LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As the acting Chair of Latin American and Latino Studies, I would like to thank my immediate predecessor, Ángela Pérez-Mejía, who is currently on leave in Bogotá, Colombia as director of the Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango. In her first semester as chair, Angela presided over the expansion of the Program to include Latino Studies. I’m also grateful to Angela’s predecessor, Silvia Arrom, who was chair of the Program for fourteen years and who helped me, and the Program, immeasurably during this year.

Thanks so much to our donors for their continuing generosity. Their support has given faculty and students an intellectual home in LALS. They have been unwavering in their friendship during this period of expansion and transition and we are so grateful.

It was an exciting year to be part of LALS. The number of majors and minors increased from 25 in the spring of 2005 to 34 in the spring of 2006. The Program sponsored or co-sponsored a large number of events this year, and these events continue to enrich campus life and to forge links between faculty and students in different departments and parts of the university. We also awarded our first Jane’s Travel Grant for study with Latino/a communities in the United States.

We await the return of Professor Javier Urcid (Anthropology) after his sabbatical in Mexico last semester. He will be the chair of the Program for 2006-08, and we look forward to his arrival.

Elizabeth Emma Ferry

VISITING PROFESSOR VIEWS BRANDEIS

Marjorie Agosín, Luella LaMer Slaner Professor in the Spanish Department at Wellesley College, joined the Latin American and Latino Studies Program faculty for 2005-06 as the Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor. Raised in Chile but educated in the United States, she is a human rights activist and the author of nearly forty books, including memoirs, poetry, and fiction.

Professor Agosín said that her experience at Brandeis gave her a “deep sense of belonging. My teaching here was extremely meaningful, and I only hope that I will always be in touch with Brandeis, as it is now part of my life. I have taught ‘Jewish Women Writers in Latin America’ and ‘Chile: A Memory of History and Silence’ at other schools, but the presence of so many Latin American and Latin American Jewish students at Brandeis enhanced these classes. Teaching here felt real, alive, and also had a sense of communal histories and identities. I found the students passionate, vibrant, and intellectually stimulating. We spoke about ethics, social justice, history, and we talked as if we were in a familiar living room sharing ideas that had world impact.”

Professor Agosín has just published Secrets in the Sand: The Young Women of Juarez, a book that explores the deaths of over 350 women who have been raped and murdered over the last decade in or near that Mexican city. She is also the editor of the forthcoming anthology Writings Toward Hope, a collection of fiction, essays, and poems about the human rights condition in Latin America, with selections by authors including Isabel Allende, Pablo Neruda, and Jacobo Timerman. Professor Agosín is currently working on a novella about a magical spirit woman from the Chilean island of Chiloé.
LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES OPEN HOUSE, November 17.


PATRICIA INDIANA ISASA (Former Argentinian political prisoner): “Surviving the Dirty War,” November 30.


FERNANDO ROSENBERG (Spanish and Portuguese, Yale University): “Poetic Justice in Latin America,” January 31.


SOL Y CANTO (Musical group): Artists-in-residence, February 9-10; concerts February 10 and February 11.


STANLEY ENGGERMAN (Economics and History, University of Rochester): “Colonialism, Inequality, and Long-Run Development in the Americas,” March 17.

KRIK! KRAK! AN EVENING OF HAITIAN CULTURE, March 17.


BROOKE LINDEN ’06 and SHAYNA SKELLEY ’06 (2006 Jane’s Travel Grant recipients): “Addicted to the Arts: The Many Faces of Folklore and Tango in Mendoza, Argentina,” April 5.


THEA GELBSPAN (Oxfam Program Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean): “Global Economic Integration: Indigenous Communities in Guatemala and the Mining Sector,” April 7.


DANIEL DUFFY ’07: “Power, Status, and Community Organizing in Rural Grenada,” April 10.


WOMEN’S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER CELEBRATES CUBA!: “Art, Health Care, Jewish Community, and Intergenerational Relationships,” May 1.

BRANDEIS HILLEL (2005 Jane’s Travel Grant recipient): “Rehabilitating Isla de Mendez After Hurricane Stan” photo exhibit and panel, May 7.

Films:
“TORTILLA FLAT”: September 8.
“JUAREZ”: September 15.
“SALT OF THE EARTH”: September 22.
“WEST SIDE STORY”: September 29.

“I AM JOAQUIN”: October 6.
“I AM CHICANO”: October 6.
“CHICANA”: October 6.
“ZOOT SUIT”: October 11.
“LA BAMBA”: October 20.
“BEFORE NIGHT FALLS”: October 27.
“I LIKE IT LIKE THAT”: November 3.
“LONE STAR”: November 10.
“MY FAMILY/MI FAMILIA”: November 17.
“EL MARIACHI”: November 22.
“BORN IN EAST L.A.”: December 1.
“RAISING VICTOR VARGAS”: December 8.
“IN WOMEN’S HANDS”: February 7.
“THREADS OF HOPE”: February 14.
“BREAD AND ROSES”: February 15.
“MACHUCA”: February 28.

