

MACLAS NEWS



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Remembering Two
Colleagues

Announcements

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Be sure to send updates on professional achievements, publications and conference opportunities to klehman@hsc.edu. Also check www.maclas.org regularly for important updates on the organization and its activities

MACLAS 2012

March 22-24, 2012

At American University in
Washington, D.C.



**Preparations have begun for
this year's MACLAS
Conference.**

If you would be willing to serve on one of the conference committees or chair one of the panels, please contact the president at klehman@hsc.edu

The Executive Committee will meet Saturday November 12, 2011 at American University with the Executive Council meeting the previous day

In Memoriam Jack Child and Reid Graham

In the space of eight days last June, MACLAS lost two of its most loyal members:

Jack Child (1938-2011)

It is with great sadness, that we remember Jack Child, University Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies at American University, who died June 18 of complications following open-heart surgery. Jack was a MACLAS stalwart, an innovator in the new technologies that have changed our teaching and research so dramatically in the last twenty years and was always willing to share with and encourage the rest of us. Jack received the Whitaker Prize at MACLAS-2009 for his book *Miniature Messages: The Semiotics and Politics of Latin American Postage Stamps*, delivered the Whitaker lecture at MACLAS-2010, headed the Martz committee at the last MACLAS conference, and enlivened each of our conferences with his experiences and his enthusiasm. He will be missed.



Jack presents the Martz award for best paper by a graduate student to Laura Romah of American University at the 2011 MACLAS Conference

The following tribute was written by his daughter-in-law:

Dr. Jack Child was born of American parents in Buenos Aires, and lived in South America for 18 years. Following graduation from Yale, he entered the U.S. Army, and served for 20 years as a Latin American Specialist until his retirement as a lieutenant colonel. While on active duty, he earned his Master's degree in Latin American Area Studies and Ph.D. in the international relations of Latin America, both from the School of International Service of American University.

In 1980 he joined SIS as Assistant Dean. Two years later he moved to the Department of Language and Foreign Studies where he became Professor in 1989. He also served as Director of the English Language Institute, 1984-1985, Founding Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence (now CTRL), 1998-2001, and Affiliate Professor of International Relations in the School of International Service, since 2002.

His research focused on cultural studies and conflict resolution in Latin America with a focus on Antarctica and the Falklands/Malvinas, and peace-keeping and confidence-building measures. Supported by grants from the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Tinker Foundation, the International Peace Academy, and the Organization of American States, among others, Child authored over 100 articles and chapters, and thirteen books, including major works on the military geopolitics of South America, the Central American peace process, competing strategic claims in Antarctica, and the semiotics and politics of Latin American postage stamps. He was also a highly skilled Spanish translator and interpreter. His book, *Introduction to Spanish Translation*, now in its second edition, has sold more than 10,000 copies and has been adopted for courses at more than 20 universities.

His interest in high latitudes took him on fourteen trips as staff lecturer and guide aboard expedition cruise vessels to Antarctica and sub-Antarctic islands, including South Georgia and the Malvinas/Falklands. His photographs of penguins hang in several AU buildings. He traveled to each Latin American nation at least twice (Cuba once).

Known as an engaging, innovative, and dedicated teacher, Dr. Child designed and taught the General Education course "Latin America: History, Art, Literature," and taught many seminars and colloquia on Latin American topics in addition to "Introduction to Spanish Translation." His students benefited from his commitment to using visual images and computer-assisted learning.

Jack won the University Award for Teaching in the General Education Program in 1998, the University Faculty Administrator Award (for outstanding service as founding Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence) in 2001, and the SIS Alumnus of the Year Award in 2006.

His colleagues valued his wide-ranging contributions to teaching, scholarship, and service at all levels, and they will remember him especially for his professionalism, collegiality, integrity, generosity, and good humor.

Jack Child is survived by his wife, Leslie Morginson-Eitzen, his sons Andrew and Eric, his daughters-in-law Susan and Christine, five grandchildren, a sister, a brother, and his faithful dog, Frida.

Christine Child

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Reid London Graham (1947-2011)

On June 10, one of MACLAS' most loyal members, Reid Graham, passed away. Reid was born in Teaneck, N.J. He started to work at the Library of Congress as a labeler in the Book Prep Section, Subject Cataloging Division. Reid was well known in the Descriptive Cataloging, Music, Exchange and Gift, and European & Latin American Acquisitions Division of the Library. He held a Liberal Arts Degree from Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and a B.A in Latin American Studies from George Mason University.

Reid really loved to help professional organizations both at the Library of Congress and MACLAS. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Library of Congress Professional Association (LCPA), for which he served as president, vice president, Continuing Education Fund trustee and as founder of the Spanish Language Table. He worked tirelessly to reinstate the Library's book sale when it was threatened, and I could count on his support every time. He took summer courses at Cornell University, where his sister Bonnie Graham-MacDougall teaches. He was a "treasure trove for the Hispanic Cultural Society" according to Derek Evans, president. His passion for Spanish, world travel and his engaging personality made him a popular vice president of the society.

