BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Summer 2001 **Newsletter** **No. 10**

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I prepared my report for the periodic review of Latin American Studies last fall, it gave me great satisfaction to see how the program has flourished in the ten years I have been at Brandeis. I am especially gratified by the high level of campus interest in Latin America evident in strong course enrollments, large audiences at LAS events, and numerous students going to work, study, and research in Latin America.

The university review committee found LAS to be in excellent shape, It commended us for promoting the understanding of Latin America at Brandeis by offering courses, sponsoring co-curricular events, hosting visiting scholars, providing grants to encourage research in Latin America, and fostering a sense of community for students and faculty who share an interest in this area. As I wrote in my report, LAS is pleased to "contribute to making Brandeis a 'Connected University' which maximizes students' opportunities for meaningful interdisciplinary learning and €or interaction with faculty, alumni, and specialists outside the Brandeis community." I thank all of you who have helped us achieve these goals.

The upcoming year promises to be full and satisfying. One of the highlights will be our hosting the Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor, the distinguished Cuban-American writer Roberto Femandez. Please join us on September 13 at 3 P.M. in Feldberg Lounge to welcome him to campus, greet old friends, and make new ones.

Silvia Marina Arrom

NEW COURSE OFFERS INSIGHTS ON THE LATINO EXPERIENCE

"Latinos in the United States: Perspectives from History, Literature, and Film" was offered for the first time in the spring semester. Team-taught by Professors **Silvia Arrom** (History) and **Roxanne Dhvila** (ROCL), the course was funded by a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Designed as an advanced seminar, it examined the Latin American diaspora to the United States during the twentieth century. The course included readings from textbooks such as Juan Gonzalez's *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America* and Patricia Pessar's *A Visafor a Dream: Dominicans in the United States;* memoirs such as *The House on Mango Street* and *When I Was Puerto Rican;* and films including *Zoot Suit* and *La Ciudad.* Student response to the course was overwhelmingly positive. The recent results of the 2000 Census, which highlighted the importance of Latinos in the United States, made this course a timely addition to the Brandeis curriculum.

A co-curricular film series and lecture stimulated interest in the area within the university community. The films are part of the Brandeis collection. A videotape of the lecture by renowned scholar and cultural critic **Ilan Stavans** is available at the Brandeis library.

Professors Ilan Stavans, Roxanne Dhvila, and Silvia Arrom prior to Professor Stavans' presentation at Brandeis.
(photo by Julian Brown, Brandeis Public Affairs Office)

LAS EVENTS AT BRANDEIS, 2000-2001

The following events were sponsored or co-sponsored by the Latin American Studies program:

Lectures:
MANUEL HERNANDEZ AGUILAR (Mexican indigenous leader): "Globalization and Militarization in Chiapas, Mexico," October 19.

PEDRO CANIL GONZALEZ (Guatemalan community leader): "Justice Against All Odds," October 25.

SILVIA GRIGOLINI (Anthropology, 2000 Jane's Travel Grant recipient): "Remittances and International Migration: Preliminary Research," November 9.

THOMAS JOHNSON (AAAS): "Statesman, Warlord, Caudillo: Political Order and Leadership from Colonialism to Independence," November 15.

ANA MARIA GOMEZ LOPEZ (Colombian student and human rights activist), IGNACIO GOMEZ (Colombian journalist, Nieman Fellow at Harvard University), SEAN DONAHUE (Co-director, New Hampshire Peace Action): "Plan Colombia: Who Does It Really Benefit?" March 14.

ILAN STAVANS (Spanish, Amherst College): "The Sounds of Spanglish," March 29.

REBECCA PEARL (SID, 2000 Jane's Travel Grant recipient): "Gender Budget Initiatives in the Andean Region: Implementing UNIFEM's Program on Women's Economic and Social Rights," April 23.

JOHN ROSS (author, journalist): "How the Zapatistas Changed the Face of Mexico," April 25.

RUTH BEHAR (Anthropology, University of Michigan): "Adio Kerida: A Video Documentary About a Cuban Sephardic Journey," April 26.

