

NON-CIRCULATING

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Brazil Week Culminates Active Year for Brazil Center

by David Workman

During the week of April 15-20, 1996, the University of Texas at Austin came together to celebrate Brazil Week. The multidepartmental and multidisciplinary series of events included presentations and lectures on anthropology, art history, biomedical and petroleum engineering, business, *capoeira*, dance, history, literature, music, political science, public policy, and sociology. Participants in Brazil Week included graduate and undergraduate students, faculty members, student organizations, visiting scholars and professors, as well as outside lecturers, local schools, a dance group, and a band. Brazil Week celebrated the growing importance of Brazil and Brazilian studies at the Institute of Latin American Studies and at UT-Austin as a whole. It also demonstrated the pivotal role of the Brazil Center of ILAS in coordinating and facilitating Brazilian activities on campus. The Brazil Center lit the

fire and countless people across campus mobilized and brought the week to a successful conclusion.

The guiding principle of Brazil Week was that interest in Brazil can serve as a unifying theme for a wide diversity of people and departments across campus and in the wider community. Four points epitomize the spirit of the Brazil Week. First was the inclusion of many different and often disparate interests under the umbrella of Brazil Week, and in particular the joining of the social sciences and the fine arts with business, science, and engineering. Second was the active participation of Brazilian and Brazilianist visiting scholars and student organizations in sharing their energy and expertise in organizing events and making presentations. In particular, Brazil Week would not have had the campuswide appeal or variety without the efforts of the Brazilian

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Women in Contemporary Mexican Politics II: Participation and Affirmative Action

by Ruth Ellen Hardy

Following the April 1995 *Women in Contemporary Mexican Politics* conference (see *ILAS Newsletter*, Spring 1995), interest in the topic has continued to grow among political women in Mexico and international Mexicanist scholars. Building upon this success, the research of Victoria Rodríguez (UT-LBJ School) and her students, and the support of the Mexican Center of ILAS and Director Peter M. Ward, *Women in Contemporary Mexican Politics II: Participation and Affirmative Action* renewed the vigorous discussions of last year's conference.

The April 12-13, 1996, conference, sponsored by the Ford Foundation-Mexico and the Mexican Center of ILAS, with additional support from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Institute of Latin American Studies, focused on women's political participation, local and regional politics, and affirmative action. The Mexican participants welcomed the opportunity to continue their discussions in this "neutral space," away from Mexican journalists, party debates, and personal interruptions.

On April 11, 1996, as a prologue to the two-day conference, the Mexican Center

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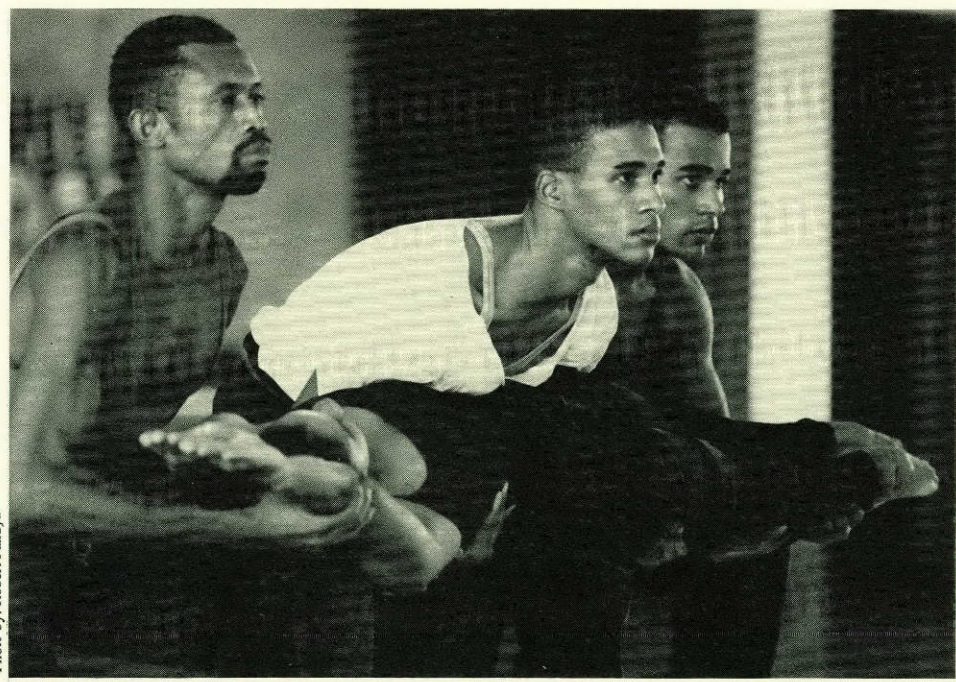


Photo by: Robert Pandya

A performance by the troupe DanceBrazil was a highlight of Brazil Week, sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS. The group also performed for students at Dobie Middle School. See story, p. 15. Photo courtesy of the UT Performing Arts Center.

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Through the Olmec Looking Glass

by Andrew Wheat

Olmec shaman kings legitimized their rule over present-day Veracruz and Tabasco, Mexico, through their ability to visit supernatural realms with a little help from their earthly friends: tobacco, morning glory seeds, and toad gland extracts. The awesome power of these hallucinating rulers notwithstanding, it is unlikely that they foresaw themselves being reincarnated 1,600 years later as a balding anthropologist with an Alabama accent.

A Merry Prankster busload of ILAS students, faculty, staff, and amigos witnessed just such a metamorphosis in alum F. Kent Reilly III on a May 12 fieldtrip to *The Olmec World: Ritual and Rulership* at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, an exhibit sponsored by Princeton University. Reilly, an assistant professor at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, narrated the excursion, illuminating the mysteries of the Olmec world.

Pat Boone, ILAS senior administrative associate, scheduled a pre-Olmec stop at the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences' live butterfly exhibit. The life cycles of these insects—from egg to caterpillar, pupa, butterfly, and windshield splatter—steeped excursionists in the metamorphoses of the natural world. Reilly's metamorphosis that followed soon thereafter, however, was of another world altogether.

Feed Your Head

The entrance to the Olmec exhibit is a replica of an enormous rock that an unimaginative archaeologist has named "Chalcatzingo, Morelos Monument 9." This monument has a geometrical hole in the center surrounded by stylized carvings. Standing before Monument 9's yawning maw, Reilly tells us that the exhibit was organized to present new theories about the Olmec that have emerged in the past five years. Archaeological stool specialists had long known, for instance, that Olmecs ate squash, beans, and corn. In contrast, the *Olmec World* exhibit asks the loftier questions: What was the nature of their ceremonies and how was divine rule determined? Put in Jefferson Airplane terms, the exhibit addresses the question: What did the Olmec feed their heads?

Part of the answer seems clear: Olmec shamans used tobacco, morning glory seeds, and possibly extracts of the glands of big *Bufo marinus* toads as part of their transformation ceremonies. These hallucinogenic elixirs were served in ceremonial decanters, such as the exhibit's jaguar-shaped pot, which Reilly claims makes whistling noises through its ear holes when hallucinogens are poured into its tail. Shamans enhanced their trips through body piercing, using ceremonial perforators to puncture their ears, tongues, calves, and penises. According to Reilly, barbed spines scavenged from stingrays were "the perforators of choice."

Anyone in denial over the power of these ceremonies need look no farther than a seven-inch-tall stone "transformation pose" shaman found in Veracruz. On top of the shaman's head is an etched toad whose skin is molting down the center of its back—an area that doubles as the top of the shaman's head. This juxtaposition creates the impression that the head of the transforming shaman is also splitting open under the influence of *Bufo marinus* or some other hallucinogen. In other figurines, which convey more motion than typical in Olmec art, shamans riding jaguars and other critters appear to hurtle through space as if on a motorcycle or rocket. Like the shaman kings, the Olmec regarded animals such as cave-dwelling jaguars and ducks that traverse the land, water, and air as especially potent creatures. Olmec shaman kings' power to transform was tied into their divine right to rule, Reilly says. The shaman king was the one member of society with a direct line to the cosmological trinity: the earth, sky, and underworld.

Reilly then turns to the carved Chalcatzingo monument behind him, which he portrays as a sort of Olmec cosmological dragon—a hybrid crocodile with its yawning maw agape and accessorized with jaguar and harpy eagle features. The



The gaping maw as entrance to the underworld. Photo courtesy of Kent Reilly.

maw of this amphibious winged creature, Reilly says, is an entry point to the nether regions of the Olmec cosmos: the underworld of the dead and the heavenly skies of the gods. Similarly, the Olmec considered mountain peaks and rivers sacred, since such landscapes—like that of Chalcatzingo—are natural interfaces with these other worlds.

Having made clear that only divine shamans have the power to shuttle to and from these other worlds, Reilly rears back and plunges through the gaping Chalcatzingo maw that marks the exhibit's entrance. For the next hour and a half, he is the undisputed shaman king, lording over the busload of people who follow him through the crocodilian maw. Soon this mighty shaman reduces even the most skeptical among us to compliant followers.

Grateful Dead

Once through the Chalcatzingo maw, Reilly's time travelers are confronted with a battery of exquisite artistic evidence to confirm his view of Olmec cosmology. The Olmec are best known for hewing colossal, Boteroesque fat heads from basalt. Although Olmec engineers moved ten of these stone heads, of up to twelve tons each, sixty miles from a quarry to the San Lorenzo site in the

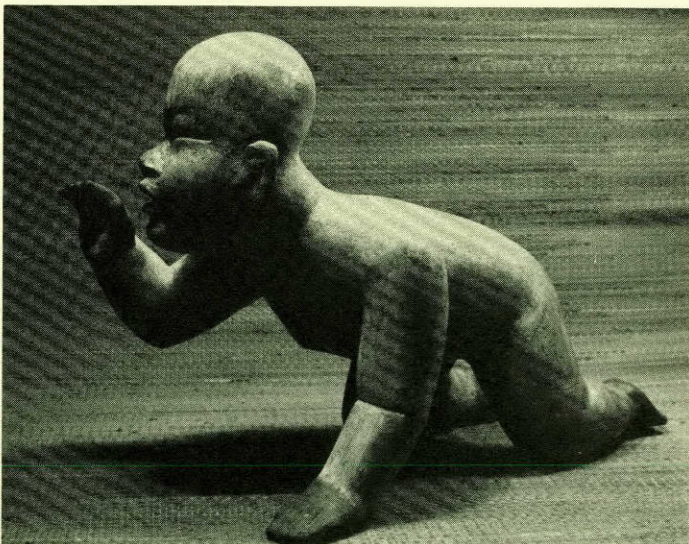
state of Veracruz, the Olmec exhibit focuses on the culture's smaller masterpieces. (Those who prefer a big head can have a tête-à-tête with one at the *Olmec Art of Ancient Mexico* exhibit, running at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., through October 20, 1996.)

The first part of the Houston exhibit features several striking ceramic baby figures. Making the most of his Mother's Day audience, Reilly observes the intricately shaped, curled toes of one of the figures, prompting a dozen mothers to recall how their own babies had scrunched up their toes in like fashion when mastering balance by pitting nascent muscles against gravity. While these toes have a tactile realism, Reilly also demonstrates surreal aspects of the babies. Perhaps the most awesome baby, a fourteen-inch-tall figure found in Puebla at the Las Bocas site, has an expression of knowing wonderment and awe. (Las Bocas is, of course, Spanish for "maws.") While this baby's eyes are open, those of several others are not. "They are like us and yet they are not us," Reilly notes, warming to his explanation.

The babies, he tells us, were found in tombs, which—like Chalcatzingo and its famous monument—are entry points to the other world. Noting that Olmec tombs often contain tableaux of underwater, underworld figurines such as fish, ducks, and frogs, Reilly argues that the babies promise spiritual reincarnation to the dead. While death is an entry to the underworld, babies traversing the birth canal provide a reentry point that brings Olmec cosmology full circle. The reassuring presence of cosmic baby figures in the tomb, then, makes Olmec dead eternally grateful.

