LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This annual newsletter again demonstrates the vitality of Latin American Studies at Brandeis. A few highlights of the past year deserve special mention. The Cuban-American writer, Roberto Fernández, enriched campus life this fall as the Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor. Our guest speakers included two Brandeis alumni, David Lewis and Ben Singerman. An impressive number of alumni and faculty participated at the September meeting of LASA (The Latin American Studies Association) in Washington, D.C. Their papers showcased Brandeis’ contributions to the field of Latin American Studies.

The Program continues to expand its resources. We sent a record number of Brandeis faculty and students to Latin America with Jane’s Travel and Faculty Research Grants. This year’s awards supported two group trips: the winter break trip described in the next article and a summer field trip where visiting professor Jeffrey Blomster took two anthropology students to Oaxaca to analyze pre-Colombian ceramics. Moreover, I am pleased to report that new faculty member Eva Thorne and returning faculty member Ibrahim Sundiata fill a long-standing gap in our curriculum with their expertise on Brazil.

In April the Program will mark its 40th anniversary. I hope many of you will join us to celebrate.

Silvia Marina Arrom

15 BRANDEISIANS AWARDED JANE’S GRANT FOR EL SALVADORAN COMMUNITY WORK

For the first time since the Latin American Studies Program began awarding Jane’s Grants, it funded a group of students rather than an individual. With partial LAS support, fifteen undergraduates traveled to Usulutan province, El Salvador, during February break. The students went as volunteers to help with a local development project sponsored by the grassroots organization La Coordinadora, which works to improve the lives of peasants in 86 villages. The students slung pickaxes, helped build houses, and lived alongside community members. In addition to learning about the problems of an impoverished region, the students helped spread the message that there are Americans who care and want to offer assistance. The alternative school break trip is the brainchild of The American World Jewish Service (AWJS) and Brandeis Hillel.

The students brought slides, handiwork, and information back to their April 18 presentation on campus. They are now preparing an illustrated book to raise funds for the community in which they lived for a week.

Brandeis students who went to El Salvador during February break.
(Photo by Mike Lovitt)
LAS EVENTS AT BRANDEIS, 2001-2002

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

Lecture/Presentations:


DAVID LEWIS ’83 (International business consultant): “Hemispheric Integration and Free Trade in the Americas: A New Development Paradigm?,” November 2.


ROBERTO FERNÁNDEZ (Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor, author): “San Guiven y otros milagros de En la ocho la doce,” November 29.


A PRESENTATION BY BRANDEIS STUDENTS: “Study Abroad in Latin America,” February 11.


ALICIA BÖRNSKY (Modern Foreign Languages, Boston University): “From Ricky Ricardo to Ricky Martin: Multilingualism in the Americas,” April 22.


Conference:

“A FUTURE FOR COLOMBIA: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE EXILE.” Speakers were David Gil (Heller School), Sean Donohue (N.H. Peace Action), Marino Córdoba (Afro-Colombian community leader), Estela Pérez (Social worker, Boston Women’s Hospital), and Keyellen Nieto (Anthropologist, SID M.A. candidate), May 18.

Films:

QUE VIVA MEXICO - September 11.
LOS OLVIDADOS/THE YOUNG AND DAMNED - September 25.
NO FUTURO, RODRIGO D. - September 28.
MEMORIAS DEL SUBDESARROLLO/MEMORIES OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT - October 16.
BYE, BYE BRASIL - October 23.
DANZON - October 30.
QUILOMBO - November 7.
I LIKE IT LIKE THAT - November 13.
KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN - November 20.
TODOS SANTOS CUCHUMATAN - November 21.
CENTRAL STATION - November 27.

Theater:

TRES VIDAS, a musical play by Marjorie Agosín, starring GEORGINA CORBO as Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, El Salvadoran activist Rufina Amaya, and Argentine poet Alfonsina Storni, October 18.

BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM ON LATIN AMERICA

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.
SENIOR WINS JANE’S ESSAY PRIZE

Sarah Katel received the 2002 Jane’s Essay Prize for the best research paper in any area of Latin American, Caribbean, or Latino studies. Her essay was entitled “The United States and the Trujillo Regime.”

NECLAS TRANSLATION PRIZE GIVEN TO VISITING BRANDEIS SCHOLAR

Mary Berg, a Visiting Scholar at the Women’s Studies Research Center, received the 2001 Best Book Translation Prize from the New England Council of Latin American Studies for Ximena at the Crossroads, a 1999 novel by Peruvian novelist Laura Riesco. Her other translations include River of Sorrows (Libertad Demitropulos, 2000) and Uncertain Travelers: Conversations with Jewish Women Immigrants to America (Marjorie Agosin, 1999).

