“Crafting Maya Identity,” an Exhibition and Symposium

By Charles Stapleton

The exhibition “Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico” dominated the intimate space of the Jack Olson Gallery at Northern Illinois University from August 31 through September 25, 2009 and is slated to travel to Trinity University in San Antonio during fall 2010, then to Teatro Peón Contreras in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico during early 2011. The showing featured woodcarvings by four contemporary Yucatec-Mayan artisans: Miguel Uc Delgado, Jesús Marcos Delgado Kú, Angel Ruíz Novelo, and Wilbert Vázquez. Most of these highly detailed, hand-carved and aesthetically appealing works feature subjects originally depicted on ancient Maya sculptures, ceramics, and manuscripts. They are typically sold at archaeological sites in northern Yucatán to ‘cultural tourists’ on planned education-oriented trips (a self-motivated group of “specialist” tourists). However successful the show might have been as a stand-alone project, the exhibition’s curators, NIU Art History Professor Jeff Kowalski and NIU alumna Mary Katherine Scott also chose to organize additional educational events for different audiences.

In an effort to give the four featured artisans a more personal voice, taped interviews of each artisan were presented on a looping video in an interior space of the gallery. More importantly, the artisans themselves were flown in from Mexico, giving them the opportunity to view the exhibition and to interact with visitors. Involving the artisans in the exhibition itself, although by no means a radical departure from “traditional” gallery protocol, is a new direction for Maya art exhibitions.

Jeff Kowalski and Mary Katherine Scott linked the exhibition with a symposium featuring scholars whose work elucidated the significance of “tourist arts” in cultural and historical contexts in Latin America, Africa, and North America. Presenters Jeff Kowalski, Mary Katherine Scott, Nelson Graburn (University of California Berkeley), Christopher Steiner (Connecticut College), Janet Catherine Berlo (University of Rochester) and Quetzil Castañeda (OSEA; Indiana University) discussed, in Kowalski’s words, “how indigenous aesthetic traditions throughout the world have responded to, and been transformed by, contact with global capitalism, the expanding art market, and tourism.” The papers have already appeared in a handsome catalog edited by Kowalski titled, Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán Mexico (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2009).

In addition, Kowalski collaborated with Dr. Emily Prieto, Director of the Latino Resource Center, to arrange for visits from high school students to view the exhibition. With the help of Janie Wilson-Cook, who designed the website for the exhibition (www.vrc.niu.edu/maya), the artisans also brought their work to a magnet school, The Barbour Language Academy, and a Latino Community organization, La Voz Latina, in Rockford, Illinois. The Maya artisans also discussed their work with NIU School of Art students at a sculpture demonstration, and with NIU Latino students at the Center.

continued on page 2

Table of Contents

Page
1 “Crafting Maya Identity,” an Exhibition and Symposium, By Charles Stapleton
3 NIU Welcomes Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú, By María Verónica Polit
4 Rigoberta Menchú: Past and Present, By María Verónica Polit
5 Faculty Publications and Activities
9 CLLAS Activities
9 CLLAS Research and Travel Awards

Artists’ works on display at the Jack Olson Gallery, Northern Illinois University.
of special note, Maya artists presented a School of Art Woodshop for NIU students. Using pieces of cedar wood and woodworking tools (gravers, chisels, knives, etc.) they demonstrated the process and techniques of creating the types of wood sculptures featured in the exhibition. They began by using pre-made drawings, or sketching freehand, to create the initial outlines for the subject matter of their piece. They then proceeded to cut away larger areas of extraneous wood until they reached the general contours of the figure or design they were executing. At that point, they shifted to finer, more delicate engraving, chiseling, and cutting to add the final detail and finishing touches to the carving.

Looking back on the exhibition and related events, Kowalski shared some personal reflections, “All in all, I think this was an extremely worthwhile effort. I'm glad that artisans who have been creating superbly crafted and aesthetically attractive sculptures had an opportunity to have their work recognized and taken seriously. I'm also quite pleased to have had the opportunity to collaborate with Mary Katherine Scott.”

Charles Stapleton is a M.A. student in Art History and Anthropology.

Angel Ruiz Novelo’s version of Lintel 25 from Yaxchilán, Chiapas, showing Lady K’abal Xook with a “vision serpent” and royal ancestor.

Jesus Marcos Delgado Kú’s version of the ruler K’inich Janaab Pakal II’s sarcophagus lid from Palenque, Chiapas.

