LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

VISITING PROFESSORS ENLIVEN LAS PROGRAM

The Latin American Studies program was delighted to host two visiting professors during the fall 1997 semester.

Brazilian historian João Reis, who is on the faculty of the Federal University of Bahia, Brazil, was the Madeleine Haas Russell visiting professor in the History Department. He taught “Race and Culture in 19th and 20th Century Brazil,” the first time this course was offered at Brandeis. He gave two graduate seminars and three public lectures at Brandeis and lectured at other universities in this country and Portugal during the semester. A past recipient of Ford, Rockefeller, and Fulbright Foundation grants, Dr. Reis is the author or co-author of five books and more than twenty articles.

Cuban-American writer Roberto Fernández, professor of Latin American Literature at Florida State University, was a visiting faculty member in the Romance and Comparative Literature Department. He taught “Introduction to Latin American Literature” and “Contemporary Latino/a Literature.” He gave a reading on campus from his 1995 novel Holy Radishes and spoke at several other universities during the fall. He also was a panel member at the Smithsonian discussing “Little Havana Blues: A Literary Journey.”
The following events were sponsored or co-sponsored by the Latin American Studies program:

**Lectures:**
CHRISTINA GARCÍA (author), reading from her novel *The Aguero Sisters*, October 20.


ALEX RIVERA (director), discussing his film PAPAPAPÁ, November 6.

ROBERTO FERNÁNDEZ (author, visiting professor in ROCL), reading from his novel *Holy Radishes*, November 12.


WALTER LAFEBER (History Department, Cornell University), “1898 and the Beginning of the American Century: A Legacy,” centennial lecture commemorating the Spanish-American War, February 12.


DAMIAN PAYIATAKIS ’99 (1997 Jane’s undergraduate Travel Grant recipient), “Opinions on Foreign Direct Investment as a Key to Stable Growth in Argentina,” April 6.

EXCILIA SALDAÑA (Cuban poet and author), reading her poetry, April 28.

**Concert:**
SOL Y CANTO Trio, September 16.

**Play:**
DEATH AND THE MAIDEN, by Chilean playwright Ariel Dorfman, February 19, 21, 22.

**Symposia:**
NEW PERSPECTIVES ON MEXICO CITY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, papers presented by the following scholars from Mexico and the U.S.: Carlos Illades, María Dolores Morales, Sonia Pérez Toledo, Pablo Piccato, María José Rhi Sausi, Ariel Rodríguez Kuri, María Cristina Sacristán, Donald Stevens, and Richard Warren. Comments provided by Silvia Arrom, John Coatsworth, and John Womack, November 6-7.

ART AGAINST CHILD ABUSE: A SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN, co-sponsored with Women’s Studies, Fine Arts, and the Weiner Fund, focusing on the art of Demi, a Cuban-American artist, February 9, in conjunction with a month-long exhibit of her work in the Dreitzer Gallery.

**Films:**
I, THE WORST OF ALL, October 8.
QUILOMBO, October 29.
PAPAPAPÁ, November 6.
TODOS SANTOS CUCHUMATAN: REPORT FROM A GUATEMALAN VILLAGE, November 26.
TODOS SANTOS CUCHUMATAN: THE SURVIVORS, April 23.

**BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM ON LATIN AMERICA SPONSORS FACULTY SEMINARS**

The Boston Area Consortium on Latin America was headquartered at Brandeis for the seventh consecutive year. It consists of nine colleges and universities in metropolitan Boston and 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.

BACLA began the academic year by hosting a reception on September 29 for Boston-area visiting fellows and new professors. During 1997-98, BACLA sponsored the following faculty seminars, which were free and open to the public:

“THE LATIN AMERICAN MILITARIES AFTER THE COLD WAR,” *David Mares* (Political Science, UC/San Diego and Visiting Scholar at CFIA-Harvard), and *Colonel Glenn Weidner* (Visiting Fellow at CFIA-Harvard), November 11.

