Brazil Elects Working Class President

By Anne Hanley

Last October Brazilians made history by electing a man of very humble origins to the presidency. Luís Ignacio Lula da Silva, the former union leader who is universally referred to as Lula, is the first Brazilian president to personally experience the poverty and hunger many Brazilians suffer. Originally from Brazil’s drought-plagued Northeast, his family migrated to São Paulo in hopes of alleviating the poverty in which they lived. Like an estimated 30 percent of Brazilian children, Lula worked from the age of 7 to help support his family. Because his personal experience exemplified that of Brazil’s poor and working classes, his election brings hope that the government’s historical lack of attention to the poor might finally be reversed.

Lula’s political career grew out of his activism within the trade union movement during the military dictatorship. As president of the metalworker’s union of São Bernardo do Campo, São Paulo, Lula founded the Partido dos Trabalhadores (Worker’s Party), and was at the forefront organizing strikes in the late 1970s and early 1980s demanding a better quality of life for working class Brazilians. That challenge is considered by many to be the turning point from dictatorship to democracy. When the military withdrew from power in 1985, Lula was overwhelmingly elected to the constituent assembly that wrote the new constitution. Lula then ran for president in 1989, in the first direct elections held in Brazil in almost three decades. In October 2002, on his fourth run for the presidency, he was elected with a resounding 61 percent of the vote.

Lula’s candidacy was polarizing, and many feared that he would embrace leftist economic policies that might derail Brazil’s globalization-friendly progress. His assurances to the contrary notwithstanding, Brazil’s currency, the real, took a beating last summer and fall because of the strength of Lula’s standing in the polls and the ghost of Lula’s trade unionist past. In the 2002 election campaign conventional candidates were overwhelmingly rejected because they had shown themselves unable or unwilling to tackle the root causes of Brazil’s perpetual economic problems, problems which during the late 1990s and early 2000s contributed to escalating urban violence.

To the surprise and relief of political observers and the entrepreneurial class, Lula has thus far kept his word to promote a balanced, growth-oriented policy agenda. News articles and opinion pieces carrying headlines like “The Mobilization of Hope” and “Reality is Winning Over Ideology” capture the general assessment of this administration’s policy prescriptions. Lula and his team are arguing first and foremost that Brazilian social policies including the type of income redistribution observers expected him to champion must be pursued within economic policies that focus on sensible and sustainable growth.

Lula’s administration is pursuing two major policy initiatives. The first is the Zero Hunger Project. Zero Hunger looks to alleviate the hunger in which an estimated 46 million Brazilians live by both providing short term aid—food baskets—and designing long term policies to address the structural roots of hunger. Zero Hunger is exactly the sort of policy Brazilians expected of Lula, but it is his second policy initiative, fiscal reform to pay for social programs, that is gaining much attention. Lula is promoting a business-friendly, fiscally conservative program that seeks to close Brazil’s budget deficit and reduce Brazil’s reliance on foreign lending, while restructuring the tax code to reduce its emphasis on highly regressive consumption-based taxes. By lowering the tax burden on businesses, taxes that are inevitably passed along to the consumer, the administration believes it can both stimulate domestic investment and reduce prices to the consumer of modest means. The combination of economic realism and social activism is winning the president high approval ratings in the business world. These strong marks may evaporate when the administration fights for a highly explosive social security reform, but at the 100-day mark Lula is enjoying broad support and engendering great hope for economic development with social justice.

Anne Hanley is an Assistant Professor of History specializing in Modern Brazil.

Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, Northern Illinois University
www.cla.niu.edu/latino
Table of Contents

1 Brazil Elects Working Class President
   by Anne Hanley

2 CLLAS Research and Travel Awards

3 Three Images of Latino Women
   by Lucrecia Blanco-Trimble

4 Faculty Publications and Activities

7 CLLAS Activities

8 A Bill for Instate Tuition for Undocumented Immigrants
   by Lesley Irizarry

Center for Latino and Latin American Studies

Phone: (815) 753-8281
Fax: (815) 753-1651
www.clas.niu.edu/latinos

Director: Michael J. Gonzales
Editors:
John R. Alexander and Michael J. Gonzales

Northern Illinois University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

---

**CLLAS Research and Travel Awards**

*Grants Awarded to Faculty in FY 2003*

**José R. Carrasquel** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) – To present a paper on *ill*-reflexes at a conference at the University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.


