

LASA Voluntary Support

by SANDY KLINZING

LASA continues to make strides in advancing its mission thanks to the generous support of members, foundations and friends. Critical to that mission is the extension of substantial opportunities for scholars to participate in the Association's International Congresses via LASA travel grants. For the LASA2012 Congress, two-hundred seventy-eight grantees benefitted from travel grants valued at \$336,398. A large portion of the funding was derived from Endowment proceeds (\$166,429), followed by support from several foundations that totaled \$141,409 and \$15,000 from LASA operating funds. Congress travel was also supported by direct contributions to the Travel Fund (\$6,914), and to the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Fund (\$6,870). The latest recipient of the Kalman Silvert Award, Julio Cotler, received a LASA Life Membership thanks to a grant from the AVINA Foundation, and the Charles A. Hale Fund for Mexican History awarded its second grant to a Mexican graduate student in the final phase of his doctoral research in Mexican history. This Congress also saw the first presentation of the new Luciano Tomassini Award in International Relations, funded by an endowment created by the Ford Foundation. The Martin Diskin Lectureship continues to be funded both by LASA and Oxfam-America, the latter also instrumental in establishing an endowed fund for the Diskin Dissertation Fellowship Award.

Support for the LASA Endowment derives from many sources, including the major portion of each LASA Life Membership. At present LASA has 92 Life Members, 80 of whom have made this major financial commitment to the Association and 12 recipients of Kalman Silvert Awards, who are entitled to honorary Life Memberships. The most recent new Life Members are Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida

(Universidade de São Paulo) and LASA's past president; Milagros Pereyra-Rojas (University of Pittsburgh) and LASA's Executive Director; Guacayarima Sosa Machado (Global Foundation for Democracy and Development); and Julio Cotler (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos), the 2012 recipient of the Kalman Silvert Award. We thank you all for your generosity and your commitment to the Association.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors for their contributions to LASA funds since our previous report in the winter 2011 issue of the LASA Forum. (Many individuals donate to more than one fund, but names are printed just once.) We would be delighted to discuss additional opportunities for giving, including possibilities for the creation of new funds. Please contact Sandy Klinzing at <sklinz@pitt.edu> or call 412-648-1907 for more information.

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Nominations Call for the William M. LeoGrande Prize

The School of Public Affairs and the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at American University are pleased to announce the establishment of the William M. LeoGrande Prize for the best book on U.S.-Latin American relations. This \$1,000 prize will be awarded annually to the author or editor of a book published in Spanish, English or Portuguese during the preceding two years. Prizewinners also will be funded to take part in a public presentation and discussion of the book in Washington DC.

Nominations for the 2012 award will be accepted until November 15, 2012, and the prizewinner will be announced in January, 2013, following evaluation by a multi-disciplinary committee comprised of scholars from AU and other institutions.

Nominations must include one copy of the book and a letter of no more than 750 words explaining its significance. Any published reviews and/or copies of evaluations by peer reviewers may be submitted as supporting materials.

Nominations and accompanying materials should be sent to: Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, American University, William M. LeoGrande Prize Committee, 4545 42nd St. NW, Suite 308 Washington, DC 20016

About the William M. LeoGrande Prize

The William M. LeoGrande Award was established in 2012 to honor William M. LeoGrande's tenure as Dean of American University's School of Public Affairs from 2003 to 2012. The endowed award was made possible through the financial support of alumni, friends, and colleagues of Professor LeoGrande.

One of the world's most accomplished scholars in Latin American politics and U.S. foreign policy, Professor LeoGrande continues to serve as a professor of government at American University. He has written five books, including *Our Own Backyard: The United States in Central America, 1977-1992*. Most recently, he was co-editor of *A Contemporary Cuba Reader: Reinventing the Revolution*.

Professor LeoGrande has been a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow, and a Pew Faculty Fellow in International Affairs. His articles have appeared in various international and national journals, magazines and newspapers.