CLAG NICA 2009 - Granada, Nicaragua
January 7-9, 2009

Planning continues for CLAG’s next scheduled for January 2009, in Granada, Nicaragua.

Field trips are being planned that include the Rio San Juan and the colonial fort, the Miskito Coast, the island of Omotepe, and other locations around the country.

More info is on the last page and at http://clagnica2009.org

New Master’s in Geography, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá

The Department of History at the Universidad de los Andes, located in Bogota, Colombia, is now offering a Master’s in Geography. This is the first graduate program in Colombia focused on Human Geography, and the department is very excited to be able to provide this opportunity for Colombian and other students. A direct link to the Master’s in Geography website that includes information on courses, faculty, programs of study, and other information, is at the address http://historia.uniandes.edu.co/info.php/6/index.php

CLAG Archives Now Catalogued

CLAG archives are now catalogued and online at: http://archives.syr.edu/archives/collections/org_non_su/clag/ David Robinson (Syracuse) was instrumental in having the archive of 14 boxes of CLAG correspondence, newsletters, meeting information, minutes, and much more, stored at the Syracuse University Archives. Special thanks to Amanda Galvin, a geography student at Syracuse, for her work in organizing, cataloging, and entering the information into the archive's database.
Message from the LASG Chair

Margaret Wilder, University of Arizona

The AAG Annual Meeting in Boston (April 15-19, 2008) was a successful one for the Latin America Specialty Group. We sponsored or co-sponsored over 18 paper sessions and presented awards to four students for a total of $1600. The business meeting, which we shared with the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG), was well-attended by approximately 50 people, including many students. Election of officers for 2008-2010 was held. New officers for this term are: myself as Chair, Joe Scarpaci (Virginia Tech) as Vice-Chair, and Taylor Mack (Louisiana Tech University), continuing for a second term as Secretary-Treasurer. The LASG Chair’s report for 2007-2008 is on the AAG LASG website.

On behalf of the LASG, I want to thank outgoing Chairperson Betty Smith (Eastern Illinois) for her service the last two years. In addition, I want to recognize all the members who have chaired or served on committees in the past year. These include: Claudia Radel (Utah State); Joe Scarpaci (Virginia Tech); Miguel Aguilar Robledo (Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí); and Matthew Taylor (University of Denver), Taylor Mack (Secretary-Treasurer of LASG, Louisiana Tech); Matthew Taylor (University of Denver); Brad Jokisch (Ohio University) and James Biles (Indiana University).

New activities that we will pursue in 2008-2009 include: a By-Laws Committee, led by Joe Scarpaci. Other ideas include the possibility of new awards, a membership recruitment drive focused especially on students and on Latin American colleagues, and continued good coordination with our affiliate organization, CLAG. Please get in touch with me if you are interested in pursuing any of these ideas.

I welcome any ideas or thoughts about LASG you might want to share. Also, I welcome any volunteers to serve on committees for this year’s Best Student Paper Committee and Field Study Award Committee. Please contact me at: mwilder@email.arizona.edu (520) 626-7231 with ideas or to volunteer.

LASG Website

http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/lasg.htm
Message from the CLAG Chair

Greetings from your Chair!

As your outgoing Chair of the Board, I want to thank you all for your support over the last few years. I have enjoyed serving CLAG and will remain involved with the organization. On July 1, 2008 I hand over the reins to Eric Perramond, our current Vice-Chair, who will serve as your Chair of the Board until 2010. CLAG is financially healthy, we have a very active Executive Director, our journal is thriving, conferences are being planned in a series of Latin locations (Nicaragua, Colombia, Brazil, Puerto Rico), and we have established a series of field awards to support student research. Where we fall a bit short is membership, and I strongly urge you all to help the cause by recruiting colleagues, students, etc. We are a friendly organization welcoming of all types of geographers and allied disciplines who work in Latin America – please help spread the word!

Summer is upon us, a time of fieldwork and writing. I wish you all a productive and enjoyable time. See you all in Granada, Nicaragua in January 2009!

Abraços

Antoinette WinklerPrins
Chair of the CLAG Board
East Lansing, Michigan
May 2008

CLAG Website

http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm

CLAG MEMBERSHIP:

CLAG has discount membership rates for students and members in Latin America. CLAG Members also receive the Journal of Latin American Geography, as well as access to CLAGnet, CLAG’s very own listserv.