Hispanic Heritage Month
AHORA! celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month for the ninth consecutive year, from September 22 through October 24. This year’s theme was “Latino Music: Our Rhythm, Our Culture, Our Roots.” Featured events during the month were weekly salsa dance lessons, a presentation and discussion of different types of Latino music, and Gilberto’s Conunto Bachateno band.

JANE’S FACULTY AWARDS
Six LALS faculty members received 2006 Jane’s Faculty Development Awards. They are: Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) for travel to Mexico to give talks at La Universidad Iberoamericana and El Colegio de Michoacán; Charles Golden (Anthropology) for archaeological research in Guatemala; Lucía Reyes (ROCL) to attend the Tucumán en el Contexto de los Andes Centroamericanos Program in Argentina; Faith Smith (AAAS/English) to do archival research in Jamaica and Trinidad; Eva Thorne (Politics) to study black land rights in Belize; and Javier Urcid (Anthropology) to do archival research in Mexico.

JANE’S TRAVEL GRANTS
Twelve Jane’s Travel Grants were awarded in 2005-06, the largest number to date. The recipients for research in Latin America and the Caribbean during inter-semester break are: Laura Cornejo Ruh (SID), “Comparison Between Women’s Contribution to the Economy and Women’s Advancement in the Industrial Sector: Costa Rica”;

The recipients for summer research are: Jacob Daniels ’07, “Neoliberal Privatization, Dirigista Economics, and

WELCOME

Marisol Negrón joins Brandeis as the Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Latino Studies for 2006-08. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Stanford University with a dissertation entitled “Salsa as Commodity and Cultural Signifier: An Analysis of a Nuyorican Musical Form.” Her areas of interest include migration and diaspora, popular culture and commodification, and Chicano, Cuban American, Dominican American, and Puerto Rican cultural production.

Fernando Rosenberg arrived from Yale University to join the ROCIL Department as an associate professor of Latin American Literature. He is the author of The Avant-Garde and Geopolitics in Latin America (2006) and is a member of the editorial board of The Latin American Poetry Review. His areas of interest are 19th- and 20th-century poetry, narrative, and critical theory.

SENIOR WINS JANE’S ESSAY PRIZE

Loretta Stein received the 2006 Jane’s Essay Prize for her thesis “Determinants of Disease: An Analysis of Health and Healthcare in the Dominican Republic.” The award is given for the best undergraduate research paper in any area of Latin American, Caribbean, or Latino Studies.

2006 Jane’s Travel Grant recipients Naomi Schiesel, Brooke Linden, Shayna Skelley, Jacob Daniels, Allison Sherrill, Laura Cornejo Ruh, Sue Rothenberg (friend of the LALS Program), Betsy Marzahn-Ramos, and Neena Pathak.

Mary Matson ’07, Luisa Vargas ’07, and Gabriela Vargas ’07.

STUDY ABROAD

A record twenty eight Brandesians studied in Latin America during 2005-06. They attended universities in Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, and Mexico.

ESSAYS, THESES, DISSERTATION


Two graduate students wrote on Latin American or Latino-related fields: Monique Aiasian, (M.A., Anthropology), “Bones Don’t Forget and Witnesses Still Re-

UNDERGRADUATE DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES
Seniors Jeff Arak and Pesha Black will be the Undergraduate Departmental Representatives for the LALS Program for the upcoming academic year. Their goals are getting involved with event planning, publicizing the Program, and asking LALS students what additional courses they would like to have offered.

LALS FACULTY NOTES
Silvia Arrom (History) co-authored her father’s memoirs in De donde crecen las palmas (2005). She delivered papers on 19th-century Mexican women and Catholicism at DePaul University in October; the Coloquio Internacional de Historia de Mujeres y de Género en México in Salt Lake City, UT in September; the New England Council of Latin American Studies, in Bowdoin, ME in October; and the Latin American Studies Association meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in March.

Roxanne Dávila (ROCL) presented a paper on “Nineteenth Century Freak Shows and the Ancient Maya: P.T. Barnum and the Iximaya Hoax” at LASA.

Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) presented “Paths of Glory, Rocks of Ages” at Wesleyan University in November; “Silver, Minerals and Competing Publics in Guanajuato, Mexico” at the American Anthropological Association meetings in November in Washington, D.C.; and “Consuming Souls: Markets, Churches and Mexican Mineral Specimens” at LASA.


