

A close-up photograph of a coffee plant branch. The branch is covered with large, dark green, glossy leaves that have prominent veins. Several clusters of small, bright yellow flowers are visible, some in full bloom and others as buds. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a dense coffee plantation.

Spring 2009

University of Maryland
**LATIN
AMERICAN
STUDIES
CENTER**

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Director of the Latin American Studies Center
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Edwin David Perez

Web Master

Shane Dillingham

Research Assistant

LASC Board

Janet Chernela (Anthropology and LASC); Judith Freidenberg (Anthropology); Patricia Heron (McKeldin Library); Patricio Korzeniewicz (Sociology); Roberta Lavine (Spanish and Portuguese); Yelena Luckert (McKeldin Library); Eyda Merediz (Spanish and Portuguese); Vivianne Salgado (Jimenez-Porter Writers' House); Saúl Sosnowski (International Programs); Nelly Stromquist (Education); Mary Kay Vaughn (History); Dierdre Williams (Graduate Member).

Latin American Studies Center

0128B Holzapfel Hall
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Phone: (301) 405-6459
Email: lasc@umd.edu

www.lasc.umd.edu

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On the cover: Coffee plants
from www.cybertruffle.org.uk.

Director's Note

Karin Roseblatt

Over forty faculty members and graduate students met on Friday, January 30, for a day-long discussion on future directions for LASC. With the help of Laura Scott and Mark Brimhall-Vargas of the campus Center For Leadership & Organizational Change, we took stock of where we stood and charted priorities.

The day-long retreat provided *LASC-eros* with the opportunity to meet new Latin Americanists and Caribbeanist, renew ties to old colleagues, and discover shared concerns. We identified areas of strong common interest: the Caribbean and its relation to "Latin America"; migration and immigration; transatlantic and North-South connections; the environment; and social inequality. I have already heard rumors that graduate student-faculty workshops are being formed that explore some of these areas of common concern. By the time you read this newsletter, you may already have become involved in one of these initiatives. And our doors are always open to new topics and groups!

Participants in the LASC retreat were unanimous in their desire to connect with colleagues across

the campus. The need for more, and more sustained, interdisciplinary dialogue was a theme throughout the day. We discussed the need to dismantle institutional barriers, find ways to teach with our colleagues, make our curricula more interdisciplinary, and shape a physical environment that allows us to communicate and interact more effectively. We will need to work with others around the campus to achieve these goals.

Our Latin Americanist and Caribbeanist faculty want to have an impact on the undergraduate and graduate student communities at UMD and work with other interdisciplinary programs and centers, especially our colleagues in Latino Studies. We also see a need to work collaboratively with potential allies further afield, in biology, engineering, landscape architecture, and business. We also want to reach out to constituencies beyond the campus—in College Park, the State of Maryland, the DC policy community, and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Based on the discussions at the

LASC retreat, I propose the following for your consideration as a mission statement: "LASC stimulates and supports interdisciplinary teaching and research that serves local and regional communities as well as policymakers and the broader public in the United States and Latin America." Please let me or other members of the LASC Board know what you think of this proposal. Board members will be discussing a mission statement in the weeks to come.

On a more personal note: I took over LASC in October. It has been intensely gratifying to see how active and engaged our faculty and students are. That gives us the strongest possible base from which to move forward. At a time of economic gloom and programmatic stasis, I am decidedly optimistic about LASC.

*LASC members at the retreat,
January 30, 2009*



The Fate of the Forest: Indigenous Communities, NGOs, and Conservation in the Amazon

By Janet Chernela and Laura Zanotti

Next summer, LASC Professor Janet Chernela will again lead sixteen University of Maryland students deep into the Amazon rainforest. For six weeks, participants will live and work alongside the indigenous peoples and researchers in the center of the Kayapó people's protected lands. There, the class "Brazil Anthropology: Environmental Conservation & Indigenous Peoples" (ANTH 498C, LASC 448C) will visit and study an ongoing partnership between the Kayapó and Conservation International, one of the world's largest and most important environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The program, which has run three times since 2004, provides students with an opportunity to study the unique

success of the Kayapó's conservation efforts and witness the challenges that the people of the Brazilian Amazon face.