Concerts:
SOL Y CANTO (Latin American musical trio), October 12.
ROBERTO VIZCAINO (Cuban percussionist), March 13.

Films:
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS – THE DISCOVERY, September 13.
CABEZA DE VACA, September 25.
AGUIRRE, THE WRATH OF GOD, October 26.
QUILOMBO, November 1.
HOW TASTY WAS MY LITTLE FRENCHMAN, November 16.
COLOMBUS ON TRIAL, November 28.
COUPLE IN A CAGE, November 30.
ZOOT SUIT, January 23.
WEST SIDE STORY, February 6.
NUEBA YOL, March 6.
EL NORTE, March 13.
LA CIUDAD, March 20.
EL SUPER, April 17.
MY FAMILY, April 24.

BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM ON LATIN AMERICA SPONSORS PRESENTATIONS

The Boston Area Consortium on Latin America was headquartered at Brandeis for the ninth consecutive year. Consisting of nine colleges and universities in metropolitan Boston, it serves as a means for faculty and students with interests in this area to communicate with each other, to find out about events at other institutions, and to supplement their own resources with those available at other locations. During 2000-01 BACLA sponsored the following faculty seminars, which were free and open to the public:

"FOX IN THE HENHOUSE: THE MEXICAN TRANSITION," Todd Eisenstadt (University of New Hampshire) and Carlos Tello (DRCLAS Fellow, Harvard University), November 16.

"LATINO TRANSNATIONAL TIES: A NEW KIND OF U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATION?" Peggy Levitt (Sociology, Wellesley College), Susan Eckstein (Sociology, Boston College), Lorena Barberia (Cuba Program Associate, DRCLAS, Harvard University), May 2.

FACULTY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANTS GIVEN TO LAS PROFESSORS

Four faculty members were awarded Jane's Faculty Research Grants for 2000-2001. They are: Ian Bethell Bennett (visiting professor, ROCL) for research and participation in a conference on Caribbean literature held in Nassau, the Bahamas; Roxanne Dávila (ROCL) for archival research in Mexico for her book *Mapping the Mexican Metropolis: Image and Text in Porfirian Mexico;* Faith Smith (AAAS) for archival research on J. J. Thomas and for her participation at the Caribbean Historians Conference; Javier Urcid (Anthropology) for research on the trepanation of skulls in ancient Mesoamerica.

SENIOR WINS JANE'S ESSAY PRIZE

Tova Neugut '01 received the 2001 Jane's Essay Prize for the best paper in any area of Latin American, Caribbean, or Latino studies. The essay, entitled "Grenada 'As One People, One Family' Healing Rifts of October 1983," was her senior thesis in Sociology. In addition to her written research, she and Professor Dessima Williams (Sociology) worked together on a documentary about the possibilities for reconciliation among Grenadians on both sides of the U.S. intervention.

Neotropics was published this summer. Investigating five different lowland Amerindian societies, it examines the effect of markets on such areas as health, conservation, deforestation, leisure, and folk knowledge and concludes that in general markets do not erode the quality of life. He is also the author of *Mining and Agriculture in Highland Bolivia: Ecology, History, and Commerce Among the Jukumanis* (1990) as well as many articles and discussion papers.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

October marked the fourth time that Brandeis students celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month on campus. This year's theme was "Beyond a Definition: Breaking the Stereotypes."

At the opening event, Professor **Angela Perez-Mejia** (ROCL) spoke of the numbers of the Latino community in the United States, which make it the fastest-growing minority group in the country. "We are here, we are growing, and America doesn't know quite what to do with us," she said. Because Hispanics come from so many different countries, it is misleading to define them as if they are a single group. "There's no way to define us as a whole," according to **Veronica Sampayo** '01, coordinator of Hispanic Heritage Month. Food, literature, customs, and race vary throughout Latin America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, and the Latino community in the U.S. mirrors these differences.

