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# CHIPOTLE Travel Update: Russia and Siberia

Teresa Marquez

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**CHIPOTLE Travel Update: Russia and Siberia**  
**Fall 2006**  
**Brief report on presentations by Teresa Marquez**  
**Curator, Chicano/Hispano/Latino Library Program**  
**University of New Mexico Libraries**

In Moscow, Russia, I gave a lecture on the Chicana/o mystery genre at the Moscow State University. Colleagues from the University of California, Santa Barbara, Maria Herrera-Sobek, Vice-Chancellor for Diversity, and Francisco Lomeli, professor of Spanish and Chicano studies and former chair of the Chicana/o Studies Department, and I lectured at the Moscow State University at the invitation of Professor Alexander Vashchenko. After our initial presentations, other professors heard about our visit and asked that we repeat the lectures for other classes. We were happy to do that.

We learned of the strong interest in Chicana/o literature from students who are working on their dissertations. At least two students are working on the novels by Rudolfo Anaya. Professor Vashchenko, in fact, was present in the Zimmerman Library when Anaya was honored. Unfortunately, he could not spend more time with us because he was on his way to Las Cruces where he was scheduled to teach for the rest of the semester.

In Chita, Siberia, the three of us attended the *International Symposium on The Open World: Multicultural Discourse and Intercultural Communications* as part of the *International Conference, Transborderland in the Changing World*, September 22-24, 2006. This was sponsored by the University of Chita and organized by Professor Tiana Voronchenko, President of the Philology and Intercultural Communications Institute.

Once again, we learned of the very strong interest in Chicana/o literature. Professor Voronchenko has about 10 graduate students who are working in some aspect of Chicana/o literature, some on Anaya's novels.

Professors Voronchenko, Vashchenko, and Professor Yury Stulov, President of the *Belarus Americanists Association* at the Minsk State Linguistic University, Belarus, were the founders of the Chicano Studies, Native American Studies, and African American programs in their respective universities. Each professor took one area to develop. Professor Voronchenko, who was a visiting professor in the University of New Mexico Libraries several years ago, teaches Chicana/o literature at her university in Chita, Siberia. My paper on women boxers, *Boxing: An Arena of American Cultural Production*, caused some curiosity, especially after viewing copies of pictures of the women boxers in action.

Part of the conference included a visit to a neighboring settlement of the Mongol nomadic people. It was interesting to observe the similarities between the Mongol tribes and the Navajo and Pueblo peoples.

There are plans to hold a similar conference in three years. Overall, we were treated like very important persons, extended every courtesy and attention possible.

Teresa Marquez, Curator, CHIPOTLE, University Libraries

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