Miguel Uc Delgado, based on Altar 8 from Tikal, Guatemala, showing a bound captive resting on the personified Tikal place name.

Wilbert Vázquez represents a personal interpretation of the Maya Maize God depicted in hieroglyphic images, with additional allusions to fertility.
Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, visited NIU on September 22, 2009. Menchú received the Prize in 1992 for her tireless fight for the rights of indigenous people in her home country of Guatemala and abroad. Her visit was organized by the Latino Resource Center with the support of several offices on campus. Menchú’s visit included interaction with students, community members and faculty at the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies. While at the Center, Rigoberta Menchú was interviewed by the Univisión television network, and she talked about Guatemala, her life and current projects. In the evening, Menchú gave an emotional public lecture before an audience of more than 1,000 people in the Duke Ellington Ballroom, followed by a question-and-answer session and a book-signing session.

During her visit to the Center, the Nobel Laureate spent time with students in a casual environment, and later attended a formal reception that included interaction with faculty. Professor Michael Gonzales, the Director of the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, presented Menchú with an award on behalf of the DeKalb Interfaith Network, a community organization dedicated to social and human rights, for her lifelong commitment to the welfare of indigenous people.

Menchú’s public lecture was emotional from beginning to end. She talked about her family’s travails, and the audience appeared moved by her stories of displacement and murder. Maria Zamudio, a student who attended the lecture, thought that Menchú was an inspiration: “She made the choice to become a victor and not a victim.” In addition to telling her story, Rigoberta Menchú discussed her vision for a better world, one that included community involvement, harmony with nature, and peace.

Menchú challenged audience members to become an integral part of their communities’ life. According to Menchú, young people today lack a connection to others around them. Despite the existence of technology that facilitates communication, individuals have become isolated from the places where they live and the natural world. Student Sean Kowalski considered Menchú a passionate advocate for the environment.

During the question–and-answer portion of the evening, Menchú discussed her work with indigenous Guatemalans whose lives have been torn apart by the country’s civil war. She said that her organization, The Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation, has been involved in numerous human rights initiatives, community development projects, education, and civic engagement. The Foundation’s current projects, she indicated, included the creation and maintenance of schools and medical centers. Menchú’s honoraria from speaking engagements and other activities have provided the funding for her Foundation.

Some of the questions after the lecture focused on controversial topics. A member of the audience addressed the participation of the United States government in the civil war in Guatemala. This led to a discussion of the training of Latin American military personnel at the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (formally known as the School of the Americas), a highly contentious subject. Another participant asked about the coup d’état that removed former Honduran president, Manuel Zelaya, in June, 2009. In response, Menchú said that there had been reports of human rights violations, and that she had been invited to Honduras as a mediator. Some students, like Andrea Sánchez, thought that this portion of the evening gave the audience a better understanding of Rigoberta Menchú’s career. Other students felt that the speech was disconnected from the politics that surround the image of the Nobel Laureate.

Maria Verónica Polit is a M.A. student in Political Science.
During her visit to NIU, Rigoberta Menchú Tum granted an interview to Chicago's Univisión affiliate WBGO news anchor and reporter Enrique Rodríguez. The interview focused on her background, and her present endeavors.

The 1992 Nobel Peace Prize laureate grew up in a Quiché (K'iche') indigenous community in the northern highlands of Guatemala. Although her fondest memories are of her mountain village, she and her family were forced to migrate every year in search of work on the plantations in the coastal areas. The entire family including children, did back-breaking labor for several months a year for minimal wages.

At the time of Menchú's birth in 1959, Guatemala was in turmoil. Fear of Communism served as the pretext for successive governments’ violent subjugation of indigenous communities beginning in the mid-1960s. At the same time, guerrilla movements made the highlands, where Menchú and her family lived, the base for their operations, and the region became a battleground. In the interview, she remarked on the Guatemalan military's wide-spread use of torture and the forced disappearance of 50,000 individuals over the course of the civil war’s 36-year history. Menchú did not detail her own tragic story during the interview, but said that the public needs to focus on the problems that Guatemala’s indigenous majority still faces as a result of this conflict.

Menchú was asked about the controversy surrounding her 1982 biography which recounts in vivid detail the horror of the Guatemalan civil war through her eyes. Attacked for its factual inconsistencies by critics, she told Rodríguez that her story needs to be read as a testimonial about living through a terrible conflict.

