Late eighteenth-century Jesuit studies of natural history produced a bitter, nostalgic, and proprietary vision of the Society’s Province of Paraguay. As the final accounts of what had become a 150-year colonial enterprise, late Jesuit ethnographies and natural histories represented the last efforts on the part of the fathers to identify the Paraguayan estado jesuita through institutions of faith, family, law, and economic exchange. While boundary disputes, missionary expansion, conversion, and disease figured as important subjects of eighteenth-century Jesuit narratives and as fundamental agents of affliction and change in the lives of the Paraguayan indigenous populations, late eighteenth-century Jesuit literature also concerned itself with detailed descriptive and evaluative accounts of the appearance, conduct, and social value of the people the order encountered. As a central component to the mechanisms of Jesuit missionary authority, and as a later lament of political and religious loss, late eighteenth-century Jesuit publications laid claim to Paraguayan Indians by situating them within the naturalizing, extractive, and proprietary context of Jesuit scientific classification. Locating Paraguayan Indians within the rhetorical parameters of scientific investigation, Martin Dobrizhoffer, José Sánchez Labrador, José Jolis, and others from the Province of Paraguay articulated a new racial and moral imperative for Jesuit missionary control.

Eighteenth-century Jesuit civil and natural histories were based on a new-found faith in facts and objectivity. Responding to internal changes in European and local Paraguayan Jesuit education, as well as to the emergence of a new body of natural historical literature in Europe, the civil and natural histories of the Paraguayan fathers continued to lay claim to their Catholic faith, but no longer interpreted Paraguayan nature as of a world shaped by diabolism and divine intervention. This was marked by changes that occurred in the structure of Jesuit argumentation. Formerly shaped by a convergence of multiple literary genres including the catechetical tract, scientific treatise, sacramental drama, biblical exegesis, exemplary vida, and sermon oratory, the eighteenth-century civil and natural histories followed the more streamlined conventions of a single literary genre. Miracles, apparitions, idolatry, and reform were replaced by facts, evidence, and observation, while biblical exegesis was minimized and references to the devil all but ceased to exist. Claims for missionary authority had also changed. No longer an ethnographic vision of winning indigenous populations over by beating down the devil, Jesuit claims to Indians were now based on statements of fact and first-hand knowledge of the Paraguayan natural world. While continuing to write religious commentaries and testimonies of faith as separate genres of exposition, the Paraguayan fathers followed stricter guidelines of disciplinary writing by constructing civil and natural histories in the language of Enlightenment science.

The first appearance of these changes in the Paraguayan fathers’ historiography was in the references to climatic determinism in the work of Nicolás del Techo (1673), but it wasn’t until the mid-eighteenth century with the publications of José Cardiel, José Sánchez Labrador, and with the writings of José Jolis and other Paraguayan fathers in exile that a clear adoption of scientific methods had emerged. While most of these authors had long histories of publication, wrote on a variety of different aspects of their work in the missions, and had begun writing in the distinct genre of the scientific treatise, what united all of them in their late studies of natural history was the repudiation of the terms of scientific objectivity established in the theories of climatic determinism by Georges Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon, and Cornelius de Pauw. The theories that the Paraguayan fathers took objection to were the ones published in Buffon’s “Animaux communs” (1761) and de Pauw’s Philosophical Research on the Americans (1768).
Direct observation and causal analysis based on local studies of Paraguayan nature were the tools used by Jolís, Sánchez Labrador, Dobrizhoff, Peramás, and other Jesuit fathers for their critiques of climatic determinism and for the foundations of their new studies on Paraguayan ethnography and natural history.

