Un restaurante diferente

Looking for an arepa? A tamale? A plate full of plátanos or arroz con pollo? Stop looking. Go to the Guava Tree Cafe at 216 Yale Blvd NE. They’re open from 11 to 7 and they will provide you with all of those and then some. Whereas many restaurants in Albuquerque will cater to a Mexican or New Mexican set of taste buds, the Guava Tree Cafe centers itself in Costa Rica and from there spans geographical boundaries.

The food is superb and the atmosphere inviting. From personal experience, I can say that they’re a relaxed, quiet spot to enjoy a dinner amongst friends. I’ll attest to the merits of the ajiaco - a thick potato sopa brimming with shredded chicken and fresh corn on the cob, and which comes steaming to the table. Add fresh avocado, capers, and drizzles of cream and it becomes indescribable. I’ll also attest to the deliciousness of the provoleta sandwich, a pressed panini filled with chimichurri, roasted red peppers, and covered in a perfect layer of softly melted Provolone. Sweet and savory all in one go. To finish out the flavors, I ended the meal with a tall glass of frothing mango-vanilla juice.

Does this all sound like an over-enthusiastic and gushing review? I hope so. I was thrilled with the whole experience of dining at the Guava Tree. I’m already planning my next trip there.

-Keira Phillip

If you’re not careful as you head toward the airport you might miss it – but located in a charming old house near the intersection of Yale and Lead is Guava Tree; a delightful Latin-inspired café all of three months old here in Albuquerque.

Lucky for Keira, Ashley, Krista and myself, we experienced the Guava Tree for the first time.
Hola Solistas,

Welcome back, and Happy Spring Semester! I hope that you enjoyed a restful, pleasant winter break, and that the spring 2011 semester is going smoothly for everyone so far (snow days and all!)

SOLAS has had a full plate so far this semester, and we’ve been trying to incorporate some new activities and events into our standard calendar. We kicked off the first week of the semester with a Brown Bag presented by local author Dr. Ronald Bruce St. John, as well as a SOLAS meeting. Enlace Comunitario Volunteer Coordinator Natalie Smith attended our first meeting, and a short two weeks later SOLAS held its first “SOLAS Service Day” at Enlace. Solistas spent the afternoon helping Enlace with a telephone call, letter, and email campaign asking New Mexico state legislators not to cut the state’s CYFD budget and civil legal services funding for organizations like Enlace. Following the “SOLAS Service Day” at Enlace we held our first Happy Hour of the semester at Joe’s Place, and enjoyed some much deserved, tasty pizza. Stay tuned for an announcement about our next “SOLAS Service Day”; we’ll be working with either Encuentro or the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice.

Another new SOLAS event that I’m happy to report seemed to be a success was our first Spanish Conversación Group, held last Friday. Spanish TA and dedicated Solista Keith Lanser facilitated the group, and provided us with great guidance and vocabulary as we discussed “el auto.” My 1997 Volvo was the demonstration car for the event, which the group ‘judged’ as being in decent condition, despite its broken headlight and messy trunk. Everyone who attended the conversation group agreed that it provided great Spanish practice in a comfortable setting, so hopefully we will be able to host another one soon!

This semester is already flying by, as is evidenced by the fact that we’re currently in the process of electing the 2011-2012 SOLAS President. This is an exciting process, and we’re lucky to have three great candidates running for the position: MA-LAS student Keith Lanser, MA-LAS student Greg Gonzales, and PhD LAS student Joseph García. Eligible voters can vote via email or ballot at the LAII, and the voting period will close at 5:00pm on Friday, March 11th. If you’re an active SOLAS member or are a Latin American Studies Student I highly encourage you to cast a vote. Keep your eyes on the list-serve for information as the election process continues.

I’m particularly excited about this issue of Limón; Alex has put a lot of time into it, and it’s sure to contain something for everyone. My personal favorite is a new edition to our newsletter— the “Limón Celebrates” section; don’t miss it!