For the past fifteen years, Dr. Berg has been engaged in collaborative projects on Latin American women writers. She is currently writing a biography of the Peruvian journalist and novelist Clorinda Matto de Turner and gave a lecture on the writer’s life at the Women’s Studies Research Center in May. She presented a paper on the Argentine writer, Emma de la Barra de Llones, at the LASA meeting in September.

DISSERTATIONS AND SENIOR THESSES

The following students received doctorates with dissertations in Latin American-related fields: Peter Gould (IPLS): “Mi Pueblo Creador: Remembering Victor Jara”; Leslie Ostrow (Heller School): “Parent Participation: Salvadoran and Guatemalan Immigrants’ Involvement in Their Children’s Schools”; Susan Rebecca Thomas (Music): “Lo más femenino de los géneros: Gender, Race, and Representation in the Cuban Zarzuela, 1927-1944.”


HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH NEWS

AHORA!, the Hispanic Club on campus, organized the fifth annual Hispanic Heritage Month at Brandeis in October. Alicia Borinsky, professor of Modern Foreign Languages at Boston University, spoke at the opening event. Her topic was “Living the Hyphen con Sabor.” The closing Main Event combined music and dance groups including D Rafael with Gitano, a Latin and Cuban Mambo, a Colombian dance troupe. Brandeis increased at Brandeis. “My become more varied. This year’s board consisted of members from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela, as well as students born in the United States.

CARIBBEAN CONNEXION EVENTS

The student group Caribbean Connexion held a week-long series of events in April. Highlights included a concert by The Uplifters, a reggae roots band from Boston; a dinner and movie discussion entitled “Cuba Va”; the annual fundraiser for GRENeD, an educational foundation in Grenada; and a dance program featuring reggae and soca music, choreographed by Natalee Graham ‘02.

Members in the Caribbean Connexion came from Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad.

FERRY JOINS BRANDEIS FACULTY

Elizabeth Ferry joins the Anthropology department in September. She received her Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University with a dissertation entitled “Veins of Value: Patrimony and the Reproduction of Power in a Mexican Mining Cooperative.” Her research interests include the political economy of Latin America, commodity studies, the anthropology of exchange and value, gender and reproduction, and economic anthropology. She presented a paper entitled “The Party in the Cooperative: Local Negotiations of Political and Economic Transition” at the LASA meeting in September. The LAS Program welcomes her to Brandeis.

SUNDIATA RETURNS TO BRANDEIS

After three years at Howard University, Professor Ibrahim Sundiata returns to Brandeis with a joint appointment in the History and African and Afro-American Studies departments. His areas of interest include the African diaspora, Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and race relations. He recently published articles on “Puerto Rico and Africa: The Ambiguity of Diaspora” and “The Amistad: Spielberg, Jews, Blacks, and Latins.” The LAS Program welcomes him back.

TWO LAS PROFESSORS RETIRE

Robert Hunt (Anthropology) and Luis Yglesias (ROCL) retired from Brandeis and the LAS faculty in June. Professor Hunt was on the faculty for 33 years and Professor Yglesias for 40 years. Professor Hunt received the 2002 Louis Dembitz Brandeis Award for Excellence in Teaching. We extend our best wishes to both and thank them for their many years of service to our Program.

LATIN AMERICAN FACULTY NOTES

Silvia Marina Arrom (History) published “Philanthropy and Its Roots: The Societies of St. Vincent de Paul in Mexico” in Revista (Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, 2002). Her monograph Containing the Poor: The Mexico City Poor House, 1877-1871 was awarded honorable mention for the 2001 Best Book Prize by the New England Council of Latin American Studies. In June she taught a graduate seminar at the Colegio de Mexico and presented a paper at a Mexico City conference on “Esfera Pública y Elites Intelectuales.” She organized a session and presented a paper on “The Societies of St. Vincent de Paul in Mexico, 1845-1894: A Precursor to Social Catholicism?” at the LASA meeting in September.

Jeffrey Blomster (Anthropology) and two Brandeis students went to Oaxaca, Mexico this summer to analyze pre-Colombian pottery from his excavations in the Mixteca Alta. In November he gave a series of lectures as the scholar for an NGO in Oaxaca and presented a paper on “Obsidian Exchange in Formative Period Oaxaca: A View From the Mixteca Alta” (with M. Glascock) in Denver in March.

Roxanne Dávila (ROCL) authored “Mito, nación, e identidad: El imaginario urbano en la obra de José Emilio Pacheco” in Alba de América (May 2001). She received a Newberry Library fellowship to study the drawings and writings of Jean Frederic Waldeck, one of the subjects in her upcoming monograph. She received a Brandeis Bern-
stein Research Fellowship to fund a fall semester leave. She organized a session and presented a paper on “Escribiendo la cultura maya: viajeros y exploradores en el siglo XIX” at the Jornadas Metropolitana conference in Mexico City in July. She chaired and was the discussant at a session on “Travelers, Explorers, and Scholars: Inventing Mesoamerica” at the LASA conference in September.