Reilly informs us that his baby explanation was derived from commonsense ethno-prospecting. To glean clues to what the baby figurines buried in 10,000 B.C. might mean, he simply asked indigenous people who currently reside in the area influenced by the Olmec.

In other tomb accoutrements, Reilly says Olmec graves frequently contain magnetite stones that have been ground and polished to a mirror finish. Mirror images also were viewed as portals to the other world, Reilly ruminates, as he absent-mindedly



Olmec baby. Photo courtesy of Kent Reilly.

scratches the reflective surface of his head. Similarly, tomb interiors, shaman bodies, and many of the objects in the exhibit were found lying under a heavy dusting of red cinnabar powder, the sulfide from which mercury is extracted. Reilly points out that cinnabar's ceremonial importance also could be derived from its bloodlike color.

"Slim" Evidence of the Trinity

The most important Olmec cosmological totem, according to Reilly, is "Slim," a two-foot-tall, elaborately etched statue found near the Guatemala-Salvador border (the Olmec influence extended far beyond its area of direct rule). Reilly basically divides "Slim," who appears near the end of the Olmec exhibit, into three parts corresponding to the realms of the sacred Olmec trinity: land, sea, and air.

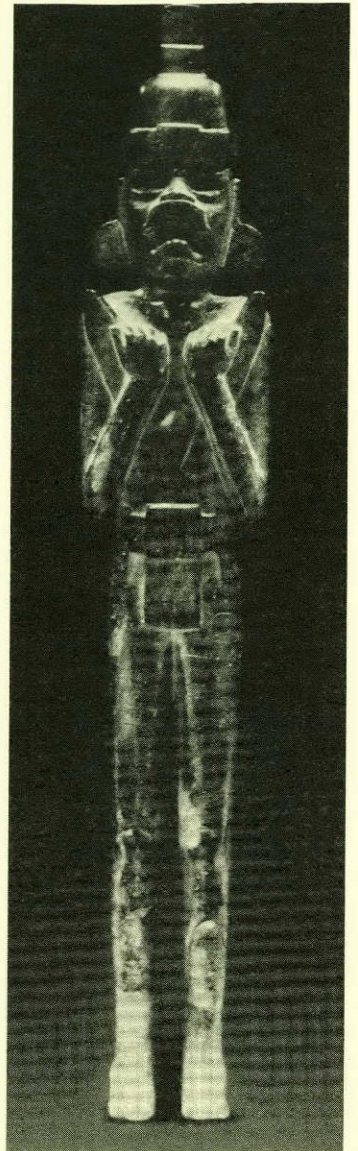
Reilly notes that the lower etchings on the figure represent the watery underworld inhabited by Olmec ancestors. Above the belt, Slim's torso is etched with representations of the earthly human realm. Finally, Slim wears a mask tattooed with the symbols of the celestial supernatural world that has life-or-death control over rain, maize, fertility, and the cosmos. Seen in a complimentary light, Reilly says, Slim's body is not just that of a man but also of a corn plant, which is inseparable from humans in the Olmec world.

"These objects to me are alive," says Reilly at the conclusion of the tour, "as they were to the people who created them. For the ancient Olmec, each object was the point of interface between natural and supernatural realms, just as [in] certain miraculous images in Christianity."

With these parting words, the shaman strides back out of the Chalcatzingo maw and leads his Merry Prankster followers into the impenetrable heat and blinding light that is Houston. "Morphed" by this wave of heat, Reilly fast-forwards 1,600 years from Olmec shaman to balding anthropology professor.

What a long, strange trip it's been.

Andrew Wheat, a 1990 graduate and former ILAS receptionist, is a freelance writer who has worked as a newspaper reporter and Nader Raider, among his numerous metamorphoses.



"Slim"

Photo courtesy of Kent Reilly.



Mexico Connections

by Peter M. Ward

Even by its own high-activity standards, this last semester has been a particularly intensive one, embracing inter alia two major international conferences, over twenty seminars in the México al Mediodía series, four Distinguished Mexicans in Texas lectures, official visits from Governor Vicente Fox (Guanajuato) and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico James Jones, a book presentation, the inauguration of the ex-UT Mexican alumni database project, and a very successful meeting of the center's distinguished Advisory Committee in San Miguel de Allende. It has been tough going at times, but it has also been a pleasure to be party to these multiple events, and I hope that colleagues and students have also enjoyed them.

The semester ended with the Advisory Committee of the Mexican Center holding its biannual meeting at founding member Martha Hyder's wonderful home in San Miguel Allende. Those of you who have appreciated the treasures of the Hyder art and antique collection in the Law School can perhaps begin to imagine the flavor of her home in San Miguel. The meeting was a great success, tackling issues of fundraising, the alumni database, and initiatives to raise the number of Mexican nationals at UT, including a scheme that will dovetail with the Mexican principal science and technology funding body (CONACYT), thereby creating a *convenio* that will privilege Mexicans at the university. It was an excellent meeting, but, as always after these brainstorming sessions, necessitating a lot of follow up. The meeting also benefited greatly from the Saturday breakfast discussions led by invitees PRI Senator Salvador Rocha Díaz and PRI Congressman Luis Manuel Jiménez Lemus. Governor Vicente Fox (PAN) and PRI Municipal President Jaime Fernández joined us on Sunday. This allowed the committee members and their guests to quiz Governor Fox on exactly what he did and did not say two days previously in New York about privatization of PEMEX, which, not surprisingly, had created a furor.

Thanks to the additional support received from the College of Liberal Arts and raised through the Advisory Committee, the Mexican Center was able to make some thirty-two individual awards in the *becario* program for Mexican scholars to visit UT-Austin for up to two weeks and to take advantage of the archives, the Benson Latin American Collection, and the opportunity to work with our own faculty clusters. Of these, more than twenty came during the spring semester. All visitors had an opportunity to talk about their work in the México al Mediodía series, which was generally quite well attended. I would like to urge faculty and especially graduate students to participate more regularly in these meetings and not just when the topic is closely tied to your own interests. It is our regular opportunity to meet weekly (Tuesdays 12:15–1:30).

Following close on the heels of December's *Policies and Practices in the Preservation of the Cultural Patrimony of Mexican Inner Cities* conference organized by Logan Wagner (Architecture) and myself, February opened with *The Corrido as Contemporary Narrative in Mexico and in Texas* organized by James Nicolopulos (Spanish and Portuguese). Despite our best-laid plans, the big freeze closed the university precisely as our visitors were arriving from various parts of the world. Notwithstanding this slight hiccup, we proceeded with the program (one person failed to show up and he was from UT!), and a large audience enjoyed a fascinating integration of scholarly papers and *corrido* performance. Two participants rose to my challenge to write *corridos* about the weather-threatened meeting, and Linda Egan's (UC-Davis) *Corrido del congreso congelado* was performed at the close of the meeting and appears in the conference memoria/synthesis. My thanks for the success of this conference go not only to James Nicolopulos, but also to Gil Cardenas and Manuel Peña (directors of the Centers for Mexican Americans Studies and Folklore Studies, respectively) for their co-sponsorship of the event. This included two concerts on Thursday and Friday evenings, the latter packing Jester Audi-

torium despite police warnings to stay home because of the cold. Heartwarming and thoroughly enjoyable. A video is available on loan from the Mexican Center for anyone who stayed home but would like to see what they missed.

The *Women in Mexican Politics II* congress organized by Victoria Rodríguez was, perhaps, the most successful ever, and is reported upon by Ruth Hardy (see p. 1), so I will say no more except to underscore that that meeting also ended with a specially composed song. What is it about these people who come to UT-Austin and are inspired to sing? I, for one, am flattered, and I think that the university should be proud of its faculty's ability to draw the brightest and the best to their conferences and to offer an inspiring program.

Partly to celebrate the visits of the best and brightest Mexicans to campus, we have inaugurated a new Distinguished Mexicans in Texas lecture series. During the spring semester we welcomed Antonio Azuela (Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment); Alfredo Phillips (President of the NAD Bank); Governor Vicente Fox (Governor of Guanajuato); and Senator and former PRI President María de los Angeles Moreno (see *Women in Mexican Politics* memoria for a copy of her speech). This is an innovation that I hope will be sustained, bringing as it does, some of the leading figures from Mexican politics, government, art, and culture. Other distinguished visitors/speakers (outside the conference program) included Ambassador James Jones, who talked to students and faculty on "The State of U.S.-Mexico Relations."

The semester ended with a book presentation by UCSD's Simón Bolívar Professor Peter H. Smith. His latest book, *The Talons of the Eagle: The Dynamics of US-Latin American Relations*, was published in March by Oxford University Press. In addition to Smith's presentation of the book, extensive and thought-provoking (and argument-provoking) commentaries were provided by UT professors Larry Graham (Government) and Bryan Roberts (Sociology).

As always, spring is competition time for graduate students, and a host of congratulations is in order. In this year's competition for the E. D. Farmer International Scholar-

Women, *continued from page 1*

of ILAS featured María de los Angeles Moreno, senator and former president of the PRI, in the Distinguished Mexicans in Texas Lecture Series. Moreno's talk, entitled "Mujer y avance democrático," focused on the status of women worldwide and the need to improve the lives and opportunities of women globally. For Mexico, Moreno asserted that as the country moves toward a modern democracy, policy makers must recognize gender disparities and ensure equal access to education, employment, and positions of authority. She called for a "new democratic design that transforms patriarchal values and protects human rights" and encouraged women to increase their involvement in decision-making arenas, utilizing their "social conscience" to create a more equitable and democratic Mexico.

The conference officially commenced the following day with panels on affirmative action. Judith Gentleman (U.S. Air War College and University of New Hampshire) presented a provocative paper highlighting the complete absence of women in the national security arena. Gentleman described the "social construction of a masculinized militarism" that views female participation in the military elite as inappropriate, precluding avenues for women's influence on national security issues.

Marta Lamas (*Debate Feminista*) described affirmative action as a "mechanism for social change," urging a recognition of both historical and structural obstacles faced by women. Lamas noted that affirmative action should be a component of a larger plan to eradicate discrimination. She stressed that affirmative action "includes the seeds for its own destruction" after the goal of a more equal society has been met.

The day closed with a roundtable discussion moderated by Cecilia Loría (GEM). Speaking on behalf of the PRD, Laura Itzel Castillo stated that her party strives for "equality in politics and parity in social justice," requiring that positions of power within the party must not constitute more than 70 percent of either gender. María de los Angeles Moreno (PRI) noted that her party has always had "unstated" quotas for

female nominations for party positions and that gender issues are high on the agenda for the next PRI National Assembly. She expressed optimism that COFIPE, the planned electoral reform, would provide women greater access to the political system. Cecilia Romero (PAN) asserted that the PAN's efforts to improve female self-esteem, expose the culture of gender discrimination, and eradicate the invisibility of women's work are all methods for affirmative action within the party.

The second day of the conference included two panels addressing women's political participation at the local and regional level. Alejandra Massolo (UAM-Iztapalapa) outlined the participation of women in local elected politics, asserting that a "new federalism is important, but only with a gender equality that creates a truly new order of government." Drawing on her research on the Monterrey water crisis during the 1970s and 1980s, Vivienne Bennett (California State University, San Marcos) argued that the aggressive grassroots protests of women resulted in "Agua Para Todos," the first water project of its kind in Latin America, and "altered the relations of power" in Mexico by effecting both local and federal policy changes. Lilia Venegas (INAH) discussed the contributions of PANista women in Tijuana, asserting that the party and families of these women can be both obstacles and sources of strength for their political participation.