As always, if you have any questions about SOLAS or ideas for the organization please don’t hesitate to contact me. Best of luck to everyone through the midterms and comprehensive exams that are coming up this month. Let’s all cross our fingers that the cold winter weather is on its way out and that a nice spring is right around the corner!

All best,
Kellie
NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

As always, I would like to thank all of the contributors to this issue of LIMON. I hope the mix of articles is interesting and relevant, and that it may inspire you to contribute in the future! This issue of LIMON has an interview with the LAII’s new Greenleaf Scholar, Eleanor Laughlin. She is visiting us from the University of Florida, and you may run into her at the library or the Southwest Research Center. Also in this LIMON is an article on the LAII’s new Speaker’s Bureau which seems like a great way to help out the community as well as share your knowledge about Latin America. Patricia Kent provides us with an update of her research project as well. Be sure to check out the reinstatement of LIMON Celebrates on page 11! If you have any news you’d like to share in future LIMON Celebrates sections, just shoot me an email. Finally, be sure to read the lighthearted restaurant review provided by Keira, Krista, Kira and Kellie. This issue of LIMON is a bit more student-oriented and the next may be as well. If you have anything less formal and less academic you might like to include in the next issue don’t hesitate in contacting me.

If you have any ideas for events that should be covered in LIMON, or you have a research project or an opinion piece that you would like published, let me know! I am hoping to find someone willing to cover some of the salsa dancing venues around town—if that is you, definitely drop me a line. Otherwise, I hope the semester is going well for everyone and that spring break comes soon. Good luck with your comps and have a great vacation!

Upcoming Events

April 6-9 Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS) 58th Annual Conference

The Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS) describes itself as the oldest Latin American academic organization in the world. As in years past, the 2011 58th RMCLAS Annual Conference will provide an opportunity for scholars and graduate students to share original research on Latin America. Panels and presentations generally span a wide spectrum of disciplines including, but not limited to, Anthropology, Archaeology, Art History, Cultural Studies, Economics, Environmental Studies, Ethnomusicology, Film Studies, Gender Studies, History, Linguistics, Literature, Political Science, and Sociology. All are welcome to attend.

Location: Hotel Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM
Sponsors: RMCLAS, LAII
Note: Conference registration is available on the RMCLAS website. Additionally, the LAII is offering a limited number of travel grants to support UNM faculty presentation at RMCLAS. For information regarding these travel grants, please visit the conferences page.

April 15 Poesía eres tú

Join the LAII and the Spanish Resource Center (Centro de Recursos de Albuquerque) in promoting appreciation of Spanish language poetry amongst primary school students. Students who compete successfully at their individual schools will be invited to join their peers to compete at a regional level. All competitions involve reciting from memory a Spanish language poem of the student's choice. Once años apoyando la poesía. Once años apoyando la lengua española.

Location: TBA
Sponsors: LAII, Embajada de España en Estados Unidos - Consejería de Educación, National Hispanic Cultural Center.
Note: Additional information is available on the website of the Spanish Resource Center (Centros de Recursos de Albuquerque).

April 18-19 Africans and their Descendants in the Early Modern Ibero-American World

Eight renowned scholars of Black Latin America from the disciplines of History, Geography, Art History, and Literary Studies will come together as part of this two-day, interdisciplinary conference. Made possible by a generous contribution from Dr. Richard E. Greenleaf, distinguished scholar of colonial Latin America, this conference will explore the following themes through panel presentations: (1) Differences and Meanings of Place among Africans and their Descendants in Ibero-America; (2) Migration, Settlement, and Memories among Africans and their Descendants in the Ibero Atlantic; (3) Blacks and the Politics of Corporate Identity in Ibero-America; and (4) The Social Production of Difference and Distance and the Lived Responses to Categorization within Black Ibero-America.

