

# CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ

El CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS de la Universidad de Alcalá se creó en 1986. Es el único Centro completamente interdisciplinario e independiente que se dedica exclusivamente al área norteamericana, sea ésta la de la formación de especialistas, organización de congresos y seminarios o la de fomentar las relaciones con universidades y otras instituciones norteamericanas.

Sus actividades son múltiples, entre las cuales es de destacar el MASTER EN ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS, título propio de la Universidad de Alcalá, que a partir del semestre de otoño de 1995 se realizará conjuntamente con la Casa de América. Consiste en un programa de postgrado de 720 horas lectivas en el cual los alumnos, licenciados de diversas Facultades, estudian la economía, historia, literatura, sociología, cultura y política norteamericana. Este programa ha sido pionero en España por su organización en semestres, permitiendo una gran flexibilidad para los alumnos al igual que su capacidad de aprovechar los conocimientos de los profesores especialistas que estén en España, entre los cuales es de destacar la presencia casi continua de un becario Fulbright o un profesor norteamericano como visitante al Centro.

Otros dos programas permanentes del Centro son el de ESTUDIOS HISPÁNICOS para alumnos norteamericanos y un curso intensivo de verano sobre el legado cultural español y su realidad contemporánea para profesores norteamericanos de enseñanzas medias y de origen hispano. Otra actividad consiste en establecer acuerdos con universidades norteamericanas para la obtención de becas para ampliar estudios. Cada año el Centro convoca de seis a ocho becas para este fin.

Por otra parte el Centro de Estudios Norteamericanos organiza regularmente congresos y seminarios sobre diversos temas norteamericanos. Entre estos son de destacar los seminarios "La Nueva Administración Bush" en otoño de 1988, "Minorías: Voces y Experiencias" de octubre 1992, "California y el Mediterráneo: historia de dos agriculturas competidoras" en julio de 1992, "V Congreso Internacional sobre las Culturas Hispánicas de los Estados Unidos: El Poder Hispano" en julio de 1992, "I Encuentro de Cultura Canadiense" en noviembre de 1992, "Percepciones Españolas del Cambio de Administración en Washington: Mesa Redonda sobre las Elecciones en EE.UU." en noviembre de 1992, "VI Jornadas sobre Literatura Norteamericana: Amor, Odio y Violencia en la literatura norteamericana" en marzo de 1993, "La Voz de la Mujer en la Sociedad Contemporánea" del 15 de marzo al 13 de mayo de 1993, "American Character" en julio de 1993, "Hispanos en Estados Unidos" en diciembre de 1993, "Historical Influences in American Identity" en febrero de 1994, "Relaciones Laborales Comparadas: los EEUU, Latinoamérica y Europa" en octubre de 1994, "Tecnología y Cultura Norteamericanas: los EEUU y Europa" en diciembre de 1994, "Native American Culture" en mayo de 1995, etc. Además de estos seminarios habría que incluir las múltiples conferencias que se imparten a lo largo del año, entre las que se pueden destacar un gran número de escritores contemporáneos, como William Kennedy, E.L. Doctorow, Charles Johnson, Gerald Vizenor y Tino Villanueva. Estas

actividades son desarrolladas por el Centro, bien por sí solo, o en colaboración con otras entidades. El Centro siempre se halla dispuesto a desarrollar actividades conjuntamente con otras instituciones.

Uno de los aspectos mas importantes del Centro es su biblioteca especializada en temas norteamericanos con unos 20.000 volúmenes además de hemeroteca, videoteca y audioteca inaugurada y abierta al público en junio de 1995. Dentro también del área de investigación está la publicación de la REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS, revista bianual e interdisciplinaria. El Centro tiene proyectado preparar una serie de monografías, además de las otras publicaciones ya realizadas, entre las cuales cabe destacar las Actas del V Congreso Internacional sobre las Culturas Hispánicas de los Estados Unidos: "El Poder Hispano", y las Actas del curso de verano celebrado en la Universidad de La Rábida "California y el Mediterráneo: Estudios de la historia de dos agriculturas competidoras".

El Centro es miembro fundador del "American Studies Network" organización de centros independientes y multidisciplinares en Europa. Entre otros objetivos de dicho "network" están la elaboración de una base de datos y un directorio, el enlace de los fondos bibliográficos y el intercambio de profesionales y alumnos, y el de coordinar la presencia de conferenciantes en los distintos Centros. El American Studies Network también concede un premio al mejor libro sobre Estudios Norteamericanos publicado por un europeo.

En colaboración con el Centro se ha establecido la Asociación de Graduados del Master en Estudios Norteamericanos, y entre sus actividades está la elaboración de una base de datos de americanistas españoles.

