

# ECSA WORLD-NEWS

ISSUE 49 SEPTEMBER 2016

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*Dear Presidents, dear colleagues, dear friends,*

*Only sometimes I open my e-mail box from my previous University in Barcelona. Normally there only correspondence from organisations or about events is arriving. The last time I was looking for the messages from the last weeks there was something different: a message from Costa Rica communicating that Professor Arnoldo Rubio passed away on September 13th. In all the 8 years as President of ECSA World it is the first time that a current ECSA President dies. Therefore, we wanted to dedicate this issue of the newsletter to this personality who was the promoter of one of the youngest member associations of ECSA World. Looking for participants for our Baltimore workshop in 2013 we knew about his long engagement to European integration issues, having made his PhD in Political Sciences at the Free University in Brussels. He immediately accepted the invitation, and Carla Rabell, who contacted him in October 2012 (seven months before the event) commented after the first e-mail we received from him he was a very kind professor. Also in an e-mail his gentleness was transmitted.*

*As you may remember, the Baltimore workshop had the goal to establish contact to some scholars dealing with European studies in countries in which ECSA was not established. After this event in fact ECSA Georgia, ECSA Montenegro - and even ECSA Central America with seat in Costa Rica were established. The participating members of ECSA World at that time (Léonce Bekemans, Martin Holland and Vlasta Kunova) may remember our colleague, although he was arriving very late in the night - after a very complex travel from Central America - and had to move the next day to the hospital because he felt ill. It was nothing serious, only the fatigue and the stress of the long travel day. Professor Carlos Hakansson from Peru was so kind to spend a time with him in the hospital; when in the evening Carla and me were going to the hospital, we found him - speaking excellently French but only a few English words - smiling, patient and enjoying the curious situation of having found an Hispano nurse and a young medical doctor who in secondary school had learnt some Spanish which he uses in a creative way. He was able to come back to the hotel with us - in a car of the University police, ordered by a vigorous black police woman because in a strong rain no taxi wanted to come to the hospital. This was the adventurous beginning of ECSA Central America.*

*In the following pages we rend homage to our colleague who went back from Baltimore with the idea to create this ECSA and made it in fact possible and we also take this opportunity for reminding some parts of the recent history of ECSA.*

*May he rest in pace, our colleague President Luis Arnoldo Rubio Ríos!*

*Best regards,  
Enrique Banús*



## Prof. Arnoldo Rubio

The person who founded and presided ECSA Central America passed away last 13th of September

ECSA community wants to remember his figure

## Biography

Prof. Arnoldo Rubio was Professor of International Relations and Degree Advisor in European studies and Regional integration at State Open University (UNED), Costa Rica, having obtained his doctorate (PhD) in Political Sociology at the Free University of Brussels in Belgium. His academic career has developed at several universities.

He was Director of the Center for European Studies at the National University Costa Rica during 2001-2005. In 2003 he started as Coordinator Master of European Studies and Regional Integration at State Open University.

He was an expert in the study of inter-regional EU-Central America, having advised various institutions on issues related to regional integration. His research interests included: Latin American Integration, SICA (Central American Integration System), relations between Latin America and the European Union. Among his numerous publications are worth mentioning: "*L'Intégration Centre-Américaine: entre le modèle européen et le modèle nord-américain*", "*A New Integration for Latin America*", and "*European Studies and Regional Integration*".

## Baltimore, the precedent of ECSA Central America

Prof. Arnoldo Rubio attended the ECSA World workshop organized in 2013 in Baltimore (Maryland, USA) within the framework of the 13th Biennial International Conference of ECSA United States (EUSA). It was an event composed of two sessions and one Informal Meeting, organized by the president Prof. Enrique Banús. It brought together interesting academics coming from different geographical parts of the world.

During the sessions, participants had the opportunity to present their papers and expose a specific issue of the European studies. After the sessions were taken place, the ECSA World Board and the President, as well as the participants of the ECSA World Workshop, meet up all together to discuss the possibilities of improving the European studies in their countries by creating an own ECSA.

