

# Nicaragua alumni

## Alumni Spotlight

### Always Look Ahead, Not Regretting the Past and Without Fear of the Future

By Maria Dolores G. Torres, Fulbright Visiting Scholar Alumna

From 1966 to 2000, she worked in the Humanities Faculty in the fields of Philosophy and Literature, later known as Arts and Literature in the 1970s. After this faculty disappeared, she dedicated full time to investigative research and started working at the Institute of History (IHNCA-UCA). She worked at the institute until 2008. Her students include many who have a fundamental roles in the local culture: artists such as Patricia Belli and María Gallo; poets such as Vidaluz Menezes and Daisy Zamora. Other alumni have important jobs inside and out of the university community and are all successful professionals. She regrets that with the closure of the Humanities Faculty at UCA, cultural dialog also found its end.

In Nicaragua, she has become a national reference in art and history of art, due to her tireless work as a



researcher and scholar at Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) from 1966 to 2008, in the specific fields of Contemporary Art and Nicaraguan Art. Thus, is a great joy for us to have her as a friend of our community.

But not only in Nicaragua, but also in her international voyage, we can emphasize her work as visiting scholar in various U.S. universities and she has also extended Nicaraguan Contemporary Art in numerous conferences in the international arena. She also served as investigative researcher at the Latin-American Institute of Berlin (IAI-PK).

We have summed up, in the publications section, some of her most important works, of the numerous list her academic file has. These are "Pablo Picasso: The Sum of All His Renovations" (Ortiz-Gurdián Foundation, Managua, 2010); "Vision Of Nicaragua and Central America in the Legacy of Walter Lehmann",

*Continued on page 2...*

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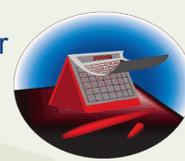
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(IHNCA-UCA Editions Managua, 2009); "Central America Today: 1980-2003. Central Amerika heute: 1980-2003", (Latin-American Institute of Berlin IAI-PK, Berlin, 2009); "The Odyssey Illustrated by Chagall", (Ortiz-Gurdián Foundation Editions. Managua, 2008); "The Path to Contemporary. Nucleus in the Artistic Panorama of Honduras" (Women in the Arts, 2007); "The Engravings of Rembrandt", (Ortiz-Gurdián Foundation Editions. Managua, 2005); "Art in Nicaragua and Central America", (Institute of History Editions: IHNCA-UCA. Managua, 2004); amongst many others. .

María Dolores is also recipient of numerous meritorious awards and mentions throughout her career. We can't not mention the awards received by ORTIZ-GURDIÁN FOUNDATION, a National Award "for her outstanding trajectory and her nota-

ble contributions to the history of Nicaraguan Art"; the award given by the German Service of Academic "for her outstanding participation in the investigative lecture The Travels of Walter Lehmann Through Nicaragua and Central America . A Photographic Journey, 1907-1909"; the awards given by Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in 2009, tribute and special recognition "for her academic trajectory and her contributions to Art and Nicaraguan and Central American" and in 2010 she was awarded with the 50 Anniversary Medal "for her academic and cultural trajectory ". Also in 2010, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua (UNAN-MANAGUA), granted her the distinction of Meritorious Honor, "as a generational influence in the History of Art and Literature, in benefit of the values of the national culture"; and on that

same year, she was given and recognition by the Embassy of Mexico in Nicaragua "for her special contribution in the series of conferences, celebrating the BICENTENNIAL OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND THE CENTENAL OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION". This woman, art and culture militant, thinks that art "contributes to life offering a different view. Every work of art is a result of a creative personality. Art emerges from a context, contributes to history, to esthetics, to culture and to civilization. This is why it is very important: art is a document that condenses life. Art is history, not just technique, and it is the language of an era., There's no culture without art."

(excerpt taken from Consejo de Residentes Españoles -CRE)

<http://www.crenicaragua.com/MARIA%20DOLORES%20TORRES.pdf>

## What's going on... Recent Alumni News

### \* **First UGRAD 2011 Grantees depart for their U.S. experiences**



Sara Guevara and Walter Gomez left in May.



Jairo Sandino (first on left) departed in June. Cristina Diaz, Grecia Morales, Victor Silva and Gema Mejia are next.

### \* **Congrats Madeley Arriola!**

Madeley Arriola, Youth Ambassadors Alumna, has been accepted for a full scholarship for two years at Red Cross Nordic United World College in Norway. We wish you the best!



### \* **SUSI Young Leaders 2011 will be filming their experiences**



Oscar Smith, Jose Sandigo and Teresita Saavedra are enjoying their experiences in the U.S. They left on July 1, 2011 and will be back in mid August. They are documenting their stay and activities, so keep a look out on our facebook page or website to watch more on video!

