The Midwest Association for Latin American Studies (MALAS) will hold its 61st annual conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman, Oklahoma, November 17-19, 2011. The University of Oklahoma (OU) is the host institution, and OU’s College of International Studies (CIS) and OU’s Latin American Studies Program are key supporters of MALAS in planning and staging of the event. The Conference will be held in the conference facilities of the new Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman, OK.

The theme for the 2011 MALAS Conference is “Latin American Development and Peace Corps.” This theme was chosen in large part because 2011 is the 50th anniversary of the founding by President John F. Kennedy and by the U.S. Congress of the U.S. Peace Corps. The MALAS Conference will, as in the past, provide opportunity for professors, graduate students and undergraduates to present papers in many fields of Latin American Studies,
and thus hone their academic/professional skills in this essential area. There will also be sessions to assist attendees to improve other professional skills and to learn of career opportunities. For example, in one session Jay Dew, an Editor of the University of Oklahoma Press is scheduled to present information about “publishing with a university press,” a matter of vital importance to academics. A session is planned for the U.S. Department of State Diplomat-in-Residence at OU to discuss careers in the U.S. Foreign Service; and another session is planned for a Peace Corps Representative to discuss how to join and serve as a Volunteer in today’s Peace Corps.

Friday afternoon of the MALAS Conference program will be dedicated almost solely to the Peace Corps and its fifty years of work in Latin America. A panel of Peace Corps Volunteers and staff who served in Latin America during the early years of the Peace Corps will discuss Peace Corps’ beginnings and their experiences in terms of their work; and a second panel, constituted by recently returned Peace Corps volunteers, will share their experiences and views on the Peace Corps’ effectiveness and contributions today. The Friday luncheon address will also touch on the Peace Corps as well as other aspects of Latin American development and U.S. - Latin America relations.

The keynote speaker for the 2011 MALAS conference and speaker of the Friday luncheon is Professor David Scott Palmer of Boston University. Dr. Palmer is the author of five books and 40 articles and chapters on Latin America’s politics, democracy and military. Dr. Palmer served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ayacucho, Peru at the University of San Cristóbal de Huamanga from 1962-64, where Abimael Guzmán was also a professor. Guzmán founded the Sendero Luminoso guerrilla forces that later seriously threatened the Peruvian state during the 1980-90 period.

**A Brief Description of MALAS**

The Midwest Association for Latin American Studies (MALAS) was organized to foster an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach to education and research on Latin America.

The Association purposes are:

(a) To stimulate public interest in and understanding of the area of Latin America;
(b) To promote the study of the area in institutions of education;
(c) To encourage research in the area by scholars of all disciplines;
(d) To serve as a forum for the exchanges and dissemination of information relative to the area; and
(e) To cooperate with the Latin American Studies Association and regional associations, the Organization of American States, and institutions and individuals within Latin America and elsewhere, for the achievement of these purposes.

To accomplish these objectives, MALAS organizes national and international conferences that address the myriad themes reflected in the diverse interests of the membership. It publishes a regular Newsletter (MALAS Noticias) and operates an electronic listserv MALASnet.
MALAS welcomes the participation of social and natural scientists, artists, and humanists from all disciplines at its meetings and in its publications. MALAS also presents several awards each year to recognize outstanding student and faculty research papers presented at the annual MALAS conference.

Call for Papers

The Midwest Association for Latin American Studies and the College of International Studies, University of Oklahoma welcome you to the 61st annual conference:

“Latin American Development and Peace Corps”

Where: Oklahoma City, OK  
Location: Embassy Suites Norman – Hotel and Conference Center  
Phone: 1-405-364-8040  
When: November 17 – 19, 2011

MALAS Call for Paper 2011

Deadline: October 1, 2011

Please send by email title of paper, 150-word abstract and contact information (name, affiliation, address, phone and email) to

PaperMALAS2011@gmail.com
2011 CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Conference Organizing Committee

Edwin G. Corr, Consultant (Formerly with University of Oklahoma)
   Norman, Oklahoma
Guillermo A. Rodríguez, International Projects and Office of Study Abroad
   Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri
Jaime Torres, International Education Consultant
   ERIBEC & Associates, O’Fallon, Illinois
Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres, Dean of Undergraduate Education,
   Professor – Political Economy and Economics
   University of Texas at Dallas

Program Committee and Organizing of Paper Sessions

Jennifer S. Holmes, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences
   The University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, Texas
Orlando J. Pérez, Department of Political Science
   Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan

Program Booklet Committee

Guillermo A. Rodríguez, International Projects and Office of Study Abroad
   Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri

Registrations Committee

Jaime Torres, ERIBEC & Associates, O’Fallon, Illinois
   MALAS Treasurer

Guest Speakers and Visiting Scholars Committee

Edwin G. Corr, Consultant (Formerly with University of Oklahoma)
   Norman, Oklahoma
Richard (Dick) Millett, Department of History
   Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville, Edwardsville, Illinois

Local Lodging and Logistical Arrangements Committee
Pre Registration

Latin American Development & Peace Corps

NAME __________________________________________ INSTITUTION __________________________________________

ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________________________________

CITY __________________________ STATE ______ ZIP __________________________

PHONE __________________________ EMAIL ____________________________________________________________

Kindly submit registration by October 1, 2011

Please pre-register me for the following (mark one):

CONFERENCE FEES

___ Only Peace Corps afternoon event on Friday, November 18th (includes luncheon): Registration $50
___ U.S. based professional/MALAS member: Pre-registration $120 (on-site: $135)
___ U.S. based professional/non- member: Pre-registration $135* (on-site: $150)*
    *includes one year membership
___ Non-presenting significant other of registered participant: Pre-registration $75 (on-site $85)
DISCOUNTED CONFERENCE FEES

___ Student: Pre-registration $50 (on-site $60)
___ Latin American nationals coming from abroad: $60

Send this registration form and registration fee payable to MALAS to:
PO BOX 78206, St. Louis, MO 63178
For additional information, please contact Jaime Torres at sonmelao@yahoo.com

Conference Headquarter Hotel:

Embassy Suites – Norman Hotel & Conference Center
Phone: 1-405-364-8040
Reserve rooms by October 15, 2011
Request the group rate for MALAS
(Group Code MALAS)