



# VISIONS OF LATIN AMERICA

Volume I, Issue I

FALL 2005

## Special points of interest:

- *Chavez' nuclear ideas*
- *Bolivia: A recurrent revolution*
- *Central American Trade Agreement & Globalization*
- *Brazil: 20 years of democracy*
- *Latinos greatest minority in the U.S.*
- *Cuban Installation Art*

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## WELCOME to *VISIONS of Latin America*

A new organization comprised of students and members of the Latin American community. **VISIONS** provides a forum for elaborating ideas and concepts relevant to Latin America through a newsletter to be published every semester. The articles will be written on topics and themes related to the region. You are welcome to be part of **VISIONS**! We are seeking an array of articles concerned with politics, economics, human rights, security, culture, or any other interesting theme pertaining to the region for our next issue. For more information contact: [faz13@pitt.edu](mailto:faz13@pitt.edu)

## Venezuela...A Good Neighbor?

By Felipe Zuluaga  
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Hugo Chavez and Mohammad Khatami

On May 22, 2005 the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, declared his country's interest in acquiring nuclear energy. Chavez claims that his notion of developing nuclear capacity in Venezuela is for the sole purpose of improving the country's energy capacity and advancing Venezuela's position in other areas related to nuclear technology. Chavez invited Brazil and Argentina to work along with Venezuela on issues of nuclear investigations while encouraging other Latin American countries to follow his lead.

Although Chavez indicates that the development of nuclear power is to be for peaceful purposes only, his statement in May was not well received in the majority of Venezuela's neighboring countries or in the United States. But why is Chavez's idea regarded with suspicion by the international community? Why is his initiative viewed as a threat rather than a positive development? The most likely answer can be summed up by security and stability reasons, as Venezuela is seeking a more secure position in the global context. However, this ambition engenders concerns in the Latin American region and

could potentially generate serious repercussions for the entire Latin American community.

Among these concerns is determining the true reason as to why President Chavez aspires to acquire nuclear energy. According to Douglas Mackinnon in an article from the Houston Chronicle, the real reason that Chavez wants to develop nuclear technology is for the purpose of developing nuclear weapons! It may be hard to determine the credibility of this statement, but considering Mackinnon's source is a high ranking official for a Latin American government, it should not be taken lightly.

It is upsetting and almost incomprehensible to conceive of the Venezuelan government developing nuclear weapons. This not only poses a threat to the stability and security of the Latin American region, but it also has the potential to cause a crisis at the global level. If nuclear technology is developed in Venezuela for the purpose of acquiring nuclear arms, the country will violate the Treaty of Tlatelcol, which prohibits nuclear weapons in Latin America. This treaty, signed by 23 Latin American states, has been the pillar in maintaining nuclear security for the entire region and sets an example for other regions to successfully achieve nuclear-free zones. However, if Venezuela officially decides to break the treaty by achieving nuclear power, it is probable that other countries with previous intentions to develop military nuclear capacity - such as Mexico, Chile, Brazil and Argentina - will follow suit.

Second, Chavez's continual statements against the United States and his constant

support to the theocratic regime of Iran in developing nuclear weapons have alarmed the U.S. State and Defense Departments. For this reason, U.S./Venezuela relations have been deteriorating. Such a situation has segregated some Latin American countries between those supporting Chavez and those that do not. Specifically, this is the case of Colombia. Colombia has been in a difficult position in trying to maintain good relations with its most important neighbor, Venezuela, and its most important ally, the United States. The root of the problem lies in the fact that, if Venezuela acquires nuclear power, the U.S. may not concord; instead, the U.S. may retaliate with force. Not only would this have huge political, economic, and social implications in Latin America, but it also may initiate an arms-race in the region.