One of the ways the Paraguayan fathers attempted to wrest control over the debate was by changing the terms of causal analysis. Focused specifically on Buffon’s argument that climatic conditions determined human skin color, and de Pauw’s later assertion that the climate affected behavior, the Paraguayan fathers first denied that physiological and behavioral conditions were determined by weather and humidity. The physiological argument was made by Sánchez Labrador. Denying Buffon’s position that African and American dark skin color was determined by its geographical location between the eighteenth parallel north and south of the equator, Sánchez Labrador permitted the possibility for climate to affect skin pigmentation in moderate ways, but argued that it was not the determining factor in skin coloration. Suggesting instead that the variation among skin colors in the indigenous populations in Paraguay negated this possibility, he borrowed from the work of José Gumilla and argued that the structure of the epidermis in human bodies was physically determined by the transmission of skin coloration into the blood, humors, and animal mass of the body. (con el tiempo se introdujeron en la sangre, en los humores y en toda la masa animal de sus cuerpos). While sunlight and nutrition contributed to the color of one’s skin, it was primarily the physical matter transmitted from parents to children that was most important to pigmentation in Sánchez Labrador’s study. Maintaining that the status of race was determined by a proto-Mendelian notion of heredity and not the climate in and around the “torrid zone,” Sánchez Labrador dismissed Buffon’s argument for climatic determinism.

However, criticism only went so far. Although resolved to present scientifically fluent expositions of biological normalcy and cultural sophistication in America, the Paraguayan fathers were also concerned with demonstrating the need for Amerindian reliance on Jesuit religious and administrative institutions. While refuting European Enlightenment notions of American decline, they also wanted to demonstrate a clear imperative for Jesuit colonial service. Fundamental to the legitimacy of their work while in Paraguay, and critical to their efforts to salvage the order while in exile, Amerindian dependency and the propriety of Jesuit accuracy over the production of Paraguayan knowledge, were two key points of focus in their ethnographic studies. Efforts to produce this often took the form of a published response that preserved the hierarchical evaluation of comparative ethnography, but refuted the sense of cultural-evolutionary futility implied by European natural historical analysis. Various formulations of this balancing act appeared in Jesuit literature. In response to Buffon’s analysis of Amerindian weakness and inability to work, Martin Dobrizhoffer commented at length on Guarani and Abipon strength and

Continued on page 3

1José, José, Saggio sulla storia naturale della provincia del Gran Chaco: e sulle pratiche e su costumi dei popoli che l’abitano insieme con tre giornali di altrettanti viaggi fatti alle interne contrade di que’ Barbari (Faenza, Italy: Lodovico Genestri, 1832), 43.

From the Rhetoric continued from page 2

military prowess, but suggested they lacked the administrative abilities and leadership qualities of the Jesuits and Spanish generals.3 José Cardiel refuted the European notion of American degeneration by demonstrating the success of mission farming, while arguing that Jesuit fathers had to regulate the complexities of food rationing for the unsophisticated Guaraní. Sánchez Labrador denied de Pauw’s description of American helplessness and degeneracy, but maintained the usefulness of the reduction for training and instilling a work ethic in the Indians. By utilizing the methods and rhetoric of science to respond to recent debates on the indigenous populations of America, the Paraguayan missionaries attempted to disprove European Enlightenment theories of biological degeneration while producing a new body of natural historical and ethnographic knowledge that maintained the value and necessity of the Jesuit colonial order.

In his published relación of 1771, Cardiel took pains to articulate the problems with Guaraní reasoning. Describing their inability to conceive of their communal obligations and their relationship to the reduction’s future and past, Cardiel examined the dependent nature of the Guaraní to the Jesuits. After a long description of the cultural and geographical variations of the province, together with a detailed description of the lush, fecund nature of Paraguayan fields and pasture land, Cardiel described how the Guaraní were unable to take advantage of their surroundings without the help of the Jesuit fathers. In a discussion of missionary food rationing, Cardiel explained Guaraní inability to plan for the year ahead:

Algunos curas hacen medir con un cordel lo que les parece suficiente para el sustento anual de su casa; y les imponen pena de tantos azotes, si no lo labran todo; porque el indio es muy amigo de poquitos por sus cortos espíritus, y su vista intelectual no alza hasta el fin del año, ni le hacen fuerza las razones, ni la experiencia de la hambre que sintió el año antecedente por haber sembrado poco.4

Unable to plan practically for their future, the Guaraní were dependent on the Paraguayan fathers to implement various procedures for food and clothing distribution. Incapable of planning for the year ahead and remembering the suffering of hunger from the year before, the Indians were rationed cows, horses, sheep, and vegetables by the missionaries so they would have food throughout the year. According to Cardiel, this inability to conceive of time and communal food management was a continual problem in the reductions. In a discussion of Jesuit farming instruction, he claimed the Guaraní were unable to manage the sophistication of cotton farming on their own. By documenting the Indian’s ability to think through what they referred to as the difficult science of farming, Cardiel, like many of the other Paraguayan Jesuits, succeeded in constructing an identity of the Guaraní as Americans who were healthy, strong, and racially fit, but who were in certain need of missionary intervention.

