

2010-2011

LATINO MIGRATION PROJECT

The Latino Migration Project coordinates and develops teaching, research, and program initiatives relating to Latin American communities in North Carolina.

The LMP is a program of the Institute for the Study of the Americas in collaboration with the Center for Global Initiatives, located in the FedEx Global Education Center at 301 Pittsboro St, Chapel Hill, NC

<http://isa.unc.edu/migration/main.asp>

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Our summer in Guanajuato	1
Guanajuato leaders visit UNC-CH	1
A History	2
Ethnographies in action	2
Where we work: three communities in detail	3
Border notes	4
Alumni News	5
LMP receives award	6

Our Summer in Guanajuato: A Report from the Field

Kaylee Baker '12

Homemade tortillas, dirt roads, screaming donkeys, mountainous views and Spanish-speaking friends—we were not in Chapel Hill anymore. Guanajuato, Mexico would be our home for the next forty-three days. Together we were nine adventurous Tar Heels, united in Irapuato, the base-city for our internships with la Fundación Comunitaria del Bajío. Staying with host families,

we worked daily to accomplish the foundation's goal of creating stable, unified communities in which the residents were not forced to view migration as their only option for making a living or providing for their families.

In three different communities, Trancas, El Gusano, and Tamaula, students joined hard-working and warm-hearted families

to teach English and math in high schools, research sources of drinking water, correct government-created textbooks, attend community meetings, develop a town-census, play daily soccer games, and build strong relationships with new friends.

Students from Iberoamericana, a university in Mexico City, joined *(continued on p. 3)*



From left to right: Amelia Moore, Clay Vickers, Colleen Cook, Kaylee Baker, Ana Laura Medrano, Jacob Newbauer, Caroline Wood, Kimzey Ellis, and Marissa Garcia.

Guanajuato leaders visit UNC-CH

We were delighted to host a number of honored Mexican guests in North Carolina last spring. Liliana Lizett Llanas from the Universidad de Guanajuato and Adriana Cortés Jiménez, director of the Fundación Comunitaria del Bajío, accompanied students Enrique Gasca, Karina Romero, and Miguel Moreno from the

Universidad Iberoamericana. Juan Carlos López Rodríguez, former Secretary of Social and Human Development of the State of Guanajuato, also visited and gave a keynote speech at the conference, Latin American Migration: Transnational Perspectives, Regional Realities,

March 26-27, 2010. His talk focused on collaborative efforts of Mexican civil society organizations and state governments to bolster local economies and create educational opportunities in communities with high rates of emigration to the United States.

A History of Project Guanajuato and APPLES Global Course Guanajuato

It all started with a 52 hour bus ride from Carrboro to Guanajuato. Sarah Plastino ('07) and Hannah Gill traveled to Mexico in the summer of 2006, where Sarah would later meet Adriana Cortes Jiménez, director of the Fundación Comunitaria del Bajío. Plastino had taken a course on migration taught by Gill, and realized the value of adding an international travel component to the course so that students could understand the impacts of migration in sending communities. With the help of the APPLES Service Learning Program, INTS 390 became APPLES Global Course Guanajuato.

During the first spring course trip to Mexico, students saw first-hand how people live in these rural villages, where family separation from migration presents a number of financial and educational challenges for community residents. It was through these interactions that Carlos Toriello ('07), a Guatemalan native, was motivated to support the Foundation's

community development efforts, which focus on youth leadership and micro-credit enterprise programs. Working with Nourish International, an organization that sends students around the world to help eradicate poverty by empowering communities, Toriello secured a \$15,000 fund for UNC students to create a community center in El Gusano, a rural community in Guanajuato. Trip leaders, Sandra Hinderliter ('09) and Tatiana Brezina ('11) recruited a team of 6 students to spend June in El Gusano, working with residents to complete community needs assessments, and teach English and recreation classes at the local school. Project Guanajuato was born. In 2008, Shaw Drake ('10), Ian Smith Overman ('09) and Brittany Peterson ('11) continued work, followed by a 2009 team led by Caroline Wood ('11) and Jacob Newbauer ('11)

This summer, Project Guanajuato

will be celebrating its fourth year of operation. Thanks to the hard work of student interns, community members, and staff of the FCB, the project has expanded to two other communities, Trancas and Tamaula. We are pleased to announce that a grant from the Mellon Foundation will establish a six-month internship for a graduating UNC senior to serve as a liaison between the Foundation, local community residents and UNC students.

Help send Guanajuato students to school

PG 2010 Alumni are fund-raising to send a university and high school student to school for all three years. High school is \$900/year, university is \$1200/yr.