The Kayapó indigenous peoples of Pará and Mato Grosso states in Brazil have organized and created strategic partnerships to stop the wave of deforestation and fires sweeping across the southeastern Amazon basin. The indigenous Kayapó depend on the forest and savannah for their livelihoods and have actively defended their land against invasion by ranching, logging, and gold-mining. Since the federal demarcation of their lands less than two decades ago, they have successfully protected the 2,000 kilometer border of their reserve, the Terra Indígena Kayapó. Today,

this territory forms a virtual barrier to widespread deforestation taking place in the Brazilian Amazon.

The Kayapó territories represent one of the largest remaining tracts of neotropical rainforest in the world. The Kayapó, who continue to practice hunting and horticulture, have effectively protected their lands through organization, political prowess, and technological advances. In 1989, they earned worldwide recognition for their precedent-setting victory in halting a large hydroelectric project that would have inundated their lands. Today, the Kayapó supplement their own on-the-ground monitoring of their territory with overflights and Landsat imaging made possible through their partnership with Conservation International.

Many now recognize the role of the indigenous peoples who have occupied, managed, and defended the forests of the Amazon for millennia. In the face of growing threats to both the land and the people, the relationship between indigenous peoples and the forests in which they live takes on a new urgency.

In a remarkable new arrangement, a number of indigenous groups of the Brazilian Amazon are participating in partnerships with outside entities intended to increase the security of their lands. The UMD class visits and works with one such innovative partnership in which indigenous

UMD student Beth Woodall receiving face painting



Men dance at a child's naming ceremony, Kayapo village, 2008

peoples participate in decision-making and knowledge-sharing with researchers and environmentalists. Students learn how the Kayapó collaborate with local and international organizations to sustainably protect their cultural and natural heritage.

Students in University of Maryland's summer study abroad program to the Brazilian Amazon consider linkages between local indigenous communities and international conservation.

Participants address the priorities of one of the most prominent indigenous nations of Amazonia and link its challenges with western beliefs and values of nature, concepts of biodiversity, and tropical forest ecology. In doing so, the class analyzes more deeply the threatened aspects of Kayapó culture.



The course is directed by anthropologist Janet Chernela of UMD and tropical ecologist Barbara Zimmerman of Conservation International, together with Kayapó specialists Laura Zanotti and Adriano Jerozolinski of the Protected Forest Association (a Kayapó NGO), and five Kayapó instructors. It combines presentations by Brazilian government officials, NGO representatives, and local actors with visits to museums and the opportunity to stay in an ecological research station and an indigenous village in the heart of Kayapó territory.

The course allows students to study the many aspects of indigenous conservation, as well as examine a unique indigenous-NGO partnership in protecting the environment. From learning about the relationship between Brazil nuts and small mammals to discovering body painting practices, students get many hands-on opportunities to explore the social and ecological dynamics in the region. The class provides an

unusual opportunity to experience conservation strategies in an interactive environment.

The class is available at the graduate and undergraduate levels. For more information, contact chernela@gmail.com or visit www.international.umd.edu/studyabroad/1184.

Dr. Janet Chernela is a professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Latin American Studies Center at the University of Maryland. She has conducted fieldwork among indigenous peoples in the Brazilian Amazon for over twenty-five years and is author of the book, The Wanano Indians of the Brazilian Amazon: A Sense of Space as well as over sixty articles on issues of indigenous peoples, conservation policy, gender, and language.

Laura Zanotti received her MA and PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Washington. She has been researching the complex relationships between nature and society and has worked with Kayapó communities since 2006. Laura visited the Kayapó region for the first time as a student in the 2004 UMD course.



Kayapó territory, Brazil.