Menchú continues to fight for indigenous rights through her speaking engagements and foundation work, and as the United Nation’s Goodwill Ambassador and official spokesperson for the U.N.’s International Decade for Indigenous Peoples. Inspired by the election of Evo Morales, Bolivia’s first indigenous president, she became, in 2007, Guatemala’s first indigenous and first woman candidate for the presidency. Although she won only three percent of the vote and was subsequently eliminated in the election’s first round, she continues to be excited by politics. Menchú told Rodríguez that she enjoys a special bond with Morales, and they periodically talk about a variety of issues.

Circumstances keep Rigoberta Menchú in the forefront of Guatemalan politics. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation have concluded that, despite government claims to the contrary, Guatemala still systematically excludes indigenous people from political representation. The very people accused of leading the atrocities against the indigenous remain important politicians. Political representation for the indigenous population falls short of the goals set by the peace agreements of 1996, and resistance by the political establishment to the full implementation of these accords creates frustration and recrimination, which motivates Rigoberta Menchú to continue her work through the reconciliation process.

The issues that Menchú champions, and which led to her winning the Nobel Peace Prize continue to be relevant. Conflicts between traditional elites and indigenous populations have intensified in Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. Poverty and inequality have shaken democratic foundations and contributed to social and political turmoil throughout Latin America. American interests have sparked nationalist sentiments that clash with complex social, economic and political divisions in each country. The existence of truth commissions in Guatemala, El Salvador, Argentina, Chile and Peru has unearthed information that is both curative and divisive. Without a doubt, Rigoberta Menchú remains an important public figure.

To watch the interview, visit, http://www.univision.com/content/videoplayer.jhtml?cid=2098351.
2009 Faculty Publications and Activities

Gregory Beyer  
Assistant Professor, School of Music  

Publications  

Performances  
Performed with Due East the U.S. premiere of Lend/Lease by David Lang at the 37th National Flute Association Convention, New York City, NY, August 15, 2009.  
Performed with Due East the U.S. premiere of Formas del viento by Alejandro Viñao at the 37th National Flute Association Convention, New York City, NY, August 15, 2009.  
Premiered with Due East Geometry V by Eric Simonson at the 2009 SEAMUS Conference, Fort Wayne, IN, April 18, 2009.  
Premiered with Due East Recall Coordinator by James Romig at the 2009 New Music Festival, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL, March 9, 2009.

Professional Activities  
Hosted PASIC’s “The Global Economy,” a focus day event, Indianapolis, IN, November 11, 2009.  
Hosted PAS Illinois Chapter’s “Day of Percussion,” NIU School of Music, DeKalb, IL, January 24, 2009.

Louise Ciallella  
Associate Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures  

Publications  
"De carne y hueso: Constructing Spanish Women in Forgotten Bodies of Work from the 1890s.” In Beatriz Ferrús and Núria Calafell (eds.), Escribir con el cuerpo. Colección Cuerpos que cuentan - Volumen I. Grupo Investigador Cuerpo y Textualidad. Barcelona: Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona/Editorial UOC.

Papers Presented  
"Princesas-pantalla: proyección de deseos de cambio en definiciones de género sexual en la España del fin-de-siglo,” presented at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, November 5-7, 2009.

Sarah A. Blue  
Assistant Professor, Geography  

Papers Presented  

Winifred Creamer  
Presidential Research Professor, Anthropology  

Publications  


Papers Presented  
“Far from the Shore: Maritime Resources in Late Archaic Site in the Norte Chico, Peru,” presented at the 74th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta, GA, April 22-26, 2009. (With Jonathan Haas and Edward Jakaitis)


Professional Activities  
Served as discussant for the session, “Complexity in the Northeast” at the 74th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta, GA, April 22-26, 2009.  
Presented “Ancient Peru,” a talk to the 6th grade at Eagle Hill Middle School, Syracuse, NY, May, 2009.
Recognitions

Appointed as a grants reviewer for the National Science Foundation.

Selected as a panel member for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Appointed reviewer for the Journal of Archeological Science.

Selected to the editorial board of Culture and Agriculture.

