

# LASG & CLAG NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 112, FALL 2008

## CLAG NICA 2009 GRANADA, NICARAGUA, JAN 7-9, 2009

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The final arrangements are being made for CLAG NICA 2009, the CLAG Conference in Granada, Nicaragua, next month.

We will well over 200 in attendance with a large contingent coming from UNAM in Mexico, as well as many Central Americans, several from Colombia, and as far away as the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Several panel sessions are planned in addition to the over 80 papers that will be presented during the conference.

The weather in Granada, should be quite pleasant, as this will be *verano*, the dry season. Average high temperatures are around 31°C/87°F with night

time lows averaging around 20°C/68°F. Temperatures in the highlands will, of course be cooler, as Granada is located about 60 m/200 ft in elevation.

More information can be found on the conference website at:

<http://clagnica2009.org>



### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I have lost count of how many Newsletters I have put together, but it was at least four years ago when I started as Editor. My thanks to all of you who provide material for the Newsletter. I just wanted to point out that in the next two years, CLAG will celebrate several anniversaries. On June 5, 2009, we can celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first meeting of those geographers at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., who would later create CLAG. This meeting led to the first CLAG Meeting in Muncie, Indiana, USA, April 30-May 3, 1970, and the 40th anniversary of that first CLAG Meeting will be in 2010. Please take the time to read (and download from Project Muse!) **William M. Denevan's** article on the first CLAG Meeting, "Traditional versus New Directions: The First Meeting of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers, 1970," *Journal of Latin American Geography*, Vol. 7 (2): 155-162.

## Letter to CLAG Members From the Chair

¡Saludos!

Although I feel a bit of pressure following up on the heels of a very able CLAG Chairperson, Antoinette Winklerprins, it is nevertheless a pleasure to remain involved with this fine organization. After an intimate meeting in the summer of 2007 at my own institution, Colorado College, CLAG is returning to Latin America in style. By the time you read this message, of course, you will all be signed up, registered, and ready to present at CLAG Nicaragua 2009. To the organizers, Taylor Mack and Craig Revels, Joby Bass, and Bill Davidson, our heartiest thanks for a job that is only sometimes thankless, you are the heart that keeps the veins of the group pumping. Having hosted a conference with John Harner, it is now a bit easier to understand the challenges of a CLAG conference.

Many of you have already organized a session at the upcoming AAG meetings in Las Vegas, with Latin American Specialty Group sponsorship (or as co-sponsor). The vitality, diversity, and rigor of Latin Americanist geography can now hardly be questioned even if some of our very own colleagues question the basis for our organizational strategies. I only need remind our members of a recent column by Harm de Blij and his open and welcome interrogation of the concept of "Latin America," in the same vein as Walter Mignolo's larger treatise on the subject (*The Idea of Latin America*, 2005, Blackwell). It is perhaps oddly unfortunate, if not ironic, that it falls on your half-French CLAG Chair to defend a concept that is widely considered Napoleonic (III) in origin. The roots are hazier, however, than first appearances. If we can agree to agree on its neo-colonial origins, the solutions are no less problematic. For example, are we to shift gears and now call ourselves the Conference of PanAmericanist Geographers? If we are the so-called "arbiters of nomenclature" as de Blij suggests, will it even matter to larger groups like the Latin American Studies Association or the Brazilian Studies Association?

My only lingering concern has less to do with the particular critique in our own AAG Newsletter, and more to do with the health and current membership of our own CLAG roster. This is not paranoia, but is echoed in empirical data from the last conference, with some 40 participants presenting, and the upcoming CLAG Nica 2009. Are we an organization that exists only for our fine *Journal of Latin American Geography*? Is it important to have a separate entity, outside of the AAG's larger umbrella? For these answers I call on your attendance and participation at the CLAG conferences. Let's not prove our own critics right.

I simply share these thoughts as a way to provoke larger conversations, and smaller ones, at our annual conference in Granada, Nicaragua. CLAG played a vital role in my own professional development through graduate school and has sustained my personal interest in these larger regional pursuits. So, my friends, what have you done for CLAG lately?

**Eric P. Perramond**

CLAG Chair of the Board

Colorado College

Colorado Springs, CO, USA

## Letter to LASG Members From the Chair

Muy Estimados Colegas de LASG:

I am looking forward to the AAG's Annual Meeting March 22-27, 2009 in Las Vegas. We will have an exciting representation of LASG-sponsored sessions. Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Taylor Mack has kindly agreed once again to produce a complete listing of LASG-sponsored sessions prior to the meeting, so stay tuned for that.

**BUSINESS MEETING AND POSSIBLE RECEPTION AT AAG 2009:** We look forward to seeing everyone—old members, new members, and interested individuals—at the LASG Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting. We are looking into the possibility of hosting a reception immediately following the business meeting—more information will be forthcoming after the new year.

**AWARDS:** Once again this year, LASG is pleased to sponsor two awards for master's and doctoral level graduate students. The two awards are the LASG Best Paper Award and the LASG Field Study Award. Announcements regarding award criteria will be sent out on the CLAGnet listserv within a few weeks. I would love to hear from LASG faculty members willing to serve on the award review committee.

**RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS:** One goal for this year was to recruit new members to participate in the Latin America Specialty Group. I encourage you to invite

friends and colleagues who have relevant interests to consider joining LASG. If you know of anyone who might be interested, I would be happy personally to write to them and encourage them to join.

**DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' MEMBERSHIP:** We particularly want to encourage Latin American colleagues and students to become members of the LASG. In that spirit, LASG is cooperating with the AAG's developing regions initiative that offers AAG membership at a reduced rate to qualifying individuals (\$20 annually for geographers from developing regions who earn less than \$25,000). LASG has agreed to offer membership in our specialty group free of charge to these individuals from developing regions.

I am grateful to fellow officers Joe Scarpaci and Taylor Mack for their work and leadership on our behalf this year so far.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season,

Margaret Wilder  
LASG Chair  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona, USA

## CLAG ELECTION RESULTS

Election results for CLAG Board of Directors beginning office on July 1st, 2008:

Vice Chair: **Taylor E. MACK** (Louisiana Tech University)

Secretary: **Maria FADIMAN** (Florida Atlantic University)

Board members

**Margaret WILDER** (University of Arizona)

**Gerardo BOCCO** (UNAM-Morelia)

**Maureen HAYS** (Colgate University)

**Dan KLOOSTER** (University of Redlands)

**Chris BROWN** (University of Kansas)

**David SALISBURY** (University of Richmond)

**Jim BILES** (University of Indiana)

**Congratulations to CLAG's new**

**Chair of the Board**

**Eric Perramond**

**Colorado College**

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## CLAG STUDENT FIELD AWARDS 2008

The CLAG Honors Committee is delighted to announce the recipients of the Student Field Study Award for 2008. It was a very tough competition with many excellent proposals. In total, 17 graduate students applied for field support: 12 PhD students and 5 MA students. The Honors Committee was able to award one doctoral student prize and one masters student prize.

The PhD Student winner is **Amy Lerner** at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She proposes a study on "Peri-urbanization in Central Mexico: Implications for rural household livelihoods and land-use." She will receive \$1,000 for her research in Mexico.

The MA student winner is **Will Anderson** at San Diego State University. His study proposes to examine "Korean Transnational Migration and Guatemalan Maquiladoras". He will receive \$500 for his research in Guatemala.

Special thanks are due to the three Honors Committee judges: Margaret Wilder at the University of Arizona, John Harner at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and Andrew Sluyter at Louisiana State University.

Thanks to everyone who submitted proposals and the faculty who wrote letters of support. The graduate student members of CLAG are an impressive group doing interesting work throughout the region. We will have a competition again next year and would hope that you would consider applying again.

**Marie Price**, Chair  
Honors Committee

## **PAIGH U.S. NATIONAL SECTION LOOKING FOR GEOGRAPHERS**

The U.S. National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History is looking for professional geographers to join our U.S. National Section. The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) is a specialized organization of the Organization of American States (OAS). PAIGH was formed in 1928 and became part of the OAS in 1949. The mission of PAIGH is to stimulate geographical, geophysical, cartographic, and historical studies of the Americas. The Institute promotes multi-national cooperative educational and research technical assistance projects currently with special emphasis on sharing social and physical science research to improve quality of life within the Americas.

The U.S. National Section of the PAIGH is looking for geographers with an academic interest in Latin America, hopefully fluency in Spanish or Portuguese, and some University funding for occasional travel. A tolerance of bureaucracy would be an asset. It is a great opportunity to increase networking within Latin America and build up long lasting relationships.

For more information contact:

**Jean Parcher**, [jwparcher@usgs.gov](mailto:jwparcher@usgs.gov), Geographer, US-Mexico Border Research, US Geological Survey

NOTE: Jean will be in Granada for CLAG NICA 2009, and CLAG participants are encouraged to speak with her at the meeting.

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## **VIRGINIA TECH - THE CHILEAN MIRACLE: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, MARKETING & CULTURE, JANUARY 1-14, 2009**

**Joe Scarpaci** is leading Virginia Tech's trip "The Chilean Miracle: International Business, Marketing, and Culture." Examine the Chilean transformation from a highly centrally planned economy to one of the most open economies in the Americas. Site visits to exporters, vineyard, packing houses, container facilities, advertising agencies, chambers of commerce, NGOs working in entrepreneurship, and many other. Open to all with interests in international business, political economy, and Latin American culture. The price is \$3750US, and includes round-trip air fare from Dulles to Santiago (on American Airlines); Two meals daily; Ground transportation; Lodging in 3 star hotel near Metro Tobalaba in Providencia (Santiago); Entry fees; Readings; Two days of lodging outside of Santiago (most likely Valparaiso).

Remember: It is summer in Chile in January! Graduate and undergraduate credit also available.

More information: Joe Scarpaci ([scarp@vt.edu](mailto:scarp@vt.edu))

<http://www.international.pamplin.vt.edu/studyabroad/chile/>

## **ECUADOR SUMMER STUDY ABROAD JULY 21ST - AUGUST 9TH, 2009**

Consider an adventure in learning with “Environment, Society, and Culture of Ecuador.”

Eastern Illinois University invites undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, friends and adult family to experience the land and people of the Andes Mountains, Amazon rainforest and the Galapagos Islands July 21 through Aug. 9, 2009. Geography, earth science, culture and history are part of this four-credit course titled “Environment, Society and Culture of Ecuador.” Program fee includes first rate lodging, international and in-country airfares, meals, boat and ground transportation, program fee estimated \$6,600 plus tuition. Out of state students welcome and pay in-state tuition in the summer. For details, visit

<http://www.eiu.edu/~edabroad/programs/facultyled/smith>

or call **Betty Smith** at 217-581-6340 or 217-549-4900 (cell) or e-mail [besmith@eiu.edu](mailto:besmith@eiu.edu)

Here are a few cool links for pretty posters and a power point viewable on the web

<http://www.eiu.edu/~edabroad/programs/facultyled/ecuador-poster-8.5X11.pdf>

<http://www.eiu.edu/~edabroad/programs/facultyled/ecuador-poster11X17.pdf>

<http://www.eiu.edu/~edabroad/programs/facultyled/Ecuador2009.html>

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## **VOLCANOLOGICAL CONGRESS - 250 ANNIVERSARY OF VOLCÁN JORULLO**

1st announcement and invitation to a multidisciplinary international Volcanological Congress to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Volcán Jorullo’s birth in Michoacán, México:

Monogenetic volcanism in the trans-Mexican volcanic belt and elsewhere: geologic setting, environmental aspects, social impact, historical documentation, and risk mitigation.

**September 27 - October 4, 2009, Morelia, Michoacán, México**

Field trips are being planned to Jorullo and Paricutin volcanoes.

Information can be found at: <http://www.geofisica.unam.mx/vulcanologia/jorullo/>

**Dra. Maria Teresa Ramirez H.**

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<http://www.ciga.unam.mx/ciga/>

## CONFERENCIA EN SISTEMAS DE INFORMACIÓN GEOGRÁFICA

Invitación a la "XII Conferencia Iberoamericana en Sistemas de Información Geográfica" durante 17, 18 y 19 de Junio, 2009, organizada por la Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Heredia

Más detalles: <http://www.fundauna.org/csig/>

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## SCOLA CHAPTER FORMING IN PUERTO RICO

Dr. E. Schroder, Dr. O. Ramos, and with the help of local and US based students, are starting a chapter of SOCLA (Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana de Agroecología) in Puerto Rico. We are currently looking for more members. Researchers interested in Sustainable Agriculture and Puerto Rico please contact [kr.avivaz@gmail.com](mailto:kr.avivaz@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.agroeco.org/> for more information about SOCLA in your region.

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## FINANCE MINISTRY LIBRARY, BRAZIL - ONLINE

Eugenio Arima (Hobar and William Smith Colleges), found this source of digital files (pdf format) about finances, trade, transportation statistics, and others, from the Finance Ministry Library in Rio, Brazil.

<http://memoria.nemesis.org.br/>

Eugenio says "Several publications date back to the early 1800s and are considered "rare books." I believe this is a valuable and easy to access source of information for those interested in Brazil. Some old maps and atlases were not scanned yet but hopefully will soon be online."

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## NEW GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT - UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

A new Department of Geography and the Environment was established at the University of Richmond. In November of 2008 the Geography Program was converted into a department. The name "Geography and the Environment" was selected to express the research and teaching interests of the four full-time faculty, which includes Latin Americanists Mary Finley-Brook and David Salisbury.

## WESTERN KENTUCKY U. RESEARCH IN COLOMBIA

The latest issue of the *Journal of Latin American Geography* features an article by Dr. **David Keeling** on the region's transportation challenges. After working in Bogotá and Medellín, Colombia, over the past nine months on social and economic development issues, he found that accessibility and mobility adequacies explained much about the inability of Latin American societies to build up their economies. Dr. Keeling will follow up on this regional research with a more in-depth analysis of transportation challenges in Colombia as part of a long-term research project in partnership with the American Geographical Society and Kansas University. Others from WKU participating in the Colombia project are assistant professor of sociology Dr. **Holli Drummond**; adjunct history instructor **John Dizgun**; GIS Center director **Kevin Cary**; geoscience graduate student **Brandon Fowler** of Bowling Green; and Gatton Academy student **Samuel Crocker** of Franklin.

Faculty and students from Western Kentucky University's Department of Geography and Geology spent three weeks in Colombia this past July and August studying community change in Medellín. This visit follows three previous visits to Bogotá during the past six months to collaborate with local researchers on urban and rural violence studies. Dr. David Keeling is the lead investigator for the American Geographical Society's Bowman Expedition to Colombia, now ending its first full year of analysis. Accompanying Dr. Keeling to Medellín were History Instructor John Dizgun and **Brian Blickenstaff** of Claremont, Calif., a Southern Mississippi University geography graduate student, as well as researchers from the WKU-GEOSCIRE Research Center in Bogotá. Dr. **Jerry Dobson**, professor of geography at Kansas University and president of the American Geographical Society, along with Dr. **Geoff Demarest** from the Foreign Military Studies Office at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., also joined the WKU team in the field. The research team met with the mayor of Medellín, government officials in planning, housing, security, transportation, and reconstruction, and with neighborhood leaders in Comuna 13. The goal of the Medellín project is to create a virtual geographic and historical Atlas of Comuna 13, a neighborhood in the city afflicted by terrible violence over the past 20 years. Since 2003, the neighborhood of Comuna 13 in Medellín has enjoyed a minor renaissance, with enhanced security through local policing, new schools and medical clinics, a community library, and other infrastructural improvements. The WKU-led AGS project in Medellín will assess these changes in the context of the neighborhood's geography and history, with the goal of producing the virtual atlas and several academic journal articles. More information about the project is available online at <http://www.amergeog.org/bowman-colombia.htm>.

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### JOIN CLAG

**CLAG MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES A SUBSCRIPTION TO *THE JOURNAL OF LATIN AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY***

[HTTP://SITES.MAXWELL.SYR.EDU/CLAG/CLAG.HTM](http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm)

[HTTP://WWW.UTEXAS.EDU/UTPRESS/JOURNALS/JLAG.HTML](http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/journals/jlag.html)



## LATIN AMERICA RESEARCH GROWING AT OKLAHOMA

A Latin Americanist focus is developing at the University of Oklahoma in general and the Department of Geography in particular. Research on Latin America is growing in each department around campus. The Department of History, for example, has recently hired two endowed chairs and now has five faculty members working in Latin America, including Dr. **Sterling Evans**, author of *The Green Republic* and *Bound in Twine* and a forthcoming book on irrigation in Sonora, Mexico.

Meanwhile, the Department of Geography has 11 faculty members, three of whom have research and teaching interests in Latin America. Dr. **Laurel Smith** draws on ethnographic inquiry and visual analysis to examine the cultural geographies of technoscience. Her current projects focus on the transnational geographies of access and collaboration that facilitate indigenous video production and the ways in which academic advocacy intersects with the oppositional cultural politics of contemporary indigenous movements in Mexico. Dr. **Karl Offen** explores society-nature relations, the history of cartography, and historical geography in Latin America. Specifically, his work combines archives and fieldwork to examine how the geographic imagination, identity formation, and regional political economies affect environmental and social change in the lowland Neotropics, especially in Central America and the Caribbean basin. Dr. **Bruce Hoagland** is a biogeographer and landscape ecologist who serves as coordinator of the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory and conducts research on how environmental impacts affect the distribution of plant species in cloud forests of Tamaulipas, Mexico.

We are always interested in hearing from potential graduate students. Each receives consideration for financial support, in part, based on their connection to existing departmental strengths, and we would encourage students interested in Latin America to speak with any of us if they would like further information (<http://geography.ou.edu/index.php>). Current graduate research projects include: examining the relationship between international advocacy and a children's orphanage centered around permaculture outside Cuzco, Peru; investigating stakeholder perceptions of oil drilling in national parks in Belize; examining the intersection of a material and literary construction of landscape in Piura, Peru; mapping the distribution of epiphytes and the impacts of their seasonal harvesting in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, Mexico.

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### LASG

**THE LATIN AMERICA SPECIALTY GROUP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS**

[HTTP://SITES.MAXWELL.SYR.EDU/CLAG/LASG.HTM](http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/lasg.htm)

## FUNDED DOCTORAL TRAINEESHIPS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY FOR APPLIED CONSERVATION IN LATIN AMERICA

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

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

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

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

See the ABS website (<http://biodiversity.tamu.edu/traineeship%20info.htm>) for more information. Please also feel free to contact the program coordinator or any of the associated faculty for more specific queries. The application deadline for the funded ABS NSF-IGERT Traineeship is **JANUARY 14, 2009**. You must also apply to a Texas A&M departmental graduate program, whose deadlines vary.

**Elizabeth Shapiro**, Program Coordinator  
Applied Biodiversity Science, NSF-IGERT  
210 Nagle Hall, 2258 TAMU  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX 77843-2258  
(979) 845-7494 (tel)  
[eshapiro@tamu.edu](mailto:eshapiro@tamu.edu)      <http://biodiversity.tamu.edu/>

# PARA PUBLICAR EN LA NUEVA REVISTA DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES Y HUMANAS SUR DE MÉXICO

## PUBLICACIÓN MULTI-INSTITUCIONAL Y MULTI-DISCIPLINARIA

A fines del año en curso aparecerá el primer número de la nueva revista multi-institucional y multi-disciplinaria de ciencias sociales y humanas *Sur de México*.

*Sur de México* es una revista multi-disciplinaria centrada en el análisis de los procesos sociales actuales y recientes del Sur-Sureste mexicano. Es una revista con claro enfoque regional, pero no limitada a la región, ya que aborda también temas de alcance nacional y latinoamericano así como cuestiones generales de las ciencias sociales y humanas.

Ante todo, la revista *Sur de México* pretende dar a conocer la investigación en ciencias sociales y humanas generada en y sobre la región Sur-Sureste de México. A esto estarán dedicadas sus dos secciones principales: la sección de artículos de investigación y de debate teórico y metodológico y la sección de reseñas. Sin embargo, como se acaba de indicar, en ambas secciones tendrán cabida también trabajos referidos a temáticas generales.

Al mismo tiempo, la revista *Sur de México* difundirá información sobre eventos y publicaciones, instituciones y programas de estudio ubicados en la región.

La revista aparecerá -impresa en papel y en forma electrónica- tres veces al año: dos números se publicarán en los primeros dos cuatrimestres del año y un número doble en el último cuatrimestre del año.

El proyecto y las características de la revista, las guías para la elaboración y presentación de los artículos y las reseñas, las instituciones patrocinadoras de SurdeMéxico y los nombres de los integrantes de sus diferentes consejos y comités se encontrarán en la página electrónica de la revista -aún en construcción-, a través de la cual se informará también sobre asuntos de la revista.

Con gusto se recibirán mediante correo electrónico, fax o correo postal toda clase de sugerencias y comentarios.

**SUR DE MÉXICO** [Revista regional multi-institucional y multi-disciplinaria de ciencias sociales y humanas]

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## CLAG & LASG MEMBERS GRANTS, AWARDS, RESEARCH & OTHER ACTIVITIES

**Jim Biles** (Indiana University) and **Greg Veeck** (Western Michigan University) are co-editing a special issue of the *Journal of Geography* focusing on Geography, Geographers and Overseas Study to appear in early 2009. This edited volume, which focuses on the role of Geography, as an academic pursuit, and geographers, as scholars and educators, in challenging and transforming the dominant model of study abroad, includes contributions from several fellow Latin Americanists, including **Joe Scarpaci** (Virginia Tech), **Kathleen Schroeder** (Appalachian State), **Brad Jokisch** (Ohio University), and **Matthew Taylor** (University of Denver).

**Sandra Baptista** received her Ph.D. in Geography from Rutgers University. In her dissertation, titled *Forest recovery and just sustainability in the Florianópolis city-region*, she focused on metropolitan Florianópolis in the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil. Her article "Metropolitanization and forest recovery in southern Brazil: a multiscale analysis of the Florianópolis city-region, Santa Catarina State, 1970 to 2005" was recently published in the open access journal *Ecology and Society* 13(2): 5. This fall she began a two-year postdoctoral research position at Columbia University as an Earth Institute Fellow. She is based on the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory campus at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN; <http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu>) where she is involved in projects within the NASA-funded Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC). Her current research addresses land use, ecosystem services, development, globalization, social inequalities, vulnerabilities, human rights, environmental justice, democracy, and participatory governance. With a focus on the Latin American region, at CIESIN Baptista is contributing to the development of global-scale spatial data sets, products, and services that integrate socioeconomic, ecological, and remote sensing data.

**Clark Gray** (UNC-CH postdoc) traveled to Ecuador in June with **Richard Bilsborrow** to initiate a new NIH-funded project titled "Frontier Migration and the Rural Environment in Ecuador." This project will use survey and spatial data to investigate the influences of environmental factors on rural out-migration.

**Philip Keating** (Indiana University) continues to work in Ecuador, with expeditions in 2005-2007, where he worked on 1) conservation issues in southern Ecuador, and 2) forest ecology and paramo fires in sites located in both northern and southern Ecuador.

**Altha Cravey** (University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill) produced a new documentary titled: *The Virgin Appears in La Maldita Vecindad* (32 minutes). The video premiered recently at the 21st Annual Latin American Film Festival of the Consortium of Latin American Studies at UNC and Duke. It was co-produced with Elva E. Bishop and Javier Garcia. The video brings together distinct celebrations of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Durham, North Carolina. For over a decade, matachine dancers have honored the Virgin with indigenous rituals and hours of dancing in La Maldita Vecindad, a run-down apartment complex. In a related activity linked to the immigrants' rights movement, Guadalupana runners carried a torch through Durham en route from the Basilica in Mexico City to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City in 2005 and 2007. The website for the documentary is: <http://virginappears.unc.edu>

## CLAG & LASG MEMBERS GRANTS, AWARDS, RESEARCH & OTHER ACTIVITIES

**Katia R. Aviles-Vazquez**, Doctoral Candidate at the Department of Geography and the Environment, The University of Texas at Austin, received a \$10,000 Award from Southern Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education Graduate Student Grant for her project, with the working title: The fate of the finca: *Smallholders in the Hispanic Caribbean*. Katia's advisor is **Gregory Knapp**.

**Cesar N. Caviedes**, University of Florida. Since his retirement in 2005, Caviedes has maintained an active program of activities. In 2005 and 2006 he taught as an invited lecturer at the University of Heidelberg and Humboldt University in Berlin. In 2007 he was invited by the Universidad Nacional de Colombia a guest speaker at a symposium on Climate and Society and gave a lecture at the Universidad de los Andes on the influence of El Niño on historical events. In November of that year he gave a talk at the Instituto de Ciencias Políticas of the Universidad de Chile about trends in the field of geographical analysis of electoral results. In 2007 a chapter "Impacts of El Niño-Southern Oscillation on natural and human systems" appeared in *The Physical Geography of South America*, T.T. Veblen, K.R. Young and A.R. Orme, eds. Oxford University Press. A paper "Global climatic anomalies of the past: On the track of ancient El Niños" was published in the *Geographical Journal. International Edition* (Vol. 3, 2, 2007). In 2008 his contribution "The Southern Cone" appeared in the Volumen 63 (Social Sciences) of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*. In October of 2008 an article entitled "El Niño: extreme weather on the increase?" was included in the book *The Seventy Great Mysteries of the Natural World* edited by Michael J. Benton, Thames and Hudson, London & New York. A paper "Variaciones regionales del voto en las elecciones congresionales de Chile: 1989-2006" is scheduled for publication in *Política: Revista de Ciencia Política*, Santiago de Chile, in 2009. Cesar is looking forward to attend a future CLAG meeting to renew old friendships and establish contacts with the new bases of this successful and warm organization.

**Ivan J. Ramirez**, PhD student, (Department of Geography at Michigan State University-MSU) conducted fieldwork this past summer in Piura, Peru on cholera and El Niño-Southern Oscillation. Ivan received two fellowships for this research: a Tinker Field Research Award, a fellowship from the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, MSU, and a Graduate Office Fellowship from the Department of Geography, MSU. Ivan expects to return to Peru next summer.

**C. Patrick Heidkamp**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Southern Connecticut State University received a CSU-AAUP research grant of \$ 3,940.00 for the following project: Integrating Cost Benefit Analysis and Geographic Information Systems to aid land management decisions in a differentiated coffee market: A Costa Rican case study. The funding allowed him to spend last summer in Costa Rica's Tarrazu region collecting relevant field data on coffee production. His research builds on a paper focused on the implications of credence attribute labels (e.g. shade-grown, birdfriendly) on land use change he co-authored with Dean Hanink and Robert Cromley, both at the University of Connecticut.

## CLAG & LASG MEMBERS GRANTS, AWARDS, RESEARCH & OTHER ACTIVITIES

**Congratulations to Betty Elaine Smith (Eastern Illinois University) on her recent promotion to Full Professor!**

**Betty Elaine Smith** (Eastern Illinois University) received the following two internal research grants: (1) 2007-2008 Academic year Eastern Illinois University Council of Faculty Research Award: Settlement Configuration and Density Analysis of Two Ecuadorian Cities, (\$4,281) (2) 2007-2008 Academic year Eastern Illinois University Rose Zeller Excellence in Research Award: Ecuador Migration Patterns, (\$900). Betty also engaged in an ANCIENT TRAIL MAPPING ACTIVITY with Eastern Illinois University undergraduate GEOGRAPHY STUDENT (Troy Clark) IN ECUADOR August 12-21, 2008: Global positioning system and local knowledge were used to identify and map a small portion of an east-west Andean-Coastal pre-colonial trade route west of the Panamerican Highway in Cotopaxi Province approximately 30 miles west of Lasso, Ecuador. Twelve points were placed on digital topographic maps of the region using a geographic information system and laptop.

National Geographic's website features an article titled "Superdirt Made Lost Amazon Cities Possible?" The article features **William Woods** (University of Kansas) speaking about the *terra preta* of the Amazon.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/11/081119-lost-cities-amazon.html>

For two years, **Stephen Webre** (History) and **Taylor E. Mack** (Social Sciences) Louisiana Tech University have worked to create the "Latin America Working Group" to promote interdisciplinary research and teaching on the region of Latin America. Headed by Stephen Webre, the group includes Geography, Spanish, Art, and other academic departments on campus. Each spring LA Tech has a focus on a region, featuring guest speakers, special courses, films, and other cultural events. For the Spring 2009 quarter, LA Tech will focus on Latin America, with Taylor E. Mack, the Geography in the Department of Social Sciences, playing a prominent role in the planning and execution of this interdisciplinary event. Taylor is working hard to secure a Geographer as one of the speakers for the Spring program.

**Taylor E. Mack** (Louisiana Tech University), spent nearly three weeks in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, working on the historical geography of the city's historic Parque Central area. The focus of his research is on the last 40 years, when major streets were closed to create the "Peatonal," pedestrian walkway, as well as changes to the Parque Central itself, and the closure of the area in 2007 to street vendors. Taylor is also looking at a non-Latin America topic about agricultural change in North-Central Louisiana since the end of the Second World War. He is also keeping busy making maps for several history professors for their articles and books, as improving his tennis game on his new Nintendo Wii, an early Christmas present to himself.

## **CLAG & LASG MEMBERS GRANTS, AWARDS, RESEARCH & OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Karl Butzer and others have recently published a paper on the Laguna Project in North-Central Mexico ("Geomorphology" v.101 [2008] pp.237-277), an area without any Prehispanic agriculture. But this record shows similar evidence of unstable soil-geomorphology relationships, beginning ~2300 years ago, as those highlighted in lake basins of Michoacan that have been attributed to land use impacts. The maximum of soil destruction by natural processes is well dated at about 1400 AD in a wide area between Saltillo and Durango. This suggests that , without further field study, caution is advised in using the Lake Patzcuaro record as evidence for Prehispanic or later landscape degradation.

Dan Klooster, University of Redlands, Deborah Leslie, University of Toronto, and Alejandro Mercado, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana Cuajimalpa have been awarded a North American Research Linkages grant from the Canadian Embassy, entitled Constructing Competitive Advantage in North American Furniture Districts: Using design, environmental quality, and regional distinctiveness to maintain space in a global economy. Through field visits in Toronto, Guadalajara, and Oaxaca the co-investigators will combine theoretical approaches, pool knowledge, and compare their existing case studies in order to better understand regional competitiveness, internal cooperation, innovation, and environmental sustainability of furniture and home décor agglomerations in key regions of Mexico and Canada. This work addresses the substantial challenges of establishing and maintaining competitive subnational regional agglomerations of furniture and home décor producers in a context of free trade across North America and increasing competition from low-cost Chinese producers, high-quality design-oriented manufacturers in Europe, and powerful transnational actors such as IKEA. These shifts, combined with intense currency fluctuations, undermine competitive strategies based mainly on price. They tie the long-term viability of North American furniture agglomerations to an ability to rework creative networks, to invest in original and geographically distinct design, and to attach notions of product quality to environmental and social justice implications of production.

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## **DIGITIZING CLAG PROCEEDINGS & YEARBOOKS**

The digitizing of the CLAG Proceedings and Yearbooks, is continuing, with over half already completed and available online at:

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

The following are digitized and available for download: 1970 Benchmark, 1972 Proceedings, 1974 Proceedings, 1980 Benchmark, 1984 Yearbook, 1985 Yearbook, 1986 Yearbook, 1987 Yearbook, 1988 Yearbook, 1989 Yearbook, 1990 Yearbook, 1990 Benchmark, 1993 Yearbook, 1994Yearbook, 1995 Yearbook, 1996Yearbook, 1997Yearbook, 1998 Yearbook, 1999Yearbook, 2000 Yearbook, 2001 Yearbook.

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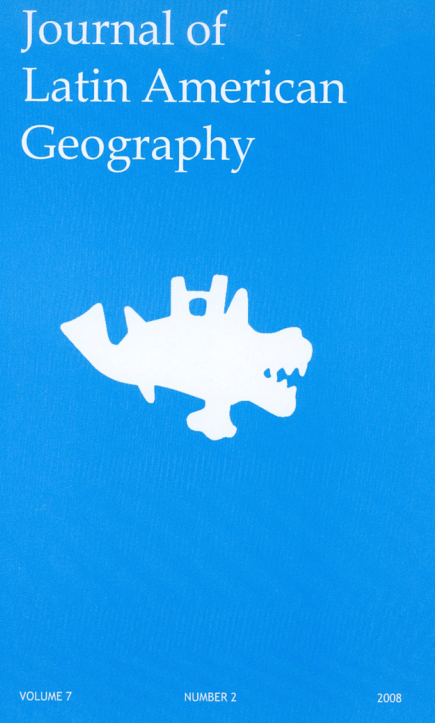
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## CLAG & LASG MEMBERS RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### Amazonian Dark Earths: Wim Sombroek's Vision

Woods, W.I.; Teixeira, W.G.; Lehmann, J.; Steiner, C.; Winkler-Prins, A.M.G.A.; Rebellato, L. (Eds.)

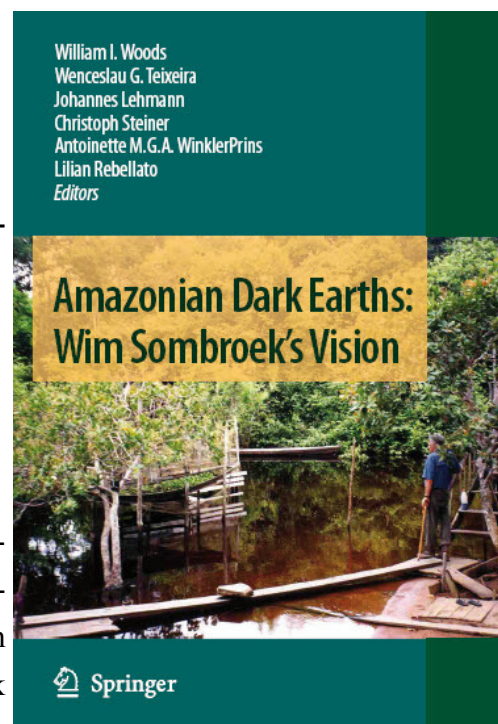
8 color pages, 2009, XXIV, 504 p., Hardcover  
ISBN: 978-1-4020-9030-1

Amazonian soils are almost universally thought of as extremely forbidding. However, it is now clear that complex societies with large, sedentary populations were present for over a millennium before European contact. Associated with these are tracts of anomalously fertile, dark soils termed *terra preta* or dark earths. These soils are presently an important agricultural resource within Amazonia and provide a model for developing long-term future sustainability of food production in tropical environments.

The late Dutch soil scientist Wim Sombroek (1934-2003) was instrumental in bringing the significance of these soils to the attention of the world over four decades ago. Wim saw not only the possibilities of improving the lives of small holders throughout the world with simple carbon based soil technologies, but was an early proponent of the positive synergies also achieved in regards to carbon sequestration and global climatic change abatement. Wim's vision was to form a multidisciplinary group whose members maintained the ideal of open collaboration toward the attainment of shared goals. Always encouraged and often shaped by Wim, this free association of international scholars termed the *Terra Preta Nova* Group came together in 2001 and has flourished. This effort has been defined by enormous productivity. Wim who is never far from any of our minds and hearts, would have loved to share the great experience of seeing the fruits of his vision as demonstrated in this volume.

<http://www.springer.com/environment/soil+science/book/978-1-4020-9030-1>

[http://www.amazon.com/Amazonian-Dark-Earths-Sombroeks-Vision/dp/1402090307/ref=si3\\_rdr\\_bb\\_product](http://www.amazon.com/Amazonian-Dark-Earths-Sombroeks-Vision/dp/1402090307/ref=si3_rdr_bb_product)



## CLAG & LASG MEMBERS RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### Migrants to the Metropolis: The Rise of Immigrant Gateway Cities.

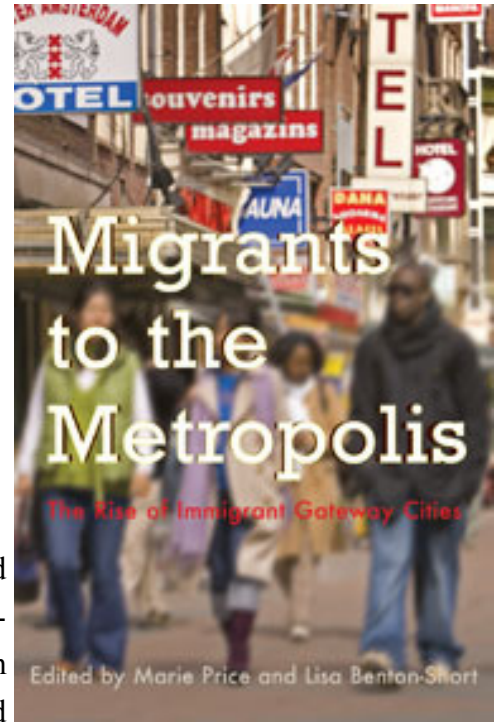
Edited by Marie Price and Lisa Benton Short

Cloth \$45.00 ISBN: 978-0-8156-3161-3, 2008

Paper \$24.95 ISBN: 978-0-8156-3186-6, 2008

2008, Syracuse University Press

Immigration today touches the lives and economies of more people and places than ever before. Yet the places that are disproportionately affected by immigrant flows are not countries but cities. This collection examines contemporary global immigration trends and their profound effect on specific host cities. The book focuses not only on cities with long-established diverse populations, such as New York, Toronto, and Sydney, but also on lesser known established gateway cities such as Birmingham (UK), São Paulo, and Amsterdam, and the emerging gateways of Johannesburg, Washington, D.C., Singapore, and Dublin. The essays gathered here provide a global portrait of accelerating, worldwide immigration driven by income differentials, social networks, and various state policies that recruit skilled and unskilled laborers. Gateway cities vary in form and function, but many are hyperdiverse, globally linked through transnational networks, and often increasingly segregated spaces. Offering penetrating analyses by leading scholars in the field, *Migrants to the Metropolis* redirects the global narrative surrounding migration away from states and borders and toward cities, where the vast majority of economic migrants settle.



<http://www.syedu/spring-2008/migrants-to-the-metropolis-rise-immigrant.html>racuseuniversitypress.syr

**Arroyo-Kalin, Manuel, Eduardo G. Neves, and William I. Woods.** 2009. Anthropogenic Earths of the Central Amazon Region: Remarks on their Evolution and Polygenetic Composition. In *Amazonian Dark Earths: Wim Sombroek's Vision*, edited by William I. Woods, Wenceslau G. Teixeira, Johannes Lehmann, Christoph Steiner, Antoinette WinklerPrins, and Lilian Rebellato, pp. 99-126. Springer. Berlin.

**Biles, J.J.** 2008. Informal work and livelihoods in Mexico: getting by or getting ahead? *The Professional Geographer* 60, 4, 541-555.

## CLAG & LASG MEMBERS RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### Temples of the Earthbound Gods: Stadiums in the Cultural Landscapes of Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires

By **Christopher Thomas Gaffney**

285 pp., 53 photos, 7 figures, 15 maps, 2 tables

ISBN: 978-0-292-71880-7

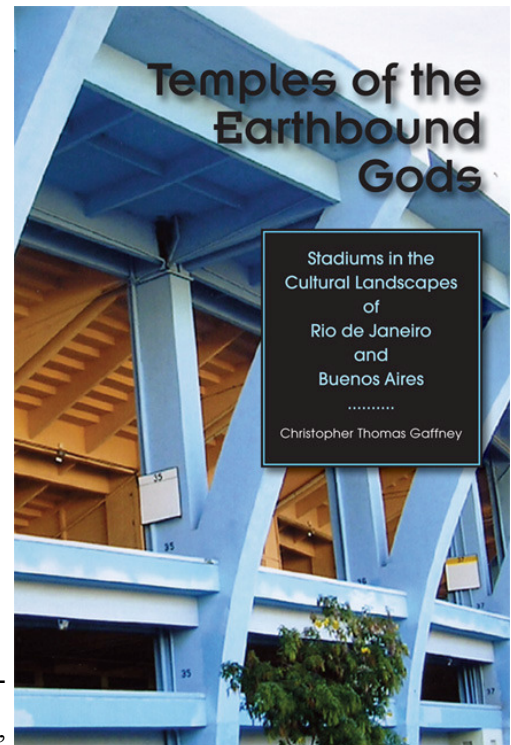
\$55.00, hardcover with dust jacket

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In Rio de Janeiro, the spiritual home of world football, and Buenos Aires, where a popular soccer club president was recently elected mayor, the game is an integral part of national identity. Using the football stadium as an illuminating cultural lens, *Temples of the Earthbound Gods* examines many aspects of urban culture that play out within these monumental architectural forms, including spirituality, violence, rigid social norms, anarchy, and also expressions of sexuality and gender.

Tracing the history of the game in Brazil and Argentina through colonial influences as well as indigenous ball courts in Mayan, Aztec, Zapotec, Mixtec, and Olmec societies, Christopher Gaffney's study spans both ancient and contemporary worlds, linking the development of stadiums to urbanization and the consolidation of nation building in two of Latin America's most intriguing megacities.



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