

Nicaragua: Insurrection and Revolution

Using Photography to Tell the Story



FEBRUARY 24, 28, AND
MARCH 1-2, 2011

H-SC 2010-2011 Quality Enhancement Scholar Symposium

Sponsored by the Office of the President and Dean of the Faculty, Departments of Fine Arts and History, Hampden-Sydney College, and the Departments of Geography and History, Political Science and Philosophy, Longwood University.

This symposium explores the political cultural roots of the 1979 uprising in Nicaragua and, simultaneously, provides an historical context for the work of documentary artist and H-SC's Visiting International Scholar, Margarita Montealegre. The symposium also includes the screening of two films: Munro and Raymont's "The World is Watching" (1991) and "Pictures from a Revolution" (1983) by Susan Meiselas, Alfred Guzzetti, and Richard P. Rogers. These movies describe the events in Nicaragua during and following the uprising of the late 1970s.

Photojournalist and teacher Margarita Montealegre joined the Hampden-Sydney College faculty for the 2010-2011 academic year as Visiting International Scholar under the Quality Enhancement Program. A guest of the College at large, she has been welcomed as a member of the Fine Arts Department where she is teaching documentary photography and photography and culture. As a member of the community she is a regular participant in the Spanish and French language tables of the Department of Modern Languages.

The first female photojournalist in her native country, Montealegre brings with her an impressive résumé of accomplishments. In 1979, she was awarded the Organization of International Journalists First World Prize in contemporary photography for the coverage of Nicaraguan political events, riots, and war. Her image of peasants marching, on the cover of this program, was used as the main image on the verso of the new republic's bills. Later Montealegre acted as the official photographer of Nicaragua for the visits of Pope John Paul II in 1996 and U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1999. She also photographed former U.S. President Jimmy Carter during his three-day visit to Nicaragua in 2006. Just this year her work has been juried into two international exhibitions of photography sponsored by the Spanish government.

Montealegre received her M.F.A. in photography and film study from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2004 as a Fulbright Scholar from Managua, Nicaragua. While at VCU, she earned a coveted spot in the Photography Institute's National Graduate Seminar at Columbia University in New York. "It was a wonderful experience and a great responsibility, because when you attend such programs, you represent your peers and the university you are coming from," Montealegre says. "I was able to meet photographers from different backgrounds. The experience helped me gain a diverse perspective about photography in the U.S." This year she was invited to participate with a select group of Latin American photographers in an international critique sponsored by the Spanish government. As a result of these meetings her images will be included in several upcoming international exhibitions.

Today, Montealegre continues to work on her own photography projects (including an upcoming retrospective of her 32-year career) and teaches photography. "My main intention is to create passion around photography," Montealegre says. "I wish at the end of a course that one or two students will continue to work with photography as a way of life."

While Montealegre does not dole out advice to her students, she does try to instill some of what she has learned, including the following tips: "Photograph as close as you can, be aware at all times of ethics, be respectful of the people you photograph, develop your style and pursue what you believe, and listen to and communicate with your sources." It is a list that has served Montealegre well. "I have been lucky in my professional career," she says. "I have met incredible people and witnessed historical moments. The everyday people I have met during my career are the ones who have taught great lessons that I still remember."

A small selection of Montealegre's photographs will be included in a two-person exhibition of visiting professors in Fine Arts at the Esther T. Atkinson Museum of Hampden-Sydney College (opening March 24, 2011).

SESSION I

Thursday, February 24, 2011

7 pm. Chichester Science Center G12, Longwood University

Screening of "The World is Watching" (1988)

Directed by Jim Munro and Peter Raymont.

Introduced by Dr. WILLIAM C. HOLLIDAY, Longwood University.

SESSION II

Monday, February 28, 2011

7 – 9 pm. Crawley Forum, Hampden-Sydney College

Central America: Nicaragua in Geographical and Historical Context

"Why Here? Geographic Perspectives on Insurrection and Revolution in Central America,"
by Dr. EDWARD L. KINMAN, Longwood University.

"Revolution and Counter Revolution in Central America,"
by Dr. W. JOHN GREEN, Washington and Lee University.

"Liberation Theology and the Nicaraguan Revolution,"
by Dr. WILLIAM C. HOLLIDAY, Longwood University.

Chair: Dr. KENNETH LEHMAN, Hampden-Sydney College

SESSION III

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

7 – 9 pm. Crawley Forum, Hampden-Sydney College

Using Pictures to Tell a Story

MARY PREVO, Hampden-Sydney College.

Images of Insurrection and Revolution, Nicaragua

MARGARITA MONTEALEGRE, Documentary photographer and 2010 Q.E.P. Visiting
International Scholar, Hampden-Sydney College.

SESSION IV

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

7 – 9 pm. Crawley Forum, Hampden-Sydney College

Screening of "Pictures from a Revolution" (1991)

by Susan Meiselas

Introduced by Dr. LIZARDO M. HERRERA, Hampden-Sydney College.

HANDICAPPED PARKING IS AVAILABLE: FOR DETAILS AT LONGWOOD, CALL 434-395-2660;
FOR HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE, CALL 434-233-6000.

PARTICIPANTS

Dr. W. JOHN GREEN is Visiting Professor of Latin American History at Washington and Lee University.

Dr. LIZARDO M. HERRERA is Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Languages at Hampden-Sydney College.

Dr. WILLIAM C. HOLLIDAY is an Assistant Professor of History at Longwood University.

Dr. EDWARD L. KINMAN is an Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences at Longwood University.

Dr. KENNETH LEHMAN is Squires Professor of History at Hampden-Sydney College.

MARGARITA MONTEALEGRE is a documentary photographer and 2010 Visiting Q.E.P. International Scholar at Hampden-Sydney College.

MARY PREVO is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Fine Arts (Art History) at Hampden-Sydney College.

ON THE COVER: DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPH BY MARGARITA MONTEALEGRE, MARCH 1980. THE BANNER READS: "WE ARE NOT BIRDS, WHO LIVE IN THE AIR. WE ARE NOT FISH, WHO LIVE IN THE SEA. WE ARE MEN, WHO LIVE ON THE LAND"—A QUOTATION FROM BERNARDO DIAZ OCHOA, FARMER AND LABOR LEADER, KILLED 1971.

BELOW: NICARAGUAN CURRENCY USING AN ENGRAVED VERSION OF HER PHOTOGRAPH.

