

NEWS FROM LASA

LASA Bequest Campaign Gains Momentum

by CYNTHIA McCLINTOCK and KEVIN J. MIDDLEBROOK | Co-chairs, LASA Fundraising Committee

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In 2012 LASA launched a major campaign to build its endowment fund through bequests from its members. The LASA Fundraising Committee is seeking bequests of a minimum of \$10,000 (or a percentage of an estate that will produce a bequest of \$10,000 or more) to benefit the endowment. We emphasize that this initiative is about *bequests*, not current gifts to the Association.

The endowment is the principal source of travel grants to LASA Congresses. It also supports many of the Association's special projects. The generosity of donors to the endowment benefits future generations of Latin Americanists by nurturing their scholarship for many years to come.

Bequest donors become members of the new Kalman Silvert Society. At the Congress in Washington last year, we honored 21 distinguished LASA members for their bequest pledges: Arturo Arias, Cole Blasier, Cornelia Butler Flora, Ron Chilcote, John Coatsworth, Carmen Diana Deere, Merilee Grindle, Evelyne Huber, Jane Jaquette, William LeoGrande, Cynthia McClintock, Kevin Middlebrook, Marysa Navarro, Scott Palmer, Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, Helen Safa, Lars Schoultz, Barbara Stallings, Alfred Stepan, Maria Hermínia Tavares, and George Vickers. In recent months, we have welcomed three additional members of the Kalman Silvert Society: Arturo Escobar, Richard Fagen, and Robert R. Kaufman.

President Merilee Grindle will host a special reception at the upcoming LASA Congress in Chicago (Thursday, May 22, 9:00–10:30 p.m.) to honor contributors to this campaign. In addition, Kalman Silvert Society members will be given a special gold ribbon to wear at LASA Congresses, and their names will be inscribed on a

plaque on permanent display at the LASA Secretariat.

We hope that many more of you will join the bequest campaign. None of us can take it with us, and we are confident that many of you will want to demonstrate just how much LASA has meant to you and continue to strengthen the Association.

We are grateful to the members of the Fundraising Committee who have worked hard to bring the bequest opportunity to the attention of LASA members. The 2014 committee includes Edna Acosta-Belén, John Coatsworth, Carmen Diana Deere, Marysa Navarro, Scott Palmer, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, Lars Schoultz, Gabriela Soto Laveaga, Barbara Stallings, and George Vickers.

For further information about the practical steps involved in making a bequest to LASA, please contact either of us (Cynthia McClintock, mcclin@gwu.edu; Kevin Middlebrook, kevinmiddlebrook@aol.com) or Sandy Klinzing at the LASA Secretariat (sklinz@pitt.edu).

We look forward to seeing you in Chicago in May. ■