



Center for Latino/a and
Latin American Studies
University of Oregon

CLLAS Notes

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Winter 2011

Collaborations

Working with Others for the Greater Good

The 2010-11 academic year at CLLAS is marked by collaboration—a spirited cooperation of talents, skills, and energies in pursuit of our goals. We have been working with other universities in Oregon as well as in Mexico and the Dominican Republic, with community partners and businesses in Oregon, and with a wide range of disciplines.

CLLAS is participating in a yearlong cycle of events focused on African Diasporas in the Americas, giving special attention to Afro-descendants in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. We were delighted to welcome several outstanding scholars as part of our fall symposium on “New Approaches to the Study of Slavery and Abolition in the Americas,” including Jane Landers (Vanderbilt University), Alejandro de la Fuente (University of Pittsburgh), Nicole von Gernet (Oregon State University), Michelle McKinley (UO), and Courtney Thorsen (UO). More than 200 people attended the events, including many UO students. During winter term we look forward on February 18 to hosting Priya Kandaswamy (Mills College); Denise Ferreira da Silva (University of California, San Diego); Melissa Stuckey (UO); and Charise Cheney (UO) as participants in our second symposium, “Hemispheric Blackness: Rethinking the Black Diaspora.” Spring term, we welcome Haitian novelist Myriam Chancy to give the Bartolomé de las Casas Lecture in Latin American Studies. We also look forward to a visit from Juan Flores (New York University), who will speak on his new book focused on Afro-Latinos/as in the United States.

In our own state of Oregon, fall 2010 was marked by the announcement that Special Collections and University Archives at the UO Knight Library will curate the papers of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Oregon’s farmworker union. PCUN and Special Collections and University Archives at the UO Knight Library will issue a formal announcement early in 2011. This is an important precedent, and CLLAS looks forward to helping secure the historic papers of other Latino organizations. Along with the Latino Roots project already underway, such collections will make the University of Oregon the source for Latino History in the state. CLLAS is also partnering with the CAPACES Latino Leadership Institute in Woodburn to train the next generation of Latino students.

CLLAS has developed a new partnership with InterDOM, the leading internship and academic study abroad program in the Dominican Republic. Through the Oregon University System (OUS), students at UO will be the first OUS students able to go to the Dominican Republic



PCUN papers were a topic of discussion at PCUN headquarters in Woodburn in October. From left: CLLAS director Lynn Stephen; James Fox, director of Special Collections and University Archives, UO Libraries; CLLAS board member Gabriela Martínez; PCUN advisor Mario Sifuentez; and Dorothy Knaus, a retired manuscripts coordinator in Special Collections and University Archives, UO Libraries.

for an integrated experience of internships and study abroad. Other OUS students will then follow. We also look forward to putting the final touches on an exchange agreement between UO and the National University of Mexico (UNAM), based in Mexico City.

Finally, CLLAS has funded an exciting round of research projects for five graduate students, and for collaborative work among faculty members and community groups. I encourage you to read about their research in *CLLAS Notes* and online at the CLLAS website.

This has been an excellent beginning to our academic year, and we look forward to other exciting collaborative activities in 2011.

Saludos,

*Lynn Stephen, Director, Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies
Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies*

COLABORACIÓN: TRABAJAR CON OTROS PARA MEJORAR LA SITUACIÓN DE TODOS

El año académico de 2010-2011 por CLLAS está marcado por la colaboración—una cooperación entre diversas personas que contribuyen con sus habilidades, talentos y energías para realizar nuestras metas. Hemos estado trabajando con otras universidades en Oregon

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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

COLABORACIÓN, *continued from previous page*

y en los EEUU al igual que en México y la República Dominicana, con organizaciones y negocios en Oregon, y con departamentos de disciplinas académicas muy diversas.

