SOLAS Sin Fronteras Film Festival A Success!
By Sandra Ortsman, MA/LAS-MCRP

This year’s Sin Fronteras Film Festival organized by students Stephen Carlvin-Miller, Katie McIntyre, Sandra Ortsman, Samuel Palmer-Simon, Silvia Soto, and Albuquerque community members Miguel Bautista and Mariana Castro at the Guild Cinema was a tremendous success. Doors opened at 10:30 am with the festival bienvenida at 10:45 am. Dulcinea Lara, part-time faculty in Chicano Studies, opened the event with powerful spoken word about the meaning of communication across borders. Her poetry set the tone for the fabulous day to come.

The festival included a total of 18 short films (1 to 60 minutes long) and one feature length film. The showcased films came from various countries including Mexico, Nicaragua, Cuba, Argentina, Honduras, Uruguay, and the United States. Festival organizers arranged the day in six 90 to 120 minute-long film blocks.

No one went hungry at the festival because Sin Fronteras Festival madrina

An Interview with Bill Stanley
Outgoing Director Reflects on Experiences

What aspects of being interim director of the LAII did you enjoy most?

I have really liked working in an environment where almost everything is a collaborative effort. Most of the work of faculty – teaching and research -- is very individual, even solitary. That’s certainly true of my own scholarly work. So working daily with staff and faculty through LAII in joint efforts has been refreshing for me. Directing LAII also gave me a good excuse to talk to colleagues in other disciplines, ask them what they work on, and ask for their ideas about Latin American programs. I’ve gotten a better understanding of the questions that other disciplines ask, what they value, and the kinds of knowledge they contribute.

I enjoyed the challenge of putting together the Title VI grant, and was pretty happy that we were able to keep LAII on Title VI funding in a year when some other good schools did not get funded. The push to collect all the data and write that application was a great deal of

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Letter From the President

Dear SOLAS members,

As my term as president comes to close I’d like to thank all of you who have participated in SOLAS events and activities this past year. I’ve enjoyed my time as president and it has certainly been a learning process for me. In particular I’d like to thank SOLAS treasurer Priscilla Olmos and secretary Katie McIntyre for their hard work. I also need to recognize the great job Sandra Ortsman did editing Las Noticias and leading the charge on organizing this year’s Sin Fronteras Film Festival. Finally, the staff at the LAII, in particular Frances Rico, Christine Lopez and Vickie Nelson, deserve special thanks for their support.

I’d also like to acknowledge and thank all the groups and individuals who participated in our Brown Bag series.

SOLAS is an organization with great potential, not only for representing and serving the interests of Latin American Studies students at UNM, but also for being a presence in the UNM and wider communities. Achieving that potential is dependent on two related issues: 1) increasing member participation in SOLAS, and 2) resolving some of the issues that have arisen regarding identity and representation within SOLAS, the Latin American Studies Program, and the Latin American & Iberian Institute. I regret not having pushed harder for these issues to be discussed during this past year. I look forward to remaining active in SOLAS next year and helping to ensure they are addressed. I encourage those of you who care about SOLAS to reflect on these issues over the summer.

Speaking of next year, I’d like to acknowledge both 2004-05 presidential candidates, Joseph García and Sandra Ortsman, and congratulate Sandra on her victory. I’m confident Sandra will do a great job and she will have my full support.

Congratulations to those of you graduating this spring and summer – good luck in your future endeavors! Finally, I hope everyone has relaxing and productive summers.

Gulliver Scott

The editors of Las Noticias, SOLAS members, and the LAII community are saddened to learn of the death of Marshall Nason. Nason spent 35 years at UNM. He helped to put Latin American Studies (LAS) at UNM on the map, consolidated the Latin American Center, LAS, and the Spanish Language Program into the Latin American and Iberian Institute. Nason’s efforts increased the interdisciplinary nature of the program, helping it to grow into one of the nation’s leading LAS programs. In 1982 he was awarded the Regent’s Meritorious Service Medal. Nason was 86 at the time of his death.
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Frances Rico prepared her delicious burritos at a super low-price.

Four UNM student films were featured. UNM student Marcos Baca presented his (co-produced with UNM student Amanda Vega) film entitled “A Day at the Ditch” about the legend of La Llorona. Other UNM filmmakers at the festival were Magali Arreola Allen, Marisa Castaneda, and Mark Nava.

