Encuentros, Summer 2010

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“Crafting Maya Identity,” an Exhibition and Symposium

By Charles Stapleton

The exhibition “Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico” dominated the intimate space of the Jack Olson Gallery at Northern Illinois University from August 31 through September 25, 2009 and is slated to travel to Trinity University in San Antonio during fall 2010, then to Teatro Peón Contreras in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico during early 2011. The showing featured woodcarvings by four contemporary Yucatec-Mayan artisans: Miguel Uc Delgado, Jesús Marcos Delgado Kú, Angel Ruiz Novelo, and Wilbert Vázquez. Most of these highly detailed, hand-carved and aesthetically appealing works feature subjects originally depicted on ancient Maya sculptures, ceramics, and manuscripts. They are typically sold at archaeological sites in northern Yucatán to ‘cultural tourists’ on planned education-oriented trips (a self-motivated group of “specialist” tourists). However successful the show might have been as a stand-alone project, the exhibition’s curators, NIU Art History Professor Jeff Kowalski and NIU alumna Mary Katherine Scott also chose to organize additional educational events for different audiences.

In an effort to give the four featured artisans a more personal voice, taped interviews of each artisan were presented on a looping video in an interior space of the gallery. More importantly, the artisans themselves were flown in from Mexico, giving them the opportunity to view the exhibition and to interact with visitors. Involving the artisans in the exhibition itself, although by no means a radical departure from “traditional” gallery protocol, is a new direction for Maya art exhibitions.

Jeff Kowalski and Mary Katherine Scott linked the exhibition with a symposium featuring scholars whose work elucidated the significance of “tourist arts” in cultural and historical contexts in Latin America, Africa, and North America. Presenters Jeff Kowalski, Mary Katherine Scott (University of East Anglia), Nelson Graburn (University of California Berkeley), Christopher Steiner (Connecticut College), Janet Catherine Berlo (University of Rochester) and Quetzil Castañeda (OSEA; Indiana University) discussed, in Kowalski's words, “how indigenous aesthetic traditions throughout the world have responded to, and been transformed by, contact with global capitalism, the expanding art market, and tourism.” The papers have already appeared in a handsome catalog edited by Kowalski titled, Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán Mexico (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2009).

In addition, Kowalski collaborated with Dr. Emily Prieto, Director of the Latino Resource Center, to arrange for visits from high school students to view the exhibition. With the help of Janie Wilson-Cook, who designed the website for the exhibition (www.vrc.niu.edu/maya), the artisans also brought their work to a magnet school, The Barbour Language Academy, and a Latino Community organization, La Voz Latina, in Rockford, Illinois. The Maya artisans also discussed their work with NIU School of Art students at a sculpture demonstration, and with NIU Latino students at the Center.

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Pictured (left to right) are Yucatec-Mayan artists Wilbert Vázquez, Miguel Uc Delgado, Angel Ruiz Novelo, and Jesús Marcos Delgado Kú.

Artists’ works on display at the Jack Olson Gallery, Northern Illinois University.
Of special note, Maya artists presented a School of Art Woodshop for NIU students. Using pieces of cedar wood and woodworking tools (gravers, chisels, knives, etc.) they demonstrated the process and techniques of creating the types of wood sculptures featured in the exhibition. They began by using pre-made drawings, or sketching freehand, to create the initial outlines for the subject matter of their piece. They then proceeded to cut away larger areas of extraneous wood until they reached the general contours of the figure or design they were executing. At that point, they shifted to finer, more delicate engraving, chiseling, and cutting to add the final detail and finishing touches to the carving.

Looking back on the exhibition and related events, Kowalski shared some personal reflections, “All in all, I think this was an extremely worthwhile effort. I’m glad that artisans who have been creating superbly crafted and aesthetically attractive sculptures had an opportunity to have their work recognized and taken seriously. I’m also quite pleased to have had the opportunity to collaborate with Mary Katherine Scott.”