## GOOD-BYE TO A FRIEND

*Mr. Anthony Chillura was the Cultural Attaché of the United States Embassy in Madrid from 1991 to 1995. Previously, he had been the Deputy Cultural Attaché from 1982 to 1986. He has been awarded a Meritorious Honor Award by the U.S. Government, the Medal of Honor of the University of Alcalá and the "Cruz de Caballero de la Orden de Isabel la Católica." This interview was carried out just before his departure from Madrid, on June 21, 1995 and remains as a token of the Center's gratitude for all his support*

Carmen Flys: You are now leaving your current assignment as Cultural Attaché in Spain. I'd like to ask you about your previous post in Spain, as Deputy, when you contributed to the founding of the Center for North American Studies at University of Alcalá; why Alcalá? Can you comment a little bit on that?

Anthony Chillura: Yes, one of the things I then discovered about the leadership in Alcalá de Henares was the fact that they were receptive to more ideas or more new ideas and the way they might want to approach a subject like American Studies. When I had the opportunity to talk to the Rector of the University, we talked about what was being taught at most universities, what was commonly recognized as American Studies, which was basically American literature, and we talked about what was happening in certain other countries of Europe and in the United States and we compared notes. We thought that it might be interesting if there were a study center that might offer postgraduate courses or even an undergraduate course with a multidisciplinary approach to American Studies; that is to say, not only American literature, but something about history, about economics, something about the way the government works, something about music, about architecture; in other words when the students finally graduated with a certificate or with a degree, they would have a much better idea of what the United States was about. On the basis of that, we started talking and brainstorming about different courses which would be of interest and what kind of professors you would need to teach that kind of courses. We decided to see if we could find, within the structure of the present-day University, the kinds of people who might be able to give the course. As we thought about it, we thought about the number of Fulbrighters who had gone to the United States and how many of them would have different degrees, all of them at a postgraduate level, and we figured or we thought that there would be enough people available in teaching positions that these courses could be offered. Based on that we started to think in terms of, not only the raw materials, the teachers who could offer courses, but also where we were going to get the books, the library resources we would need for the students to do research. We started thinking about where we could get the money for these library books. It took a certain amount of commitment from the University of Alcalá to say "yes", to come up with a certain amount of money to get this kind of books and the main facilities and

staff. We were fortunate enough to be able to get a grant from the Joint Committee to purchase a certain base collection and that was the beginning of what we thought was the basis of creating a multidisciplinary study center.

CF: When you left Spain on that previous assignment the Center for North American Studies was not a reality yet. There was a lot of paper work, and a lot of preliminary things but it was not yet functioning. When you returned to your present assignment as Cultural Attaché in 1991, what was your reaction when you saw that the Center had finally become a reality?

AC: I was very pleased to see that in the time I had been away the ideas that we had talked about had started to take shape and were in fact a reality. You had a functioning, multidisciplinary, American Studies Program; you were offering a Master's degree in American Studies; you had already, I believe, two promotions and I got here for the third graduating class; you could see that there was interest, that people were signing up for the course, that you had people from other universities looking at the experiment that was going on in Alcalá de Henares and asking themselves if this was a possibility for their own university. I think, in that sense, it was all very positive: one, that you had established a Center; two, that it was going; and three, that it could serve as an example for other universities in the country.

CF: What would you like to see in American Studies in Spain?

AC: I think that I would like to see that there be more multidisciplinary American Studies courses being offered in Spain. I can see a need for possibly a center in the North, a center in the South and possibly one in the Barcelona area in addition to what we have already going here in Madrid. I think they could be all mutually reinforcing. I think you could begin to specialize, maybe in different kinds of things, in different parts of the country. I believe you could share resources and probably library facilities. I believe that maybe your professors could be interchanged, and I think it could be very interesting for the country to have more specialists in the study of the United States.

CF: On the 13th of this month of June we have just opened up to the public the new library, the complete collection. You, as well as the the Counsellor for Public Affairs, Mr. Brian Carlson, were there. The basis of this collection has been donated by the Embassy from the American Torrejón Airbase and from the Washington Irving Center. Why to the Center? Why we were so privileged to be chosen? And what do you hope to see coming from that library?