“THE POPE’S VISIT TO CUBA: A REPORT,” *Jorge Domínguez* (Government, Harvard University), April 8.

**BENJAMIN SINGERMAN AWARDED 1998 COEXISTENCE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP**

Benjamin Singerman ’99 was chosen as one of eight recipients of the first Brandeis Coexistence Student Fellowships. Awarded by the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life, they are designed to give students a direct, hands-on experience with coexistence as well as a deeper understanding of the academic principles in the emerging field of coexistence. He is focusing on the conflict
between the indigenous and white/mestizo peoples in Latin America. He spent the summer in Archidona, Ecuador with the Fundación Sinchi Sacha, helping to establish a museum of indigenous art in the Amazon jungle. His faculty mentor is Silvia Arrom.

Andrew Levine, Susan Francis, Gabrielle Dickerman, and Yasmin Howes receiving awards at the LAS luncheon.

(Photo by Julian Brown, Brandeis Public Affairs Office)

FRANCIS WINS 1998 JANE’S ESSAY PRIZE

Susan Francis ’99 was the recipient of this year’s Jane’s Essay Prize for her research on “Factores culturales y sociales que contribuyen a la prevalencia del parasitismo en Los Mártires de Santiago de los Caballeros, República Dominicana.” Her research was based on fieldwork in the Dominican Republic in the fall of 1997. The Essay Prize is given to the Brandeis undergraduate who writes the best research paper on Mexico, Latin America, or the Caribbean.

THREE RECEIVE JANE’S TRAVEL GRANTS

The 1998 Jane’s Travel Grants were awarded to three undergraduates to fund summer research in Latin America. Gabrielle Dickerman ’99 received a grant to study “The Jews of Honduras: Tradition Within Assimilation.” Yasmin Howes ’99 will research “The Impact of the 1995 Volcanic Eruption on Montserrat.” Andrew Levine ’98 will return to Brazil to study “The Death Squad Phenomenon: An Analysis of Brazilian Extralegal Violence.”

TWO GIVEN JANE’S FACULTY GRANTS

Angela Pérez, assistant professor of Spanish in the Romance and Comparative Literature Department, was awarded a Jane’s Faculty Grant for summer study at the Archivo de Indias in Seville, Spain to research “The Illegal Geography: Buccaneers in the Darien Region.” Ibrahim Sundiata, professor of African and Afro-American Studies, was awarded a Jane’s Faculty Grant to present a paper at the meeting of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association in the Dominican Republic in August.

SEPTEMBER–HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month, conceived and coordinated by AHORA! president Blanca Elizabeth Vega ’98, was celebrated at Brandeis for the first time in September 1997. Events included a concert by the Sol y Canto trio, a career symposium, a Latin American food fest, a Latin jazz café night at Cholmondeley’s, a film clip and panel discussion on immigration, and an evening of music, poetry, humor, and dance. The purpose of the celebration, according to Christine DeLeón ’99 in the first issue of the newsletter Somos, was to recognize “Our Past, Our Presence, Our Future.” Somos highlights Hispanic culture and events on campus.

LAS STUDENTS REVIEW STUDY ABROAD

Four students in the LAS program were interviewed about their semesters or summers in Spain and Latin America. All said that their time overseas had been extremely positive and encouraged other students to spend a semester, summer, or year in a Spanish-speaking country.

Jocelyn Auerbach ’98 spent her junior year in Seville and Madrid. “In Madrid I studied Spanish poetry and novels, and it was a rewarding challenge to read contemporary Spanish novels in the native language. While I was there I interned at the Foreign Commercial Service of the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, and I highly recommend their program. I also traveled in Morocco, Turkey, Italy, Greece, and other countries. The entire semester abroad is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

Damian Payiatakis ’99 was the 1997 undergraduate Jane’s Travel Grant recipient. After his semester abroad in Argentina, he spent the summer there “interviewing people in various fields—professors, investigators, researchers, politicians—to get their opinions of foreign direct investment in Argentina. This was one of the best academic experiences I’ve had in that it allowed me to go beyond the normal classroom setting, to do original research, to take classroom knowledge and attempt to apply it to the real-world setting.”

