

'21st Century Dispatches from Latin America': Peace, justice and the legacies of the Cold War

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When Americans think of the Cold War in Latin America, the Cuban Missile Crisis is often the first and only thing that comes to mind.

However, the Cold War deeply involved all Latin American nations and has continued to exert considerable influence on these countries up to the present day.

In order to shed some light on the continuing issues that face Latin America, the College of St. Scholastica's own Dr. Timothy Lorek will be giving a Peace and Justice lecture, along with his colleague Dr. Andra Chastain from Washington State University Vancouver, on Tuesday, Nov. 2, titled "21st Century Dispatches from Latin America."

Giving a brief description of the lecture, Lorek said, "What we are going to talk about are the legacies of the Cold War and how those are informing politics in Latin America today. How are the things in the news you see right now left over from some of these unresolved tensions from the Cold War? That's

what we're going to try to unpack for people."

Lorek and his colleague will examine some current issues in South American politics, with each speaker focusing on a specific country—Colombia and Chile, respectively.

Going more in depth, Lorek gave two examples of case studies that the lecture will examine. Chastain will discuss recent social movements in Chile, including a movement to adopt a new constitution, as Lorek the one that the nation currently possesses was originally drafted and passed during the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

Regarding his own primary case study, Lorek said, "What I'm going to be talking about is the peace process in Colombia. Colombia, for about fifty years, has had a multi-dimensional armed struggle. In 2016, the government signed a peace accord with the largest insurgency group in Latin America, the Revolutionary Armed Forces



Dr. Timothy Lorek will give a Peace and Justice lecture on Nov. 2. Submitted photo/Timothy Lorek

of Colombia....In Colombia right now there is a lot in the news...about the government's negotiation with rebel groups, the peace process, and what the prospects for peace are."

"21st Century Dispatches from Latin America" will take place in the Mitchell Auditorium on Nov. 2 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you cannot attend in person, you can still attend via Zoom. More information, as well as the Zoom registration, can be found at <https://www.css.edu/about/events/spotlight/>

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An island—or "peninsula," as McGrew called it—was built behind the main desk to accommodate those who require mobility devices. McGrew said, "It's a consultation area where you can bring a wheelchair or some other mobility device next to and work with somebody on the other side."

Johnson said, "With the old metal shelving, if anyone was working in a wheelchair, there just wasn't space to turn around, as well as having things too high up for someone who needs to sit up and reach."

These changes and additions were made with long-term sustainability in mind. "There's a lot of intentionality in that, in trying to come up with all sorts of ways [to make the desk more accessible]. Again, we knew we wouldn't get a desk anytime soon, so we had to think: what do we need to make this desk work for the next 30 years?" Johnson said.

Student workers appreciate the library's improvements, too. "The new circulation desk is really nice," said Ellie Rohe, a senior nursing and Spanish major who has worked in the Library since 2019. "It's welcoming, and now the shelves match the desk, so it's nice and pretty. The cabinets underneath are really good storage that we didn't have before."

Rohe said that the accessibility improvements "definitely help" those who require them, and she reiterated McGrew and Johnson's point that

the old circulation desk was not ADA compliant.

"The higher part of the desk is nice for organization," she said, "but the lower part helps with face-to-face interactions with the patrons. It helps to foster more of a connection. Student workers have more space to spread out; now we can fit two student workers at the desk."

Updates like these are important for "everyone, not just people with disabilities," said Hannah Bober, assistant director of the Center for Equal Access, in email correspondence with The Script. "Updating these spaces also helps draw in a diverse student population to our campus."

A historic building like Tower Hall poses unique challenges to ADA compliance, meaning that some spaces in the building can legally remain inaccessible. "Buildings like Tower Hall were grandfathered in when the ADA was passed in 1990," said Jessica Johnston, director of Academic

Access and Support, in email correspondence with The Script. "So, the inaccessible areas like the fifth floor of Tower (which requires you to walk up a flight of stairs) are not illegal, per se, but [are] still a calling nonetheless to improve."

The Library's updates send a welcoming message that aligns with our Benedictine values, said Johnston and Sadie LaPlante, the

Center for Equal Access's accommodations coordinator.

In an email, LaPlante said, "By making improvements that follow the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the principles of Universal Design, we are sending a message to folks with disabilities that they are welcome at CSS and we value them and their needs. It demonstrates that CSS is willing to make equitable changes to the environment to better level the playing field for people with disabilities."

Johnston agreed.



Students study in the newly renovated North Reading Room. Script photo/Ashley Etter

"Improving physical spaces is critical work, falling under our mission to be a place where all people feel welcome. That being said, our number one category of disability is psychological, and we can all, regardless of funds, create spaces where we believe and seek to help those in our community who struggle with invisible disabilities," she said.

While the renovations to the

What to do this weekend in Duluth

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It is that time of the year again. The leaves change colors, the weather gets colder, and the spooky season begins. Here in Duluth there are tons of activities to do to celebrate this spooky month.

Fall in Duluth is one of the many highlights to spending time in the Northland. There are gorgeous fall colors on the trees everywhere you turn. With a wide range of events, such as Boo at the Zoo and The Haunted Ship, there is an activity for everyone.

Boo at the Zoo takes place at the Lake Superior Zoo in West Duluth, and is about a 15 minute drive from the Duluth campus. It has some specific dates to go and celebrate Halloween with the friendly animals! Those dates are the final two Saturdays in Oct.: Oct. 23 and Oct. 30. During Boo at the Zoo, the event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All ages are welcome and are encouraged to dress up!

There are tons of vendors all

over the zoo that hand out candy and different treats.

Another spooky place is the William A. Irvin's Haunted Ship in Canal Park. At this attraction people dress up in all sorts of different costumes and jump out to scare you while you are in the ship's "dungeon." It is recommended that people under 12 should not go unless they are accompanied by an adult. If you can face your fears of the dark and not knowing what is around the next corner, this event is for you. Times and dates can all be found on the Duluth Haunted Ship website.

On the less scary side, there are plenty of ways to simply look at all of the beautiful fall colors. Take a hike through Chester Park, a walk up Enger Tower to see the amazing view, or drive up Skyline Drive and the North Shore Scenic Drive.

There are so many different ways to get involved in the Duluth community and have an amazing October and Halloween!

circulation desk area aimed primarily to accommodate people with disabilities, other renovations aimed to establish aesthetic uniformity and a better ambience.

Renovations in the North Reading Room, known informally among Library staff as the "Raven Room," aimed to make it "more comfortable and more attractive to students," McGrew said. "That was our focus there. We wanted to add the fireplace to give it a nice, comfortable feel."

Johnson said that the

to work with the Monastery to see if there's any prints and things like that that we might be able to purchase to put in there," said Johnson.

And the fireplace is operable, so if patrons desire a cozy atmosphere, they simply need to ask a staff person to turn it on. "It's an electric fireplace, but it creates a really nice ambience," said Johnson.

According to Rohe, library patrons enjoy the updated Raven Room. "Students really like the [Raven Room]," Rohe said,

fireplace is "the same dimensions and style as the fireplaces that are in Tower Hall."

"It's very similar to the fireplace in the second-floor faculty [and staff] lounge," McGrew added.

Library patrons can possibly expect to see new artwork adorning the Raven Room's walls. "Sister Mary Charles wrote some icons of Benedict to have ravens, so I'm trying

"especially when we got the tables with chargers built into them. It's nice to sit there with the fireplace on."

Future renovation plans are uncertain, said McGrew, because Library renovations depend on monetary donations. The money for this project came from an endowed fund in the name of Elaine Alexander Adams '36.