CLLAS ha organizado junto con otras unidades de la Universidad de Oregon un ciclo de eventos este año enfocados en diásporas africanas en las Américas, dando atención especial a los Afro-descendientes en América Latina, el Caribe, y los Estados Unidos. Hemos tenido el gusto de dar la bienvenida a varios académicos de alta calidad como parte de nuestro simposio del otoño titulado "Nuevas perspectivas en el estudio de la esclavitud y la abolición en las Américas," incluyendo a Jane Landers (Universidad de Vanderbilt), Alejandro de la Fuente (Universidad de Pittsburgh), Nicole von Gernet (Universidad de Oregon State), Michelle McKinley (UO), y Courtney Thorssen (UO). Más de 200 personas estuvieron presentes en los eventos del simposio, incluyendo muchos estudiantes de UO. Durante el trimestre de invierno, el 18 de febrero de 2011, vamos a tener el placer de la presencia de Priya Kandaswamy (Colegio de Mills), Denise Ferreira da Silva (Universidad de California, San Diego), Melissa Stuckey (UO), y Charise Cheney (UO) como participantes en nuestro segundo simposio titulado, "Negritud hemisférica: repensando la diáspora negra." Habrá un ciclo de cine sobre Haití también en el invierno. Finalmente, en el trimestre de la primavera, vamos a tener el honor de recibir a la novelista Haitiana, Myriam Chancy quien va a dar la conferencia anual "Bartolomé de las Casas en Estudios Latinoamericanos." También viene a visitarnos Juan Flores de la Universidad de Nueva York para discutir su enfoque en los Afro-Latinos en los Estados Unidos.

En nuestro estado, el otoño de 2010 estuvo marcado por el anuncio de que Colecciones Especiales y Archivos de la Universidad en la Biblioteca Knight de UO cuidará y archivará los papeles de Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), el sindicato de trabajadores agrícolas de Oregon. PCUN y Colecciones Especiales y Archivos de la Universidad en la Biblioteca Knight de UO emitirán un anuncio formal a principios de 2011. Este es un precedente importante, y CLLAS espera ayudar a conservar y proteger los documentos históricos de otras organizaciones latinas del estado. Junto con el proyecto Raíces Latinas ya en marcha, tales colecciones hacen de la Universidad de Oregon una fuente única para nutrir y salvaguardar la importante historia latina del estado. CLLAS también se está asociando con CAPACES Instituto de Liderazgo Latino en Woodburn para formar la próxima generación de líderes latinos.

CLLAS ha desarrollado una nueva asociación con InterDom, el líder de prácticas y de programas académicos en el extranjero en la República Dominicana. A través del Sistema Universitario de Oregon (OUS), los estudiantes de UO serán los primeros estudiantes de OUS que puedan ir a la República Dominicana para disfrutar de una experiencia integral de prácticas y estudios en el extranjero. Pensamos ampliar este programa en el futuro a otros estudiantes del Sistema Universitario de Oregon. También esperamos con anticipación finalizar un acuerdo de intercambio entre la UO y la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), con sede en la Ciudad de México.

Por último, CLLAS ha financiado una excelente ronda de proyectos de investigación incluyendo cinco estudiantes de posgrado y otros para investigaciones colaborativas entre profesores y grupos de la comunidad. Les sugiero leer acerca de estas investigaciones en las notas CLLAS y en línea en el sitio web de CLLAS.

Nuestro año académico ha comenzado con muy buen pie y esperamos otras actividades de colaboración en 2011.

Saludos,

*Lynn Stephen, Directora, Centro para Estudios Latinos/as y Latinoamericanos
Profesora Distinguida de Antropología y Estudios Étnicos*



CLLAS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

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OUR MISSION

Putting Latino/a and Latin American Studies in Conversation

OUR VISION

The Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies promotes collaborative research of relevance to Latin America and U.S. Latino Populations. CLLAS aims to be the premier research center in the Northwest for fresh knowledge and information about the region, peoples and shared history and culture.

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Building New Leadership at PCUN

Oregon's Farmworker Movement Plans for the Future

The inaugural gathering of the CAPACES Leadership Institute Council of Advisors—the CLICA—at PCUN's Risberg Hall on October 22 featured a lively conversation moderated by Western State Center's new executive director, Kelley Weigel. PCUN co-founders Ramón Ramírez and Larry Kleinman joined with University of Oregon anthropology professor Lynn Stephen and assistant professor of history Mario Sifuentez (University of California, Merced) to compare notions of what PCUN has—and has not—impacted in a quarter century of struggle.