James Mandrell (ROCL) published “Carmen Miranda Betwixt and Between, or Neither Here nor There” in the Latin American Literary Review (January-June 2001).

Angela Maria Pérez-Mejía (ROCL) published “Roberto Fernández, entre la nostalgia y los flamencos” in Revista Número 31 (November 2001) and “Fronteras de la legalidad: bucaneros en el siglo XVII” in Historia y Sociedad (Universidad Nacional, Medellín, March 2002). She presented papers entitled “Cartografías ilegales y alianzas étnicas” at the LASA meeting in September, “Subvirando el orden con la risa: Ana Lydia Vega” at the Third Conference of the Luso-Hispanic Society for the Study of Humor in September, and “Fronteras de la legalidad” at the Colombian Colloquium at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies in March.

Mireya Solís (Politics) is working on a comparative study of Japanese free trade agreement negotiations with Singapore, Korea, and Mexico. She is the author of “La economía política de los bloques regionales” in Foro Internacional (April-June 2001) and “Mexico and Japan: The Opportunities of Free Trade,” a report commissioned by Mexico’s Ministry of Trade and Industry in April 2000.

Faith Smith (AAAS/English) wrote John Jacob Thomas and Colonial Formation in the Late Nineteenth-Century Caribbean (U. of Virginia, in press). She is currently editing an anthology about gender and sexuality in the Caribbean. She has received a National Humanities Center Fellowship and will be on sabbatical in 2002-2003.

Eva Thorne (Politics) joined the Brandeis faculty in September. She spent the fall semester on leave with a Ford Foundation grant to study Afro-Latin land rights. She was the principal investigator in Honduras this summer for a World Bank/Honduran government sponsored study on indigenous and Garifuna land rights. She presented a paper on “From Constitutional Reform to Collective Titles: The Politics of Black Land Rights in Latin America” and was a discussant on the panel “Economic Development in Afro-Latin American Communities: Opportunities and Challenges” at the LASA meeting in September.

**ALUMNI NOTES**

Larissa Ruiz Baia ’94 presented a paper on “Hispanic and Latino: True Representations of an Emerging Identity?” at the LASA meeting in September. She is a doctoral student at the University of Florida.

Rachel Blankstein ’96 graduated from The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in July and was the recipient of a Jack Kent Cooke Fellowship while receiving her B.S.N. She is currently enrolled in a combined degree program in community health nursing and public health.

Jeanette German ’99 is teaching English as a Second Language at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Adam Greenwald ’98 is the director of alumni affairs for the Furkauf Graduate School of Psychology and Worzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University in New York City.

Donna Guy ’67, a specialist in modern Latin American and women’s history, has joined the History faculty at The Ohio State University. She is currently working on Street Children, Family Reform and the State in Argentina and recently edited a special issue of The Americas on the history of children and the welfare state in Latin America. She was the discussant on a panel on “Gender, Labor, and Development” and presented a paper on “Legal Separation and Illegal Violence in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century Buenos Aires, Argentina” at the LASA meeting in September.

Frances Hagopian ’75 chaired the panel “The Politics of Budget Balance in Latin America” at the LASA meeting in September. She is a professor in the Department of Government and International Studies and is the director of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Dan Hananel ’01 works for MasterCard as an associate financial analyst.

Temma Kaplan ’64 chaired a panel on “Culture, Memory Transmissions, and Authoritarian Legacies in the Southern Cone” and presented papers entitled “Taking to
the Streets: Shaming the Perpetrators in Chile and Argentina” and “Post-Memories of the Struggle for Justice” at the LASA meeting in September. She is a professor of History and director of the Women’s Studies department at SUNY at Stony Brook, New York.

Peter Kornbluh ’79 was the discussant on two panels at the LASA meeting in September entitled “Chile Declassified: Inside the Clinton Administration’s Chile Declassification Project and U.S. Declassification” and “Historical Memory in the Southern Cone: The Secrets that American Agencies Knew of the Dictatorships in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay.” He serves on the board of NACLA (the North American Congress on Latin America), which publishes the NACLA Report on the Americas. He is a senior analyst at the National Security Archive in Washington, D.C.

David E. Lewis ’83 is the vice president of Manchester Trade Ltd., international business advisors in economic policy and business development in the Caribbean and Latin American public and private sectors. Their web site is www.manchestertrade.com. He focuses on trade and investment initiatives.

Deborah Waller Meyers ’93 founded the Migration Policy Institute, a new think tank. She co-edited Caught in the Middle: Border Communities in an Era of Globalization (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2001).