Charles Stapleton is a M.A. student in Art History and Anthropology.
NIU Welcomes Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú

By María Verónica Polit

Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, visited NIU on September 22, 2009. Menchú received the Prize in 1992 for her tireless fight for the rights of indigenous people in her home country of Guatemala and abroad. Her visit was organized by the Latino Resource Center with the support of several offices on campus. Menchú’s visit included interaction with students, community members and faculty at the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies. While at the Center, Rigoberta Menchú was interviewed by the Univisión television network, and she talked about Guatemala, her life and current projects. In the evening, Menchú gave an emotional public lecture before an audience of more than 1,000 people in the Duke Ellington Ballroom, followed by a question-and-answer session and a book-signing session.

During her visit to the Center, the Nobel Laureate spent time with students in a casual environment, and later attended a formal reception that included interaction with faculty. Professor Michael Gonzales, the Director of the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, presented Menchú with an award on behalf of the DeKalb Interfaith Network, a community organization dedicated to social and human rights, for her lifelong commitment to the welfare of indigenous people.

Menchú’s public lecture was emotional from beginning to end. She talked about her family’s travels, and the audience appeared moved by her stories of displacement and murder. Maria Zamudio, a student who attended the lecture, thought that Menchú was an inspiration: “She made the choice to become a victor and not a victim.” In addition to telling her story, Rigoberta Menchú discussed her vision for a better world, one that included community involvement, harmony with nature, and peace.

Menchú challenged audience members to become an integral part of their communities’ life. According to Menchú, young people today lack a connection to others around them. Despite the existence of technology that facilitates communication, individuals have become isolated from the places where they live and the natural world. Student Sean Kowalski considered Menchú a passionate advocate for the environment.

During the question-and-answer portion of the evening, Menchú discussed her work with indigenous Guatemalans whose lives have been torn apart by the country’s civil war. She said that her organization, The Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation, has been involved in numerous human rights initiatives, community development projects, education, and civic engagement. The Foundation’s current projects, she indicated, included the creation and maintenance of schools and medical centers. Menchú’s honoraria from speaking engagements and other activities have provided the funding for her Foundation.

Some of the questions after the lecture focused on controversial topics. A member of the audience addressed the participation of the United States government in the civil war in Guatemala. This led to a discussion of the training of Latin American military personnel at the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (formally known as the School of the Americas), a highly contentious subject. Another participant asked about the coup d’état that removed former Honduran president, Manuel Zelaya, in June, 2009. In response, Menchú said that there had been reports of human rights violations, and that she had been invited to Honduras as a mediator. Some students, like Andrea Sánchez, thought that this portion of the evening gave the audience a better understanding of Rigoberta Menchú’s career. Other students felt that the speech was disconnected from the politics that surround the image of the Nobel Laureate.

Rigoberta Menchú’s visit to campus was remarkable in different ways. Her presence caused excitement among students and faculty alike. People reacted to her in different ways. Some clearly support and admire Menchú, while others are more skeptical about her past and present contributions. Before leaving, Rigoberta Menchú gracefully thanked the NIU community and especially the Latino Resource Center Director, Dr. Emily Prieto, for making her visit to DeKalb possible.
Rigoberta Menchú Explains Her Past and Present to Chicago’s WBGO Reporters  By María Verónica Polit

During her visit to NIU, Rigoberta Menchú Tum granted an interview to Chicago’s Univisión affiliate WBGO news anchor and reporter Enrique Rodríguez. The interview focused on her background, and her present endeavors.

The 1992 Nobel Peace Prize laureate grew up in a Quiché (K’iche’) indigenous community in the northern highlands of Guatemala. Although her fondest memories are of her mountain village, she and her family were forced to migrate every year in search of work on the plantations in the coastal areas. The entire family including children, did back-breaking labor for several months a year for minimal wages.

At the time of Menchú’s birth in 1959, Guatemala was in turmoil. Fear of Communism served as the pretext for successive governments’ violent subjugation of indigenous communities beginning in the mid-1960s. At the same time, guerrilla movements made the highlands, where Menchú and her family lived, the base for their operations, and the region became a battleground. In the interview, she remarked on the Guatemalan military’s wide-spread use of torture and the forced disappearance of 50,000 individuals over the course of the civil war’s 36-year history. Menchú did not detail her own tragic story during the interview, but said that the public needs to focus on the problems that Guatemala’s indigenous majority still faces as a result of this conflict.