The final panel of the conference was a roundtable discussion on "An Agenda for the Future of Women in Mexican Political Life" skillfully moderated by Sara Lovera (*Doble Jornada*). María Elena Chapa (PRI) called for a greater focus on creating opportunities for girls, eradicating poverty, changing female stereotypes in the media, and encouraging more collaboration between academics and policy makers. María Teresa Gómez Mont (PAN) argued that Mexico needs a more informed citizenship and changes in gender relationships in both domestic and economic arenas.

Patricia Parrodi (PAN) called on women to respect the plurality of female ideas, arguing that each woman has a right to her own opinions and values. Parrodi accused feminists of using language that excludes many women and argued that "in their

search for equality women often lose their identities as women." Ana Rosa Payán asked that women stop seeing the family as a jail, arguing that strengthening the family will secure the basis of society. Cecilia Loría countered that feminists don't want to "destroy or dissolve the family, but reconceptualize it" in a way that supports opportunities for women.


Following these debates, Beatriz Paredes (former governor of Tlaxcala and current general secretary of the Confederación Nacional Campesina) highlighted the importance of the conference, especially in light of the context of the underlying political tension. She asserted that despite the many areas of agreement about the status of women in Mexico, conference participants failed to agree on the definition of affirmative action, the proper role of the family in the lives of women, or the goals of women in politics in Mexico. She noted that women are divided due to political, ideological, religious, and cultural reasons, but "in a plural society, each person also has a right to his/her singularity. Mexicans must learn to live in a democratic society that respects different points of view."

While she was cautious about the level of agreement at the conference, Paredes was optimistic that women could move forward in their struggles for gender equality and democratic citizenship in Mexico. This optimism multiplied following Paredes' summary, as women rushed to the podium to join in singing an anthem composed by conference participants the previous night.

The conference closed with remarks by Victoria Rodríguez, who proposed a third conference on women in Mexican politics. Cheers erupted as Rodríguez suggested it be held in Mexico, coinciding with the April 1997 Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Congress in Guadalajara. With their similarities and differences now more clearly articulated, women in Mexican politics hope to continue such meetings in the politically charged and dynamic atmosphere of their own country, where they can more easily move their discussions into progressive, gendered action.

Ruth Ellen Hardy received her master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs in May 1996.

Publications



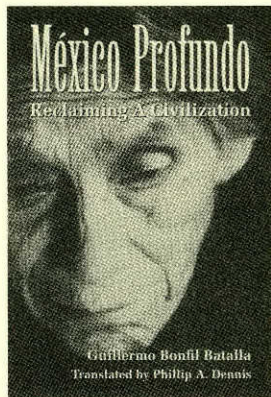
México Profundo:

Reclaiming a Civilization

By Guillermo Bonfil Batalla

Translated by Philip A. Dennis

ILAS Translations from Latin America Series, University of Texas Press, 1996



This translation of a major work in Mexican anthropology argues that Mesoamerican civilization is an ongoing and undeniable force in contemporary Mexican life.

For Guillermo Bonfil Batalla, the remaining Indian communities, the “de-Indianized” rural mestizo communities, and vast sectors of the poor urban population constitute the *México profundo*. Their lives and ways of understanding the world continue to be rooted in Mesoamerican civilization. An ancient agricultural complex provides their food supply, and work is understood as a way of maintaining a harmonious relationship with the natural world. Health is related to human conduct, and community service is often part of each individual’s life obligation. Time is circular, and humans fulfill their own cycle in relation to other cycles of the universe.

Since the Conquest, Bonfil argues, the peoples of the *México profundo* have been dominated by an “imaginary México” imposed by the West. It is imaginary not because it does not exist, but because it denies the cultural reality lived daily by most Mexicans.

Within the *México profundo* there exists an enormous body of accumulated knowl-

edge, as well as successful patterns for living together and adapting to the natural world. To face the future successfully, argues Bonfil, Mexico must build on these strengths of Mesoamerican civilization, “one of the few original civilizations that humanity has created throughout all its history.”

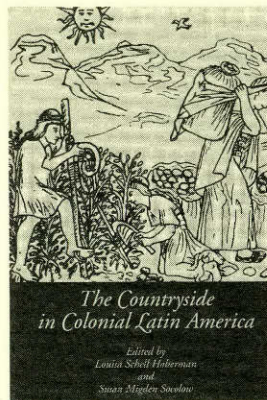
Author Guillermo Bonfil Batalla, who was killed in a 1991 car accident at the age of fifty-six, was a well-known Mexican anthropologist. Translator Philip A. Dennis is Professor of Anthropology at Texas Tech University.

Available from University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78712-7819. (Cloth \$30.00; paper \$12.95)

The Countryside in Colonial Latin America

Edited by Louisa Schell Hoberman and Susan Migden Socolow

University of New Mexico Press, 1996



This collection of eleven original essays is a unique overview of rural life in colonial Latin America, demonstrating the numerous ways in which the countryside, rather than the city, dominated colonial life. More than 80 percent of the people lived in the country, producing goods for both subsistence and sale, with Indian peasants and black slaves constituting most of the laborers. A small elite of landowners and church officials, along with some artisans, rural traders, and local officials, enforced social control, provided capital, and linked the haciendas to markets in the city.

The concluding essay addresses the role of conflict, violence, and resistance in a hierarchy that was often based on forced labor and negative social stereotypes. The collection provides a worthy addition to the social history literature of colonial Latin America by situating these rural players in their physical and economic setting.

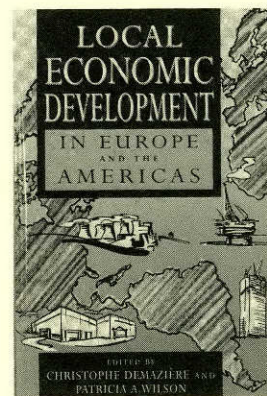
Louisa Schell Hoberman is on the faculty of the UT-Austin History Department. Susan Migden Socolow teaches at Emory University in Atlanta.

Available from University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1591. (Cloth \$45.00; paper \$19.95)

Local Economic Development in Europe and the Americas

Edited by Christophe Demazière and Patricia A. Wilson

Mansell, 1996



During the last two decades, advanced societies have experienced inflation, rising unemployment, and the instability of exchange rates. Macroeconomic policy instruments have shown

their limits, while transnational corporations have never been more powerful. Within the nation-states, regions and localities are searching for alternative economic growth.

This collection of essays analyzes local economic development strategies in the light of global restructuring in three regions of the world: Europe, North America (United States and Canada), and Latin America. The contributors, who are economists, public policy analysts, geographers, and planners, address such key questions as: What are the respective contributions of public authorities, firms, and individuals? What is the logic behind the rise of new industrial spaces and the fall of former loci of accumulation? What do local strategies mean in an age of economic globalization? What are the concrete outputs of local development strategies? Is LED only a local matter? What is the democratic content of LED strategies?

The book aims to: present systematically to a wide audience the enormous variety of local economic initiatives—their aims, mechanisms, and outcomes; review the literature on local economic develop-

ment that has changed extensively over the last fifteen years; and develop a comparative approach to local economic development initiatives, especially between countries and continents.

Christophe Demazière is a Researcher at the Institut Fédératif de Recherche sur les Économies et les Sociétés Industrielles (IFRÉSI), Lille, and lectures on the Faculty of Economics and Sociology at the University of Lille. Patricia A. Wilson is Associate Professor in the Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning at the University of Texas at Austin.

Available from Mansell Publishing Limited, 215 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003. (Price not available)

Mexico, *continued from page 4*

ships, ten students have received awards. The newly created C. B. Smith Dissertation Enhancement Travel Scholarships attracted considerable interest, and awards were offered to seven students. (See Student News, p. 14, for a list of recipients.) Finally, warmest congratulations go to Eduardo Torres (Sociology) who, during 1996–97 will hold the prestigious “Solidarity” Presidential Scholarship.

Once again, may I close by extending my personal thanks to all of the faculty and staff who have supported the Mexican Center in the past few months, not least, those who have participated in the selection process of the various scholarship competitions outlined above. Also I would like to acknowledge the support and work of Lisa Stevak and Kateri Aragón, both part-time assistants in the center who will be leaving this summer, and to work-study Mario Garcia. Without them the center would have imploded; with them we just about managed to keep abreast of the many activities enumerated above and many others besides. One thing I know we have learned in the Mexican Center is how to cope with *bomberazos*! I hope that faculty and students will continue to contribute to this intense activity.

Peter M. Ward is director of the Mexican Center of ILAS.



ILASSA Conference 1996: Another Shining Success

by Cameron Vandegrift



The sixteenth annual Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association (ILASSA) Conference on Latin America, held March 1–2, 1996, was a shining success once again, and it continues to define itself as the preeminent student-run conference on Latin America in the United States. Planned, organized, and put into motion entirely by students affiliated with ILAS, the conference has gained a reputation for hosting presentations and discussing ideas that are consistently in the vanguard of contemporary issues regarding Latin America.

After warm and inspiring welcoming remarks to the attendees by ILAS Director Nicolas Shumway, the conference commenced with the keynote address by Cuban national assembly member Fernando Portuondo. A Yale-educated sociologist who moved back to Cuba to join the Revolution, Portuondo was well prepared to deal with questions relating to the salient issue of the day. He described the recent downing of two American Cessnas allegedly piloted by members of Hermanos al Rescate—an organization dedicated to aiding Cuban refugees intent on reaching U.S. shores—as the result of continued incursions by American planes into Cuban airspace, maintaining it was the sovereign right of Cuba to defend her borders. Most attendees, although not in agreement with all of his assertions, concurred that Portuondo was an impressive speaker. Emily Nordloh, who as deputy conference treasurer made invaluable contributions arranging subsidized or free airfares, said that “the speech was interesting in that it presented another point of view from the one which we as Americans are accustomed to reading.”

Conference participants then broke up into carefully selected discussion groups, in which presenters were allotted approximately twenty minutes to expound on what for many of them had amounted to years of research. Each discussion group was part of a two-hour session that included issues and ideas of similar nature, and each was allowed its own room in the UT Union so that students and participants could easily

shuttle between simultaneous presentations. The topics varied widely, from an examination of the roles of the Uruguayan judiciary (UT’s own Jason Pierce), to a discussion of the creation of new sexual identities on the U.S.-Mexico border, to a presentation on the presence of African-American baseball players in the Mexican leagues from 1930 to 1950. Theresa Esquibel, a joint-degree master’s candidate at ILAS and the LBJ School, enjoyed the presentations regarding the roles of women as political actors and symbols. “Women as political actors in Latin America have always fascinated me, and I was specially impressed at the level of scholarship during [these] presentations.”

Festivities for the participants were arranged to provide ample opportunity to relax and socialize. Informal gatherings were held at the popular Latin nightspots Calle Ocho and Club Palmeras, and the restaurant Baby Acapulco was reserved for a dinner attended by the entire conference. The final night of the conference, La Zona Rosa restaurant was rented, and the evening’s activities featured the intense Latin rhythms of the popular Austin band Son Yuma. Participants could leave Austin secure in the knowledge that they had taken part in an event that had conveyed its appreciation of their efforts in their field.

Special recognition should be given to this year’s conference organizers, all of whom worked very hard to promote a successful event, but especially to coordinators Marcia Grimes and Hannah Holms, who, despite some difficulties, still managed to create an outstanding gathering of Latin Americanists.

Cameron Vandegrift is a student in the ILAS master’s program and 1995–96 copresident of ILASSA.