LASC Profiles

Jacqueline Messing and Nelly Stromquist



Jacqueline Messing
Visiting Fellow, LASC

Jacqueline Messing is a linguistic, cultural and educational anthropologist, on leave this year from her position as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida to write a book entitled *Being Indian in a Modern World: Identity, Language, Ideology, and Social Change in Colonial and Contemporary Tlaxcala, Mexico*. Professor Messing has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in the state of Tlaxcala, Mexico since 1996 on Nahuatl/Spanish bilingualism, identity, linguistic ideology, native language revitalization and the politics of bilingual schooling. Most recently she has been studying sixteenth century Nahuatl narratives. Recent articles have appeared in *Language in Society*, *International Journal of Sociology of Language*, and *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*.

In the future she will be collaborating on a funded project co-written by Tlaxcalan bilingual teachers and historians to document the local oral tradition in Nahuatl-

speaking communities in this central Mexican state. While at UMD Professor Messing is teaching a new course (cross-listed with Anthropology) entitled "Identity, Discourse and Ethnography in Latin American Indigenous Communities."



Nelly P. Stromquist
Professor, College of Education

Nelly P. Stromquist is a new professor of international and comparative education in the College of Education at the University of Maryland. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in international development education and her M.A. and B.A. from the Monterrey Institute of Foreign Studies in political science. Dr. Stromquist specializes in issues related to international development education and gender, which she examines from a critical sociology perspective. She has considerable experience in formal and non-formal education, particularly in Latin America and West Africa. Her research interests focus on the dynamics among educational

policies and practices, gender relations, social justice, and societal change. More recently, she has been studying how the processes of globalization are shaping structures and functions of education, especially at the higher education level.

Her most recent books are: *Feminist Organizations and Social Transformation in Latin America* (Boulder: Paradigm, 2006), (ed.) *The Professoriate in the Age of Globalization* (Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, 2006), (ed.) *La construcción del género en las políticas públicas. Perspectivas comparadas desde América Latina* (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 2006), *Género, educación y política en América Latina* (Santillana, 2004), and *Education in a Globalized World. The Connectivity of Economic Power, Technology, and Knowledge* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2002).

She has served as associate editor of the *Comparative Education Review* and is on the editorial board of various journals in the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, South Africa, and Brazil. She has served as a consultant to several international organizations, including UNESCO, the International Institute for Educational Planning, USAID, and the World Bank. She is former president of the Comparative and International Education Society and a 2005-2006 Fulbright New Century Scholar.

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Email lasc@umd.edu.

Interview with Luisa Rodríguez

Anna Nelson

This year, University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism is hosting three Latin American journalists as Humphrey Fellows. The Fellows spend ten months studying and participating in other professional development activities. The Humphrey Fellowships, offered yearly in fifteen campuses across the United States, is part of the Fulbright exchange program funded by the U.S. State Department and administered by the Institute of International Education. Since the program's start in 1993, the University of Maryland has hosted 184 fellows from over eighty countries. Luisa Fernanda Rodríguez Quiroa comes to Maryland from Guatemala, where she covers politics and migration issues for the national daily Prensa Libre.

Why did you want to become a journalist?

Finding our real vocation and also having the chance to work doing what we like is a true blessing not all professionals have. That is why I think I am blessed to be a journalist because I can work doing what I love to do: writing. That is why I became a journalist.

What areas interest you most?

The problems in Guatemala are related to nationalism, race, class and gender. Guatemalans today live with the consequences of the conflict—a society dealing with the aftermath of nearly four decades of state terror and one of the most unequal distributions of wealth in the hemisphere. After thirty-six years of internal war, as a journalist I have a lot of work to do covering many stories. But also, immigration is a huge issue in Guatemala because ten percent of the population lives in the United States. Immigration is my specialty and my most important issue.

What has been your most interesting experience as a journalist in Guatemala?

