

# **THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES SYMPOSIUM**

**APRIL 4-5, 2003**

## **A Welcome Message**

from

**Barbara Domcekova**  
Conference Director

It is my pleasure to welcome all of the student presenters and faculty to the Eleventh Annual Latin American Studies Symposium at Birmingham-Southern College. This event, which originated in 1992, has evolved from a small conference that took place on one afternoon and included presentations by students from a handful of institutions, to a national level symposium with two full days of sessions where students from many kinds of institutions present original research papers. While the size and shape of the event have evolved, there is one principle that has remained the same. The conference continues to have two objectives: to offer an opportunity for undergraduate students in many disciplines to share their research with their peers, and to foster contact among faculty members teaching in the area of Latin American Studies.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome colleagues from the Associated Colleges of the South whose dedicated work with students is reflected in the outstanding student presentations. This year, for the first time, we also host students from two institutions in Puerto Rico: Universidad del Este and Escuela de Artes Plásticas. I hope José Morales's cover design for the Symposium program that you hold in your hands will inspire you to visit our Kennedy Art Center during Friday evening's reception to view student artwork from the Escuela de Artes Plásticas.

As every year, I would like to recognize those who make this conference possible and who have shown continuous support to the Latin American Studies Program. Dr. Neal Berte, President of BSC, and Dr. Irvin Penfield, Provost of the College, have supported the program since its very beginning and continue to do so. We are also grateful to Mr. Dave Carder, retired President of Vulcan Lands, Inc., and Mr. Daniel F. Sansone, president of the Southern Division and Gulf Coast Division of Vulcan Materials Company. They have generously offered financial support, therefore assuring the continuance of the Latin American Studies Symposium.

I am personally indebted to my colleagues at BSC and our student volunteers who have put hours into the planning and organization of this event. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the assistant coordinator, Kerri Fox, who is truly the one who helps make this event a success every year.

It is my hope that all the participants enjoy the Symposium and have a great time here on the Hilltop. As always, we encourage you to share your experiences with your colleagues and peers back at home, and we hope that you will join us again next year, on March 19-20, to celebrate the twelfth anniversary of the Latin American Studies Symposium at Birmingham-Southern College.

## **CONFERENCE SPONSORS**

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## **CONFERENCE DIRECTOR**

Barbara Domcekova

## **ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR**

Kerri Fox

## **STUDENT VOLUNTEERS**

Carl Wise-Senior Symposium Assistant  
Kim Reid, Aarti Madan, Jacob Bivona, Parakash Pratibhu  
Zara Key, Ashlee Jenkins, Virginia Dyson, Meredith Hanson,  
Jessica Boe, Kim Johnson, Melissa Cantley, Amy Woods

## **PROGRAM COVER DESIGN**

José Morales,  
Escuela de Artes Plásticas,  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



10:30 a.m. - 11:50 p.m.

Session III

(Auditorium)

**Brazil: Activism, Struggle, and Empowerment**

Chair: Dalila de Sousa Sheppard, Spelman College, GA

- *Triumphant Siamese: The Fusion of Culture and Politics in the Afro-Brazilian Political Struggle*, S. Sherrie Tartt, Spelman College, GA.
- *Activism in Brazilian Cinema Novo Film*, Takkara Brunson, Spelman College, GA.
- *Women in Candomble: a Look into Female Empowerment*, Hilda Gutierrez, Southwestern University, TX.

Session IV

(SCC-A)

**The Americas: Cultural Influences, Cultural Perspectives**

Chair: Eric Henager, Rhodes College, TN

- *Representaciones de Nueva York en "Poeta en Nueva York" por García Lorca y "Soñar en cubano" por Cristina Garcia*, Jill Reifsteck, Rhodes College, TN.
- *Analizando el imperialismo por el texto "Dónde van a morir los elefantes de José Donoso"*, Rachel Chaney, Rhodes College, TN.
- *How Colombian Culture Is Influenced by American Culture*, Diana Gavarieva, Kennesaw State University, GA.
- *Historical Evidence of the Chinese Presence in Havana*, Charles Cogan, Southwestern University, TX.

12:00 - 1:45 p.m.

**Luncheon. Keynote Speaker**

(Great Hall, Norton)

Charles A. Perrone, University of Florida

Professor of Portuguese & Luso-Brazilian Literature & Culture

**"Beholding a 'Towering Giant': Culture, Civilization, and Hemispheric Links in Latin America's Largest Nation."**

2:00 - 4:45 p.m.

**ACS Planning Group Meeting**

(Greensboro, Norton)

1:50 - 3:20 p.m.

Session V

(SCC-A)

**Glimpses of the Pre-Columbian World**

Chair: Bill Nicholas, Birmingham-Southern College, AL

- *A Forgotten World: The Literary Analysis of the Historical Novel, Aztec*, Dennis Bowers, Wabash College, IN.

- *The Mesoamerican Ballgame: A Study of the Practice and the Symbolism of the Ballgame in the Mayan Culture*, Brent Pritchard, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.
- *The Pre-Columbian Calendar*, Christian Gable, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.
- *External Conflict: The Portrayal of Disease in the Spanish Conquest*, Jose Vega, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.

