

Voluntary Support

by Sandy Klinzing

announced the results of online council elections that month. Capello also reported that the Section had signed up 86 members during its first year of existence and would therefore be allotted two panels at the LASA2014 Congress in Chicago. A discussion followed concerning how to apportion these. The Acting Council submitted a recommendation that one should be a roundtable concerning the state of the field, perhaps answering the question, “What Is Latin American Visual Culture?” and one should be a panel proposed by the general membership. After discussion, it was agreed that in our inaugural year it would be preferable to have two roundtables devoted to theoretical concerns, with the council soliciting suggestions for speakers from the membership. We also resolved to set up a Planning Committee for the Chicago conference in order to help identify sites, exhibits, and galleries of interest to members and perhaps hold a preconference event. Finally, the Section established goals for continued outreach and a web presence in the coming year, and the long-term goals of establishing prizes for Latin American Visual Cultures Studies and partnering with local institutions to create curatorial possibilities at future conferences, perhaps beginning with Puerto Rico in 2015. ■

Since our last report to you in the Fall 2012 *LASA Forum*, nearly 800 individual gifts have been received in support of the various LASA funds. The Association is extremely grateful for the generous support of the members, foundations, and friends who make it possible for LASA to continue to advance its mission. Support for any of the LASA funds helps to ensure that more scholars will be able to participate in the annual Congress, regardless of financial constraints.

For the most recent Congress, LASA2013, 275 travel grantees benefitted from grants ranging from \$600 to \$1000. A total of \$269,822 was available, derived from **LASA Endowment** proceeds (\$139,007) plus \$10,000 from Operations, support contributed by several foundations (\$106,221), and direct contributions to the **LASA Travel Fund** (\$7284), the **Student Fund** (\$4,326), and the **Indigenous and Afro-descendant Fund** (\$3,984.) Thanks to a multiyear grant from the Fundación Avina, the 2013 recipient of the Kalman Silvert Award, Peter H. Smith, received a LASA Life Membership. The third grant to a Mexican graduate student in the final phase of his doctoral research in Mexican history was presented thanks to the donors to the Charles A. Hale Fund for Mexican History, an endowed fund. This Congress also saw the second presentation of the recently established Luciano Tomassini Award in International Relations, funded by an endowment created by the Ford Foundation. The Martin Diskin Lectureship is supported by both LASA and Oxfam America, the latter also instrumental in establishing an endowed fund for the Diskin Dissertation Fellowship Award.

LASA Life Memberships not only serve as tangible evidence of the value placed on membership in the Association, they

provide direct support for the LASA Endowment, helping to assure Congress travel grant support for generations of Latin Americanists to come. There are currently 94 Life Members; 81 of these made this major commitment to LASA, and 13 received Honorary Life Memberships as recipients of the Kalman Silvert Award. The two most recent are Peter H. Smith (2013 Kalman Silvert Award) and Elaine Carey (St. John’s University). Our most sincere thanks to all Life Members for their generosity.

With grateful thanks we acknowledge the following donors for their contributions to any of the LASA funds since our last report. Note that in the interest of conserving space donor names are printed only once, regardless of the number of contributions or gifts to multiple funds. Many donors frequently designate more than one fund for their support and add a gift with each membership renewal or Congress registration. Thank you!

Would you like to discuss your own contribution, a LASA Life Membership, or perhaps the creation of a named fund? Please contact Sandy Klinzing at sklinz@pitt.edu or 412-648-1907 for more information.

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