The aforementioned concerns imply that it is important to follow Chavez's nuclear idea very carefully. Even if Chavez's intentions are purely passive and for civilian purposes only, I believe that his aspiration to achieve nuclear power will cause more harm than good. Therefore, although it is not known what measures the U.S. and/or the international community will take to prevent Chavez's nuclear ambitions, it appears that the Venezuelan President's actions are driving his country into an isolated position – one with huge implications for the entire region.

## Social Conflict in Bolivia: A Recurring Revolution

By Lindsey Jones  
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Protest in Bolivia

After months of protests and road blocks by peasants, workers, and miners, a sense of normality has returned to conflict-ridden Bolivia. For the past several years, Bolivians have had to adjust more than ever to the consequences of living in a twenty-first century multiethnic and disparate society in the twenty-first century. This skirmish has by no means come to end; however, it appears that a more peaceful atmosphere has temporarily replaced the sadistic events of the past several months.

The proceedings leading to both the 2003 resignation of the elected president, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, and that of his ineffectual successor, Carlos Mesa, two years later have occurred amidst a backdrop of a popular revolution by oppressed Andean Indians. The protesters, representing a majority of Bolivians, are said to be battling the neo-liberal reforms imposed by the Western nations while deeming the multinationals located within the country to be predators of the Bolivian economy. However, the indigenous population does not speak for the entire country; in fact, social conflict has defined Bolivian politics for a long time.

In order to understand the extent of Bolivia's social conflict, it is important to recognize the complex political history of the nation. After the transition to democracy in the 1980s, Bolivia's prospects for governability were slim with the violence that accompanied the conversion. While Bolivia experienced peaceful civilian governments from 1880 until 1930 and again from 1952 until 1964, between 1972 and 1982 severe political turmoil, economic catastrophe and state disintegration existed.

The Movimiento Revolucionario Boliviano (MNR) was founded in 1941 by a small group of dissidents from the middle and upper classes and has played a big role in Bolivian politics. The two prominent original leaders of the MNR were Victor Paz Estenssoro and Hernan Siles Suazo. MNR members ranged from intellectuals to both white and blue-collar workers. The MNR's influence with the Bolivian miners increased, and Paz Estenssoro led congressional interrogations of government ministers. The MNR also had contacts with reformist military officers, particularly a group called "Razon de Patria-Radepa." This faction sought mass support, backed military intervention in politics, and hoped to prevent excessive foreign control over Bolivia's natural resources. In 1943, the Radepa/MNR alliance overthrew the Peñaranda regime. The MNR denounced Peñaranda's close cooperation with the United States and especially criticized his agreement to compensate Standard Oil for its nationalized holdings. The United States declared that the MNR was under the influence of "Nazi fascism," and the MNR resigned when the United States publicly denounced their government.

When the MNR assumed power again, Paz Estenssoro became the Minister of Finance. He hoped to get popular support with a budget that emphasized social spending over economic development. The MNR was the dominant opposition group for the revolution that took the side of workers and the defense of Indian rights. Social unrest, laid off workers, economic crisis and a disagreement with the United States over tin prices halted exports and hurt the Bolivian economy. Food imports increased as 92% of land was held by estates of 1000 hectares or more. The revolution that followed brought three days of fighting, 600 deaths and the surrender of the army.

A coalition government between the Centro Obrero Boliviano (COB) and the MNR was formed under Paz Estenssoro in 1952. The COB represented the Bolivian workers and was seen as the government within the government. They proposed that the MNR assume ownership and responsibility of the government administration, but the COB could veto anything passed by the MNR. The COB was the real government of the Bolivian workers and hence, of the national economy.

Paz Estenssoro passed the first universal suffrage law in Bolivia. He closed the Colegio Militar and required officers

**“The United States declared that MNR was under the influence of ‘Nazi fascism’ ”**

to take an oath to the MNR. He also nationalized the mines under Comibol, implemented agrarian reform, and abolished forced labor. During the first few years of the Paz Estenssoro Administration, miners wielded a substantial amount of influence within the government. The COB demanded radical change and participation in the government, along with benefits for its members. The Ministry of Peasant Affairs was created to gain support of the campesinos. Peasants remained a powerful force during all subsequent Bolivian governments, even though the revolution lost its momentum within five years. Eventually, economic and social problems caused the government to seek help from the United States, giving the US influence over the Bolivian economy and investments in oil for the past decade.

Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada (a.k.a. Goni), another important actor, won his second presidency in 2002, despite his rather unsuccessful previous term. This time, however, the leader of the coca growers, Evo Morales, lost the primaries to Goni by less than one percent, demonstrating the cohesion of the coca grower’s movement. Goni kept his strong connections with the United States and implemented even more coca eradication measures during the course of his term. Economic reforms were again not successful, and opposition movements became a norm within Bolivian society.

An opportunity to export natural gas from Bolivia to the United States and Mexico was seized by the president, in hopes of stimulating the economy. The plan called for the exportation of gas through a pipeline in Chile, but Bolivian resentment toward the country that took their only access to the ocean over a century ago spurred opposition to the arrangement. Once it was decided that the gas would be exported through Peru instead of Chile, foreign resentment had reached such a high level that rival groups demanded the natural gas company be nationalized.

The conflict degenerated into violent confrontations, and Goni made the mistake of using force to control the situation. After over 60 deaths, Vice President Carlos Mesa decided to resign, unable to support a government that had caused so many fatalities. Shortly after, Goni stepped down from the presidency. Carlos Mesa assumed leadership, only to be toppled by growing groups of protesters two years later. Although the vicious cycle that has persisted in Bolivia for the past fifty years has reached a tranquil phase, time will likely bring about yet another chapter of social chaos. But until the new elections are held in December of 2005 under the current leadership of Eduardo Rodriguez, it appears that Bolivia is experiencing a welcomed sense of normality under the current leadership of Eduardo Rodriguez.

## The Paradox of Globalization

by Rudi E. Navarra  
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There is no question about it: free market economies yield greater overall productivity and an increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Renowned economists Robert J. Barro and Xavier Sala-i-Martin contend that *any* present economic growth, however minor, yields an unprecedented and exponential rise in per capita income over time. They calculated the average annual rate of growth in real per capita GDP in the United States over the last 120 years and concluded that even a minuscule increase of a percentage of GDP produces unbelievable per capita wealth over the long term. But what ill effects do free market economies have on developing nations? What negative externalities arise from such rapid and unprecedented growth? Globalization then creates a paradox in terms of development: in the one hand, a free market economy produces increases in GDP, but on the other hand, it produces drastic decreases in standards of living and living wages.

Globalization, or free trade, spurs rapid economic growth and is assumed to be *the de facto tool* for achieving significant growth in GDP in Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs). But ill effects from free trade can be seen everywhere. Regarding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Timothy A. Canova argues

that despite Mexico’s widely-hailed free trade success story, “NAFTA’s liberalization of capital flows and the subsequent peso crash and economic austerity contributed to steep declines in jobs and real incomes for millions of Mexicans.” The evidence can also be seen in the inequitable development of Mexico: hundreds of *maquiladoras* have massed in the northern provinces near the U.S.-Mexico border, and southern provinces like Chiapas remain economically neglected. Regardless of such disproportionate development, Mexico’s economic growth has been steady. But if millions of Mexicans are losing with globalization, are free market economies really working?

The recently ratified Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) is already stirring controversy and protest. According to Stephanie Saul of *The New York Times*, CAFTA will empower drug companies with unprecedented monopolies in Central America and ultimately lead to “higher drug prices for the mostly impoverished people of the six Latin American countries it covers.” CAFTA has also resulted in dozens of violent protests throughout Central America, clearly signaling Central Americans’ disapproval of globalization and neo-liberal efforts.