**Gregory D. Schmidt** (Political Science) – To present a paper on gender quota laws in Peruvian municipal elections at the First Latin American Congress of Political Science, University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain.

Other Grants Awarded to Faculty from FY 2002 Funds

**Winifred Creamer** (Anthropology) – To investigate the origins of civilization among the large sites in the Norte Chico region of Peru.

**Gregory D. Schmidt** (Political Science) – To research the 2000 General Elections and subsequent constitutional reforms in Peru.

**Eric Digman** (Political Science) – To study the effect of administrative and political decentralization on municipal governance in Bolivia.

**María A. Vetter** (Adult Education) – To explore modes of adult political education among the Chilean working class during the presidency of Salvador Allende (1970-1973).

Other Grants Awarded to Graduate Students from FY 2002 Funds

**Rebecca Bria** (Anthropology) – To record the fragments of Pre-Columbian pottery found at nine sites in the Pativilca Valley (Notre Chico region), Peru.

**Teresa Chun** (Anthropology) – To analyze 23 circular plazas of the Late Archaic Period in the Notre Chico region of Peru.

**Rosa Leal-Bautista** (Geology) – To investigate levels of Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) in Mexico City groundwater.

**Rebecca Osborn** (Anthropology) – To make a systematic collection of Pre-Columbian human remains of three cemeteries in the Pativilca Valley (Notre Chico region), Peru.

*Graduate Student Research Grants Awarded in FY 2003*

**Adriana Crocker** (Political Science) – To research the effect of gender quota laws on Argentine elections.
Three Images of Latino Women. Or, Is It Really Just One?

By Lucrecia Blanco-Trimble

I have lived in the United States for eight years, and during that period people have told me very interesting things about Latin America. I originally found great humor in such tidbits as, “Buenos Aires is the capital of Brazil.” “Argentines use knives, not forks to eat their meat.” “People in Bolivia don’t wear shoes.” I’ve also learned some interesting things about Latino women, such as we all have big hips, wear crucifixes around our necks, have large families, and are unpunctual. I have also been told we’re generally passive, and (unfortunately) loud and “touchy.” On the bright side, I’ve heard that we’re all skinny, energetic, and very sexy! All of these deeply informative conversations with friends and colleagues present a very colorful collage of impressions about Latino women. Lately, these images have become less funny; in fact, somewhat troubling. I am intrigued by how powerful these representations are, and the impact they can have on my relationships with otherwise well-intentioned people.

In an attempt to respond to these impressions, I am taking photographs of Latino women in order to share them with a non-Latino American audience. My hope is to have my audience take a second look at their assumptions and to reflect on them. Of course, not all of their assumptions are wrong. Insofar as they contain a seed of truth, the stereotypes that people hold are partially true. Generalizations can be useful, and are even necessary in this complicated world. The trick for each of us is to achieve depth and understanding of an individual and his or her culture at any given moment. Rather than prove these impressions wrong, I want to provide an alternate set of images from a perspective that they may have missed. My goal is to create an open-ended project in which people find their own truth.

The subjects of the photographic project are a diverse group of strong, first generation, Latino women. The result will be a series of photo essays on each woman that focuses on three different images of her. The first image will attempt to project what non-Latino Americans see in this particular woman: her physical appearance, her alleged cultural norms, and her supposed natural environment. In other words, I want to portray the identity people impose on her. The second image will be a photograph set up by the subject. The third image will be how I see her.