3For more on Abipon war tactics and resistance to the Spanish, see Dobrizhoffer’s History of the Abipones, an Equestrian People of Paraguay Vol. II (London: John Murray, 1822): 2. For more examples of Abipon strength, see Vol. III, pp. 35-37, and Vol. I, p. 258. For his comments on the Guaraní, see Vol. II p. 27.

4Cardiel, José, Compendio de la historia de Paraguay (Buenos Aires: Fundación para la educación, la ciencia y la cultura, 1984), 65.

Peter Kornbluh on the Role of Cuba in the U.S. Presidential Elections, the State of Reform in Cuba, and the Prospects for Change in U.S.-Cuban Relations

By Charles Stapleton


C.S.: In your recent article in The Nation, you allude to a difference in the “worldviews” of the candidates running for their respective party’s nomination and that of President Bush.

Can you please expand upon this comment? What actions or inactions might we expect from the next president with regard to U.S.-Cuban relations?

P.K: What I wrote is that somebody who is campaigning to be president needs to have a different view, not towards Cuba, but towards Florida. I wasn’t comparing Obama and McCain to Bush, I was comparing Obama’s and McCain’s positions now, to what one of their positions might be in January, when one of them is sitting in the Oval office. That was a kind of indirect way of saying that no political candidate, Republican or Democrat, is going to risk losing Florida by saying, “I’m going to change policy towards Cuba.”

Continued on page 4

Peter Kornbluh continued from page 3

They will campaign to the right – or very cautiously at the center – to make sure that they don’t repeat what happened to Al Gore in November 2000. They understand that the road to the U.S. presidency goes through Florida and that a handful of anti-Castro Cuban exiles might actually make the difference in the outcome. Florida has proven to be such a divided state, so close, that nobody is going to risk this. But whoever becomes president in November, their view is going to be different; they are not going to be worried about Florida – at least for the next three or four years. As a result, the next president is going to be freer to examine the changed circumstances in Cuba. We are going to have a new president at the same time that Cuba commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Revolution. The next U.S. president will invariably see the symbolism in the anniversary and question whether isolating Cuba for another 50 years will work, when all we’ve accomplished so far has been to isolate ourselves.

C.S.: In a recent forum published in The Nation, Alberto Coll, the former deputy secretary of defense under the first President Bush, is quoted as saying that Raúl Castro “has made it clear that he wants to shake things up by encouraging more debate and criticism.” He appears to see this as a radical departure from Fidel’s policy of squelching dissent. What ramifications might this change have for Cuba’s future?

P.K.: Well, I don’t really agree with the premise of the question. Raúl is not really shaking things up, and he is not a radical departure from Fidel. For example, when he moved up to the presidency, his position as first vice president opened up. A lot of people hoped and thought that he would appoint a younger member of the next generation of Cuban leadership, but he in fact appointed José Ramón Machado Ventura, who is actually a year older than Raúl, and who has spent his entire career in the organizational side of the communist party; he is a very hardliner.

However, there is a different imperative with Raúl. He’s not a charismatic figure; he doesn’t command the kind of venerable respect or fear that Cubans had of Fidel, so he has to resort to a different way of governing in order to make Cubans feel that they are participating. Raúl is not going to hold the major rallies that Fidel did; he’s not going to give a 20-minute speech, let alone a five-hour speech to a mass rally. What he is going to say to Cubans is that he is interested in hearing from them, and that changes are going to be made. However, it will be a discussion with parameters. The discussion is going to take place within discrete forums that are organized for the most part by the Cuban Communist Party or the government. And they will be discussions, not protests that will involve any kind of push back from the citizens.

For his part, Raúl is moving quickly to come up with changes. In the short span of several months he has started to add key incentives in the agricultural sector to stimulate production, and additional pay to workers who work additional hours to increase incentives for productivity. He has lifted the ban on the sale of DVD players, computers, and cell phones so that Cubans who have the money can buy modern appliances. Not a lot of Cubans can buy those things. Nonetheless, people who are working hard and are entrepreneurial are the type that Cuba wants to keep. Making their lives a little happier will make them less likely to leave.