Arturo Escobar, Associate Professor of Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts, agrees: “the demise of neo-Keynesianism and the rise of neo-liberalism” are “draconian economic reforms introduced in the Third World.” The price and human cost of neo-liberal free market policies seem to be a non-issue. “Never mind that as a supposedly temporary casualty of the necessary adjustment people’s living standards have fallen to unprecedented levels.”

*Cont’d. on page 4*



Do we have an alternative to globalization? At this point, apparently not. Nor should we. Free markets foment great increases in GDP. However, it is our responsibility to manage globalization with the utmost care in the interest of both current and future generations. Otherwise, prospering from the suffering and neglect of others through globalization will mirror the prosperity achieved from the suffering of millions of African-Americans during slavery. Future wealth and increases in standards of living gained from globalization's economic growth **must not** justify the agony and poverty created by free market policies. Furthermore, a continuation of the neglect of the negative externalities associated with globalization will only yield instability, resentment, gross inequality, and a desire to resort to terrorism as a means of retaliation in LDCs.

Additionally, the current pursuit of globalization strategies may be the ultimate threat to our democratic institutions. This threat to democratic institutions is especially evident in LDCs. Democracy and free markets appear to be compatible institutions. But economic luminary John Maynard Keynes warned that "nothing less than the democratic experiment in self-government was endangered by the threat of global financial market forces."

The current adverse repercussions of globalization and free trade—like poverty and uneven wealth distribution—must be addressed. It is imperative to find a solution to the negative effects of globalization. The very survival of our institutions and our way of life depend on it.

## Brazil: 20 Years of Democracy; Corruption is Still a Threat

By Willys Santos  
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In 1989 the Brazilian people voted for president for the first time in 21 years thereby sealing the surrender of the military dictatorship. At that time, the economic situation of the country was chaotic. Inflation in 1988 had been 933.6%, and in the following year it was 1,764.8%.

The elected president Fernando Collor promised to modernize the industry and Brazil's financial system, which in his view needed to be updated in order to compete with other developing nations. To this end, he opened the country to the international market by eliminating tariff barriers and boosting imports. However, Brazil's industry was not prepared for the sudden competition with import products, mostly coming from China; therefore, a huge recession followed. The unemployment rate rose and investments dropped. Mr Collor, however, managed to do what he had promised. He made available to the Brazilian middle class products from the first world. The population engaged in consumerism habits which were incompatible with their income.

Brazilians soon realized that they could not afford the products they saw in the store windows. To make matters worse, two years after taking office, Pedro Collor, the president's brother, denounced a corruption scam which benefited the president and his family. This marked the beginning of the end of Mr Collor's term of office. An inquiry commission was called to investigate the president's finances, and he was judged guilty by the senate. In order to avoid his impeachment, Mr Collor resigned. The vice president Itamar Franco then took office. During Mr Franco's ruling another scandal was uncovered involving congressmen who were taking bribes for transferring public money to private companies.

In 1994 the sociologists Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former researcher from CEPAL, was elected with 52.2% the votes. Mr Cardoso had been a minister of Itamar Franco's administration when he launched an economic plan in 1993 called the Real Plan. The plan brought monetary stability to the economy, and as a result, it helped Mr Cardoso be elected. His administration was marked by neo liberal

tendencies. In order to stabilize the monetary system, he pegged the "real" (Brazilian currency) to the dollar at the exchange rate  $e = 1\$/1$ . As a consequence, Brazilian products became extremely expensive, the import/export ratio sky rocketed, leading to huge balance-of-payment deficits. After the financial crisis in Asia in 1997, the Brazilian government had no alternative but let the real float. One of the most problematic issues in the Cardoso administration was that of the intense privatization program of state companies. When the CVRD (Companhia do Vale do Rio Doce), an ore extracting and processing company, was privatized, the whole process was marked by suspicion of state officials benefiting certain groups through bribery.