Session VI

(Auditorium)

**Marine Biology Research in Honduras**

Chair: Andy Gannon, Birmingham-Southern College, AL

- *Commensal Gill Barnacle Infestation Rates on Honduran Blue Crabs*, Katherine M. Long and Kim A. Johnson, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.
- *Invertebrate Diversity on Coral Reefs Inside and Outside of the Sandy Bay Marine Reserve in Roatan, Honduras*, Jamie D. Box, Cori F. Jobe, Paige Casey, and Meredith Humber, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.
- *The Effects of Hurricane Mitch on the Species Frequencies of Coral-and Algae-eating Fish in Roatan, Honduras*, Ceren Aksut, Robin E. Pate, Sreekanth B. Ravi, and Rich Q. Williams, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.

3:25 - 4:45 p.m.

Session VII

(SCC-A)

**Religion and Community in Chiapas**

Chair: Rick Warner, Wabash College, IN

- *"Sincretismo" in Chiapas: a religious path*, Carlos I. Carrillo, Wabash College, IN.
- *Protestantism and Liberation Theology in the Highlands of Chiapas*, Paul Stephens, Wabash College, IN.
- *Webs of Resistance: How Non-Governmental Organizations of San Cristobal Work Against Free Trade Treaties Through Networks*, Sarah L. Church, University of California, Los Angeles, CA.

Session VIII

(Auditorium)

**Research in Biology Across Latin America**

Chair: Scot Duncan, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.

- *Detección e Identificación de Bacterias Halofílicas Moderadas en la Reserva Nacional de Bahía de Jobos, Puerto Rico*, L. Almodóvar, L. G. Arroyo, D. Rosario, & Deborah Nieves, Universidad del Este, Puerto Rico.



- *Octavio Paz y la gran pregunta de indentidad*, Nicole A. Chiota, Furman University, SC.
- *El corrido fronterizo: Representación folclórica del macho mexicano-americano*, Kerri Fox, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.

11:10 a.m. - 12: 50 p.m.

Session XI

(Auditorium)

**Hispanics in the U.S.: Perspectives from Three States and Puerto Rico**

Chair: Ed LaMonte, Birmingham-Southern College, AL

- *The Growth of the Hispanic Community in Memphis*, Jenny Gallant, Rhodes College, TN.
- *Why Crawfordsville?: Hispanics in Montgomery County*, Ben Tooley and Melecio Gonzalez, Wabash College, IN.
- *The State of Healthcare for Hispanics in Birmingham*, Josh Payne, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.
- *Information, Candidate Gender, and the Vote in Puerto Rican Gubernatorial Elections*, Radamés González, Universidad del Este, PR.

Session XII

(SCC-A)

**Facing the Past and Facing the Future: Historical, Political, and Economic Perspectives**

Chair: Bill Nicholas, Birmingham-Southern College, AL

- *Between Neo-Classical Theory and State Led Development: In Search of an Optimal Economic Development Strategy in Latin America*, Lisa Rausch, Hendrix College, AR.
- *Pinochet - Hero or Tyrant? : An examination of memory and history in Chile*, Megan Allen, Southwestern University, TX.
- *Truth Trials and the TRC: The Search for the Truth in Argentina and South Africa*, Krystin Krause, The University of the South, TN.
- *Recuperated Consciousness: Perspectives on the Occupied Factories and the Argentine Labor Movement*, Gustavo Setrini, Lawrence University, WI.

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

**Luncheon.**

(Great Hall, Norton)

BSC Student powerpoint presentation:  
"Experiencing the US-Mexican Border"

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Session XIII

(SCC-A)

**Dams, Drinking Water, and Development**

Chair: Charlotte Ford, Birmingham-Southern College, AL

- *Diagnóstico de las micro cuencas Uchima y Chembra del Río Vilcabamba: Usos, percepciones y manejo*, Christina L Bosch, Oberlin College, OH.
- *La cuenca hidrográfica como unidad de desarrollo*, Laura Rickard, Brown University, RI.
- *Decision Analysis of Drinking Water in Rural Brazil*, Brady Beecham, Duke University, NC.

Session XIV

(Auditorium)

**Mujeres latinoamericanas: El feminismo y la lucha contra la represión**

Chair: Janie Spencer, Birmingham-Southern College, AL

- *La represión política de la mujer en Disappearing Acts de Diana Taylor y La Realidad Nacional Desde La Cama de Luisa Venzuela*, Brooke McClelland, Rhodes College, TN.
- *Somos mujeres*, Melissa Cantley, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.
- *Two Women, Two Journeys: Esmeralda Santiago and Rigoberta Menchú*, Alison Downs, Birmingham-Southern College, AL.
- *El testimonio y el feminismo global*, Megan Newman, University of Richmond, VA.

3:50 - 4:45 p.m.

Session XV

(Auditórium)

**Cuentos y tradiciones**

Chair: Kelly Jensen, Samford University, AL

- *Historia universal de la infamia: una nueva relación entre el conocimiento y el discurso*, Nicolas Poppe, Hendrix College, AR.
- *El simbolismo en "Casa tomada"*, Catherine Cusimano, Samford University, AL.
- *"El peje chico" como ejemplo de las tradiciones peruanas*, Joel A. Wallace, Samford University, AL.

7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. **Southern Comfort Music Festival**

(Dorm Quad)

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