Reid was also a devoted member of MACLAS. He was responsible for many people from the Library of Congress joining our organization. He would refer a new member to me almost breathlessly, excited at the possibility of expanding the group. He even gave a paper at our 2010 meeting. In our very last conversation, Reid asked me if I would lend him a copy of the MACLAS program for the conference we held in March because he had had to be in Rome at that time. I left it on his desk for him. MACLAS will miss Reid's cheerfulness and dedication to Latin American Studies.

Barbara A. Tenenbaum

MACLAS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2010-2011

President: Ken Lehman (Hampden-Sydney College)

Vice-President and President-Elect: Elizabeth Kiddy (Albright College)

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Betsy Konefal (College of William and Mary)

Meghan McInnis-Dominguez (University of Delaware)

Jeff Pugh (Providence College)

Maria Roof (Howard University)

Editor Latin American Essays: Joan Marx (Muhlenberg College)

MACLAS Latin American Essays

MACLAS Latin American Essays is a peer-reviewed journal published once a year. It contains a refereed selection of papers presented at the annual meeting. In addition, the editors consider for publication papers and book reviews that may not have been presented at the annual meeting but that reflect the MACLAS-2011 conference theme, "*Globalization and Well Being in Latin America*". The journal includes papers from a variety of disciplines, including: Political Science; Anthropology; Economics; History; Languages and Literature; and Pedagogy. The deadline for submissions is September 1, 2011. Please see <http://maclas.org/pages/journal/submission-information.php> for more information.

Call for Articles***Urbana – Urban Affairs & Public Policy*****(ISSN 2151-1896)****<http://www.urbanauapp.org/>**

We the editors welcome manuscripts focusing on the urban question in the Americas, broadly speaking, and more specifically, urbanization and metropolitan development in Latin America, and the urban challenges in the U.S.-Mexican border. We encourage methodological diversity and will consider urban studies from different perspectives such as political science, international relations, history, economics, environmental policy and literary views of cities.

Our online publication accepts proposals from graduate students.

Please contact the editor:

Dr. Michael McAdams

michaelamcadams@yahoo.com

Władysław Maryan Froelich Research Grant

The Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies invites applications for its newly established Władysław Maryan Froelich Research Grant, which will award up to two \$500 prizes annually to faculty, professionals or independent scholars to carry out research or creative projects on any facet of Latin American culture, politics, and society.

Originally from Poland, Laszlo Froelich lived in Latin America for many years and showed a deep affinity for its culture and people. A business professional by training, he demonstrated great passion for scholarship on topics as varied as Latin American folk art, pre-Colombian art and history, Argentine gaucho culture and the landscape of the pampas. Because Laszlo's affection for Latin America was multifaceted, this award recognizes scholarly projects that push the field of Latin American Studies forward in innovative and interdisciplinary ways, and that disseminate this work in a way that will benefit scholars and students alike.

- At the time of submission and consideration, candidates must be MACLAS members in good standing who are not currently enrolled as students in a degree program.
- Awards will be made on the merits of the proposal, with selections made by a committee appointed by the Executive Committee of MACLAS.
- Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vitae and a two-page proposal (of no more than 1,500 words) describing the research or creative project. Proposals should include information about the methodology, timeline, intended results of the project, and plans for dissemination of the resulting product(s), if applicable. A preliminary budget must also be provided, with full disclosure of all pending or confirmed funds available through other sources.
- Because one of the goals of this grant is to encourage the production and dissemination of new ideas and knowledge about Latin America, recipients of the research grant will be required to present the results of their project at a future annual MACLAS conference. They are strongly encouraged to submit an article to MACLAS's journal, *Latin American Essays*, or to publish a summary of their work in the MACLAS newsletter. The dissemination of results shall be broadly defined, and can include publication in a scholarly journal, the development and dissemination of new classroom materials on the web, film screenings or broadcast, or the creation of a traveling exhibit. Products carried out under this grant should acknowledge the Władysław Maryan Froelich Research Grant of the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies.

All applicants wishing to be considered for the Władysław Maryan Froelich Research Grant should send a) CV; b) a 2-page project proposal, and c) a cover letter containing the name and institutional affiliation (if any) of the applicant to the grant committee. **Please submit materials electronically in PDF format to Dr. Joan Marx at marx@muhlenberg.edu**

Recently Released Books by MACLAS Members

Forgotten Texts: 19th-Century Afro-Argentine Poetic Constructions of Self and Community. Ed. Edith Moss Jackson. Bloomington: Xlibris, 2010.

James F. Siekmeier, *The Bolivian Revolution and the United States, 1952 to the Present*, University Park: Penn State University Press, 2011

Letter from the President



I imagine that Bolivia's Evo Morales watched the battle over the debt ceiling this summer in Washington with no small degree of amusement. It was only a decade ago that Bolivia was in the midst of its own debt crisis with the IMF playing the role of Congressional Republicans by insisting on austerity and a downsized state while the United States (then deeply into deficit spending itself) playing the role of the tea party movement by looming in the background to threaten discipline for noncompliance.