***The Lula administration has been able to boost economic growth. The GDP grew 4.9% in 2004, and it is expected to grow***

In 2002, tired of the old economic and social policies which led Brazil to the 147<sup>th</sup> position (out of 150) in income inequality, the Brazilian people elected Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva president. Lula ran for presidency in all elections since 1989, but he always came in second. Originally from the Northeast region, one of the poorest areas in the country, and a former union leader, Lula is the first left-wing president of the new democracy. Together with the intellectual elite, he was one of the founders of the Brazil's Workers Party (PT), which was an active democratic institution that often denounced corruption in the government.

The Lula administration has been able to boost economic growth. The GDP grew 4.9% in 2004, and it is expected to grow 3.5 this year. The economic and social policies, however, have not changed much but rather seem to be a continuation of previous governments. Lula has not made the social transformations necessary to affect a change in income inequality, reduce poverty and eliminate hunger, as promised. Unemployment has stalled in the double digits (12%), and the motto of Lula's presidential that campaign "the hope won the fear" no longer seems relevant. Confidence in the new government is waning as may be evident by the fact that Brazilians are the second-largest group entering the US across the Mexican border.

The PT, which always claimed itself to be a model of probity, has recently been hit by a wave of accusations against its major leaders. Congressman Roberto Jefferson has alleged that party officials had bribed politicians from coalition parties to vote for a series of pieces of government legislation. The party has denied the claims, but meanwhile two influential PT politicians have stepped down: Jose Genoino, the PT chairman, and Jose Dirceu, the president's chief of staff. This is the most serious scandal of Lula's administration and threatens his chances for re-election in 2006.

The 20 years of recent democracy in Brazil have been marked by attempts to stabilize and modernize the economy, and boost growth. However, corruption still persists in the public administration. This is not to say that it did not exist during the dictatorship, but the novelty now lies in the fact that, after the returning to democracy scandals can become public without the threat of censorship. If the PT fails to overcome the current political crisis, the Brazilian voters will have serious reasons doubts about Lula's chances for re-election. History has shown that hopelessness is the worst threat to democracy.

## Latin Americans in Southwestern Pennsylvania

By Jorge Enrique Delgado. D.D.S., M.Ed.  
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Not only does "Latin American" define the citizens of Central American, South American and Caribbean decent, but it also describes the entire U.S. Latino community (Hispanics and others of Latin American origin), including those whom have permission to work, undocumented people, immigrants and their offspring. They are not a homogeneous group; there are

**"Latinos are the greatest minority in the U.S.A (12%): it is estimated that in 2050 they will be 25% of the labor force"**

racial mixtures that occurred among Latin American natives, Europeans and/or Africans in times of the Conquest, in addition to some more recent Asian groups. In addition to ethnicity, there are geographic, linguistic and cultural factors contributing to the diversity in Latin America. Nevertheless, Latinos share their religious faith and have a similar history of underdevelopment and dependency. For that reason, many Latin Americans attempt to seek new ventures in developed countries, like the U.S.

Currently, Latinos are the greatest minority in the U.S. (12%); it is estimated that in 2050 they will comprise 25% of the population. The distribution and characteristics of Latinos vary among states and cities. For example, there is a higher percentage of Mexicans in the south and west, but fewer reside in the east where Caribbeans and South Americans are also predominant groups of immigrants. In states, where the proportion of Latinos is significant, many jobs require workers to be bilingual (Spanish-English) with knowledge of the Latino culture.

In Pennsylvania, the situation of Latinos is different from those in other eastern states. The percentage of Latinos in the state is very low, reaching only 3.2%; however, this is more acute in southwestern Pennsylvania with statistics reaching only 0.705%. The highest concentration of Latinos in Western Pennsylvania can be found in Allegheny County (0.9%). In the city of Pittsburgh, the greater urban center of the zone, they comprise 1.3% of the population. The Latin American countries that have significant representation are Mexico, Puerto Rico, South Americans (mainly from Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Colombia), Cuba and some Central Americans.