Menchú was asked about the controversy surrounding her 1982 biography which recounts in vivid detail the horror of the Guatemalan civil war through her eyes. Attacked for its factual inconsistencies by critics, she told Rodríguez that her story needs to be read as a testimonial about living through a terrible conflict.

Menchú continues to fight for indigenous rights through her speaking engagements and foundation work, and as the United Nation’s Goodwill Ambassador and official spokesperson for the U.N.’s International Decade for Indigenous Peoples. Inspired by the election of Evo Morales, Bolivia’s first indigenous president, she became, in 2007, Guatemala’s first indigenous and first woman candidate for the presidency. Although she won only three percent of the vote and was subsequently eliminated in the election’s first round, she continues to be excited by politics. Menchú told Rodríguez that she enjoys a special bond with Morales, and they periodically talk about a variety of issues.

Circumstances keep Rigoberta Menchú in the forefront of Guatemalan politics. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation have concluded that, despite government claims to the contrary, Guatemala still systematically excludes indigenous people from political representation. The very people accused of leading the atrocities against the indigenous remain important politicians. Political representation for the indigenous population falls short of the goals set by the peace agreements of 1996, and resistance by the political establishment to the full implementation of these accords creates frustration and recrimination, which motivates Rigoberta Menchú to continue her work through the reconciliation process.

The issues that Menchú champions, and which led to her winning the Nobel Peace Prize continue to be relevant. Conflicts between traditional elites and indigenous populations have intensified in Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. Poverty and inequality have shaken democratic foundations and contributed to social and political turmoil throughout Latin America. American interests have sparked nationalist sentiments that clash with complex social, economic and political divisions in each country. The existence of truth commissions in Guatemala, El Salvador, Argentina, Chile and Peru has unearthed information that is both curative and divisive. Without a doubt, Rigoberta Menchú remains an important public figure.

To watch the interview, visit, http://www.univision.com/content/videoplayer.jhtml?cid=2098351.
2009 Faculty Publications and Activities

Gregory Beyer
Assistant Professor, School of Music

Publications


Performances

Performed with Due East the U.S. premiere of Lend/Lease by David Lang at the 37th National Flute Association Convention, New York City, NY, August 15, 2009.

Performed with Due East the U.S. premiere of Formas del viento by Alejandro Viñao at the 37th National Flute Association Convention, New York City, NY, August 15, 2009.


Premiered with Due East Geometry V by Eric Simonson at the 2009 SEAMUS Conference, Fort Wayne, IN, April 18, 2009.

Premiered with Due East Recall Coordinator by James Romig at the 2009 New Music Festival, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL, March 9, 2009.

Professional Activities

Hosted PASIC’s "The Global Economy," a focus day event, Indianapolis, IN, November 11, 2009.

Hosted PAS Illinois Chapter’s "Day of Percussion," NIU School of Music, DeKalb, IL, January 24, 2009.

Recognitions

Percussion ensemble competition winner, along with members of the NIU Percussion Ensemble, at the 2009 Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC), Indianapolis, IN, November 12, 2009.

Sarah A. Blue
Assistant Professor, Geography

Papers Presented


Grants and Fellowships

Continued with National Science Foundation Geography and Regional Science Program Grant No. 0723398 “Latino Labor Migration and the Transformation of Post-Katrina New Orleans.”

Professional Activities


Chaired, and co-organized, a panel titled “Immigration Research in Geography: Theory and Practice” at the 2009 Conference of Latin American Geographers, Grenada, Nicaragua, January 7-9, 2009.

Louise Ciallella
Associate Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

Publications

“De carne y hueso: Constructing Spanish Women in Forgotten Bodies of Work from the 1890s.” In Beatriz Ferrús and Núria Calafell (eds.), Escribir con el cuerpo. Colección Cuerpos que cuentan - Volumen I. Grupo Investigador Cuerpo y Textualidad. Barcelona: Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona/Editorial UOC.

