LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Latin American Studies Program’s 40th anniversary celebration provided an opportunity to review its history. I was impressed to see how, despite its small size, the Program maintained high standards over the years. It was a pioneer in many ways. For example, it was the first non-departmental interdisciplinary major at Brandeis, it regularly offered team-taught interdisciplinary courses on cutting-edge topics, and it was the first interdisciplinary Program to receive an endowed professorship. It hosted eminent visiting professors and brought famous Latin American politicians and writers to speak to the university community. It sent students to study all over Latin America. And a surprisingly large number of Brandeis graduates went on to make important contributions to the field of Latin American Studies.

Marilyn Brooks documented the Program’s accomplishments for its birthday party. The display board she created is available for consultation in her office.

LAS continues to thrive as it enters its fifth decade. A particularly heartening development is that, for only the second time in my twelve years here, the university promoted LAS junior faculty. I congratulate Angela Pérez-Mejia and Javier Uriel, who received tenure this spring, as well as Faith Smith, who received tenure two years ago. Their addition to the tenured faculty bodes well for the future of the Program.

Sílvia Mariana Arron

LAS CELEBRATES FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

On February 6th the Latin American Studies Program celebrated its 40th anniversary at Brandeis. The reception was attended by Brandeis faculty, students, and staff. A highlight was the presence of Donah Lida, professor emerita of Spanish Language and Literature, who was with the Program when it was founded in the spring of 1963. She spoke humorously about its early days, when LAS was considered a controversial Program.

Sílvia Arron, Jane’s Chair Professor of Latin American Studies and Director of the Latin American Studies Program since 1991, gave a brief history of the Program. She emphasized that it was distinguished from the beginning, hosting visits by such luminaries as Pepe Figueroa and Juan José Arensalo, former presidents of Costa Rica and Guatemala, and authors Jorge Luis Borges and Carlos Fuentes. Since then, with generous support from the donors of Jane’s Chair, LAS has grown considerably. The faculty has increased. The Program has its own office and staff. In addition to sponsoring lectures, concerts, plays, and films, it now awards prizes and travel grants for research in Latin America. It also serves as the headquarters for the Boston Area Consortium on Latin America.

Memorabilia display at the LAS reception. (Photo by Mike Lovett)
LAS EVENTS AT BRANDEIS, 2002-2003

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

Lectures/Presentations:  

ROBERTA BACIC (Chilean civil rights activist): “Strengths and Weaknesses of Truth Commissions, with Special Reference to the Chilean Case,” September 17.


JESSICA HEDGEPEITH ’03 and RYAN ART (Anthropology), 2002 Jane’s Travel Grant recipients: “Pre-Colombian Pottery in Queretaro, Mexico,” October 10.

GEORGE OKRAH ’03: “Cèlas Maya, Quezaltenango, Guatemala,” October 14.

MICHAEL WINDFUHR (Director, Food First Information and Action Network): “The Human Right to Food Ourselves,” October 30.


SOCORRO TABU/INCA CORDOBA (Professor of Chicano Studies, University of Texas at El Paso): “Border Literatures,” February 21.


HILLEL STUDENTS: “From Pupusas to Pick-Axes: El Salvador Comes to Brandeis,” April 1.


PAUL MARCUS (Community Change): “I’m Not a Racist, Am I?” April 9.

ADOLFO and BERNADINA JIMENEZ (Guatemalan political activists): “Political Asylum in Walla Walla,” April 12.

Films:  
THE BLUE DINER/LA FONDA AZUL – October 16.
QUILOMBO – October 30.
ZAPATA’S GARDEN – November 13.
TODOS SANTOS CUCHUMATAN: REPORT FROM A GUATEMALAN VILLAGE – November 27.
WEST SIDE STORY – February 4.
NUEBA YOL – February 25.
EL NORTE – March 1.
LA CIUDAD – March 25.
EL SUPER – April 1.
LEGADO – April 3.
UNHEARD VOICES – April 11.
ROMERO – April 10.

BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM ON LATIN AMERICA

The Boston Area Consortium on Latin America was headquartered at Brandeis for the tenth consecutive year. Consisting of nine colleges and universities in metropolitan Boston, BACLA 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.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2002

In October AHORA! celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month for the tenth consecutive year. Events included a forum on bilingual education; a ceremony and dinner with State Senator Jarrett Barrios; a salsa dance; a screening of “The Blue Diner,” a new film about Boston Latinos; a workshop on “The Passionate Latina”; a show entitled “Latino Revelations: Mi Vida, Mi Sangre, Mi Reflejo”; and Fiesta Caliente, a party with a band and a disc jockey. This year’s attendance at the closing show was the highest in the celebration’s history. Attendees included students, faculty, parents, and Aramark and Facilities Management workers and their families. “AHORA! was able to capture the true essence of the Brandeis Latino: unique, beautiful, and multitalented,” said Disney Elias ’04, co-president of the group.
NEW COURSE ON LATIN/O MUSIC

Deborah Pacini Hernández, associate professor of anthropology at Tufts University, will teach “Latin/o Popular Music: Migration and Identity” in spring 2004. The course will survey the production, dissemination, and consumption of the most important forms of popular music—the mambo, salsa, conjunto, corrido, bandas, and contemporary rock and rap—listened to and danced to by U.S. Latinos from World War I to the present. Dr. Pacini Hernández’s research interests are popular music, comparative Latino studies, racial and ethnic identity, and community. She is the author of Bachata: A Social History of Dominican Popular Music (1995). She is currently working on the Cambridge Oral History Project, interviewing members of Cambridge’s Latinx community to document their stories of migration to and experiences in the United States.

SENIOR WINS JANE’S ESSAY PRIZE

Sabrina Assyayag ’03 received this year’s Jane’s Essay Prize for “The Reality of Immigration: The Brazilian Community in Massachusetts.” The award is given for the best undergraduate research paper in any area of Latin American, Caribbean, or Latino Studies.

JANE’S TRAVEL GRANTS AWARDED


2003 Jane’s Travel Grant recipients Toby Bloom, Laurence Alex Green, Nathel Tero, Sara Withers, and Deana Becker. (Photo by Michael Lovett)

FACULTY RESEARCH AWARDS

Six members of the Latin American Studies faculty received Jane’s Faculty Development Awards for research in Latin America. They are: Jeffrey Blomster (Anthropology) to conduct research on ceramic and lithic analyses of materials in Oaxaca, Mexico; Roxanne Davila (ROCL) for research connected with her monograph Inventing the Mayan Travelers, Explorers, and Scholars in Maya America (1825-1873); Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) for research in Guanajuato, Mexico for her monograph Not Ours Alone: Matrimony, Value, and Collectivity in Contemporary Mexico; Angela Perez-Mejia (ROCL) for travel to conferences in Portugal and Colombia for presentations; Faith Smith (AAAS/English) for travel to Trinidad, Barbados, and Jamaica for talks on her book Created Reictions: John Jacob Thomas and Colonial Formation in the Late Nineteenth-Century Caribbean; Javier Urice (Anthropology) to study hieroglyphic inscriptions in a newly-discovered cave in Oaxaca, Mexico.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE STUDIES SEPHARDIC JEWS OF CURAÇAO

Josette Capriles Goldish, a research associate at the Hadassah International Research Institute on Jewish Women at Brandeis, is studying the history of the Sephardic Jews of Curacao who left the island in the nineteenth century to settle throughout the Caribbean. She is focusing on how the migrants assimilated in Venezuela, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and St. Thomas. She will continue her research at the HIRI at during the 2003-04 academic year. Her working paper, The Girls They Left Behind: Curacao’s Jewish Women in the Nineteenth...
VISITING ANTHROPOLOGIST IN SID PROGRAM

Elisa Messer, a well-known specialist on food and hunger, taught in the Sustainable International Develop-ment Master's Program this year. She offered courses on theories of development, food security and nutrition, gender and development, and religion and development. She will teach Religion and Development again in spring 2004. Dr. Messer's research focuses on cross-cultural perspectives on the human right to food, sustainable food systems, and the cultural history of nutrition, food science, and agriculture. She co-authored *Who's Hungry? And How Do We Know?: Food Shortage, Poverty, and Deprivation* (1998) and co-edited *Ecology and the Sacred: Engaging the Anthropology of Roy A. Rappaport* (2001).

MASTERS' AND SENIOR THESES


STUDENTS IN LATIN AMERICA

Sixteen Brandeisians studied in Latin America during the 2001-02 academic year. They attended universities in Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Mexico.

LAS FACULTY NOTES

Silvia Arroyo (History) was promoted to full professor. She presented "Catholic Philanthropy and Civil Society: The Lay Voltunwaters of St. Vincent de Paul in Mexico, 1844-1894" at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, in October. She authored "Philanthropy and its Roots: The Societies of St. Vincent de Paul in Mexico" in Revista: Harvard Review of Latin America (spring 2002) and "Women's Ideal Dictatorship: Voices from Latin America" in Women's History Review, 11, 2 (2002).