The observations on key impacts raised common themes like the physical presence of movement-building (including such issues as housing and radio) and its deep grounding in the local community. But impacts also include many intangibles, such as obligating powerbrokers to think about farmworkers issues while also shaping how these issues are addressed, leading with humility, maintaining pragmatic yet visionary positions, leveraging power and influence, and weaving together personal and organizational networks. Though PCUN seems intensely local, commentators remarked on how our movement's ripples wash up around the country.



Building site of the new CAPACES Leadership Institute—Woodburn, Oregon



Speakers at the CLICA included (left to right): Lynn Stephen, Ramón Ramírez, Mario Sifuentez, Larry Kleinman, and Kelley Weigel.

The presentation and discussion also pointed out that PCUN's work has changed few laws or institutions fundamentally, that farmworkers' basic realities have not yet been transformed, and that PCUN's limited geographic scope means that PCUN is not engaging farmworkers in many parts of Oregon. Some 20 CLICA members took part in the ensuing discussion.

The strong contingent from UO included James Fox, director of Special Collections and University Archives, UO Libraries. Fox and colleagues got a cursory look at PCUN's library of documents, photos, tapes, and other items amassed over a third of a century. Within days, Fox extended an offer from Knight Library to begin formally archiving PCUN's material—and PCUN's Executive Committee accepted.

Though the CAPACES Leadership Institute will not take physical form until next October, the CLICA gathering forged a stronger sense of shared purpose and a crystalizing vision. The roster of CLICA members stands at 36 and the CLICA sign-up form is being circulated to those who haven't completed it—a first step for fitting together how collaboration and support may evolve. ■

— Reported by Larry Kleinman, PCUN co-founder

PCUN and the Farmworker Movement in Oregon

PCUN is the acronym for *Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste* (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United), the first farmworker movement in Oregon. Located in Woodburn, it is also Oregon's largest Latino organization. PCUN was founded in 1985 by 80 farmworkers. It now has more than 5,500 registered members, 98 percent of whom are Mexican and Central American immigrants. According to CLLAS director Lynn Stephen, "PCUN is simultaneously a locally focused organization, works alliances around the state, and is a national player—but never loses sight of Marion County. Working face-to-face with its constituency of farmworkers and treeplanters really matters; it makes the organization unique and successful."

PCUN collaborates with a variety of other local and regional organizations, including eight sister organizations under the umbrella of CAPACES. They are:

- Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, which built and manages (with farmworker participation) farmworker housing

projects in Woodburn, Salem and Independence

- Voz Hispana Causa Chavista, which organizes Latino voters and educates community members of the legacy of César Chávez
- Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas, which promotes economic and leadership development for farmworker women
- CAUSA, Oregon's statewide immigrant rights coalition
- Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS), developing Latino youth leadership
- Mano a Mano Family Center, offering basic social services
- Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, empowering Latino families to take an active role in their children's education and in advocating for equity in the public education system
- Oregon Farm Worker Ministry, a faith-based organization affiliated with the National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM), which supports farm workers as they organize for empowerment, justice, and equality.

REPORTING ON CLLAS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS



A Shuar family with the returns of their daily foraging (photo courtesy of Shuar Health and Life History Project).

“Tracking Health and Stress in the Shuar of Ecuadorian Amazonia”—Julia Ridgeway-Diaz

Westernization is a term fraught with controversial associations, but it is important to remember that it brings with it both good and bad consequences. Westernization can bring changing gender roles, increased access to quality health care, and more contact with the global community. However, it can also bring environmental and cultural degradation and the “diseases of civilization.” It has already been established that market integration—a concept synonymous with westernization—in indigenous Latin American populations has brought increased incidence of obesity and diabetes. Funded in part by the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS), new research conducted by the UO Department of Anthropology’s Shuar Health and Life History Project may show that westernization in the indigenous Shuar people of Amazonia also brings stress, the notorious “mental state of civilization.” The Shuar Health and Life History Project is an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional project that works in collaboration with the Ecuadorian Health Ministry and the officials of the Shuar Federation, the semi-autonomous government of the Shuar people. The Shuar are an indigenous forager-horticulturalist group in southeastern Ecuador, an area undergoing rapid market integration.

I spent the summer of 2010 exploring a new health marker that can be used to track stress levels in the Shuar as they market integrate. As a recipient of a CLLAS Graduate Student Summer Grant and a second-year master’s student in the UO Environmental Studies Program, I worked under the direction of Shuar Project leaders Dr. Josh Snodgrass and Dr. Larry Sugiyama. I ran experiments in Dr. Snodgrass’s laboratory, testing the levels of Epstein-Barr virus antibodies in blood samples collected from the Shuar over the past two years. Found in 95 percent of the world’s population, Epstein-Barr virus is normally kept under control by the immune system. High levels of antibodies are a reaction in the body to high levels of the virus, the result of a depressed immune system that is in turn the result of psychosocial stress.

It is important to track psychosocial stress in transitioning populations because stress is closely related with overall health and is expected to increase as a result of the important changes that come along with cultural shifts. We collected blood samples from communities that can be placed in three categories: most market integrated, moderately market integrated, and least market integrated. Initial data analysis suggests that the levels of psychosocial stress are highest among the most market-integrated communities. This is an important finding because it adds another variable to the calculus of the health changes that indigenous people experience as they westernize. This calculus is already complex. Studying the health of transitioning indigenous populations is a large undertaking, and only through consistent research and support from organizations like CLLAS will we find new answers and learn to ask new questions. ■

—Julia Ridgeway-Diaz is a second-year master’s student in the interdisciplinary Environmental Studies graduate program. She studied English and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Rice University in Houston and enjoys travelling to Argentina to visit family.



“After the Uprising: Gender Roles Among Oaxacan Teachers Post-2006 Uprising”—Anna Cruz

Through the help of a CLLAS Graduate Student Grant I spent two months in Oaxaca, Mexico, during the summer of 2010, researching the lasting effects of the 2006 Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO) movement. My research focuses on the personal histories of some of the women teachers who participated during the 2006 movement and who continue to be active within the Teachers Movement of Local 22.

Briefly, APPO was ignited by, and concretely formed, after the striking teachers of Local 22 of the Mexican National Educational Workers Union (SNTE) encountered a violent attempt by governor Ulises Ruiz to repress their annual sit-in and remove them from the city center. In August 2006, during the takeover of Channel 9, women became the backbone of the movement, holding power over the media by conducting shows and interviews, presenting movies, and using radio and television to mobilize people.

While this social movement has been frequently documented in terms of the significance of women’s participation in it (Stephen 2007, Freydberg 2006, Poole 2007) there has been little follow-up of what the longer-term impact of women’s participation has been for them, their families, their communities, and the organizations and unions in which they participate.

What I found in Oaxaca were highly contested spaces of gender that are deeply rooted in local and national histories. The events of 2006 were a sort of “dent” (as opposed to a dramatic change) in the long histories of women in Oaxaca. I don’t want the word “dent” to simplify the changes that have occurred—for some women their participation within APPO changed their lives completely. Even with the overwhelming leadership of women that was visible in 2006, however, these same women teachers continue to face disadvantages and difficulties in obtaining leadership positions within their schools, communities, and Local 22.

Through personal stories of women teachers, I gained some access to the highly contested topic of decision-making. Certain dimensions of power can be seen clearly through the decision-

continued on next page

FORMER UO STUDENT NOW TEACHING AT UC-MERCED



Mario Sifuentez spent his undergraduate days at the University of Oregon, including time as a student of CLLAS director Lynn Stephen, professor of anthropology. Stephen recalls Sifuentez's enthusiasm for her anthropology class's visits to Woodburn to study PCUN, the state's first farmworker union. Sifuentez went on to earn a Ph.D in American Civilization at Brown University, an Ivy League school. His dissertation—the first on PCUN—focused on PCUN's early years. He is currently a visiting professor, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, at the University of California-Merced and serves on PCUN's new CAPACES Leadership Institute Council of Advisors (see p. 3 for more).

JUVENTUD FACETA VISIT UO

Latino/a youth from Woodburn, Independence, and Salem attended the Pre-Game Presidential Party October 2 as guests of the University of Oregon. The Juventud FACETA came to see the Oregon Ducks play football—and to network. CLLAS director Lynn Stephen represented CLLAS and the Americas. Patricia Cortez represented Amigos Multicultural Services Center and Juventud FACETA. Cortez said: "It was great meeting UO president Richard Lariviere and listening to him encourage youth in their desire to enter the UO. This



Lynn Stephen and Patricia Cortez with members of Juventud FACETA at a UO Ducks game in October.

was important for the youth, feeling welcome and having the chance to talk to Mr. Lariviere about their educational goals personally. Mr. Lariviere was relaxed, attentive, cordial and interested in listening to what the youth had to share. Some of us learned about football for the first time and had not attended a game before."

LATINO BUSINESS NETWORK

Hosted by the Eugene Chamber of Commerce, about 30 members of the Latino Business Network dropped in at EMU Fir Room on the UO campus November 9 to learn more about the "Americas in a Globalized World: Linking Diversity and Internationalization" big idea at the University of Oregon. This event highlights the strengthening partnership between CLLAS and the regional business community.

DIRECTORS OF CLLAS AND LAS ON UO TODAY



Lynn Stephen and Carlos Aguirre discuss the mission of CLLAS on a recent edition of *UO Today*, the Oregon Humanities Center's half-hour television interview program. They also talk about how CLLAS, and Latin American Studies in general, impact the university community as well as Eugene and the Pacific

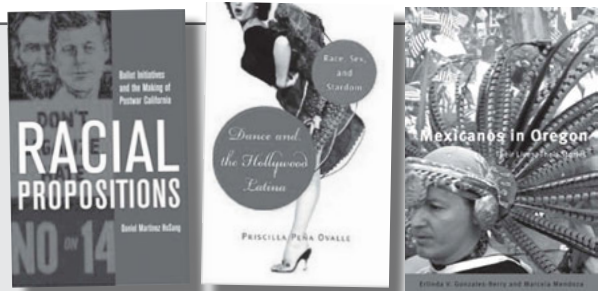
Northwest region. Each episode of *UO Today* offers viewers a conversation with UO faculty and administrators as well as visiting scholars, authors, and artists whose groundbreaking work is shaping our world. Link to the interview: <<http://media.uoregon.edu/channel/2010/11/29/uo-today-455-lynn-stephencarlos-aguirre/>>

New Books in Latino Studies

Racial Propositions: Ballot Initiatives and the Making of Postwar California, by Daniel Martinez HoSang (University of California Press, 2010). Daniel HoSang is a UO assistant professor in ethnic studies and political science.

Dance and the Hollywood Latina, by Priscilla Peña Ovalle (Rutgers University Press, 2010). Priscilla Peña Ovalle is a UO assistant professor in film and media studies.

Mexicanos in Oregon: Their Stories, Their Lives, by Erlinda V. Gonzales-Berry and Marcela Mendoza (Oregon State University Press, 2010). Erlinda Gonzales-Berry is executive director of Casa Latinos Unidos de Benton County. Marcela Mendoza was born in Argentina and is a research associate in the UO Department of Anthropology and executive director of Centro Latinoamericano in Eugene.



Student Research, continued

making within different arenas in which teachers participate, such as their homes, schools, communities, and Local 22.

Take for example Patricia, a woman in her 40s, who travels six hours to the community in which she teaches. She has found it nearly impossible to fulfill her duties as principal without confrontation from her male counterparts. Although she holds "official authority," male teachers who serve under her often challenge her decisions, something that would not happen—at least not as much—with a male principal. Before Patricia obtained this official authority as a principal, however, she was a well-regarded member of the community in which she teaches. Her role as a teacher in a community of farmers gave her a sort of authority among even male leaders of this community.

Patricia explained how male parents, including the municipal agent, have come to her and asked her advice when their children

are misbehaving or engaging in activities the parents don't see as fit. Her advice is sought out by members of the community in matters not only relating to their children, but also relating to economics, migration, and family disputes, among other areas. So, whereas her decisions and advice are questioned in a place where she holds official authority, they are constantly sought in others.

Like Patricia, many women teachers—and certainly males also—experience "gender" differently in different arenas. By looking at personal histories of those who were not the core leaders during this movement, we can begin to see how people at the bases are affected through political and social participation. And we can begin to see further than the highly visible activities that took place in 2006.

—Anna Cruz is a graduate student at the University of Oregon working on her master's degree in Cultural Anthropology. She completed her research from June–August 2010 with the assistance of CLLAS and the UO Center for Diversity and Community (CoDaC) graduate student grants.

Go to <<http://www.mraroaxaca.uoregon.edu/>> for more on the Oaxaca Social Movement.

2010-11 RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY CLLAS

Each year CLLAS provides grants for faculty, students, and community organizations to conduct research. Grant guidelines can be found at <http://cllas.uoregon.edu/grant-opportunities/>

Graduate Student Projects

Anna Cruz: After the Uprising: Gender Roles Among Oaxacan Teachers Post-2006 Uprising

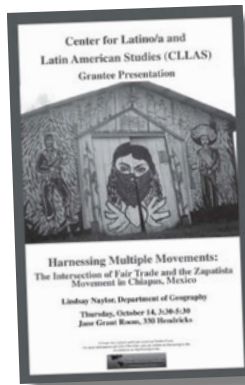
See full article pp. 4–5.

Sonia de la Cruz: The Effects of Collaborative Media on Lived Experiences: The Case of the Women of TRAMA Textiles in Guatemala

This project will work toward finishing a publishable article about a collaborative video produced with indigenous women in Guatemala. The overall purpose of this analysis is to enhance knowledge about Central American grassroots organizations and understand how the production of media can create avenues for social development and empowerment. Research activities include revisiting collected images and video footage, which will help bring about emotions and memories of time spent in Guatemala, as well as triggering deeper reflections of the collaborative experience. Follow-up phone interviews will also be conducted to further assess the collaborative process.

Rene Kladzyk: Pathways and Fences: Gender, Violence, and Mobility in the Paso del Norte Region of the US/Mexico Border

This research seeks to uncover linkages between globalization and violence through an analysis of mobility and economic activity among female laborers in Juarez and recent migrants to El Paso, whose displacement is often linked to danger in Juarez. Drawing from anthropology, political theory, and feminist geographic scholarship, this project will analyze the complex patterns and pathways of mobility in the Paso del Norte region. This research will amplify the voices of Latina women living in a locality as it reels from transnational forces, and will contribute to a critical discourse on gender and borderland identity.



Lindsay Naylor: Harnessing Multiple Movements: The Intersection of Fair Trade and the Zapatista Movement in Chiapas, Mexico

This project focuses on the tension between livelihood and sustenance in Southern Mexico through an analysis of fair trade and the Zapatista movement. The research will attempt to show how Zapatista communities have harnessed the fair trade marketplace to maintain and further their political agenda, assess who benefits from fair trade production, and identify how land use has changed in fair trade producing communities.

Julia Ridgeway-Diaz: Ecosystem Change, Westernization, and Women's Health in Amazonian Ecuador

See full article p. 4

Faculty / Community Collaborators

Gerardo Sandoval (PPPM) and Megan Smith (Community Service Center, CSC): "Sustaining Latino Businesses in Springfield, Oregon."

Gerardo Sandoval, assistant professor of Planning, Public Policy and Management, is collaborating with the UO Community Service Center (CSC) to help emerging Latino businesses in Springfield establish themselves and contribute to the sustainability of the community. Working closely with the City of Springfield, the Eugene/Springfield Latino Business Network, and other stakeholders, this collaboration will begin through an urban revitalization course taught by Dr. Sandoval in winter quarter. The students will create a multicultural revitalization strategy for Springfield through a collaborative engagement process that would help link the Latino community to the city's main redevelopment program. This project could potentially serve as an example for economic sustainability related to Latino communities in the state of Oregon and could lead to similar projects in other multicultural communities.

Bob Bussel (Labor Education and Research Center), Marcela Mendoza (Centro LatinoAmericano), Edward Olivos (Education Studies), and Daniel Tichenor (Political Science): "Assessing Community Leaders' Views on Immigrant-Community Relations in Lane County."

See full article p. 7.

CLLAS EVENT CALENDAR

Events all take place on the UO campus. Go online to cllas.uoregon.edu for more event listings.

Winter Quarter 2011

- **CLLAS Grant Proposal Workshop**
Thursday, January 13, 3:30-5:30 p.m.,
Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks Hall,
1408 University St., sponsored by CLLAS
- **CLLAS Grantee Presentation, Anna Cruz (Department of Anthropology)—"Gender Roles Among Oaxacan Teachers Post-2006 Uprising"**
Thursday, February 3, 3:30-5:30, 313
Condon Hall, 1321 Kincaid St., sponsored by CLLAS
- **African Diasporas in the America Round Table Event: "Hemispheric Blackness: Rethinking the Black Diaspora"**
Friday, February 18, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.,
Fir Room, Erb Memorial Union, 1222
E. 13th Ave., cosponsored by CLLAS,
Latin American Studies, Dept. of Ethnic
Studies, Dept. of Romance Languages,
The Americas Steering Committee, UO
Newman Center, Knight Law School,
College of Arts and Sciences
- **CLLAS Grantee Presentation, Julia Ridgeway-Diaz (Environmental Studies Program)—"Ecosystem Change, Westernization, and Women's Health in Amazonian Ecuador"**
Thursday, March 3, 3:30-5:30, 331
Klamath Hall, 1370 Franklin Blvd., sponsored by CLLAS

Spring Quarter 2011

- **CLLAS Grantee Presentation, Rene Kladzyk (Department of Geography)—"Mobility in the El Paso/Juarez Metroplex: Navigating Fronteriza in**

Necropolis"

Thursday, April 7, 3:30-5:30, Location
TBA, sponsored by CLLAS

- **Bartolomé de las Casas Lecture in Latin American Studies—Myriam Chancy (Haitian Novelist)**
Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Location TBA, cosponsored by the
CLLAS, Latin American Studies, Dept.
of Ethnic Studies, Dept. of Romance
Languages, The Americas Steering
Committee, UO Newman Center, Knight
Law School, College of Arts and Sciences
- **CLLAS Grantee Presentation, Gerardo Sandoval (PPPM) and Megan Smith (CSC), University of Oregon—"Sustaining Latino Businesses in Springfield, Oregon"**
Thursday, April 21, 3:30-5:30, Hendricks
Hearth Room, 1st floor, Hendricks Hall,
1408 University St., sponsored by CLLAS

ASSESSING COMMUNITY LEADERS' VIEWS ON IMMIGRANT-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Increased diversity resulting from immigration prompts a community conversation in the Eugene-Springfield area

Over the last two decades, Lane County has experienced double-digit growth in its foreign-born population, with Latinos comprising nearly 6.5 percent of Lane County's total population, 10.1 percent of Springfield's residents, and 6.7 percent of Eugene's population. In order for the communities of Eugene and Springfield to realize their potential in the 21st century, they will need to help their increasingly diverse populations become more socially, civically, and economically integrated. With this goal in mind, the University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) hosted a "Community Conversation on Immigrant Integration" in Springfield on November 19, 2010, led by LERC director Bob Bussel and assisted by Marcela Mendoza, executive director of Centro Latino Americano; Edward M. Olivos, department head and associate professor in the UO Department of Education Studies; and Daniel Tichenor, professor of political science and senior fellow at the UO Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics.

This conversation—funded by Oregon Humanities—involved nearly 28 key stakeholders (clergy, business and labor leaders, elected officials, immigrant advocates, nonprofit and social service agency providers, and educators) who serve immigrant populations or have a role in shaping public policies relevant to immigrants. This conversation had several principal objectives: enabling participants to evaluate how successful their own organizations or institutions have been in helping immigrants achieve social and economic integration; informing participants about best practices in the arena of immigrant integration; and encouraging them to consider which practices might be applicable in their organizational or community settings. The event concluded with participants identifying specific areas for collaborative work on immigrant integration that will be explored more thoroughly at a subsequent meeting.



Among the ideas discussed was the creation of a Spanish-language radio station for Lane County. This station in Woodburn was launched by PCUN in 2006.

Interviews Supported by CLLAS

Prior to the event, LERC director Bob Bussel, with input from his collaborators, conducted 22 interviews with a diverse group of people in Eugene and Springfield who work closely with immigrants in their communities. The Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) provided support for these interviews, which played an important role in helping shape the community conversation. The interviewees represented such institutions as law enforcement, churches, libraries, city government, businesses, schools, nonprofits, unions, and community organizations. Bussel asked the community leaders to assess the status of community-immigrant relations and evaluate the extent of immigrant integration efforts in their institutions. The data obtained from these interviews yielded many valuable insights and illuminated how key stakeholders and activists view their responsibilities and obligations to Lane County's foreign-born population.

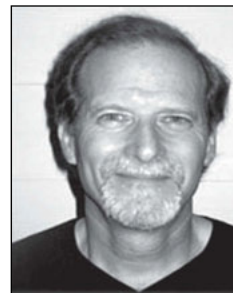
The interviews revealed many ongoing community initiatives aimed at aiding immigrant integration. These included outreach activities by law enforcement, library programs aimed at immigrant children, support for immigrant businesses, school-based efforts to assist immigrant children and their families, and initiatives to help immigrants learn about credit, banking, and home ownership. Respondents also identified specific challenges impeding immigrant inte-

gration, among them cultural and linguistic barriers, fear and reluctance among immigrants to engage with existing institutions, uncertainty among some institutions about how to conduct effective outreach to immigrants, and eligibility to receive public services due to lack of legal status. At the conclusion of the interviews, community leaders were asked to identify resources and actions

that they believed would be especially helpful in promoting immigrant integration. Among the ideas they suggested were greater access to legal assistance, improved access to counseling and mental health services, the recruiting of more bilingual and bicultural staff for key institutions, passage of the Dream Act to help immigrants attend college, creating a Spanish language radio station as an effective means of outreach, and greater coordination among groups that work with immigrants.

In addition to generating a wealth of useful insights, the interviews helped attract a strong turnout for the community conversation and have laid the foundation for closer collaboration between UO scholars, immigrants in Eugene and Springfield, and key persons and institutions who work closely with immigrants and their families. Although immigrants and the native-born may, as one interviewee described, often function in "parallel universes," the community conversation suggests the possibility for enhanced coordination and partnering that can make Eugene and Springfield more welcoming environments for our newest arrivals. ■

— by Bob Bussel, director of the UO Labor Education and Research Center and associate professor, Department of History





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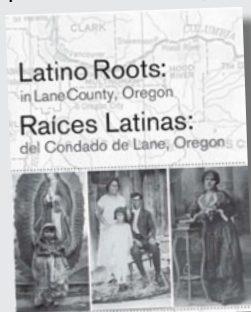
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Latino Roots in Oregon: A Project Description

The Latino Roots Project includes an exhibit composed of 15 portable wooden panels containing photographs and stories about seven immigrant families; a booklet (*Latino Roots: in Lane County, Oregon*) that captures these same stories and photographs; classes at the University of Oregon; two video documentaries (one of these, the film "Latino Roots in Lane County" is available through the UO Libraries' streaming site at <http://media.uoregon.edu/channel/?p=1704>); and a proposed website and digital archive. All materials are bilingual in Spanish and English. The Latino Roots Project is administered through the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) and is a part of the "Americas in a Globalized World: Linking Diversity and Internationalization" big idea at the University of Oregon.

Latino Roots materials (exhibit panels, booklets, films) are available for use in middle schools, high schools, and higher education institutions in the state of Oregon. Curriculum development workshops for training students in how to produce their own Latino Roots stories can also be scheduled with the project research team. To find out more about how to book the Latino Roots in Oregon exhibit, films, and workshops for your school or institution please e-mail cllas@uoregon.edu.

The following materials are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore and at uoduckstore.com for online purchase (mailing fees apply if purchased online).



▪ *Latino Roots: in Lane County, Oregon*
Raíces Latinas: del Condado de Lane, Oregon
33-page booklet, \$7.50 (a free, printable PDF is available on the CLLAS website)

▪ "Latino Roots in Lane County: Contemporary Stories of Settlement in Lane County, Oregon"
33-minute DVD, \$15



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