When Morales was elected by a landslide vote of nearly 54% in 2005, he took that electoral mandate as a message to break off negotiations with the IMF and to instead raise the effective taxation or royalty rate on Bolivia's gas exports from 18% to 82%, symbolically reversing the shares received by the Bolivian government and the private companies – surely a “job-killing” level of taxation if there ever was one.

Global economic experts predicted disaster would result after such a radical departure from neoliberal orthodoxies but after doing a fair amount of “harrumphing” over the illogic and unfairness of it all, most private companies and the state petroleum companies in Argentina and Brazil remained in Bolivia as junior partners in the new arrangement. Meanwhile, Morales used the increased state revenues to balance his budget, augment social (stimulus) spending, and pay off Bolivia's standby loans to the IMF.

This past April, Bolivia's Minister of Economy and Public Finances, Luis Arce Catacora, visited American University to defend Bolivia's policies and describe the results. The Morales government, he noted, believes the state has a vital role to play in guiding economic choices, in helping to redistribute the benefits, and in assuring full citizen participation. The result has been six years of real GDP growth; Bolivia's growth rate of 3.4% in 2010 was the lowest since Morales took office but remained the highest in South America.

For 66 years Bolivia ran annual deficits, but since 2006 it has run the kind of surpluses that would make the most fervent of deficit hawks joyful. Bolivia now has the highest reserves to GDP in the hemisphere and the rating agencies have revalued its bonds from B- to B+. Meanwhile, GDP per capita has risen from \$1,100 in 2005 to \$1,800 in 2010, wages have doubled in nominal and real terms since 2005 according to Arce Catacora, and inflation remains relatively in check, despite rising global food and fuel prices.

The question and answer period that followed Arce Catacora's speech revealed that skepticism remains, even in that lecture hall. Many economic analysts predict that Bolivia cannot sustain this impressive record when it is “consuming its capital.” Nor, they predict, can it control inflation without costly government subsidies. Morales' policies have polarized Bolivia politically, foreign investment is down, and Evo's attempt to raise gasoline prices in January 2011 to reflect the rising price of imported crude caused the kind of street demonstrations that he once led when neoliberal governments were in power. He was ultimately forced to back down and continue the subsidies and his approval ratings took their first serious dip since 2005.

It is too early to know for sure whether the Morales government can maintain fiscal discipline without succumbing to populist pressures or whether the Bolivian people can accept his redistributionist policies without the poor demanding even more or the wealthy going into revolt. It is even harder to predict whether Morales is effectively investing Bolivia's gas-capital in long-term development or instead slowly depleting it. But even if the latter is the case, at least the capital this time is being expended largely by and for Bolivians rather than flowing out to the metropolis as was true of colonial silver or away to finance the global strategies and profit requirements of the tin barons or the foreign gas companies. As for lessons to the negotiators in Washington, Bolivia and the United States are too different for there to be many direct lessons, but as those of us who are teachers have probably discovered long ago, sometimes the unruly student who challenges our orthodoxies actually has something to tell us.

Highlights from MACLAS 2011 at the University of Pittsburgh



Kathleen Dewalt of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh and MACLAS President, Ivani Vassoler



MACLAS Past-President Regina Root and Reid Andrews of the host, University of Pittsburgh



Consuelo Hernandez of American University receives the Street Award for best article from Joan Marx, editor of *MACLAS: Latin American Essays*



Reid Andrews (University of Pittsburgh) receives the Whitaker Prize for best book from MACLAS Secretary Gloria Clark

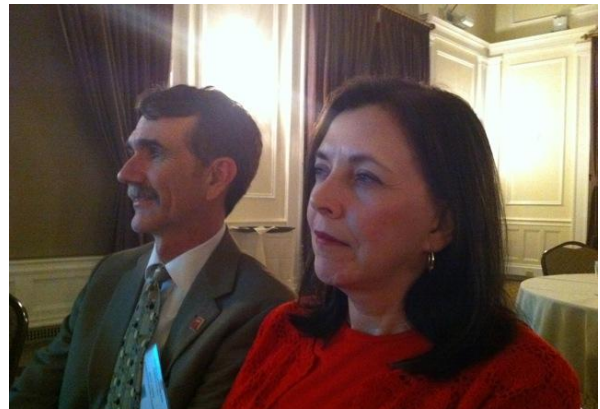


Brian Turner, MACLAS Treasurer, presents one of the Turner Travel Grants to Theodore Cohen of the University of Maryland



Jeff Pugh of Providence College receives one of six University of Pittsburgh Travel Grants from Brian Turner

More Images from the Conference



Congratulations to Brian and Frankie, married August 20, 2011



Photos courtesy of Luz Amanda Hank, Maria Roof, and Regina Root