In photo respectively with SUSI Alumnus Arquimedes Hernandez during their pre-departure orientation

# The International Year for People of African Descent



**“In the 21st century, diversity, openness, and tolerance are vital national assets”**

–Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

The United Nations and the Organization of American States designated 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent to strengthen national actions and regional and international cooperation to:

- Ensure that people of African descent fully enjoy economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights;
- Advance their integration into all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society; and
- Promote a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture.

The United States, as a multi-ethnic, multi-racial democracy with strong ties of friendship in the Western Hemisphere, recognizes and celebrates the rich contributions of African descendant populations to the fabric of our societies.

## Background

People of African descent live all over the world. In the Western Hemisphere, approximately 12 million Africans were brought to the Americas over the 400-year history of the transatlantic slave trade. An estimated 50 percent of those enslaved Africans ended up in Brazil and five percent went to the United States. According to a study distributed by the Inter-American Development Bank, African descendants make up one-third of the total population in the hemisphere. African descendants make up the majority of

the Caribbean population. The largest numbers of African descendants are in Brazil, the United States, Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

Despite historic discrimination and continuing challenges with exclusion and inequality, people of African descent have contributed to science and technology, education, independence and civil right movements, agriculture, language, cuisine, culture, and the arts.

## U.S. Bilateral Efforts

To promote racial equality for people of African descent in the Western Hemisphere, the U.S. Department of State worked with its partners to launch the U.S.-Brazil Joint Action Plan to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality in October 2008 and signed the U.S.-Colombia Action Plan on Racial and Ethnic Equality in January 2010. These agreements focus on sharing best practices and im-

## On Line Resources

- \* U.S. Department of State  
<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/2011/156482.htm>
- \* The United Nations page on Year Dedicated to People of African Descent  
<http://www.un.org/en/events/iypad2011/>
- \* DIPNOTE: U.S. Department of State Official Blog  
[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/year\\_people\\_african\\_descent](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/year_people_african_descent)

*Photo Contest: African Legacy*

*in Nicaragua*



## UPCOMING....

Stay tuned for U.S. Embassy's photo contest in early September!  
**“African Legacy in Nicaragua”**

For upcoming information on this and other events commemorating the International Year for People of African Descent visit

Our website

<http://spanish.nicaragua.usembassy.gov/es/index.html>

Our Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/embusanic>

# Photo Gallery



UGRAD Alumnus, Walter Gomez, with our friend Armeda Reitzel in Arcata, CA



SUSI Alumnus, Arquimedes Hernandez at ExpoEduca 2011



Youth Ambassador Alumnus, Elvin Benlis at National Guard camp in Wisconsin

## Calendar of Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Embassy Closed	2	3	4	5 English Language Workshop-Matagalpa	6
7	8	9	10 Embassy Closed	11	12 Scholarship programs Presentation at UCA 3:00 p.m.	13
14	15 Regional English Officer Michael Rudder English Language Workshops in Managua, Jinotepe, Matagalpa. Aug 15-19, 2011	16 Language Workshops	17 Webchat: How to Improve Your Internet Search. 3:00 pm <a href="https://statedept.connect.solutions.com/santodomingo">https://statedept.connect.solutions.com/santodomingo</a>	18	19 Webinar for EL Teachers: Listening Logs to Increase English Practice <a href="http://lima.usembassy.gov/webinars.html">http://lima.usembassy.gov/webinars.html</a> Aug. 17th, 3:00-4:00 pm Aug 19th, 7:30-8:30 am	20
21	22 African Descent Speaker August 21-26, 2011	23 Edmund T. Gordon Choreographer Jennifer Chin/Managua Dance Festival-August 22-26, 2011	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Los Ajusco Mountain Boys Bluegrass August 30-September 2, 2011	31	1	2 Los Ajusco Mountain Boys Bluegrass concert at Teatro Nacional Ruben Dario 7:30 pm - Sept 2, 2011 <b>FREE!!</b>	

We want to hear from you!

This is YOUR newsletter, we welcome suggestions and questions. Write to our office to include your articles, your efforts, your photos...

Contact  
**Shany M. Perez**  
 Alumni Coordinator  
 PerezSM@state.gov  
 (505) 2252-7100 Ext. 7673

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 Exchange Opportunities



Coming up SOON!

⇒ Photo Contest  
**AFRICAN LEGACY IN NICARAGUA**

SEPTEMBER 2011

⇒ UGRAD program applications!

SEPTEMBER 2011

⇒ SUSI program applications

OCTOBER 2011

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