



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

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**CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

PO Box 115530  
Gainesville, FL 32611-5530  
Phone (352) 392-0375  
Fax (352) 392-7682  
Email: [deere@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:deere@latam.ufl.edu)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Dr. Helen Safa Endows Graduate Student Travel Fund**

Dr. Helen I. Safa, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Latin American Studies, has made a gift of \$50,000 to the UF Center for Latin American Studies to create the Safa Graduate Student Travel Endowment fund. Income from the fund will provide travel grants for UF graduate students affiliated with the Center to present papers at the international congresses of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), the largest international association of professional Latinamericanists.

Dr. Safa was Director of the UF Center for Latin American Studies from 1980-85, and President of LASA from 1983-84. At the event recognizing her gift on January 29, 2007, she said she had been thinking of giving an endowment for some time and knew it had to benefit both the Center and LASA. "I have not missed a LASA Congress since I started going in the 1970s, when I was first elected to the Executive Council. During this time LASA has grown in membership to 6,000, nearly half of whom are Latin Americans, and has become a vital source of exchange, friendship and knowledge."

The Center for Latin American Studies plans to hold the first travel competition for students presenting papers at the September 2007 LASA congress in Montreal.

Contact:

Dr. Carmen Diana Deere  
Director, Center for Latin American Studies

(352) 392-0375 x 801