



LAS NOTICIAS

A NEWSLETTER FOR K-12 TEACHERS

CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

VOL. 4, No. 1

FALL 2005

Mexican Culture through Traditional Folk Music

presented by

Award Winning Mexican Performers

Tlen-Huicani (pronounced we-KAH-ne)

Professional Development Workshop
and
Concert

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

University of Pittsburgh

TO BE HELD AT PITT'S GREENSBURG CAMPUS

presented by the

International Academic Village and Center for Latin American Studies



Tlen-Huicani

Background Information:

The University of Pittsburgh's International Academic Village and Center for Latin American Studies would like to invite area K-12 teachers to explore Mexican culture through the traditional folk music of Vera Cruz, Jalapa.

In Mexico, traditional music and dance performances are part of daily life. Vera Cruz is known for the harp tradition. Unique musical arrangements, quick and sparkling combined with full-voiced harmonies are typical of Mexican folk music/song of this region. Pitt has invited Tlen-Huicani, (which means "the singers" in the Mexican indigenous language of Nahuatl), to conduct a workshop and to perform on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at **Pitt's Greensburg Campus**.

Founded in 1973, Tlen-Huicani was named the best folk group in Mexico by the Music Union and theater critics. Group director, Alberto de la Rosa, is one of the most respected musicians in all of Mexico and is considered among the most outstanding folk harpists in the world. The group is dedicated to preserving and promoting the musical heritage of Vera Cruz, Mexico, as well as interpreting the music of other countries in Central and South America.

WORKSHOP: Wednesday, September 28, 2005 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Fireside Lounge in Chambers Hall, University of Pittsburgh, GREENSBURG CAMPUS. A campus map can be located at: <http://www.upg.pitt.edu/pgvisiting/campusmap.aspx>. The workshop will include an overview of musical types and instruments of Mexico and Latin America. Members of Tlen-Huicani will provide background information, lead discussions, and open the forum to participants' questions. Teachers attending the workshop will receive 5 Act 48 hours.

CONCERT: The Concert will take place in the evening of Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. at the Ferguson Theater, University of Pittsburgh, GREENSBURG CAMPUS. Teachers who attend the concert will receive an additional 3 Act 48 hours.

Feel free to invite a colleague to come with you. **Pre-registration is required.** To Register contact: Luz Amanda Villada at lavst12@ucis.pitt.edu or by phone at 412.648.7394.

These events are being sponsored by the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Dominion Foundation, Friends of Millstein Library, and the University of Pittsburgh's International Academic Village, Center for Latin American Studies, UPG Student Government Association and Spanish Club.



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Borrowing Teaching Materials for Exploring the Cultures of the World

Two units of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS)—the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) and the Pennsylvania Ethnic Heritage Studies Center (PEHSC)—have been chosen to host a teacher training workshop as part of the Allegheny County-wide professional development day for K-12 educators being held on **Monday, October 10, 2005**. Throughout the day, approximately 8,000 teachers from 26 school districts will participate in workshops being held at over 45 sites throughout the county; including 26 high schools and partner organizations (ASSET Science, Bill of Rights Institute, Frick Art and Historical Center, Heinz History Center, The National Avery-Pittsburgh, Original Mattress Factory, The Pittsburgh Zoo, Soldiers and Sailors National Military Museum, University of Pittsburgh, The Watson Institute, Western Pennsylvania Writing Project, and World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh).



Workshop on Cuba

This educational event will begin with a broadcast by WQED of the keynote presentation to all locations. Mr. Chauncey Veatch, an educator in an area of California that serves the children of migrant farm workers and the 2002 National Teacher of the Year awardee, will share his teaching philosophy on “literacy and leadership.”

Following the keynote presentation, CLAS/PEHSC will begin its morning session by introducing the participants to their expansive collections of educational materials. Teachers will learn about numerous outreach programs and activities—such as the School Visit Program, Model United Nations Simulation, Teacher Training Programs, Study Abroad Opportunities for Teachers, and Resource Lending Libraries.

In the afternoon session, the teachers will examine and adapt for their use one of many lessons developed over the years and posted online at the CLAS/PEHSC websites. These cross-curricular lessons support the language arts, music, social studies, and world language curricula of various grade levels.

The CLAS/PEHSC workshop facilitators will be Rosalind Eannarino (Outreach Coordinator) and Linda Deafenbaugh and Ligia Diaz-Roman (graduate student assistants in the two Centers) with assistance from Luz Amanda Villada (Academic Affairs & Outreach Assistant). Participants will be encouraged to develop an ongoing working relationship with the staff of the Centers.

