

Final Project Report

Professional Development Grant

Latin America in World History

Dr. H. Micheal Tarver
Project Director

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This Final Report addresses the results of a Professional Enhancement Project funded by an Arkansas Tech University Professional Development Grant (PDG). The project was approved in April 2014 and completed in late July 2014. The award was for \$1492 in the form of a PDG, plus \$300 from Department of History and Political Science funds and \$600 from College of Arts and Humanities funds. This Report follows the instructions provided in the Guidelines for Professional Development Grants.

A. Cover Page: *See Above*

B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity: This Professional Enhancement Project provided funds to cover travel expenses related to: a) the 2014 meeting of the World History Association (WHA), and b) short historical excursions in/around San José, Costa Rica. The budget included expenses for Dr. H. Micheal Tarver, who teaches both Latin American and World History courses at Arkansas Tech.

The primary purpose of the project was to consult with other World History scholars and exchange professional ideas. As noted above, this project had two components: the 2014 meeting of the World History Association (WHA) and short historical/cultural excursions in/around San José, Costa Rica.

The two objectives for this project were:

- 1. Participate in the 2014 World History Association Annual Conference in order to exchange professional ideas with colleagues;*
- 2. Tour selected historical sites in San José in order to gain additional first-hand information and insight that can be incorporated into World History and Latin American history classes at Arkansas Tech University.*

C. Brief Review of the Professional Enhancement Opportunity: The 23rd Annual World History Association Conference, held in San José, Costa Rica, had dual themes: “The Environment in World History” and “Latin America in World History.” At the conference, Dr. Micheal Tarver had a role as Chair/Discussant in a panel entitled “Teaching the World: Pedagogical Approach to College Level World History.” In addition to attending the Keynote Address by world-renowned historian Dr. John R. McNeill entitled “Mosquito Empires,” Tarver attended sessions on “Globalization in Practice: Intellectual Currents, Trade Relations, and Diplomatic Exchanges in the Latin American and Iberian World, Sixteenth through Twentieth Centuries”; “The U.S. and Latin America”; “Teaching Latin American History: A Student Centered Approach”; and “Religion and Latin America: Identity, Intellectualism, and Activism”. As such, the WHA conference offered an excellent opportunity to communicate with an international community of World History scholars, teachers, and students.

The second objective dealt with touring/visiting area historical and cultural sites. As briefly illustrated in the Appendix, several sites were visited, to include the Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen, the Museo de Oro Precolombino, the Museo del Jade y de la Cultura Precolombina, the Costa Rican Post Office, the Metropolitan Cathedral, and the nearby city of Sarchí. Collectively, the sights visited provided Tarver with additional first-hand materials which can be incorporated into his Latin American and World History classes.

This Professional Enhancement Project utilized a combination of events to achieve the overall goal of professional development. The first three months of the project were spent undertaking preparations for the professional presentation, as well as make and confirm all travel plans for the July 2014 meeting of the World History Association. The next phase of the

project was the actual trip to Costa Rica, which included participation in the Conference and the excursions around San José. This latter phase of the project could be characterized as the professional enhancement phase, as it was the actual period of interaction with fellow Latin Americanists and touring of the various historical/cultural sites.

D. Summary of Experiences

The obvious significance of the above-discussed Professional Enhancement Project was the opportunity to visit with other World History scholars and exchange professional ideas. In addition, the proximity of the 2014 meeting of the World History Association (WHA) to a unique area of Latin America offered a rare opportunity for Tarver to visit important colonial and modern sites and to acquire first-hand data to use in his Latin American and World History classes. In this regard, the conference and subsequent excursions informed the Project Director, motivated him to keep his courses current, and hopefully will inspire ATU students to further pursue the field of history. This opportunity provided an excellent bonus for the students at Arkansas Tech University. Through the utilization of the audiovisual materials acquired in the process of the trip, students will benefit from future courses covering the above-mentioned fields.

At the conference, Tarver chaired one panel sessions: Panel B-2 “Teaching the World: Pedagogical Approach to College Level World History.” In addition, he attended several panels dealing with Latin American history, all of which offered relevant information for his teaching. As such, the WHA conference offered an excellent opportunity for Tarver to communicate with an international community of World History scholars, teachers, and students.


E. Conclusions and recommendations

This project was successful and extremely beneficial to the professional development of the Program Director. Tarver was able to network with professional historians in the fields of world and Latin American history, thus allowing him to further enhance his ability to support Arkansas Tech students in their professional development. In addition, he obtained new research ideas and materials that can be incorporated into his classes.

No recommendations are forthcoming at this time.

NOTE: All photographs on the following three pages are copyrighted by H. Micheal Tarver.

Selected Photographs from the Museo de Oro

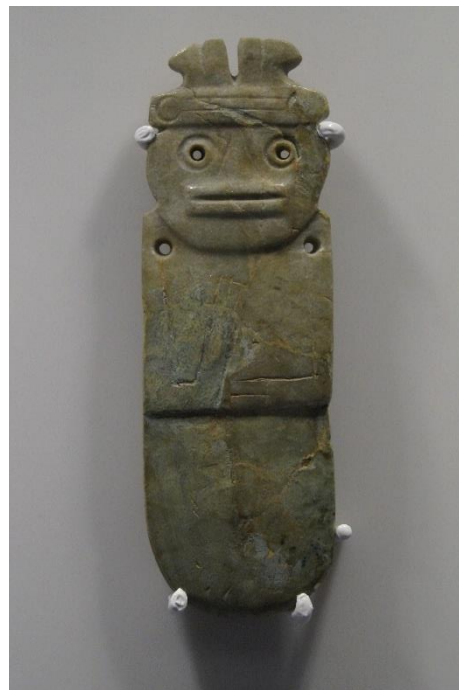


● **Sitios arqueológicos con objetos de oro. 500-700 d.C.**
Archaeological sites with gold objects. 500-700 A.D.

Entre el año 500 y el 700 d. C., se desarrolló la manufactura de objetos de metal en la Región Central-Caribe. Para las sociedades de esta región, que estaban consolidando su jerarquización, las prácticas de intercambio a escala regional adquirieron gran importancia. Así, la manufactura de objetos de oro desarrollada por los grupos locales formó parte de una producción más amplia que incluía a diversos grupos del noroccidente colombiano y la región central panameña. Los objetos elaborados localmente durante este periodo constituyen la base de los estilos particulares que surgen en las distintas regiones del país, después del año 700 d.C.

Between 500 and 700 A.D., metal object manufacture was developed in the Central-Caribbean Region. For the societies of this region, then consolidating their hierarchical structures, exchange practices on a regional scale became very important. Thus the gold production developed by local groups formed part of a larger productive tradition which included diverse groups from northwest Colombia and the central region of Panama. Objects crafted locally during this period formed the basis for the particular local styles which appeared in each producing region of the country after 700 A.D.

Selected Photographs from the Museo del Jade y de la Cultura Precolombina



Selected Photographs from Sarchí