Returning to the Sin Fronteras Film Festival for a second time was filmmaker Greg Berger to present two of his latest films entitled “Gringoton” (Gringo-thon) and “Tlalnepantla: The Price of Democracy”. While “Tlalnepantla” looks at the indigenous struggle of people in Central Mexico for the right to govern their pueblo autonomously, “Gringoton” has the audience roaring as it took on the theme of Mexican perspectives of the U.S., its citizens, and its imperial project. Tongue planted firmly in cheek. “Gringoton” shows how the tenacity of Mexico City street vendors inspires a misplaced gringo to take on the streets of Mexico City by washing windows and selling chewing gum in order to raise money for a guerilla army to take out Bush.

Mexican film producer Veronica Rueda Estrada presented her film entitled “Bracero Program: Sad Recollections”. This documentary film looks at the current struggle of Mexican braceros that worked in the U.S. during the 1940s, 50s, and 60s as part of the U.S.-Mexico guest worker program. Today, these braceros are struggling to recover money that was taken from their earnings to purchase agricultural tools. The tools were never purchased and the money, now totaling millions of dollars, was never returned. Estrada’s film makes important parallels between the Mexican-U.S. labor programs of the 20th century and Bush’s proposal for a Temporary Worker Program today.

The last film of the Sin Fronteras Festival was Uruguay’s official 2002 Oscar Competition entry, “En La Puta Vida” (Tricky Life) about the difficulties faced by women working in an increasingly marginalizing and exploitative world economy. Elisa, a 27-year old Uruguayan mother of two, suddenly finds herself without a home and without money. Faced with few options, Elisa finds work in a brothel and eventually slips into prostitution. Seeking a way to earn more money and open a beauty salon, she travels with Placido, a pimp, to Spain. There she finds that things can always get worse! Filmmaker Beatriz Flores Silva presented her film to a packed audience of
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work, but pretty satisfying.

When I came in as interim director, LAII had developed a reputation with some departments as a place where decisions were made by fiat, and where some departments were in, and some were out. Some of those concerns were somewhat exaggerated, as broadly representative committees have always made most important decisions at LAII, but there were definitely some governance issues that needed to be addressed. I worked hard to be transparent about everything I did, and the officers of the Faculty Concilium redesigned our committee system to be more open, representative, and independent of the LAII director. I think the Institute is seen more positively as a result, and I like the way we do business now.

What aspects of being LAII interim director were most challenging?

Definitely personnel management. Having worked very independently for most of my career, it was a big change for me to be responsible for monitoring other people’s work performance, and to be the one to tell them when there were problems. I think I’ve dealt with these kinds of issues in a responsible and effective way, but I have found it extremely stressful. I’m also not particularly at ease playing a public role, hosting visitors, speaking at public events that aren’t related to my personal areas of expertise, and other events that require protocol and social skills. Finally, LAII took me away from my family a great deal. I’ve been LAII director for more than half of my first daughter Ruth’s life, and frankly it has made me less available to her than I would have liked. My wife Judy Bieber gave birth to our second daughter Rosa right at the beginning of my second year at LAII, right when I was writing the Title VI grant application. I regret having missed some of those early months due to work, and gender equity in child rearing pretty much went out the window in our household. Anyone who benefits from Title VI funding at UNM should send Judy a thank you card.

Did anything about the job really surprise you?

I had hoped and expected to really focus more on the intellectual side of the job, building connections across disciplines. The administrative aspects of the job ate up most of my time and I accomplished less on the intellectual and programmatic side of things than I had hoped. My consolation is that by improving how LAII functions in terms of finances, administration and governance, I think I have helped set the stage for Cynthia Radding to be able to focus much more on the intellectual side. She’s really gifted at talking to people across diverse disciplines and areas of research. I think LAII is going to be a very vibrant place under her leadership.

What did you learn, and what will you miss the most?

I learned, among other things, that university faculty are very, very independent. They pursue their own intellectual interests, and an interdisciplinary institution like LAII will only generate and sustain faculty participation if it generates an obvious intellectual value added. Since faculty in different departments value such different things, it’s not easy to engage a broad cross-section of faculty, especially since our center covers all of Latin America.