For more information or to register online see: www.aiu3/modules/news/.



Teachers' workshop at Pitt



Teachers in Cuba



Capoeira performers



Capoeira dancer

African-Brazilian Performing Arts Classes and Show



*Mestre Boa Gente and Dr. Kathleen M. DeWalt,
Director of the Center for Latin American Studies
at the University of Pittsburgh lecture on
Capoeira*

The 2nd Annual International Encounter of Music, Dance, and Capoeira sponsored by Nego Gato Inc. will be held on March 20 through April 9, 2006. The Event will feature three weeks of master classes for adults and children in African-Brazilian Capoeira, percussion, and dance taught by artists from Bahia, Brazil including company founder and director Mestre Nego Gato.

The highlight of the three-week program will be a performance to be held on April 8, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in Bellefield Hall, University of Pittsburgh. The performance will feature Mestres Pele do Tornel, Moa Katende, and Brandau. For more information on attending the classes or tickets to the performance, contact Nego Gato Inc. at 412.201.4546.



Nego Gato performing at the 25th Latin American & Caribbean Festival



Children learning Capoeira

EXPERIENCING CUBA THROUGH THE EYES OF TEACHERS

By Luz Amanda Villada

During the months of October and November 2004, the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) and the Mattress Factory offered a five-week professional development course for K-12 teachers, “**Experiencing Cuba through the Eyes of Cuban Installation Artists**”. The workshop was designed to demonstrate how art can be used in Spanish language and social studies classrooms to introduce students to the rich, diverse history and culture of Cuba.

As CLAS’ Academic and Outreach Assistant, it was a wonderful experience to participate in a program that enhanced educators’ knowledge about Latin America, especially Cuba. It was the first time that I was involved in all aspects of a workshop and had an opportunity to work with the teachers. As a Latin American (Colombian), seeing the educators’ reactions to and hearing their comments about Cuba and the installation art was the highlight of the workshop.



Dr. Max Brant giving a lecture on Cuban Music



JEFF (José Emilio Fuentes Fonseca) Pensamiento, 2004

To some of the participants the information was new and surprising; to others it was a reiteration of information about life in Cuba and Cuba’s relationship with the United States. Due to visa problems, the artists were not able to come to the U.S. to work in Pittsburgh. Therefore, the staff of the Mattress Factory (in Pittsburgh) and the artists (in Cuba) worked long distance, via computer technology and the telephone, to recreate the installation art projects. Furthermore, it was a humbling experience to realize the obstacles that must be overcome to create art in Cuba and to begin to understand the theme of each piece “through the eyes of Cuban Artists.”

For example, the dual project by **JEFF (José Emilio Fuentes Fonseca)** entitled *Sentimiento*, 2004 (boat house) and *Pensamiento*, 2004 (boat), at first did not seem like much, just a house filled with water; upon which was floating a small, rusty, dirty, old boat. However, when looking in the window of the house, you were overcome with a feeling of immense desolation and melancholy that could not be understood or explained. To me, it felt like Cuba – old and falling apart but at the same time (as you noticed the boat coming into the light) you sense an indescribable beauty, which of course is the island.



JEFF (José Emilio Fuentes Fonseca) Sentimiento 2004

be used in your classrooms? What, from the workshop, was the most beneficial to you?”

Jeff Poole not only benefited as a teacher from the workshop, but was preparing to take a group of 100 students to the exhibit. “I think the workshop was very well organized and not only helped me to understand more about Cuban art but to realize what a great resource we have in Pittsburgh with the Center for Latin American Studies...I am looking forward to talking to my students about Cuba and preparing them for the exhibit. I don’t want to tell them what they will see; I want to tell them about Cuba and have them tell me what they saw....”



Glenda León, Habitat 2004

William Pfahl indicated: "...I am old enough to remember the Cuban missile crisis. However, not having studied Cuban history and the reasons that Castro came to power, I was not well-informed on the subject...He continues "...As an artist concerned with beauty and life, I have really not been involved with political art... The art work at the Mattress Factory was very well put together and in their own way most of the installation pieces had great beauty. They were expressions of the life and conditions of Cuba as well. As an artist who tries to create things, I can relate to art objects as having their own spirit. No words are needed to explain...."

