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The LASG & CLAG Newsletter is a joint publication of the Latin America Specialty Group of the AAG and the Conference of Latin Americanist

# LASG & CLAG NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 110

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## CLAG NICA



## Granada 2009

Watch CLAGnet and future issues of the *LASG & CLAG Newsletter* for details of CLAG NICA Granada 2009.

Plan for early January, 2009.

The CLAG NICA Granada 2009 Organizing Committee is continuing work on the next CLAG meetings, scheduled for early January, 2009. Specific dates will be forthcoming in early 2008, as the committee members finalize contracts with venues for dates.

To include as many members as possible, the Organizing Committee will have a call for those individuals willing to organize and lead field trips for the conference. The area around Granada, Nicaragua, abounds with interesting geographic venues, and field trips will be planned for both before and after the conference.

Craig Revels & Taylor E. Mack, Co-Chairs, Organizing Committee  
tmack@latech.edu  
revels@pdx.edu

Special thanks to Bill Davidson for unofficially helping with the conference.

## MESOAMERICA Welcomes New Editors

After ten years of service, Armando Alfonso (Plumsock Mesoamerican Studies) and W. George Lovell (Queen's University) will hand over the editorial reins of *Mesoamerica* to Christophe Belaubre (Universite de Toulouse) and Jordana Dym (Skidmore College). Armando and George will oversee the production of the landmark 50th issue of *Mesoamerica*, scheduled to appear in June 2008, with Christophe and Jordana tak-

ing charge from *Mesoamerica* 51 (2009) on. Since its inception in 1980, *Mesoamerica* has evolved to become the premier Spanish-language journal devoted to scholarly work on southern Mexico and Central America. Subscription details may be obtained from Susan Feinberg at Plumsock Mesoamerican Studies in South Woodstock, Vermont (pmsvt@aol.com).

# Message from the CLAG Chair

Greetings!

The Sunday New York Times travel section recently (10/14/2007) highlighted Granada, Nicaragua, and it reminded me of our next meeting site in early 2009. What an exciting place to be going! Take a look at the article if you missed it.

AAG planning has happened with deadlines past, now we all need to prepare our papers and posters. There will be many sessions of interest to CLAGistas, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting. As always I urge you to attend the joint CLAG/LASG business meeting – stay tuned for notices about date and time. As we prepare for the meeting, think about possible students who should be encourage for the Field Award.

CLAG is doing well these days. Our new Executive Director, David Robinson, has been busy digitizing old CLAG yearbooks and other materials (see elsewhere in the newsletter). This will make our older publications that much more accessible. I know that the ultimate goal is to add all of the yearbooks to Project Muse for even greater accessibility. We do all new to continue to encourage membership, so please continue to encourage your new Latin Americanists colleagues and students to join CLAG!

abraços

**Antoinette WinklerPrins**  
CLAG Chair of the Board  
East Lansing, Michigan, USA

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## CLAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

# Letter from the Chair, LASG

## AAG Paper Session Sponsorship

The October 31 AAG deadline for paper session proposals and abstract submission for the annual meeting in Boston in April 2008 is nearly upon us. <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2008/papers.htm> I would like to mention that the Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) welcomes sponsorship of sessions that deal with the many and varied aspects of Latin American geography.

Latin America has had tremendous visibility at prior AAG meetings through many sponsored sessions. I hope we will be able to match or increase the number of top notch sessions that LASG sponsored last year. As the abstract submission deadline for the AAG meeting is approaching, I would like to remind everyone seeking sponsorship of an organized session to contact the LASG chair with session information (including session title, name of session organizer/organizers, names of participants and paper titles). The proposed sponsorship will be circulated among the officers and you will have your approval within a couple of days.

My understanding is that LASG sponsorship can be established before, during or after the October 31 abstract submission deadline, however, before the program is finalized. Please note that to officially establish the sponsorship for purposes of the AAG program, the information must be submitted on line by the session organizer and in order for the session organizer to do this he or she must have registered session participants and PIN numbers for each.

The advantage of sponsorship is that hopefully there will be greater continuity and less conflict in scheduling for those wishing to attend many sessions about Latin America. We also tend to support each others presentations and having them organized sequentially and often in the same room is more convenient and maximizes attendance. LASG would like to compile a list of sponsored sessions and advertise them to the wider geography community when the registration period is over. If you have any questions, please contact me.

I look forward to seeing you all in Boston in April !!