Reporting how Guatemalans live in the United States. The topic took on a new strength in my life and the newspaper. Since 2000, my visits to the United States have increased and I reached a new awareness of the migration issues that affect one out of every ten Guatemalans. As part of my work, I also had the opportunity to travel to New York after the 9/11 attacks. Several Guatemalans lost their lives there along with people from all over the world. I experienced moments of fear and anguish while I covered this story.

What made you want to study in the United States? At the University of Maryland?

I am a fellow of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship (Fulbright Program). The program at the University of Maryland is a valuable resource for all of us. The College Park community is large and people here have a lot of experience in journalism.

What do you hope to gain from your experience at UMD?

My dream is to return to Guatemala to contribute as a university teacher and journalist, especially to help new generations. The more professional people get involved in transforming their country, the more immigration will be reduced and our environment will get better.

What has been your most interesting experience as a journalist and student in Maryland?

The opportunity to meet interesting teachers who really care about their classes. And to be here in this historic moment in the United States I think was great as a student and a journalist. The Humphrey Fellowship program at University of Maryland also has professionals from fifteen countries, so that has helped me to better understand new cultures.

What do you hope to do when you return to Guatemala?

Share new ideas and work with new generations. There are very few Guatemalan journalists that have had the chance to go to university, can speak another language and are committed to their profession. I hope to do a better job and help them, especially Guatemalan women.

Luisa Rodríguez interviewing Alvaro Colom, President of Guatemala, during the September, 2008 United Nations Assembly.



Coffee Break in Colombia

By William M. Rivera

Three University of Maryland professors recently spoke at a National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia (NFCC) conference in Bogotá and the Department of Caldas, Colombia.

At the three day seminar on “Science and Tropical Agriculture in the Twenty-first Century,” Dr. David A. O’Brochta (Center for Biosystems Research, Biotechnology Institute) spoke on “Transgenesis and the Future of This Technique as a Strategy for Controlling Insects.” Dr. Raymond John St. Leger (Entomology Department, Plant Sciences) addressed the issue of “Biological Control Agents for Vegetable Protection,” and Dr. William Rivera (International Adult and Extension Education, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources) reviewed “Agricultural Extension System Reforms and the Challenges Ahead.”

Twenty-five scientists and scholars from various countries and international organizations also participated in the event, which NFCC held to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of its research center, Cenicafe.

The NFCC, sponsor of the Juan Valdez coffee commercials, was founded in 1927 as a non-profit syndicate aimed at fostering collaboration, participation and innovation in the coffee industry. As the country’s largest member-owned producer cooperative, the NFCC currently has 373,000 member coffee growers and houses one of the country’s best-funded research centers. The laboratory’s agricultural extension service helps advance research on coffee growing and allows the Colombian coffee industry to

remain a leader in the highly competitive global marketplace for coffee exports. NFCC and UMD maintain a special relationship in which researchers in the two institutions trade expertise, share information and collaborate on projects relevant to the coffee industry.

Internationally, Cenicafe maintains agreements with Cornell University, the University of Maryland, and institutions such as the Institute for Research on Development (IRD) in France, the Common Fund for Commodities (an inter-governmental fund established by the United Nations), CABI (a not-for-profit organization specializing in scientific publishing, research and communication) and the CIFC in Portugal, among others.

These international connections also bring University of Maryland scientists into greater communication with colleagues from other countries and organizations. The opportunity to collaborate with NFCC is an important aspect of our university’s efforts to form a global knowledge-sharing network and strengthen our world-class institution.

Dr. Rivera is a professor at the Institute of Applied Agriculture in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He is an expert in agricultural knowledge and information systems and has field and consulting experience in Bolivia, El Salvador, Paraguay, Guatemala, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

Left: Coffee Berries in Pereira



LASC234 and LASC235 Issues in Latin American Studies I and II with Prof. Williams. LASC234 and LASC 235 form a two-course undergraduate sequence about the peoples and cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean. Using an interdisciplinary, multimedia approach, Issues in Latin American Studies I and II explore the complexities of Latin American civilization from the fourteenth century to the present, and the various ways that Latin American culture and society can be understood in a North American academic setting. Each course meets requirements for the Latin American Studies Certificate Program and the History major. Taught in English.