Afoot in the Field: Reports from Graduates on Life after ILAS

“Disaster à Go-Go”

by Douglas E. Mercado, USAID, Angola

I am a graduate of UT-Austin’s Institute of Latin American Studies. At least that’s what my diploma says. Over the past five years I’ve been approached by family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers on the street who have peppered me with questions about my academic, professional, and romantic history. Leaving the embarrassing details of my social life discreetly behind, I normally launch into a thorough accounting of my struggles up the foodchain of academia. The story begins with life in the primordial soup of primary education and ends with the successful acquisition of thirty-odd credit hours and a master’s degree in Latin American studies, focusing on community and regional planning and economic development, at UT during the period 1989–91.

Most of my interlocutors then demand a complete recitation of all the professional milestones I have passed on the way to becoming one of the world’s leading authorities on development and community and regional planning in Latin America. (Certainly, employment in Latin America and the achievement of mighty goals in one’s particular field of study are to be considered standard requisites for all graduates of ILAS.) It’s only then that my half of the dialogue begins to falter.

If the truth be told, I have not set foot in Latin America (or the Caribbean) since packing up my bags and leaving Austin after the summer of 1991. I have not read any literature about the developing economies and countries in the Western Hemisphere. I have not attended any professional conferences or seminars focusing on Latin America. From time to time I’ll read a Fuentes or Vargas Llosa novel or dance to a little samba music in order to maintain some contact with the region that I “studied” for two years in case I have to prove my academic credentials to anybody who challenges the value of my M.A.

After dropping the bombshell that I have been pretty much disengaged from development in Latin America since mov-

ing on from ILAS, I’m forced to explain why I’ve been working in the field of disaster relief in Sudan, Bosnia, and Angola for the past five years. I had every intention of securing a worthwhile job in the Americas, so sure was I that I could be of use to the World Bank, USAID, or countless nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) involved in development work.

In my search for a job, I adopted the “shotgun” approach. More than two hundred cover letters with accompanying résumés fanned out from the base camp established at my parents’ house in Springfield, Virginia. “Reject letters” arrived quickly thereafter. Job offers were slow in coming. I took to the phones and to badgering as many human resource officers as possible. The first to give me any sign of hope was an extremely pleasant Colombian woman working for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). I felt sure at the beginning of the phone interview that our “Latin connection” would lead to me to a position with one of IRC’s programs in Central America. She reviewed the academic and professional content of my résumé, which practically screamed, “Put Me in El Salvador.” As the conversation wound down, I was asked how I felt about employment in a resettlement program for Ethiopian refugees in Khartoum, Sudan. Obviously, she must not have read my résumé, I thought to myself. But then visions of water-skiing on the Nile began to appear in my head and I blurted out, “Yeah, OK.” It would be a great chance to see both the Middle East and Africa all wrapped up in one country. Ten days later I was winging it to Sudan with my ILAS diploma in tow. I left the United States secure in the belief that Latin America would still be around after my one-year contract with IRC in Sudan expired.

A year of processing Ethiopian refugees in Khartoum passed quickly. My water-skiing skills reached a respectable level. I came down with hepatitis A and headed home for the holidays. While lounging on the couch in my parents’ basement after New Year’s, I phoned my Colombian connection at IRC to see if any of

those positions in El Salvador, Nicaragua, or Belize had opened up since we last spoke in 1991. I figured that I had done my time in a field outside my “specialty” both geographically and professionally. The big pay-off was just around the corner. Community development in Rio de Janeiro, no doubt.

I was thinking Brazil, but heard Bosnia from the voice on the other end of the telephone. My response seemed hauntingly familiar, almost too mechanical. A “Yeah, OK” and I was committed to spend a year in central Bosnia as a field officer for IRC’s relief program. For sure, the Balkans would be the stepping-stone that would lead back to Latin America. Besides, I figured the challenge of delivering humanitarian aid to communities trapped by war would prepare me for any future work in the field of community or economic development.

Trucked up to the city of Tuzla during the middle of winter and unceremoniously dumped off with minimal training, I set out to learn as much as I could about the conflict, the people of Bosnia, and the aid business in as little time as possible. One of the first lessons I learned was that most of the humanitarian assistance amounted to little more than a “band-aid” covering a gaping wound. Only the will of the world to intervene (politically and militarily) would save the country and its people. The world finally found the courage to stop the slaughter, but only after too many years of inaction. The efforts of IRC and other relief agencies certainly saved a number of lives and relieved the suffering of thousands of displaced and war-affected families, yet it always seemed to be an insufficient response to the hatred and violence. Bosnia taught me quite a bit about the will of a people to survive.

While in Tuzla over fifteen months, my water-skiing skills took a plunge. However, my listening skills were sharpened immeasurably as I became sensitized to the sounds of whizzing bullets and incoming mortar rounds and tank shells. One ear always had to be tuned to the slightest sound of an impending attack. This heightened sense of awareness will probably never disappear completely.

A good deal of our funding came from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). After many visits by OFDA field staff to Tuzla to monitor our projects, the fact that I had studied Portuguese at ILAS slipped out. My fate for the next two years was sealed! OFDA needed desperately to fill the "Relief Coordinator" spot at the U.S. Embassy in Luanda, Angola. Luanda, I mused, would at least put me within a five-hour, nonstop flight to Brazil. I accepted the offer and packed my bags for the journey out of the supposed "safe haven" of Tuzla, managing to depart the war zone without any major illnesses (unless scabies can be considered a major illness) this time.

Angola has been home for the past two years. Different country. Another tragic

war. Millions of lives out of balance because of the idiocy of a relatively few individuals. I am leaving as the country makes a transition from more than twenty years of conflict toward what will, one hopes, turn out to be a lasting peace and national reconciliation. I've taken my water-skiing to new heights on the beautiful waters of Mussulo Bay, the traffic lights in Luanda are starting to function on a regular basis, and the emergency is largely behind this country for the moment. USAID asked that I stay on another year to use my academic background toward the effort to guide U.S. government assistance as it makes the transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and development. My response . . . "Where's the next disaster?" This line of work can be immensely grati-

fying on many days. You can't ask for much more than that. My plans are to have a "coming of age" summer in the United States and then move on to Liberia, Burundi, Afghanistan, or Chechnya come September. "Disaster relief" is, unfortunately, a growth industry. At least Latin America has managed, over the past five years, to move away from the type of devastating conflicts that now seem all too routine in Africa, Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union.

I hope never to work in Latin America in the capacity of a disaster relief specialist.

Douglas E. Mercado graduated from ILAS in 1991 with a master's degree in Latin American studies and community and regional planning.

ILAS Grad Enjoys "Challenging" Career

*by Luke Stollings,
Experiential Challenge Programs, Inc.*

Since graduation, life has been fascinating and not what I expected. I began working part-time, while still in school, with a guy who makes custom Southwestern furniture. I learned how to make drawers and such on the table saw. My impending degree soon showed its usefulness in two ways. First, the guy who carved for us was a monolingual Spanish speaker and my boss a monolingual East Texas speaker—with a short temper. My services as translator and intermediary introduced a revolutionary dimension to their professional relationship. The other practical application, more culturally profound, was to explain to my boss that the carver was not, in fact, Mexican (or "Spanish" either). "Guatemala is the next country south of Mexico," I explained, enlightening my boss with the fruits of my education. I bored him to tears with the whole sordid history of U.S. involvement in the region. He told me to get back to work.

I also guided outdoor trips with the University of Texas Outdoor Adventures Program. I was paid paltry wages to put in fourteen-hour days driving to Enchanted Rock, teaching others to rock climb while never getting to climb myself, then driving

back while twelve people snored in hypnotic chorus in the back of the van. Things got better, though. I started teaching bike maintenance, which paid three times more for less and less dangerous work. I could assist on outings like canoe trips that were more fun, if not better paid, and learn a lot to boot. By the time I graduated I had led cross-country ski trips to Colorado, canoe trips, kayaking workshops, and hiking trips, and managed to keep the credit card wolves at bay.

So, armed with mortarboard and two degrees, I . . . ran the table saw and taught bike maintenance. Out of the blue, I was called to lead a group rock climbing on the Barton Creek Greenbelt. I'd worked with this company, Experiential Challenge Programs, Inc., two other times in the previous three years. Over the course of the day I learned more about what the company did, and the owner learned that I was looking for a job. So it is that one thing leads to another.

Today I am Director of Planning and Program Development for Experiential Challenge Programs, Inc. Our company is small, only seven people, but we do lots of different things for lots of different people. Experiential (not *Experimental*, I am always gently correcting) means learning by doing, and two or so days a week I work with groups on a ropes or a challenge course. The challenge course is a set of

obstacles, called elements, that can be successfully negotiated only through group, rather than individual, effort. It is used as a therapeutic intervention, as teambuilding, as a diagnostic tool, and as a learning tool. Some activities do not even require a ropes course. One example: I ask the group (maybe twelve people, but any size will work) to put on blindfolds. Then I hand them thirty or so feet of rope and challenge them to make a perfect square using all the rope and all the people. This can take anywhere from 10 to 110 minutes, and the resulting figure can have anywhere from 3 to 8 sides. It's harder than it sounds. Afterward, it is important to talk about what happened and what issues came up. This is where a transfer can be made, applying this experience back to "regular life."

When I have office days, I try to drum up business, document the groups I do, draft policies and procedures for course usage, sometimes help write a grant, troubleshoot computers, and supervise two people on our staff. Right now I am helping create an outing program coalition for colleges and universities in central Texas that don't currently offer outdoor trips. My job is varied, often exciting, rewarding, and fun. The atmosphere in our office is easygoing (most of the time), very supportive, and positive. Everyone I know envies how much I enjoy my job. I got married and

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hopped around Ecuador and the Galapagos on our wonderful honeymoon. This past October we bought a house. Hmmm. Hard to leave Austin once you find out about it.

Where does the Latin American studies fit into my present career path? The joint degree gave me some computer and data analysis skills that have been very useful.

Skills from ILAS Serve Grad Well

by Rich Ann Roche,
Texas Department of Health

Although I am not an “official” alumnus of the ILAS program, I consider myself a faithful “unofficial” one. I entered the ILAS joint-degree program with Community and Regional Planning (CRP) in spring 1989. I received a fellowship to spend a year in Paraguay in 1992, and upon my return decided not to finish the ILAS degree—the year in South America would be my M.A. I completed my thesis during spring 1993 and graduated that May.

ILAS graduates often bemoan the difficulties in finding a job. How do you market a Latin Americanist with a master’s degree? Try marketing yourself when you’re a Latin Americanist and a research-oriented planner. Not many such positions exist, and those that do are taken by friends

I speak Spanish not nearly often enough. My boss asks me how to tailor our criminal justice intervention programs or chemical dependency treatment programs to Hispanics. I don’t know the answers, but sometimes I ask good questions. I wonder if I will ever “get back into my field.” But if my ILAS “field” is critical thinking, interper-

sonal communication, and understanding subcultures very different from my own, then I’m right where I belong.

who graduated ahead of you. Six months of hard searching led me my current position. I certainly never would have imagined that I would be working at the state health department.

I have had an interest in public health, however, for many years. I administered vaccines and fluoride treatments as an Amigos de las Américas volunteer in the Dominican Republic and in Paraguay after finishing high school. These experiences reinforced my desire to at least maintain my Spanish ability, and I went on to receive my bachelor’s in Spanish. My goal upon entering the joint-degree master’s program was to work with a nonprofit, community-based health organization that offered programs in Latin America. I didn’t find that job, but the position I now hold comes awfully close. I am a research specialist at the Texas Department of Health, and I have spent the last two years evaluating a breast and

sonal communication, and understanding subcultures very different from my own, then I’m right where I belong.

Luke Stollings earned an M.A. from ILAS and an M.S.C.R.P. from UT-Austin. He and Rich Ann Roche (below) were copresidents of ILASSA during the 1990–91 academic year.

cervical cancer education program that took place in El Paso.

