

New Director for the Museum and Parks Program at Institute of Puerto Rican Culture



Recently a meeting with the new Director of the Museum and Parks Program of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture was held at Piñero House Museum in Canóvanas. The new Director, Mr. Samuel Febo, met with the em-

ployees of the Museum as well as with representatives of several groups and institutions that collaborate with Piñero House. Representatives of the community cultural organization, "La Ceiba" of Canóvanas, the artisans group "Movi Arte" of Río Grande as well as the Piñero Collection of the UNE were represented. Each group shared briefly the history of their work with the museum and their plans for future collaboration.

At the Piñero Collection we wish Mr. Febo success in his new endeavors and we reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the development of the valuable work that goes on at Piñero House.

Distinguished Visitors

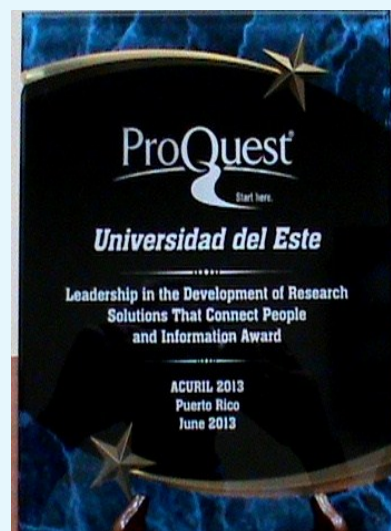


From left: Dr. Jorge Figueroa, Dr. Marta Díaz Fernández, Dr. Lourdes Domínguez, Dr. Jaime Rodríguez Cancel and Dr. Antonio Aja Díaz.

On June 19th the Piñero Collection received a visit from three distinguished Cuban academics who participated in a special production of "Paliqueando", the UNE's cultural programming on the Internet. The visitors were: Dr. Antonio Aja Díaz, historian, sociologist and

Director of the Center for Demographic Studies at the *Universidad de La Habana*, Dr. Marta Díaz Fernández, Dean of the Audiovisual Communications School at the Superior Arts Institute of the *Universidad de La Habana* and Dr. Lourdes Domínguez, a member of the Cuban Academy of History and archaeologist at the Office of the Official Historian of the city of Havana.

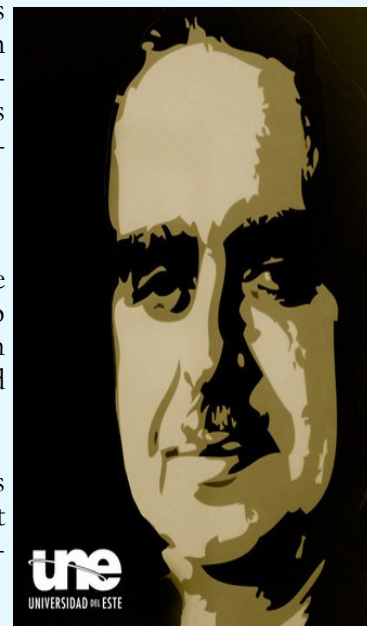
UNE Receives Awards



The Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries, ACURIL, celebrated their annual conference in San Juan from the 9th through the 14th of June. The closing ceremony of the conference included the presentation of a series of awards to member institutions for their contributions to the world of research and university libraries in the region. The Universidad del Este received two important awards for the valuable work that has been done in the Vice chancellery of Information Resources. The "Gale Cengage Learning Award" was awarded to the UNE library for the APPs that were created to strengthen communication between the institution and researchers. The APPs correspond to the Piñero Collection and UNEBIB.

The UNE also received the ProQuest award for "leadership in the development of research solutions that connect people and information".

We congratulate our coworkers who are behind these important contributions to research in Caribbean libraries.



"I miss the nine streets of my home town"



In front of the home and store of "Chepe" Pagán in Canóvanas. (Image: A. Trenche)

The recordings and transcriptions of two fascinating interviews recently became part of the Oral History Collection. The interviewee was a proud "son of Canóvanas", Alipio Trenche Echazábal, better known as "Pipo". Trenche's interviews are part of the collaborative Project "Geografía de la memoria" (The Geography of Memory) in which the Piñero Collection, the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and the Municipality of Canóvanas participate.