David Seigal ’98 spent the spring ’97 semester at the University of Buenos Aires. “Prominent public figures, including politicians, clergy, and economists, spoke to our classes, and it was a very positive experience. But the real education in studying abroad is interacting with people of different backgrounds. I visited various parts of Argentina, including western Argentina, the wine country. The people were very friendly, and I was able to talk to everyone. I’ve studied Spanish every year since the seventh grade and felt I had good listening and speaking skills; after five weeks I was totally settled into the culture and felt really comfortable. This was the best thing I’ve done related to Brandeis; it was the best experience of my life.”

Mexico was the destination of Deborah Swee ’98 for the spring ’97 semester. She took four courses at the Facultad de Antropología of the Universidad de Yucatán. “All my classes were conducted in Spanish, and we weren’t supposed to speak English. There were lots of reports and projects and more student involvement. It was a totally different experience from Brandeis,” Deborah said. “One of the best parts of the semester was that I taught English to people in the town of Acañeh...
whom I met through the program. It made me feel that I wasn’t just a tourist because I was surrounded by the people who live there. I’d like to tell all Brandeis students—absolutely go. Every second I was there was a learning experience; it’s incredible. I can’t wait to go back.”

GRADUATE TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS GIVE PRESENTATIONS AT BRANDEIS

Two Anthropology graduate students used their Jane’s Travel Grants to immerse themselves in field research. Amy Todd traveled to Mexico to study the “Regulation of Marketplaces in Oaxaca, Mexico.” She lived in Oaxaca while investigating a system of marketplaces. “I got to know a small group of women vendors from each village, and I’d sleep with them in the market to observe all the buying and selling that goes on overnight. They did this three nights a week. I’m interested in how some vendors are excluded from these markets, how others obtain permission to enter markets.” At the time of this March interview, Amy was returning to Oaxaca to continue her dissertation research. Peter Wogan received his Ph.D. in May 1997 and used his travel grant to return to Salasaca, Ecuador to do follow-up work on his dissertation, “Nationalism, Historical Consciousness, and Literacy in Highland Ecuador.” He lived with the Quichua Indians, whose language he had learned during his first fieldwork. “I was visiting markets where there was a new outbreak of witchcraft,” he said. “This involved a book which had the names of people who are supposed to be killed. This book is a very secret thing, but by going back to Salasaca and visiting and living with friends I’d made on my previous visit, I showed them that I was committed to my project and I was accepted. I was also able to collect folklore, the stories about the olden days, and learned a lot about healing. I’d definitely recommend fieldwork for all LAS students. Once you go to Latin America you just want to keep going back.”

ROXANNE DÁVILA JOINS LAS FACULTY

Roxanne Dávila joined the Romance and Comparative Literature Department in August as an assistant professor. Dr. Dávila received her B.A. from Harvard University and her Ph.D. from Yale University. Her dissertation was titled “Mexico City as Text and (Con)text: Urban Visionary Works (1900-1946).” She has presented papers at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of California at Irvine and has taught at the University of Pennsylvania. She will teach “Power, Marginality, and the Latin American City” this fall. Professor Dávila will serve as a member of the LAS committee. We welcome her to Brandeis and to our program.

JOURNAL EDITOR SPEAKS IN VENEZUELA

Wendy Weiss, editor of the Brandeis-based Journal of Latin American Anthropology, presented a talk in June in Caracas, Venezuela. Her topic was “Un desafío provocativo a la política de identidad: se hacen preguntas para averiguar si podemos pasar a una nueva etapa de acción.”

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN LAS


DISSERTATIONS ON LATIN AMERICA

Two Anthropology students were awarded doctorates after completing their dissertations: Patric Vincent Giesler, “Conceptualizing Religion in Highly Syncretistic Fields: An Analog Ethnography of the Candomblé of Bahia, Brazil”; David Jenkins, “Above, Below, and Far Away: Dualism, Hierarchy, and Exchange in Highland South America.”