The skills that I learned as a student in the ILAS program and as a member of the student association (ILASSA) have served me very well. Perhaps these skills are best described as being prepared to deal with people from various academic fields. Any ILAS student has experienced the necessity of being flexible enough to deal with the interdisciplinary environment that is ILAS. Epidemiologists may not know what a planner with a strong background in Latin American affairs has to offer, but I believe my combination of research skills and the ability to communicate effectively in Spanish as well as English are excellent tools to accomplish whatever they present me.

Rich Ann Roche earned an M.S.C.R.P. from UT-Austin. She and Luke Stollings were copresidents of ILASSA during the 1990–91 academic year.

ILAS Professional Development Office Links Grads to Job Market

by Paula Burrichter

The ILAS Professional Development Office (PDO) officially opened its doors in September 1995 (although I started working out of the ILAS student lounge last summer, appropriately enough), and now I can look back on a very productive year and forward to an even brighter future. Students conceived of the PDO, and past director Peter Cleaves approved it as an essential informational and networking bridge between ILAS students and the “real world.” Through numerous ILASSA meetings, a jobs/internships committee, the administering of a career-interest survey, and the comments of job consultants who passed through ILAS’s doors, the PDO was designed and has begun to connect with the vision and efforts of many ILAS students past and present.

Since the “real world” means many different things to both undergraduate and graduate students in our interdisciplinary program, I have focused on accommodating and organizing these various interests and opportunities for students in a user-friendly and multimedia way. The office maintains a small library of

publications, including select career guides and employment listing subscriptions. We keep specific organizational literature arranged in notebook and file form, distinguishing between jobs and internships for our users. I have also put together a searchable database of more than 150 organizations ranging from NGOs to the private sector, as well as a WWW page with on-line classifieds and résumé-posting mechanisms (<http://lanic.utexas.edu/ilas/pdo/> for our cyber-searchers).

ILAS Director Nicolas Shumway’s commitment to strengthening alumni ties (e.g., ILAS alumni clubs) dovetails nicely with the networking aims of the PDO. Besides my more recent involvement with incipient alumni clubs in Austin and Washington, D.C., I keep an alumni database that allows ILAS students to search for ILAS contacts according to professional interest and geographic location. Without the PDO, several internship programs sent our way by recent ILAS alumni might not have received the attention of our students. More alumni clubs are in the works, and we look

forward to the more personal contacts with the PDO.

Simply put, in my nineteen hours a week this year, I have succeeded with the PDO in building an informational infrastructure that students can readily utilize in their search for quality jobs and internships on par with ILAS's top-notch reputation. Through PDO orientation seminars, flyers, e-mail, and bulletin board postings, I have tried to keep ILAS students informed on what's new at the PDO; the feedback has been interactive and rewarding, but there is still much to be done. My wish for the coming year is that the PDO takes the communication tools now in place and fashions a strong and dynamic networking body with ILAS alumni and Latin America-related organizations. Assess, Prepare, and Network should be the PDO's anthem for 1996-97.

Paula Burcherter, who graduated from ILAS with an M.A. in 1996, was the ILAS Professional Development coordinator.

Director Meets with ILAS Alumni in Washington

On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., ILAS Director Nicolas Shumway met with the Washington-area branch of the ILAS Alumni Club. As part of his continuing commitment to strengthen ties between ILAS and its graduates, Shumway arranged an evening with the group April 2 to discuss their concerns as ILAS graduates and to hear their suggestions for students currently in the ILAS program.

One point made repeatedly by the alums was that students need a strong technical core in their education to meet the demands of today's job market. Beyond the obvious need to be computer-savvy, the grads emphasized that students need marketable skills such as those afforded by the joint-degree programs. The ILAS grads were in universal agreement, however, in defending the breadth of the ILAS master's program.

In addition to the Austin and Washington chapters, there are plans to form ILAS Alumni Clubs in key cities around the coun-

try. Although each chapter will be handled entirely by the local leadership, ILAS will provide support where possible, for example, in the form of computerized mailing lists. (Anyone interested in forming a club in their city, please contact ILAS for any guidance we can provide.) Shumway hopes eventually to send faculty lecturers to Alumni Club events and to organize educational trips, such as the recent guided tour by ILAS Ph.D. Kent Reilly to the Houston Museum of Fine Arts Olmec exhibit (see article, p. 2). The clubs will serve to link ILAS graduates and afford an opportunity for networking and mutual support as students leave ILAS and move out into the job market.

Summing up the evening, Shumway says, "Meeting with ILAS graduates in the D.C. area renewed my pride in ILAS. The quality of our graduates bears strong witness to the value of our programs."

A Hope-Inspiring Day at the White House

by Theresa Esquibel

Once-in-a-lifetime experiences that become etched into our minds can inspire an idealism that motivates, invigorates, and even complicates life. Often our idealism is what keeps those moments alive. This is my attempt to describe the personal impact of attending a White House reception for 130 women with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in January as a follow-up briefing to the 1995 UN World Conference on Women. The end result for me was another life-changing experience—as if being in China at the largest UN conference ever was not enough! The impact: not only did it inspire me to define my career goals, it gave me hope for the future of politics—a hope based on faith in women's ability to make politics better.

This hope in women results from the speeches I heard both there and at the UN conference. The conference had impressed attendees with the importance of having women with a women's agenda in policy making, whether in elected office or another capacity. This point was echoed by the First Lady as she discussed those gov-

ernments that have more equitable gender compositions than ours, and the impact that women politicians have had on those societies. She also emphasized the need for young women to pursue that kind of career. In order for the strategies agreed to in China to become anything more than rhetoric, we need to contribute to their implementation—I now plan to do my share in a policy-making capacity some day.

We next learned about the worldwide political disregard of women from surprise speaker UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright who had returned that day from Rwanda. She made the point that peace is not strictly about an absence of war or rebellions. Rather, it necessitates a harmony among all humans—with a complete absence of violence such as rape that occurs with or without wars. Ignoring this type of violence is an example of the disrespect for and disregard of women that pervade national and international security concerns. For the achievement of true equality—sustainable development and peace, the theme of the women's conference—such tradi-



Photo courtesy of the White House

ILAS student Theresa Esquibel with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

tional approaches to policy and diplomacy must be changed. Women must participate in politics for this to happen, but they must do so with women's concerns in mind.

Regarding post-Beijing action strategies, White House staff and other speakers asked the attendees to serve as community liaisons with the White House—updating them about pertinent activities and serving as contact persons for executive visits to our areas. Efforts such as this have emerged from the new Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach, developed specifically

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Spring 1996 Institute of Latin American Studies Events

January 26

Slide Show—A Brazilian slide show presented by photographer Irene Faiguenboim. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS.

January 30

México al Mediodía—*El norte de México y Texas (1850–1880): un espacio económico binacional en torno al Bravo* by Mario Cerutti, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/Univ. Autónoma de Nuevo León. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

February 1

México al Mediodía—*Frontera sin barreras: trabajadores mexicanos en Texas, 1850–1880* by Miguel González Quiroga, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/Univ. Autónoma de Nuevo León. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

February 6

México al Mediodía—*Procesos electorales en el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Guadalajara* by Luz Pérez Castellanos, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/Univ. Autónoma de Nuevo León. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

February 7

México al Mediodía—*The Contemporary Mexican Novel* by Martha Robles, Visiting Professor in the Mexican Seminar. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

February 8

México al Mediodía—*Los alfarjes del estado de Michoacán*. by Nélica Sigault, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/El Colegio de Michoacán. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

February 9

Film—*Real Brazil Film Forum: The Violent Struggle for Land*. North American premiere of *Massacre at Corumbiara*, a video by the Workers TV Network, followed by discussion. Sponsored by Real Brazil and the Brazil Center of ILAS.

Film—*Massacre at Corumbiara*. North American premiere of a video by the Workers TV Network, São Paulo, followed by discussion led by Gustavo Tornquist, Fulbright Fellow

at Texas A&M University and vice-president of Brazil's oldest environmental NGO. Sponsored by Real Brazil and the Brazil Center of ILAS.

February 13

México al Mediodía—*Relaciones hombre-fauna en Xochicalco, Morelos* by Eduardo Corona, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/INAH. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

February 14

Workshop—*Introduction to the ILAS Professional Development Office*. A session to help students learn job search skills, how to research companies on the Net, how to identify potential employers, and about the professional resources available at ILAS. Sponsored by ILASSA.

Lecture—*The SIVAM Affair: Reflections on Brazilian Democracy* by Jorge Zaverucha, Visiting Fulbright Professor, Government Dept. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS.

February 21

Lecture—*Chilean Democracy after Pinochet* by Ricardo Israel Z., Director, Institute of Political Science, Univ. de Chile, and leading Chilean political commentator. Sponsored by ILAS.

February 22

Poetry Reading and Commentary—Martín Espada, Nuyorican writer and winner of the 1990 PEN/Revson Award for Poetry and the 1991 Paterson Poetry Prize. Cosponsored by the Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese, ILAS Caribbean Working Group, and the Dept. of English.

México al Mediodía—*Sindicalismo en la frontera norte: de la participación al conformismo, los casos de Piedras Negras y Ciudad Juárez* by Cirila Quintero, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/El Colef—Matamoros. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

February 23

Discussion—*Web Page Design* by Scott McClain, UT-LANIC research associate. Sponsored by ILAS.

February 26

Lecture—*Gateway to MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay): Common Market of South America*. by Álvaro Diez de Medina, Uruguay's ambassador to the U.S. Sponsored by ILAS.

February 27

México al Mediodía—*Techioloayan Pictorial Manuscripts: The Last Tango of the Colonial Tlacuilolli* by Xavier Noguez, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/El Colegio Mexiquense. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

March 1

Lecture—*Strategies of Environmental Law Enforcement in Mexico* by Antonio Azuela, Mexico's Attorney General for the Environ-

ment. Distinguished Mexicans in Texas Lecture Series. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

March 1-2

Conference—*16th Annual Student Conference on Latin America*. Students from Latin America, the U.S., and Europe presented papers on topics ranging from literature and music to microenterprise and political ecology. Sponsored by ILASSA.

March 4

Film—*Brazilian Film Festival*. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS.

March 5

México al Mediodía—*Sexualidades marginales y sociabilidades modernas: la experiencia porfiriana* by Jorge Bracamonte Allain, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/El Colegio de México. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

Lecture—*Borges y Dios* (in Spanish) by Nicolas Shumway, ILAS Director and Professor of Spanish Language and Literature. Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese Faculty Lecture Series.

Lecture—*Women's Experience as Immigrants in the United States* by Kathy Martin, Immigration Counseling and Outreach Services. Sponsored by the Forum on Latin American Women in Celebration of International Women's Day.

March 7

Brown Bag—*ILAS Professional Development Office Resources* by Paula Burrichter to help students find out how to research companies and find jobs and internships. Sponsored by the ILAS Professional Development Office.

México al Mediodía—*Trabajo y reestructuración industrial en la década de los noventa en México* by Jordy Micheli, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/Univ. de Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle). Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

March 8

Lecture—*The First Year of the NAD Bank* by Alfredo Phillips, CEO, NAD Bank. Distinguished Mexicans in Texas lecture series. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

March 19

Lecture—*Federalism, Governance, and the PAN in Mexico* by Vicente Fox y Quesada, Acción Nacional governor of Guanajuato. Distinguished Mexicans in Texas Lecture Series. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

Lecture—*The State of U.S.—Mexico Relations* by James Jones, U.S. ambassador to Mexico. Distinguished Mexicans in Texas Lecture Series. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

March 22–24

Conference—*Theorizing the Hybrid*. UT–Austin. This international conference with a Latin American focus involved many disciplines and was cosponsored by ILAS, Anthropology, and Folklore.

March 25

Lecture—*Brazilian Women Writers and the Social Status of Women in Brazil Today* by Helena Parente Cunha and Consul General Ministra Maria Lúcia Pompeu Brasil. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS.