Jeffrey Bloomer (Anthropology) authored "What and Where is Olmec Style? Regional Perspectives on Early Formative Hollow Figure Styles in Mesoamerica" in Ancient Mesoamerica, 13, 2 (2002) and "Elaboration: Social Complexity, Interaction, and Village Life in the Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca, Mexico" in Case Studies in Archaeology Series (forthcoming). He presented papers on "Postclassic Socio-political Transformation and Image Manipulation in the Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca," "Ceramic Variable Associations from Formative Period Izitango, Oaxaca" (with E. App), and "Ceramic Production in the Mixteca: Diachronic Changes in the Formative Period" (with J. Hodgepep) at the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology.


Olinda Hernández-Guerrero (ROCL) presented three workshops on Exploring South American Literature and Culture, sponsored by the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association. She also spoke on Caribbean and South American cuisine, art, and music at the Intercultural Festival on campus.

Angela Pérez-Mejía (ROCL) was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. She published "Ana Lydia Vega contextualiza la violencia con la "ra" en Fenomenitas Unidas, 22, 2 (2002), "Into the Lion's Mouth: Parody as Possibility for Displacement Writing in Servando Teresa de Mier" in Studies in Travel Writing, 7 (2003), and "Entre canibales y caballeros: la representación de los bacaneros en inglaterra 1684-1742" in Revista Universidad de Antioquia, 270 (2003). She spoke on "Com Eras Gusto O Meu Franchis: Strategies for Decolonization" at Vassar College and "Report on Alexander Evgenievich" at the Early Ibero-Anglo Americanist Summit. She presented papers on "Espíritu de paixão: a possibilidade de uma época crônica" at NEMLA and "Ana Lydia Vega: contextualiza la violencia con la "ra" at the Asociación Latinoamericana de Literatura Femenina 2002 in the Dominican Republic.


Javier Urcid (Anthropology) was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. He authored "La fiesta de una misteriosa masca" in Memoria de la Segunda Mesa Redonda de Monte Albán (ed. N. M. Robles García, 2002), "A Zapotec Slab in Santiago Matacam, Oaxaca" in Mesoamerican Voices, 1 (2003), and co-authored (with J. Smith) "Pre-Colombian Skull Treatment in North America" in Tepantitla: History, Discovery, Theory (ed. Amos et al., 2003). He serves as a consultant to the soon-to-be-opened National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

ALUMNI NOTES

Mauru Collins '02 taught English as a Second Language in Bournemouth this year, after teaching in Guadalajara, Mexico during the summer. She will begin her master's program in Latin American Studies at the University of Colorado in the fall.


Anna Ellis-Gladstone '01 received her master of arts in teaching from Tufts University in 2001. She is teaching seventh grade World Cultures and Geography in Chelmsford, MA.

Jaime Amaya Farías '88 is a professor and researcher at the School of Food Engineering, University of Campinas, Brazil and is vice-president of the Brazilian Society of Food Science and Technology. He does research on biochemistry, biophysics, food chemistry, and nutrition in the United States and Brazil.

Marta Floría '78 is president of Carriage Trade Ltd., a New York company specializing in antiques and Latin American art.

Matthew Freeman '97 received his master's degree in public health from Yale. He is currently enrolled in the master's degree Nurse practitioner program at Ohio State University and volunteers at a free clinic for Spanish-speaking patients.

Sussannah Glucksman '62 is teaching courses on Modern Mexican Art and Women of Mexico to foreign students at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. She co-authored a book on叉トik Kahlo and the other on José Clemente Orozco. She published a chapter on Jewish immigrants in Mexico in the 1920's in México pafs refugio (ed. P. Yankeliwicz, 2002).

Francisco Hapoptes '75 is a professor of government and international studies and directs the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame. She was a discussant at the panels "The End of Another Miracle? Rethinking Argentine Politics" and "Some New Issues in Electoral and Party Politics" at LASA in Dallas.

Peter Kornbluh '79 organized an international conference in Havana on the 40th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis. He is a senior analyst at the National Security Archive. His most recent book is The Pinochet Files: A Declassified Dossier on Arroyo and Accountability (2003). He presented two papers at LASA in Dallas: "Putting Cuba into the Cuban Missile Crisis" and "The Pinochet Files: Wust the Declassified U.S. Records Tell Us about Policy and Operations in Chile."