Mayra C. Daniel
Assistant Professor, Literacy Education

Publications


“Is There a Need for a Language Policy and Heightened Multilingualism in TESOL? Survey Results,” Bilingual Basic: The Newsletter of TESOL’s Bilingual Interest Section 11, no. 1. (With Shelley K. Taylor, Patrick H. Smith, and David Schwarzer)


Papers Presented


“And the Winner is...,” presented at the What Every Reading Specialist Needs to Know about Literacy Coaching Workshop, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, April 24, 2009. (With Chris Carger and Melanie Koss)

Encuentros 2010

DeKalb, IL, September 19, 2009.


Visualizing Culture, Society, and Ideology in Mesoamerica and Art, Business, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL, April 21, 2009.

Kristin Huffine
Assistant Professor, History

Papers Presented


Professional Activities

Gave a seminar presentation on “Assessing the Sacred in the Colonial Borderlands: Jesuit and Indigenous Faith at the Margins of the Spanish Empire,” at the Newberry Library, Chicago, IL, April 17, 2009.

Jeff Kowalski
Professor, School of Art

Publications

Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico. DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press.

“Imaging the Maya: Carvings, Carvers, Contexts, and Messages.” In Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico. (With Mary Katherine Scott)

“Other Carvings in the Exhibition.” In Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico. (With Quetzil Castañeda)

“’Thrice Built’: Uxmal and Constructions of Maya Identity.” In Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico.


Papers Presented


Professional Activities

Co-organized, moderated, and participated, in the Northern Illinois University’s Symposium on Globalization, Tourism, Cultural Identity, Authenticity, and Art, DeKalb, IL, September 19, 2009. (Co-organizer Mary Katherine Scott)

Co-curated the exhibition “Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico” held at the Jack Olson Gallery, School of Art, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, August 31-September 24, 2009. (Co-curator Mary Katherine Scott)

Eloy E. Merino
Associate Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

Publications


Eugene Perry
Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences

Publications

“Geological Field Experiences in Mexico: An Effective and Efficient Model for Enabling Middle and High School Science Teachers to Connect with Their Burgeoning Hispanic Populations.” In Steven J. Wittmeyer, David W. Moks, and Eric J. Pyle (eds.), Field Geology Education: Historical Perspectives and Modern Approaches: GSA Special Paper 461. (With Kathleen Kitts, Rosa Leal-Bautista, and Guadalupe Velázquez-Oliman)

“Groundwater Geochemistry of the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico: Constraints on Stratigraphy and Hydrogeology,” Journal of Hydrogeology 357: 27-40. (With Adina Paytan, Bianca Pedersen, and Guadalupe Velázquez-Oliman)


“Fracture-Controlled Paleohydrology in a Map-Scale Detachment Fold: Insights from the Analysis of Fluid Inclusions in Calcite and Quartz Veins,” Journal of Structural Geology 31: 1490-1510. (With Mark P. Fischer, I. Camilo Higuera-Díaz, Mark A. Evans, Liliana Lefticariu)
Papers Presented

“Metagenomic Analysis of Microbial Communities in Deep Karst Sinkholes in Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico,” Abstract No: 156581, presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America, Northern Illinois University, Rockford, IL, April 2-3, 2009. (With Annie Moore, Melissa Lenczewski, and Melvin Duvall)

“A Continuing Ion Geochemistry and Sr Isotope Study of the Extent of the K/T Ejecta Blanket in the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico,” Abstract No: 156025, presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America, Northern Illinois University, Rockford, IL, April 2-3, 2009. (With Niklas Wagner, Guadalupe Velázquez-Oliman, and Adina Paytan)


“Características del acuífero regional de la Península de Yucatán inferidas por la química de agua subterránea,” presented at the Red Nacional de Agua del CONACYT, La primera reunión de la Red Nacional de Agua del CONACYT, La primera reunión de la Red Nacional de Agua del CONACYT, presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America, Northern Illinois University, Rockford, IL, April 2-3, 2009. (With Lisa Yamagata-Lynch)

“Exudate Feeding in Callimico goeldii,” presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America, Northern Illinois University, Rockford, IL, April 2-3, 2009. (With Paul A. Garber)

“Mycophagy and Home Range Use in Callimico goeldii,” presented at the 32nd Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists, San Diego, CA, September 20, 2009. (With Paul A. Garber)

Professional Activities

Delivered “Cenotes y otros aspectos de la Hidrología de la Península de Yucatán,” an invited presentation at the Foro Regional sobre Conservación y Manejo Sustentable de Cenotes en la Península de Yucatán, Mérida, Mexico, August 21, 2009.