Donate ! Send checks payable to Project Guanajuato Scholarship Fund, Institute for the Study of the Americas, FedEx Global Education Center, 301 Pittsboro St, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3205

Ethnographies in action: The LMP inaugurates oral history archive

In January 2011, The Latino Migration Project and the Southern Oral History Program will inaugurate a new collection of oral histories documenting the integration of Latinos in North Carolina. Students from APPLES Global Course Guanajuato, INTS 390, have recorded and transcribed 50 interviews with Latinos in North Carolina on a variety of subjects. Students connect to Latino communities by volunteering in organizations that provide services to migrants in Orange County. The collection will continue to grow as The Latino Migration Project provides students with training in ethnographic methods. The interviews are archived in Wilson Library and will be available online.



Photo: Public speaker in a Guanajuato community. by Brittany Peterson.

Our summer in Guanajuato (continued from p.1)

us in our communities, contributing perspectives on how to successfully fulfill the foundation's goals. They, along with students from Guanajuato University, MIT and Pennsylvania State University, accompanied us on a journey through Michoacán, a state south of Guanajuato. Adriana Cortés Jiménez was our tour guide as we experienced mask, copper, and basket-weaving institutes owned by people she has close relationships with; people who live in pueblos in which she hopes to



Marissa Garcia with students in Trancas

expand the work of FCB.

Tears, hugs, besos and sadness filled our last days in the communities; although we left our newfound families and second homes in Mexico, we brought back an understanding of rural Mexico, a new perspective on immigration issues and life lessons we could not wait to share with our friends and family.



Where we work: three Guanajuato communities in detail

El Gusano

After four years of work in El Gusano, UNC students have built lasting relationships with community residents. It was here that the UNC students helped build a community center in 2008. Today, the center, which has a small library, more than a dozen computers, film screening equipment, and a recreational area, is operated year-round by community residents. This summer, Jake Newbauer and Ana Laura Medrano, along with junior Kaylee Baker resided with families in El Gusano. "We woke up to eggs, beans, chili sauce, and tortillas before walking to Capulín, a neighboring ranch, to teach math, motivation and English classes in the secondary school. We spent our evenings playing sports, conversing and showing movies to the kids at the community center," said Baker.

Trancas

Trancas is a small community located outside the city of Dolores Hidalgo, seat of the Mexican independence. Project Guanajuato participants Amelia Moore, Marissa Garcia and Kimsey Ellis worked on a daily basis with local schools, teaching English and recreational classes to young chil-

dren. While reflecting on her trip to Trancas, Marissa Garcia remembers that while most of the day was spent teaching, she was still able to get to know the children through soccer tournaments and additional time spent with their families. They would have bonfires during the nights, and by the end of her stay, Garcia said she was sad to leave the strong relationships she had formed with the families. Her group's departure was marked by not only one, but two celebrations planned by the students' grateful parents. "Our going-away parties were filled with happiness but also sadness. I hope that I will be able to return to Trancas soon to be reunited with all the children once again," says Garcia.



Tamaula

Tamaula is a small community of several hundred people located in an arid, hilly area in Guanajuato. Caroline Wood, Colleen Cook, and Clay Vickers taught English classes to children of different age levels in June of 2010. Classes were held on a daily basis for about an hour and were planned with Mirasol Navarrete and other teachers working at the telesecundaria, a middle school with classes available through video.

Clay Vickers also researched community access to sustainable, clean water, which has been a challenge for the community since it was founded in 1971. He interviewed residents, geologists and NGO employees about water access and domestic water consumption, conducted fecal coliform bacteria tests to determine water quality, and worked with youth to make well repairs and improvements. He created a report for US student groups, foundations in the US and Mexico, and other Mexican NGOs in order to solicit funds for improving water infrastructure in Tamaula (available at www.tinyurl.com/waterintamaula).

Photo: Clay Vickers paints a water cistern in Tamaula.



UNC Students hosted Mexican students from the Universidad Iberoamericana in March of 2010



Juan Carlos López Rodríguez, Enrique Gasca, Karina Romero, Adriana Cortés Jiménez, and Miguel Moreno visit UNC Chapel Hill from Guanajuato, Mexico to attend a conference of the Latino Migration Project.

Border Notes

Shaw Drake



Shaw Drake ('10) was the 2010 recipient of the Americas Leadership Award and former trip leader of Project Guanajuato. This summer he worked for No More Deaths, the multi-faith agency giving humanitarian aid to people crossing the Arizona-Mexico border. This article appeared in the News & Record Newspaper on June 20, 2010.