Jeremy Mumford (History) presented papers on 16th-century Peru at the Harvard International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World in August, 2005; the Harvard Latin American History Workshop in October; the American Historical Association in Philadelphia, PA in January; and at LASA.


Ángela Pérez-Mejía (ROCL) presented papers on “‘En la boca del león’: la parodia como posibilidad de escribir el desplazamiento en Fray Servando Teresa de Mier” and “La resignificación del espacio público a través de prácticas culturales” at LASA.

Lucía Reyes de Deu (ROCL) organized the panel “Alambre: the U.S.-Mexico Border: Film, Music, and Stories of Undocumented Immigrants” at the Fourth Annual New England Latino Student Leadership Conference at Dartmouth College in May.

Laurence Simon (SID) presented a paper on “Theologies of Place: Reuniting Religion with the Struggle for a Third-World Development” at the Association of American Geographers meeting in Chicago, IL in March.

Faith Smith (AAAS/English) was the Associate Editor for the Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History: The Black Experience in the Americas (2006). She presented papers on Caribbean culture at the Caribbean Studies Association in the Dominican Republic in June 2005; at Georgia State University in February; at DePaul University and Bates College in March; and the Conference on Postcolonialities at the University of Pittsburgh in June.

Ibrahim Sundiata (AAAS/History) moderated two panels at the Association for the Study of the World Wide African Diaspora conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in October and gave a lecture tour in several Brazilian cities. His presentations included a lecture on “Convergence, Brazil and the United States” at the Joaquim Nabuco Foundation in Recife.

LEAVETAKINGS

Professor Dessima Williams (Sociology) left the LALS Program and Brandeis to return to Grenada, where she will continue to direct GRENED, the Grenada Education and Development Programme she founded.

Jeremy Mumford (History) completed a two-year Florence Levy Kay Fellowship at Brandeis. In September he joins the University of Michigan’s Society of Fellows.

We thank them for their interest in and dedication to the Program and wish them well in the future.

ALUMNI NOTES

Jocelyn Auerbach ’08 is an attorney at Steel, Rudnick & Ruben in Philadelphia, a law firm specializing in immigration and naturalization issues. She writes a biweekly column in El Sol, a Spanish-language newspaper educating the Latino community on immigration concerns.

Jesse Gordon ’04 completed her first year of medical school at the Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Vallejo, CA, after working for a year at the University of California, San Francisco. She toured Latin America this summer with Eyal Wallenberg ’04.

Jeremy Goren ’03 is a film-section editor and a contributing writer for NY Mosaico (www.nymosaico.com), a New York based bilingual webzine focusing on Latin American and Latino-related issues.

Adam Greenwald ’98 is a graduate student at the Carey School of Business at Arizona State University.

Donna Guy ’67, Distinguished Professor of History at The Ohio State University, was a discussant on the panel “In Cradle, Court, Conflict, and Across Borders: Historical Approaches to Gendering Childhood” at LASA.

Daniel Handel ’02 received his M.A. in International Economics at the University of Sussex, England. His thesis title is “Trade Liberalization, the Infant Industry Argument, and Economic Performance in Latin America.”

Sarah Katel ’02 graduated from medical school and has started her residency in Obstetrics-Gynecology at Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles.

Peter Kornbluh ’79, Director of the Chile and Cuba Documentation Projects at the National Security Archive, was on the panels “Una Mirada al Golpe en Chile tres décadas después: Quiebre de la democracia, represión y memoria” and “Documentos o Muerte: Declassified Records and the Pursuit of Justice in Latin America” at LASA.

Andrew Levine ’98 is counsel to Credit Suisse, an international banking firm in New York City.

Carlos Mendez ’98 is a volunteer with Fundación Renacer/The Renacer Foundation, a non-profit humanitarian organization with offices in the Dominican Republic and New York City. It serves the poor and disabled in the United States and Latin America.

Leo Olper ’92 is a SVP/COO of Lápiz, the Hispanic Marketing division of Leo Burnett Advertising Agency in Chicago, IL.

Sergio Reyes ’98 is the chief of staff at the Kern County Board of Supervisors in Bakersfield, CA, a county with a majority Latino population.

Yaser Robles ’03 received his M.A. in Caribbean Cultural Studies in May under a joint program from SUNY/Buffalo and the Universidad de la Habana. He currently attends SUNY/Albany, working towards his doctorate in Spanish with a specialty in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Cultural Studies.

Eduardo Sáenz Rovner (Ph.D. ’89), Professor of History and Economics at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, published La conexión cubana: Narcotráfico, contrabando y juego en Cuba entre los años 20 y comienzos de la Revolución (2005).

Luis Rubio (M.A. ’78, Ph.D. ’83), General Director of the Centro de Investigación para el Desarrollo, co-authored El Poder de la Competitividad (2005).


