UNM Students Demand Fair Trade Coffee
By Brandt Milstein, Latin American Studies and Law

Esther, who works at the concession stand in the tent that operates in lieu of a functioning Student Union Building, says that she can’t keep up with the requests for Fair Trade coffee each morning. She has to brew pot after pot of the new variety of coffee because people prefer it to the old stuff. A matter of both taste and social activism; the UNM campus is purchasing and consuming coffee that is Fair Trade certified.

Contrary to popular belief, Fair Trade is not about coffee. It is not about Starbucks and it is not about activist students trying to affect their campus’ purchasing practices. These are merely the visible incarnations and implications of something more important. Fair Trade is a different way of viewing relationships between people. It is a movement that conceives of the interests of business and the interests of people in a mutually respectful and beneficial dynamic. The Fair Trade coffee that is selling so well in “the tent” is indicative of the desires of consumers to have a healthy relationship with the producers of their daily indulgence. It reflects an increasing connection between the people of Northern locales and the people of Southern locales.

Rather than remaining an isolated end of a complex chain of production that begins on Nicaraguan farms, for example, and ends in a paper cup on campus, the UNM community, and a good number of people worldwide, are working to understand the dynamic relationships between farmers and consumers. They are taking action to affect the nature of those relationships. They are ensuring that the businesses that constitute the connections between people of different latitudes are conducted in a healthy manner. Good coffee for consumers and better incomes for farmers are the results of a more healthy business model. Satisfied customers and increased sales are the happy results for the businesses that link “us” to “them.”

UNM has made the crucial first steps in aligning its business practices with the broad worldview espoused in its classrooms. Coffee sales are just one example of a more thoughtful and informed way of conducting business. We hope to see the Fair Trade understanding of our relationships with each other deepen its roots at UNM in the university’s conception of its place in the world community, and in its business practices.

SOLAS Sin Fronteras Film Festival A Success

The Sin Fronteras Film Festival was a success! The event took place April 11 thru 13th at the South Broadway Cultural Center in Barelas. Sin Fronteras featured films from around the Americas. Event Organizer Dylan Miner says “What Sin Fronteras did was break down borders—physical and metaphorical—imposed by the creation of nation-states.”

Some of the favorite events at the festival included: ‘Youth Movements, Music and Resistance’ featuring Mike ‘360’ Ipiotis, Martin Sorrondeguy, Marcos Baca, and LAS graduate Kim Nolan; The Chiapas Media Project; and Guillermo Delgado’s talk about the US-state sponsored cocaine eradication programs in Bolivia.

When asked if they’ll do it again next year, Sin Fronteras Film Festival organizers say, “No doubt! No diggity! This was the first Sin Fronteras of many more to come.”

In fact, this June 13-15, Sin Fronteras will be having a mini-festival at Bowling Green State University in Ohio as part of the Allied Media Conference. At the conference, Dylan Miner will be presenting on ‘how to organize a racial film festival.’ For more information, see clamormagazine.org/amc2003
Letter From the President

Dear SOLAS members,

It has been a great year full of exciting brown bags and memorable events. Just a few of the exciting brown bags this semester included: Dr. Randy Thornhill, who gave a fascinating lecture on beauty in Dominica; Dr. Andrea Heckman's wonderful slide presentation on trekking in Peru; James Lerager's research on combining social science research with photography; and Naomi Gabriela Schwartz's entrancing musical presentation on indigenous music from Ecuador.

My time here as president has been an enriching learning experience that has left a deep impression on my academic career, and will be greatly cherished.

Please come meet your next year's president, Gulliver Scott, at next year's first SOLAS meeting. I believe Gulliver will do a fine job, and he will receive my complete support. Thank you once again and have a great summer.

Ignacio Martínez

WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY CELEBRATION ON MAY 17

SHOP WITH A CONSCIENCE!
The UNM Fair Trade Initiative and Peacecraft, a local fair trade store, invite you to join in this worldwide celebration to promote locally available fair trade products. Free samples of fair trade products such as coffee, tea, chocolate and cashew nuts will be provided throughout the day.

Location: Peacecraft, 3215 Central Ave NE in Nob Hill (across from Kelly's)
Time: 11am-6pm
Live South American music by Christian Orellana from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

At 1pm and 2pm there will be presentations on the socioeconomic impacts of fair trade, including fair trade coffee production in Nicaragua, cashew production cooperatives in Honduras, and fair trade cocoa products from a small-scale farmer cooperative in the Dominican Republic.

Letter From the Editor

Saludos: What a year it's been! I hope that everyone has had a good end to a great semester. I have really enjoyed working with SOLAS this year, especially as the editor of Las Noticias. I want to give special thanks to everyone who contributed artwork, poetry or articles to Las Noticias and a special thank you to Rachel Archer, Sue Taylor and Luke Tsekos for help editing Las Noticias.

This issue is of Las Noticias is a short one. It's the end of the semester and submissions have been limited. I hope folks will start to think about contributions for the fall. I look forward to receiving your articles and artistic creations.

Congratulations to all the graduates! Have a great summer! Sandra Ortsman
A Few Words From Next Year’s SOLAS President Gulliver Scott

As the current Vice President of SOLAS I have gained an appreciation for the work that the organization carries out and a desire to make SOLAS an even more dynamic force at UNM and in the larger community. The Student Organization for Latin American Studies has a rich history of serving its membership and the larger UNM and Albuquerque communities by organizing unique educational and cultural events. SOLAS also provides an important forum for the exchange of news and opinion through its listserv.

I am looking forward to being SOLAS President because I want to ensure that SOLAS continues with its current activities (Las Noticias, brown bag lectures, film festivals, etc.), and I also want to look for new ways that SOLAS can serve its members and surrounding community. I am dedicated to involving SOLAS members in decision-making, and I look forward to working with as many of you as possible and hearing your ideas on how to continue SOLAS's rich tradition and to make it as strong and vibrant an organization as possible. Several ideas I have for SOLAS are listed below:

Increase undergraduate participation in SOLAS. Undergraduates have great ideas for activities and events and would strengthen the organization. Graduate students can also be a valuable resource for undergraduate students (by sharing their experiences at UNM and abroad, for example).

Strengthen ties with other organizations (MEChA, Chicanas for Chiapas, PILA etc.). I believe SOLAS should have closer relationships with organizations on campus and in the community with which it shares values and has common goals.

Foment a sense of community among SOLAS members by having regular social events and by making the SOLAS Pod a place where people go to socialize. Because our members are spread out in departments all over campus, I often feel that the LAS program lacks a real sense of community. I envision the SOLAS pod as a place where people go to hang out, discuss school and life, listen to music, plot and scheme, check e-mail, etc. In the fall we should transform the SOLAS Pod by having a mural painting party.

A quick look at the SOLAS listserv makes clear the concern that many SOLAS members have about the state of affairs in Latin America, other parts of the world, and right here in Albuquerque. I believe SOLAS has enormous potential as an organization that can work for the types of social and political change that its membership identifies with and I look forward to facilitating such work.

I would love to discuss any of these ideas (and others that I have for next year) with you and to hear your thoughts on what SOLAS should be in the future.

Finally, a quick bio: I was born and raised in Berkeley, California. My parents are from Connecticut (mom) and New Mexico (dad). In addition to Berkeley, I’ve lived in Connecticut, Chile, and now Albuquerque. I am in my first year of the dual masters program in Latin American Studies and Community & Regional Planning and I’m interested in studying the organizational practices of indigenous communities.

Gulliver Scott

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**Congratualtions Graduating LAS Students!**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masters Latin American Studies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christine Ageton</td>
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<td>Monica X Delgado (with MA in CRP)</td>
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<td>Ryan J Goodman</td>
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<td>Daniel D Huerta</td>
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<td>Lana Ledwig</td>
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<td>Dylan Miner</td>
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<td>Joshua Myers</td>
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<td>Adriana Nieto</td>
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<td>Lorena Olmos (with JD in Law) (Summer)</td>
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<td>William James Richardson (Summer)</td>
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**BA in Latin American Studies**

| Georgia G Gullick |
| Dana L Jackson |
| Kel Jaeger      |

| Aja L Oishi (with BA in Anthropology) |
| Paulette Palladini (with BS in Spanish) |
| Angelita Rodrigues (w/ BA in Portuguese) |
| Jamie Sanchez |
| Arbi Sarkissian (with BA in Anthropology) |
Poesia

When we commiserate in stone
eclose community in glass
deny wounds
handed deeply into feet
walking too far and too fast past connection
we cannot ask the way
for there are no commissions to demonstrate
how to pull opinions together.
Diplomacy having failed
we can only announce
coriander truths to taste freedom.
Here there is salt
to coat the edges of gnawing desire
Here dust to cover ruptures
where community died

Here hands to clamp down
on communism begun
in dreams of communion
Here stone, here glass
to beat and then shatter
serve and then ignore
ask and then relay —
or perhaps once
in a moment of stillness
when one breath sounds
in the darkness like friendship
we can find two hands that greet
two hands that open
feet that can carry us out into sunlight
and see in the light of indictment
we are the salt of the earth.

Mikaela Renz, Community and Regional Planning