We are now in the middle of the hottest and most deadly season in the Sonora Desert in southern Arizona.

Human remains recovered along the Arizona border are already up 20 percent over last

year and June, July and August are historically the most deadly months of the year. Just last weekend, three sets of human remains were recovered, all within the area in which No More Deaths works.

So, it seems we continue to lose our constant battle with the deadly conditions of the desert.

Like Wednesday.

I awoke with the rising sun, loaded a camp vehicle up with 90 gallons of water and grabbed a few volunteers. Together, we started our day-long schedule of water drops and patrols.

We headed south in our 4-wheel-drive vehicle, cutting off a paved road and rumbling into the vast, brutal desert.

She is not kind to any visitors, the Sonora Desert. She thrashed our truck side to side as we attempted to venture farther into her depths. Already, with the temperature hitting 100 degrees, we battled the road as we worked our way toward our water drops.

The week before, we had left 27 gallons at one particular water drop. Already, they were gone. So on Wednesday, we left 30 gallons -- and expected to leave more next week -- because we realized this drop was an obvious resting point

for migrant groups.

All we had to do was look around.

The area was covered in used water bottles, empty backpacks and tattered clothing. A pair of jeans lay draped across a bolder. I picked them up and noticed they belonged possibly to a young woman. My mind raced.

I wondered who she was and where she was without her pair of jeans. So I began to search.

As I walked down each trail, flies buzzed around my head. I frequently stopped -- and listened -- because I didn't want to mistake the noise of the bugs for possible cries for help. Nothing. Except flies.

But I wasn't tired. I wanted to look around each corner, under each bush, into every crevice because I knew there could be someone lost in the desert, clinging to life.

On Wednesday, we found one: Jose. We found him sitting on the side of the road waving his white T-shirt in surrender. We pulled over and gave him food and water.

He told us he had been lost for two days without food and only small amount of water. When we handed him a bag of food, he took

a few things. Then, he handed the bag back.

"I don't need all this, give it to someone else," he told us. "Others need it more than I do."

He said he is trying to get back to his family in Alabama. But he had fallen and hurt his knee and was left behind by his group.

He asked us to call the Border Patrol. We did, and we watched Jose get picked up and returned to Mexico.

But before the Border Patrol arrived, he told us he saw two women lost in the desert some miles back. But he didn't know exactly where.

We back-tracked and hiked some of the trails in the area, but we didn't find anyone. Afterward, like I did with the discovery of the pair of jeans, my mind raced. I wondered if these two women were found by the Border Patrol, or if they died together in the desert.

Like so many others.

I didn't know. But what I do know is that they need my help. So, I keep walking.

Alumni News

Class of 2007

Pedro Carreño, Lindsay Mirchin, and Angie Brice work for Teach for America. Brice has become the Teach for America Recruitment Director and Carreño teaches in New York City. Mirchin taught 6-8th grade Spanish for a two year term with Teach for America in Charlotte and is now in the New York University School Building Leaders Program, earning her Master's Degree in Urban Education Administration with a focus on bilingual education for first and second generation Latino immigrants. **Sarah Plastino** is completing Georgetown Law School and **Veronica Wu** is working at the California's Employment Development Department as a bilingual Spanish-English Interviewer. Other alumni have pursued international endeavors including **Carlos Toriello**, who is currently in Belize City, Belize serving at Population Services International and **Molly Campbell**, who has started a special education program at a school in Trieste, Italy. **Atif Mohiuddin** attends medical school at George Washington University. **Linda Quiquivix** is conducting graduate field research in the West Bank in Bethlehem.

Class of 2008

Rosanne Niforos is an AmeriCorps Representative with the YMCA Literacy Initiative in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. **Tessa Bi-alek** completed a year with AmeriCorps VISTA and started Yale Law School this fall, focusing on international human rights and criminal law. **Elena Borisoff** is in Albuquerque, New Mexico with the Cesar E. Chavez Fellowship program, which links the Latino community in the southwestern US to affordable housing. **Ian Smith-Overman** is currently teaching in Durham with the Student U program and has prospects of entering a teaching program in the fall of 2011 to obtain his Master's Degree. **Sandra Hinderliter** is working with Teach for America and is serving as a kindergarten teacher in Miami. **Carolina Cerruto** is the account management intern at McCann Erickson in New York. **Jessica Zaleon** works as communications support in the Durham Chapel Hill Jewish Federation. **Shaw Drake** spent his summer in Arizona working for No More Deaths. **Tatiana Brezina** worked this summer for Wilderness adventure at Eagle Landing, an outdoor adventure company. Tatiana is the teaching assistant for APPLES Global Course Guanajuato 2011. **Mike Mian** is completing his senior year at UNC and majoring in Political Science and Entrepreneurship.

Class of 2009

Sander Buitelaar has returned to the Netherlands to attend graduate school in business in Rotterdam. **Lisa Vogel** is in medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and **Marleny Ruiz** is currently studying for the LSATs with hopes of attending law school in the near future. **Parul Sangwan** has been involved with Teach for America in Jacksonville, Florida, and **Sara Wilkins** is teaching in the Dominican Republic. **Alice Wang** worked with USAID this summer in Phnom Penh as a lab manager to test different drinking water filters for microbial reduction. Wang is currently attending the UNC School of Public Health Masters Program. **Jake Newbauer** and **Becky Agostino** will be graduating in 2011. **Josh Ford** will graduate in 2012.



APPLES Global Course Guanajuato Class of 2010

LMP receives award from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

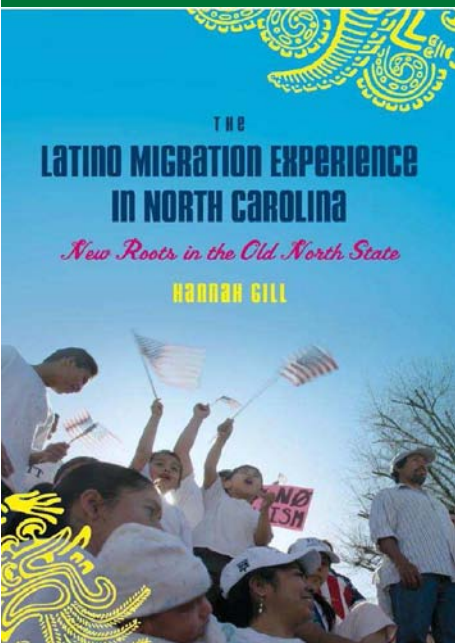
In November 2010, the Latino Migration Project and the UNC School of Government were awarded a grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to create and implement comprehensive community integration plans with city governments and immigrant leaders in North Carolina over the next three years. North Carolina has assumed national relevance in immigration debates due to its status as a state with one of the fastest growing immigrant populations, as well as its participation in local immigration enforcement programs.

This project, which builds from lessons learned during two years of organizing immigration forums with public audiences and policy makers throughout the state, will address systemic barriers to integration, which include the lack of

language-accessible information about laws/regulations and the absence of immigrants and minorities in local and state decision-making processes. Longer-term integration strategies will ultimately bolster economies, improve public safety, and foster respect for human rights and social equity. City governments may apply to be considered as a pilot location through an RFP process made available in January 2011 at <http://isa.unc.edu/migration/main.asp>.

To join our listserv and receive weekly announcements about events, jobs, and funding opportunities, please email kobando@email.unc.edu

Julia Alvarez weighs in on the book, *New Roots in the Old North State*



Latinos are no longer just visitors to the state but are part of the inevitably changing, long-term makeup of North Carolina's population. Today, emerging migrant communities and the integration of Latino populations remain salient issues as the U.S. Congress stands on the verge of formulating comprehensive immigration reform for the first time in nearly three decades. This new book explores the larger social forces behind demographic shifts to show both how North Carolina communities are facing the challenges and opportunities presented by demographic changes and how migrants experience the economic and social realities of their new lives. Julia Alvarez, award-winning author of *Return to Sender* and *In the Time of the Butterflies*, recently commented:

"In this thoughtful, well-researched, and vital book, Hannah Gill humanizes the abstract, politicized issue of immigration, its impact, and how the United States handles it. Although focused on North Carolina, this book could be about any state in the Union and is an important resource to understanding how immigration connects us ever more tightly as a global family. Gill's scholarship is the best kind--informing the mind *and* the heart and, therefore, making us more informed communicators, thoughtful citizens, and compassionate human beings." Order the book at <http://uncpress.unc.edu/>.

1000 The number of hours of public service that UNC-CH students have completed with immigrant organizations since 2006 while participating in APPLS Global Course Guanajuato.

2,500 The number of people who have attended LMP events since 2008.

72 The number of UNC-CH students who have traveled to Guanajuato with LMP programs since 2005.

\$50,000 The amount of funding that UNC-CH students have been awarded for summer research or community development projects with Project Guanajuato since 2006.

\$100,000 The amount of funding that the LMP has received from external sources since 2008.