

NEWS FROM LASA

Voluntary Support

by SANDY KLINZING

We continue to be amazed at the generosity of LASA members and friends. Difficult economic times have forced us all to cut back, but donors to the various LASA funds continue to provide critical support for Congress travel (Latin American and Caribbean, student, and Indigenous and Afro-descendant) and for the distinguished LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Memorial Lectureships and the LASA/Oxfam America Diskin Dissertation Fellowship program.

Over \$79,000 was contributed since our last report in the winter 2009 *Forum*. Of this amount, a good portion was designated for LASA's newest fund, the Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History, which will reward excellence in historical research on Mexico at the dissertation level. (See page 26.)

Support was also generous for LASA2009 grantees, who benefited from proceeds derived from the Endowment, as well as direct contributions to the LASA Travel Fund (over \$15,000) and the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Fund (over \$6,000).

We send our most sincere thank you to the following generous donors, many of whom contributed to multiple funds and made repeated gifts throughout the year. It is your continued support that helps LASA to meet its mission of fostering intellectual discussion, research, and teaching on Latin America, the Caribbean, and its people throughout the Americas.

Special gratitude is owed to the Open Society Institute for its generous three-to-one match of employee contributions, and to George Vickers for making the match possible.

For additional information on obtaining a Life Membership or on any of the LASA Funds please contact the Secretariat at 412-648-1907 or at lasa@pitt.edu.

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The Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History

Thanks to the support of the following donors to the Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History, we are well on our way toward our goal of \$100,000 dollars, which will endow the Fellowship in perpetuity. Your commitment to and participation in initiatives like this one are what helps make LASA a vibrant organization, deeply engaged with the issues of the day.

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Note: The endowed fellowship fund will gladly accept additional donations, which would allow us to meet our goal and increase the value of the dissertation fellowship over time. Please send tax-deductible donations to: LASA, 416 Bellefield Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15260. ■