Jean Stubbs to Deliver Bacardi Lecture on The Havana Cigar Goes Global

Gainesville, FL – Jean Stubbs, the UF Center for Latin American Studies Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar, will deliver the 2011 Bacardi Lecture entitled “The Havana Cigar Goes Global,” on Wednesday March 2, 2011, 7:30 pm, Smathers Library, Room 1A.

Dr. Stubbs’ lecture will address the following questions through a visual exploration of the Havana cigar world, both real and imaginary: What was it about the Havana Cigar that made it famous and coveted the world over? Why does its history continue inextricably to link Cuba with Florida, New York and Connecticut; the trans-Atlantic world; and places as far afield as Indonesia? And does the future of the emblematic Havana cigar, like the legacy of Cuba’s 19th Century nationalist and 20th Century revolutionary wars, hang in the balance?

Dr. Stubbs is a British historian who has published widely on Cuba. She is Associate Fellow at the Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London, and Professor Emerita of Caribbean History at London Metropolitan University, where she was the founding Director of the Caribbean Studies Center. She is co-director of the Commodities of Empire British Academy Research Project and serves on the Academy’s Latin American and Caribbean Panel. In 2009 she was awarded the UNESCO Toussaint L’Ouverture Medal for outstanding achievement in combating racism in political, literary and artistic fields. Her interests span race, gender, labor and tobacco, and she is currently researching the new Cuban diaspora in Canada and Western Europe.

While in residence as Bacardi Scholar, Dr. Stubbs is teaching a graduate seminar on Cuba and the Cuban Diaspora. In addition, she is collaborating with UF faculty members from the Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of History.

The Bacardi Eminent Scholar Chair in Latin American Studies was established in 1991 through the leadership of Bacardi Imports, Inc. and the collaboration of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the state of Florida. The endowment allows the Center for Latin American Studies to invite distinguished scholars and public figures to teach, lecture, mentor students and carry out research at the University.

Founded in 1930, the UF Center for Latin American Studies advances knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean and its peoples throughout the hemisphere. With over 170 faculty from colleges across UF, the Center is one of the largest institutions for interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach on Latin America, Caribbean, and Latino Studies. Programs include Tropical Conservation and Development, Crime, Law and Governance in the Americas, and Latin American Business Environment, among others.

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