There are other policies as well that are more substantive, such as taking fallow land and lending it to farmers with an entrepreneurial spirit. Raúl has also recently raised the price of milk a little bit, so that there’s more value in its production. He is trying to create some economic incentives and also to lessen the restrictions on Cubans.

He also lifted the ban on Cubans staying at its tourist hotels. Up until now Cubans could not go into their own tourist hotels, and in fact they were actually excluded from resort areas. Now Raúl is saying that this is a stain on Cuba’s reputation as an egalitarian society. Obviously, there won’t be a lot of Cubans who will be able to take advantage of this, but the fact that they can just go into them without some guard kicking them out will be, I think, extremely important for the principles of the society.

Basically, changes thus far under Raúl’s leadership have been a mixture of small, symbolically important improvements, along with some significant economic changes that will have an impact on daily Cuban life. He has signaled there are more economic changes to come.

C.S.: How would you characterize U.S.-Cuban relations today, and what role does the community of U.S.-based scholars, former diplomats, and business interests play in shaping U.S.-Cuban relations?

These groups are extremely important in shaping Cuban policy. Cuba policy seems like it has been static for 50 years, but in fact, U.S. policy contains a great deal of nuance which this community helped develop. They worked behind the scenes during the Clinton administration to change the situation a bit, and as a result, we went from a situation where we didn’t have any real trade with Cuba, to one where we now sell Cuba agricultural goods and pharmaceuticals. During the Clinton years, we had extraordinary amounts of travel between the two countries, which while helping ordinary people stay in touch with family, also helped foster dialogue. In 2004 the Bush administration, however, really put the kibosh on travel. So there have been ups and downs over the years.

Nonetheless, the progress that you can chart was the result of scholars and opinion-makers from the outside working quietly with a small group of people on the inside, to come up with ideas in order to go forward, whether those ideas were getting permission in 1999 for the Baltimore Orioles to go to Cuba to play a game, and for the Cuban National Team to come to Baltimore; to lifting the ban on telecommunications between Cuba and the U.S.; or, by allowing business delegations beginning in 2001 to go to Cuba to try and sell agricultural goods. Those things are the results of very hard work over long periods of time, between analysts and advocates on the outside and key policy makers on the inside who understood that the current policy is self-defeating and really needs to be changed. However, policy can only be changed in very small steps and in conjunction with political developments.

Now, if Obama becomes president, all this could change. While his policy pronouncements on Cuba have thus far been relatively cautious, I expect as president his view from the Oval Office will be that 50 years of failed U.S. efforts to undo the Cuban revolution is enough. If “change” is his mantra, then Cuba policy is a good place to start.
Encuentros 2008

Comings and Goings at the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies

By John R. Alexander

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies has two new faculty associates, Leila Porter and Rodrigo Villanueva, and one retirement, Gregory Schmidt’s, to report.

Leila Porter
New Faculty Associate in Anthropology

Leila Porter is at home in the tropical forest. It is there, in northwestern Bolivia, that she has spent long stretches of time searching for the elusive, and little studied, callimico (*Callimico goeldi*). The callimico belongs to a family of primates called callitrichidae, which includes marmosets and tamarins. Unlike marmosets and tamarins, however, callimicos are rarely seen. “Studying callimico requires tremendous patience and perseverance,” Porter says, “as we literally can spend days searching the forest for them, without seeing them even for a second! Fortunately, while looking for the callimicos we do get to see many other species of monkeys, as well as other animals and plants.”

Porter first became interested in primates while an undergraduate at Brandeis University majoring in biology and interning at a primate lab. Fascinated with primate behavior, she soon realized that in order to pursue this interest further, she would have to study physical anthropology. After graduation, it was off to the State University of New York-Stony Brook, and a chance opportunity to go to Bolivia. She had become interested in studying callimicos, but there was no established field site where callimicos could be found. Porter wrote to a Swiss professor who had published the most recent article about the monkeys, asking if she had plans to continue studying them. The professor wrote back and invited her on a research trip to the forests in the Bolivian state of Pando, and this experience led Porter to write a proposal on callimicos for her doctoral dissertation.

