August 2017

Dear Fellow Latin Americanists,

We are extremely excited to invite you to the 50th Anniversary Conference of the North Central Council of Latin Americanists. This year’s Conference, entitled 50 Years of Researching, Discovering, and Celebrating Latin America, will be held October 5th-7th 2017 at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel in Madison Wisconsin. Independent scholars, faculty, and students (both undergraduate and graduate) from over thirty colleges, universities, and other institutions will contribute to a variety of interesting panels spanning the multiple disciplines. Paper topics include literature, US policy towards Latin America, immigration and social justice, as well as pedagogy. A copy of the draft program is available on the NCCLA website. Presentations will last 15-20 minutes in each panel, leaving enough time for a question-and-answer section at the end of each panel.

We are especially excited to offer a number of unique opportunities tied to our 50th Anniversary. All past presidents of the organization will be presented with a memorial sash, and there will be a special plenary session with a panel of former Presidents on Friday after lunch. Our keynote speaker is going to be Lance Grahn, formerly of Marquette University and UW-Stevens Point and a past president of NCCLA in 1993-94 and 1999-2000, and currently the Dean and Chief Administrative Officer at Kent State University.

You are also invited to join us for dinner on Thursday at the Hotel, followed by Latino comedian Antonio Aguilar who graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in Political Science and promises to share with us the many benefits of a liberal arts education! In fact, please join us for all the meals, as our goal is for this Conference to be more like a reunion of NCCLA members past and present.

We’re excited to offer a very special commemorative program this year which will include stories about the NCCLA and its members, histories of the organization, some trivia about the annual Conferences and the participants, and an In Memoriam section for those whom we’ve lost over the years.

As we’ve done for the last several years, there will also be a Fall Teaching and Learning Workshop after the Conference from 2-5pm on Saturday. A description of the workshop, “Using Role Playing Games and Activities to Teach about Latin America,” is included in the registration packet.
It’s not too late to add papers and presentations to the program, so don’t hesitate to contact our Program Chair, Jonathan Hagood at hagood@hope.edu for more information. In addition, if you are interested in applying for the student travel grants and for teaching and research awards, submit your applications to Dr. Hagood. For more information on these opportunities go to www4.uwm.edu/clacs/nccla/awards.cfm.

Again, I would like to enthusiastically encourage you to join us this year for this very special occasion. Even if you aren’t presenting, or can only come for part of a day, we would love to have you join us to celebrate all that the North Central Council of Latin Americanists has done and meant to us over these last 50 years.

Eduardo Magalhães III
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