

**University of Pittsburgh**

**University Center for International Studies**

A stylized map of Latin America, showing the outlines of the continents and some major cities. The map is rendered in a light, textured style.

# CLASiCOS

**CENTER FOR  
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

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### Former CLAS Director Heads South

As might be noticed in the list of departures under Faculty Changes above, **Mitchell A. Seligson** was one of those to whom we bid *adios*. Professor Seligson served as Director of the Center for Latin American Studies from 1986 to 1992—to date, the third of only five directors to lead CLAS. He was no stranger to the University of Pittsburgh when he became director and professor of political science in 1986. Twelve years earlier, he had received his PhD in Political Science from Pitt. (He also completed the Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies in 1971.) According to Dr. Seligson, his primary accomplishments as Center director were to create a stable funding base for faculty and student research and the undergraduate seminar/field trip, gain recognition and expanded funding for the Latin American library collection, and maintain CLAS' standing as a U.S. Department of Education-designated National Resource Center. He played a major

role in providing the Center with long-term financial security by nurturing and increasing the value of CLAS' initial general endowment fund and by laying the groundwork for the creation of additional endowments for graduate fellowships in Latin American social/public policy and archaeology.

Having retired as director, Mitch returned full time to his position as professor in the Department of Political Science where, in 1994, he assumed the Daniel H. Wallace Professor of Political Science Chair. In the department, Dr. Seligson managed to chair 25 doctoral dissertations (all but one of them focused on Latin America) between 1993 and 2004 (an average of over 2.25 per year!).

After 18 very successful years at Pitt (with scholarly achievements too numerous to mention here), Mitch accepted the position of Centennial Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University. This past summer, he and his better half, **Susan Berk-Seligson** (see page 4 for more information on Dr. Berk-Seligson), moved to Tennessee. However, it is probably safe to say that the most significant position change to affect Mitch's and Susan's lives recently has been their "joint appointment" as grandparents to Maya, born on February 19, 2004 to daughter Amber and son-in-law Gadi.

To reiterate the sentiments of the Center's faculty, students, and staff as noted in CLASicos 32 upon the occasion of his leaving the directorship, "For his tireless efforts on the part of the Center, we owe Mitch a debt of gratitude." We would like to add our best wishes for the future to Mitch and Susan.

### Honors for Carmelo Mesa-Lago

Former CLAS Director **Carmelo Mesa-Lago** was honored in July 2004 at the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Institute of Cuban Studies. He (and wife Elena) received homage for his 45 years of work on Cuba. At the celebration, Jorge Domínguez presented a paper reviewing all of Carmelo's work on Cuba, at CLAS, in Cuban Studies, for the Latin American Studies Association, etc. Alejandro de la Fuente related how he first made contact with Professor Mesa-Lago and how their relationship grew throughout the years. Jorge Pérez-López summarized Carmelo's work on Cuban statistics and ended with

