

Report from the LASA2010 Program Chairs

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The Toronto Congress will feature three innovations. Here is a brief description of each.

Grant-writing Session

The first innovation is a special session on successful grant writing led by representatives from the Fulbright Association and the Inter-American Foundation. This special session will provide tips to both junior and established scholars on how to write stronger grant proposals. Since most grant applicants rarely have a chance to meet with individuals involved in evaluating applications, this session affords prospective grantees scholars a special opportunity. The Fulbright and the Inter-American representatives have agreed to detail as much as possible the do's and don'ts of grant writing. For anyone with questions about how the evaluations of academic grant proposals are undertaken, this promises to be a not-to-be-missed session.

Pre-Congress Workshops

The second innovation is a series of workshops held prior to the opening of the Congress on October 6. LASA has never had a never has had a pre-Congress program, in contrast to many comparable associations. The LASA Executive Council enthusiastically approved our recommendation to initiate this program for 2010. The pre-Congress workshops are designed to give attendees a chance to participate in a kind of "graduate seminar for scholars" led by academics distinguished in their fields. Each workshop will have a syllabus and be in session from two to three hours. Enrollment will be limited, but the workshop leaders are committed to ensuring

that accepted participants have diverse backgrounds.

For LASA2010, the following pre-Congress workshops will be offered:

- 1) *Democracy, Economic Growth, and Equity after the Crisis*. **Evelyne Huber**, UNC, and **Robert Kaufman**, Rutgers/Columbia, co-directors.
- 2) *Latin American Independence: A Bicentennial Perspective*. **John Chasteen**, UNC.
- 3) *Trends in Latin American Films and Documentaries*. **Ernesto Livon-Grosman**, Boston College, and **Ana M. López**, Tulane University.

The workshops will be held in the afternoon of Wednesday, October 6. Because it is a pilot program, just three workshops will be offered this time.

Please bear in mind that these sessions are by application only. To learn more about the program and the application procedure, visit http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/congress/precongress_program.asp.

We want to publicly thank our team of inaugural workshop leaders. They have volunteered to lead these sections as a service to our organization and the profession. We hope you consider applying to one of these workshops.

On Getting Published

The third innovation is more an enhancement than an innovation. For the past several years, Philip Oxhorn of McGill University and editor of the *Latin American Research Review*, has organized Congress sessions on "getting published." These sessions have been a huge success, based on the consistently high

attendance levels, but the allotted time has not allowed for coverage of the many and diverse issues of relevance. This year, the time allotted for this event will be extended to three hours, and Professor Oxhorn will invite editors from more journals and publishing outlets to ensure that more fields and writing venues are covered. More information can be found at http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/eng/congress/precongress_program.asp.

We hope you find these innovations/enhancements exciting. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with track chairs, LASA Sections, the LASA President, the Secretariat, the local Toronto-based organizing team, and the Executive Council in putting together an exciting program for LASA2010. Even though the final program has not been finalized yet, we already know that these innovations will make this year's congress one not to be missed. ■