AC: As Alcalá had the only multidisciplinary program and the library at the Base was not a specialized library, but a general kind of library that one might find in a small community in the United States, it made a lot of sense for that kind of collection to be given to a study center that studies American Studies, that studies all components of the United States. In addition to that, the Base, Torrejón is very close to Alcalá and there was a certain amount of receptivity from the people at the Base, that the collection be given to the community of Alcalá which was so close by. The idea that the collection would be used not only at the University, but would also be shared with other universities in the Madrid area, was very appealing to us. When we then had the collection at the Washington Irving Center available for donation, we also thought

to give it to the Alcalá Center so that we would have a concentration of books all in one center, so they could all be managed in a way that it would be a place for students to go to find materials for their studies. What I would like to see... I would like to see that the Center's library function in such a manner that, not only the students in the American Studies program in Alcalá could go and borrow books, but that anyone in Alcalá could borrow books for their studies and this would be only the first facet of that; the second would be that the collection would be opened up to everybody studying anything to do with the American Studies in Madrid, and that would be people studying American Studies or economics or politics or any of the topics in your library; the third phase of that would be and this, of course takes time, that it could be a depository of books that would be lent to all the Universities in the country, for anybody studying these kinds of topics.

CF: As you are probably aware, that precisely is the basis of what we have established as a loaning policy. Unfortunately now it is still limited to access by appointment because the full catalogue hasn't been automated yet, but we hope it will soon be accessible by computer and work with an interlibrary loan system. That was our commitment to you and the Embassy, so we will work in that direction. During your posting here on this last assignment, was there any particularly exciting moment, any moment that sticks out in your memory?

AC: A lot of interesting projects that we did, a lot of interesting people we have had come through Madrid. It was exciting talking to people who might have been Nobel prize winners, like Toni Morrison, and Pulitzer winners like William Kennedy. But as an activity, I think that 1992 was particularly interesting; it was a time of a lot of excitement, it was the time of the Olympics in Barcelona, the time of Expo in Seville, and it was the time of Madrid being the Cultural Capital of Europe. There was a lot of excitement, a lot of emotion, a lot of interesting things. Another very interesting time, a historic moment, I may say, was the Peace Conference here in Spain. It was very exciting, very concentrated, we worked many many hours but hopefully, it was the beginning of peace in the Middle East.

CF: Before you leave Spain, what would you comment, how do you see Spain now? There has been a tremendous period transition in this country over the past twenty years and you've been here several times. What would you comment now on Spain as you leave in 1995? What does Spain mean to you, what would you take with you, if you could?

AC: I hope that I will come back, but I probably will not be assigned here again. But after working such a period in Spain you leave a little bit of your life here. I had the opportunity to work with the Fulbright Commission, the Joint Committee, the American School of Madrid and many, many organizations here, and you hope that you have been able to give something of yourself, if that is possible. I have seen changes in the sense that you see the country has now joined NATO, it is more European, it is looking more towards Europe than it did when I first was here. I think that you see a certain amount of sophistication, more than when I came here in 1982. I believe that people are more outlooking, I believe that Spaniards are now travelling more outside

their own country, and I think that they are bringing back a lot of the things that they see from outside the country.

CF: Have you noticed any difference in Spain, in the Spanish attitude towards the United States over these years?

AC: I think that the relationships between our two countries have probably improved a great deal since 1982. I think that we have worked together in many, many fields in a very positive manner. I think that we cooperated in most of the major things that are happening in Europe, so I think that all of that is very positive.

CF: What are you going to miss the most about Spain when you leave?

AC: I think the things I will miss the most about Spain are the people I worked with specifically. I met a lot of different people, both Spaniards and Americans that are living here, I would hope that this is not a final good-bye, that I will have the chance to see them again in the future, be it here or in the United States.

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**ACTIVIDADES DE 1995****MARZO:**

- 1, 2 y 3-3-95 -II JORNADAS DE ESTUDIOS CANADIENSES: "Cosmopolitanism and Diversity"
- 30-3-95 -Conferencia: "**NATIVE AMERICAN IDENTITIES: BURDENS OF AUTHENTICITY, HISTORICAL MEMORY AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE OTHER**", Gerald Vizenor, escritor (native american), Museo de América.

**ABRIL:**

- 4-4-95 -Conferencia: "**THE CAREER OF SAUL BELLOW**", Andrew Gordon (Universidad de Florida). En colaboración con el Dpto. Filología Moderna, Rectorado.
- 6-4-95 -Conferencia: "**SPIELBERG AND SCHLINDLER'S LIST: A HOLLYWOOD FAIRY TALE**", Andrew Gordon (Universidad de Florida). En colaboración con la Casa de América.
- 24-4-95 -Conferencias: Charles Johnson, novelista afro-americano, "**HISTORICAL FICTION AND THE MIDDLE PASSAGE**", en colaboración con el Dpto. Filología Moderna, Aulario. "**HISTORICAL FICTION AND MARTIN LUTHER KING: WRITING THE MYTH 'readings from his forthcoming novel DREAMER'**", en colaboración con la Casa de América.