I increasingly sense that there is a translation issue between my culture and the mainstream culture within which I now live. As a documentary, I hope this project serves as a tool to widen the dialogue regarding the place and image of Latino women. Perhaps it will give us an insight and a fresh perspective that bridges the cultural divide. While this project serves my needs for finding answers, ideally these photographs will also resonate within both the non-Latino and the Latino communities. I hope to provide a basis for deeper discussion between Latinos and non-Latinos, and a new formulation for the continued development of Latin American identity in America. I want to emphasize that my work is primarily artistic. The ultimate mission of this project is to depict the reality of these women in an artistic way. My photographs are intended to have an intrinsic artistic value—the capacity to bring out what is unique to an individual.

Lucrecia Blanco-Trimble (M.F.A., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) is an Assistant Professor of Theater Arts specializing in design and technology.

Editor’s note: Blanco-Trimble wants to note that the accompanying photographs are representative of her work, and not necessarily a part of her final collection.
Faculty Publications and Activities

Lucrecia Blanco-Trumble
Assistant Professor, School of Theater and Dance

Arts

Lighting Design (Theater):

(2002) “Our Town,” St. Croix Festival Theater, St. Croix Falls, WI.
(2002) “Guys and Dolls.” O’Connell Theater, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL.

Lighting Design (Dance):

(2002) “Patricia Nanon Residency Premieres.” PNN Theater, Martha’s Vineyard, MA.

Professional Activities


Led two master classes on lighting design for dance at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, April, 2002.

Lectures


José R. Carrasquel
Assistant Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

Publications


Papers Presented


Professional Activities

Article Reviewer for Foreign Language Annuals.


Karen Carrier
Assistant Professor, Literacy Education

Papers Presented


Professional Activities

Project Coordinator for a $45,000 Title III grant, “Project QUILL,” (a project to prepare teachers to work with English language learners in PK-12 schools in the northern Illinois region).


Appointed Chair of Professional Concerns Committee of Illinois TESOL-Bilingual Association.

Louise Ciallella
Assistant Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

Papers Presented


Professional Activities

Faculty Consultant for the Spanish Language Advanced Placement Test.

Winifred Creamer
Associate Professor, Anthropology

Publications


Papers Presented


Lectures


Professional Activities


Interviewed for the BBC Horizon Documentary Film: “Coral, America’s First Civilization” shown in Europe, Australia and the U.S. (The Learning
Adjunct Curator, Field Museum, Chicago, IL, Anthropology Department.

Ibis Gómez-Vega
Associate Professor, English

Publications


Professional Activities
Participated in the 2002 Fulbright Institute on Contemporary American Literature, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, July, 2002.

Michael J. Gonzales
Professor, History and Director, Center for Latino and Latin American Studies

Publications

Lectures


Professional Activities
Elected to the Nominating Committee of the American Historical Association, 2003-2006.

Anne Hanley
Assistant Professor, History

Papers Presented


Professional Activities
Commentator at the Fourth Annual Hewlett/Brazil/UIUC Project Workshop, “New Research on Inequality and Economic Development in Brazil,” at the University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, December, 6-7, 2002.

Jorge Jeria
Professor, Counseling, Adult and Health Education

Papers Presented

Professional Activities
Participated in the Premier Encuentro Latinoamericano de Formación de Educadores de Adultos, at the Instituto de Investigaciones de la Educación de Adultos (Universidad Pedagógica Nacional de México) and UNESCO Regional Office for Latin America to develop a regional training program for adult educators in Latin America, April, 5-12, 2003, Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico.

Wrote and presented main discussion paper on adult education for a UNESCO-sponsored meeting on the current state of research on adult education in Latin America, Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico, September, 2002.

As the result of an invitation of Peruvian Congressman Roger Santa María, worked with the Council of Amazonian Universities to develop a partnership between four Peruvian Amazonian universities and NIU, Lima, Peru, August, 2002.

Jeff Kowalski
Professor and Head of Art History Division

Publications


Lectures

“Cosmos, Kingship, and the Sacred Centers in Ancient Maya Society,” Department of Art History and School of Art, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, October 31, 2002.


