Conference of Latin American Geographers

CLAG 2007

Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA
May 31-June 3, 2007

Hosted by Colorado College
and the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs

Organizers: Eric Perramond (CC) and John Harner (UCCS)

DATES: May 31 – June 3, 2007

Progress continues on the next Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers gathering in 2007, to be held at Colorado College May 31-June 3. Updates and conference information can be found at: http://www.coloradocollege.edu/clag07/

Registration will begin this winter, and will be handled directly by our Colorado College summer conferences office, making logistics easier. Please contact Eric Perramond (CC) or John Harner (UC-CS) if you have questions or concerns.

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IMPORTANT DEADLINES
CLAG Award Nominations
Dec 15th, 2006
LASG Student Paper Awards
February 1st, 2007

The LASG & CLAG Newsletter is a joint publication of the Latin American Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers and the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers.
LASG: http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/lasg.htm
CLAG: http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm
Taylor E. Mack, Editor, tmack@latech.edu
Latin America Specialty Group

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

AAG Paper Session Sponsorship

The November 9th, AAG deadline for the paper session proposals for the annual meeting in San Francisco has passed. I would like to mention that the Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) has agreed to sponsor a number of well-organized sessions that deal with the many and varied aspects of Latin American geography.

Latin America has had tremendous visibility at prior AAG meetings through many sponsored sessions. I do not have the exact number of sessions sponsored right at hand, but hope we will be able to match or increase the 15 sessions that LASG sponsored last year. Proposals for session sponsorship were circulated among the officers, and I tried to have your approval within a couple of days.

My understanding is that LASG sponsorship can be established before, during or after the November 9th deadline, however, before the program is finalized. Please note that to officially establish the sponsorship for purposes of the AAG program, the information must be submitted online by the session organizer and in order for the session organizer to do this he or she must have registered session participants and PIN numbers for each. I would like to remind everyone seeking sponsorship of an organized session to contact one of the LASG officers with session information (including session title, name of session organizer/organizers, names of participants and paper titles).

The advantage of sponsorship is that hopefully there will be greater continuity and less conflict in scheduling for those wishing to attend many sessions about Latin America. We also tend to support each others presentations and having them organized sequentially and often in the same room is more convenient and maximizes attendance.

LASG has already been in contact with the Newsletter Editor to compile a list of sponsored sessions and advertise them to the wider geography community when the registration period is over. If you have any questions, please contact any of the Latin America Specialty Group officers.

Betty E. Smith, Chair besmith@eiu.edu
Margaret Wilder, Vice-Chair, mwilder@email.arizona.edu
Taylor E. Mack, Secretary-Treasurer, tmack@latech.edu

On a different but related topic, the AAG 2007 LASG Student Paper Competition Committee has been formed and paper guidelines can be found in this newsletter on page 9. I want to thank the three members who have agreed to serve on the committee. Thank you Barney Warf, Marie Price, and Margaret Wilder!

Thank you all and I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco in April.

Betty E. Smith, Chair

Latin America Specialty Group
http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/lasg.htm
PAIGH Commission of Geography
U.S. National Section

Congratulations on the new members of the Commission of Geography of the U.S. National Section (2006-2009) of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). All of the members are new to PAIGH and we look forward to exploring possibilities of developing research and educational projects between the U.S. and our neighbors in Latin America.

Principal member of the Committee on Geography and Regional Development: Dr. Cynthia Simmons, Department of Geography, Michigan State University. E-mail simmo108@msu.edu

Alternate member of the Committee on Geography and Regional Development: Dr. Andrew Sluyter, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University. E-mail asluyter@lsu.edu

Principal member of the Committee on Geographic Education: Dr. Betty Smith, Department of Geology and Geography, Eastern Illinois University. E-mail besmith@eiu.edu

Alternate member of the Committee on Geographic Education: Dr. Ed Jackiewicz, Department of Geography, California State University at Northridge. E-mail ed.jackiewicz@csun.edu