As for what I’ll miss, mainly the opportunity to work collaboratively with people on a daily basis. That’s not a big part of most faculty jobs, and I’ve been lucky to have the experience of working at LAII.

Bill looks forward to spending more time with his daughters Ruth and Rosa.
Observing the 2004 Salvadoran Presidential Elections
By Rebecca Shreve

Mialynette Victoriakza, Mekoce Walker, and I, Rebecca Shreve spent eleven days over spring break observing the Salvadoran presidential elections through el Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad (CIS), a Salvadoran-based organization. CIS sponsored over 250 observers from 18 countries. The CIS provided us with an intensive week of training that included trips to sites of human rights violations from the war (UCA and Romero’s church), meetings with ARENA and FMLN representatives, conferences with officials from the Human Rights Procurator’s office, and a crash course in the electoral code and voting process.

As many of you are aware, El Salvador has a long history of political polarization and violence. The bloody civil war that raged from 1980 to 1992 and claimed an estimated 75,000 lives remains quite vivid in the minds of most Salvadorans, and lingers as an inescapable element of their democratic process. The FMLN (Farabundo Martí Frente de Liberación Nacional), the former guerrilla faction turned leftist opposition party, and ARENA (Alianza Republicana Nacionalista), the right wing party holding the presidency since 1989, remain strongly opposed to and distrustful of each other, even refusing to participate in public debates. However, in spite of accusations of dirty campaigning and isolated incidents of violence, this year’s elections proceeded relatively peacefully.

The voter turnout was significantly higher than in previous years, about 63%. The FMLN’s candidate, Schafik Handal, a 73-year-old former guerrilla leader, received 36% of the vote, and ARENA’s candidate, Tony Saca, a 39-year-old former sportscaster, won the presidency in the first round of voting with 57%. The two smaller parties, the CDU/PDC Coalition (el Centro Democrático Únido and the Partido Democrata Cristiano) and the PCN (Partido de Conciliación Nacional) received about 4% and 2.5% respectively. According to Salvadoran law, these small percentages will make it extremely difficult for the smaller parties to continue to compete in elections.

Currently, a major problem facing El Salvador’s electoral process is the structure of the Tribunal Supremo Electoral (TSE), which was formed under the 1992 Peace Accords. When Mekoce and I spoke with Walter Duran of the FMLN’s Commission of Electoral Reform, he explained that the partisan nature of the appointment leads to a blockage in passing reforms and sanctioning violations of the electoral code, as they require a 4:1 vote. Shortly before the election, the Legislature passed a 3:2 TSE vote requirement, but former President Flores vetoed the bill.

Another major issue is the continued lack of residential voting, a requirement of the Peace Accords which has never been implemented. Luis Salazar of the Human Rights Procurator’s office noted

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Observing the 2004 Salvadoran Presidential Elections
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there should be more than 7,000 voting centers instead of the 360 that existed, a fact that has a huge negative impact on equal access to voting.

On the positive side, the ARENA administration and the TSE managed to successfully implement two important new reforms aimed at cleaning up the electoral process: the padron, a voter registry with names, photos, and numbers, and the Documento Único de Identidad (DUI), voter identification cards with photos. Both major parties, election workers, and the CIS observers were impressed with the reforms in practice.

On election day, we observed in the coastal municipality of Puerto de La Libertad. We did not observe any major fraud, although we did see some issues of illegal campaigning (by both major parties), small violations by electoral staff (mainly due to lack of training), and widespread lack of vote secrecy due to very crowded conditions and inadequate materials.

As far as the general political climate, the Human Rights Procurator’s office had reports of maquilas coercing employees to vote for ARENA, and/or confiscating employee’s DUIS on election day. Employees were told that if the FMLN won the election, many would be left unemployed due to factories pulling up shop. Additionally, ARENA, backed by statements by Assistant Secretary of State Roger Noriega, played on the public’s fears of problems with the U.S. by alleging that an FMLN victory could upset the flow of the more than two million dollars in annual remittances. Another issue was the detention of a few observers at the airport that required intervention by CIS, the U.S. Embassy, and eventually President Flores himself to resolve.

All in all, the three of us agree it was a wonderful, educational, and fulfilling experience, and we highly recommended electoral observation for all Solistas.

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What do you look forward to doing when you are no longer director?