LASC 234 meets 06/01/09-07/12/09
MWF..... 2:00pm- 4:15pm

LASC235 meets 07/13/09-08/23/09
MWF..... 2:00pm- 4:15pm

LASC429A Special Topics in Latin American Studies: The Aztecs with Prof. Maffie. An examination of the history, cultural practices, social structure, economics, religion and philosophy of the Aztecs of central Mexico, ranging from the founding of their capital city, Tenochtitlan, in 1325 to its fall in 1521.

Meets 06/01/09-07/12/09
TuTh..... 6:00pm- 9:15pm

LASC448B Special Topics in Latin American Studies: Inter and Intra-state Conflict and Its Resolution in Latin America with Prof. Edy Kaufman. Integrates the analysis of violent domestic and international conflict in Latin America and alternative approaches for its resolution. Providing a historical background to conflicts in the region, the curriculum primarily

focuses on contemporary developments, particularly those opening up new possibilities for conflict resolution in the post-Cold War and globalization periods. The first part deals with macro-analysis and alternative explanatory theories for the limited violence in inter-state conflicts and the emergence of a zone of peace in the continent. The second part of the course covers selected case studies of conflicts that have been managed in the last decades, as well as those that are still latent and may require preventive action. The course will end with a discussion about present and future trends of conflicts in the region and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, in both Track I and Track II diplomacy.

Meets 07/13/09-08/23/09
TuTh..... 2:00pm- 5:20pm

Study Abroad in Latin America

LASC448C Brazil Anthropology: Environmental Conservation & Indigenous Peoples

Dates in 2009 TBD

This unique ethnological field course is offered in cooperation with the indigenous Kayapó community of A'Ukre and NGO Conservation International in the southeastern Amazon rainforest. UMD has arranged for a small class of students to visit this reserve, live among the Kayapó, and be taught by them along with researchers. The course will address biodiversity concepts, tropical forest ecology, conservation of Amazonia, and the role of the indigenous Kayapó in the protection of their lands. *See page 4 for article.*

ENST 499/ENST 689/MEES 698 Brazil: Ecology and Natural Resource Management

July 31 - August 15, 2009

This course will highlight the major biomes of Brazil with a focus on wildlife habitats, sustainable agriculture, Golden Lion Tamarin ecology and conservation, ecotourism, and university and other institutional programs focused on ecology, conservation, and natural resources management. The second and third week of the course will

take place in Rio de Janeiro. This course is intended to help students increase their understanding of similarities and differences between natural resources management issues in the states of Maryland and Rio de Janeiro.

ANTH 498W / 698 W Jamaica: Ethnographic Field School - National Celebration & Identity

July 11 - August 10, 2009

This course examines the vibrant Festival celebrations in Kingston, Jamaica as well as celebrations associated with Emancipation Day and Independence Day. Investigations will provide students with opportunities to enhance their skills in ethnographic research methods such as observation, participant-observation, informal interviewing, and semi-structured interviewing. Students will also explore the relationships between national identity, history, and national celebrations while examining/contrasting their own culture(s) and themselves in relation to their culture.

ANTH 498J / 698J Jamaica: Internship/ Ethnographic Assessment of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues in Jamaica

July 11 - August 10, 2009

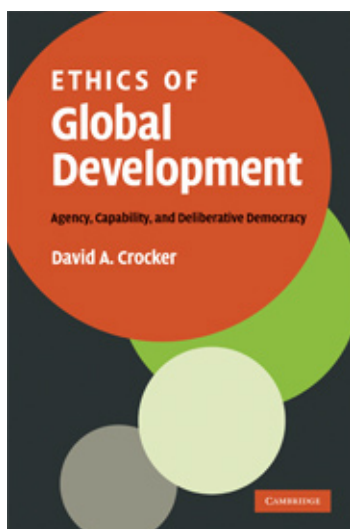
This unique study abroad course provides students with the opportunity to study adolescent sexual and reproductive health in a cross-cultural context, focusing on education, treatment, and prevention in Jamaica. Students will serve as interns, gaining valuable hands-on experience while applying ethnographic techniques to their inquiry. Participants will be assigned to either an agency or organization in Jamaica working on adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues, or with UMD's Cultural Systems Analysis Group in their collaboration with organizations working on these issues in Jamaica and the broader Caribbean region.

