



LAS NOTICIAS

A NEWSLETTER FOR K-12 SPANISH LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATORS
 CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
 UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

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SUMMER 2004

New Installations, Artists in Residence: Cuba

Cuba: Instalaciones Nuevas, Artistas en Residencia

On Sunday, October 3, 2004, the Mattress Factory (a contemporary art museum on the North Side of Pittsburgh) will present ***New Installations, Artists in Residence: Cuba***, featuring the work of ten artists from Cuba. The exhibition will include established artists, whose work has been exhibited in other countries as well as several young artists, who have not yet shown work outside of Cuba.

The show will run through Sunday, April 24, 2005. A list of the artists with brief biographical sketches can be found on the Mattress Factory website.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Center for Latin American Studies (www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas) and the Mattress Factory (<http://www.mattress.org>) will sponsor several outreach programs on Cuba including a lecture and film series, roundtable discussions, family and community workshops, and public discussion groups. Dates for these events will be announced soon.

Related to the exhibit and designed for area teachers will be ***Experiencing Cuba through the Eyes of Cuban Installation Artist*** described below.



GARCIA GOMEZ



FONSECA



RAMOS

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Experiencing Cuba through the Eyes of Cuban Installation Artists

The Center for Latin American Studies and the Mattress Factory would like to invite area teachers to participate in ***Experiencing Cuba through the Eyes of Cuban Installation Artists***.

This innovative, multi-disciplinary workshop will introduce educators to Cuban Installation Art, as well as the social, historical, and cultural forces that shape the production of art in Cuba today. Participants will learn new ways of presenting art in a traditional classroom environment as well as how art can be used in Spanish-language and social studies classes to introduce students to the rich, diverse history and culture of Cuba.

The program will take place on five consecutive Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The first two sessions (October 20 and 27, 2004) will be held at the University of Pittsburgh, Oakland Campus, Room 4130 Posvar Hall. The last three sessions (November 3, 10, and 17, 2004) will be held at the Mattress Factory, 505 Jacksonia Street, North Side, Pittsburgh.

The workshop is approved for one (1) Act 48 Credit. In order to receive the Act 48 credit, participants must attend all five sessions and complete a grade-appropriate lesson using the content of the workshop. Lessons will be presented and submitted during the final workshop session.

Registration fee is \$50 non-credit; \$75 for credit payable to the University of Pittsburgh. The fee includes all five workshops, dinner at each session, and curricular materials.

To register for ***Experiencing Cuba through the Eyes of Cuban Installation Artists***, send your name, name of school, home address, home phone number, email address, grade level, and subject area to Rosalind Eannarino at alinda@ucis.pitt.edu.

SIN PUERTAS VISIBLES

An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry by Mexican Women

"This fully bilingual collection features the electrifying work of eleven poets, none of which has previously been translated into English. Edited and translated by California poet Jen Hofer, *Sin puertas visibles* (no visible doors) opens passageways to a poetry of passion and meditation, perception and sensuous detail, and provides readers with a window through which to view some of the most fascinating writing being produced by emerging Mexican women writers." (Press Release, April 2003, University of Pittsburgh) read more about the book and the authors at <http://www.pitt.edu/~press/books/sinpuertasvisibles.html>.

The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies and the English Department, through its Pittsburgh contemporary writers series, are hosting visits by two of the Mexican poets—Cristina Rivera-Garza and Ofelia Pérez Sepúlveda—and the editor/translator, Jen Hofer, on September 21, 22, and 23, 2004.

Area K-12 teachers are welcome to participate in the following related University of Pittsburgh events. There is no admission fee.

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Poetry Reading with Cristina Rivera-Garza and Ofelia Pérez Sepúlveda

8:30 p.m.

Kurtzman Room, William Pitt Union

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Panel Discussion/Roundtable, moderated by Ignacio Sánchez-Prado

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

4130 Posvar Hall

Reception to follow in

4217 Posvar Hall

CAPOEIRA PRESENTED BY NEGO GATO

What is Capoeira? Capoeira combines African and African-Brazilian music, self-defense, dance, and acrobatics to create a unique art form. Training involves the development of strength, flexibility, and agility. Students slowly, and gently prepare to do handstands, cartwheels, and headstands while also learning the rhythms, instrumentation, and songs (in Portuguese) of the art form. **The Nego Gato Foundation** of Pittsburgh offers adult and children classes. For more information: Call 412-201-4546 or by email at info@negogato.org.