The population is migrant and scattered, being concentrated

mostly in the city of Pittsburgh, but also in Allegheny County and even in Greater Pittsburgh (southwestern counties around this metropolis). Several belong to universities, either as students or as professors/researchers. Many work in agriculture, construction, landscaping and restaurants (especially Mexican and Central American workers). There are also professionals and artists in the area. Some work in big companies and a few are entrepreneurs.

Most of Western Pennsylvania was populated by immigrants from different European countries, who came to work in the mining and steel industries. They gathered together by nationality and religious affinities, and have tried to maintain their parents' and grandparents' traditions. Today, there are second and third generations of descendants, who do not see themselves as immigrants, but rather as Americans. Due to this vast history, it is interesting that new immigrants from Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia and/or Africa go unnoticed, and are almost invisible to Western Pennsylvanians.

Southwestern Pennsylvania is experiencing deceleration in demographic growth and economics, and it is interesting to notice that the population in Allegheny County decreased 4% from 1,336,449 to 1,281,666 between 1990 and 2000. Running against that trend, the Latino population grew 28% (11,166) according to the Census 2000. A possible solution to the problem of this region's population decline could be remedied by welcoming the Latino population.

Despite their limited presence in the region, Latinos have various groups representing them, such as the Latin American Cultural Union (LACU), a variety of national associations (for instance, Colombia in Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Venezuelan Association), the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Center and the Latin American Choir. Additionally, outstanding academic centers are dedicated to the study of Latin American and Caribbean cultures, including the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) and the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) housed at University of Pittsburgh. However, to empower Latinos in the region, it is necessary to develop better community building and communication strategies as well as to create new agencies or make the existent ones work more closely together to give Latinos clout.

## Experiencing Cuba Through the Eyes of Teachers

By Luz Amanda Villada

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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.

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



JEFF (José Emilio Fuentes Fonseca)  
*Pensamiento, 2004*



JEFF (José Emilio Fuentes Fonseca)  
*Sentimiento 2004*

*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.

Months after the workshop, I emailed several of the teachers and the organizers of

the event to find out what they experienced – what they felt about the art work and the program. I contacted Jeff Poole, Spanish teacher, Franklin Regional High School, William Pfahl, art teacher, Arsenal Middle School, CLAS Outreach Coordinator Rosalind Eannarino, and Jennifer Baron, Director of Education, the Mattress Factory. I asked: “Did the art exhibition help you to understand Cuba and Cubans? Can the content of the workshop 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...”

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.

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

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.”



*Dr. Max Brant giving a lecture on Cuban Music*

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>  
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## EVENTS HAPPENING AT PITT!

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FRICK ARTS AUDITORIUM

FREE ADMISSION

For dates and time information contact:

[zuluaga@pitt.edu](mailto:zuluaga@pitt.edu)

[rojaszotelo@hotmail.com](mailto:rojaszotelo@hotmail.com)

### SALSA LESSONS—FREE! FREE!

GALLERIA—FIRST FLOOR POSVAR HALL

9:15 P.M.— 10:15 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

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### CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES WELCOMING RECEPTION

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

4:00 P.M.—6:00 P.M.

FRICK FINE ARTS CLOISTERS

For more information go to:

[www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas)

### THE 26TH ANNUAL LATIN AMERICAN

& CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005

2:00 P.M.— 12:00 A.M.

WILLIAM PITT UNION

For more information go to:

[www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas)

### LA FERIA AL SERVICIO DE LA COMUNIDAD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2005

12:30 P.M.—5:00 P.M.

ST. HYACINTH CHURCH

3201 CRAFT PLACE, OAKLAND

[documetp@yahoo.com](mailto:documetp@yahoo.com)

### THE 5TH ANNUAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL UNION GALA!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005

OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL

For more information go to:

[www.lacunet.org](http://www.lacunet.org)

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