Professional Activities
Submitted report on final excavations of the Round Temple (Structure 52) at Uxmal to the Centro Regional de Yucatán (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia).

Monique J. Lemaitre
Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature

Publications


Eloy E. Merino  
Assistant Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

Publications  

(forthcoming) “Marías y homosexuales en la visión de Francisco Umbral (entre el héchiro y la repugnancia).” In Carlos X. Arndán (ed.), Valoración de Francisco Umbral: ensayos críticos en torno a su obra, Gijón: Libros del Pexe.

Papers Presented  

Eugene Perry  
Professor, Geology

Publications  


Papers Presented  


Professional Activities  
Visiting professor at the Instituto de Geofísica, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), August 2001-August 2002.

Gregory D. Schmidt  
Professor, Political Science

Publications  

(forthcoming) “All the President’s Women: Fujimori and Gender Equity in Peruvian Politics.” In Julio Carrión and Daniele B. Pisani (eds.), The Fujimori Legacy and Its Impact on Public Policy in Latin America. Coral Gables: North-South Center, University of Miami.


Papers Presented  
(2005) “All the President’s Women: Fujimori and Gender Equity in Peruvian Politics.” presented at the XXIV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Dallas, TX.


Professional Activities  

Organized two panels for LASA’s XXIV International Congress and attended LASA Section Chair meeting in Dallas, TX, March, 2003.

Elected Co-Chair of the Peru Section of the Latin American Studies Association, March, 2003.

Elected member of the Executive Council of the Peru Section of the Latin American Studies Association, September 2002.

Coordinated an international petition drive that successfully led to the retraction of an offer by Takushoku University (Tokyo, Japan) to hire former President Alberto Fujimori as a lecturer.
CLLAS Activities

Tlen Huicani Returns!
The folkloric group Tlen Huicani returned to NIU on September 19, 2002 to an enthusiastic audience who came to hear and experience the rhythms of traditional Latin American music. The concert featured harpist and musical folklorist Alberto de la Rosa and his world-famous troupe, Tlen Huicani, "the singers," effortlessly swept listeners to the warm and vibrant lands south of the Rio Grande. De la Rosa's wonderful performance on the Arpa Jarocha, the Jarocha Harp, threw open the door to Mexico's Veracruz state, and the group enthralled the audience.

Maestro de la Rosa uses the Arpa Jarocha to communicate his passion for Veracruz's rich musical tradition. Veracruz was for centuries one of the main ports of entry for gold-seeking Spaniards. These adventurers littered the land with discarded musical instruments such as guitars, two-stringed violins, and harps, that Veracruz's indigenous musicians quickly incorporated into their own musical culture. These instruments, especially the Arpa Jarocha, remained central to Veracruz's tart and rhythmic balladry. De la Rosa delivered a delectable sampling of this heritage.

Tlen Huicani has been named the best folk group in Mexico by Mexico's Union of Music and Theater Critics, and Alberto de la Rosa ranks among Mexico's most skilled and beloved musicians. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies sponsored the group's performance at Northern Illinois University.

Geology South of the Rio Grande and Beyond
On February 27, 2003 faculty and graduate students in the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences presented Center-supported research on ground-water contamination in Mexico, and volcanic activity in Guatemala which have important social, health and safety ramifications for the people of these countries.

In the first set of presentations, faculty Eugene Perry, Melissa Lenczewski, and graduate students Guadalupe Velázquez-Olímán and Rosa Leal-Bautista reported on groundwater contamination in Mexico. Research indicates that anthropogenic groundwater contamination within confined aquifers threatens water supplies of Puebla, Mexico, a city of 1.5 million which already faces water shortages. In Mexico City, the problem is Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) groundwater contamination. MTBE is a fuel additive that facilitates cleaner burning car engines, and often seeps from underground storage fuel tanks into aquifers. Faculty and student research shows that soil particular to the region of Mexico City may actually increase the rate of MTBE absorption. In large amounts, MTBE can pose serious health problems.