GEOG328 The Geography of Northern Caribbean

May 26 - June 5, 2009

This course is a hands-on, regional geography field course, taught in English. Students will become explorers themselves as they spend eleven days in Puerto Rico and the Saba and Montserrat islands studying the physical and human geography of the island. The topical areas of study will include: physical geography (landforms, climate, geology and biogeography); early colonization; government; pre-Columbian native cultures; and the nature and the impact of colonization waves. Participants will stay in small hotels and inns at various locations around Puerto Rico and islands.

David Crocker (Maryland School of Public Policy) has recently completed a new book, *Ethics of Global Development: Agency, Capability, and Deliberative Democracy*, and is currently undertaking a research project with the Inter-American Development Bank on “Trade, Poverty Reduction, and Democratization in Peru and Chile.”



Mary Kay Vaughan (History), with support of a Guggenheim Fellowship, is in Oaxaca to complete the biography of Mexican painter Jose Zuñiga, whose life story provides a mirror onto Mexico City from the 1940s to the years of youthful rebellion in the 1960s. She gave a paper on “The Public Sphere and the Reconceptualization of Politics in Mexico City, 1940-1970” at the American Historical Association meetings in a panel that also included Paula Halperin, doctoral candidate in the History Department. She will present another paper in the Seminario de Historia Social directed by Professor Clara Lida at the Colegio de Mexico in March. She is also the new president of the Conference on Latin American History, the asso-

ciation of Latin American historians in the United States.

William Rivera (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources) is scheduled to attend the Association for International Agricultural Education and Extension 25th Annual Conference in May, to be held near San Juan, Puerto Rico. He may also undertake a consultancy in Argentina in September/October to assist Ministry of Agriculture officials in the development of that country’s national agricultural extension system, Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA).

James Maffie (LASC Visiting Professor) is currently writing a book entitled *A World in Motion: Understanding Aztec Metaphysics*.

Ana Patricia Rodríguez (Spanish and Portuguese) has finished her book *Dividing the Isthmus: Central American Transnational Histories, Literatures, and Cultures*, which will be published by the University of Texas Press in May 2009 (<http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/roddiv.html>). She is also co-editing with Linda Craft (Northpark University) and Dr. Astvaldur Astvaldsson (University of Liverpool) *De la hamaca al trono al más allá: Ensayos críticos sobre la obra de Manlio Argueta*, which will be published in El Salvador in 2010. She has been awarded a UMD General Research Board Award for the summer of 2009 to complete a third book manuscript titled “*Same Story, Different Endings*”: *War, Trauma, and Cultural Memory in the Salvadoran Diaspora*. She has also been invited to present at the symposia “Representation of Violence in Latin America” at the University of Texas, Austin, March 6-7, 2009, and “Contempo-

rary Central American Literature” at the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas de San Salvador, on April 15-17, 2009. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Central American Section of the Latin American Studies Association.

Eyda Merediz (Spanish and Portuguese) has undertaken a project centered on the writings of Bartolomé de las Casas and his greater legacy throughout the ages; see her co-edited volume (with Santa Arias) on *Approaches to Teaching the Writings of Bartolomé de las Casas* (MLA 2008). She is also researching more contemporary Caribbean Studies, specifically Cuban cinema and literature and its trans-national dimension. This is shown in her co-edited volume (with Nina Gerassi-Navarro) *Otros estudios transatlánticos: lecturas desde lo latinoamericano* (ILLI, Forthcoming 2009).