LAS STUDENTS WIN HONORS, AWARDS

Jocelyn Auerbach, cum laude: Fiordaliza Batista, Kappa Eta Sigma Award; Janice C. Lorde, Maurice L. Shaer Memorial Prize; Sergio Reyes, cum laude with honors in Politics, McNair Scholar; Jabes Rojas-Hernández, Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar, Brandeis Undergraduate Fellow; Sarianne Schwartz, magna cum laude; Deborah Swee, summa cum laude, high honors in Latin American Studies,
highest honors in Spanish, Justice Brandeis Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa.

**LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES WEB PAGE**

Deborah Swee ’98 presented the LAS program with a wonderful graduation gift—our own page on the Internet. The page lists the program’s faculty members, courses, upcoming events, newsletters, and other areas of interests to students, prospective students, and alumni. Please look us up at [http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/latinam](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/latinam).

Again, we thank Debbie for all her hard work in making a beautifully-designed, informative web page. We welcome your suggestions for any changes or additions to the page and look forward to using it as a resource for our program.

**NOTES FROM THE LAS FACULTY**

Silvia Arrom (History) published “¿De la caridad a la beneficencia? Las reformas de la asistencia pública desde la perspectiva del Hospicio de Pobres de la ciudad de México, 1856-1871,” in *Ciudad de México: instituciones, actores sociales y conflicto político, 1774-1831*, ed. Carlos Illades and Ariel Rodríguez. She was the organizer and chair of the symposium on New Perspectives on Mexico City in the Nineteenth Century held at Brandeis in November, presided over the October meeting of the New England Council on Latin American Studies, and continues as director of BACLA and as an affiliate of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard.

Lynette Bosch (Fine Arts) was named an affiliate at the Bunting Institute, Radcliffe College, Harvard University. She curated and wrote the catalogue for the exhibition “Demi: Paintings of Children” at Brandeis in February. Professor Bosch curated an exhibition called “Ernesto Barreda: A Retrospective” at the Museo de Bellas Artes, Santiago de Chile, October-December, and gave a talk at the Museo.

Donald Hindley (Politics) traveled throughout Mexico and to the island of Dominica during his spring 1998 sabbatical leave.

Robert Hunt (Anthropology) edited *Property in Economic Context* (with Antonio Gilman, University Press of America, 1998) and wrote six entries for the *Dictionary of Anthropology*. He lectured at Cambridge University in England and presented a paper on “Property and Irrigation” at the meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

Wellington Nyangoni (AAAS) was on sabbatical during 1997 doing research in Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Brazil for an upcoming book on food security in Latin America.

Dora Older (ROCL) received the 1998 Faculty/Staff Dignity of Life Award. This award, given by the Baccalaureate Senior Steering Committee and the Brandeis University Chaplaincy, is for commitment, activism for the betterment of human life and society, and for improving the quality of communal life at Brandeis.

Angela Pérez (ROCL) published “Trazando Fronteras: Cabeza de Vaca.” *Fronteras: Revista de Diálogo entre las Fronteras*, Mexico: 2, 7 (1998) and “María Graham: La ‘blanca hija de oriente’ y su ‘nuevo continente,’” *Mapocho: Revista de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales*, Chile: 42 (1997). She presented papers at Columbia University, the University of Antioquia (Colombia), and at conferences in San Francisco, Portland, Oregon, and Juárez, Mexico. She was an organizing member and moderator of “Woman in Shorts,” a program at Brandeis of classic and contemporary short films by women.

Benson Saler (Anthropology) continues to serve as Interim Vice-President of the Anthropology of Religion Section of the American Anthropological Association. His book *UFO Crash at Roswell: The Genesis of a Modern Myth*, co-authored with Charles Moore, received considerable media attention, with newspaper, magazine, and television interviews. He published three articles on the anthropology of religion.