As I read the comments from the teachers I started reflecting on what it was that I learned about Cuba. I thought I had a substantial knowledge about Cuba; but I was pleasantly surprised to realize that there was much more to learn. By experiencing the Cuban Art and realizing that each piece was made from old or recycle parts; yet each piece was designed to demonstrate the history, politics, economics, and creativity of Cubans.



Teachers asking questions about art exhibit

Finally, I received comments from the two people that worked side by side organizing this workshop, Rosalind Eannarino and Jennifer Baron. Rosalind Eannarino, CLAS Outreach Coordinator

"...I enjoy working with teachers in Western Pennsylvania. I appreciate the opportunity to introduce them to the diverse countries, cultures, and languages of Latin America. Because U.S. citizens often have a negative bias related to Cuba, it can be a hard subject to discuss. The art work enabled us to approach the subject of Cuba through the eyes of the artists – rather than through those of political entities. The Spanish language, social studies, special education, and art teachers who participated in **“Experiencing Cuba through the Eyes of Cuban Installation Artists”** were open to learning new ideas and discussing new points of view. Many knew very little about Cuba prior to the workshop. They once again proved to me that Pennsylvania teachers work above and beyond what is required of them.”



Glenda León, Habitat 2004

Jennifer Baron commented, "...Though the Cuban artists were not permitted to participate and work on site here in Pittsburgh, the museum's dedicated and experienced staff worked long-distance to realize the artists' large-scale projects. The exhibition brings to Pittsburgh a taste of the vibrant and exciting art scene that exists in Cuba today...Through the lens of a contemporary art exhibition, teachers were provided with firsthand, in-depth experiences to examine the intersection of music, visual expression, politics and social issues inherent in Cuban art and culture...The course included lively music and art-making workshops, lectures on historical and cultural context, presentations by K-12 teachers who have studied in Cuba, a dialogue with Mattress Factory Curator of Exhibitions Michael Olijnyk, an exploration of museum and studio teaching techniques, lesson writing, and Cuban dinners.”

I am very hopeful that more Pennsylvania teachers will participate in CLAS teacher training workshops. I personally feel that the workshop **“Experiencing Cuba through the Eyes of Cuban Installation Artists”** was an innovative way to share one of the cultures of Latin America with educators. Each of the participating teachers prepared a lesson on Cuba for classroom use. These will be published on CLAS' website by the end of summer 2005.

For more information go to:

<http://www.mattress.org/>

<http://www.mattress.org/catalogue/04/cuba/index.html>

<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/outreach/k-12.html>

<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/outreach.html>



Teachers' projects with soap bars and different objects



Ligia Díaz-Román & students

School Visit Program

The School Visit Program of the Center for Latin American Studies provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh to share their knowledge of Latin America with local K-12 students in their classrooms.

Presentations are designed for a regular classroom period of approximately 40 minutes. They are interactive in format and cover many Latin American and Caribbean countries and topics. Most of the lessons and activities are available in English or Spanish.

During the 2005-06 academic year, Ms. Ligia Díaz-Román, Master's candidate in the School of Education, is the Outreach Program graduate student assistant. She will coordinate the School Visit Program. Ligia will be the contact person with the schools and will supervise the student volunteers. Ligia's email address is idd4@pitt.edu.



School visit to Phillips Elementary School

University of Pittsburgh University Center for International Studies (UCIS)

hosts



9th Annual

MODEL UNITED NATIONS SIMULATION
Monday, November 7, 2005

For more information and to register go to:

www.pitt.edu/~modelun

The 26th Annual Latin American & Caribbean Festival

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005

2:00 p.m. to Midnight

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

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www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas



WATERCOLOR BY VICTOR BELTRAN

VENEZUELA

Full country name: República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Area: 916,445 sq km

Population: 25 million

Capital City: Caracas (pop 4,608,934)

People: 67% mestizo, 21% European descent, 10% African descent, 2% indigenous. There are approximately 200,000 Amerindians, remnants of a number of diverse semi-nomadic hunter-gatherer societies.

