

U.S. Fulbright-García Robles Grantees Re-Unite at Annual Mid-Term Reunion

By Jessica Mendiola



"Art & Culture Panel Big Entrance" – In true artistic fashion, Art panel members, (left to right) Michael Foley, Martha Zelt, Gabrielle Civil, and Laura Milkins "introduce" themselves and their projects with



"Lunch Break" – Private lunch on the roof-top of S.R.E.



"Education and Instruction Panel" – left to right, Eileen Ariza, Maria Dantas-Whitney, John Whitney, and Toni Griego-Jones.

This year's Mid-Term Reunion took place the 25th, 26th, and 27th of February and was held in Mexico City. Student and Scholar Grantees traveled from all parts of the country to participate in this annual event, the purpose of which is to bring current grantees together to share their work in an academic conference-style setting. The Mid-Term Reunion began with an informal gathering, a highlight for many grantees who took advantage of this moment to reconnect with their fellow colleagues and friends, many of which had not seen each other since the August 2008 Orientation.

The schedule of events commenced with welcome remarks from Dr. Arturo Borja, COMEXUS Executive Director, Mr. Jim Williams from the U.S. Embassy, Mr. Alberto Fierro from S.R.E., and Dr. Jenny Verdager, from the U.S State Department. The first day of the academic conference took place at the S.R.E., where students, faculty, and research grantees discussed their projects in panel presentations organized by subject matter. A wide range of topics were covered, including issues related to Public Policy, Immigration, Mexican History, Public Health, Cultural Anthropology, Biology, and the Arts.

In addition to the academic focus of the

Mid-Term Reunion, a cultural excursion to the Museo de Arte Popular (MAP) was also included in the schedule of events. Grantees received a docent-lead tour throughout the museum, and were able to see many of the new and exciting exhibits of the MAP.

The final day of the Mid-Term Reunion including more panel presentations from grantees conducting projects related to Environmental Studies, Education and Instruction, Music and Arts.

After wrapping up the conference, grantees expressed their appreciation, and commented on the importance of these types of events to help strengthen the community of students, scholars, and researchers who are dedicated to Mexico-U.S. issues.



"Sounds of Mexico" Katherine Day Good presenter on the Music Studies panel gives an encore-worthy performance of the classic mariachi song, "Cielo Rojo."