**Betty E. Smith**  
Chair, Latin America Specialty Group  
[besmith@eiu.edu](mailto:besmith@eiu.edu)

# From the Executive Director, CLAG

Executive Director David Robinson reports that the CLAG archival holdings are currently being catalogued at Syracuse University and when this process is completed the complete catalog will be made available online via the CLAG webpage and that of the Syracuse University Archive. If anyone has any materials pertaining to CLAG's history and affairs and wishes to deposit it in the archive, please send a brief description of the same to David.

CLAGistas will have noted that thanks to the efforts of Tom Martinson, the 1990 Benchmark volume is now online in digital format at the CLAG website, each article separate and downloadable. We shall be adding each of the Yearbooks in the future, with the hope that Project MUSE will take them all over in due course. David is still negotiating.

Members will have noted that David has begun the process of digitizing all of the CLAG publications, prior to the establishment of the *Journal of Latin American Geography* in 2002. These are being added to the CLAG webpage as they become available. The hope is that these can be added to the Project MUSE site at some future date. In addition to the 1990 Benchmark volume, the 1994, 1995, 2000, and 2001 volumes are online. These volumes can be accessed through the CLAG webpage (<http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm>) under "Publications."

And please remember, wearing his editorial hat, David reminds us that:

***"A download a day" from JLAG is good for the health of CLAG!!***

***Remember to use PROJECT MUSE for downloading articles from the Journal of Latin American Geography. CLAG receives revenues whenever JLAG articles are accessed.***

# Geografwiki

## Collaborations for Geographers of the Americas

**Geografwiki** just one of the results of the excellent NSF-funded AAMIGA Project (Advancing Academe: A Multidimensional Investigation of Geography in the Americas) directed and recently completed by **Patricia Solís** of the AAG.

We hope that everyone will participate in what could be a major advance in integrating geographers and geography in the Americas. As everyone will know, in the "wiki-world" everything depends on participation, so please become a member and send suggestions, open portals, discussion groups.... In any of the four languages available.

Our thanks and congratulations to Patricia for this new advance!

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# CLAG MEMBERSHIP

Membership of CLAG is very affordable, especially for students.

Individual members \$60

Organizations \$100

Lifetime \$600

**Students/Retirees \$15**

Latin American faculty \$20

The *Journal of Latin American Geography* is the flagship journal of CLAG, and is included in the membership of CLAG. Membership of CLAG is done through a subscription to *JLAG*, and to join CLAG, please go to the University of Texas Press website (<http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/journals/jlag.html>) and subscribe to *JLAG*.

# **Caribbean Studies Association**

## **San Andres Island, Colombia**

### **May 26-30, 2008**

#### **DEADLINE (December 12, 2007)**

The Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) hereby issues its formal call for papers for its XXXIII annual conference to be held in San Andres island, Colombia, from May 26-30, 2008. We invite papers on all aspects of the Caribbean and its diasporas, whether we are focusing on those that fall within the region, or those more traditionally constituted in the large metropolitan centers of non-Caribbean countries. The first may include, for example, the long-standing English-speaking populations in Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries such as Puerto Limón (Costa Rica), Colón (Panamá), Bluefields (Nicaragua), or Baraguá (Cuba), while the second may speak to the traditionally constituted Caribbean diasporas in New York, Toronto or London.

The idea is to interrogate the historical and contemporary processes of migration (whether forced or voluntary) to the region, and later away from it, with a view to celebrating the Caribbean zeitgeist, and highlighting the role played by the diaspora both in spreading the culture and idea of the Caribbean abroad (second, third and later generations of migrants away from the region) and in nourishing political, economic, literary and cultural expression back in the homeland or home region. In all of this the links among geography, history, society and identity are central.

#### **The conference theme is:**

**The Caribbean: Embracing the Diasporas Within and Without.**

Program Chair: Professor Dwaine E. Plaza ([dwaine\\_plaza@yahoo.com](mailto:dwaine_plaza@yahoo.com))

Local Committee Chair: Professor Yusmidia Solano Suárez ([malto:ysolanos@unaledu.co](mailto:malto:ysolanos@unaledu.co))

President: Professor Anton L. Allahar ([allahar@uwo.ca](mailto:allahar@uwo.ca))

# Sociedad Iberoamericana de Sistemas de Información Geográfica (SIBSIG)

Universidad Nacional de Luján (UNLU)

Por intermedio de la presente, informamos a la comunidad de usuarios de Sistemas de Información Geográfica, que ha sido puesta en funcionamiento la página web de la SIBSIG en la plataforma digital de la Universidad Nacional de Luján (Argentina).