PITTSBURGH MARKET FOR NICARAGUAN COFFEE

by Jeff Poole

World language students at Franklin Regional senior high school went door to door selling Nicaraguan coffee! The coffee is produced by a small co-op of growers in Nicaragua, Central America who were not able to get their product to the market place.

The coffee beans came to Pittsburgh through the efforts of Donna Tabor, a former Pittsburgh TV producer and Peace Corp volunteer. Currently, Ms. Tabor operates a school for homeless boys in Granada, Nicaragua. She is often confronted with community problems. When it was brought to her attention that 10,000 pounds of coffee couldn't get to the market place and that the co-op families were suffering because of the situation, she jumped into action. Donna solicited the aid of the Pittsburgh-based NGO, Building New Hope. It is the work of Building New Hope staff and several business people in the Strip District of Pittsburgh that finally brought the Nicaraguan coffee to Pittsburgh.

The Franklin Regional high school students and I learned of the coffee situation while attending a Building New Hope meeting. We were introduced to the idea of selling the coffee as a fund raiser. As we left the meeting, we discussed how we would organize the project and who would benefit from our efforts. In the meantime, I received a flyer from the University of Pittsburgh announcing a campaign to raise money for a new Latin American Nationality Room <http://www.pit.edu/~natrooms>. That was it! Our decision was made! We would donate the profits from our coffee selling efforts to the Latin American nationality room campaign and to Donna Tabor's school in Nicaragua.

To date, the students have sold enough coffee to donate \$1000 to the University of Pittsburgh's newest nationality room project and, over the past two years, another \$2000 was donated to Tabor's school in Nicaragua. The students are proud of the work they are doing. They feel involved and happy to be able to help.

The coffee is an easy sell. ¡Es sabroso! It's delicious! If you are interested in a fund raiser for your favorite school project while assisting the coffee growers and demonstrating to your students the benefits of community service – look no further!! Contact Building New Hope at <http://www.buildingnewhope.com>.



From left to right: Amanda Dunham, Brian Garret, Sam Friedman and top seller (23lbs) Robert Chung

The coffee is generally sold for \$10 a pound, \$2 of which is retained by the seller for his/her fund raising project. The balance goes to the coffee co-op in Nicaragua.

Editor's Note: Jeff Poole is a Spanish language teacher at Franklin Regional Senior High School. Jeff is well traveled and often serves as faculty coordinator – taking high school students abroad. His most recent travels have taken him to Spain, Costa Rica, Honduras, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Jeff met Donna Tabor while participating in a Center for Latin American Studies curriculum development research project in Nicaragua during the summer of 2002.

WHO'S WHO IN CLAS OUTREACH

The planning, organizing, and implementation of outreach programs and activities require great effort. According to Rosalind Eannarino, Outreach Coordinator, this could not be accomplished without Ms. Luz Amanda Villada, Academic and Outreach Assistant. Currently Luz is busy with the 25th Latin American and Caribbean Festival. She also assists in organizing workshops, the Model United Nations Conference, editing and designing *Las Noticias*, and much more. Luz Amanda's email address is: lavst12@ucis.pitt.edu.



Luz Amanda Villada

During the 2004-05 academic year, Ms. Ligia Díaz-Román, Master's candidate in the School of Education, will be 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 ldd4@pitt.edu.

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. This year we may have a visiting artist from Mexico available for limited classroom visits—more on this soon!!



Alejandro Cabrera at a School Visit Program



Alejandro Cabrera speaking to students



Ligia Diaz-Roman Coordinator of the School Visit Program for 2004-05

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OVERSEAS

The Center for Latin American Studies through its Outreach Program offers study/research overseas opportunities for area teachers. These programs are designed to contribute to the development and improvement of the study of modern foreign languages and area studies in the U.S. by providing training opportunities in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In the past, CLAS has sponsored professional development projects in Nicaragua and Cuba. The Nicaraguan program was funded by a U. S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad grant. To access the curriculum developed by the participating educators, see http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/nicaragua_proj.