Unfortunately, Prof. Rubio could not present its paper "The influence of the European Community Jurisprudence in the Main Courts of Latin American" because he was not feeling well. Although, after the workshop he wrote some lines about his opinion concerning the situation of the European studies in Costa Rica: "The situation of the European studies in Costa Rica, despite the efforts made, is not as good as expected. It turns out that the cultural level of Costa Rica, by tradition and by being a democratic and civilian country, always kept his distance from the governments of the rest of the region. It was after the Cold War, in the 90s, when the situation changed because of the European Union mediation in regional conflict

resolution. In fact, it was the European Union who intervened in Central America to settle peace, determination to democracy, respect for human rights, governance and other aspects. I personally started working on, to show the role of the European Union cooperation in our region, in relation to the role that the United States had played during the Cold War. Unfortunately, due to lack of financial resources for the support and development of programs, our boost has been disturbed, but we insist on making our objectives prevail".

This workshop in Baltimore was the precedent of a new ECSA birth.

## The letter from his colleagues of Costa Rica:

**(English):** "Don Arnoldo death leaves us a great vacuum; precisely in that moments our region is living, his integrative spirit shows us that we really need him.

Those who had the pleasure to know him as a professor, friend, colleague and idealistic fighter for a more integrated and united region, can vouch for who he was. The orphanhood of ECSA Central America will be temporary, because whenever he will stay, for sure he will come to lead us and make us keep his great legacy.

The Don Arnoldo of untarnished virtues we met, must obligate to all members to keep going and consolidate his big dream".

**(Spanish):** "La muerte de don Arnoldo nos deja un gran vacío; precisamente, en momentos en que pasa nuestra región, su espíritu integracionista nos muestra que nos hace mucha falta.

Los que tuvimos el placer de conocerle como profesor, amigo, compañero e idealista de una región más integrada y solidaria, podemos dar fe de quién fue. La orfandad de ECSA Centroamérica será pasajera, puesto que donde este don

Arnoldo, él de seguro volverá a guiarnos y obligarnos a mantener su gran legado.

El don Arnoldo de acrisoladas virtudes que conocimos, nos tiene que obligar a todos los miembros a seguir adelante y terminar de consolidar su gran sueño".

## The letter from his colleagues of State Open University (UNED):

(English): "Regretfully, we communicate the death of our colleague Mr. Arnoldo Rubio, full professor of the School of Management Sciences. Don Arnoldo was a passionate academic, concerned about the development of knowledge. Among his greatest passions stressed love for Costa Rica and the UNED, which he took in his heart. He was characterized as an honest, cheerful, hardworking man, possessed of great charisma, a strong solidarity with peers and a genuine desire to share his knowledge with anyone who needed.

Today leaves a great void in the UNED and great teachings for his colleagues and friends.  
[...]

Our deepest condolences to our colleague Mrs. Nuria Leitón, his wife and for his friends and colleagues. May God give them fortitude, peace and resignation in this time of grief".

(Spanish): "Con pesar se comunica el sensible fallecimiento de nuestro compañero el Sr. Arnoldo Rubio, funcionario de la Escuela de Ciencias de la Administración.

Don Arnoldo fue un apasionado académico, preocupado por el desarrollo del conocimiento. Entre sus más grandes pasiones destacó el amor por Costa Rica y la UNED, las que adoptó en su corazón. Se caracterizó por ser un hombre íntegro, alegre, trabajador, poseedor de un gran carisma, una marcada solidaridad con sus compañeros y un deseo genuino de compartir sus conocimientos con todo aquel que lo necesitara.

Hoy deja un gran vacío en la UNED y grandes enseñanzas para sus compañeros y amigos. [...]

Nuestro más sentido pésame a nuestra compañera doña Nuria Leitón, su esposa así como sus amigos y compañeros. Que Dios les conceda fortaleza, paz y resignación en estos momentos de dolor.

## Prof. Enrique Banús: "I knew him as a warm person, friendly, smiling, at once full of energy and drive"

(English): "I keep a fond memory of Professor Rubio, since I met him at a symposium organized in Baltimore (United States) and then in the negotiations for the creation of ECSA Central America and finally at the official opening of ECSA Central America.

I knew him as a warm person, friendly, smiling, at once full of energy and drive: the creation of ECSA undoubtedly due to its commitment and we are very grateful for it. We will have him in our memories and our prayers".

(Spanish): "Guardo un recuerdo entrañable del profesor Rubio, desde que lo conocí en un simposio que organizamos en Baltimore (Estados Unidos) y luego en las negociaciones para la creación de ECSA Centroamérica y finalmente en la inauguración oficial de ECSA América Central.

Lo conocí como una persona cordial, acogedora, sonriente, a la vez lleno de energía y empuje: la creación de ECSA, indudablemente, se debe a su empeño y le estamos muy agradecidos por ello. Le tendremos en nuestro recuerdo y nuestras oraciones".