Ibrahim Sundiata (AAAS) authored “Puerto Rico: The Ambiguity of Diaspora,” in *Twenty-First Century Afro-Review* (fall 1997) and “The Commercial Past of the Nation and Slavery,” in *Capitalism and Slavery, Fifty Years Later*, edited by Hi Cateau, (London: Peter Long Publisher, U. of the West Indies, 1998). He gave several public lectures on the Amistad incident. He received a senior fellowship from the Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University, and a distinguished visiting professorship at the Frederick Douglass Institute, University of Rochester, for his sabbatical leave during the 1998-99 academic year.

Dessima Williams (Sociology) heads the Grenada Education and Development Program, which distributes books to schools and libraries in that country.

Robert Zeitlin (Anthropology) was the principal investigator/project director of the “Archaeology of Tehuantepec” Project. He completed five articles on that area this year. He lectured on “Imperialism and Independence in Precolumbian Oaxaca, Mexico” at the Massachusetts Archeological Society. Professor Zeitlin was promoted to full professor.

**ALUMNI NOTES**

Karen Antebi ’89 received her masters in International Policy from Stanford University. She is the Chief of Staff to the Undersecretary of International Trade Negotiations for the government of Mexico.

Carlos Baía ’94 is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in political science at the University of Florida. He is researching public policy development in South America. During the spring semester he taught Spanish, Portuguese, and a course on Brazilian society. He and Larissa Ruiz ’94 married in July.

Ramón Barquín ’96 is attending the Interamerican University Law School in Puerto Rico. He recently published...
an article in *Cuban Communism*, 9th edition, co-edited by Louis Irving Horowitz and Jaime Suchliki.

**Rachel Blankstein** '96 in working on a women’s development, agricultural, and nutrition program for the U.S. Peace Corps in Niger.

**Greta Dana** '97 received her certificate in the Post-Baccalaureate Program in Studio Art in the Fine Arts Program at Brandeis. She exhibited her work in April at a thesis show at the Dreitzer Gallery, Brandeis.

**Benjamin Gomes-Casseres** '76 organized a two-day forum at Brandeis in October on ethics in business. He is a tenured professor at Brandeis and chairman of the international business concentration at the Graduate School of International Economics and Finance at Brandeis.

**Susan Glusker** '62 authored *Anita Brenner: A Mind of Her Own* (U. of Texas Press, 1998), the biography of her mother.

**Donna Guy** '67, professor of History, University of Arizona, published *Sex and Sexuality in Latin America*, with Daniel Balderston (NYU Press, 1997).

**Carrie Hubbell** '94 is enrolled in the M.S. program in World Hunger, Malnutrition, and Development at the Tufts University School of Nutrition Science and Policy. During the fall semester she was interim project coordinator of a project to provide technical assistance to the Bangladesh Integration Nutrition Project in that country.

**Peter Kornbluh** '79 is senior analyst, National Security Archive, and director of the archive’s Cuba Documentation Project. He received extensive media coverage for the archive’s successful request, via the Freedom of Information Act, for documents from the C.I.A. regarding the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba. He authored *Politics of Illusion: The Bay of Pigs Invasion Reexamined* (Lynne Rienner, 1998).

**Karen Martin** '97 spoke in September in Boston at the July 26 Coalition on her experiences at the 14th World Youth Festival in Havana during the summer of 1997.

**Deborah Waller Myers** '93 is an associate in the International Migration Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. Her article, “Migrant Remittances to Latin America: Reviewing the Literature,” will be published by the Interamerican Dialogue.

**Amy Price** '84 is expanding a marketing and distribution business into Venezuela.

**Luis Rubio** Ph.D. '83 co-authored, with Susan Kaufman Purcell, *Mexico Under Zedillo* (Lynne Rienner, 1998). He also wrote *La democracia verdadera: información, ciudadanía y política pública* (Mexico City: Cal y Arena, 1998). A political analyst at the Investigative Center for Development and a *Reforma* newspaper columnist, he received a journalism award from Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo in June.