Planning is currently under way for a program to be held in Northeastern Brazil in Summer 2005. If funded, the program will include the intensive study of Brazilian Portuguese, a pre-trip seminar to prepare for research in-country, five weeks in Brazil, and a post-trip seminar for the development of curriculum.

For more information, contact Rosalind Eannarino at alinda@ucis.pitt.edu

COLOMBIA

Population

- Total population of 39.3 million (July 1999 estimate); the population growth rate is 1.85% (1999)
- Life expectancy at birth is 70.4 years
- 95% of the population is Roman Catholic
- Literacy rate is 91.4% of the population over age 15
- Ethnic groups include mestizo (58%), white (20%), mulatto (14%), black (4%), mixed black-Amerindian (3%), and Amerindian (1%)
- Major cities include Bogotá (capital), Cali, Cartagena, Medellín and Baranquilla

Geography

Colombia is a land of diverse geography. It is the only South American nation to border both the Caribbean (one thousand miles of coastline) and the Pacific Ocean (six hundred miles). The country is divided by the mountain ranges or cordillera of the Andes, where seventy percent of the population lives. Much of the south and eastern region of Colombia is part of the Amazon basin's dense tropical forest.

Colombia is approximately the size of Texas and California combined (440,720 square miles). It is home to some of the world's most complex and fragile ecosystems, ranking first in the world in terms of diversity in animal life, and second in plant life. It covers 1% of the world's land surface, yet boasts 10% of all the world's total flora and fauna. Natural resources include petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, nickel, gold, copper and emeralds. The country is divided into 32 departments (states, or provinces) and 1 capital district.

Climate

Colombia is a tropical country with a variety of climates but no seasons. Rainy and dry periods alternate throughout the year. Temperatures are determined basically by altitude above sea level. The lowlands are characterized by hot climate (over 28 degrees C. (82.4 F) year-round. At higher altitudes the climate changes: 455 to 2,285 meters above sea level (1,500 to 7,500 feet) is subtropical; up to 3,050 meters (10,000 feet) the climate is temperate; and above 3,050 meters lies the cold climate zone where temperatures range from below freezing to 10 degrees C. (50 F).

National Symbols and Emblems:

The Flag: The colors of the flag represent several aspects of Colombia. Yellow (twice the size of the blue and red) symbolizes Colombia's wealth and resources. The blue represents the two oceans and the country's many rivers. The red is a tribute to the blood shed by patriots who fought against Spain to give Colombia its independence.

The National Flower: The orchid

The National Bird: The condor

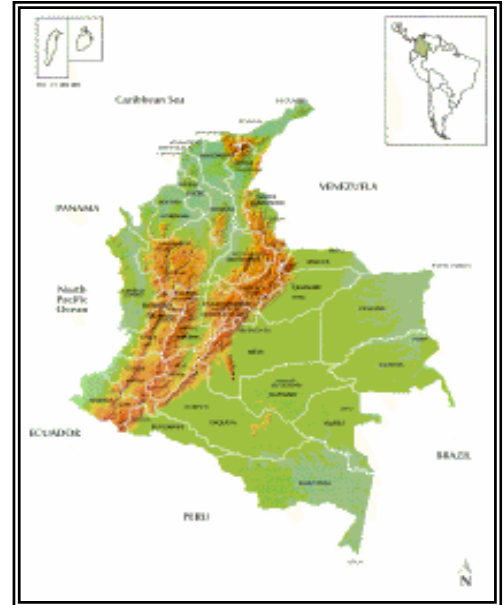
The National Tree: The wax palm

Form of government and national politics:

- Colombia achieved independence from Spain in 1819.
- The country is governed by a national constitution, amended on July 5, 1991.
- Colombia has three branches of governance: The Executive, Legislative and Judiciary.

Source: The Embassy of Colombia in Washington D.C.