Principal member of the Committee on Techniques, Methods and Geographic Information: Dr. Peter Herlihy, Department of Geography, University of Kansas. E-mail herlihy@ku.edu

Alternate member of the Committee on Techniques, Methods and Geographic Information: Dr. Marcellus Caldas, Department of Geography, Michigan State University. E-mail caldasma@msu.edu

Principal member of the Committee on Land Use and Environmental Management: Dr. Roy Ryder, Department of Earth Sciences, University of South Alabama. E-mail rryder@usouthal.edu

Alternate member of the Committee on Land Use and Environmental Management: Dr. David Keeling, Department of Geography and Geology, Western Kentucky University. E-mail david.keeling@WKU.edu

There will be a meeting of the Directing Council of PAIGH in Vina del Mar, Chile from November 12-16, 2006. The U.S. National Section will be meeting in San Jose, California in mid-April of 2007, immediately before the Annual Meeting of the AAG in San Francisco.

If members of LASG and CLAG would like to learn more about PAIGH they are welcome to make contact with the U.S. Geography Commission members. PAIGH also has a good website at http://www.ipgh.org
“Geographies of Culture, Rights, and Power”

13 students of the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) participated with Dr. Catherine Nolin (Geography) in the 2nd Geography Field School to Guatemala. The first week of course (24-28 July) work took place at the Prince George (BC, Canada) campus and for 16 days we traveled throughout Guatemala (30 July - 15 August). The delegation-style course "Geographies of Culture, Rights, and Power" featured meetings and excursions with human rights organizations, campesino communities, survivors of the 1980s genocide, the Canadian Ambassador & Political Counsellor to the Ambassador, coffee growing communities, and those working to exhume the mass & clandestine graves from the internal armed conflict. In the coming weeks, a photo essay will be available at: http://www.unbc.ca/geography

Recently Completed Latin American Theses at UNBC

Jacqui Stephens, MA Interdisciplinary Studies, UNBC (2005)
"Conflicting Perspectives: Neoliberal Resource Development, Indigenous Communities, and Modern Canadian Imperialism in Guatemala"

Jennifer Reade, MA Interdisciplinary Studies student, UNBC (2005)
"Mujeres Autorizadas: Women's Empowerment Programs as a Form of Community Development in Guatemala"

¡Felicitaciones a Catherine y la pequeña Finola!

The LASG & CLAG Newsletter is proud to congratulate Catherine Nolan, on the birth of her daughter, Finola Hanlon. Although three weeks early, as well as on the final day before Catherine's maternity leave, little Finola did have the patience to wait until Jenn Reade of UNBC successfully defended her thesis on October 22, 2005 - but just barely! Jenn defended that day, and Finola arrived later that night! Good wishes and good health to both Catherine and Finola.
AWARDS, HONORS, RECOGNITION, INVOLVEMENT, ETC

Dan Klooster (Florida State University)
Dan Klooster was promoted to Associate Professor of Geography with tenure in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Dan will teach a graduate seminar on Sustainable Development in the Americas at the Florida State University campus in the Republic of Panama, May 2–June 16, 2007. For more information, contact Dan Klooster at klooster@fsu.edu or browse the program descriptions at http://www.international.fsu.edu/.

Jessica Kelly, (Rutgers University)
Jessica was awarded the National Science Foundation-Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Geography and Regional Science for her project entitled: "Rethinking Forest Transition Theory: Gender, Tenure Insecurity, and Forest Cover Change in El Salvador." Award #BCS-0622404. Tom Rudel is advisor on the project.

Claudia Sawyer (Syracuse University)
Claudia is a doctoral student in geography working with David Robinson and received a summer research grant from the Program on Latin America and the Caribbean (PLACA) in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. The grant enabled Claudia to go to Mexico last summer from July 17th to August 10th for some preliminary fieldwork. Her dissertation is tentatively titled "Protecting changing places: management and development of World Heritage Cities - a comparative study of Guanajuato, Morelia, and Oaxaca, Mexico."

Maria Fadiman (Florida Atlantic University)
Maria was a juror for the 3rd Amazonas Adventure Film Festival, in Manaus, Brazil. This festival, dedicated to the human spirit of adventure, was launched by the government of the State of Amazon who has a crucial role to play in the defense of its natural heritage. By creating an annual rendezvous with film industry talents, the State of Amazon aims to make the public more aware of the importance and vulnerability of its complex ecosystem and to promote its protection."

Kathleen McAfee (San Francisco State University)
Geographer Kathleen McAfee has joined the faculty of the International Relations Department at San Francisco State University. She teaches about environment, development, agriculture, and international political economy. She has been a consultant to multilateral agencies and NGOs on bio-cultural diversity, biotechnology, and food sovereignty. Her current research and field work in Mexico concerns "selling nature to save it" - the treatment of living things, genes, knowledge, ecosystems, and environmental services as market commodities.

Kathleen Farley (San Diego State University)
Kathleen has recently started her new appointment with the Department of Geography at San Diego State University. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Colorado (2002, advisor: Tom Veblen) and her dissertation was titled "Effects of exotic pine plantations on paramo grasslands." She held Post-docs at Duke University, Center on Global Change, 2003-2005, and The Nature Conservancy, California, 2005-2006. At SDSU, Kathleen will teach Environmental and Natural Resource Conservation and Research Design. Her current research is on the effects of the conversion of grasslands to tree plantations in Uruguay and Argentina on water quality.
Awards, Honors, Recognition, Involvement, Etc, Continued

Fausto Sarmiento (University of Georgia) and Oscar Maldonado (The Nature Conservancy)
Oscar and Fausto attended the recent expert's meeting on Category V Protected Landscape Conservation that was held in the Parc Natural la Garrotxa, in Catalonia, from September 23-29, 2006. Both of them helped move the notion that cultural diversity is as important as biodiversity for nature conservation in Latin America. They presented case studies about Lake Atitlán in Guatemala and the Quijos River valley in Ecuador as examples of the usefulness of the protected landscape approach in restoration ecology and connectivity of protected areas. The meeting was organized by the World Commission of Protected Areas' Protected Landscapes Task Force (WCPA) in attention to the call of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to revise the scheme of regional conservation. This festival, dedicated to the human spirit of adventure, was launched by the government of the State of Amazon who has a crucial role to play in the defense of its natural heritage.

Julie Kentnor (University of Denver)
Julie Kentnor has started the Ph.D. program in the Department of Geography at the University of Denver to continue her studies of cooperative movements in Latin America. She came from the Latin American Studies Program at the University of Arizona where she worked with Bill Beezely, Margaret Wilder to produce a thesis entitled "Vintage Matters: The Political Economy of Wine Cooperatives in San Rafael, Argentina." If you want to know about wine in Argentina please contact Julie!

Joseph L. Scarpaci (Virginia Tech)
Joe was awarded a Senior Specialist Fulbright Award last May. He taught two urban and regional planning courses in the School of Architecture, ORT Uruguay, in Montevideo and juried three senior design projects.

Margaret Wilder (University of Arizona)
Margaret, who also serves as the LASG Vice Chair, and as a CLAG Board Member, was awarded a 2006-2007 Udall Center Fellowship to conduct research on water and growth at the urban-rural interface in northern Mexico.

Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers
http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm

CLAG 2007
http://www.coloradocollege.edu/clag07/

Latin American Specialty Group
http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/lasg.htm
A NOTE FROM THE FIELD!

Brian W. Conz (University of Massachusetts)

Brian is on a six month research trip funded by a Fulbright-Hays DDRA fellowship.

It's been three and a half months since I began work here in the highland municipio of Totonicapán Guatemala, trying to understand the diverse conservation discourses and practices, and changes in livelihoods unfolding amid attempts to plan a future for the area’s extensive communal forests, water sources and grazing lands. It has thus far been fascinating to interact with a range of personalities, from humble forest users dependent on a small patch of milpa and their earnings from firewood sales, to dignified local alcaldes who provide a year of voluntary service to their communities, to sly politicians keen to remind me at every meeting how they are “luchando para la biodiversidad.” I've been based in the small city of “Toto”, as the departmental capital is affectionately known, and staying in villages within the protected area, which was created here in 1997, while I conduct interviews with local people regarding impacts and perceptions of the project. The work has not been without its failures. Recently, when I enthusiastically sought access to a village, I was rejected for reasons undisclosed to me. Probably I was suspected of representing mining interests, currently a concern of communities throughout Guatemala, a suspicion undoubtedly confirmed in their minds when I handed them my card stating that I represented a Geosciences department. In a place where Spanish is a distant second language for many folks and when my K'iche' is, well, in progress, it can be hard to be convincing.

I'm currently scrambling to complete the bulk of the village-level interviews before the harvest, which happens here in mid November. Inconveniently located in the middle of all this is the Society for Mesoamerican Biodiversity's conference in Antigua for which I was invited to present. It will, however, be informative and helpful and also a nice change of scenery and climate as the nights and mornings become increasingly chilly here in the altiplano. Best wishes to all and hope to see you in San Francisco.

Brian W. Conz
Totonicopan, Guatemala
October 22, 2006

Michigan State University

Dr. Antoinette WinklerPrins, will offer a study abroad class this coming summer (Summer 2007) titled "Environment and Development in the Brazilian Amazon" and will include time in Manaus, a trip to Santarém by boat, and a number of days learning about human-environment themes in and around Santarém as well. For more information: http://studyabroad.msu.edu/programs/brazilenvdev.html

Marcellus Caldas, received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant to study settlement formation in the Brazilian Amazon on a project titled "Settlement Formation and Land Use and Land Cover Change: a case study in the Brazilian Amazon"

Stephen Aldrich, also received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant to study largeholder responses to land conflict in the eastern Brazilian Amazon with a project titled "Land Reform, Social Conflict, and Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon"
Call for CLAG Award Nominations

Due December 15, 2006

For those of you considering nominating a CLAG member for an award, please do so before December 15th.

The Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers has five awards that it may give out during the upcoming meeting in Colorado Springs, June 2007.

They are the Preston James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award, the Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award, Outstanding Service to CLAG Award, Private Sector and Government Award and the Enlaces Award. Descriptions of the awards are listed below.

If you are a member of CLAG and would like to nominate someone for an award, please consult the list of prior recipients available on the CLAG website http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm Select Awards to read the names and years of prior recipients. If your nominee has not been awarded please send a letter of nomination to the Chair of the Awards Committee, Marie Price at mprice@gwu.edu or to the Department of Geography, 1957 E St. NW, Suite 512, George Washington University, Washington DC 20052

We would ask that nominations be submitted by December 15, 2006.

1) Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award
Given in recognition of a lifetime achievement towards the understanding of the geography of Latin America. Recipients will have strong career-long research contributions that build on the solid foundations of academic Latin American geography, or that have impacts beyond academia in the forms of policy implications and/or education to a broader audience.

2) Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award
Given in recognition for a corpus of important published work or other significant contribution towards Latin American geography. Recipients will be scholars who are leading authorities in specific research topics and geographic areas of Latin America. Recipients could also be scholars whose research has made significant advancements towards fostering understanding of Latin America to a broader audience.

3) Outstanding Service to CLAG

4) Private Sector and Government Award
Given in recognition of contributions to enhancing and disseminating knowledge of the geography of Latin America to professionals in government or the public in the private sector.

5) Enlaces Award
Given in recognition of contributions to improving relationships between geographers and geography departments throughout Latin America. Recipients will have demonstrated success and commitment towards this goal.
STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION, 2007
LATIN AMERICAN SPECIALTY GROUP

Call for Papers

Submissions are invited for the graduate student paper competition. Any topic concerning Latin America is welcome. The papers will be evaluated based on their originality, quality of the argument, understanding of the literature, and appropriate methodology. Awards will be given to MA and PhD students. LASG has different categories for MA and PhD students. The MA category winner will receive $200 and the Ph.D. category winner $400. Winners will be announced shortly after the AAG conference concludes. Award decisions will be made by the competition committee, including Barney Warf (Florida State), Marie Price (George Washington University) and Margaret Wilder (University of Arizona).

Requirements:
1. The paper must be written by a single author and presented at the AAG conference in San Francisco.
2. A written paper in English of no longer than 5,000 words (double spaced, excluding tables, references, etc.) must be submitted digitally (only) to the competition committee chair, Barney Warf (bwarf@coss.fsu.edu) before February 1, 2007.
3. Students submitting papers must state their university of affiliation and if they are a Masters or Doctoral student.

El Noticiero Centroamericanista

*El Noticiero Centroamericanista* is a Spanish-Language monthly newsletter devoted primarily to Central American studies, especially in History and related disciplines. It carries news of conferences, workshops, scholarship opportunitites, bibliographic and electronic resources, and other items of interest to its readers.

Deadline for submission of items for publication is the 12th of each month. Items must include an e-mail or web contact for additional information.

*El Noticiero Centroamericanista* is distributed free of charge. To subscribe, send email to Dr. Stephen Webre, Department of History, Louisiana Tech University, at swebre@latech.edu

An archive of back issues dating from the newsletter’s establishment in September 2006, can be found at http://afehe-historia-centroamericana.org/index.php?action=noticiero_arch
JOURNAL OF
LATIN AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY

2006 JLAG, Vol. 5:2

Actor-Management of Protected Areas and Ecotourism in Mexico
Ludger Brenner and Hubert Job

Cacao, Vanilla and Annatto: Three Production and Exchange Systems in the Southern Maya Lowlands, XII-XVII centuries
Laura Caso Barrera and Marco Aliphat F.

Las bases Prehispánicas de la configuración de la Provincia de Popayán en el periodo colonial
Marta Herrera Angel

Cash Crops, Smallholder Decision-making and Institutional Interactions in a Closing Frontier: Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico
Eric Keys and Rinku Roy Chowdhury

Invasive Species and Land-use: The Effect of Land Management Practices on Bracken Fern Invasion in the Region of Calakmul, Mexico
Laura C. Schneider

Technological Innovation and the Expansion of Mexico City, 1870-1920
Gustavo G. Garza Merodio

Problem of Access to Land for Bolivian Horticultural Producers in the Transitional Zone of Western Greater Buenos Aires
Andrés Barsky

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Film Review Editor
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Geography in the Americas: Collaboration on Research and Education

Hosted by the Area of Geographical Sciences, Universidad de La Serena, Chile
Sponsored by the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education; the Association of American Geographers; The National Council for Geographic Education

We welcome our colleagues and fellow members of LASG & CLAG to make plans for this great opportunity to visit Chile and attend Geoamericas 2007. This is going to be a very important scientific meeting where we will have the special occasion to meet a good number of Latin American geographers as well as researchers from other part of the world. Please visit our web site to make arrangements for the conference and special field trips to the Atacama Desert and other interesting regional locations in Chile.

Conference Themes and Activities

1. Building geographical collaborations and networks across the Americas
2. Research papers in geography and geographic education
3. Research and education on sustainable development and natural hazards
4. Exhibits of My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) youth projects for sustainable development
5. AAG Center for Global Geography Education Workshop: Educational Materials for Online International Collaborations
6. Research findings and products of AAG’s Advancing Academe: A Multidimensional Investigation of Geography in the Americas (AMIGA) project
7. AAG-PAIGH panels on collaboration in natural hazards research
8. Pre- and post-conference excursions and local field trips

http://www.geographyintheamericas.com

For further information, please contact:

Judy Behrens (jb42@txstate.edu), Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education
Osvaldo Muniz (os14@txstate.edu), Texas State University, Department of Geography
Michael Solem (msolem@aag.org), Association of American Geographers
2007 TOUR TO PERU
LATE MAY/EARLY JUNE
(Exact dates not yet set)

Organized and Lead by Dr. James S. Kus and Ananda S. Aspen

Lima -- Peru's capital city, with tours of historical center, National Museum, and Larco Archaeological Museum

Cuzco -- archaeological capital of South America -- Spanish colonial buildings built on top of Incan foundations

Sacred Valley -- archaeological sites such as Pisac, Yucay Ollantaytambo, and Chinchero

Machu Picchu -- top tourist destination in Peru, with overnight at Machu Picchu Pueblo hotel

Arequipa -- Peru's 2nd largest city, visit to Mummy Museum, Santa Catalina convent, & alpaca wool shops

Colca Canyon -- world's deepest canyon -- see condors, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, & traditional villages

Optional extension to Nazca Lines and Paracas Peninsula

for further information, check our website:  http://www.csufresno.edu/perutour
email:  jamesk@csufresno.edu  phone: 559-325-8020

Note: this tour is NOT sponsored by any organization or institution -- as a private tour, we can offer significant flexibility and reduced costs

Field Course in Jamaica and Guyana
Caribbean Geography and Sustainable Development

University of Richmond
May 20-June 17, 2007

This summer 2007 study abroad program is organized by the University of Richmond. The University of West Indies and University of Guyana are highly involved in the design and implementation of two classes (3 credits each): (1) Caribbean Geographies: Society, Economy, Nature, an interdisciplinary survey of social, cultural, economic, political, and ecological issues relevant to the countries of the Caribbean Basin, with special attention to Jamaica; and (2) Ecotourism and Sustainable Livelihoods, which will culminate with an ecotourism expedition in Guyana, including “Tree Top Tourism” (a forest walk on suspended bridges and decks) in the Iwokrama Forest, an internationally-renowned indigenous peoples’ conservation and development program. The application deadline is February 15, 2007. For more information, contact Dr. Mary Finley-Brook, Geography Program, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23225. Phone: (804)287-6307, E-mail: mbrook@richmond.edu.
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Catherine Noline, University of Northern British Columbia

Sandra R. Baptista and Thomas K. Rudel, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Matthew Taylor, University of Denver

Daniel Gade, University of Vermont

Ellen R. Hansen (Emporia State University)

The Journal of Latin American Geography

The Journal of Latin American Geography (JLAG) will publish original geographical and interdisciplinary research on Latin America and the Caribbean. The University of Texas Press will distribute the Journal with two issues per year from June 2005.

The Journal is published by the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG), to promote the publication of original, high quality, and refereed manuscripts that represent the broad spectrum of geographic perspectives on and from the region.

We are seeking manuscript submissions and subscriptions to the new journal. Please encourage your university or institution to subscribe to this new journal.

Manuscripts should be submitted to the editorial office as electronic copy
E-mail: jlag@maxwell.syr.edu
Web address: http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/jlag

Guidelines for authors, manuscript reviewers, and book and film reviewers can be found on the website

Subscriptions are available through University of Texas Press, Journals Division, University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819. E-mail: journals@uts.cc.utexas.edu Phone orders : 1-512-232-7621 Fax orders: 1-512-232-7178 (http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/journals/journals.html)
GEOGRAPHY IN THE AMERICAS

Maymester Field Study In Ecuador
MAY 10 - MAY 31, 2007

Learn about mountain geography and the ecology of Andean landscapes, including the rich biodiversity of tropical environments as well as the rich culture exhibited by the indigenous people and the general society of a vibrant developing country; meet with local experts and indigenous leaders to learn about their lives and their struggles; attend cultural events; visit archeological sites and learn about the rich history of the area and how it has influenced regional culture today.

Costs:
1. Program Fee - $3,400.00 Includes lodging, 3 meals/day, tour transportation, guides, fees
2. UGA Tuition - Per Hour. (Hope Scholarship applies)
3. Incidentals - personal expenses (As needed)
4. Airfare - roundtrip to Quito (Not included in the Program Fee)

NON-UGA STUDENTS: An additional $125 Out-of-Sstate tuition fee.

Lodging: We will use different types of lodging options, including Hostals and Hotels in Quito, Otavalo, Baeza, Puyo, Baños, and Cuenca. Rooms have varied occupancy typically 2 persons per room. We will have three meals each day; Breakfast beginning at 7:30 am, Lunch around 2:00 pm and Supper around 8:00 pm. Meals are included in your program fee.

Planned Activities: Visit to archeological sites, visit to museums, laboratories and galleries, visit to indigenous markets, villages, Shamans and sacred sites, visit to snow-pack volcanoes, national parks, ethnobotanical reserves; visit to artisan workshops, Inka ruins around Andean towns, the great Inka road segment in Ingapirca, visit to colonial towns (both Cuenca and Quito are listed by UNESCO as World Cultural Heritage Sites). Meet with local experts on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, and Andean scholars working with current topics that will be with us as speakers/guides.

Optional Activities: Ecuadorian cuisine class using ethnobotanical species. Medicinal use of local flora and fauna, and treatment of illness by traditional ecological knowledge holders. Papallacta's and Baños' geothermal baths to purify mind, body and spirit in a mountain setting

Visit the Website http://www.ggy.uga.edu/studyabroad.

Applications Due February 15th, 2007

For more information contact:
Dr. Fausto O. Sarmiento
212-B Geography/Geology Building
Phone: 706-542-1753
LLU's ESSE21 Mesoamerica Projects: Focusing on Sustainability, Human Health, Hazards, and Biodiversity Conservation

Robert E. (Bob) Ford, Loma Linda University

Bob Ford is an LGSG/CLAG member-- and directs an interdisciplinary field research and academic program within the new EESS (Environmental and Earth System Science) program at Loma Linda University, Department of Earth and Biological Sciences. It originally started as a May-term course for undergraduates at Westminster College of Salt Lake City and received startup funding through the NASA-ESSE21 program.

The primary goal was to provide graduate and undergraduate students in the new School of Science and Technology, and School of Public Health, the opportunity to learn while doing place-based field research in northern Mesoamerica-primarily Belize and Honduras. The core field practicum course (ESSC 575) provides a mechanism for faculty and students to jointly study integrative social policy and science and innovation for sustainable development problems-see http://sustsci.aaas.org/.

We emphasize use of tools such as Remote Sensing/GIS, GPS, ArcPAD (mobile GIS) and other ecological monitoring and assessment instruments as well as qualitative methods such as PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal). Our goal is to get students out of the lab and into the real world to observe and solve human health, hazards, biodiversity and ecotourism problems that affect the Bay Islands, North Coast, and Mosquitia regions of northern Honduras, as well as the Gulf of Fonseca on the Pacific Coast. We are also working in Belize with the Earth Watch Institute, Sirenian International and local partners studying manatees, dolphins, protected-area management and global change issues.

See more online about our Mesoamerican partners and projects below:

* Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge http://resweb.llu.edu/rford/ESSE21/LUCCModule/case_study_1.html
* Pico Bonito National Park http://resweb.llu.edu/rford/ESSE21/LUCCModule/virtual_tour_1b.html
* Isla del Tigre in the Gulf of Fonseca http://resweb.llu.edu/rford/ESSE21/LUCCModule/case_study_2.html
* Herpetofauna research in La Botija/Cerro Guanacaure (Choluteca) http://resweb.llu.edu/rford/courses/ESSC5xx/honduras_herps.html
* Water resource issues and hazards on the North Coast http://resweb.llu.edu/rford/courses/ESSC5xx/water.html
* Manatee research in Belize and Honduras http://resweb.llu.edu/rford/courses/ESSC5xx/hondurasmanatee.html
* LULC (Landuse/Land Cover) change remote sensing research http://resweb.llu.edu/rford/ESSE21/LUCCModule/