Jessica Magid '93 is working at the Business News Americas agency in Santiago, Chile. She welcomes e-mail at JinhuiSho@ao.com.


Robin Reubalt (M.A. '73, Ph.D. '78) is a professor of sociology at the University of California at Irvine and directs UCI's Center for Research on Immigration, Population, and Public Policy. He co-authored (with A. Portes) Immigration America: A Portrait (1990) and Ethnicities: Children of Immigrants in America (2001). He wrote (with A. Portes) Legacies: The Story of the Immigrants Second Generation (2001), which received the 2002 Distinguished Scholarship Award from the American Sociological Association.

Sonia Sarija '90 graduated from Washington University School of Law in June. She was an associate editor of the School's Global Studies Law Review, and published an article on immigration law in the Review's Fall 2003 edition.

Lynn Stephens (Ph.D. '87) is a professor of anthropology at the University of Oregon. She presented papers on "The Politics of Translation in Human Rights Discourse" and "Escribiendo testimonio con María Teresa Tita" at LASA in Dallas.


Steven Volk '61 is a professor of history and chairs and the Latin American Studies Program at Oberlin College. He won the 2002 Rawler Mentorship Award from the American Historical Association for excellence in teaching. He published "Frida Kahlo Remaps the Nation" in Social Identity 6.2 (June 2000) and "Judgment Day in Chile" in NACLA Report on the Americas, 36.1 (July/August 2002).

PROFESSORS LEAVE BRANDEIS Three members of the Latin American Studies faculty left Brandeis this summer to teach at other institutions. Jeffrey Bloxam (Anthropology) will be at Middlebury College, Mireya Sols (Politics) will be at the American University, and G. Miguel Villasevera (Economics) will be at the University of Wyoming. We thank them for their dedication to our Program and wish them well.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY

The following faculty members helped guide the Latin American Studies Program during the past year. They also served as advisors for students interested in their fields of expertise: Silvia Arens (Italian), Jeffrey Bloxam (Anthropology), Rosanne Dikita (ROCL), Elizabeth Ferré (Anthropology), Ricardó Gesso (SID), Donald Hinder (Politics), James Mandrell (ROCL), Ricardo Moreira (Psychology), Wellington Nyangoni (AAAS), Dora Older (ROCL), Angela Perez-Mejia (ROCL), Lawrence Simon (SID), Faith Smith (A.A.S., English), Mireya Sols (Politics), Ibrahim Sandita
(AAAS/history), Eva Thorne (Politics), Javier Urcid (Anthropology), O. Miguel Villaneuva (Economics), Jessica Williams (Sociology).

2003 LAS GRADUATES

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

The majors are:

Sahrina Assayang - additional major in Spanish Language and Literature, minor in Legal Studies; winner of the 2003 Jane’s Essay Prize; high honors in Spanish Language and Literature and highest honors in Latin American Studies; Presidential Scholar, Brandeis Alumni Association Leadership Award;
Jeremy Paul Gorra - additional major in Spanish Language and Literature, minor in Journalism; cum laude;
Yasser S. Rubles - additional major in Politics; Presidential Scholar; Katherine A. Chernowsky Memorial Award for Conscientious and Creative Living;
Eliana Winer - additional major in Economics; minor in Education; cum laude.

The minors are:

Elyssa Joy Auster - major in European Cultural Studies; honors in European Cultural Studies;
Zahire Estrella - major in Sociology; additional minor in Legal Studies; Community Service Award from the Student Support Services Program; McNair Scholar;

Jonathan M. Gresier - majors in History and Politics; additional minor in Education;
Kathryn S. Kiefer - major in History; high honors in History; Doris Brewer Cohen Endowment Award; Presidential Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa; summa cum laude;
Marissa Angélica Martínez - majors in Sociology and American Studies; additional minor in Spanish Language and Literature;
Kiana Leya Tavalle - majors in Politics and Spanish Language and Literature;
Jasmine Rodry Vallejo - major in Sociology; Katherine A. Chernowsky Memorial Award for Conscientious and Creative Living, Ramon Feliciano Poetry Prize; cum laude.

ITEMS FOR THE 2004 NEWSLETTER

Do you have professional information you want to share, a new e-mail or web site 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; e-mail: Mbrooks@brandeis.edu; fax: 781-736-2273. Our web site is www.brandeis.edu/departments/latinam.

Faculty, students, and friends at the LAS luncheon April 30.
(Photo by Mike Lovett)
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