

OHIO to Celebrate 40 Years of Latin American Studies

Program will host 9th Ohio Latin Americanist Conference in February

By Christina Stanek

ATHENS, Ohio (January 22, 2010) -- Ohio University's Latin American Studies program, housed within the Center for International Studies, is pleased to host the 9th annual Ohio Latin Americanist Conference February 26-27, 2010 in Bentley Hall.

"Modern Latin America: The Blurring of Ideological Platforms" will include a keynote presentation by Sarah Stephens, Director of the Center for Democracy in Americas, paper presentations by faculty, students and other experts in the field, and a Latin concert and dance night.

Stephens, a well-known advocate for change in U.S. policy toward Cuba, started the Freedom to Travel program in 2001, working to lift the ban on U.S. travel to Cuba. She has led delegations of U.S. policymakers, academics, experts, and philanthropists to Chile, Cuba, and Venezuela on fact-finding and research missions relating to U.S. foreign policy. Her work has been supported by the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Arca Foundation, and the Christopher Reynolds Foundation, among others.

Son del Caribe, an Ohio-based salsa band, will conclude the conference with a concert and Latin dance night on Saturday, February 27 at 9pm in Bromley Hall. The band is led by Jaime Morales, music professor at Miami University and experienced salsa musician from Puerto Rico, who has played with salsa greats such as Eddie Palmieri and Gilberto Santa Rosa.

This conference marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Latin American Studies program at Ohio University. An alumni reception will be held in conjunction with the conference.

Proposals for papers, workshops, and panels will be accepted through February 1.

For more information, to submit a proposal, or to access online registration, please visit the Latin American Studies website at <http://www.las.ohio.edu/>.