Other events sponsored by AHORA!, the Hispanic club on campus, were the Sol y Canto concert, the Main Event, a forum on the works of artist Gómez-Peña, and a party to close out the month.

STUDENTS FOCUS ATTENTION ON COLOMBIAN CRISIS

Brandeis undergraduates undertook several initiatives this year to focus attention on the deteriorating situation in Colombia. Students helped organize the March 14 panel on "Plan Colombia: Who Does It Really Benefit?" co-sponsored by Peace and Conflict Studies. **Sarah Katel** '02 and **Mara Cohen** '04 wrote articles analyzing U.S. policy in Colombia for the January 2001 issue of *Louis* and the March 19 *Brandeis Free Press.*

BRANDEISIAN REPORTS ON CUBA

Last summer, **Ezra Golberstein** '01 went to Cuba with the organization Witness for Peace. In a presentation to the Brandeis community he noted that "the purpose of the delegation was to study the effects of the U.S. embargo on the people of Cuba. Even though travel to Cuba is restricted due to the **U.S.** sanctions, it was a legal delegation because it was classified as 'humanitarian."'

The organization traveled to Havana, the province of Pinar del Rio, and the resort of Varadero. Ezra said, "We spent a lot of time looking at the Cuban health care system. Most of the time we stayed at the Frank Pais Orthopedic Hospital. We were totally free to talk with anyone we wanted, and we found that most people were very receptive to talking with us. Things are better than I expected, but they are far from great. People seem to have their basic needs met, but beyond that, it doesn't seem like there is that much for people. The embargo is affecting the general population negatively, with the health care system being the strongest example I saw."

SEVENTEEN BRANDEISIANS STUDY IN LATIN AMERICA

A record seventeen Brandeis students studied in Latin America during 2000-01, either for a semester or for the academic year. The countries included Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, and, for the first time, Cuba. Next year two students will study in Cuba, one for a semester and the other for a year. Others will be in Argentina, Chile, and Venezuela.

DISSERTATIONS AND SENIOR THESES

The following students received doctorates with dissertations in Latin American-related fields: **Holly Snyder** (American History; recipient of a 1996 Jane's Travel Grant): "A Sense of Place: Jews, Identity and Social Status in Colonial British America, 1654-1831"; **Jeffrey Elton Michels** (IPLS; recipient of a 1995 Jane's Travel Grant): "Minds Made Up: Conviction in Fiction and the Narrative Theory of Tolerance"; **Flavia Mayrinck Vidal** (IPLS): "Polyphonic Possibilities in the Caribbean: Explorations of Identity in Maryse Conde's *Traversée de la Mangrove* and Rosario Ferre's *Maldito Amor.*"

The following students wrote senior theses on a Latin American-related subject: **Adina Gluckman** (NEJS): "European Jewish Immigration to Mexico City 1921-1947: with a special emphasis on the 1920s and 1930s"; **Tova Neugut** (Sociology): "Grenada 'As One People, One Family' Healing Rifts of October 1983," for which she won this year's Jane's Essay Prize.

JANINA FENIGSEN AWARDED PRIZES

Janina Fenigsen (Ph.D. '00), lecturer in Anthropology, was named a University Prize Instructor and won the Robert Manners Award for the Best Specialist Essay. Her dissertation, "Regimes of Inequality: Linguistic Ideologies and Practices in Barbados," was in part based on research she did in a Barbadian village as a recipient of a 1994 Jane's Travel Grant.

JANE'S TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS GIVE INTERVIEWS, PRESENTATIONS

The three 2000 Jane's Travel Grant winners shared their research findings with the Brandeis community.

Gregory Foley '00 conducted a behavioral field study of *Paraponera clavata*, or Bullet Ants, at La Estacion Biológica de La Suerte in Costa Rica. He wanted to "understand how the rapidly diminishing rainforest ecosystems operate because that is crucial to understanding and saving the rainforest. Each colony of ants brought a different type and amount of materials to their nests, and it is the unusual use of materials and the variation among colonies that interest me. Each colony has its own distinct behavior, and these differences in behavior seem to have relevance to the current debate over environmental determinism."

Silvia Grigolini (Anthropology) researched remittances and international migration in Oaxaca, Mexico. She wanted to "understand how remittances actually take place: what causes the migrants and their families to send them, how each individual—sender or receiver—is affected by the process." The project "will help us better understand migration as a whole and the ties that migrants maintain with the family members they have left behind in their 'home' countries."

Rebecca Pearl (SID) traveled to Quito, Ecuador and coordinated the Program on Economic and Social Rights for Andean Women, sponsored by the Andean regional office of the United Nations Developing Fund for Women (UNIFEM). "The program aims to analyze the status of women's economic and social rights based on international and national legislation, to advocate for national budgets that acknowledge the different impact of policies on women and men, and to disseminate information on women's rights to NGOs, especially those working with indigenous and informal sector women," Rebecca said. "I organized international trainings, represented UNIFEM at government meetings, and helped indigenous and black women's organizations develop successful projects on domestic and informal sector work."

LATIN AMERICAN FACULTY NOTES

Silvia Marina Arrom (History) published the monograph *Containing the Poor: The Mexico City Poor House, 1774-1871* (Duke University Press, 2001). She chaired and commented on a panel on "Race, Religion, and Social Mobility in Late Colonial Mexico" at the American Historical Association meeting in December. She continued as director of the Boston Area Consortium on Latin America.

Roxanne **Dávila** (ROCL) developed a course, "Spanish for Heritage Speakers," last fall. Her article "Mexico City as Urban Palimpsest in Salvador Novo's Nueva grandeza mexicana" appeared in *The Literary Imagination* (Winter *2000)*. She presented lectures on "Colonialism and Resistance: Writing Space and Place for the Maya" at the University of New Hampshire and "Mapping Mesoamerica: Copán, Chichen Itzá, and Palenque" at the University of Pennsylvania.

Donald Hindley (Politics) had the play he translated with Dian Fox (ROCL), *El médico de su honra/The Physician of His Honour,* performed at the University of Minnesota.

James **Mandrell** (ROCL) delivered a lecture entitled "Ricky Martin: Living La Vida of Las Locas" at the Third International Conference on Caribbean Literature in Puerto Rico in November. He published "En busqueda del parrafo perfecto o el placer de la lectura" in *Nuevos acercamientos a Rima de Vallbona* (Actas del "Simposio-Homenaje") edited by Jorge Chen Sham (Editorial de la Universidad de Costa Rica-University of St. Thomas, 2000).

Wellington Nyangoni (AAAS) published *Economic Integration in the Caribbean and Latin America* (Mambo and Panase Press, 2001).

Angela **Pérez-Mejía** (ROCL) was awarded the Bernstein Faculty Fellowship for her research on "The Making of an Illegal Geography in Seventeenth-Century Latin America." During the spring semester she did research on this project in Bogota, Colombia and Brown University. Her monograph, *La geografía de los tiempos difíciles: escritura de viajes a Sur América durante los movimientos de independencia 1789-1845,* is in press. She co-curated the art exhibit "Colombians: Between Emotion, Nation, and Imagination" at the Cambridge Multicultural Center in October.

Javier Urcid (Anthropology) published "Zapotec Hieroglyphic Writing" in *Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology* (2001) and "The Olmec Legacy: Cultural Continuity on Mexico's Southern Gulf Coast" (with Thomas Killion) in the *Journal of Field Archaeology.* In the summer of 2000 he conducted field surveys in Guerrero and Oaxaca, Mexico and presented papers in Japan, Holland, and Mexico.

Robert Zeitlin (Anthropology) published "Laguna Zopa" and "Oaxaca and Tehuantepec Region" in *The Archaeology of Ancient Mexico and Central America: An Encyclopedia,* edited by S. T. Evans and D. L. Webster (Garland Publishing, 2001). He presented "The Limits of Empire: Monte Albán Imperialism and the Pacific Coast" at the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Philadelphia.