Papers Presented

“Princesas-pantalla: proyección de deseos de cambio en definiciones de género sexual en la España del fin-de-siglo,” presented at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, November 5-7, 2009.

Winifred Creamer
Presidential Research Professor, Anthropology

Publications


Papers Presented

“Far from the Shore: Maritime Resources in Late Archaic Site in the Norte Chico, Peru,” presented at the 74th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta, GA, April 22-26, 2009. (With Jonathan Haas and Edward Jakaitis)


Professional Activities

Served as discussant for the session, “Complexity in the Northeast” at the 74th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta, GA, April 22-26, 2009.

Presented “Ancient Peru,” a talk to the 6th grade at Eagle Hill Middle School, Syracuse, NY, May, 2009.
Recognitions

Appointed as a grants reviewer for the National Science Foundation.

Selected as a panel member for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Appointed reviewer for the Journal of Archeological Science.

Selected to the editorial board of Culture and Agriculture.

Mayra C. Daniel
Assistant Professor, Literacy Education

Publications


“Is There a Need for a Language Policy and Heightened Multilingualism in TESOL? Survey Results,” Bilingual Basics: The Newsletter of TESOL’s Bilingual Interest Section 11, no. 1. (With Shelley K. Taylor, Patrick H. Smith, and David Schwarzer)


Papers Presented


“And the Winner is...,” presented at the What Every Reading Specialist Needs to Know about Literacy Coaching Workshop, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, April 24, 2009. (With Chris Carger and Melanie Koss)


“Where There’s a Second Language There’s a First!” presented at the 42nd Annual TESOL Convention and Exhibit, Denver, CO, March 26-28, 2009. (With Shelley Taylor, David Schwarzer, and Patrick Smith)

“Educar y aprender en Guatemala: Un arcoiris de posibilidades,” presented at the 7th International Literacy Conference, Guatemala City, Guatemala, February 18-20, 2009. (With Carolyn Johnson)

“Advocating for Bilingual Parents at Nelson School,” presented at the 32nd Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers Serving Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students, Oakbrook, IL, January 10, 2009. (With Verna Rentsch and Perla Stefanski)

“The Bilingual Context of Education in Morocco,” presented at the 32nd Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers Serving Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students, Oakbrook, IL, January 9, 2009. (With Alexis Ball)

Professional Activities

Delivered “Every Teacher is a Teacher of English Language Learners: Preparing Illinois Teachers for a Diverse New World,” a keynote address to the College of Dean’s Annual Meeting, Bloomington, IL, June 25, 2009.

Ibis Gómez-Vega
Associate Professor, English

Publications

“Inscriptions of Race, Class, and Gender in Mariana Romo-Carmona’s Living at Night.” Confluencia: Revista Hispánica de Cultura y Literatura 24, no. 2: 40-52.

“Losing Everything in David Wong Louie’s ‘In a World Small Enough,’” Short Story 16, no. 2: 63-77.

Michael J. Gonzales
Distinguished Research Professor, History
Director, Center for Latino and Latin American Studies

Publications


Professional Activities


Anne Hanley
Associate Professor, History

Papers Presented


"Other Carvings in the Exhibition." In Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico. (With Mary Katherine Scott)

Kristin Huffine Assistant Professor, History

Papers Presented


Professional Activities

Gave a seminar presentation on “Assessing the Sacred in the Colonial Borderlands: Jesuit and Indigenous Faith at the Margins of the Spanish Empire,” at the Newberry Library, Chicago, IL, April 17, 2009.

Jeff Kowalski Professor, School of Art

Publications

Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico. DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press.

“Imaging the Maya: Carvings, Carvers, Contexts, and Messages.” In Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico. (With Mary Katherine Scott)

“Other Carvings in the Exhibition.” In Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico. (With Quetzil Castañeda)

“'Thrice Built': Uxmal and Constructions of Maya Identity.” In Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region of Yucatán, Mexico.


Papers Presented

“'Thrice Built': Uxmal and Constructions of Maya Identity,” presented at the Northern Illinois University’s Symposium on Globalization, Tourism, Cultural Identity, Authenticity, and Art, DeKalb, IL, September 19, 2009.