March 26

México al Mediodía—*Partidos en la transformación del sistema político en México* by Juan Reyes, Visiting Scholar/Former Coordinator of COMECOSO. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

March 28

Lecture—*Pain, Memory, and the Gendering of Postcolonial Medicine* by Luise S. White. Sponsored by the Working Group on Disease, Culture, and Identity; ILAS; and the Depts. of Anthropology, English, and History.

México al Mediodía—*Políticas sanitarias en los puertos de la cuenca del Caribe mexicano durante el porfiriato* by José Ronzón, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/El Colegio de México. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

March 29

Lecture—*Diary of a Survivor: Nineteen Years in a Cuban Women's Prison* by Ana Lázara Rodríguez, coauthor with Glen Garvin of a book by the same title. Sponsored by ILAS.

Lecture—*Sustainable Development and Human Rights* by Dalmo Abreu Dallari, Univ. of São Paulo. Brazil Center Speakers Series.

April 2

México al Mediodía—*Mujeres y democracia en México: las mujeres panistas de Ciudad Juárez* by Dalia Barrera Bassols, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/El Colegio de México. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

April 4

México al Mediodía—*Arte popular mexicano y género* by Eli Bartra, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/UAM. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

Lecture—*Decentralization in Brazil: Implications for Social Policy* by Vilmar Faria, social policy adviser to Brazil's President Cardoso. Sponsored by the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the Brazil Center of ILAS.

Lecture—*Physics in Cuba* by Carlos Trallero, Univ. de la Havana. Sponsored by the Dept. of Physics and ILAS.

April 5

Lecture—*Decentralization in Brazil: Implications for Social Policy* by Vilmar Faria, social policy adviser to Brazil's President

Cardoso. Sponsored by the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the Brazil Center of ILAS.

April 9

México al Mediodía—*El monstruo entre la descripción y la imagen: el estudio de las anomalías y monstruosidades en la medicina mexicana de finales del siglo XIX* by Frida Gorbach, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/UNAM–Filosofía y Letras. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

April 10

México al Mediodía—*Household Workers' Unions in Twentieth-Century Mexico* by Mary Goldsmith, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/UAM. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

April 11

Lecture—*Mujer y avance democrático* by María de los Ángeles Moreno, senator and former president of the PRI. Distinguished Mexicans in Texas Lecture Series. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

México al Mediodía—*La medición estadística mexicana: entre lo normal y lo patológico en el caso de la medicina y la sociología de la segunda mitad del siglo XIX* by Laura Chazaro, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/UNAM–Filosofía y Letras. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

April 15

México al Mediodía—*Housing, Law, and the Family: Gender Issues in Mexico* by Ann Varley, UT Visiting Scholar/U. College London–Geography. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

Lecture—*Brazilian Indians and the Global Ecological Imaginary* by Laura R. Graham, Univ. of Iowa. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

Lecture—*How Much Political Power Do Economic Forces Have? Conflicts over Social Insurance Reform in Brazil* by Kurt Weyland, Vanderbilt Univ. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

April 15–19

Film Festival—*Brazilian Films and Videos*. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

April 16

México al Mediodía—*El imaginario en el discurso de la política educativa mexicana: 1920–1940* by Luz Elena Galván, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/CIESAS. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

Roundtable—*Symposium of Brazilian Researchers: Who, What, and Why at UT–Austin?* Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

Workshop—*Business in Brazil*. Organized by the Brazilian-American Business Group.

Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

April 17

Dance Demonstration—*Dance Brazil*. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS and the Performing Arts Center as part of Brazil Week.

Lecture—*Caliban's Cooptation: The Ideology of Race Relations as Reflected in Literature* by Heitor Martins. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

Roundtable—*Public Policy and the Environment*. Featuring graduate students, professors, and visiting scholars. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

Roundtable—*Scenes of Brazilian Life: Excerpts of Art and Culture from the Baroque to the Contemporary*. Featuring graduate students and visiting scholars. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

Lecture—*The Development of "Presidencialismo" in Mexico* by José María Serna de la Garza, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, UNAM. Sponsored by ILAS and the UT Law School.

April 18

México al Mediodía—*La unidad doméstica y la segmentación ocupacional por sexo del mercado de trabajo en la zona metropolitana de Guadalajara* by Beatriz Bustos, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/CIESAS. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

Lecture—*A View from the MIGs: Inside Havana amid the Recent Crisis over Brothers to the Rescue* by Alta Charo, Univ. of Wisconsin. Sponsored by ILAS.

Workshop—*Job Search Techniques*. Paula Burcher, ILAS Professional Development Office. Sponsored by ILAS.

Lecture—*Macroeconomic Issues Facing the Brazilian Energy Industry*. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

Lecture—*A poesia na música popular Brasileira* by José Miguel Wiznik. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

April 19

Lecture—*Internet Journalism in Brazil* by Rosenthal Calmon Alves, UT–Austin. Sponsored by the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

Lecture—*Fighting Feet: Afro-Brazilian Capoeira* by Sandra Lauderdale Graham. Sponsored by the Dept. of History and the Brazil Center of ILAS as part of Brazil Week.

Musical Performance—*UT Brazilian Ensemble*. End-of-semester performance. Under the trees at ILAS.

April 20

Carnaval Party—Featuring Atravessados

do Houston. Sponsored by the Brazilian Students' Association as part of Brazil Week.

April 23

México al Mediodía—"Señor Provisor y Vicario General, solicito la separación de mi matrimonio . . .": *La relación conyugal en el arzobispado de México: 1750-1800* by Dora Dávila, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/El Colegio de México. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

April 24

Lecture—*Pure Diversity: A Discussion with Argentine Artist Mirta Toledo*. Sponsored by the Forum on Latin American Women.

Lecture—*Civil-Military Relations and Democratic Consolidations in Latin America: The Role of Latin American Militaries and the U.S. Military* by Lt. Col. (Ret.) John Fishel and Lt. Col. DeEtte Lombard, General Staff and Command School, Fort Leavenworth. Sponsored by Government Dept. and ILAS.

April 26

Lecture—*Cultural Diversity in Brazil and Its Consequences on Work Performance* by Tomasz Lenartowicz, UT-Austin. Sponsored by ILAS.

Presentation—*Sangre Boliviana and Endangered and Imaginary Animals*. CD-ROM presentation by Lucia Grossberger-Morales, Dept. of Radio-TV-Film. Sponsored by the Dept. of Radio-TV-Film and ILAS.

April 30

México al Mediodía—*Construction and Cosmology: Politics and Ideology at Tenochtitlán* by Leonardo López, C. B. Smith Visiting Scholar/Museo del Templo Mayor. Sponsored by the Mexican Center of ILAS.

May 2

Book Discussion—*Talons of the Eagles: Dynamics of U.S.-Latin American Relations* by Peter H. Smith, Director, Latin American Studies, UC-San Diego. Sponsored by the LBJ School and ILAS.

May 7

Lecture—*Cultural Context of Kallaway Herbalists: The Cultural Setting of Herbal Curing in the Andes* by Joseph Bastien, UT-Arlington. Sponsored by ILAS; Depts. of Botany, Geography, and Anthropology; and the ILAS Disease and Cultural Identity Working Group.

May 8

Lecture—*Promising Drug Leads from Kallaway Medicinal Plants: Treating AIDS with Andean Plants* by Joseph Bastien, UT-Arlington. Sponsored by ILAS; Depts. of Botany, Geography, and Anthropology; and the ILAS Disease and Cultural Identity Working Group.



ILAS Working Groups

Latin American Political Economy

This working group, which serves as an interdisciplinary forum for faculty and student work in the area and for presentations by outside political economists, brought Arun Agrawal from the University of Florida, Gainesville, for an April 29 lecture on *Poststructural Approaches to Development*.

Cultural and National Identity; Disease, Culture, and Identity in Latin America

These two working groups joined forces to host an interdisciplinary group of faculty and graduate students to explore relationships between cultural and national identity as well as the relationship between disease, culture, and identity. Funds were used to bring Luise S. White from Emory University to give a March 28 talk on *Pain, Memory, and the Gendering of Postcolonial Medicine*. This group also cosponsored a May 8 lecture by Joseph Bastien of UT-Arlington entitled *Cultural Context of Kallaway Herbalists: The Cultural Setting of Herbal Curing in the Andes*.

Gender, Ethnicity, Political Economy, and Popular and Expressive Culture in Latin America; Material Culture and Museums

Funds for these two working groups were used to help fund the conference *Theorizing the Hybrid*, held at UT-Austin March 22-24. This international conference, which focused on the mixing and blending of cultures, including language, art, cinema, and music, was cross-disciplinary and was supported on campus by many departments and programs, including ILAS, Anthropology, and Folklore. A Latin American focus predominated, with presentations on, for example, creole languages in the Caribbean. ILAS hosted a luncheon for conference participants.

Brazilian Education

In conjunction with the Brazil Center of ILAS, the Brazilian Education Working Group sponsored Brazil Week (*Semana do Brasil*) April 15-20, 1996 (see related story, p. 1). During this week, guest lecturers from many fields attended to give talks on campus. Films and videos were also provided, and a photo exhibit took place at the Benson Library. The group DanceBrazil gave performances both on campus and at Dobie Middle School, the latter arranged by the ILAS Outreach Office.

Faculty News

Henry A. Dietz, ILAS Associate Director and Associate Professor of Government, has been named to the editorial board of the academic journal *Política*, published by the Institute for Political Studies at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago. Dietz is also coeditor with Gil Shidlo of the forthcoming volume *Urban Elections in Democratic Latin America* (Scholarly Resources, in press).

Patricia A. Wilson, Associate Professor of Community and Regional Planning, is directing a research project on measuring empowerment in Cali, Colombia, during summer 1996. The project is funded by the Hogg Foundation. ILAS/CRP student Jason Belanger is assisting Wilson in her field research. Wilson is also coeditor with Christophe Demazière of *Local Economic Development in Europe and the Americas* (Mansell, 1996), reviewed on p. 6.

Student News

Two students were awarded Anna Mae Ford Fellowships for 1996-97. **Jennifer Goett**, a student in the ILAS master's program, is studying environmental pollution and solid waste management. She is currently doing research in Honduras. **Thea Kayne**, a student in the joint master's program with Community and Regional Planning, is focusing her research on economic development.

Seven C. B. Smith awards were given for 1996-97. Recipients were **Alberto Levy**, **Philip Lawrence**, **Adela Pineda Franco**, **Eric Perramond**, **Maricela Oliva**, **Michael Hironymous**, and **Tracy Citeroni**.

Brazil, *continued from page 1*

Students' Association in bringing together the Brazilian community at UT and in Texas. Nor would it have been the same without the willingness of faculty, visiting scholars, and students to come together to make joint presentations. Third was the importance of outreach and the involvement of the Austin community in the week's activities, from local and state agencies to area schoolchildren. One of the highlights of the entire week was the visit to ILAS by students from Dobie Middle School for cake and cookies and to receive certificates of completion of a language and culture program on Brazil coordinated by the ILAS Outreach Office. Fourth was the variety of activities that were included in Brazil Week, from music, dance, and videos to scholarly presentations and roundtable discussions.

No single lens captures the spirit, vitality, and complexity of Brazil. Nor can a single week of activities do justice to the breadth of resources and opportunities for Brazilians and Brazilianists at UT-Austin. However, as a culmination of the first year of activities coordinated by the Brazil Center, and as a precedent for future campuswide activities, Brazil Week was an important step. The goal of Brazil Week, and the role of the Brazil Center, is to bring together and strengthen the Brazilian studies community in the Institute of Latin American Studies, UT-Austin, and beyond. These goals were met and there are great hopes for the future.

