



September 2, 2014

Dear LACIS colleagues and friends,

A hearty *¡bienvenida!/bem-vinda!* to the 2014-15 academic year from all of us at LACIS. We hope you've enjoyed a pleasant summer and are looking forward to two productive and peaceful semesters.

LACIS continues to be strong thanks to you, the members of our community, and to the dedicated labor of the enthusiastic individuals who make up our staff: Alberto Vargas, Sarah Ripp, Angela Buongiorno, and Darcy Little.

We have an exciting lineup of activities for this year--from the Tuesday luncheon series to an exhibit on Cuban photography in spring 2015 at the Chazen Museum of Art, organized by Professor Guillermina de Ferrari (Spanish and Portuguese), with the collaboration of the Center for Visual Cultures, the Department of Art, and the Museum. These activities and many others are supported by the current Title VI grant of the federal Department of Education, the College of Letters & Science, the Division of International Studies, and the Tinker Nave Committee. We thank them all for their continued generosity.

You will soon read in an email from Sarah that LACIS has a new website. Sarah and Mary Pyne, our former outreach assistant, thoroughly revised the content of the old one and, with the invaluable help of Ryan Engel (L&S Learning and Support Services) and Derek Tessman (Division of International Studies) gave it new capabilities. An informational email from Sarah will appear in your inboxes soon, outlining all the new features of the website and listing all you can now do online that you couldn't before.

Thanks to the generosity of the Tinker Foundation, we continue to bring visiting professors of the highest caliber. In the fall, the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology is hosting sociologist Gerardo Otero (Simon Fraser University, Canada), a UW Ph.D. who specializes on food, neoliberal globalism, and biotechnology in Latin America. He'll be teaching an Interdepartmental 982 seminar on "Food Politics and the Rise of the Left in Latin America." In the spring, we are expecting the visits of professors Virginia Zavala (School of Education) and Victor Vich Flores (Spanish and Portuguese), both from the Pontificia Universidad Católica of Lima, Peru.

In June, we submitted our new federal Title VI National Resource Center application. Alberto and the office staff did a terrific job of explaining all the good that comes from LACIS and how much better we hope to do in the future. Our counterparts at UW-Milwaukee were terrific partners in every sense. We remain optimistic that the Department of Education will continue to support our consortium for another four years. I will share with you the results some time in the coming few weeks.

*Feliz semestre de otoño/semestre de outono feliz,*

Franco