Regina Harrison (Spanish and Portuguese) was chosen to be a Study Leader for a Smithsonian Journeys tour to the heartland of the Incas (Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, and the Sacred Valley) in February, 2009. She will lecture on the Quechua oral tradition, the domestication of plants (potato in particular), the origins of indigenous civilization in Peru, and the complex role of tourism in the Andes. Harrison led seven short term hiking-study tours to the Andes and was the director of two semester programs in Ecuador in 1980-1994.

Would you like to contribute to the LASC newsletter?

Email lasc@umd.edu.

LASC Retreat. Forty-five members of the LASC community met to discuss their visions for Latin American and Caribbean studies on campus and strategize about future directions for the Center.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009
9:00AM-4:30PM,
McKeldin Library 6137

“Obstacles to Consensual Democracy in Latin America: Some Personal Observations in Guatemala, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina and Uruguay” by **Edy Kaufman**. Dr. Edy Kaufman is Co-Director of CIDCM’s Partners in Conflict and Partners in Peacebuilding Projects, and has served both as Director of CIDCM and as Executive Director of the Truman Institute for Peace at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009
12:00PM-1:00PM
0139 Tydings Hall

“Housing Development: Housing Policy, Slums, and Squatter Settlements in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, 1948-1973” with **Leandro Benmergui**, PhD candidate in the History Department.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009
12:00PM-1:00PM
0128-B Holzapfel Hall

LASC Career Night. Students interested in Latin American Studies are invited to listen to a panel of speakers from the Peace Corps, the Woodrow Wilson Center, the Experiment in International Living, FINCA International, and the Centre for Development and Population Activities.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009
6:30PM-8:30PM
Francis Scott Key 2120

The Washington Area Seminar on the History of Latin America. WASHLA meets once a year to discuss faculty and graduate student work-in-progress.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 -
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009
2110 Taliaferro Hall
12:30PM-5:30PM,
8:15AM-12:00PM

“Identity, Ideology, and Social change in Colonial and Contemporary Indigenous Mexico: Thoughts from a book in progress” with **Jacqueline Messing**. Dr. Messing will be giving a brown-bag lecture on the work she is doing as a LASC fellow.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009
12:00PM-1:00PM
0128-B Holzapfel Hall

“Issues in Nahua Identity and Language: Past and Present” Workshop. This interdisciplinary workshop will explore issues of identity and language among Nahuatl-speaking peoples from both historical and contemporary perspectives. A group of scholars from various disciplines will come together to present and discuss each other’s current research. Topics will include: relationships between language and identity; problems of translation; interpretations of colonial narratives; and ethnography in contemporary Nahua communities.

FRIDAY, MAY 1 -
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009
2:00PM-4:30PM, 8:45AM -11:45AM

“The UNESCO Race Statements of 1951: Intellectual Background, Political Context” with **Edgar Krebs**, member of the Smithsonian Institution and Professor in the Anthropology Department.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2009
6:00PM-8:00PM
Woods Hall Seminar Room

Conference in celebration of Professor Emerita Graciela Palau de Nemes: Critic and Educator. LASC is pleased to cooperate with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, the College of Arts and Humanities, the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Jiménez-Porter Writers’ House and the Embassy of Spain in holding an event dedicated to Graciela Palau de Nemes, a prominent Latin American and Spanish literature critic and former UMD professor.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009
9:00AM -7:30PM
David C. Driskell Center

For more information
on upcoming LASC
events, visit

[www.lasc.umd.edu/Events/
currentevents.html](http://www.lasc.umd.edu/Events/currentevents.html)

or subscribe the the LASC
weekly FYI listserv by emailing

lasc@umd.edu.

LASC provides a variety of courses on issues relevant to Latin America and the Caribbean in both English and Spanish, facilitates research on a diverse range of topics pertaining to the region, conducts outreach programs to U.S.-Latino communities, and holds several national and international conferences and symposia yearly.

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\$250

\$100

\$50

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