ALUMNI NOTES

Christine Aragón Torres '99 gave birth to a son, Andy Salomon Torres, in December. She received her master's in American Studies from Purdue University in May. Her topic of interest was Guatemalan and Salvadoran immigration and labor in the U.S. She will be teaching sixth grade in Lancaster, MA this year.

Jocelyn Auerbach '98 completed her first year at Northeastern Law School. She worked in the field of immigration law for two years after graduating from Brandeis and spent this summer working for a civil rights firm that handles race discrimination class action suits.

Juan Bacigalupo (Ph.D. '84) is a professor in the Biology Department at the University of Chile and Director of the Graduate Program in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Neuroscience. He is also a member of the IBRO regional committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Elise Block '97 graduated from the Boston University School of Social Work with a master's in social work. Her focus is working with Latino children and families in the Boston area.

Alejandro Caminos '95 is a financial advisor to public agencies in California. A board member of the Latino Film Festival of the San Francisco Bay Area, he chaired a Youth in Video Program at the Festival. The organization's website is www.latinofilm-festival.org.

Sarah Fine '95 is living in New York and working as a technical writer for a software company.

Susannah Glusker '62 teaches twentieth-century Mexican art at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City and writes a weekly column for the *Mexico City News Online* in English and for www.TO2.com in Spanish.

Benjamin Gomes-Casseres '76, associate professor of international business in the Graduate School of International Economics and Finance at Brandeis, received the "Decade Award" from the *Journal of International Business Studies* for his article concerning the dynamics of bargaining between multinational enterprises and the governments of the countries in which they invest funds.

Vamsi Koneru '00 spent last year in Quito, Ecuador as a Peace Corps volunteer, working at a daycare center.

David "Quil" Lawrence '94 is a staff member of "The World," a daily news program on public radio produced by the BBC/PRI/WGBH. He is based in Miami.

Peggy Levitt '80 is an assistant professor of sociology at Wellesley College and an associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. She is the author of *The Transnational Villagers* (2001), based on ethnographic research in the Dominican Republic and the Dominican community in Boston.

Ruth Nemirovsky de Scher '84 is an investment banker at Bank Leumi Le Israel in Venezuela. She received a master's degree in industrial relations/management of human resources in Venezuela and a master's degree in international relations in Israel.

Leo Olper '92 is with the Leo Burnett advertising agency. He has worked in their Mexico office and is currently in Chicago, doing advertising and marketing for clients who direct their efforts to the Hispanic market in the U.S.

Eduardo Saenz Rovner (Ph.D. '89) was promoted to full professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogota. He published "German Arciniegas, entre la libertad y el establecimiento," in *Historia Crítica*, no. 21 (2001) and "La mafia en los Estados Unidos: un ensayo bibliográfico" in *Innovar*, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, no. 16 (2001).

Lisette Sarfaty '89 is on the faculty at the Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola, Lima, Peru in the School of Hospitality Management.

John Saxe-Fernandez '64 was awarded the 2000 National University of Mexico Prize for Teaching in the Social Sciences. He published *Globalizacidn, imperialismo, y clase social* (Lumen Humanitas, 2001).

Ben Singerman '99 completed his year in Ecuador as the recipient of a Fulbright grant. He worked with a congresswoman in the National Congress, joined a folkloric dance group, and was baptized in a traditional Quichua ceremony. After his return from Ecuador, he worked as a volunteer on a kibbutz in Israel. He will be attending Stanford Law School in the fall.

Franco Uccelli '88 is a Latin American economist at Bear, Stearns & Company in New York, where he is a member of the firm's Global High Yield Sovereign Research Group.

ROBERT ZEITLIN RETIRES

Robert Zeitlin, professor of Anthropology, has retired after more than twenty-five years at Brandeis. He was a member of the Anthropology Department and served on the Latin American Studies committee. We extend our best wishes to him and offer our sincere appreciation for the time he gave to our Program.

