

# CLAG & LASG NEWSLETTER

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Marcelus Caldas, Editor  
Kansas State University

## In this Issue:

Letter from the CLAG Chair	2
Letter from the LASG Chair	3
Conferences	4
Theses & Dissertations	5
Announcements	5
Presentations	7
Books	7
CLASG/LASG Student Award Winners	8
Publications	8
Remembering Geographers	9

# Letter from the CLAG Chair

Fellow CLAG Members,

It was good to see so many of you at the Annual Business Meeting in Seattle during the AAG conference. There has also been a lot going on with CLAG since our last Newsletter came out.

Jim Biles is working hard to get the CLAG Meeting organized for Mérida, Mexico, in January. We are expecting quite a turn out for the meeting, and Jim has already worked with several CLAG members to set up some great field trips.

Another item that was brought up in the Board Members Meeting in Seattle, was to have a CLAG page on Facebook. That is currently set up, so if you have a Facebook account you can do a search for “Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers” and find CLAG’s page. Please use this resource as a supplement to CLAGnet, our official means of communicating with members. Feel free to post pertinent items to the CLAG Facebook page.

David Robinson organized a great session in Seattle for CLAG’s research session, and it focused on some of the fantastic, groundbreaking research on the *terra preta*, or dark earth soils of the Amazon. Much of this research is contributing to a new understanding of the Pre-Columbian history of this region.

CLAG’s own *Journal of Latin American Geography* (JLAG) is coming out with a special issue in 2012 on “Negotiating Spanish American Landscapes” that should be an excellent issue and bring a lot of attention to JLAG outside of the geographic community. CLAG’s budget has been doing quite well, largely from payments from Project Muse for people downloading JLAG articles. You can build your own digital copy of JLAG, and soon the old CLAG Yearbooks, by downloading the files from Project Muse.

The Executive Committee is already trying to line up speakers for another CLAG Research Session during the New York AAG Meeting in February 2012. The deadline for abstracts is late September, because the meeting is much earlier than normal for the AAG, so if you have any suggestions for a topic for the session, please email me and I will pass your idea on to the other Executive Committee members.

I have too many things going on this summer to make it to Latin America, so I am quite envious of all of you are doing field work in the region. As you are working on your research results, please keep CLAG’s own *Journal of Latin American Geography* in mind as an outlet for your research.

I hope to see you in Mérida in January!

Sincerely  
Taylor E. Mack  
Chair, Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers  
Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana, USA  
[tmack@latech.edu](mailto:tmack@latech.edu)

## Letter from the LASG Chair

The recently concluded Seattle AAG Meeting was a welcome opportunity to once again appreciate the wide array of research in which we are collectively engaged. Though the LASG sponsored or co-sponsored fewer sessions than last year, Latin American topics were well represented throughout the conference, and the informal discussions with colleagues old and new were, as always, engaging and enlightening.

This year's meeting also marked the end of Claudia Radel's term as Secretary-Treasurer. Her contributions over the last two years have been invaluable, and on behalf of the LASG, mil gracias to Claudia for her service. Assuming the duties of Secretary-Treasurer for 2011-2013 will be Steven Rainey (McNeese State University), who was elected at our Seattle business meeting.

As I have frequently mentioned, I believe one of our greatest strengths as a specialty group is the level of support we provide for our student members, and I am delighted that our awards are helping develop the next generation of Latin Americanist scholars. In 2011 we once again recognized student research efforts in the form of a LASG Best Paper Award and our LASG Field Study Awards. Congratulations to Peter Richards (Ph.D. level, Michigan State University), who received the Best Paper Award for his paper "Fuel to the Fire: On how currency fluctuations generated the South American soy boom." Additional congratulations to the two recipients of LASG Field Study Awards, Gary Schnakenberg (Ph. D. level, Michigan State University) for his fieldwork in Jamaica, and Laurel Bellante (Master's level, University of Arizona) for her research in Chiapas.