A complete list of Brazil Week events is available in the Institute Events section here (see p. 12) or on the Brazil Center Web page (<http://lanic.utexas.edu/ilas/brazctr>). The organizing committee of Brazil Week included Gerard Béhague (Music), Lawrence Graham (Government and the Brazil Center), Cristina Ferreira-Pinto (Spanish and Portuguese), David Workman (Brazil Center), and Teodoro Netto (Brazilian Students' Association).

David Workman is the administrative assistant for the Brazil Center and a graduate student in the joint ILAS/LBJ School of Public Affairs master's program.

Outreach Program Introduces Middle School Students to Brazil Week

by Suzanne VanderPoel

A new ILAS outreach program, "Multiculturalism: Focus on Brazil," had a successful trial run this semester. In collaboration with J. Frank Dobie Middle School, the ILAS Outreach Office and Brazil Center developed a pilot program for middle school children that we hope to expand next year. Valuable to any school, it offers special promise in reaching "at risk" youth in inner city schools. Using *Vamos ao Brasil!*, an exploratory language unit developed by Elizabeth Jackson and Dale Koike, as a starting point, David Workman and I worked with teacher Lillie Webb, a team of Dobie teachers, and Brazilianist graduate students to offer a Brazilian focus in environmental, language, music, and multicultural social studies.

Brazil Week was the grand finale of this year's program. On Tuesday, April 16, ILAS and the Performing Arts Center sponsored a lecture-demonstration by DanceBrazil in the Dobie gym. More than five hundred children and a number of teachers and administrators watched a spectacular performance. One teacher commented that she had been there nineteen years and had never seen the children so attentive, respectful, and excited. The musicians and dancers interacted wonderfully with the

children. The Special Ed teachers asked afterward if they could bring their students again because they related so well to DanceBrazil. During the second visit on Thursday, DanceBrazil worked with a smaller group who joined in the dancing. The teachers, administration, and students were thrilled that something very special was happening at their school.

On Friday, the Dobie students who had completed "Focus on Brazil" visited ILAS for an awards ceremony under the trees. All of them received special certificates, and the top five received DanceBrazil t-shirts. They practiced their new Portuguese language skills with ILAS grad students Zreg Lee, who had just returned from Brazil, and Marvin McNeese, who was headed to Brazil after final exams. After celebrating with ice cream and cake, they were treated to a special performance by the UT Brazilian Ensemble. Before it was over, most of the children tried out musical instruments and joined in the music-making. It was a fun, memorable day for everyone—and a promising beginning to the kinds of collaborative activities the ILAS Outreach Office plans for the future.

Suzanne VanderPoel is coordinator of the ILAS Outreach Office.

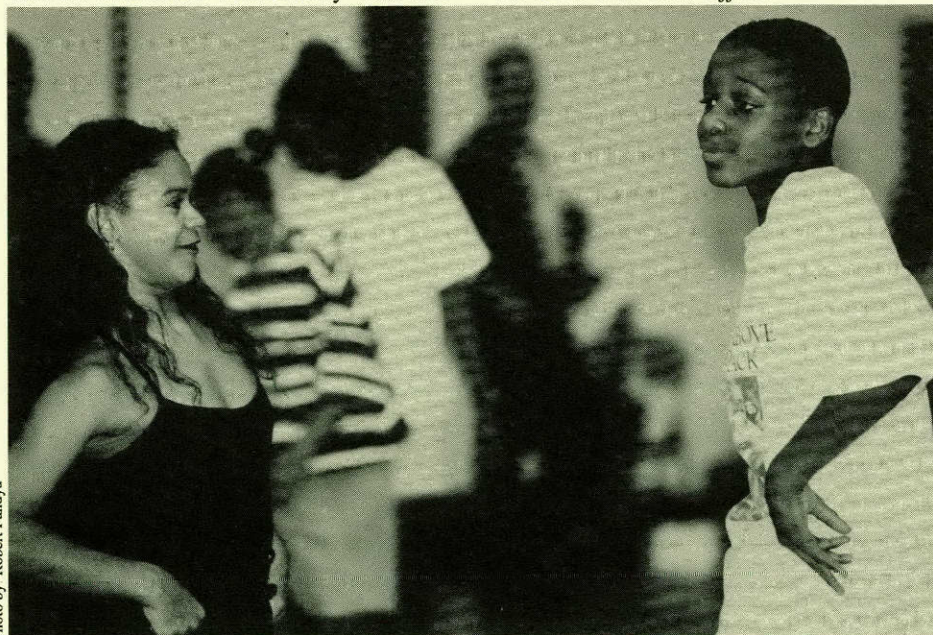


Photo by Robert Pandya

A member of DanceBrazil (left) inspires some moves from a student at Dobie Middle School at the performance there. Photo courtesy of the UT Performing Arts Center.

Visiting Rockefeller Scholars

UT's Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery sponsors the program Latin American and Latino(a) Art Research in the University Museum Context, which encourages and develops curators of Latin American art through a generous grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The visiting scholars are housed at ILAS during their stay, and they write here of their research projects.

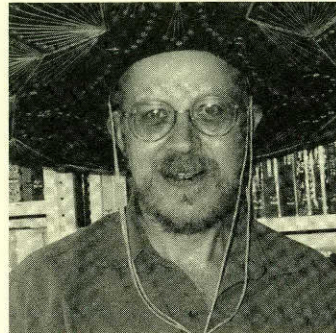
What Do You Call That? The Trilingual Museum Terminology Project

by Tony Rajer, University of Wisconsin

Lexicon is an elusive beast, especially when it comes to defining terms for museums throughout the hemisphere. What one museum calls a “picture hook” another calls a “gancho.” The matter is further complicated by the multilingual regional character of the many nations the hemisphere comprises.

With the dramatic rise in international museum projects, especially loans within the past decade, the need has arisen to document and standardize terms related to the operation of museums, not unlike the linguistic standardization projects that swept the medical field in the 1970s. The intent of the current Trilingual Museum Terminology Project is to create a document in English, Spanish, and Portuguese that will serve the museum field. The book will be divided into three sections: common phrases, individual terms, and reports that promote improved communication within the cultural sphere for museums in North, South, and Central America.

The first chapter comprises a series of commonly used phrases about loans, copyright, exhibits, and so on, such as “Who owns copyright on this work of art?” or “Can you help us organize this exhibition?” Each English phrase is followed by its equivalent in Spanish and Portuguese. It is further subdivided by headings that relate to general communication, shipping, and documentation. The second chapter is an 11,000-entry trilingual glossary of commonly used words that relate to practical museum topics, such as administration, fund-raising, conservation, legal terms, and tools. It is organized in English with the equivalent term following in Spanish and Portuguese. This section is also illustrated with



drawings of tools, etc. In many instances the other two languages do not have an exact equivalent, so a descriptive term is being written. Chapter 3 provides standard museum work forms for examination, loan agreements, and museum surveys, and standard facility reports included to act as models for agreements between museums. The total compendium is a

document in excess of 35,000 words in three languages.

The idea is to create a book that will be useful to all museums that have a need to communicate in these languages. Within the past decade more than five hundred regional exhibitions were held that required multilingual skills. Since the vast majority of the museums in the area are in Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico, I have chosen to use their terms to describe objects. Emphasis has been placed on writing a book that has immediate practical application in the field.

The research is being sponsored by the Huntington Art Gallery under the auspices of the Rockefeller Fund for Research on Latin American Art and an anonymous donor. Because of the Huntington's renowned collection of Latin American art, it seems only logical that the book be illustrated with works from the gallery's outstanding Latin American collection. In addition, several other UT departments are participating in the project, including the Institute of Latin American Studies and the Benson Latin American Collection.

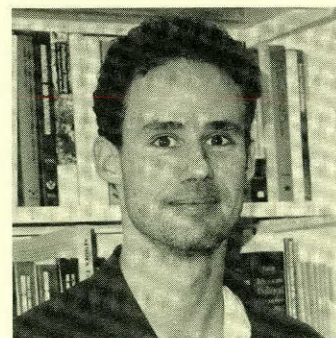
The result will be a usable reference book, practical in scope and applicable to all the museums in the Americas.

Art and National Identity

by John Wineland, University of California, Los Angeles

My experiences in Latin America began in Mexico when I was thirteen. My grandmother was running a Red Cross station in the Valle de Guadalupe at the time, and my sister and I would often travel from Los Angeles to work with her for the summer. Although I have a limited recollection of the experience, one aspect of that central Baja California reality stands out: the amazing poverty that permeated the mostly indigenous townships we visited. It left a lasting impression on me. It was also the beginning of a love affair with Mexico that continued throughout high school and college. Although curriculums did not allow for the study of Latin American or U.S. Latino history at the time, I read everything I could get my hands on.

In 1983, I began to work with a group of artists in Oaxaca. My father had established a gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, that specialized in weaving and “folk” art (although I now am reticent



to use that term). Spending time in Oaxaca and Mexico City, I became enamored of Mexican painting, especially the work of the Mexican School. In my mind, it was the perfect art form—grand, bold, and with a social agency that sought to address the problems of rural poverty and urban inequality that continued to plague Mexico. Looking back, I feel lucky to have learned about art in a country

where artistic production was not concerned simply with gallery exhibitions and market values (although, as my current work is unfortunately proving, that is rapidly changing).

In 1993, I entered graduate school in the UCLA Department of Latin American Studies. Because there are so few university programs that offer art history degrees in modern and contempo-

rary Latin American art, I was forced to construct my own curriculum. I drew from a variety of disciplines, including film, cultural studies, art history, economics, history, and anthropology. In retrospect, this cross-disciplinary approach has afforded me the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the complex changes that have befallen the artistic and cultural field in contemporary Latin American society. During my stay at UCLA, I became especially interested in the role of the museums (in both the United States and Latin America) in constructing and presenting national identities. The large, newly opened corporate-sponsored institutions, I found, were the most ambitious in the importing and exporting of culture—from Europe and the United States to Latin America and vice versa. I also discovered that they were playing a unique role in the “modernization project” that has become so dear to the Latin American and U.S. elite who are fighting to open up the region to neoliberal economic policies—no matter what the social costs may be.

It is on the strength of interest in this subject that I was awarded the Rockefeller Fellowship for the Study of Latin American Art at the Archer M. Huntington Gallery. My current project at the University of Texas is to continue this examination into the rapidly changing cultural fields of Brazil and Mexico, for I feel that they are emblematic of the larger problems that are sweeping Latin America. As neoliberalism takes hold, national artistic paradigms—so important to the utopian visions that sustain the dialogue between the intellectual left and neoconservative forces on

the right—are being challenged by “globalization minded” elites who make it very difficult for art to play a social role. This movement is an international phenomenon that is resulting in what Pierre Bourdieu calls “the abandonment of the critical intellectual” and is characterized by the reification of the art market. Hence, the incentive is for the corporate-sponsored museums to support noncritical/noncontroversial projects deemed less risky and therefore better public relations vehicles. Or there is a movement toward support of the “spectacular” exhibition, which can then be packaged and exported to Europe or the United States in support of sociopolitical or economic agendas. The goal of this project is to document these tendencies and, one hopes, offer some more democratic alternatives: ones that support the possibility of artists’ entering into a dialogue with civil society, challenging it to examine recent changes with an honest and critical eye.

I consider myself fortunate to have the chance to study a phenomenon that is still developing. I am also thrilled to have learned from the other scholars in the program, including Gustavo Buntinx, Mario Sagradini, and Maria José Herrera—an opportunity that does not often exist for Latin American art historians in the United States. I hope that the Rockefeller Fellowship Program, which will continue to bring scholars from various areas of Latin America and the United States, will help to lessen the distance that now exists—and that future participants will enjoy it as much as I have.