**MAYO:**

- 11-5-95 -Presentación del libro: *California y el Mediterráneo: Estudios de dos agriculturas competidoras*, José Morilla Critz. Casa de América.
- 17, 18 y 19-5-95 -Seminario: "**NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE**", Gordon Henry, miembro de la tribu Chippewa *White Earth* y becario Fulbright.

## JUNIO:

12-6-95 -Conferencias: "**Lectura de su Poesía**", Tino Villanueva, poeta. "**Las tradiciones folklóricas españolas en Nuevo México: dos mundos mutuamente inseparables**", Nasario García, profesor, Universidad New Mejico Highlands.

## OCT'95 A JUN'96:

-Curso especial a cargo de escritores y profesores invitados de los EEUU sobre la literatura contemporánea norteamericana.

## NOVIEMBRE:

-Seminario: "**AMERICANS SEEN BY EUROPEANS**", Rob Kroes, Universidad de Amsterdam.

## DICIEMBRE:

-Presentación y lectura de la traducción de la obra de David Mamet, "**Perversidad Sexual en Chicago**", por Amado Diéguez.



## ASOCIACIÓN DE GRADUADOS

Durante el presente curso académico se ha constituido la ASOCIACIÓN DE GRADUADOS DEL CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS de la Universidad de Alcalá de Henares que ha quedado inscrita en el registro de Asociaciones de la Delegación del Gobierno con el nº 14.781.

La creación de la Asociación de Graduados representa un paso más, y muy importante, en la consolidación del CENUAH dentro del panorama universitario español, ya que una de las actividades principales del Centro desde su creación fue la formación de este tipo de especialistas a través de un Master exactamente igual a los que se imparten en las Universidades Norteamericanas y pionero en España.

Con la formación de la Asociación de Graduados se pretende evitar la dispersión y el aislamiento, es decir, facilitar los contactos y aumentar la capacidad de los individuos que la integran para poder llevar a cabo proyectos conjuntos y más ambiciosos y complejos tanto en el ámbito académico como en el profesional.

La Asociación ya está funcionando y empezando a sacar adelante sus primeros proyectos. A través de estas mismas páginas iremos dando información sobre todos ellos en próximos números de esta revista.

Nos gustaría establecer contactos con otras organizaciones e individuos que compartan nuestros intereses e inquietudes.

Esperamos también poder actuar como un medio de contacto útil y efectivo en España para todos los que trabajan en el campo de los estudios norteamericanos tanto dentro como fuera de nuestro país.

Todos los miembros de la Asociación recibirán una copia de los Estatutos y el boletín informativo "IN TOUCH". Además todo socio tendrá derecho a un descuento del 50% en todas las publicaciones del Centro de Estudios Norteamericanos (REDEN, Actas de Congresos, ...). La cuota anual es de 2.000 ptas.

Para contactar pueden dirigirse al CENUAH o a la presidenta de la Asociación:

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El CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS de la Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, publica la **REDEN** dos veces al año, en junio y diciembre. Su objetivo principal es el de constituir un foro para una amplia gama de perspectivas al estudio de la cultura y sociedad norteamericanas, pasado y presente.

La Revista Española de Estudios Norteamericanos aceptará llevar artículos sobre cualquier aspecto de Estudios Norteamericanos, ya sea literatura, historia, antropología, economía, cultura popular, etc. Serán aceptadas asimismo reseñas de libros recientemente publicados en el área de Estudios Norteamericanos.

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The Center of North American Studies at the University of Alcalá de Henares would like to invite you to contribute to the Spanish Journal of North American Studies, **REDEN** (Revista Española de Estudios Norteamericanos). The principal aim of this journal is to provide a forum for a wide variety of approaches to the study of American Culture and Society, past and present.

**REDEN** would welcome articles on any area of American Studies, be it literature, history, anthropology, economics, politics, popular culture, etc.

**REDEN** would also welcome review articles on recently published books in the field of American Studies.

#### Guidelines for submissions:

All submissions should be 20-30 pages in length (double spaced), should follow the guidelines of The MLA Style Manual, and should include an abstract of no more than one hundred words in length. Articles submitted may be written in either Spanish or English. Since manuscripts are evaluated anonymously, the author's name should appear on the title page only. The Editorial Board distinctly prefers that articles be submitted on diskette using a compatible IBM system, preferably Wordperfect. One printout of the article should be included. Manuscripts will only be returned at the author's expressed desire.

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