<http://www.colombiaemb.org/opencms/opencms/>



Teacher Program: Finding United Nations Resources

November 8, 2004

1:30 PM

Thomas Twiss

Government Information Librarian

University Library System

University of Pittsburgh

Meet at the Reference/Information Desk

Ground Floor, Hillman Library, 3960 Forbes Avenue

Limited space available; registration is on a first come, first served basis!

The program will examine the major UN resources available on the internet and in print and explore tools for locating these resources.

To reserve your place in this Pitt Model UN Teachers' Workshop email global@ucis.pitt.edu and indicate your interest by providing your name and the name of your school. **You will receive an email confirmation of your reservation.**

**University of Pittsburgh
University Center for International Studies (UCIS)**

hosts



8th Annual

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS SIMULATION
Monday, November 8, 2004**

For more information and to register go to:

www.pitt.edu/~modelun

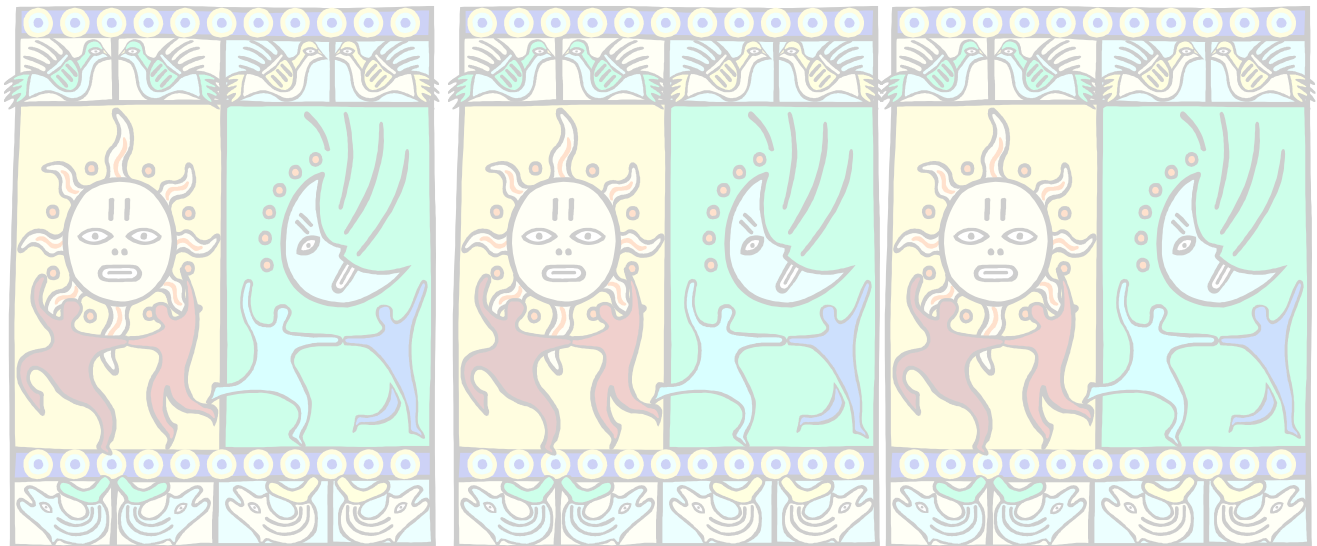
¡Venga y Disfrute!

25th Annual Latin American & Caribbean Festival to be held Saturday, September 18, 2004 from 2:00 p.m. to Midnight in the William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh.

The Festival will once again feature art, crafts, performing arts, and food from many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This year's Festival will highlight visiting ***Mexican Artist, Alfonso Nieto***. Nieto's canvases glow with the same enthusiasm as his zest for life. They are vibrant with shades of lime green, orange, red, and yellow. He uses bold colorful strokes combined with the geometric shapes that are common in the Mexican culture. His photography focuses on Mexican daily life as well as textures and design on walls of buildings in Mexico.

For more information visit CLAS' website at <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas>, upcoming events or contact Luz Amanda Villada at lavst12@ucis.pitt.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THE 25TH ANNUAL LATIN AMERICAN

&

CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2004

MEXICAN POETS SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 21, 22, 23, 2004

THE 8TH MODEL UNITED

NATIONS SIMULATION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004

LAS NOTICIAS: CLAS Outreach Newsletter for K-12 Educators

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