Location: UNM Student Union Building (SUB)
Sponsors: LAII
Note: Conference agenda and panel descriptions will be posted once available.
Eleanor Laughlin is the Spring 2011 Richard E. Greenleaf Visiting Scholar at the Latin American and Iberian Institute here at UNM. She sat down with LIMON to share her academic background and a bit about what she is doing here in Albuquerque. Eleanor wishes to thank the LAII and the Richard E. Greenleaf Visiting Scholar award for supporting her research here at the University of New Mexico. She can be reached at: elaughlin@ufl.edu

LIMON: So let’s start with a little bit of background – You study art history.

Eleanor Laughlin: Yes.

LIMON: Is that fair? I never really know, I’m confused by labels in the art world.

EL: Yeah that’s fair. (Laughs)

LIMON: Okay good. So it doesn’t look like you studied art for your entire academic career.

EL: I majored in Education and French as an undergrad, and then I went to Massachusetts and taught for several years. In the state of Massachusetts you have to have a master’s degree to teach, and I knew I didn’t want to get it in education, so because of my background in French I was able to justify art history and work that into cultural awareness portions of my classes.

LIMON: What grades did you teach?

EL: I taught all grades. They hired me first to fill a maternity leave and that was sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. And then they had me start an elementary school program where I saw the kids once a week. It was an introductory language course, fun with language, linking it to their curriculum. Then the district decided to start a French 1 program at the eighth grade level and asked me to work on that in their new middle school. So, I did. And then I ended up going back later and teaching high school for a couple of years while my fiancé was finishing up his degree. I’ve also taught Spanish, but that was while teaching French at elementary and middle school levels.

LIMON: So then you went to Florida. What did you do there?

EL: We moved there for my husband’s degree. I found a job in cultural resource management because I had this master’s degree in art and architectural history. Cultural resource management is basically trying to assure that when we are developing land, we aren’t destroying any previously existing cultures. So we had a team of archeologists and art historians, and our clients were like the DOT, or large development companies who buy up huge plots of land. We would go in and the archeologists would do test pits to make sure that there wasn’t evidence of pre-existing cultures there. They would check online with the state information to see if anyone had already identified any sites there, or done any digs in the area, and see what (if any) cultural resources were present. The architectural history component comes into play often when the DOT wants to move or widen a road and there are old houses in the way. These old houses may be falling down and lack continuity today, but with historic aerial photos and historic records you can see whether the neighborhood may have been an African
-American community that may have potential to be a historic district.

**LIMON:** Okay so that should bring us to your dissertation. And your dissertation is on photography in Mexico?

**EL:** Yeah, it’s about several mid-19th-century photographs, some by a French photographer who was working in Mexico during the French Intervention. I’m trying to look at both sides of the issue – Mexican and French - in terms of what inspired the French photographer to go, and what his background would have been in terms of exposure (pardon the term) to other images. What might have inspired his compositions or paths that he took in his career. And I’m also thinking about the way the Mexican people represented themselves, as well as Maximilian von Hapsburg, who was the emperor during the time period - how he chose to represent himself and how that reflects some of the difficulties of his regime.

**LIMON:** So how did you end up coming upon this particular photographer? And is this linked at all in terms of what you’re doing here?

**EL:** Yeah, this is what I’m researching here. How did I come upon François Aubert? Let me think.

**LIMON:** Was he a court photographer?

**EL:** He wasn’t the official photographer, but most of the images we have of the court were taken by him. And what’s interesting though is this guy, who is a Mexican photographer, Julio de Maria y Campos, who was the official court photographer. He worked in the same building as Francois Aubert, so we’re not sure what the relationship is there. But how did I come across him? I started looking into Edouard Manet, and his *Execution of Maximilian* and I had this theory that some of Manet’s other paintings that had been identified as being Spanish-themed, were actually focusing on Mexico, because it was during that time period, and because of the *Execution of Maximilian* demonstrated his interest in the topic, and I thought that some of his paintings that preceded it were related. And then as I was doing more research into other studies, I found out that there had been other people who already said that.

**LIMON:** Oh that’s rough! There goes dissertation idea number one.

**EL:** Exactly. So I kept kind of playing with the idea, and looking into the time period, and thinking about how I could use examples from both sides of the conflict because I like that idea of trying to bridge the gap between Western and Non-western art. In art history, Mexico and Latin America fall outside of the sphere of Western art. So I liked the idea of bridging that gap, and that in itself would be something new and different to offer the field. Photography just ended up being the most available media, I wanted to do painting, and I think there is enough there to do an article, but not enough to do a whole dissertation.

**LIMON:** Are you finding that there are few paintings, and they’re largely picked over?

**EL:** The thing is, there just wasn’t enough time. Maximilian was only in Mexico from 1864 to 1867, and paintings take so much time, so I think that’s part of it.

So while I’m here in Albuquerque, I’m looking at photographs from this time period, and the reason these are so important is that it is the first time that they had small format photographs, and it was also the first time that these photographs could be repro-
duced in great numbers. So it was a huge technology shift. Maximilian and Carlota used it to their advantage and played with the ideas of reproduction and representation and had their images sent out all over Mexico. They were widely collected. Here at UNM in the Center for Southwest Research, you have a collection of these tarjetas de visita (that’s what they were called) and I’m using those and looking at primary sources like newspapers from the time period and reading some of the personal recollections. There was a princess in the court who wrote in her diary about Maximilian’s execution, and there is a journal that Maximilian’s doctor kept for the last ten months of the emperor’s life. There’s actually an entire archive here dedicated to Maximilian and the French Intervention. That’s why I applied to come here – and I’m so grateful I was able to with the generous award from the Greenleaf Visiting Scholar fund.

LIMON: Is there anything else you want to put in about your academic goals?

EL: Ultimately I’d really like to teach at a university. But I wouldn’t be opposed to doing something to help make the transition from Gainsville, FL, which is where I live currently, because my husband is now engaged in all sorts of projects there. But in the future I’d like to teach in a university and continue my focus on 18th and 19th century Mexico and France – to keep looking at this trans-Atlantic dialog. I think that one of the reasons 19th-century Mexican art hasn’t been as explored by art historians is because most art historians are taught to look to Spain and Mexico – that’s the focus because of the long colonial period. But actually it was the Bourbon family (from French royalty) who was ruling Spain during the 18th Century. So there were a lot of ideals and regulations that were consistent in France and Spain and therefore affecting Mexico in the 18th Century. Then in certain parts of the 19th Century, Mexico was looking to France in terms of representation and sometimes governmental ideals, because of the enlightenment and the revolution.

LIMON: Okay, let’s switch gears and talk about Albuquerque. You got here a few weeks ago now?

EL: Yes, I got here a few weeks ago, just before the freeze-out.

LIMON: Have you gotten around to exploring anything in Albuquerque? And if not, is there anything you would like to see?

EL: I have not, sadly. I’ve mostly been working since I was able to leave my house (due to the cold). I would like to go to a bunch of the Pueblos, especially those with colonial churches. I understand there is a textile trail, and I’d really like to check that out. I understand the best burgers in the state are in San Antonio? The Green Chile burgers there?

LIMON: I have not heard that. That is a very contentious thing to say. Everyone seems to have the “best” green chile cheeseburger in New Mexico. The New Mexico Department of Tourism has a Green Chile Cheeseburger Trail, and one of them here in Albuquerque is very close to campus, Lucky Boy. It’s up on Constitution and Carlisle. Their Green Chile Cheeseburger is on the trail, and its only $2.35 or something, and it’s great.

Well thanks for the interview, Eleanor!

EL: No Problem. I’ll have to check out Lucky Boy.
Colleague Update: Patricia Kent

After relinquishing her post as SOLAS President and accepting a prestigious FLAS Award, Patty spent this past semester working on her thesis and learning Portuguese. LIMON checks in with her to see how her project is going and what exactly it is she is working on. A description of her thesis follows. Patricia can be reached at pkent@unm.edu. If you would like to share a project you are working on, please contact the editor.

My thesis seeks to understand the laws of expropriation relative to the empresas recuperadas por sus trabajadores, or worker recovered enterprises (ERTs), in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This social movement emerged during the collapse of the Argentine economy in 2001. As part of the larger social upheaval resulting from the failed economic liberalization efforts of various political leaders, the movement attempts to implement self-management of previously private enterprises through worker participation and ownership via the legal avenue of the ley de expropiación. By exploring the ley de expropiación, this paper will discuss issues surrounding property rights as well as the right to employment, as expressed within this ongoing social movement. It will partially fulfill requirements towards the dual master’s degree in Latin American Studies and Community & Regional Planning at the University of New Mexico. Drawing from conversations during the Second International Gathering on “The Workers’ Economy” titled “Work and Self-Management in Times of Global Crisis” held in Buenos Aires in August 2009 and interviews with the case study Metal Varela in July of 2010, this paper seeks to understand the ability of Metal Varela to implement the ley de expropiación in its favor. It will also examine Metal Varela’s capacity to fulfill the requirements of the law by contributing to the “public good.” This paper provides new insight into legal avenues available for social movements and takes into consideration the concept of “the right to employment” inherently crucial to the discussion of inequality in Latin America.
RMCLAS 2011 Annual Conference

The 58th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Wednesday, April 6 through Saturday, April 9, 2011. The RMCLAS Annual Conference provides an opportunity for scholars and graduate students to share original research on Latin America.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (RMCLAS) is the oldest Latin American academic organization in the world. Formation of the organization began in 1953 at the University of New Mexico (UNM) and the first annual meeting was held in 1954. Other regional organizations soon followed RMCLAS’ lead and the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) which sprang from the regionals, was not organized until the 1960s. Theo Crevenna, University of New Mexico, was one of the founding members of RMCLAS.

UNM is sending roughly forty of our peers to the RMCLAS conference in Santa Fe. They are presenting their work in a variety of different disciplines. Come support your colleagues! The Conference will be held at the Hotel Santa Fe, registration starts on Wednesday. Stay tuned to the SOLAS list-serv for possible ride information and/or SOLAS gatherings in Santa Fe!

We will send information regarding transportation to Santa Fe, local accommodations, and local tourist activities soon.

CHANGE: Given that it helps significantly to know numbers in advance, RMCLAS will provide a discount for faculty who register and send the conference fee by March 15, 2011.

Interested in practicing your Portuguese?!
The Brazil Club holds weekly conversation suites (bate-papo) on the third floor lounge of Ortega, Monday from 3-4.

IN ADVANCE (by March 15, 2011) conference registration fee: $60 faculty, $25 graduate students.
PAY AT CONFERENCE registration fee: $85 faculty, $25 graduate students.

More information will be posted at the RMCLAS website (www.rmclas.org) as it becomes available. There is no registration fee for participants from Latin America.
The Latin American and Iberian Institute is currently assembling a database of potential speakers to be available for engagements in K-12 classrooms, community organizations, and other interested groups in the Albuquerque area.

Through the Speakers’ Bureau, UNM students have the opportunity to engage and connect with their wider community. So many undergraduate and graduate students provide a wealth of knowledge about Latin America to the campus. Through the Speakers’ Bureau, these students can share their knowledge and passion outside the realm of the University. In return, students benefit from receiving additional experience and enthusiasm from community members.

From 2007-2009, I planted trees on family farms as an Agroforestry Extensionist for the Peace Corps in Paraguay, South America. All Peace Corps Volunteers, after completing their service and returning to the United States, are called “RPCVs” or “Returned Peace Corps Volunteers” for the rest of their lives. This is because the mission of the Peace Corps is not just to provide host countries with trained men and women, but also to promote a better understanding of other cultures on the part of U.S. Americans. It is a lifelong responsibility of RPCVs to facilitate cultural understanding and tolerance with their fellow U.S. Americans.

At UNM, we have a similar responsibility to our community. Public universities are not intended to operate within a bubble, but to fulfill three functions: teaching, research, and community outreach. We are fortunate to have acquired travel, research, and academic experience and ought to share these experiences with others.

If you are an undergraduate or graduate student interested in sharing your Latin American research, knowledge, and/or travel experience with the Albuquerque community or would like to host a speaker at a school or other community venue, please contact Kathryn Peters at katy.peters@gmail.com.
with Kira Luna, who approached The Guava Tree as an old pro, having already eaten there once. Despite Kira’s strong recommendation of the Cuban Sandwich I opted for dishes with more of a Northern South America feel – a cup of the ajiaco stew and an arepa pabellón. I was happy to see that Keira and Ashley both also opted to “be good eaters” and order a cup of the ajiaco in addition to the rest of the meal. The ajiaco was much heartier than I expected, being full of shredded chicken, potatoes, and a “nugget” of corn (as was described by one of the other dinner guests.) Although I was perplexed at how to eat this “nugget” of corn, Ashley shed light on the situation by picking the corn chunk out of the soup and eating it with her hand – absolute genius!!! Krista also introduced us all to a “unique” use of the fork, as is best demonstrated by the photo of beans and rice accompanying this story. Thank goodness Kira corrected her with a quick, “Yo, why you forkin’ it like that?!” before any food mishaps could occur. Our second course included a round of sandwiches and oh-so-tasty arepas. Krista and I both opted for the arepa pabellón, a thick slice of soft cornmeal dough toasted on each side and stuffed with shredded beef, black beans, fried plantains, and cheese. The Guava Tree website promotes the arepa as being like a sloppy joe; were they ever right! The arepa pabellón was delicious, although I did walk out of the café with some of it on my shirt.

Overall I’d say that Guava Tree is a delightful little place, or, to use the words of the charming Kira Luna, it is a great “lil’ treat”. It’s cheerful, bright décor yet calm ambience make it an ideal place to get a small meal while studying, and the staff are incredibly kind and accommodating.

-Kellie Baker

I feel I have nothing really to add, except that the plantains were off the charts, and that the cornmeal thing (arepa) was like a gordita (don’t think taco bell here, think Mexican breakfast).

-Krista Foutz
LIMON Celebrates!

Congratulations to MALAS student Laura Schlabach on her marriage to Allan Gomez! The two were married on November 21st 2010. Friend of SOLAS, Andy Gingerich, married the two after being ordained as a Dude-ist priest by the Church of the Latter Day Dude. We wish them all the best, and that they may continue to abide.

Felicidades to Krista Foutz and Ben Savoca on their engagement! Ben works for an Architecture Research firm and serves as a Board Member for the bicycling advocacy group, BikeABQ. Krista is currently in her second year of the MALAS/MBA program and is a roadrunner enthusiast. The couple got engaged on November 15, 2010 and plan to get married here in Albuquerque this fall.
The Student Organization for Latin American Studies is an organization that promotes social, political, and cultural issues pertaining to Latin America in scholarship, in activism, on the UNM campus and in the broader community. For further information contact SOLAS president Kellie Baker at solas@unm.edu

SOLAS SNAPSHOTS

Solistas eagerly await their ride to happy hour after hard work at Enlace

Keith signs in to a Brown Bag lecture. Is he excited for the refreshments or the lecture?

After the conversation group on El Auto, Adam tacks up a flyer for his birthday rave

Alex and Elizabeth hard at work on the legislative campaign at Enlace

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LIMON welcomes IDEAS, News, PICTURES, Article Submissions, Art, POLITICAL OPINIONS, POETRY, and the like regarding Latin America!