Sarah Reynolds ’01 is serving in the Peace Corps in Guatemala. She works with women involved in the care and treatment of small farm animals in a village cooperative. She has begun to study Ma’um, the local language spoken by the indigenous people in Aquacatan.

Eduardo Sáenz Rovner (Ph.D. ’89) is the author of Colombia Años 50: Industriales, política y diplomacia (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 2002). He also published articles on “Estado, élites e inversión extranjera en Colombia durante la primera mitad del siglo XX” in "Laureano Gómez, entre la ideología y el pragmatismo,” and “La Misión del Banco Mundial en Colombia, el gobierno de Laureano Gómez (1950-1951) y la ANDI.”

Sonia Satija ’00 is a law student at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. This summer she clerked for a law firm in Florida and in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Smith ’98 returned to the Boston area after two years serving in the Peace Corps in El Salvador. She is the admissions coordinator/immigration specialist at the Boston Academy of English. She is also teaching U.S. history and civics to prepare alien residents to take the citizenship examination.


Florence Helman Ulate ’65 is a Spanish language conference, medical, and legal interpreter. She specializes in assisting Spanish language speakers in hospital settings and is a certified interpreter in the federal court system.

Steven Volk ’68 testified in Santiago, Chile in May in a criminal complaint against former dictator Augusto Pinochet. He was a material witness in the case filed by Joyce Horman for the murder of her husband, Charles Horman (subject of the movie Missing), in September 1973. At that time Volk was completing his dissertation research in Santiago. He was recently honored by the current Chilean government for his “contribution in helping to restore democracy” following the coup. He is a professor of History at Oberlin College and a longtime board member of NACLA.

Aileen Walborsky-Josephs ’86 practices law in Palm Beach County, FL, where she works with the Guatemalan Mayan population. In 2001 she launched the Spanish language portal www.MiniMundo.net, which concerns immigration to the U.S. and other countries.

Renata Mautner Wasserman (M.A. ’70, Ph.D. ’73) is working on a comparative study of Brazilian and American Realism. One part of the study has been published as “Financial Fictions: Emile Zola’s ‘L’argent,’ Frank Norris’ ‘The Pit,’ and Alfredo de Taunay’s ‘Oencilhamento’” in Comparative Literature Studies (2001). She is the recipient of a Fulbright Special Program grant that supports her consultations to foreign universities as a specialist in American literature and culture.

BRANDESIANS STUDY ABROAD

Eleven students studied in Latin America during 2001-2002, either for a semester or the academic year. They attended universities in Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Turks and Caicos, and Venezuela.

EXPANDED VIDEO COLLECTION

Our Latin American audiovisual collection now numbers over 150 items, including feature films, documentaries, slide sets, and videotapes of Brandeis events. Faculty and students are encouraged to borrow these items for either class or individual use.
LAS PROGRAM GRADUATES

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

The majors are:

Michelle Eisenberg – additional major in Spanish Language and Literature; cum laude;

Arno Schwarz – additional major in Politics; high honors in Politics and LAS;

The minors are:

Priscilla Araya – major in Sociology; additional minor in Spanish Language and Literature; high honors in Sociology; McNair Scholar; Posse Scholar; Richard Kaufman '58 Memorial Prize for Leadership and Academic Excellence; cum laude;

Maura Collins – major in Fine Arts; additional minor in Anthropology; Phi Beta Kappa; Rosalind W. Levine Prize in Fine Arts; magna cum laude;

Natalie Graham – major in Politics; additional minors in Spanish Language and Literature and the International Studies Program; Posse Scholar; Student Life Award;

Daniel Handel – major in History; additional minor in Anthropology;

Sarah Katel – major in Anthropology; Jane’s Essay Prize in Latin American Studies; cum laude;

Jessica Magid – major in Anthropology; additional minor in Spanish Language and Literature;

Deborah Victor – major in Spanish Language and Literature; Presidential Scholar; Eli D. and Mollie Goodstein Prize in Spanish; magna cum laude.

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 Dávila (ROCL), Donald Hindley (Politics), Robert Hunt (Anthropology), James Mandrell (ROCL), Ricardo Morant (Psychology), Wellington Nyangoni (AAAS), Dora Older (ROCL), Angela Pérez-Mejia (ROCL), Laurence Simon (SID), Faith Smith (AAAS/English), Mireya Solis (Politics), Javier Urcid (Anthropology), O. Miguel Villanueva (Economics), Dessima Williams (Sociology), Luis Yglesias (ROCL).

ITEMS FOR THE 2003 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, LAS administrator 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 LAS luncheon May 8.
(Photo by Mike Lovitt)
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<td>Development and the Third World</td>
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Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Brooks
Latin American Studies
Olin-Sang 218/MS 036
Brandeis University
Waltham, MA 02454-9110