Of course, such recognition comes only through the service of regular members. Many thanks this year to the LASG Student Paper Award Committee (David Salisbury, Sarah Blue, Ellen Hansen, and Joe Scarpaci) and the LASG Field Study Travel Award Committee (Matthew Taylor, Kristen Conway-Gómez, Matt Fry, Nancy Pullen, and Margaret Wilder); your commitment and service is greatly appreciated by all!

As those of you who attended the Seattle meeting can attest, spring weather is often fickle in the Pacific Northwest; here in the rain shadow of the Cascades, the warm season is finally beginning. With summer right around the corner, or already underway for many of you, I wish you all a safe and productive season of travels and research!

Saludos a todos,

Craig S. Revels  
Central Washington University  
LASG Chair, 2010-2012

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT!!!**

**LASG has a new home on the web: [aaa.usu.edu/lasg](http://aaa.usu.edu/lasg).**

## Conferences

### ► Conference of Latin American Geographers (CLAG 2012)

Following the successful meeting in Bogotá last May, the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers will convene for the 31st time from January 11-13, 2012 in Mérida, Mexico. Although Mérida has grown significantly since CLAG last met there in 1986, the city still retains much of its colonial charm. In terms of travel costs, Mérida is a relatively inexpensive destination in terms of transportation, lodging and food. The city is easily accessible by air (through Houston) and cheap flights can be found from most large U.S. cities to Cancún, which is a 3.5 hour bus-ride from Mérida.

The meeting will be hosted by the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY) and cultural events are scheduled for the Centro Cultural Olimpo and Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, both in Mérida's main plaza. Several field trips also have been planned before and after the meeting. For details and more information regarding registration, organized sessions, and submission of abstracts, please consult the conference website at <http://www.clag2012.org>. You can also contact Jim Biles, who is organizing the meeting, at [jbiles@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:jbiles@ccny.cuny.edu).

### ► III Congreso de Geografía de las Universidades Públicas

Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias, Santa Fe, Argentine, 12 al 15 de octubre de 2011. El congreso tiene como propósito fortalecer las acciones de intercambio entre los Departamentos de Geografía de las Universidades Públicas de Argentina, propiciando el espacio necesario para el trabajo conjunto en investigación, experiencias académicas y reflexiones disciplinares.

### ► Congreso de Estudios Mayas

El Comité Organizador del IX Congreso de Estudios Mayas “Oxlajuj B’aqtun: Cambio de ciclo y sus desafíos”, extiende una cordial invitación a las distintas organizaciones académicas, sociales y políticas, y personas individuales para que participen en las diferentes mesas temáticas. El Congreso se realizará los días 3, 4 y 5 de agosto de 2011, en el Campus Central de la Universidad Rafael Landívar.

### ► International Geographic Union (UGI 2011)

Regional Geographic Conference from 14 to 18 November, Escuela Militar, Santiago, Chile. The local committee informs the authors of submissions that the results of the review of the abstracts for papers and posters are now available. Entering the on-line submissions system as author, the current status of your submission can be seen, and the letter of acceptance can be downloaded if needed.

Santiago - Chile

### ► 54° ICA- Congreso Internacional de Americanistas

Location: Viena, Austria, 15 to 20 de julio de 2012. Área temática: Economía/Economics  
599 - Dinámica económica y espacial de las metrópolis latinoamericanas

Coordinador: Sandra Lencioni Universidade de São Paulo São Paulo - SP Brazil / Brasilien

Co-Coordinador: Sonia Vidal-Koppmann Universidad de Buenos Aires - CONICET, Buenos Aires, Argentina / Argentinien. More information: <http://ica2012.univie.ac.at/es/inicio/>