Porter eventually received funding for a year-long trip to the Pando, so she could hack through thickets of bamboo, sit, and wait patiently to observe callimicos in their habitat. She noted their social behavior, analyzed their diet, estimated their population density and distribution patterns, and analyzed how the callimico’s ecology shaped their behavior and reproductive strategies in relationship to other callitrichidae.

When asked what concerns her most about the callimico, she says, “Unfortunately, northern Bolivia, which historically has had the lowest human population density in the country, is now getting thousands of new immigrants a year. Although most immigrants live in the capital city, there is increasing pressure to produce crops and raise cattle to feed the growing population.” Cattle ranching, road-building, and industrialization in and around Cobija, the state capital, have resulted in deforestation and new settlements that threaten the callimico’s habitat.

Leila Porter plans to spend more time in the forests of the Pando, training graduate students and gathering data on the social behavior of callimico and tamarins. It is her hope that her research will help in the development and implementation of conservation policies that balance human and callimico needs.

Rodrigo Villanueva
New Faculty Associate in Music

Rodrigo Villanueva grew up in Mexico City where his parents, university professors, introduced him to music. His sister was a diligent pianist, while by Villanueva's own admission he was not. He eventually got serious about music practice. After about a year and a half, his parents bought him a drum kit. “It took me so much work to get my first set of drums. I would play along with records in a very dedicated way, and I remember being in high school and not going to the movies with my friends if I hadn’t covered my four hours of daily practice.”

Continued on page 6
Rodrigo Villanueva continued from page 5

During the 1990s Villanueva developed his career as a professional drummer. Among his various projects at the time was playing for the Mexico City-native actress and singer Lucero Hogaza León, known to most simply as “Lucero.” “Touring and playing for Lucero was a lot of fun. I did it for several years, and I have great memories,” he says. “We went to Seville, Spain, in 1994 for the International Expo in Seville, and we used to go every year to Las Vegas, Chicago, Miami, and Dallas. We also went to the Viña del Mar Music Festival in Chile. It was a very glamorous lifestyle, but the music was not challenging.”

Concluding that it was time to chart a new professional direction, Villanueva enrolled at the University of North Texas, eventually earning a graduate degree in jazz studies. Although popular music enabled him to travel the world and earn a living, jazz enabled him to really delve into the creative process of music in a way that he hadn’t before. Jazz also gave him the chance to interact with musicians from different cultures who introduced him to new styles and musical ideas. The best experiences have stuck with him and influence his performances and musical compositions, as well as his teaching.

Rodrigo Villanueva is taking students back to Mexico in order for them to experience what Mexico has to offer. “I believe that it is really important for our music students to go through the experience of traveling, especially in a group setting, where they would go to learn and to teach, where they will be exposed to new ideas and cultural values, and at the same time, they will get the chance to share their views as jazz performers,” he explains. “I love to travel, and I’ve been most fortunate to visit several countries in my life. These experiences stay with you and make you aware of other cultures and their own perspectives. Traveling makes you a more open-minded individual, a more sensible and keen person. I want my students to have that, to be open to other cultural values.”

On Greg Schmidt's Retirement from NIU

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies sadly notes that Gregory D. Schmidt left NIU at the end of the fall semester. A center faculty associate since 1986, Schmidt brought to his teaching and research a real passion for Peru. His interest in Peru began as research a real passion for Peru. His interest in Peru began as a student at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, in Lima, where he met his future wife, Marcela Hernandez Ibañez.

While in graduate school at Cornell University he went back to Peru, this time as a research coordinator for a joint Cornell-USAID project on local institutional development. His dissertation tackled the little understood topic of state-society relations in Peru’s public policy process. At NIU he continued to develop his interest in public policy and developmental administration in early publications and through his graduate seminar on administrative problems in developing countries.

President Alberto Fujimori’s rise from relative political obscurity in 1990 inspired Greg to broaden his research agenda. He initially set out to explain how Peru’s fractured party system and electoral rules combined to propel the obscure engineering professor to the presidential chair. Schmidt went on from there to ask innovative questions concerning the influence of party and electoral rules on major political developments in Peru during the 1990s.

