

NEWS FROM LASA

In Memoriam

Sociologist and Central American labor scholar **Henry J. (Hank) Frundt**, Professor of Sociology at Ramapo College of N.J., died on September 16, 2010 after a courageous struggle with cancer. Hank was born and raised in Blue Earth, Minnesota. He was the eldest of five children. In 1958, he entered the Jesuit seminary at St. Louis University, where he earned a Masters degree in sociology. He received a Ph.D. from Rutgers University in 1978 and joined the faculty of Ramapo College where he taught for the past thirty eight years.

Professor Frundt was a member of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) from 1985 to 2010. He was an active member of

the Labor Studies and Central America Sections of LASA, and made generous monetary contributions to the Association over the years.

He authored several books on workers' rights in Latin America, including *Refreshing Pauses: Coca-Cola and Human Rights in Guatemala* (Praeger Publishers, 1987), documenting one of the first international labor solidarity campaigns with workers in Latin America; *Trade Conditions and Labor Rights: US Initiatives, Dominican and Central American Responses* (University Press of Florida, 1998) and, most recently, *Fair Bananas: Farmers, Workers and Consumers Strive to Change an Industry*

(University of Arizona Press, 2009), which he completed while undergoing treatment.

Hank was a staunch fighter for social justice throughout his life. He was an advocate for workers' rights in Guatemala and Central America for many years. He was an active member of the U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project, serving on its board for many years. He was an officer of the American Federation of Teachers unit at Ramapo and its delegate to the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council of New Jersey.

Hank is survived by his wife Bette, their six children and eight grandchildren. ■



American University's Department of Language and Foreign Studies invites applications for its MA in Latin American Studies

The MA in Latin American Studies at American University is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on Latin American and Caribbean cultures as a means of understanding political, historical, sociological and artistic phenomena in the region. In addition to our track in Cultural Studies, we offer secondary tracks in Spanish Translation and Language Instruction/Acquisition, which provide useful and marketable skills for Latin American specialists. Degree candidates complete 33 credits of study, some of which can be taken in conjunction with an internship, and have the option of demonstrating final competency through a comprehensive exam, a thesis, or a pedagogy/ translation portfolio. Drawing on AU's diverse campus resources, students are invited to take courses in other departments within the College of Arts and Sciences—such as Economics or Anthropology—and through other AU graduate schools—such as the School of International Service or the School of Communication. All courses in our department are conducted in Spanish, and students are offered opportunities to engage in field research or service learning projects abroad to further build language fluency.

Our faculty range widely in terms of thematic focus and regional expertise, covering Mexico and Central America, the Southern Cone, the Caribbean, and the Andean region, and we include a number of specialists in language, pedagogy and translation. As committed teachers and scholars, our professors are engaging in cutting edge research and applied projects that keep them at the forefront of the field and in close contact with the region. AU's newly established Center for Latin American and Latino Studies also serves as a hub of academic dynamism on campus and beyond, supporting collaborative research around various themes related to Latin America, including "Cultures and Creativity." Taking advantage of our Washington DC location, the MA curriculum is enriched through internships, field trips, guest lectures, visiting faculty and connections with the range of research facilities in the area. Students often stay in Washington after graduation, benefiting from the extensive network of Latin American institutions in the city. Recipients of the MA in Latin American Studies at AU have gone on to pursue successful and exciting careers in education, government, and nonprofit organizations.

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