Language: Spanish

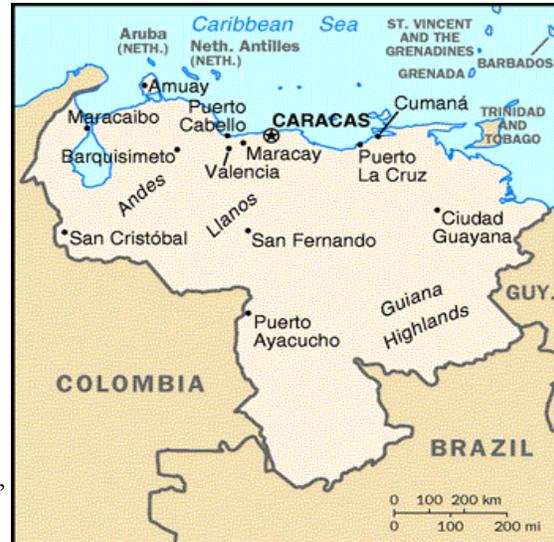
Religion: Roman Catholic (96%), Protestant

Government: federal republic

Head of State: President Hugo Chávez

Major Industries: Petroleum, iron ore, cereals, fruit, sugar and coffee.

Major Trading Partners: USA, Germany, Japan, Colombia, Brazil, Italy



Venezuela has South America's largest lake and third-longest river, the highest waterfall in the world, and the longest of all snakes. It also has jaguars, armadillos and some of the most spectacular landscapes you'll ever see.

There also are the snowcapped peaks of the Andes in the west; steamy Amazonian jungles in the south; the hauntingly beautiful Gran Sabana plateau, with its strange flat-topped mountains, in the east; and miles of white-sand beaches fringed with coconut palms on the Caribbean coast.

At the time of the Spanish Conquest of Venezuela, the region was inhabited by some 500,000 indigenous peoples belonging to three principal ethnolinguistic groups - the Cariban, Arawak and Chibcha. Columbus was the first European to set foot on the soil of what is now Venezuela, and the country was given its name (meaning 'Little Venice') a year later by the explorer Alonso de Ojeda. The first Spanish settlement on the mainland was established at Cumaná in 1521.

Spanish rulers were eventually defeated by the young Simón Bolívar, known locally as 'El Libertador'. He seized Venezuela from Spain in 1821 with a decisive victory at Campo Carabobo. Bolívar had already brought independence to Colombia, and went on, with his lieutenant Antonio José de Sucre, to liberate Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. His dream of a united state of Gran Colombia, which would unify Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, did not survive his death in 1830, when Venezuela declared full independence under a new constitution.

The post-independence period was marked by a succession of military dictators, political coups and economic instability, until the discovery of huge oil reserves in the Maracaibo basin in the 1910s brought some degree of prosperity to the country. By the late 1920s, Venezuela had become the world's largest oil exporter. Despite recent political stability, Venezuela's political climate continues to be marred by corruption scandals and the threat of a military coup. The country's economy, which was hit hard by the 1988 drop in world oil prices, remained shaky. Then-president Caldera's unconstitutional crackdown on economic speculation and civic freedoms in 1994 incensed civil libertarians, but it took until early 1996 for popular opinion to swing against him. In December 1998 Venezuelans signaled their impatience with the government's impotence, electing an army colonel, Hugo Chávez, to the presidency with the largest vote margin in 40 years. Just six years earlier, Chávez had attempted a coup against the government and had spent two years in jail. Chávez was re-elected by a comfortable margin again in 2000.

In April 2002, following widespread demonstrations, a coup blessed by the US and Spain landed Chavez in detention...However, this did not put an end to the strife and unrest that were plaguing the country. A nine week general strike in 2003 further deteriorated confidence in Chavez and before long there were calls for a referendum on his rule. After stalling and deferring on the referendum, in August 2004 Chavez won the referendum to serve his term until 2006.

http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/south_america/venezuela/culture.htm

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

Professional Development Workshop and Concert
Mexican Culture through Traditional Folk Music

Featuring Tlen-Huicani (pronounced wee-KAH-ne)

Workshop: 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Fireside Lounge in Chambers Hall-Pitt's Greensburg Campus

Concert will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Ferguson Theater-Pitt's Greensburg Campus

Contact: Luz Amanda Villada

lavst12@ucis.pitt.edu

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005

THE 26TH LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

2:00 P.M.—12:00 A.M.

WILLIAM PITT UNION - UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Contact: Luz Amanda Villada

lavst12@ucis.pitt.edu

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2005

Borrowing Teaching Materials for Exploring the Cultures of the World

Assembly Room, William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh

www.iau3.biz/modules/news/

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2005

9TH ANNUAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS SIMULATION

WILLIAM PITT UNION - UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

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for K-12 Educators**

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