**Larissa Ruiz** '94 is continuing her doctoral studies in political science at the University of Florida. In March she presented a paper on “Rethinking Transnationalism: Reconstructing Identities Among Peruvian Immigrants in Paterson, New Jersey” at the 47th annual University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies Conference. She also taught a course on cultural diversity in the United States during the spring semester at UF. She married Carlos Baía '94 in July.

**Lisa Sarfaty** '89 is working as a teacher and program coordinator at Perú’s Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola, Faculty of Hotel Management and Tourism. She is also a restaurant industry consultant.


**Julie Solomon** '90 is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Linguistics at Stanford University. This summer she began an appointment at the Stanford School of Education, collaborating on projects investigating bilingualism and bilingual education in California.

**Lynn Stephen** Ph.D. '87 is an Anthropology professor at Northeastern University. She is the author of several books, including *Zapotec Women, Hear My Testimony: María Teresa Tula*, and, most recently, *Women and Social Movements in Latin America* (U. of Texas Press, 1997).

**TEN GRADUATE FROM LAS PROGRAM**

The Latin American Studies Program graduated 10 seniors this year. The majors (concentrators) are:

- **Joceyln Auerbach** (additional major in Spanish);
- **Victoria-Alicia López** (additional major in Spanish, minor in Legal Studies);
- **Carlos Méndez** (additional major in Spanish, minor in Education);
- **Lisette Sarfaty** (additional major in Spanish);
- **Deborah Swee** (additional major in Spanish, minor in Education).

The minors (programs) are:

- **Adam Greenwald** (major in Psychology);
- **Sergio Reyes** (double major in History and Politics);
- **Sarianne Schwartz** (major in Politics);
- **David Seigal** (major in Spanish).
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES COMMITTEE

The following faculty members helped guide the Latin American Studies Program in 1997-98. They also served as advisers for students interested in their fields of expertise: Silvia Arrom (History), Lynette Bosch (Fine Arts), Donald Hindley (Politics), Robert Hunt (Anthropology), James Mandrell (ROCL), Ricardo Morant (Psychology), Wellington Nyangoni (AAAS), Dora Older (ROCL), Angela Pérez (ROCL), Benson Saler (Anthropology), Faith Smith (English), Ibrahim Sundiata (AAAS), Dessima Williams (Sociology), Luis Yglesias (ROCL), Robert Zeitlin (Anthropology).

ITEMS FOR 1999 NEWSLETTER

We encourage alumni to stay in touch with Brandeis. Please let us know what you’re doing by contacting Marilyn Brooks, administrator of Latin American Studies, by phone at 781-736-2293; fax at 781-736-2273; e-mail at Mbrooks@brandeis.edu. Please note our new telephone area code.

Faculty, students, and friends at the Latin American Studies luncheon on May 6.
(Photo by Julian Brown, Brandeis Public Affairs Office)
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES OFFERED DURING 1997-1998

Fall
AAAS 126b Political Economy of the Third World
Nyangoni
ANTH 55a Development and the Third World
Hunt
HIST 71a Latin American History, Preconquest to 1870
Arrom
HIST 173a Race and Culture in 19th and 20th Century Brazil
Reis
LAS 98a Independent Study
Staff
LAS 99b Senior Research
Staff
POL 144a Latin American Politics I
Hindley
POL 179a Seminar: Politics and Hunger
Morganthau
SOC 112a Topics on Women and Development
Williams
SPAN 111b Introduction to Latin American Literature
Fernández
SPAN 164b Latin America Through the Eyes of Women Writers
Pérez
SPAN 190b Latin American Fiction in Translation: Contemporary Latino/a Literature
Fernández

Spring
ANTH 147b Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization
Zeitlin
HIST 71b Latin American History, 1870 to the Present
Arrom
HIST 174b Legacy of 1898: U.S.-Caribbean Relations Since the Spanish-American War
Arrom
LAS 98b Independent Study
Staff
SPAN 111b Introduction to Latin American Literature
Pérez
SPAN 163b Modern Latin American Fiction
Yglesias