## Theses & Dissertations

- ▶ Andrea Hall, May of 2010. “(Eco)tourism in the karst landscape of Puerto Rico.” M.S. in Geography, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Advisor Michael J. Day. She will start a doctoral program at the University of South Florida.
- ▶ Alexandra Pedersen, April 2011. "Amplifying the Voices of Development: Insights from Indigenous Maya Leaders in Quiché, Guatemala." MA International Studies, University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Nolin
- ▶ Nathan Einbinder, August 2010. "Dams, Displacement, and Perceptions of Development: A Case Study from Río Negro, Guatemala." MA Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography) graduate program, University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). Adviser Dr. Catherine Nolin.
- ▶ Elizabeth Shapiro received her doctorate from the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the University of California, Berkeley in August, 2010. She will start her new job as Assistant Professor in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University.
- ▶ Ivan J Ramirez, Ph.D. from Michigan State in 2011. He will be visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Division of Natural Sciences, New College of Florida, Sarasota. He will be the first geographer to be hired at this college. Adviser: Sue C. Grady

## Announcements

- ▶ The CLAG board election results. The new board members are:

Regular members:

Sarah Blue	(Northern Illinois University)
Matthew Fry	(University of North Texas)
David Salisbury	(University of Richmond)
Joseph Scarpaci	(Havana Consulting Group)
Jorn Seemann	(Universidade Regional do Cariri, Brazil)
Jeffrey Smith	(Kansas State University)

Student member:

Rebecca Clouser (Indiana University)

Period in office: July 1, 2011- June 30, 2014

- ▶ David Robinson has agreed to serve another term as Executive Director. David has done a great job in promoting CLAG and JLAG, and we are really happy to have him for another term.

▶ KANSAS, MANHATTAN 66506-2904. The Department of Geography at Kansas State University invites applicants for a TERM INSTRUCTOR POSITION at 0.4 FTE beginning 7 August 2011. The appointment period is one academic year. Ph.D. in geography preferred, ABD in geography considered. Contact: Professor Chuck Martin

- ▶ At the CLAG Business Meeting in Seattle, the Board of Directors voted that CLAG should start a page on Facebook. With the help of Andres Guhl, Vice-Chair of CLAG and Taylor Mack, CLAG has a Facebook page. If you have a Facebook account, do a search for Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers and you should find it. But remember: CLAG members are not required to get a Facebook account. CLAGnet, our email listserv, and the CLAG website (<http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm>) are still the official means of communicating with CLAG's membership. The CLAG Facebook page is an addition to and will supplement CLAGnet and our website.
  
- ▶ James Biles will be stepping down as Asst Dean in the Division of Social Sciences at CUNY-City College to take over as Director of the International Studies Program this Fall. He recently received a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to research the livelihood implications of the reconfiguration of global agrifood production and distribution systems in the case of Yucatán, Mexico.
  
- ▶ Chris Gaffney from the Universidade Federal Fluminense in Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro has recently been awarded a two-year grant to study the urban and social impacts related to the installation of the four Bus Rapid Transit lines being installed for the 2016 Olympic Games. Also, he is the national research coordinator for a project at IPPUR/UFRJ investigating the socio-spatial effects of the 12 World Cup stadium and infrastructure projects.
  
- ▶ Laurel Bellante, a student in Latin American Studies at the University of Arizona, was recently awarded the following funding in support of her Master's fieldwork on Emerging Alternative Food Networks in Chiapas, Mexico: LASG Field Study Award; Foreign Language and Areas Studies Fellowship to study Tsotsil (summer 2011); Summer Field Tinker Grant; and SBSRI Pre-Doc Graduate Research Grant.
  
- ▶ Pamela Sertzen was awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation for a project tentatively titled "Experiencing violence: children's geographies of the everyday in the urban space of the Brazilian favela." In addition, she received grants from the Tinker Foundation through the Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and other internal departments at UT-Austin. She is a first-year MA candidate in the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Texas at Austin and her advisor is Dr. Rebecca Torres.
  
- ▶ Emma Gaalaas Mullaney received support for 11 months of fieldwork to study the diverse maize ecology and critical practices of landrace cultivation in the central highland region of Mexico. In addition, she received from the Yale's Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies (CLAIS), in partnership with the Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University and IDIEZ (the Instituto de Docencia e Investigación Etnológica de Zacatecas, Mexico) the opportunity to study Classical and Modern Nahuatl in the Vanderbilt campus in Nashville, Tennessee June 20 to July 29, 2011.
  
- ▶ Dan Klooster and Alejandro Mercado Celis. Hacia una red de producción sostenible en Oaxaca. Simposio Internacional: Integrando Conocimientos para el Uso y Conservacion de los Bosques Comunitarios de la Sierra Norte de Oaxaca, México. 29 y 30 de abril, 2011. CIIDIR – Oaxaca, Instituto Politécnico Nacional y Florida International University. Oaxaca, Mexico.

## Announcements *Continued...*

- ▶ The King's Brazil Institute is pleased to announce the launch of its new PhD program and two new PhD studentships, both available from September 2011. The Brazil Institute offers students a unique and exciting environment for the in-depth study of Brazil, and access to academic expertise across a range of disciplines, especially in the fields of: Culture, Cultural Representation and Social Change; Economic Development, Energy and Environment; Governance and Citizenship; International Relations; Law, Justice and Human Rights; Public Health and Social Policy; Urban Studies. Supervision may be provided from within the Institute or jointly with other staff of the College. PhD students will have the opportunity to study Brazil in regional and global context by drawing upon the expertise of specialists in Latin America and other emerging powers, including China and India. More information can be obtained at [www.kcl.ac.uk/brazilinstitute](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/brazilinstitute).
- ▶ Richard Hunter (Ph.D. Louisiana State University, 2009) has accepted a tenure-track position in the Geography Department at SUNY-Cortland to begin August 2011.
- ▶ Sarah Blue will begin a position as Assistant Professor of Geography at Texas State University in the Fall of 2011.

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## Presentations

- ▶ Dan Klooster, Professor and Director Latin American Studies Program, University of Redlands was invited to give a talk in a simposium at a Mexican university, via a USAID-TIES grant.
- ▶ Salisbury, D. S. 2011. "Modeling the Impacts of Transboundary Roads in the Amazon: Transboundary Infrastructure and National Security." Presentation for United States National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History Annual Meeting, March 11, Miami, FL.

## Books

- ▶ *Temples of the Earthbound Gods* (UTexas Press, 2008) is being translated into Portuguese by Editora 7 Letras. Author: Chris Gaffney from the Universidade Federal Fluminense in Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro.
- ▶ *Latin America: An Autobiographical Sketch by a Career Geographer*. The book is a series of narratives presents true accounts by an academic geographer as he traveled, taught and conducted research in the rich and fascinating cultural area commonly known as Latin America. Author: Bob Thomas. You can find the book at: [edupublisher.com](http://edupublisher.com)

## CLAG: LASG Students Awards Winners

▶ The Paper Committee composed of Sarah Blue, Joseph Scarpaci, Ellen Hansen and David Salisbury selected the following students as award winners:

Best Paper Award (PhD level) \$500: Peter D. Richards, Michigan State University, "Fuel to the Fire: On how currency fluctuations generated the South American soy boom"

Field Study Award (PhD level) \$600: Gary R. Schnakenberg, Michigan State University, "Food, Tourism, and Globalization: Revitalizing Smallholder Agriculture in Jamaica?"

Field Study Award (MA/MS level) \$300: Laurel Bellante, University of Arizona, "Emerging Alternative Food Networks in Chiapas, Mexico"

## Publications

- ▶ Arima, E., Richards, P., Walker, R. and Caldas, M. Statistical confirmation of indirect land use change in the Brazilian Amazon. 2011. *Environment Research Letters*. 6 024010.
- ▶ Blue, Sarah A. and Anita I. Drever. 2010. Subcontracting Work via Social Networks: Migrant Latino Labor and the Re-Building of New Orleans, *Population, Space & Place*, DOI: 10.1002/psp.627
- ▶ Blue, Sarah A. 2010. Cuban Medical Internationalism: Domestic and International Impacts, *Journal of Latin American Geography*, 9(1): 35-57.
- ▶ Brannstrom, Chris published a revised and translated paper on hookworm eradication in 1920s Brazil in a history journal based at the Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa, in Parana' state ["A Fundação Rockefeller e a campanha de erradicação do ancilóstomo em São Paulo (1917-1926)," *Revista de História Regional* 15(2): 10-48]
- ▶ Brannstrom, C. "Forests for cotton: Institutions and organizations in Brazil's mid-twentieth-century cotton boom," *Journal of Historical Geography* 36(2): 169-82.
- ▶ Coomes, O.T., Y. Takasaki and J. Rhemtulla. 2011. "Land-use poverty traps identified in shifting cultivation systems shape long-term tropical forest cover" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* (in press).
- ▶ Durán, E., Bray, D.B., Velázquez, A., y Larrazábal, A. 2011. Multi-Scale Forest Governance, Deforestation, and Violence in Two Regions of Guerrero, Mexico. *World Development*. 39 (4) 611 - 619.
- ▶ Fadiman, M. Cultural Connect with Local Megafauna: Maori and the Kauri. *The Florida Geographer* 41:4-21.



- ▶ Fadiman, M. How Cultural Awareness and Ingenuity Benefits Forest Stewardship Council Certification in the Developing World: Case Study in Zimbabwe, Africa. *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences* 33:75-84.
- ▶ Finley-Brook, Mary and Curtis Thomas. 2011. "Renewable Energy and Human Rights Violations: Illustrative Cases from Indigenous Territories in Panama," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 101 (4): 1-10.
- ▶ Karl Offen, "Colonial Bioprospecting in Central America and the West Indies," *Itinerario* 35, no.1 (2011): 15-47
- ▶ Laplante, J.P. and Nolin, C. 2011. Snake oil and the myth of corporate social responsibility. *Canadian Dimension*, 45 (1) Jan/Feb, Special Issue: Bad Neighbours: A Focus on Canadian Mining Abroad, pp. 24-27. See: <http://canadiandimension.com/articles/3613/>
- ▶ McSweeney, K. and O. T. Coomes. 2011. "Climate-related disaster opens a window of opportunity for rural poor in northeastern Honduras" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 108(13): 5203-5208.
- ▶ Ponette-Gonzalez, A. G., K. C. Weathers, et al. "Tropical land-cover change alters biogeochemical inputs to ecosystems in a Mexican montane landscape." *Ecological Applications* 20(7): 1820-1837.
- ▶ Salisbury, D.S., Borgo López, José, and Vela Alvarado, Jorge W. 2011. Transboundary political ecology in Amazonia: history, culture, and conflicts of the borderland Asháninka. *Journal of Cultural Geography*. V. 28, no 1: 147-177.
- ▶ Taylor, M.J., Moran-Taylor, M.J., Castellanos, E., and Elias, S. 2011. Burning for Sustainability: Biomass Energy, International Migration, and the Move to Cleaner Fuels in Guatemala. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 101(4). DOI: 10.1080/00045608.2011.56888

## Remembering Geographers

- ▶ Hilgard O'Reilly Sternberg, a professor emeritus of geography at the University of California, Berkeley, who was considered the dean of Amazonian geography, died Tuesday, March 2, of natural causes in Fremont, Calif. He was 93. <http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2011/03/04/amazon-expert-hilgard-o'reilly-sternberg-dies-at-93/>
- ▶ Maurício de Almeida Abreu, professor of Geography, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). Professor Abreu was born on December 18, 1948. He got his bachelor degree in Geography from Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. His master and PhD. degrees came from Ohio State University. In 1977 he started to study the urban development of Rio de Janeiro, and publish the book "Evolução Urbana no Rio de Janeiro" (1987). He was a scholar dedicated to understand the effect of public policies in pushing poor classes to the periphery. He was representing the field of Human Geography in the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico.