Latin American Faculty Speak Out on ¡HOLA! USA

In the fall semester, IU Bloomington faculty members of the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS) and colleagues associated with the center received national coverage in speaking about their work. They were featured on the nationally syndicated cable television show, ¡HOLA! USA, which targets an audience of over one million English-speaking Hispanics throughout the United States.

The popular show, which originates out of Indianapolis, is hosted and produced by Carmen Hansen Rivera, who also serves as president of the Indiana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Rivera's production team came to the Bloomington campus to film the IU participants at the offices of IU's International Resource Center, which made all the arrangements for the tapings.

Featured in September was archaeologist Anne Pyburn discussing exciting new findings in her on-going excavations of Maya tombs in Belize. Pyburn is also director of the Center for Archaeology for the Public Interest, which promotes a community-oriented ethos in archaeology. Geoffrey Conrad, professor of anthropology and director of IU's Mathers Museum of World Cultures, discussed aspects of IU's archaeological team effort in uncovering a unique underwater site inhabited by pre-Columbian Taino Indians in the Dominican Republic.

Rivera also interviewed Arlene Diaz, professor of history, who specializes in gender relations and law in Venezuela, and Gordon Brotherston, professor of Spanish and Portuguese, who discussed his work on Nahuatl poetry of Mexico. Others who appeared were Jeffrey Gould, director of the Latin American & Caribbean Studies Center, who spoke of the center's goals and activities; Milagros Sanchez de la Blanca, director of the Spanish Resource Center, a major educational outreach center for teachers of Spanish established at IU by the Spanish government; and Carmen Tellez, director of the Latin American Music Center.

In October, the ¡HOLA! USA team returned for two more shows. The first focused on Tellez's Latin American Music Center and the many activities and workshops sponsored by her center. Also joining her were center coordinator Girardo Dirie and Andrew Lazaro, director of the Latin American Popular Music Ensemble, for a discussion of the historical and current influences of Latin American music in the United States.

The second show featured undergraduate and graduate American Hispanic students from IUB's student organization, Latinos Unidos. The students spoke of their experience as minorities on a major university campus and discussed issues that were important to them such as stereotypes and career planning.

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