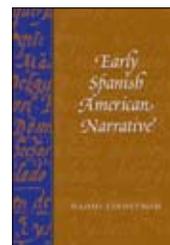
THE COVARRUBIAS CIRCLE: NICKOLAS MURAY'S COLLECTION OF TWENTIETH-CENTURY MEXICAN ART (2004) edited by Kurt Heinzelman, professor of English.



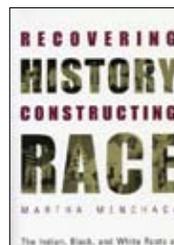
STORIES, MYTHS, CHANTS, AND SONGS OF THE KUNA INDIANS (2003) by Joel Sherzer, professor of anthropology.



RESISTING BRAZIL'S MILITARY REGIME: AN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLES OF SOBRAL PINTO (2007) by John Dulles, professor of American studies.



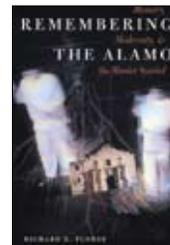
EARLY SPANISH AMERICAN NARRATIVE (2004) by Naomi Lindstrom, professor of Spanish and Portuguese.



RECOVERING HISTORY, CONSTRUCTING RACE: THE INDIAN, BLACK, AND WHITE ROOTS OF MEXICAN AMERICANS (2002) by Martha Menchaca, professor of anthropology.



A LEGACY GREATER THAN WORDS: STORIES OF U.S. LATINOS AND LATINAS OF THE WORLD WAR II GENERATION (2006) by Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, professor of journalism and affiliate of the Center for Mexican-American Studies.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO: MEMORY, MODERNITY, AND THE MASTER SYMBOL (2002) by Richard Flores, professor of anthropology and senior associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts.



REFLEXIONES 1999: NEW DIRECTIONS IN MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (1999) by Richard Flores, professor of anthropology and senior associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

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Ambassadors of Hospitality

Alumna leads non-profit dedicated to welcoming international students

BY JENNIFER MCANDREW

FOR LYNN COOKSEY, A NATIVE TEXAN, SOUTHERN hospitality is not just a cliché; it's a way of life. The alumna of the College of Liberal Arts (Psychology, '58) and LBJ School of Public Affairs ('77) is executive director of the International Hospitality Council of Austin (IHCA), where she coordinates a broad array of intercultural services for international students and visitors to the Texas capital.

"Extending hospitality to international students and visitors is a mutually enriching experience. Both the host families and the students have the opportunity to broaden their cultural perspectives," Cooksey says. "We've found students' impressions of America really depend on their day-to-day experiences, and the host families make a huge difference in helping them feel at home."

Founded by Ethel McGinnis in 1960 with support from Joe Neal, former director of the university's International Office, IHCA has grown to nearly 600 families who welcome hundreds of international university students to Austin each year. Families arrange potluck dinners and holiday outings, as well as special events and family activities for students.

The IHCA is the local contact agency for the U.S. State Department and hosts the annual International Consular Ball with the Mayor's Office in Austin. The event brings together international dignitaries, local government leaders and the business community to celebrate Austin's role as a growing center for international commerce, culture and education.

The heart and soul of the organization are the relationships formed between host families and students from all over the world, Cooksey emphasizes.

Charter member Joan Holtzman regularly corresponds with many of the students whom she and her husband, Wayne, Hogg Professor Emeritus in Psychology and Education, hosted during the past five decades.

"We've been blessed to meet so many wonderful young people from Venezuela to Saudi Arabia," Holtzman says. "Sharing our values with exchange students and learning about their own cultures back home is one small, yet significant, way we can contribute to global peace and understanding."

Wayne, who is an honorary member of the Sociedad Mexicana de Psicología, worked with Mexican colleagues throughout the 1960s and 1970s to welcome south-of-the-border scholars to the university. The IHCA helped secure housing for the students, many of whom have become leaders in their field.

To learn more about the International Hospitality Council of Austin or to sign up to host an international student, visit www.ihcaustin.com.



Lynn Cooksey (left) and Joan Holtzman.

Share Your Stories and Keep in Touch

The "Ambassadors of Hospitality" captures one of the thousands of stories of Liberal Arts graduates making a difference in communities throughout the United States and world. Please stay in touch. We want to hear from you!

Also, if you are interested in supporting the College of Liberal Arts, we invite you to consider making a gift. The College relies on private philanthropy to broaden support for scholarships, study abroad opportunities for faculty and graduate students. Gifts to the College ensure students are able to experience the same life-changing education you enjoyed.

To share your story or if you are interested in learning more about special giving opportunities such as the recently established Dean's Circle, please e-mail transforminglives@mail.dla.utexas.edu.