Trenche transmits an intense interest in everything that has to do with his home town, its people, its history and development. Although he now lives in Bayamón, he constantly visits Canóvanas and meets with friends, organizes meetings and seeks to maintain the connections that link him to his roots.

One of the most interesting topics that appears in Trenche's narrations is racism. He describes how the town had two important social organizations: the *Club Tanamá* and the Fraternity with its Sorority. The members of the *Club Tanamá* were "artisans", a euphemism for blacks. On the other hand, the Fraternity and Sorority had among their members "society people", or whites. Each organization had its own activities, its own membership requirements, its own pageants and parties. Trenche also describes how racism was manifested during the patron saint festival or *fiestas patronales*. He states:

"In the fiestas patronales they constructed a dance floor in the town square. They contracted an orchestra and everything and tickets were ten cents for each piece that was played. When you entered the dance floor area, on the left is where the colored people entered and they stayed on the left hand side... and on the right the whites. Nevertheless, during the rest of the year everyone shared in all activities, but during the fiestas everyone was divided. Unfortunately that's the way things were."

In these interviews, Trenche also comments on other aspects of daily life in the town: businesses, schools, churches and public health. He notes that for many years there was no resident doctor in Canóvanas and that instead the town pharmacist, Mr. Luis Ordoñez fulfilled many of the tasks of a physician. Furthermore, the Ordoñez home served as a type of social services center with people entering and leaving at all hours and that in the case of hurricanes the house became a community refuge, not because it was larger nor sturdier than other homes but because people felt safe with the Ordoñez family. Trenche also describes the work of his own mother, Rafaela Echazábal, who for many years was known by everyone as one of the town's most important midwives.

He also describes the emergency transportation that was used by people in the countryside to transport the sick and injured to the local clinic: *"I saw many people from the barrios, especially Campo Rico, who were brought into town in hammocks. The hammocks had a long bamboo pole which two people would carry on their shoulders and it had a white sheet where they put the corpse or the sick or injured, especially the injured and you would see them running and there were always two or three additional people just in case one of the men became tired. I saw this frequently, bringing in the sick and the injured from the countryside, and sometimes you would see the sheets stained with blood."*

"Pipo" narrates in these interviews a vision of daily life in the 1940s and 50s in a small town that struggled to survive surrounded by a sea of cane fields. He describes in great detail the everyday scenes in what he calls his "town of nine streets". The recordings and transcripts of these interviews are available for consultation in the Oral History Collection.



The graduating class of 1939 of the Andrés Flores López School in Canóvanas. (Image: A. Trenche)

Collaborating with “Giants”

One of the principal objectives that appear in the yearly program of the Piñero Collection is: *“Share with the community the legacy and work of the first Puerto Rican governor.”* To fulfill this objective it is essential to work with community organizations and governmental institutions.

With this goal in mind, the historian in charge of the Piñero Collection met recently with two representatives of the Municipality of Carolina to discuss possible collaboration. The figure of Jesús Piñero, one of the “Giants” of Carolina’s history, is an important part of the city’s history and the Collection is always looking for ways to share its documentary resources with the community.

In this meeting, Mrs. Myra Trujillo, Director of the Municipal Department of Education and Mrs. Azlyn Pérez Soto, of the System of Municipal Libraries, dialoged with the historian about opportunities for collaboration. Future activities may include: conferences, visits to libraries and travelling exhibits.



“The formula which should govern our economic life is a simple one: produce with industry and good will, and distribute with justice and good faith.”

Jesús T. Piñero

Piñero House Museum



Visits:

Tuesday thru Saturday

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

787-876-0562

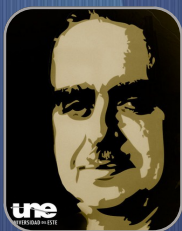
The *Carta Informativa* is the work of:
Leticia Delgado, Norayma Celpa and Jaime Partsch



Piñero Reading Room

Monday thru Friday
7:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

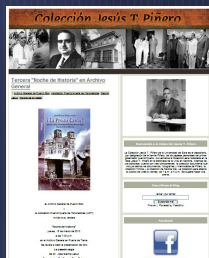
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