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## UF EMERITUS PROFESSOR AWARDED HIGHEST HONOR OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Helen I. Safa, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, was presented the Kalman Silvert award of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) at its recent Congress, September 5-8, 2007, in Montreal. The Silvert award recognizes senior scholars who have made distinguished lifetime contributions to the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. The prize is named after the first president of the 5,700- member association.

Dr. Safa was President of LASA from 1983-85, and has continued to serve the association in several capacities. She joined the faculty of the University of Florida in 1980 where she served as the first female director of the Center for Latin American Studies (1980-85). At UF she founded the Caribbean Migration Program, with support from the Tinker and Ford foundations, which brought students and faculty from the Caribbean to the University. Among her other legacies was a fellowship program, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, on Afro-American identity and cultural diversity which culminated in a major conference and a special issue of the journal *Latin American Perspectives* on Race and National Identity in the Americas.

A pioneer in the fields of urban anthropology and of women in development, she is the author of *The Urban Poor of Puerto Rico*, *The Myth of the Male Breadwinner: Women and Industrialization in the Caribbean*, and numerous edited collections and scholarly papers.

Dr. Safa has described her scholarly focus on inequality in Latin America as moving from class (the urban poor in Puerto Rico and other areas), to gender (the myth of the male breadwinner), to race. It is to the reduction of these inequalities that she has dedicated her life's work.

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