TWELVE GRADUATE LAS PROGRAM

The Latin American Studies Program extends its congratulations to the following graduating seniors:

The majors (concentrators) are:

Anna Ellison-Gladstone – additional major in Politics, cum laude

Roxanne Morel – additional major in Sociology

José Pichardo, Jr.

Sarah Reynolds – minor in writing

Ellen Starr – additional major in Sociology, minor in Spanish Language and Literature; cum laude

Robyn Treadwell – additional major in Spanish Language and Literature

The minors (programs) are:

Melissa Arana – majors in Psychology and Spanish Language and Literature

Brita Gaffey – majors in French Language and Literature and Spanish Language and Literature; summa cum laude; Shiff Undergraduate Fellow; Eli D. and Mollie Goodstein Prize in Spanish

Dan Hananel – majors in Economics and History; cum laude

Jessica Jama – major in European Cultural Studies; additional minor in Legal Studies

Graham Leonard – major in History, additional minor in East Asian Studies

Noa Simons – major in Politics, additional minor in Economics

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES COMMITTEE

The following faculty members helped guide the Latin American Studies program this year. They also served as advisers for students interested in their fields of expertise: Silvia Arrom (History), Roxanne Davila (ROCL), Donald Hindley (Politics), Robert Hunt (Anthropology), James Mandrell (ROCL), Ricardo Morant (Psychology), Wellington Nyangoni (AAAS), Dora Older (ROCL), Angela Perez-Mejia (ROCL), Laurence Simon (SID), Faith Smith (English/AAAS), Mireya Solís (Politics), Javier Urcid (Anthropology), O. Miguel Villanueva (Economics), Dessima Williams (Sociology), Luis Yglesias (ROCL), Robert Zeitlin (Anthropology).

ITEMS FOR THE 2002 NEWSLETTER

Do you have professional information you want to share, a new e-mail or web page address? Please send your information to Marilyn Brooks, administrator of LAS and editor of the newsletter:

snail mail: Brandeis University, LAS/MS 036, Waltham, MA 02454; **phone:** 781-736-2293; **fax:** 781-736-2273; **e-mail:** Mbrooks@brandeis.edu.

Also, please visit our web site at:

http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/latinam

Faculty, students, and friends at the Latin American Studies luncheon on May 1.
(Photo by the Visual Talent Group)

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES OFFERED DURING 2000-2001

Fall

AAAS 126b	Political Economy of the Third World	Nyangoni
ANTH 55a	Development and the Third World	Hunt
HIST 71a	Latin American History, Pre-Conquest to 1870	Arrom
LAS 98a	Independent Study	Staff
LAS 99d	Senior Research	Staff
POL 128a	Politics of Revolution: State Violence and Popular Insurgency in the Third World	Thaxton
POL 144a	Latin American Politics I	Hindley
POL 180b	Sustaining Development	Morgenthau
SEC 169a	Travel Writing and the Americas: Columbus' Legacy	Perez-Mejia
SOC 107a	Global Apartheid and Global Social Movements	Williams
SOC 112a	Topics on Women and Development	Williams
SPAN 108a	Spanish for Heritage Speakers	Davila
SPAN 111b	Introduction to Latin American Literature	Perez-Mejia
SPAN 163a	Latin America: Boom and Beyond	Davila

Spring

AAAS 123a	Third World Ideologies	Nyangoni
ANTH 147b	Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization	Zeitlin
FA 24b	20th-Century Latin American Art	Masuoka
FREN 165b	Topics in Francophone Literature: The Caribbean	Hale
HIST 71b	Latin American History, 1870 to the Present	Arrom
LAS 100a	Latinos in the United States: Perspectives from History, Literature, and Film	Arrom/Dávila
POL 144b	Latin American Politics II	Hindley
POL 146b	Revolutions in the Third World	Hindley
SPAN 111b	Introduction to Latin American Literature	Bethell Bennett
SPAN 164b	Studies in Latin American Fiction: Detective Fiction	Davila

Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Brooks
Latin American Studies
Olin-Sang 218/MS 036
Brandeis University
Waltham, MA 02454-9110