Eloy E. Merino Associate Professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures

Publications


Eugene Perry Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences

Publications

“Geological Field Experiences in Mexico: An Effective and Efficient Model for Enabling Middle and High School Science Teachers to Connect with Their Bourgeoning Hispanic Populations.” In Steven J. Wittmeyer, David W. Mogk, and Eric J. Pyle (eds.), Field Geology Education: Historical Perspectives and Modern Approaches: GSA Special Paper 461. (With Kathleen Kitts, Rosa Leal-Bautista, and Guadalupe Velázquez-Oliman)


“Fracture-Controlled Paleohydrology in a Map-Scale Detachment Fold: Insights from the Analysis of Fluid Inclusions in Calcite and Quartz Veins,” Journal of Structural Geology 31: 1490-1510. (With Mark P. Fischer, I. Camilo Higuera-Díaz, Mark A. Evans, Liliana Lefticariu)
Papers Presented

“Metagenomic Analysis of Microbial Communities in Deep Karst Sinkholes in Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico,” Abstract No: 156581, presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America, Northern Illinois University, Rockford, IL, April 2-3, 2009. (With Lisa Yamagata-Lynch, Kathleen Kitts, and Cecil M. Smith)


Professional Activities

Delivered “Cenotes y otros aspectos de la Hidrología de la Península de Yucatán,” an invited presentation at the Foro Regional sobre Conservación y Manejo Sustentable de Cenotes en la Península de Yucatán, Mérida, Mexico, August 21, 2009.

Co-Chaired 43rd Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America, Northern Illinois University, Rockford, IL, April 2-3, 2009.

Leila Porter
Associate Professor, Anthropology

Publications


Rodrigo Villanueva
Assistant Professor, School of Music

Publications

“Transcribir: Imitar y asimilar para después poder innovar,” Músico Pro 16, no. 7: 54-55.

“Batería Classic Series de DW,” Músico Pro 16, no. 7: 10-11.

Performances

Performed as a guest artist for the NIU Jazz Faculty Combo at the 64th Annual Midwest Clinic and International Band and Orchestra Conference, Chicago, IL, December 17, 2009.

Performed with the Eddie Gómez Trio at Papabete Jazz Bistro, Mexico City, Mexico, December 4-5, 2009.

Performed with the Eddie Gómez Trio at the II JazzUV International Jazz Festival, Xapala, Mexico, December 3, 2009.

Performed with the Eddie Gómez Trio at Papabeto Jazz Bistro, Mexico City, Mexico, November 28, 2009.

Performed with Edgar Dorantes Jazz Quartet at El Zinco Jazz Club in Mexico City, Mexico, July 2, 2009.

Performed with Ed Saindon and the Rodrigo Villanueva Jazz Trio at The House Café, DeKalb, IL, April 20, 2009.

Performed with the Stefan Karlsson Trio at Recital Hall, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, February 18, 2009.


Performed with the Bernal-Verástegui-Villanueva Jazz Trio at El Zinco Jazz Club in Mexico City, Mexico, January 2-3, 2009.

Grants and Fellowships

Received the 2008-2009 Lillian ("Pauline") Cobb Faculty Travel Fellowship for International Teaching and Service to develop summer study collaborations with Jazz studies programs at various Mexican universities.
**CLLAS Activities**

**Robert Marcelin Memorial Scholarship**
The Robert Marcelin Memorial Scholarship was endowed by employees of Ameritech Corporation to honor the late Mr. Marcelin, a former co-worker and friend who graduated from Northern Illinois University. The committee, composed of Center faculty associates and former Marcelin colleague Ms. Alison Thomson, meets annually to select an outstanding student of Latino heritage.

**Pictured from left to right are Alison Thomson, the 2009-10 Marcelin Award recipient Sandra Diaz, and CLLAS Director Michael Gonzales.**

**Center for Latino and Latin American Studies Latino Scholarship**
Since 2006, the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies has sponsored an undergraduate student scholarship competition for students of Latino heritage. Applicants for this award must submit a statement of career goals, have at least a 3.0 GPA, and demonstrate satisfactory progress towards degree completion. The 2009-10 award went to Aurelia Nevarez, a speech and language pathology major, whose career goal is to apply her bi-cultural/bilingual background to help children develop their communication and expressive skills.