Al sitio se accede directamente a partir de la siguiente dirección:

<http://platdig.unlu.edu.ar/1/alogin.cgi?ID=20>

Es nuestra intención que este sitio se transforme en un lugar de intercambio de noticias y de informaciones referidas a las diferentes actividades realizadas en el ámbito de los Sistemas de Información Geográfica en Iberoamérica.

Esperamos sus colaboraciones y quedamos a disposición para cualquier consulta o comentario.

Un cordial saludo.

**Dr. Gustavo D. Buzai**

Universidad Nacional de Luján, Argentina

Presidente SIBSIG

**Dr. Julio Moraga Peralta**

Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Costa Rica

Presidente Ejecutivo SIBSIG

E-mail de contacto: [buzai@uolsinectis.com.ar](mailto:buzai@uolsinectis.com.ar)





**GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING**  
for Sustainable Development

# My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE)

The My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) partnership is conducting a new initiative in partnership with USAID, USGS, ESRI and other public/private partners and focusing attention on building local capacity to use geography and geographic technologies for biodiversity initiatives in Central America.

([www.geography.org/sustainable](http://www.geography.org/sustainable))

A MyCOE Biodiversity Cadre has been formed from 12 teams of students and their mentors in six countries, competitively selected for their long-term potential to contribute to the region's biodiversity issues. They will attend a capacity building workshop in Panama in January 2008 and will be provided with additional resources such as software, data, tutorials, and mentoring from the MyCOE partnership. Both students and their mentors will receive modest stipends to conduct projects of 3 to 6 month duration and travel support to attend the workshop.

## **About the Students**

Eligible student applicants are local to the countries in which they work and are enrolled or completing studies at a university or similar educational institution (undergraduate or graduate). Participants were competitively selected on the basis of existing capacity and long-term future potential.

## **Local Organizations Serving as Youth Hosts**

Local and regional organizations proposed projects in response to the criteria below and work in conjunction with their paired student through an appointed mentor.

## **Selected Projects**

Selected projects:

- Use geographic technologies such as GIS and GPS
- Incorporate activities that respond to local threats to biodiversity
- Address local areas with biological significance

## **Selected Participants and Project Titles**

### COLOMBIA

#### *Investigación del Componente Flora del Área Natural Protegida Peñas Blancas*

Mentor: Noemy Medina Guzmán, Corporación Ambientalista Bosque Montano

Estudiante: Luís Gabriel López Herrera, Ingeniería Forestal, Universidad del Tolima

#### *Inventario y Análisis Morfométrico de las Ciénagas de Barrancabermeja, Mediante SIG y Teledetección*

Mentor: Luís Molina López, Grupo de Estudios Urbano-Regionales del Magdalena Medio, Universidad de la Paz (GERUM-UNIPAZ)

Estudiante: Pedro Agustín Arguello Vargas, Ingeniería Ambiental y Saneamiento, Universidad de la Paz (BIORED-UNIPAZ)

#### *Identificación de un paisaje cafetero como corredor biológico en el corregimiento San Sebastián de Palmitas, Medellín, Colombia*

Mentor: Jorge Luís Vásquez Muñoz, Fundación Grupo HTM

Estudiante: Javier Alfonso Racero Casarrubia, Biología y Ciencias Ambientales, Universidad de Córdoba



*Restauración ecológica participativa de la Reserva Amatea*

Mentor: Isabel Bravo Baeza, Fundación Amatea

Estudiante: Alejandro Alberto Castaño Gallego, Administración del Medio Ambiente, Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*Análisis de la Diversidad de Macroinvertebrados Acuáticos y Microalgas, en Función del Gradiente Longitudinal y las Variables Químicas de un Río: Cuenca del Río Haina*

Mentor: Bienvenido Santana Ferraras

Estudiante: Litay Amelia Ramos Pimentel, Biología, Universidad de Santo Domingo

GUATEMALA

*Sistema de colecciones de referencia y de información sobre diversidad biológica y conservación*

Mentor: Enio B. Cano, Museo de Historia Natural de Guatemala

Estudiante: Mayra Lisseth Maldonado Montufar, biología, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala

MEXICO

*Riqueza de mamíferos medianos y grandes en fragmentos de selva baja caducifolia de la Planicie Huasteca con diferente tipo de aprovechamiento*

Mentor: Dr. Humberto Reyes Hernández, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí

Estudiante: Blanca Margarita Vázquez Villa, Geografía

*Diagnóstico de la degradación de los manglares de la zona costera Xcalak-Mahahual, Quintana Roo, México*

Mentor: Dr. Julio Espinoza Avalos, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur

Estudiante: Marina Hiraes Cota, Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Rural

NICARAGUA

*Extracción ilegal de la fauna marina y el peligro de extinción de las especies (tortugas marinas). En el municipio de San Juan del Sur*

Mentor: Alfonso Jirón García, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua

Estudiantes: Raquel López Ramos y Ana Vega Guillen, Geografía, UNAN

*Estudio de la biodiversidad arbórea urbana pública en las vías principales de los Distritos II, IV y VI del Municipio de Managua, Nicaragua*

Mentor: Dra. Marcia Mendieta López, Universidad Nacional Agraria

Estudiante: Francisco Torrez, Ingeniería en Recursos Naturales, UNA

PANAMA

*Establecimiento de un sistema de información geográfica comprensivo para Cocobolo y la Cuenca del Río Mamoni*

Mentor: Michael Shiven Roy, CREA (Conservation through Research Education and Action)

Estudiante: Emilio Espino, Biología, Universidad de Panamá

*La problemática en los sistemas marino-costeros existentes en región de Gaymau*

Mentor: Teobaldo Hernández, Pronatura

Estudiante: Nathalia D. Tejedor Flores, Ingeniería Ambiental, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá

## Queens University

**W. George Lovell** will be Visiting Professor in Latin American History at Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville, during winter terms 2008, 2009, and 2010, his second three-year recruitment to the post. With Christopher H. Lutz and Susan M. Neve, George has been involved in a translation project that will see Severo Martinez Pelaez's *La patria del criollo*, a classic work on colonial Guatemala, appear in an English-language edition to be published by Duke University Press. George has articles forthcoming in the *Anuario de Estudios Americanos*; *Gender, Place, and Culture*; *The Geographical Review*; and (with Robert L. Huish) *Cuban Studies*, as well as entries in the *Oxford Companion of Exploration* and the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*.

Two recent M.A. theses he supervised in the Geography program at Queen's are **Kari M. Pries**, "Repression, Freedom, and Minimal Geography: Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, and Canadian Involvement in El Salvador, 1977-1984" and **Giselle Valarezo**, "Out of Necessity and into the Fields" Migrant Farmworkers in St. Remi, Quebec." George also contributed a chapter to, and helped out with the translation of, Oscar Maldonado's portfolio of the photographs of Daniel Hernandez Salazar, *So That All Shall Know / Para Que Todos Lo Sepan* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007). His memoir of the rock group Procol Harum, *The Waiter Brought a Tray* (Kingston: Artful Codger Press, 2007), will appear soon in a revised and expanded edition.

## Ohio State University

**Eveily Freeman**, Master's OSU Geography, is currently teaching high school social studies at Day-Star School in Juticalpa, Honduras. Juticalpa is the capitol of the department of Olancho. Day-Star School has been working to provide a bi-lingual education in the community for 25 years. For more information on the school please visit <http://www.daystar-edu.org/eng/index.html>

## Rutgers State University

This past July, at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation held in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, **Sandra R. Baptista**, participated in a symposium co-organized by T. Mitchell Aide (University of Puerto Rico) and H. Ricardo Grau (Universidad Nacional de Tucumán) on "The influence of human demography and agriculture on natural systems in the Neotropics." Efforts are currently underway to disseminate the results of this symposium in an upcoming Special Feature of the journal *Ecology and Society* <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/>. Her paper, entitled "Human Dimensions of Forest Recovery in the Metropolitan Region of Florianópolis, Santa Catarina state, southern Brazil," reports part of her dissertation research. Other symposium participants presented research on Argentina, Bolivia, Brazilian Amazonia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Puerto Rico.

# University of North Carolina

**Patricia Polo Almeida**, conducted field work in the Northern Ecuadorian Amazon with the 2007 ILAS Pre-dissertation Field Research Grant, given by the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) at the University of North Carolina, to acquire a close understanding of the dynamics of Land Use Land Coverage Change in the Northern Ecuadorian Amazon and its relationship with the prevalence of malaria in that area. The field work took place within 25<sup>th</sup> of June until 7<sup>th</sup> of July. The primary aim of the field work was having a closer idea of inhabitants' perception of their health status, mainly regarding malaria.

Patricia also participated as a member of a research team for field work in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. The research team, affiliated with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, conducted a preliminary research last May 13<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. The main goal was to have a better understanding of how are livelihoods and the environment interconnected in the Galapagos and how are relationships between the two changing in response to pressures from tourism, fishing, and conservation. The research team would like to analyze whether and in what ways increasing migration and the expansion of an eco-based tourism industry are affecting traditional occupations such as fishing and agriculture as well as general access to and availability of resources.

# University of Denver

**Matthew J. Taylor**, was recently honored at the University of Denver as a DU Public Good Fellow. Over the past few years, a select group of faculty at the University of Denver has emerged as innovators and leaders in public good work, exemplifying the University's vision to be a "great private university dedicated to the public good." As a member of this select group, the Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning recognized Matthew's outstanding work by inviting him to become a Public Good Fellow.

Matthew has spent much time in the field recently, continuing to involve students in applied research. High in the Cuchumatán Mountains, he is working with communities to secure water from fog collectors during the drier months of March, April, & May. In March of this year he located data loggers in several communities to record RH and temp. In October they retrieved the data loggers and will now install a standard fog collector (SFC) in the small community of Chemal (15 households). The SFC measures only 1m by 1m and will allow them to determine if they should, after a year of measuring output from this SFC, build & install large fog collectors in the same area. Matthew and his students also continue to monitor the water quality of biosand filters they built in the Ixcán lowlands. All of this gives students good hands on experience and increases their desire to work in Latin America.

Matthew has also started a new project in southern Nicaragua aimed at providing locals with alternatives sustainable livelihoods. Many locals have been displaced by the tourism and land boom in the area and are often left changing the sheets and washing the dishes of foreigners. In tight collaboration with locals their goal is to create an eco village that will be a space for experiments surrounding organic foods that can be sold to the hotels and resorts in the area. This project relies heavily on support from the University of Denver. DU students are also heavily involved -- they provide labor and expertise from a variety of backgrounds (business to biology and Hotel Restaurant Tourism Management to Geography).

Taylor, M.J. Militarism and the Environment in Guatemala. *GeoJournal*. Forthcoming.

Bennett, D., and Taylor, M.J. 2007. Examining the role of small-scale coffee producers in the conservation of biodiversity in northern Nicaragua. Accepted, *Southwestern Geographer* v.10

# University of Arizona

University of Arizona geography student **Jeff Banister** has published a paper, "Stating Space in Modern Mexico," in the May issue of *Political Geography*. He is also second author, with UA geography professor Christopher Scott, of "The Dilemma of Water Management Regionalization in Mexico under Centralized Resource Allocation," an essay to be published in the March issue of the *International Journal of Water Resources Development*. Jeff has just completed his dissertation fieldwork on state-formation and the politics of water in northwest Mexico's Mayo river valley. His research is supported by a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Fellowship.

**Carl Bauer** joined the Department of Geography and Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona, in Fall 2006. In summer 2007, Bauer spent two weeks in Santiago, Chile, doing interviews for on-going research on water and energy policy.

**Rolando Díaz**, PhD student of Geography at the University of Arizona, will participate in the 4th International Congress of Territorial Management to be held in the City of San Luis Potosí, Mexico, in November 2007. The Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí (UASLP) will be the host institution. Díaz's paper will examine the scope and constraints in the implementation of the Municipal Program of Territorial and Ecological Management (PMOET, acronym in Spanish) in the case of Sonora, Mexico. Díaz is undertaking dissertation research on water for environment and water for livelihoods in two northern Mexico sites, and will present preliminary research findings in Boston.

**John Paul Jones III** continues to work with colleagues Susan Roberts (University of Kentucky) and Oliver Fröhling (Universidad de la Tierra) on their NSF grant aimed at understanding the geographies of NGOs in Oaxaca State, in southern México. Findings appear in: (a) "NGOs and the globalization of managerialism: a research framework," *World Development* (2005, No. 11); (b) "Mapping the grassroots: NGO formalization in Oaxaca, Mexico" (also with Sarah Moore and Jamie Winders), *Journal of International Development* (2007, No. 2); (c) "When participation meets empowerment: the WWF and the politics of invitation in Chimalapas, Mexico" (also with David Walker), *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* (2007, No. 2); and (d) "Neoliberal development through technical assistance: constructing communities of entrepreneurial subjects in Oaxaca, Mexico" (also with Margath Walker), *Geoforum*, in press.

**James Klepek** received his M.A. in Latin American studies at the University of Arizona and is currently a doctoral candidate in the department of Geography and Regional Development. His research interests center on the political economy of development policy and social movements in Guatemala. James is currently conducting dissertation research on biotechnology regulation and the politics of scientific expertise in Guatemala with support from the National Science Foundation and Fulbright-Hays. He has also received awards from the UA's Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute (SBSRI), The Tinker Foundation, and the Dept. of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Program in support of his graduate studies.

This October, geography doctoral student **Katie Meehan**, University of Arizona, will move to Tijuana to study informal wastewater reuse in low-income neighborhoods off the water grid. She received four grants to support her dissertation work: a Fulbright-Hays DDRA, a fellowship from NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System, the International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council, and a NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant. While Tijuana is no garden of Eden, Katie looks forward to working in colonias, sampling the fish tacos, and surfing the Baja coast.

# University of Arizona

**Sarah Moore**, Geography and Latin American Studies, University of Arizona, is currently working as co-PI (with Diane Austin, PI) on a grant from Environmental Protection Agency Border 2012 Program (\$100,000). We studied the relationship of small-scale burning to air quality issues in Nogales Sonora. The final report will be submitted at the end of this semester.

A review paper by **Barbara Morehouse** et al., entitled Science and Socio-ecological Resilience: Examples from the Arizona-Sonora Border, is forthcoming in the journal *Environmental Science and Policy*. The paper is a product of two workshops funded by a planning grant awarded to Morehouse and colleagues under the NSF's Decision Making Under Uncertainty program. The paper summarizes existing knowledge about environmental conditions in three river basins spanning the Arizona-Sonora border and concludes that the GSE is becoming increasingly vulnerable to systematic changes that will have serious environmental and societal consequences.

Morehouse, B.J., D.B. Ferguson, G. Owen, A. Browning-Aiken, P. Wong-Gonzalez, N. Pineda, and R. Varady. 2007. Science and socio-ecological resilience: examples from the Arizona-Sonora border. *Environmental Science and Policy*. Forthcoming.

**Christopher Scott** joined the faculty of the University of Arizona with appointments in Geography & Regional Development, and the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, in fall 2006. Scott researches, teaches, and advises students on Mexican water resources geography. Selected current publications and grants include: Scott, C.A., F. Flores-López, J.R. Gastélum. 2007 forthcoming. Appropriation of Río San Juan water by Monterrey city, Mexico: implications for agriculture and basin water sharing. *Paddy & Water Environment (irrigation-urban water transfer special issue)*; and Scott, C.A., J.M. Banister. 2008 forthcoming. The dilemma of water management "regionalization" in Mexico under centralized resource allocation. *Water Resources Development*. Chris has received several recent grant awards, including one on water reuse and water scarcity in the Southwest, including Mexico border (WateReuse Foundation, \$100,000); and one on information flows, climate diagnostics and adaptive water management (with Robert Varady) (Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, \$147,000).

The Planning Degree Program welcomes **José Atiaga Oleas**, a Fellow of the Fulbright Faculty Development Program, a special Fulbright program that selects junior faculty and researchers from Latin America and the Caribbean to pursue advanced degrees at US universities. José is an adjunct professor at the School of Architecture, University of San Francisco de Quito. Along with colleagues at the University of San Francisco, he is developing an urban planning program. He has come to the University of Arizona to study international planning for a professional degree in Planning. A proponent of reflective practice, he has designed a variety of socially-sensitive projects including a housing complex for the elderly, a youth center, an urban cinema, and a scientific research & development community.

University of Arizona planning faculty **Laura Huntoon** and international planning students helped draft a land use plan for the City of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. The City of Agua Prieta is in the process of preparing its first comprehensive land use plan. The UA participants developed elements of the plan that address ecologically-sensitive areas. Agua Prieta is growing rapidly, like many settlements along the northern frontier with the US.



# University of Arizona

**Margaret Wilder** is currently Vice-Chair of LASG and a member of the CLAG board; she chaired or served on both LASG and CLAG committees last spring. Wilder has been asked to chair the LASG best paper competition for 2008. Wilder is on the faculty of Latin American Studies (with an adjunct appointment in Geography), University of Arizona, and recently completed a fellowship at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy. Wilder presented papers and organized sessions at 2007 CLAG Colorado Springs (on water, poverty and the millennium development goals), the 2007 AAG San Francisco (privatization and water rights in rural Mexico) and the 2007 LASA Montreal (Mexico's ejido reforms at 15). She has a chapter on water and equity in a forthcoming book from MIT Press, and has two co-authored papers on water, climate and sustainability issues out this year to date. Ray, A.J.; G. M. Garfin; **M. Wilder**; M. Vásquez-León; Melanie Lenart; A. C. Comrie, 2007. "Applications of Monsoon Research: Opportunities to Inform Decision Making and Reduce Regional Vulnerability," *Journal of Climate*, May 2007, (20) 9: 1608-1627  
Pineda Pablos, N., A. Browning-Aiken and **M. Wilder**, 2007. "Equilibrio de bajo nivel y manejo urbano del agua en Cananea, Sonora," *Frontera Norte*, Vol. 19, No. 37 (enero-junio).

# Florida State University

This summer, through the Florida State University campus in the Republic of Panama, **Dan Klooster** taught a class on Sustainable Development as part of a study abroad program for FSU's graduate program in Urban Planning, including visits to Kuna Yala (the San Blas Islands), the Panama Canal locks, the Panama Canal watershed, and the Archipiélago Bocas del Toro.

Until July 2008, Klooster is on sabbatical leave in Mexico, with funding from Fulbright-Garcia Robles to pursue the project entitled *Certified Markets for Conservation and Development: The Equity and Evolution of Forest Certification in Mexico*. He recently accompanied an NGO activist on a community-to-community field tour in which leaders of struggling forestry communities from Michoacán visited their relatively successful counterparts in the Sierra Norte of Oaxaca. While facilitating *campesino-to-campesino* learning, he improved his understanding of the difficult context in which community forestry organizations work to sustain both their livelihoods and the environmental attributes of the forests they manage. The variety of community-managed productive projects, many involving forest certification, is quite impressive. While in Mexico, Klooster expects to lay the ground work for a future cross-national study of grassroots experiences with Payment for Environmental Services (PES) projects. He is now establishing collaborations with several community forestry and coffee producers' organizations in Oaxaca which have engaged this new institution, with varying degrees of success.

# Northern Illinois University

**Sarah Blue**, Assistant Professor of Geography at Northern Illinois, was recently awarded an NSF grant (in collaboration with Anita Drever of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville) to study labor recruiting and subcontracting of Latino Migrants to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

# University of Northern British Columbia

UNBC Graduate student **Cristian Silva** organized a 'Contemporary Guatemala' speaker series to run over October and November 2007. The first two presentations took place on October 18th and 19th with Fredy Peccerelli of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG) returning to UNBC for a second visit in two years.

In a public forum with 100+ attendees, Sr. Peccerelli presented "The FAFG: A multidisciplinary approach to recover and identify the bodies of the missing (Past, present & future). The presentation highlighted the three avenues of work of the foundation, including: (1) work to clarify the victims & perpetrators of the internal armed conflict; (2) natural disaster recovery (i.e., landslide at Panabaj as a result of Hurricane Stan; and (3) contemporary crimes against women (femicide).

The October 19th presentation by RCMP Sergeant Timothy Sleigh focused on the presentation of the documentary film "Duel with the Devil" (<http://www.journeyman.tv/?lid=57107>). Sgt. Sleigh is a member of Forensic Identification for Project Even-Handed of the British Columbia Missing Women's Task Force & "E" Division major crime unit. Sgt. Sleigh is one member of an elite group of Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers who traveled to Guatemala over the past two years to assist in training officers and prosecutors in crime scene investigations.



L-R: **Dr. Catherine Nolin** (UNBC GEOG), **Cristian Silva** (UNBC MA student & speaker series organizer), Fredy Peccerelli (FAFG-Guatemala), Dr. Richard Lazenby (UNBC ANTH), & RCMP Sergeant Timothy Sleigh

# Colorado College

**Eric Perramond** has been named to the Editorial Board of *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*



# Virginia Tech

## Graduate Course in Cuba

Virginia Tech will be sponsoring a two-week graduate course in Cuba on International Business. It will be led by **Joe Scarpaci** (scarp@vt.edu) and will address economic development issues and trends in biotechnology, tool-and-die industry, tobacco, tourism, and heritage promotion. It will be co-taught by Professor Jim Littlefield in VT's Pamplin College of Business. Non-VT and non-business graduate students are encouraged to apply. Dates: May 27 - June 10. Costs: \$2800 all-inclusive from Miami, plus tuition (3 - 6 graduate credits).

# University of Alabama

**Michael Steinberg** has moved to the University of Alabama where he has a joint appointment between the New College (an interdisciplinary honors-type program), and the Department of Geography. He continues his work in Guatemala and Belize. His new email address is: mksteinberg@as.ua.edu.

Although not set in Latin America, Steinberg has a book coming out in spring 08 with LSU Press, *Stalking the Ghost Bird: The Elusive Ivory-Billed Woodpecker in Louisiana*. Steinberg has also been named curator of birds at the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

# Willamette University

**Kimberlee J. Chambers**, is a new tenure-track faculty member at Willamette University, cross posted between Environmental/Earth Sciences and Latin American Studies. Although Willamette has had a Latin American Studies Program for several years, Kimberlee is their first specific hire. In Spring 2007, she will add a new upper-level Latin America course: *Landscapes and Cultures of Middle America*.

Kimberlee has recently started research on chiltepins (wild chilis) in Sonora State working with UC Davis ecology doctoral student, Kraig Kraft. At LASA 2007, in Montreal, she was also a panelist for a session titled *Transgenic Maize Debates in Mexico: Biosecurity, Genetic Diversity and Food Security*.

Chambers, Kimberlee J., Steve B. Brush, Mark Grote and Paul Gepts. 2007. Describing Maize (*Zea mays* L.) Landrace Persistence in the Bajío of Mexico: A Survey of 1940s and 1950s Collection Locations. *Journal of Economic Botany* 61(1): 60-72.

Chambers, Kimberlee J., and Janet H. Momsen. 2007. From the Kitchen and the Field: gender and maize diversity in Mexico. Special issue of the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* on Gender and Agriculture 28:39-56.

# Vassar University

**Brian Godfrey** presented a paper on "Adaptive Reuse of Historic Waterfronts: Morphogenesis of the 'Festival Marketplace' in the USA and Brazil" at the International Seminar on Urban Form, held in Ouro Preto, Brazil, August 28-31, 2007. He also continues with his work on historical preservation and urban revitalization in Brazilian cities. Brian also has started a project on urban environmental history in Brazil, which will be the subject of my upcoming AAG paper in Boston 2008.

The Editora da Universidade Federal do Amazonas, in Manaus, published <Cidades da Floresta: Urbanização, Desenvolvimento, e Globalização da Amazônia Brasileira>, 2006, by John Browder and **Brian Godfrey**, ISBN 85-7401-183-5, pbk.

# George Washington University

**Marie D. Price** and Catherine W. Cooper. 2007. "Competing Visions, Shifting Boundaries: The Construction of Latin America as a World Region" *Journal of Geography* 106(3):113-122.

## CLAG Awards Committee

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

# Developing Areas Specialty Group Pre-Conference, April 13-14, 2008 Worcester, Mass

The Developing Areas SG will be organizing a pre-conference entitled "Re-Engaging Development in a Post- Development Era?" hosted by Clark U Graduate School of Geography on 13-14 April in Worcester. Please find all details at <http://developingareas.blogspot.com/>. Submission of abstracts closes 4 Jan 2008 and late registration fees apply after 15 Feb 2008. Professor Richard Peet will give the keynote address. Mark your calendars.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I never planned on a "Letter to the Editor" section of the *LASG/CLAG Newsletter*, but Jim Biles and I had a discussion at the Colorado Springs 2007 CLAG Meeting about the timing of the organizations conferences. Jim had a unique proposal, and I asked him to submit it to the *Newsletter* for consideration by CLAG members. *Taylor E. Mack, Editor*

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Letter to the Editor

My proposal is that CLAG meet annually rather than every 18 months. I propose that we alternate CLAG conference in Latin America with a joint regional meeting every other year. This proposal would allow is to:

- 1) hold more meetings in Latin America
- 2) organize meetings every two years, rather than every 18 months (though we would need to liaise with the regional organizers)
- 3) promote CLAG to folks who don't typically attend (grad students, etc.)
- 4) develop a more predictable schedule for meetings (fall for regional meetings, January - potentially - for Latin America)

Jim Biles, Indian University

*CLAG Members may continue this discussion on CLAGnet.*