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## UNH Professor's Book Explores Contemporary Life In Honduras

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DURHAM, N.H. – Contemporary life in the small Latin American nation of Honduras – from its linguistic diversity to its indigenous communities – is the topic of a new book by Janet Gold, professor of Spanish at the University of New Hampshire.

"Culture and Customs of Honduras" (Greenwood Press, 2009) explores the many facets of Honduran life and culture. Rather than a single, homogeneous culture, Honduras is made up of many different cultures.

"Because of my reputation as a scholar who has written about Honduran literature, I was contacted by Greenwood Press to write a book on contemporary Honduran culture. I was happy to take on the challenge because I felt it was a way of saying thank you to so many people in Honduras who have helped me over the years as I conducted research there," Gold said.

"I wanted to write a book that would explore the extraordinary efforts of so many writers, artists and performers who create art with very limited resources. Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere but its oral tradition and indigenous history and cultures are rich and varied," she said.

Gold incorporates this contemporary cultural consciousness in her treatment of Honduras's regional and linguistic diversity as well as in her descriptions of Honduras's indigenous communities. Key elements of the work include a look at national identity and cultural diversity, as well as an in-depth study of indigenous Honduras. Other chapters examine religion, as well as daily routines, cuisine, dress, media, sports, festivals, literature and oral storytelling, traditional crafts, visual arts, and music and dance.

Gold is the author of "Culture and Customs of Honduras" (Greenwood Press, 2009), "Sagatara Mío" (Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen, 2005), "El retrato en el espejo: una biografía de Clementina Suárez" (Editorial Guaymuras, 2001), and "Clementina Suárez: Her Life and Poetry" (University Press of Florida, 1995). She holds a Ph.D. in Hispanic languages and literatures from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and has taught at UNH since 1995.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