Well, first I’m looking forward to having a little more time to spend with my family, and to being less cranky sometimes when I come home. During some of the more difficult times, my daughter Ruth took to calling me “Mr. Grumpy Gills.” Obviously she watches too many movies.

Professionally, I really want to get back into research and writing on Central America. I have many of the pieces of a book on civil wars and democratization in Central America but have a lot more to learn, and frankly a lot of things to re-learn that I’ve forgotten during these years of administrative work. There really is a synergy between research and teaching, and I’m looking forward to doing more of both.

Any advice for Cynthia Radding?

I’m not sure Cynthia needs my advice, as she brings a wealth of experience and skills to this job. I hope that she will find a way to carve out some part of each week to think big, generate ideas, get out to talk with faculty, and plan research initiatives that will bring people together across disciplinary boundaries. I got drawn into urgent administrative and financial issues. My hope is that she can do less of that, and more program building.
Felicidades Field Research Grant (FRG) Recipients

Jessica Elana Aaron (Span & Port) “Spanish Conservation in Puebla, Mexico: A Corpus for Study”

David Corcoran (Hist) “Educational Institutes and U.S. Cultural Diplomacy in Colombia”

Jennifer Garay (LAS) “The Effects of Microfinance on Education in Peru”

Joseph Garcia (LAS/CRP) “Impact of Rural Potable Water Project on Rural Village in Paraguay”

Erin Hansbrough (LAS/CRP) “Citizen Participation in Municipal Planning: a look at participatory budgeting in Porto Alegre and Belo Horizonte, Brazil”

Roberto Herrera (Anthro) “Sitio SJ-59-Ech: An Initial Study into Site Variability in the Upper General Valley, Costa Rica”

Sara Jamieson (Anthro) “Wayuu Cultural Revitalization” (Venezuela)

Nicole Kellet (Anthro) “Using Participatory Rural Appraisal Research to Assess the Effectiveness of Microlending Services on Alleviating Poverty in Andahuaylas, Peru”

Samantha Medeiros (LAS) “Rural Tourism Development in Santa Catarina – An Assessment of the Socio-Economic Cultural Impacts of Rural Tourism on Family Farmers of Lages/SC/Brazil”

Sandra Ortsman (LAS/CRP) “Zapatista Autonomous Planning: How the Oventic Caracole (Cultural Center) Facilitates and Limits Autonomous Education” (Mexico)

Al Pacile (LAS/CRP) “Linking Theory and Practice: Creating a Community-Based Plan for Sustainable Economic Development in the APA do Cairuçu, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil”

Nejem Raheem (Econ) “Willingness to Pay for Genetically Modified (GM) or non-GM Food in Brazil”

Sue Taylor (History) “Slave and Freed Women in Venezuela: 1780 – 1880”

Naomi Todd (LAS/CRP) “Fair Trade and Community Development in Oaxaca, Mexico”

William Vasquez-Mazariegos (Econ) “Poverty in Guatemala”

F. Scott Worman (Anthro) “Social Organization, Soil and Sustainability in Semi-Arid Environments: A Case Study from Islamic Period Southern Portugal”
La Realidad de L@s Zapatistas
Hilda Gutierrez, MA/LAS

On January 1st of 1994 the Zapatistas, or the Ejercito Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN), refused to continue to be alienated from Mexican consciousness and asserted “Ya Basta,” not only for themselves, but also for other indigenous peoples of the world who find themselves in the same predicament. Their battle cry was heard by all who cared to listen, but although the Mexican government undoubtedly heard it, they have been unwilling to adhere to the demands of the Zapatistas. The EZLN have, in turn, responded by using various tactics in an effort to get the government to comply with their needs. The establishment of the caracoles is one such example of the tactics employed by the Zapatistas.

This Spring Break 2004, I went with seven other students and one community member to visit the Zapatistas in the highland town of Oventic. Oventic was inaugurated on January 1, 1996 as the second Aguascalientes of the Zapatista movement. The Zapatistas have renamed the Aguascalientes caracoles. According to Gary H. Gossen, the caracoles were “deliberately constructed according to preindustrial Indian technology and reminiscent in form of the plazas of the ancient Maya ceremonial centers, these new Aguascalientes are potent political statements” as distinct markers of cultural identity. The caracoles are spaces where civil society and Zapatistas can interact in an environment where indigenous and political identities can flourish and coexist. And, as a member of the Zapatista Junta de Buen Gobierno de Oventic asserted, the caracoles are also spaces where Zapatistas can put into practice the demands they have outlined in the San Andrés Accords.