In the case of Guatemala, volcanic eruptions pose a danger to inhabitants. As part of ongoing research by Geology and Geosciences professor Jim Walker, and his graduate student Erik Mickelson, evidence was presented that varying subduction processes greatly affect the type of volcanic activity that occurs throughout the country. Guatemala has one of the highest densities of active volcanoes throughout the Pacific Ring of Fire and in 1902 experienced one of the largest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century. Therefore, active monitoring of subduction processes through sampling of erupted lavas and ashes may be a key component in the early detection of future volcanic hazards.

- Teresa Chun and Guadalupe Velázquez-Olímán

Other CLLAS Events
- On April 10, 2003, NIU Professor Winifred Cremer and her graduate students Rebecca Bria, Teresa Chun, and Rebecca Osborn, discussed their archaeological field work at Caral and other Preceramic sites in the Norte Chico region of coastal Peru. Caral, the oldest urban site in the Americas, had widespread cultural impact in the region.

Francisco Solares-Larrawe
Assistant Professor,
Foreign Languages and Literatures

Publications


Papers Presented

(2002) “De vida voz: la oralidad en la narrativa de Juana Manuel Górriz,” presented at the Seventeenth Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature, Western University, St. Louis, MO.

(2002) “Del poder, la razón y el arte: la ciencia modernista en dos novelas de Rafael Arévalo Martínez,” presented at the XXXIV Congreso Literatura y otras artes en América Latina, hosted by the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana, Iowa City, IA.

(2002) “Metaforas escriturales y cultura colonial en la Respuesta a Sor Filotea de la Cruz,” presented at the 55th Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky-Lexington, Lexington, KY.

Professional Activities


Organized and chaired, “Excess and Resistance in Contemporary Latin American Fiction and Film,” a panel at the 55th Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky-Lexington, Lexington, KY, April, 2002.

Elected to the Executive Committee for the Section on Spanish Literature from the Independence to 1900 of the Modern Language Association, January, 2002.

***
In-State Tuition for Undocumented High School Graduates in Illinois

By Lesley Irizarry

For the past few years there has been considerable debate over the merits of proposed legislation that would allow undocumented graduates of Illinois high schools, who meet or exceed admissions requirements, to attend public universities in the state and to pay in-state tuition. Similar legislation has been approved by California, Washington, Texas, and New York, and is under consideration in South Carolina.

A concern for state lawmakers is U.S. Congress law 8 U.S.C. 1623 which stated that after July 1, 1998, persons “not lawfully present in the U.S.” cannot be eligible for “any post secondary education benefit” given “on the basis of residence within a State,” unless the same benefit is granted to U.S. citizens. Nevertheless, the federal law permits any state to override this provision by later legislative act, as long as benefits are based on objective criteria other than residency. The Illinois bill satisfies federal law because it requires aliens to have graduated from Illinois high schools after a minimum of three years enrollment.

In Spring, 2003, the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies and NIU’s Latino Law Student Association co-sponsored a panel discussion, open to the general public and university community, to explore the merits of the proposed legislation. Panelists included Professor Michael Gonzales, the Center director; Rene Hernandez, attorney from Rockford, Ill.; Patrick Kinnally, attorney from Aurora and an Adjunct Professor of Law at NIU; and Robert Burk, NIU’s Director of Admissions. Panelists pointed out that it was unfair to make academically qualified Latinos, many of whom had lived in the state since childhood, to pay out-of-state tuition. In effect, this denies them the opportunity to attend college and indirectly contributes to under-employment and crime. Mr. Burk also added that the legislation fit the goals of the university, which include cost effectiveness and accessibility. There was active audience participation on both sides of the issue.

In March, the Illinois House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the bill, and in May it was approved 55 to 1 by the Senate. On May 19, the legislation was signed into law by Governor Rod Blagojevich.

Lesley Irizarry (Third-Year Law, NIU), is interested in immigration and public interest law.