Co-Chaired 43rd Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America, Northern Illinois University, Rockford, IL, April 2-3, 2009.

Rodrigo Villanueva
Assistant Professor, School of Music

Publications

“Transcribir: Imitar y asimilar para después poder innovar,” Músico Pro 16, no. 7: 54-55.

“Bateria Classic Series de DW,” Músico Pro 16, no. 7: 10-11.

Performances

Performed as a guest artist for the NIU Jazz Faculty Combo at the 64th Annual Midwest Clinic and International Band and Orchestra Conference, Chicago, IL, December 17, 2009.

Performed with the Eddie Gómez Trio at Papaberto Jazz Bistro, Mexico City, Mexico, December 4-5, 2009.

Performed with the Eddie Gómez Trio at the II JazzUV International Jazz Festival, Xapala, Mexico, December 3, 2009.

Performed with the Eddie Gómez Trio at the XV San Miguel de Allende International Jazz Festival, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, November 28, 2009.

Performed with Edgar Dorantes Jazz Quartet at El Zinco Jazz Club in Mexico City, Mexico, July 2, 2009.

Performed with Ed Saindon and the Rodrigo Villanueva Jazz Trio at The House Café, DeKalb, IL, April 20, 2009.

Performed with the Stefan Karlsson Trio at Recital Hall, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, February 18, 2009.


Performed with the Bernal-Verástegui-Villanueva Jazz Trio at El Zinco Jazz Club in Mexico City, Mexico, January 2-3, 2009.

Grants and Fellowships

Received the 2008-2009 Lillian (“Pauline”) Cobb Faculty Travel Fellowship for International Teaching and Service to develop summer study collaborations with Jazz studies programs at various Mexican universities.

Leila Porter
Associate Professor, Anthropology

Publications


Robert Marcelin Memorial Scholarship

The Robert Marcelin Memorial Scholarship was endowed by employees of Ameritech Corporation to honor the late Mr. Marcelin, a former co-worker and friend who graduated from Northern Illinois University. The committee, composed of Center faculty associates and former Marcelin colleague Ms. Alison Thomson, meets annually to select an outstanding student of Latino heritage.

Center for Latino and Latin American Studies Latino Scholarship

Since 2006, the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies has sponsored an undergraduate student scholarship competition for students of Latino heritage. Applicants for this award must submit a statement of career goals, have at least a 3.0 GPA, and demonstrate satisfactory progress towards degree completion. The 2009-10 award went to Aurelia Nevarez, a speech and language pathology major, whose career goal is to apply her bi-cultural/bilingual background to help children develop their communication and expressive skills.

Center Sponsored Events

August 31-September 25, 2009. The Center co-sponsored an exhibition at the School of Art’s Jack Olson Gallery titled, “Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region, Yucatán.”


September 22, 2009. The Center co-sponsored Guatemalan human rights activist Rigoberta Menchú’s visit to NIU. While here, Menchú met with students, was interviewed by WBGQ, Chicago’s Univisión affiliate, gave a public lecture and attended a reception in her honor at the Latino Center.

CLLAS Activities

Rigoberta Menchú speaking with students at the Latino Center.

Jeff Kowalski, Ph.D. (standing) with symposium speakers Mary Katherine Scott, Quetzil Castañeda, Janet Berlo, Christopher Steiner, and Nelson Graburn.

Dr. Gonzales with 2009 CLLAS Latino Scholarship recipient Aurelia Nevarez.

Pictured from left to right are Alison Thomson, the 2009-10 Marcelin Award recipient Sandra Diaz, and CLLAS Director Michael Gonzales.
The Department of Geography and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies co-sponsored a public showing of Scott Hamilton Kennedy’s “The Garden,” a 2008 documentary. The film depicts the controversy surrounding a 14 acre community garden created on a burned out site devastated by the 1992 Los Angeles riots. The work of Latino and African-American residents, the garden was contested by local authorities and real estate magnates and led to a public confrontation. The episode served as inspiration for urban garden activists throughout the country. A panel discussion followed the screening. Participating were geography professors Scott Smith and Sarah Blue (CLLAS faculty associate), geography graduate student Jessica Hayes, and the coordinator of the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) in Chicago, Kimberly Wasserman. The Little Village section of Chicago has a Latino majority population, and residents have organized a highly successful urban garden experiment that has garnered public attention and scholarly interest. The discussion focused on issues raised by the film and on Little Village community gardens.