What distinguishes Oventic from other caracoles is that it houses a language school called the Esculela Secundaria Rebelde Autónoma Zapatista, also known by its acronym, ESRAZ. ESRAZ was established by people from other indigenous communities and is viewed as an intercultural space. Because the Zapatista movement is comprised of Tzeltales, Tzotziles, Choles, Tojolabales, Mames, and Zoques, who have all been categorized under the “Mayan” ethnic category, it is not surprising that in seeking to recreate a space for themselves, the Zapatistas have chosen to create a pluri-ethnic space. During the time that we were in Oventic we encountered other travelers from France, Portugal, Japan, Spain, Brazil and the United States because along with having a secondary school, Oventic also has a language (Continued on page 9)
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school that is open to foreigners wishing to learn Tzotzil. In addition to these schools, Oventic has a peace camp where members of Civil Society are invited to be human rights observers. Thus, this caracole is an intercultural space wherein both natives of the region and non-natives coexist in a common struggle.

Zapatista promotores facilitate the classes at the ESRAZ. The promotores are people that have been asked to be teachers by their respective communities. Each of the promotores I met with stated that their community had told them that they would be a good promoter. In response to their community’s assertion, and their personal need to fulfill their duty within the community, they left their homes for Oventic before there was an existing school. Within this structure there are also “acompañantes,” like Ramón, a mestizo who helps out at the school. However, because a central goal of the Tzotzil construction of autonomy is to be self-sufficient and to work with pedagogical models that are familiar to the students, acompañantes are not allowed to teach.

According to Ramón, a pedagogical model that promotores employ in the classroom is the idea of “caminar preguntando,” which derives from the Mayan cosmovisión. This pedagogy entails that there be a sense of egalitarianism in the classroom between the student and the teacher that allows the teacher to learn from the student and vice versa. This pedagogy also leaves room for cultural exchange to occur.

While in Chiapas we had the opportunity to bear witness to the way in which the Zapatistas view their struggle as collective. For instance, while visiting the Guadalupana clinic in Oventic, I was told that PRIistas (people that side with the Mexico’s dominant polity party – el Partido Revolucionario Institucional) were able to receive medical attention at the clinic at a subsidized price because they understood that all of the people of the region, regardless of political ideologies, were living the same impoverished reality.

Finally, it is worthy to note that Oventic is only forty-five minutes away from San Cristóbal de las Casas, a tourist city mostly inhabited by ladinos. According to Ramón, this proximity to San Cristóbal actually reinvigorates the movement precisely because it is a constant reminder of what the Zapatistas are fighting for and against. Having said this, it is important to avoid speaking about the Zapatista movement and indigenous identity using essentialist constructs. Ultimately, they continue building and creating and looking toward the future.

It was an inspiring experience for everyone in the group to spend a week with them.

Editor’s Note: Since the Delegation traveled to Chiapas, state supported paramilitary violence against the Zapatistas has increased. More than 100 families living in Zinacantan, close to Oventic, have been displaced from their homes due to violence and pillaging of their homes. For more information, log on to: http://www.indymedia.uk/en/2004/04/289177.html

The promotores and acompañantes taught us how to sing and strum the Zapatista Anthem.
O Movimento Musical
Erin Hansbrough, MA/LAS-MCRP

O movimento musical se chama “Black Soul” se iniciou nas cidades grandes do Brasil na década das setenta. Como o seu equivalente norteamericano, ao base da musica foi uma reassercao da identidade negra e da cultura popular que se pertenceu.

Algumas pessoas digam que o movimento era somente uma imitacao da cultura negra nortamericana, que realmente nao tinha nada que ver com Brasil. E claro, alguns artistas associados com o movimento estavam, sem duvida, muito influencidas pelo estilo dos artistas como James Brown—como muitos musicos nesta epoca. Mais para entender o significacao cultural da musica, e preciso saber um pouco da situacao politica e social nesta epoca no Brasil, e seu efeito na cultura Afro-Brasileira.

No tempo do “Black Soul,” Brasil estavno alto dum regime militar, que durou ate o meio da década oitenta. Baixo deste regime, estava proibida organizar politicamente em qualquer maneira—s organizacoes civiles tanto como os partidos politicos (menos aqueles do que o militar aprovava) eram ilegais. Como as medidas politicas de expressar uma identidade negro, e de lutar o racismo, nao estavam disponivel, gente tinham que se expresar pela cultura.

O movimento do “Black Soul” tambem e notavel por sua atencao ao conceito do raca mesmo. Depois do fim do escravidao no Brasil (que se termino oficialmente em 1888) o governo adotou a idea dum raiz “Brasileira”—e dizer, uma identidade unica que nao deixou a aassercao uma identidade diferente, como ser negro o ser indigena. Entao a insistencia numa identidade negra tinha, de uma maneira, um sentido politico.

Como um “movimento” musical, “Black Soul” incluia muitos generos musicais. Entree les sao, claro, a musica soul; mais tambem incluye elementos do reggae, da samba, e ate o rap cedo. Agora vamos ouvir um exemplo, do grupo Gang do Tagarela. Ouca com cuidado, e talvez pouca reconhecer uma musica bem conhecida no mundo do hip-hop americano. (Track 1)

Alguem pegou qual musica americana esta presente pela interpelacao aqui? Foi “Rapper’s Delight” por The Sugar Hill Gang.


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members of SOLAS and the Albuquerque community.

Festivities continued when the films ended. All festival pass holders were invited to a reception at RB Winning Coffee. DJ Wellington Guzman played salsa tunes while SOLAS members danced the fiesta away. Rio Grande Brewing Company provided cervezas all night long. Thanks to SOLAS, the LAII, UNM Media Arts and UNM Women’s Resource Center for support. Extra special thanks to everyone who came and especially to festival organizers. The only challenge that remains is to make next year’s SOLAS Sin Fronteras Film Festival an even bigger success.
Felicidades LAS Graduates

Ph.D.
Teresa Echman

MASTERS
Kristina Aiello, MA/LAS-LAW
Evan Blackstone, MA/LAS-LAW
Mia Chavez, MA/LAS-LAW
Kathleen Cunniffe, MA/LAS-LAS
Douglas Deane, MA/LAS
Katrina Dillon, MA/LAS
Matthew Earley, MA/LAS
Andrew Frankl, MA/LAS
Michelle Hopper, MA/LAS
William Richardson, MA/LAS
Lupine Skelly, MA/LAS

BACHELORS
Melissa Caughey
Tony Fernandez
Randi Gladwell
Jillene McWhite
Paul Rachner
Luis Sierra

Receiving their Diplomas in the Summer Session Are:

MASTERS
Kuhl Brown, MA/LAS-MCRP
Michael McGovern, MA/LAS
Yuka Sonoda, MA/LAS

BACHELORS
Zoila Cleaver
UNM Fair Trade Initiative’s 1st Annual Fair Trade Gala A Success
By Katie Mann

The UNM Fair Trade Gala, held Saturday March 27, 2004 from 8pm-12am at B’Nai Israel was a success.

Gourmet To Go catered a delicious dinner while performers from Norm and Beyond, UNM Capoeira Pegada, Keshet Dance Company, New Mexico Ballet, Alma Flamenco, Christian Orellana, and salsa DJ Quico de Castro entertained the crowd all night.

Over 140 community members gathered together for an evening of delicious food and wonderful entertainment raising $800 to aid the women’s cooperative “Mundo Verde” in Guatemala. This cooperative is a coffee roasting enterprise who buys organic and Fair Trade certified coffee, however in order to sell the packages coffee as 100% Fair Trade and organic, they themselves must be both organically and Fair Trade Certified. The money raised will help them become certified and maximize their profits while being ecologically sound and humanitarian. By supporting this cooperative, more production will stay in Guatemala, helping their economy, while we U.S. coffee drinkers will not pay much more.

The UNM Fair Trade Initiative raises awareness on issues around global inequality and focuses on the promotion of Fair Trade products. The goal of 2004 is to have the UNM coffee 100% Fair Trade thus enabling UNM to be an example for other institutions and businesses in New Mexico. Every fall the UNM Fair Trade Initiative brings a speaker to share about Fair Trade.

Join our mailing list to learn more!
Contact kbm@unm.edu or nt@unm.edu