Dr. Kevin Meehan earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Maryland, College Park. Since 1996, he has taught at the University of Central Florida (UCF), where he now holds the rank of Professor of English. Dr. Meehan specializes in Caribbean and multi-ethnic U.S. literature. His book, *People Get Ready: African American and Caribbean Cultural Exchange* (University Press of Mississippi, 2009), explores the long history of African American and Caribbean interaction as a source of decolonizing culture in the Americas.

As Founding Director of UCF’s Haitian Studies Project, Dr. Meehan has pursued distance learning curriculum projects, faculty exchanges, and National Science Foundation-funded fieldwork on mobile communication in rural Haiti through research partnerships with the University of Fondwa and the University of Nouvelle Grand’Anse. He is also the co-director of the UCF President’s Scholars Program, a summer service learning study abroad experience in the eastern Caribbean federation of St. Kitts-Nevis.

Dr. Meehan enjoys listening to and performing all types of Caribbean music, from reggae and soca to konpa, salsa, merengue, and guajiro. He has recorded two CDs of traditional Cuban music with Conjunto Kimbombo. He is currently on sabbatical, working on a translation of selected prose by the French Guyanese writer Leon Damas. In January 2012, he will take up an appointment as visiting professor at Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College in St. Kitts, where he will participate in a region-wide project in climate change curriculum development.

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**Dr. Kevin Meehan**
Professor of English and Founding Director of the Haitian Studies Project, University of Central Florida

**“MOUNTAINS BEHIND MOUNTAINS: POPULAR MOVEMENTS AND THE LONG STRUGGLE FOR HAITIAN SOVEREIGNTY”**

Tuesday, December 6, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Room 230, Laird Room North
Dreyfus University Center

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This event was made possible thanks to support provided by
Office of the Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
College of Letters and Science
Department of History
The Latin American/Caribbean Speaker Series (LACSS) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was founded in 2011 to promote awareness of political, social, economic, environmental, and cultural issues in Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean region. The series presents scholars, artists, activists, and other specialists on our campus each year to share their knowledge with students, faculty, staff, and the wider community.

For more information about the series, including a list of upcoming guest speakers, please contact LACSS Chair Anju Reejhsinghani, Assistant Professor of History, at areejhsi@uwsp.edu or (715) 346-4122.

Photograph of La Boule Sand Mine, Haiti (by Kevin Meehan)

Mountains Behind Mountains: Popular Movements and the Long Struggle for Haitian Sovereignty

A presentation by Dr. Kevin Meehan

“Deye mon, gen mon” is a Kreyol (Creole) proverb that can translated as “behind the mountain, more mountains.” While often interpreted as a metaphor for the seemingly-endless stream of problems faced by Haiti during two centuries of independence, or alternatively as an expression of the steadfast endurance of Haitian people in the confronting those problems, Dr. Meehan takes it here as a figure for the omnipresence of popular organizations and their important role as a force for social inclusion.

Dr. Meehan’s talk offers some historical perspective on popular movements but focuses in more detail on the period since the devastating 2010 earthquake. Based on twenty years of fieldwork in Haiti, as well as National Science Foundation-funded research in the past year, Dr. Meehan traces connections between peasant associations and higher education developments that reveal real efforts by Haitian people to control their destiny in spite of the political, economic, and environmental forces ranged against them.