Check out the “Membership” links at the CLAG website above for more information on membership and the Journal of Latin American Geography.
Digitizing CLAG Publications Continues

CLAG's previous research publication, the Yearbook and Benchmark series are largely digitized and available on the CLAG Website. David Robinson (Syracuse) has digitized most years, and is continuing the digitization process when time permits. He has installed a Google search engine on the CLAG webpage that lists all the Yearbooks/Benchmarks, as well as other publications. These publications are currently open with unrestricted access, and the search engine will rapidly search more than 500 documents from 19 volumes by placename, author, and topic. On the left side of the CLAG Webpage, the items available are listed under the heading "Publications." http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm

New Geography Dept at Hofstra University

Department of Economics and Geography at Hofstra will separate into two departments, giving birth to the Department of Global Studies and Geography. Geography has never existed separately at Hofstra; it has always been under the wing of economics, so this is a major step forward. This year, for the first time, Hofstra has four full-time geographers. The new department will also include a fifth faculty line for Global Studies. Jim Wiley, a geography professor at Hofstra since 1993, said "To most of you out there, this is not a big deal, but for us - this is a miracle!! It also signifies greater support for the discipline on the part of the university administration."

http://www.hofstra.edu/Academics/Colleges/HCLAS/GEOG/geog_about.html

FLUVIAL DEPOSITS & ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM - October 10-11, 2008

39th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas at Austin

https://webspace.utexas.edu/hudsonpf/binghamton.html

The goal of the 2008 Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium is to bring together a diverse range of scholars that work with fluvial deposits to advance our understanding of geomorphology and environmental history in several key areas, particularly in paleohydrology, geoarchaeology, and in understanding fluvial adjustment to climate change.

The symposium is being held in the Thompson Conference Center on the University of Texas at Austin campus from October 10 - October 11, 2008. A pre-symposium field trip is scheduled for October 8 and 9, 2008, and extends from the Texas Hill Country to the Gulf of Mexico.
Texas A&M Applied Biodiversity Science focus on Latin America & US Southwest

Participating faculty in ten departments at Texas A&M University, including Geography, would like to encourage prospective doctoral students to apply to the new Integrated Graduate Education and Research (IGERT) Traineeship "Applied Biodiversity Science: Bridging Ecology, Culture and Governance."

The vision of Applied Biodiversity Science (ABS) is to achieve integration between biodiversity research and on-the-ground conservation practices. Three pillars support the program: (1) integrated research in biological and social sciences; (2) cross-disciplinary research and collaboration with conservation institutions and actors in the field, and (3) application of conservation theory to practice.

Research teams of faculty mentors and students, in collaboration with partners at sites in Latin American and the US Southwest, will develop complementary dissertations related to two research themes: (A) Communities and Governance; and (B) Ecological Functions and Biodiversity. It is the primary goal of the ABS-IGERT to produce scientists prepared to understand ecological functions of local ecosystems, and also the activities and needs of surrounding communities in wider social, economic, and political contexts.

The NSF-IGERT Program Traineeships include a $30,000 stipend plus $10,500 toward cost of education (tuition, fees, health insurance, and other benefits) as well as funding for field research.

See the ABS website (http://biodiversity.tamu.edu) for more information. Please also feel free to contact the program coordinator or any of the associated faculty for more specific queries.

Elizabeth Shapiro, Program Coordinator
Applied Biodiversity Science, NSF-IGERT
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Popol Wuj Online

The K'iche' Maya origin story, the Popol Wuj (also often spelled Popol Vuh) is now available online. The online version, at the Ohio State University, has a facsimile edition and transcribed edition, as well as the site made available in Spanish, English and K'iche'.

http://library.osu.edu/sites/popolwuj/index.php
**Latin American Geography at Queen’s University**

**Leah Huff**, doctoral student working with George Lovell and Joyce Davidson at Queen's University, is racing to complete the first draft of her dissertation before the end of summer. Her fourth year at Queen's culminated with a final sojourn into the field with Lovell, this time to Seville. This eye-opening history lesson, she now realizes, should be a required trip for any Latin Americanist. September 2008 will see the commencement of classes as she begins her position as Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Environment at Mount Allison University, in Sackville, New Brunswick.

**Victoria Henderson** is slated to defend her Master's thesis - Sound as a Dollar?: The Propertization of Spectrum Resources and Implications for Non-Profit Community Radio in Guatemala - in Fall 2008 at Queen's University. Henderson's work on community radio in Guatemala recently received mention in The UNESCO Courier (2008, No. 4). A Spanish translation of portions of her thesis as well as a series of community radio spots discussing study results are planned for release in 2009 in Guatemala. Henderson is honored to have received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to continue research at the doctoral level.

**W. George Lovell** returned to Queen's in May, following another winter term teaching and supervising in the Latin American History graduate program at Universidad Pablo de Olavide in Seville, Spain, where Leah A. Huff also spent a fruitful sojourn. With former student Robert L. Huish, now a postdoctoral fellow at Universite de Montreal, he has an article forthcoming in Cuban Studies about the influence of Guatemala on Jose Marti, who spent a brief but pivotal time in the country in the 1870s. George will attend the Congreso Centroamericana de Historia in Costa Rica in July, at which a special double issue of *Mesoamerica* will be presented to mark the journal's historic "half-century." After *Mesoamerica* 50 appears, George and co-editor Armando J. Alfonzo hand over editorial reins to Christophe Belaubre (Universite de Toulouse) and Jordana Dym (Skidmore College).

### Nominations Sought for CLAG Award Recipients

The CLAG Awards committee is accepting nominations for the CLAG awards. To see the award types and prior recipients go to the CLAG website [http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm](http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm). Nominations are due by June 30, 2008. The Awards Committee asks for a letter of nomination, the CV of the potential awardee, and supporting letters from other scholars. Please contact Marie Price, Chair of the Awards Committee, for more information (mprice@gwu.edu).

The Awards will be presented at the CLAG meeting in Nicaragua, January 2009.

### Future CLAG Member

**Giovanna Finley-Brook** was born on March 27 to **Mary Finley-Brook** (University of Richmond) and Elvis Finley this Spring. Little Giovanna is doing well, and LASG & CLAG offer congratulations to Giovanna's parents.

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**Giovanna Finley-Brook**, born March 27, 2008
LASG STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Best Student Paper Award

First Prize (doctoral level): Jason Davis, University of California-Santa Barbara ($400)

Second Prize (doctoral level): Jeff Garmany, University of Arizona ($200).

Field Study Award ($500 each)

Ph.D. Student – T. Garret Graddy (University of Kentucky)

Master’s Student – Sarah Wright (The Ohio State University)
Graduate Student Research, Degrees & Awards

Clark Gray completed his dissertation at UNC-Chapel Hill ("Out-Migration and Rural Livelihoods in the Southern Ecuadorian Andes") and was awarded the Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group's Student Paper Award at this year's AAG's. Clark will be starting a postdoc at the Carolina Population Center where he will work on migration and the environment in Ecuador and tsunami-related displacement in Indonesia.

Jamie McEvoy, Masters in Sociology at Utah State University (co-advised by Claudia Radel), research on out-migration and gendered agricultural roles in southern Mexico.

David Lansing, Ph.D candidate (Ohio State University), has been conducting fieldwork in Costa Rica on the political and economic dynamics of carbon credits among indigenous smallholders. David received three fellowships for this research: a Fulbright fellowship, an International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council, and a Grassroots Development Fellowship from the Inter-American Foundation. David expects to wrap up his fieldwork in August 2008.

Sarah Koopman, University of British Columbia won the Political Geography Specialty group dissertation enhancement award for her dissertation title "Accompaniment: Making Space for Peace" that focuses on international accompaniment in Colombia.

Mauricio Herrera Rodriguez (University of Kansas) is finishing his dissertation entitled "Sustainable Development in Costa Rica: A Moral Geography" and will begin a post at the University of Costa Rica upon graduation.

Audrey Fusco (M.A. student, University of Kansas) travelled to Cuba this spring and will be there again this summer with a Tinker Foundation Grant researching recent reforms in the organization of Cuban agriculture and food provisioning.

Lisa Rausch, (Ph.D. student, University of Kansas) will travel to Mato Grosso, Brazil with a Tinker Foundation Grant to do preliminary fieldwork for her dissertation which will focus on socio-economic impacts of the soybean boom in the Amazon.