Art and Mass Media in 1960s Argentina

by María José Herrera, Universidad de Buenos Aires

The purpose of my research here as a Visiting Rockefeller Scholar is to explore the relationship between mass media and art in Argentina during the 1960s. The early sixties created an intense interest in communication issues.

This historic period, named after the economic model *desarrollismo* (development) produced not only in the economic field, but in the cultural field as well, a process of modernization—deeply questioned in its goals and strategies at the end of the decade. Modernization meant the incorporation of advanced technology for industry and communication and also attempts to create a new and modern art market as never before. Under these new conditions the entire cultural field needed to be redefined. The spread of mass media during the middle 1950s had an impact strong enough to modify the conditions of modern life as well as artistic practices. A new dimension of the *cultural industry* was born during those years, and consumer strategies (marketing, advertising) were applied to cultural objects as well. The artist’s image was transformed into a fashion/lifestyle paradigm. Weekly magazines and newspapers were more deeply attentive to art subjects than ever before.

This is why a group of artists worked to utilize the mass media as artistic material. One of the goals of the period was to unify two separate topics: art and life. Happenings, environments, and performances were the way they attained that utopian goal. They



appropriated reality by means of artistic strategies, trying to show some of the social conditions of contemporary society. At the same time, they were also interested in using art as a way of expanding common perceptual skills. Most of them based their ideas on Marshall McLuhan’s theories about media. By reading *Gutenberg Galaxy* or *Understanding Media*, they got such ideas as “ev-

ery medium means an extension of the human being’s sensory capacity” or the famous statement “the medium is the message.” As a result of these ideas, many events and experiments took place. A sense of understanding comes when you realize that what McLuhan is establishing is the material aspect of each medium, perhaps offering a new creative dimension to the media as artistic *material*.

The relationship between art and mass media was developed, basically, in three different ways. First of all, by using specific conditions of representation (iconic conceptions) of mass media and mass production. Such is the case in the Pop Art approach, which used comic strips, graphic advertisement, serialization, and repetition. The second way was specific research in each of the media languages and their appropriation for aesthetic proposals.

cont. page 19

Twenty Years Walking: The Memory Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo

by Susana Kaiser

Every Thursday at 3:30 P.M., in the Plaza de Mayo of Buenos Aires, a group of women wearing white scarves, accompanied by supporters, watched by some curious, monitored by the police, and ignored by rushing passers-by, holds a silent march circling the central monument of the square. For half an hour, the *desaparecidos*, repression, and the need for justice are embodied in a public demonstration that activates society's collective memory. At the end, the marchers loudly demand *Aparición con vida* (reappearance alive), a claim that summarizes their struggle. It signifies that the disappeared people were taken alive so they need to reappear alive. It means that it is necessary to have an explanation of who kidnapped them, by orders of whom, who tortured and raped, who abducted children, and, if they are dead, who killed them, when, and how.

Twenty years ago, a military coup installed a dictatorship in Argentina during which an estimated thirty thousand people disappeared. A group of women, whose daughters and sons had literally vanished, decided to join forces to search for them. Starting with nothing but their anguish,

anger, and courage, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, as they became known, managed to build the movement that posed the only visible resistance to the dictatorship. Twenty years later, justice has not yet been achieved, no one has explained what happened to the disappeared people, and the Mothers' struggle against impunity continues today, as strong as yesterday.

Categorized as madwomen, ridiculed, harassed, ignored, beaten, and jailed, three of the founding Mothers disappeared during the early period of the dictatorship. But they continued to march, for weeks, for months, for twenty years. Since the commencement of civilian rule, the Mothers have gained new labels: intransigent, insistent, vindictive, unyielding, disturbed, insatiable, and politicized women. The reason? They have refused the deals that they were offered: exhumations, posthumous homages, or financial compensations. The Mothers would not settle for less than truth and justice.

Amnesty laws protect those responsible for human rights violations. The criminals are free and accountability seems like an alien word. The country has switched from

a culture of fear to a culture of impunity. Amnesia is promoted as a healthy exercise. In the name of reconciliation, society is encouraged to look to the future and forget the past. But memory is not regulated by laws or decrees, and the need for truth and justice resurfaces, like a dark mark on a wall, impossible to cover with many coats of paint. No one can hide the presence of thirty thousand disappeared people. Even when their existence is denied, the vanished return; the Mothers bring them back every Thursday.

Twenty years later, the time for mea culpas has arrived. A few *arrepentidos* (repentants) from the armed forces have come forward to describe tortures and murders. Some within the army regret what happened. But regrets cannot replace the justice that is due to the victims, their families, and society.

The Mothers claim that they will neither forget nor forgive and that they won't let anybody else forget what happened. For them, as Milan Kundera wrote once, the struggle for power is the struggle of memory against forgetting. The Mothers have become those "memory women" who operate a "memory factory" and who, twenty years later, continue to demand truth, justice, and punishment for the culprits.

Susana Kaiser is a Ph.D. candidate in the ILAS doctoral program.

White House, *continued from page 11*

to link the White House to NGO women.

Another newly created entity is the President's Interagency Council on Women, which consists of high-level administrators representing Executive Branch agencies. It coordinates the implementation of U.S. commitments made at the UN conference. This council may be reached at <http://women.usia.gov/usia/> and 202/456-7350.

I extend my deepest thanks for the help given to me by Nicolas Shumway and Pat Boone of ILAS—which, with the UT Graduate Studies Office, sponsored my flight and enabled me to attend the event.

Theresa Esquibel is a student in the ILAS/LBJ School of Public Affairs joint master's degree program.



Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires gather following their weekly march.

Art, continued from page 17

And the third was the beginning of a new discipline, videoart.

An outstanding example of the second practice of experimentation was "Happening for a Dead Boar or the Happening That Never Took Place," performed by the artists Roberto Jacoby, Raúl Escari, and Eduardo Costa. The event was an intervention within the graphic media circuit. They made up an event ("a happening") by providing false information in a press release. The press published the information, which became *real* after being circulated in the media. What the artists wanted to prove was that in contemporary society the existence of facts in itself is mediated by the media. The event was a reflection on power and, at the same time, in an aesthetic way, one of the first approaches to a conceptual art. One of the means to conceptualism came after that kind of experimentation with the mass media. Latin American conceptualism has remarkable specificities, compared with American conceptualism, that make it quite original. The artists were dealing not only with ideas referring to art as language but trying to put in a social context of meaning. This *ideological conceptualism*, named after a Marchan Fiz characterization, talked about the social uses of the mass media in terms of manipulation in a clearly political way.

The first part of my work focused on formulating a chronology of events, classifying them into three different practices, and making an aesthetic interpretation. The second part—which I am presently working on with a Rockefeller Scholarship here at UT-Austin—involves trying to put those events in the international context of artistic discussion about mass media and to present my project as an exhibition. My research evolves within the particular language of museums. The challenge is how to communicate such immaterial things as interventions, performances, or happenings and deal with different records: photographs, tapes, films, and published documentation. An important source for me will be to study other past exhibitions with similar subjects presented in both the United States and Europe.

Latin Americanist Geographers Convene in Honduras

The UT-based Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) held its most recent international congress in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Jan. 3–6, 1996. Numerous field trips included expeditions to the northern coast, La Mosquitia, and various national parks. Many Texans were in attendance at this largest CLAG meeting ever. Current ILAS master's candidates who participated included Eric Keys (speaking on women's agriculture in Guatemala) and Jennifer Goett; other current UT students included Mark Bonta (bird conservation in Honduras), Catherine Hoover de Castañeda (sociocultural comparison of reproductive risk), Karl Offen (conservation discourses in Nicaragua), and Eric Perramond (Sonoran ranch geography). Eric Perramond won a special honor's award for best student paper, while Catherine Hoover de Castañeda led a field trip to La Tigra National Park and Valle de los Angeles.

UT alumni presenting papers included Hildegardo Córdova Aguilar (Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima) and Deborah Salazar (now with the Bureau of Economic Geology at UT).

Geographers, environmental scientists,

and planners from all over Latin America attended this meeting, which continued CLAG's tradition of organizing interdisciplinary meetings focusing on human-environment relationships. CLAG's next meeting is scheduled to be held in Lima, Peru, in late July 1997; the local organizer will be UT alumnus Hildegardo Córdova de Aguilar.

In other CLAG news, the latest (1995) issue of CLAG's refereed journal, the *CLAG Yearbook*, has now been published; distributed by UT Press, the issue features a variety of articles on refugees, local politics, regional planning, tourism, frontiers, religious geography, and the historical geography of ethnicity. CLAG's Internet news service, CLAGnet, continues to provide information on cultural, environmental, spatial, and planning issues. For further information see the web page (<http://www.maxwell/syr.edu/orgs/clag/index.html>). CLAG's headquarters continues to reside at UT under the direction of Greg Knapp.

The papers presented at April 1995's *Symposium on the Environment and the New Global Economic Order* (cosponsored by ILAS) are now available on-line on *cont. page 20*



Anne Dibble, ILAS Instructional Programs Coordinator, is presented with a complimentary ticket to Guanajuato by Martin Acevedo of ILASSA, the ILAS student organization, in appreciation of her more than fifteen years of service to the student program. The ceremony was held April 26, 1996, under the trees at ILAS. The trip was financed entirely by contributions from ILAS students.

Geographers, *continued from page 19*

EarthWorks, the first on-line journal of geography and human-environment studies. The conference helped develop a campus-wide community of interest in the intersection of law, economics, business, geography, area studies, and government, and its availability on-line will help diffuse its innovative ideas to the global community. The new electronic journal (edited by UT's Ken Foote, Greg Knapp, and Bill Doolittle) can be accessed on the Worldwide Web (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/grg/eworks/eworks.html>)

In student news, UT Latin Americanist students Karl Offen and Juanita Sundberg were honored with Fulbright grants and began their field research in Central America in early 1996. Juanita Sundberg's project focuses on the conservation process in the vicinity of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, while Karl Offen's project focuses on forest history in interior Nicaragua. Eric Perramond has more recently received a Fulbright to study ranching in northwestern Mexico.

Attendance at Maya Meetings Continues to Grow

The theme for the 1996 Maya Meetings at Texas, which took place March 7–16 and were particularly well attended this year, was *Paradigms of Power: Genesis and Foundation in Mesoamerica*. The meetings consist of four main events: The Texas Symposium, the Introductory Public Lecture on Maya Hieroglyphics, the Forum on Maya Hieroglyphic Writing, and the weeklong Long Workshops/Advanced Seminars. The Maya Meetings are sponsored by the College of Fine Arts, ILAS, the Dept. of Art and Art History, the Maya Workshop Foundation, and, this year, by a generous grant from the Bernard Selz Foundation.

This year's Texas Symposium featured papers by John Clark, George L. Cowgill, Ann Cyphers, Federico Fahsen, John Fox, Gary Gossen, Nikolai Grube, Richard Hansen, Marion Hatch, Jeff Kowalski, and Robert Sharer and David Sedat.

The Forum on Maya Hieroglyphic Writing featured Linda Schele and Matthew

Looper on *Quirigua and Copán: Sibling Rivalry in a Classic Period Kingdom*.

An in-depth introduction to reading Maya hieroglyphs was presented by Peter Mathews on Friday night, March 8.

This year's Long Workshops event was especially successful, with more than 160 people attending week-long workshops March 11–16. Hands-on sessions for novices were conducted on both Maya hieroglyphs and Mixtec codices. Advanced sessions focused on the history of Copán and Quirigua, Classic Maya grammar, the Dresden Codex, the iconography of Teotihuacan, and other topics.

The Maya Meetings at Texas have expanded over the years to include all of Mesoamerica and other relevant areas of indigenous America. For information on the 1997 meetings, call 512/471-6292 (=MAYA) or write: Peter Keeler, Maya Meetings, P.O. Box 5645, Austin TX 78763.



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