One such development was the 1997 Gender Quota Law. At the height of his popularity, Fujimori’s government pushed through Congress a law establishing a quota for the minimum number of female candidates that parties were obligated to place on their party slates. Schmidt became an authority on the law. He published and spoke widely on the motivation behind the law and its practical limitations in the context of the electoral system. However, when the same law resulted in tremendous gains for women candidates in municipal elections in 1998, he did not simply dismiss the results. Rather, he set out to understand and write about why these gains should have been anticipated and why they ought to be applauded for deepening democracy in Peru.

Greg Schmidt’s enthusiasm for the study of institutions – their structure, intention, and performance – is the core of his scholarly mien whether he is asking questions about the policy process or electoral institutions. While he was always critical of Fujimori’s efforts to weaken democratic institutions, he nonetheless maintained a rigorous and objective standard of analysis. He weighed the facts and tested his and other people’s assumptions before reaching his own conclusion.

At NIU, Schmidt was a respected and highly regarded colleague. He mentored graduate students and developed lasting friendships with many of them. He also introduced a generation of undergraduates to Latin American politics, always showing exceptional dedication as a teacher. He was an active participant in the center’s programming, and served on the advisory committee on a number of occasions. Faculty and students will certainly miss his graciousness, collegiality, and sense of humor. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies wishes Gregory Schmidt and wife Marcela the best in his new role as chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Texas-El Paso.
2007 Faculty Publications and Activities

Gregory Beyer
Assistant Professor, School of Music

Publications

Performances
World Premire of Glaes by Alexandre Lunsqui (performed with pianist Rei Nakamura) at Hochschule für Musik Saar, Saarbrücken, Germany, November 30, 2007, and at Luxembourg Fest 2007, December 1, 2007.
Perfomed with Due East at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil, August 8-10, and at Universidade Estadual de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil, August 13, 2007.
World Premiere of Littoral by John Supko (performed with Due East flute/percussion duo) at the Tenri Cultural Institute, New York City, NY, March 24, 2007.

Recognition
Elected secretary and treasurer of the Percussive Arts Society, Illinois Chapter.

Sarah A. Blue
Assistant Professor, Geography

Publications


Papers Presented

Karen A. Carrier
Associate Professor, Literacy Education

Publications


Papers Presented
“Stone Structures and Temporary Encampments: Subsistence Patterns and Residential Architecture at the Late Archaic Site of Caballete, Rio Fortaleza, Perú,” presented at the 35th Annual


Recognitions

Named 2007 Presidential Research Professor.

Mayra C. Daniel
Assistant Professor, Literacy Education

Publications


“The Importance of Critical Literacy for English Language Learners.” Illinois Reading Council Journal 35 no. 2: 32-35. (With Susan D. Lenksi)


Papers Presented


Recognitions

Inducted into Phi Beta Delta, Zeta Gamma Chapter Honor Society for International Scholars.

Awarded Promising Researcher Award from the College Reading Association.

Ibis Gómez-Vega
Associate Professor, English

Publications

“Rationalizing the ‘Decentered’ White Male in Neil Simon’s The Prisoner of Second Avenue.” American Drama 16 no. 2: 56-79.

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

Publications


Anne Hanley
Associate Professor, History

Papers Presented


Grants and Fellowships

2006-2007 Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Fellowship.

Kristin Huffine
Assistant Professor, History

Conference Papers


Recognitions

Selected as 2008-2009 chair of the Frontiers/Borderlands Committee of the American Historical Association’s Conference on Latin American History (CLAH).
Jeff Kowalski  
Professor, School of Art  

Publications  


Professional Activities  


Eloy Merino  
Associate Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures  

Publications  

“Reescritura, melodrama y moralización en Alceste, de B. P. Galdós (eco en las últimas heroínas dramáticas del escritor).” *Decimonónica* 4 no. 1: 52-79.  