**Center Sponsored Events continued**

**October 12, 2009.** The Department of Geography and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies co-sponsored a public showing of Scott Hamilton Kennedy’s “The Garden,” a 2008 documentary. The film depicts the controversy surrounding a 14 acre community garden created on a burned out site devastated by the 1992 Los Angeles riots. The work of Latino and African-American residents, the garden was contested by local authorities and real estate magnates and led to a public confrontation. The episode served as inspiration for urban garden activists throughout the country. A panel discussion followed the screening. Participating were geography professors Scott Smith and Sarah Blue (CLLAS faculty associate), geography graduate student Jessica Hayes, and the coordinator of the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) in Chicago, Kimberly Wasserman. The Little Village section of Chicago has a Latino majority population, and residents have organized a highly successful urban garden experiment that has garnered public attention and scholarly interest. The discussion focused on issues raised by the film and on Little Village community gardens.

**Rigoberta Menchú conversing with Professor Jeff Kowalski.**

**Rigoberta Menchú pictured with (left to right) NIU professors J. D. Bowers, Sarah Blue, and Linda Saborío.**

**Rigoberta Menchú saying a few words at a reception held in her honor.**

**Rigoberta Menchú with Professor Francisco Solares-Larrave.**

**Speakers Sponsored by the Center**

**March 23, 2009.** The Graduate Colloquium Committee, the Departments of Anthropology and History, the Latino Resource Center, and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, co-sponsored Karen E. Richman, director for Migration and Border Studies, University of Notre Dame, in a colloquium event held at the Latino Center. Her lecture titled “The Meaning of Participation in a Globalized World: Continued Migrant Engagement in Political, Social, Religious, and Economic Affairs in Haiti and Mexico” examined the phenomena of transnational cultural identity of Latin American immigrants to the United States. Her graduate seminar was an opportunity for faculty and graduate students to review and discuss her recent book, *Migration and Vodou* (University Press of Florida, 2005).

**October 6, 2009.** The Center sponsored Christina Bueno, assistant professor of History, Northeastern Illinois University, for a public lecture on the creation of Mexico’s first archeology museum and indigenous reaction to appropriation of local artifacts.

**October 9-10, 2009.** The Graduate Colloquium Committee and the Center for Latino and Latin American co-sponsored Jeffrey R. Parsons, professor of Anthropology emeritus and Museum of Anthropology curator emeritus, University of Michigan, in a colloquium event held at the Latino Center. His public lecture titled, “Vanishing Landscapes and Vanishing Lifeways: The Impact of Development and Modernization on Traditional Culture in the Valley of Mexico” examined the impact of urban development on pre-Columbian archeological sites in the Valley of Mexico. His graduate seminar on maguey utilization in highland Mexico looked at the traditional use of natural maguey fibers by indigenous communities over the centuries.
CLLAS Research and Travel Awards

Grants Awarded to Faculty in FY 2010

Melissa Lenczewski (Geology and Environmental Geosciences) – To gather and analyze well-water samples located in the Yucatán for the purpose of testing the region’s aquifer for contaminants, and determining the origins of pollutants.

Eugene Perry (Geology and Environmental Geosciences) – To research the geology and environmental hydrogeochemistry of groundwater systems of the southern Campeche aquifer located in Yucatán state, Mexico and northern Guatemala.

Linda Saborío (Foreign Languages and Literatures) – To explore the representation of alterity and identity in Mexican women (im)migrant experiences through the works of contemporary female border-region playwrights.

Graduate Student Research Grants Awarded in FY 2010

Andrés Híjar (History) – To conduct archival research on the mining industry of Parral-Santa Bárbara region of Chihuahua, Mexico during the revolutionary period.

Cheyenne Morgan (Geology and Environmental Geosciences/Anthropology) – To investigate contaminants in Yucatán peninsula groundwater, and to research sustainable ground-water management practices for affected communities.
Center for Latino and Latin American Studies
Northern Illinois University
515 Garden Road
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2853

Phone: (815) 753-1531
Fax: (815) 753-1651
Email: latinostudies@niu.edu
Website: www.niu.edu/latinostudies/

Director: Michael J. Gonzales

Editors
John R. Alexander and Michael J. Gonzales

Northern Illinois University is An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution