Making an Impact

Tribute to departing Dr. Gonzales

With Michael Gonzales’s decision to retire and relinquish his position as Director of the CLLAS at the end of the spring 2013 academic term, we are losing a campus leader who has championed serious academic study of the historical achievements and continuing contributions of Latino and Latin American peoples and individuals. In doing so, he has made the CLLAS a respected and active center that has promoted general awareness and understanding of Latino and Latin American accomplishments in every field of human endeavor. His efforts, in concert with those of the center staff, faculty associates, and involved students (both Latinos and those with an avid interest in Latino and Latin American studies), have made the vibrant histories, cultural traditions, and artistic expressions of Latinos and Latin Americans more visible and valuable to the wider university community at NIU.

Michael has been an extraordinarily energetic and effective Director. He has been an advocate for and helped organize and support many social events for Latino students at the university, ranging from the “Grito de Dolores” activities each September 16th, Latin American Culture Nights, and presenting workshops for the VALE conference, among other activities. During his years in the director’s chair he served on a plethora of committees, one of most important of which was the NIU Multi-Cultural Curriculum Transformation Task Force, which he chaired for many years. In addition to this task force, Michael also served on the Rhoten-Smith Graduate Assistantship Committee, the Lunsford and Woodson Minority Fellowship Committee, the Presidential Research Professor Selection Committee, the Board of Trustees Selection Committee, the Board of Trustees Professor Selection Committee, and the Faculty Diversity Work Group.

Under Michael’s leadership the Center annually organized and promoted various scholarly lectures and symposia, exhibitions, and musical performances. Latin American literature, sociology, anthropology, or history were frequent topics for presentations, such as the talk “Identity Formation in Revolutionary Mexico: Popular Struggle and State Ideology in the Formation of Class and Campesino Consciousness” (a subject dear to Mike’s heart) delivered by Professor Christopher Boyer of University of Illinois at Chicago. Much music was made with CLLAS support, including return visits from traditional musicians from Veracruz, Tlen Huican, or concerts by renowned jazz pianist Jovino Santos Neto, who performed with the NIU Jazz Ensemble thanks to organizer Professor Greg Beyer, with CLLAS underwriting. Working collaboratively with Dr. Melissa Lenczewski and other faculty associates, Michael worked to develop and negotiate memoranda of understanding and formal collaborations with universities in Yucatán and Quintana Roo, Mexico, taking the first steps to programs that will make international research and teaching opportunities available to NIU faculty and students. The visual arts also received their due, including support for both professional talks and Latino student exhibitions. I am personally grateful

SEE GONZALES PAGE 2
NIU HOSTS CONFERENCE OF SCHOLARS OF THE ANDES AND THE AMAZON

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies co-sponsored the 41st Annual Midwest Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory, held February 22-23, 2013 at the recently remodeled Cole Hall. This marked the first time the event was hosted by NIU. The conference has grown more formal since its inception in 1973 as a meeting for scholars in Midwestern institutions to share current research in a supportive environment. It has also drawn presenters from institutions as distant as Lima and New York. In her opening remarks, Vice President for Research Dr. Lisa Freeman stressed the importance of regional meetings for applying multidisciplinary perspectives to subjects that straddle academic fields. The feedback provided by peers at these events sharpens arguments and helps scholars turn papers into journal articles.

The first session was dedicated to the contributions of Dan Shea, who remained an active field researcher in the Atacama Desert into the year of his passing in 2012. Monica Barnes of the American Museum of Natural History remembered Shea for his kind and lively manner as well as his scrupulous mathematics-driven analysis. Tamara Bray described how Shea helped to create this modern methodology in his dissertation by comparing Andean wak’as to Ancient Greek oracles. Zachary Chase continued the discussion of wak’as, noting their importance for Andean community identity. Wak’as are understood as natural phenomena, such as stones, prodigies, and landscape features, invested with personhood and supernatural agency. Chase argued that communities told tales of a time when their local waka descended from the mountains and laid claim to a defined territory, which it shared with or bequeathed to its favored people. Chase demonstrated how recent archaeological research is elucidating the history of the region discussed in the Huarochirí manuscript, the most important written source for interpreting the indigenous Andean past. Chase argued that archaeological evidence shows that communities in the region were forcibly resettled as part of Inka expansion. The manuscript, however, tells how wak’as, rather than the imperial Inka state, delivered community members to the territory and watched over them in the form of landscape features found in the new lands. The waka Pariacaca helped to mediate disputes between these resettled communities, reminding them that they were all united in being “his children.”

More than twenty stimulating presentations were delivered during the two-day conference.

Winifred Creamer, who organized the meeting with Justin Dodd, declared the conference a great success. The conference was sponsored by the NIU Departments of Anthropology, Geology and Environmental Geosciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Art, The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, Institute for the Environment, Sustainability and Energy, and the Graduate School.
Anthropology Museum holds Andean Exhibition

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies co-sponsored the Andean anthropological and archaeological exhibit in the newly opened NIU Anthropology Museum, “Beyond Machu Picchu: Culture and Identity in the Andes,” which ran from January 31 to June 29, 2013. The exhibit’s curators gave it the premise “the past in the present,” calling attention to the idea that although identity in the modern Andean region has been informed by the accumulation of different cultural inputs across space and time, certain themes have emerged that have persevered into the present.

These themes were displayed through different categories of material objects. A pottery section stressed the continuity of the stirrup spout vessel as the preferred style of successive Andean cultures, though some cultures preferred figuratively-shaped pieces and others more utilitarian-shaped vessels painted in geometrical designs. A textile display demonstrated the persistence of the back strap loom, which allows individuals to create detailed geometric and figurative designs. Many designs, such as feline motifs, have enjoyed long-lived popularity. Visitors were invited to try their hand at weaving using a replica loom of the type still used in the Andes by indigenous women. The exhibit was planned to coincide with the 41st Annual Midwest Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory. Dr. Winifred Creamer, the guest curator of the exhibit, asked the conferees to apply their extensive expertise on Andean material culture to those pieces in the exhibit about which little was known. Asked for some examples of information provided by these experts, the director of the museum, Jennifer Kirker Priest, replied, “We learned that the feline imagery on one of our own beakers actually depicts trophy heads associated with warfare and the Staff God. We learned that the way to differentiate between a Chancay textile and a Chimu textile is by looking at the way the threads were twisted; one culture twisted them to the left and the other twisted them to the right!”

New light was cast on items in NIU’s collection and on pieces on loan from the Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College, the Freeport Art Museum, and a private collection in Rockford.

By demonstrating how the past is present in the Andes, the exhibit encouraged visitors to reflect upon the construction of their own national and ethnic identities. “Beyond Machu Picchu” was a promising early example of the Anthropology Museum’s potential for connecting students to Latin American cultures of the past and the present.

AbUSed: The Postville Raid
October 9, 2012: A documentary that presents the devastating effects of the United States immigration enforcement policies on communities, families, and individuals.

Victor Garcia Performance
March 26, 2013: A 50 minute presentation that featured Victor Garcia performing and speaking about his engaging Latin Jazz Dance music.

SEE ACTIVITIES PAGE 4
DANCE CLUB ATMOSPHERE COMES TO THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC CONCERT HALL

On April 8, 2013, the Boutell Memorial Concert Hall was transformed into a salsa dance club. The entire night was a showcase of Latin music, dance, and food, and united many different communities within NIU and around DeKalb.

The highlight of the evening was the incredible energy, sound, and beautiful musicianship of guest trumpeter, Victor Garcia. His seamless blend of American bebop and screaming Latin brass sounds evoked cheers and screams from the audience. Garcia is known for his work as a performer in the Chicago area, most notably the Chicago Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble (CALJE), which he co-leads. The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies provided generous support for Victor to work with the NIU Latin Jazz Ensemble on several occasions. Garcia came to campus for workshops with the band, and a short performance for one of the School of Music’s “All School Convocations.” His energy, insight and incredible musicianship was a true inspiration to the students in the Latin Jazz Ensemble.

The Latin Jazz Ensemble, directed by percussion instructor Mike Mixtacki, focused their energy this year on learning and performing Cuban dance music specifically for the Dance Party event. Mixtacki’s studies and experience in the Latin music field brought a wide variety of Cuban music to the NIU students and focused on a historical perspective in addition to the band’s performance preparation. The group learned and performed styles such as Rumba, Danzón and Charanga to name a few, not to mention, some straight ahead salsa tunes as well!

The event in the Boutell Memorial Concert Hall was far beyond what you might expect from a concert in that venue. Between the sets of the band, DJ Mark Sorto spun salsa, merengue, bachata, and more for the concertgoers to enjoy. Xuyen and Luis Garcia, both Latin dance instructors, gave salsa lessons in the lobby so the audience could work their moves during the band’s second set. VJ Chris Fedak projected colorful images of salsa dancers on the walls and ceiling, truly bringing a club-like atmosphere to the Concert Hall lobby. Appetizers were catered from Los Rancheros, again sponsored by the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies.

By Michael Mixtacki | School of Music
Scholarship Winners

ROBERT MARCELIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Pictured from left to right are Sandy López, the 2012-13 Marcelin Award recipient Emily Odón, CLLAS Director Dr. Michael Gonzales and donor Alison Thomson.

The Robert Marcelin Memorial Scholarship was endowed by employees of Ameritech Corporation to honor the late Mr. Marcelin, a co-worker and friend who graduated from Northern Illinois University. The committee, which includes principal donor Ms. Alison Thomson, meets annually to select an outstanding student of Latino heritage. The award for 2012 went to Emily Odón., who is a Nursing major.

CENTER FOR LATINO AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES’ SCHOLARSHIP

LEFT: Pictured from left to right are Juan Molina, Dr. Gonzales and Joel Dennison. RIGHT: Pictured are Sandy Lopez and Paola Gonzalez.

Since 2006, the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies has sponsored an undergraduate scholarship competition for students of Latino heritage.

Candidates are judged on their academic achievement and promise. This year the Center awarded several scholarships to the following students:

- Joel Dennison, Biological Sciences major
- Paola Gonzalez, pre-physical therapy major
- Juan Molina, Visual and Performing Arts major
- Beatriz Tendick-Matesanz, Biological Sciences major
- Miriam Vega, Public Health major

CLLAS RESEARCH AND TRAVEL AWARDS

Grants Awarded to Faculty in FY 2013
Leila Porter (Anthropology)
Travel funds to attend VI Con- greso de Mastozoologia en Boliva and begin a research project on saddleback tamarins

Rodrigo Villanueva (School of Music)
Travel/lodging to interview professional drummers in California

Grants Awarded to Graduate Students in FY 2013
Matt Maletz (History)
Travel/lodging for research Gua- temalan Education in Washing- ton D.C. archives/ “Revolution by Education: Mayan Indians and the Guatemalan State, 1944-1954”

Sylvia Orellana (Anthropology)
Research Travel re: “Is There a Dominance Hierarchy in a Cooperative Breeding Primate Species?”

Kweku Williams (Anthropology)
Travel/Room/Board at the Belize Field School at Ka’Kabish

CLLAS Awards
2013 Recipient of the NIU Student Association Outstanding Department Award

Sandy López 2013 Recipient of the McKinley “Deacon” Davis Diversity Award

NIU students and staff at the 21st Annual ILACHE Conference in Chicago.
“There were families going to visit that woman’s house, but the military was able to see the two women, one up ahead and the other right on the road. They caught up to the first woman and they macheted her in the head and they dragged her like a dog. They took her to a house and surrounded it. The family was there wailing.”

The other woman went running and the military caught up to her at her house. They took her out of the house and put her on the patio in front of the house. The military had her mother-in-law. They tied her up by her hands and feet. They knocked her down and opened up her stomach. She was pregnant and they took the baby from the womb. When they took the baby out, they threw it against a tree in front of the house. We felt a great pain, what guilt did the baby have still in the womb of the mother? I saw this. They burned the first house and burned the whole family inside. There was screaming inside, the children, the women, they were burned to ash. Later, when the military finished killing the pregnant women, they came down to the catechist’s house. He thought they wouldn’t kill him and so he started to pray inside his house. But then they put the mayor inside and they shot at the house killing the whole family, his whole family. They killed him. After they died they took their things, clothes and bags, and they put them on top of the people and set it afire. They were in a clay house, so the house didn’t catch fire, just the people with their things on top of them, their blankets, caught fire. They were scorched.”

~ Tiburcio Utuy, from his testimony on 1 April 2013

This harrowing account of Guatemalan military brutality was typical of the more than one hundred testimonies given in the annulled trial of former Guatemalan president Gen. José Efraín Ríos Montt for genocide. The trial was an important step in the world history of combating and punishing genocide, as it marked the first time a former head of state was tried for genocide in the country where the crimes were committed. The majority of the trial has been annulled, and the case will now have to be retried under a new tribunal.

Ríos Montt came to power as a member of a military junta that seized control in March, 1982. After forcing out the other members of the junta, he ruled as a dictator for seventeen months before being ousted by another coup in 1983. Ríos Montt’s counterinsurgency offensive was the deadliest period of Latin America’s “dirty wars.” The Guatemalan Commission for Historical Clarification estimated that during the period, the military killed 86,000 people, eighty per cent of whom were indigenous Mayans. Ríos Montt and his chief intelligence officer, Gen. José Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez, remain indicted for additional crimes against humanity, including rape, torture, and forced disappearance.

The long journey to trial has been impeded at every turn by political and legal maneuvers by Ríos Montt, other defendants, and their supporters. Ríos Montt has exploited three major provisions of the 1994-1996 Peace Accords that ended the armed conflict. First, the Accords granted immunity from prosecution and extradition for members of the country’s
On the courthouse steps, associations representing victims’ families vied for space with protestors arguing that Ríos Montt saved the country from Communist subversion.

The case against Ríos Montt hinges, in part, on whether or not the actions he ordered constitute genocide. According to the Genocide Convention, to which Guatemala is a signatory, genocide requires that actions be taken “with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.” The prosecution has focused its case on a series of fifteen massacres in a region of the country’s northwestern Quiché department, home to speakers of the Mayan dialect Ixil, which qualified them as a distinct ethnic group. The massacres claimed the lives of 1,771 unarmed men, women and children. Under Ríos Montt, the military herded the survivors of these massacres into a series of “model villages,” which were in part inspired by the “strategic hamlets” of Vietnam, a tactic familiar to U.S. military advisors to the Guatemalan army at that time. All aspects of daily life—language, dress, religion, and work—were strictly controlled in the model villages. The military established the model settlements on or near the ruins of destroyed villages and intentionally mixed together refugees from different towns and linguistic groups. The intention was to prevent resettlement similar to the former villages and to encourage the integration of Mayans into national life. Jennifer Schirmer has argued that through this process, the identities of many distinct Mayan peoples were intentionally destroyed and replaced with a monolithic indigenous identity she calls “the sanctioned Mayan.” The anthropologist Beatriz Manz testified on April 9 that what she witnessed in Guatemala in the 1980s, independent of mass killing, constituted “ethnocide,” a subcategory of genocide. Residents of the model villages were required to patrol their areas for guerrillas, and were often forced to take part in massacres. The military itself largely consisted of young indigenous conscripts. The fact that “Indians killed Indians” has led many on the political right to argue that the mass killings do not amount to genocide, including Otto Pérez Molina, a former military commander in the Ixil area and Guatemala’s current president.

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2012 FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

GREGORY BEYER
Associate Professor, School of Music

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Invited to be on the faculty of the Nancy Zeltsman Marimba Festival July, 2013, in Arcata, California.

PERFORMANCES
Featured soloist on programs performed in Chicago by new music ensemble, Dal Niente.

Due East, flute and percussion duo, premiered two new works in 2012.

February 11, 2012 - “Capoeirista” by Chet Udell. SEAMUS Conference, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI.


May 12, 2012 - The Party. Performed Iannis Xenakis’s “Psappha” for multiple percussion and James Tenney’s “Having Never Written a Note for Percussion” for solo tam tam.

October 26, 2012 - “Yodeling Song” by Alexis Bacon. Livewire Festival of Contemporary Music, University of Maryland - Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD.


LOUISE CIALELLA
Associate Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

PUBLICATION
“Princesas-pantalla: proyección de deseos de cambio en la España del fin de siglo,” Decimonónica 9.2 (Summer/Verano 2012).

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Invited by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center at NIU to Faculty Summer Institute (FSI), May 14-16, 2012, at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

WINIFRED CREAMER
Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Anthropology

PUBLICATIONS


PAPER PRESENTED

MICHAEL J. GONZALEZ
Director, Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, Distinguished Research Professor, Department of History

PUBLICATIONS


PAPERS PRESENTED


ANNE HANLEY
Associate Professor of Latin American History

PUBLICATIONS
“Introdução” in La Bourse de São Paulo 1911 (Reprodução Histórica) São Paulo: BM&F BOVESPA, 2012. Thanks to the digitalization team at NIU’s Founder’s Library, I was able to provide the São
Paulo Stock and Bond Exchange, BM&F BOVESPA, with digital images of a rare book in my possession La Bourse de São Paulo 1911.


PAPERS PRESENTED

“Historiographical Updates from Brazil: Economic History,” presented to the Brazilian Studies Committee Roundtable, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, January 6, 2012.


“A Failure to Deliver: Municipal poverty and the provision of public services in imperial São Paulo, Brazil 1822-1889,” Presented to the Seminário Hermes & Clio, Departamento de Economia, Universidade de São Paulo, August 23, 2012.


RÍOS FROM PAGE 7

of innocent men, women, and children, and the devastation of their communities. The brutality of the military response convinced many to join the guerrillas, and compelled millions more to flee. Ríos Montt’s innovation was to regularize the violence so that indigenous communities would know what to expect if they supported the guerrillas.

The Guatemalan military received military training and material support from the staunchly anti-Communist Reagan administration. This aid was at times funneled through the Israeli and Taiwanese governments, bypassing Carter-era restrictions on U.S. aid to human rights abusers. Despite America’s enabling role in the violence, the genocide trial received little attention in the United States press until it reached its aborted conclusion. Instead, U.S. newspapers focused on the recent death of Hugo Chávez and the Venezuelan elections.

If Ríos Montt is once again found guilty in a new trial, he will not likely serve much time behind bars. Public opinion was split over the previous decision, his defense team has already filed one successful technical appeal, and the former dictator is 86. This has led Guatemalan commentators on the right to question the wisdom of dedicating time and resources on the trials, which they characterize as acts of revenge. But for the victims’ families, the Guatemalan left, and the nation’s historically repressed indigenous communities, the trials have offered an opportunity to denounce human rights violations of the past, have struck a blow against the impunity that continues to characterize the country, and has shown the world that with a bit of courage and a large measure of persistence, officials can be tried for genocide within their own countries.

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Research Grant: Member of a team of researchers on a grant to evaluate the academic scholarship written about Brazil’s Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social (the National Bank for Economic and Social Development.)

KRISTIN HUFFINE
Assistant Professor, Department of History

PUBLICATIONS

“Producing Christians from Half-men and Beasts: Jesuit Ethnography and Guaraní Response in Colonial Río de la Plata” is forthcoming with the University of Pittsburgh Press in Spring 2014.

Currently starting a book-length study of Indians in Europe between 1492 and 1821, tentatively titled “Encountering the Old World: American Indians in Early Modern Europe.”

Jeff Kowalski
Presidential Research Professor, School of Art

PAPERS PRESENTED


Eloy Merino
Associate Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

PUBLICATIONS


Con la pluma caliente, el escritor. El joven autor Camilo José Cela en su contexto (1939-
LEILA PORTER  
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology

PUBLICATION

PAPER PRESENTED
“GPS-based data analyzing route-based mental maps during traveling and foraging in wild Bolivian saddleback tamarins (Saguinus fuscicollis weddelli),” Porter, Leila M. and Garber, Paul A. (2012), at International Primatological Society Pre-Congress Workshop on the use of GPS for Field Primatologists, organized by Francine Dolins, Christopher Schaffer, Leila Porter and Jena Hickey, Cancún, Mexico.

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS


LINDA SABORIO  
Associate Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

PUBLICATIONS


PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Keynote speaker for International Week at Oakton Community College, Chicago, IL, November 13-16, 2012, titled Staging a Response to the War on Drugs in Mexico: Cuthberto López’s “Yamaha 300” and Hugo Salcedo’s “Música de balas.”

RODRIGO VILLANUEVA  
Associate Professor, School of Music

RECORDINGS
Frank Caruso & Eddie Gomez, Analea, Rodrigo Villanueva, Drummer on tracks 1, 2, 4 and 6. Caruso, 2012

REVIEWS

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Drum set clinics and master classes at various Universities and conservatories, including Auditorio Surco in Lima, Peru.

Performed at one international festival: Festival Internacional de Música Ensambles in Lima, Peru (August 20 -24, 2012) with international jazz artists Mike DelFerro, Fernando Caballi and Edward Perez.

Performed with several jazz projects in Mexico, Peru and the U.S.: Siguara Latin Jazz Quintet, GKVT Jazz Quartet, Frank Caruso Jazz Trio, Jan Wheaton Jazz Quintet and Rodrigo Villanueva Jazz Quartet, Jazz Jaus Big Band, Mike DelFerro Jazz Quartet, Panoramic, New Arts Jazz Quintet, Marco Duran Jazz Trio, and Latin Grammy Nominee Shaila Durcal.

Directed the NIU Jazz Lab Band which received the DownBeat Annual Students Award as an Outstanding Performance in the College Division (June 2012.)