Heather Putnam (Ph.D. student, University of Kansas) is finishing a semester at Exeter in the UK studying with Ian Cook and others on a direct exchange program Kansas has with Exeter. She has FLAS funding from KU African Studies to study KiSwahili so that she can extend her research on coffee and fair trade to Africa.

Geography Ph.D. student Lilian Rebellato (a Bill Woods advisee) was the co-winner of the 2008 University of Kansas Latin Americanist Graduate Research Competition held March 7th on campus for her research presentation "Precolonial Settlement Dynamics in Central Amazonia" http://www2.ku.edu/~latamst/
Other Member News

Tom Whitmore (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) is retiring. Tom will teach first session of summer school until mid June, and Tom and Andrea will then will move to Boulder, CO (date not yet certain). Tom says that they do have a spare room in Boulder and CLAGistas are encouraged to visit. Tom intends to remain active in AAG and CLAG, and he still has 2 students to finish up at UNC. Tom is also this year's recipient of the UNC Graduate School's Faculty Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring. This recognizes graduate faculty (1 per year) who provide outstanding support and guidance to their doctoral students, and nominations come from the students themselves. Congratulations to Tom for the award, and best wishes from LASG/CLAG for his retirement.

Joe Scarpaci (Virginia Tech) has received a Senior Fulbright award to lecture on urban geography, heritage, and planning at the Universidad Católica de Chile from June 20 until July 9. Anyone traveling through Chile should give him a call (scarp@vt.edu). He also participated in the Cuban DOCOMO Conference on the Modern Architecture Movement in April. Joe was also awarded the Virginia Social Science Association's 2008 Scholar-Geographer Award at their annual meetings in Lexington, VA last April. His work was recognized for combining national and international research about deindustrialization, tourism, and cultural globalization in Latin America.

Bill Woods (University Kansas), Maureen Sanchez (University Costa Rica), Sally Horn (University Tennessee), and Lilian Rebellato (University Kansas) will be conducting field work during May on a joint project: "Tierra negra antropogénica y la producción alimenticia precolombina en Costa Rica."

Claudia Radel (Utah State University) has been named an American Fellow 2008-2009, by the American Association of University Women for a summer research publication grant.

El 29 de febrero de 2008, le otorgó a María Teresa Gutiérrez de MacGregor, Instituto de Geografía, Universidad Nacional Autónomo de México el diploma que se distingue como Miembro de Honor del Seminario de Cultura Mexicana.

Dan Klooster accepted a position as Associate Professor of Latin American Studies at the University of Redlands, in Redlands California. He can be contacted at daniel_klooster@redlands.edu.

Chris Brown (University of Kansas) travelled to Brazil in October of 2007 to present his research on Amazonian soybean expansion to EMBRAPA (equivalent of the USDA) and CONAB (Brazil's Agricultural Statistics agency) in Brasília and to researchers at the Agricultural Engineering School of UNICAMP (State University of Campinas) in Campinas, São Paulo. Brazilian researchers at EMBRAPA and UNICAMP are working with Chris to submit a research proposal to CONAB to fund student exchanges as well as GIS and satellite remote sensing workshops designed to increase agricultural monitoring efforts in the Amazon. Chris was also awarded KU's John C. Wright Graduate Mentor Award for his advising in Geography.
Other Member News

Cindy Pope received a Connecticut State University 2008-2009 research grant, "Gender and Political Transition in Havana: Perceptions of and Responses to Systematic Changes in Cuba," for which she will be conducting fieldwork this summer and through her sabbatical in Spring 2009. This work will emphasize the role of the health care system in light of recent political and economic shifts in Cuba. She is primary editor on the reader, "HIV/AIDS: Global Frontiers in Prevention/Intervention," to be published this summer by Routledge. Several chapters deal with Latin America and the Caribbean.


David Salisbury (University of Richmond) was named an honorary professor by the Universidad Nacional de Ucayali, Peru for his "contributions to improving scientific knowledge of Amazonia and the development of young professionals in the Ucayali region."
http://news.richmond.edu/geography/features/david_salisbury.html

Programa de Membresías de la AAG para Regiones en Desarrollo

La AAG (Asociación Americana de Geógrafos) ha establecido una nueva categoría de membresía para geógrafos que reiden ne regions en desarrollo. Los geógrafos de y que viven en regions en desarrollo, con ingresos anuales menores de $25,000, son ahora elegibles para inscribirse en la AAG por una cuota de membresía bastante reducida de $20 al año. La membresía en la categoría de Regiones en Desarrollo incluye todos los beneficios regulares de membresía de la AAG, excepto que las revistas y los boletines informativos se proporcionan en formato digital en línea. También existe la disponibilidad de copias impresas de las revistas pagando únicamente el costo de envío. Visitie http://www.aag.org/Developing/index.htm para inscribirse.
Recent Publications


Recent Publications


http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Banana,673301.aspx

*The Banana* demystifies the banana trade and its path toward globalization. It reviews interregional relationships in the industry and the changing institutional framework governing global trade and assesses the roles of such major players as the European Union and the World Trade Organization. It also analyzes the forces driving today’s economy, such as the competitiveness imperative, diversification processes, and niche market strategies. Its final chapter suggests how the outcome of the recent banana war will affect bananas and trade in other commodities sectors as well. *The Banana* belies the common perception of globalization as a monolithic and irresistible force and reveals instead various efforts to resist or modify the process at local and national levels. Nevertheless, the banana does represent another step toward a globalized and industrialized agricultural economy.


List Price: $79.95 (Special pre-publication discount of 25% of $59.96) 
Cloth 0-7425-5597-6 / 978-0-7425-5597-6

CATALOG.db&eqSKUdata=0742555984&thepassedurl=collegepublishing

This fully updated and revised fourth edition of the classic text offers readers a comprehensive set of tools for understanding the urban landscape, and, by extension, the world's politics, cultures, and economies. Providing a sweeping overview of world urban geography, a group of noted experts explores the eleven major global regions of the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, Russia, the Greater Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Australia and the Pacific Islands. Each author presents the region's urban history, economy, culture and society, as well as urban spatial models and problems and prospects. Environmental, human security, globalization, and cyberspace topics are fully developed as well. Vignettes of seventy-eight key cities give the reader a vivid understanding of daily life and the "spirit of place." An introductory chapter presents an overview of key terms and concepts, and a concluding chapter projects the world's urban future.
Recent Publications

Ed Jackiewicz (California State University, Northridge) and Fernando Bosco (San Diego State University)

*Placing Latin America: Contemporary Themes in Human Geography*, edited by Ed Jackiewicz (California State University, Northridge) and Fernando Bosco (San Diego State University. Rowman and Littlefield, 2008)


An innovative text for students, *Placing Latin America* takes a thematic approach to the study of the diverse human geographies of Latin America. Avoiding pre-defined ideas about this rapidly globalizing region, this volume focuses on the dynamic connections between people and places. Fifteen chapters written by a diverse group of contributors provide a well-rounded and accessible introduction to many dimensions of human geography. Particularly exciting are the chapters on themes not typically found in other textbooks on the region, such as geographic analysis of the drug trade, tourism landscapes, and Latin American cinema. Jackiewicz and Bosco also include chapters on current problems of border and migration between the United States, Mexico, and the rest of Latin America. Features two new chapters on Latin America: (i) "Cities of Middle America and the Caribbean" by Irma Escamilla, Joe Scarpaci, and Adrian Aguilar; and (ii) "Cities of South America" by Maureen Hays-Mitchell and Brian Godfrey.


This reader addresses the need for a comprehensive resource for the social, political, gendered and biomedical implications of HIV/AIDS. This volume includes well-known works on the subject as well as new articles specifically written for the book.
Planning for the next CLAG Meeting in Granada, Nicaragua continues, and the webpage will be updated shortly.

Registration will take place in September and October, 2008, and registration will be $45, with discounted prices for students ($25) and Latin Americans ($25).

Field trips that are being planned include the Miskito Coast, the Isla de Omotepe, to the Río San Juan and the Castillo La Inmaculada Concepción, and trips to other locations around the country. Some field trips will be offered before the meeting, and a few will start on Saturday, January 10th, after the conference.

The opening program will be on the evening of Wednesday, January 7th, with sessions scheduled for Thursday and Friday, January 8th and 9th. CLAG NICA 2009 will be held at the Casa de los Tres Mundos, located in the center of Granada, in an colonial style mansion that has been renovated. The Casa de los Tres Mundos promotes and supports artistic, musical, and cultural projects in Nicaragua and Central America.