**Center Sponsored Events**

**August 31-September 25, 2009.** The Center co-sponsored an exhibition at the School of Art’s Jack Olson Gallery titled, “Crafting Maya Identity: Contemporary Wood Sculptures from the Puuc Region, Yucatán.”

**September 19, 2009.** The Center co-sponsored the international symposium titled, “Globalization, Tourism, Cultural Identity, Authenticity, and Art.”

**September 22, 2009.** The Center co-sponsored Guatemalan human rights activist Rigoberta Menchú’s visit to NIU. While here, Menchú met with students, was interviewed by WBGQ, Chicago’s Univisión affiliate, gave a public lecture and attended a reception in her honor at the Latino Center.

**Rigoberta Menchú speaking with students at the Latino Center.**

**Dr. Gonzales with 2009 CLLAS Latino Scholarship recipient Aurelia Nevarez.**
October 12, 2009. The Department of Geography and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies co-sponsored a public showing of Scott Hamilton Kennedy’s “The Garden,” a 2008 documentary. The film depicts the controversy surrounding a 14 acre community garden created on a burned out site devastated by the 1992 Los Angeles riots. The work of Latino and African-American residents, the garden was contested by local authorities and real estate magnates and led to a public confrontation. The episode served as inspiration for urban garden activists throughout the country. A panel discussion followed the screening. Participating were geography professors Scott Smith and Sarah Blue (CLLAS faculty associate), geography graduate student Jessica Hayes, and the coordinator of the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) in Chicago, Kimberly Wasserman. The Little Village section of Chicago has a Latino majority population, and residents have organized a highly successful urban garden experiment that has garnered public attention and scholarly interest. The discussion focused on issues raised by the film and on Little Village community gardens.

October 6, 2009. The Center sponsored Christina Bueno, assistant professor of History, Northeastern Illinois University, for a public lecture on the creation of Mexico’s first archeology museum and indigenous reaction to appropriation of local artifacts.

November 5, 2009. The Environmental Studies Program and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies co-sponsored Rosa M. Leal-Bautista, research associate, Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán, for a lecture titled, “The Mexican Caribe, Not Just for Tourists … but for Geological and Environmental Research.” Her lecture featured her research on the impact of regional development on water quality in Yucatán aquifers.

November 9-10, 2009. The Graduate Colloquium Committee and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies co-sponsored Jeffrey R. Parsons, professor of Anthropology emeritus and Museum of Anthropology curator emeritus, University of Michigan, in a colloquium event held at the Latino Center. His public lecture titled, “Vanishing Landscapes and Vanishing Lifeways: The Impact of Development and Modernization on Traditional Culture in the Valley of Mexico” examined the impact of urban development on pre-Columbian archeological sites in the Valley of Mexico. His graduate seminar on maguey utilization in highland Mexico looked at the traditional use of natural maguey fibers by indigenous communities over the centuries.
CLLAS Research and Travel Awards

Grants Awarded to Faculty in FY 2010

Melissa Lenczewski (Geology and Environmental Geosciences) – To gather and analyze well-water samples located in the Yucatán for the purpose of testing the region’s aquifer for contaminants, and determining the origins of pollutants.

Eugene Perry (Geology and Environmental Geosciences) – To research the geology and environmental hydrogeochemistry of groundwater systems of the southern Campeche aquifer located in Yucatán state, Mexico and northern Guatemala.

Linda Saborío (Foreign Languages and Literatures) – To explore the representation of alterity and identity in Mexican women (im)migrant experiences through the works of contemporary female border-region playwrights.

Graduate Student Research Grants Awarded in FY 2010

Andrés Híjar (History) – To conduct archival research on the mining industry of Parral-Santa Bárbara region of Chihuahua, Mexico during the revolutionary period.

Cheyenne Morgan (Geology and Environmental Geosciences/Anthropology) – To investigate contaminants in Yucatán peninsula groundwater, and to research sustainable ground-water management practices for affected communities.