Papers Presented  


Eugene Perry  
Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences  

Publications  


“Microbial and Geochemical Investigation of a Deep Sulfide-Rich Cenote, Mexico,” presented at the 41st Annual Geological Society of America South-Central and North-Central Section Meetings, Lawrence, KS, April 11-13, 2007. (With Bianca Pedersen and Melissa Lenczewski)  

Grants and Fellowships  

National Science Foundation Research Grant No. 0703541  

“Enhancing Diversity Track 2: Intensive Field Experience in Northern Illinois and Central Mexico for Middle and High School Teachers Serving Large Hispanic Populations.” (With Co-Investigator Katherine Kits)  

National Science Foundation Collaborative Research Grant No. 0716048 “Speleothem Proxies for Interactions of Climate and Culture in the Ancient Maya Lowlands.” (With Co-Investigator Bruce Dahlin)  

Leila Porter  
Assistant Professor, Anthropology  

Publications  


Papers Presented  


Grants and Fellowships  

Completed a 15-month project titled “Conservation Implications of Habitat Use and Ranging Behavior of Callimico goeldii in the Department of the Pando, Bolivia.” Funded by the National Geographic Society, Northern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, and Primate Conservation, Inc. (With Paul Garber from the University of Illinois)
Joshua Rodríguez
Assistant Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

Publications

Papers Presented

Francisco Solares-Larrave
Associate Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

Publications

Papers Presented
“Darío, Gautier, sus princesas y la transculturación,” presented at the Twenty Second Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature, Madison, WI, October 4-6, 2007.

Rodrigo Villanueva
Assistant Professor, School of Music

Publications
“Platillos Xs20 de Sabian.” Músico Pro 14 no. 4: 42-3.

“Batería ‘Jazz Series’ de DW.” Músico Pro 14 no. 7: 32-3.

“Batería ‘M Birch’ de Mapex.” Músico Pro 14 no. 7: 56-60.


“Jeff Hamilton’s Melodic Approach.” Percussive Notes 45 no. 1: 16-23.

Performances
Rodrigo Villanueva Jazz Quartet, Chicago Academy for the Arts, Chicago, IL, November 19, 2007.

Panoramic (with Liam Teague and Robert Chappell) Fremd High School, Palatine, IL November 12, 2007.

Lucero in concert at Harrah’s Rincón Casino, Valley Center, CA, October 13, 2007.


Pop Jazz, La Rosa Nautica Restaurant, Lima, Peru, August 2, 2007.

Jazz House Peru, Lima, Peru, August 1, 2007.

NIU Jazz Faculty Group, School of Music Recital Hall, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, July 19, 2007.

Rodrigo Villanueva Jazz Quartet, School of Music Recital Hall, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, July 18, 2007.

Edgar Dorantes Trio, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, May 31-June 2, 2007.

Jazz Facultrío, Edgewood College, Madison, WI, April 25, 2007, and at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, April 27, 2007.

NIU Jazz Quartet performance of Three Quartets by Chick Corea in a tribute to Michael Brecker, NIU School of Music Recital Hall, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, March 21, 2007.

NIU Jazz Faculty Concert, The House Café, DeKalb, IL, March 6, 2007.

Grants and Fellowships
NIU Committee for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education (CIUE) Grant “Enhancing NIU’s Jazz Curriculum by Creating a Digital Portable Database of Significant Jazz Recordings.”

Professional Activities
Conducted NIU Jazz Ensemble, LaSalle-Peru Jazz Festival, Peru, IL, October 13, 2007.

Conducted NIU Jazz Ensemble (featuring Peter Erskine), Duke Ellington Ballroom, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, November 15, 2007.

CLLAS Activities
Robert Marcelin Memorial Scholarship
The Robert Marcelin Memorial Scholarship was endowed by employees of Ameritech Corporation to honor Mr. Marcelin, a former co-worker and friend who graduated from Northern Illinois University. The CLLAS faculty committee and former Ameritech employee Alison Thompson meet annually to select an outstanding student of Latino heritage.

Center for Latino and Latin American Studies Scholarship
The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies began offering a scholarship in 2006 for outstanding Latino students. The 2007 winner is Angelica Sánchez.

Center Sponsored Events
March 2-3, 2007. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, along with the NIU School of Music, co-sponsored Gabriel Alegria and his Peruvian Jazz Ensemble in concert at NIU’s Boutell Memorial Concert Hall and at The House Café, DeKalb, Illinois.


Pictured, left to right, are Alison Thompson, 2007 Marcelin Award winner Ulysses Diaz, and CLLAS Director Michael Gonzales.
November 1, 2007. The center played host to filmmaker Christopher Moore. Moore screened his 2007 documentary Puedo hablar/May I Speak, about the 2006 presidential elections in Venezuela. To a standing-room audience, Moore spoke about his own and his film crew’s experiences filming and living in Venezuela during a fascinating but turbulent moment of the Bolivarian Revolution.

November 16, 2007. The center, along with the School of Music, co-sponsored clarinetist Oskar Espina Ruiz. Sr. Espina performed and lectured on the work of the Basque Spaniard Julián Menéndez at NIU’s Boutell Memorial Concert Hall.

Speakers Sponsored by the Center

March 28-29, 2007. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies and the Graduate Colloquium Committee co-sponsored Sherwin Bryant, Department of History, Northwestern University, in a public lecture titled “On the Trail of Contraband: Contraband Slave Trading and the Restructuring of Empire in Eighteenth-Century Quito and Santa Fe.” Bryant’s graduate seminar explored further the issue of slavery in Colonial Ecuador.

April 5, 2007. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies sponsored Silvia Pedraza, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan, in a public lecture titled “The Impossible Triangle: Cuba, the United States, and the Exiles.”

April 12-13, 2007. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies and the Graduate Colloquium Committee co-sponsored David J. Weber, the Robert and Nancy Dedman professor of history and director of the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University, in a public lecture and graduate seminar. Weber’s public lecture was titled “Writing across Borders: Spaniards and Their Savages in the Age of Enlightenment.” His graduate seminar was titled “A New Borderlands Historiography: Constructing and Negotiating the Boundaries of Identity.” His lecture focused on research he conducted for Bárbaros: Spaniards and Their Savages in the Age of Enlightenment (2005), the 2006 winner of the John E. Fagg Prize given by the American Historical Association.

September 10, 2007. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies and the Department of History co-sponsored Ann Twinam, Department of History, University of Texas-Austin, in a lecture titled “Erasing the ‘American Defect’: Mulattos and the Purchase of Whiteness in Colonial Spanish America.”

September 17, 2007. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies hosted members of NIU’s Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and their guest, Cathy Jrade, chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Vanderbilt University. Jrade gave a lecture titled “A Language of Her Own: Agustini Re-Writes Modernista Literary Paternity.”

October 18, 2007. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, along with the Department of History, co-sponsored Judith Bettelheim, professor of art history, San Francisco State University, in a public lecture titled “Haitian-Cubans or Cuban-Haitians?” which focused on voudouin celebrations and ceremonies in Cuba’s eastern province.

CLLAS Research and Travel Awards

Grants Awarded to Faculty in FY 2008

Sarah Blue (Geography) – To research the local geographic distribution of economic opportunities for women in Cuba’s dollar economy.

Kristin Huffine (History) – To conduct research at the Jesuit Archives in Rome on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Jesuit missions in Paraguay.

Jorge Jeria (Counseling, Adult and Higher Education) – To investigate multicultural curricula in two higher education teacher training programs in Mexico, and to research differences between the ideology of indigenismo and contemporary perspectives of multiculturalism associated with democratization and political participation.

Graduate Student Research Grants Awarded in FY 2008

Andrés Hijar (History) – To conduct archival research on the mining industry of Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico, during the revolutionary period.

Ed Jakaitis (Anthropology) – To perform analyses of subsistence resources in middens located at the late archaic sites of Huaricanga and Porvenir in the Norte Chico, Peru.

Khrstin Landry (Anthropology) – To map the position of preceramic and initial period monumental architecture locations as a way to chart habitation continuity and variability through time and space at Huaricanga in the Norte Chico, Peru.

Linda Schumacher (Foreign Languages and Literatures) – To investigate the linguistic origins, usage frequency, and variety of alleged Quichua loan words in Quechua-influenced Spanish.

David Ouellette (Art History) – To examine the role of visual culture in providing ideological support for centralized rulership in the late pre-classic Mayan city-states of Holmul and Cival in the Norte Chico, Peru.

Allen Rutherford (Anthropology) – To measure the scale and tempo of monumental architecture construction at Huaricanga mound site in the Fortaleza Valley, Peru, and to compare results with other late archaic sites to determine the level of its social complexity.