Lynn Stephen (Ph.D. ’87), Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon, organized the panel “Procesos Organizativos Transnacionales de Pueblos y Organizaciones Indígenas Migrantes: Retos y Avances” at LASA.

Barbara Tenenbaum ’68, specialist in Mexican Culture in the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress, organized a panel on “Writing Biography: New Approaches to Old Forms” at LASA.

Eyal Wallenberg ’04 teaches mathematics in Brooklyn, New York. He traveled to Latin America this summer with Jesse Gordon ’04.

LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES FACULTY

The following faculty members helped guide the LALS Program during the past year and served as advisers for students interested in their fields of expertise: Silvia
Arrom (History), Roxanne Dávila (ROCL), Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology), Ricardo Godoy (SID), Charles Golden (Anthropology,) Donald Hindley (Politics), James Mandrell (ROCL), Jeremy Mumford (History) Lucia Reyes (ROCL), Wellington Nyangoni (AAAS), Ángela Pérez-Mejia (ROCL), Laurence Simon (SID), Faith Smith (AAAS/English), Ibrahim Sundiata (AAAS/History), Eva Thorne (Politics), Javier Urcid (Anthropology), Dessima Williams (Sociology).

LALS GRADUATES SEVENTEEN

The LALS Program extends its congratulations to its graduating seniors.

The LALS majors are:
Shayna Dahan; Clarisse dos Santos, additional major in Politics; Phi Beta Kappa; magna cum laude; Lauren Goldstein, minor in Spanish Language and Literature; Amy Goldwasser, cum laude; Damian Hernández Preciado, additional major in Philosophy; Jaclyn van Deuren.

The LALS minors are:
Julianna Barrera, Anthropology major; additional minors in Classical Studies and History; with high honors in Anthropology; magna cum laude; David Cutler, History major; additional minor in Journalism; cum laude; Deborah Finkelstein, Economics major; additional minor in International Business; Robert B. Sherman ’67 Memorial Prize; Elizabeth Garbutt, Politics major; additional minor in Education; Jocelyn Knowles, Anthropology major; additional minor in Spanish Language and Literature; high honors in Anthropology; Phi Beta Kappa; summa cum laude; Laura Kurz, Anthropology major; B.A./M.A. Anthropology program; additional minor in Classical Studies; high honors in Anthropology, magna cum laude; Brooke Linden, Psychology major; additional minor in English and American Literature; Michael McCarthy, International and Global Studies major; Bekka Saks, Anthropology major; B.A./M.A. Anthropology program; high honors in Anthropology; cum laude; Sarah Snyder, Politics major; magna cum laude; Loretta Stein, Anthropology major; highest honors in Anthropology; Health: Science, Society, and Policy Recognition Award; Richard Kaufman ’58 Memorial Prize for Leadership and Academic Excellence; magna cum laude.

ITEMS FOR THE 2007 NEWSLETTER

Do you have professional information to share about your work related to Latin America or Latinos in the United States? Send your information to: Marilyn Brooks, LALS administrator and editor of the newsletter: Brandeis University, LALS/MS 036, Waltham, MA 02454-9110; fax: 781-736-2273; e-mail: Mbrooks@brandeis.edu. Visit us on the web at www.brandeis.edu/departments/lals.

Faculty, students, and friends at the LALS luncheon May 4.
(Photo by Heratch Ekmekjian)
### Latin American and Latino Studies Courses Offered During 2005-06

#### Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 126b</td>
<td>Political Economy of the Third World</td>
<td>Nyangoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 168a</td>
<td>The Maya</td>
<td>Golden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 184b</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Aesthetics</td>
<td>Urcid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 71a</td>
<td>Latin American History: Preconquest to 1870</td>
<td>Mumford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 144a</td>
<td>Latin American Politics I</td>
<td>Hindley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 122a</td>
<td>Sociology of American Immigration</td>
<td>Kim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 111b</td>
<td>Introduction to Latin American Literature – section 1</td>
<td>Reyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 111b</td>
<td>Introduction to Latin American Literature – section 2</td>
<td>Balabarca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 164b</td>
<td>Gender in Literature: Women Writers in Latin America</td>
<td>Reyes de Deu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 192a</td>
<td>Jewish Women Writers in Latin America</td>
<td>Agosín</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 193b</td>
<td>Topics in Cinema: Latino USA Films</td>
<td>Pérez-Mejía</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 158a</td>
<td>Theories of Development and Underdevelopment</td>
<td>Nyangoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 55a</td>
<td>Models of Development</td>
<td>Reichman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 115a</td>
<td>History of Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations</td>
<td>Sundiata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 172a</td>
<td>Native Peoples of the Americas to 1824</td>
<td>Mumford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LALS 100a</td>
<td>Chile: A History of Memory and Silence</td>
<td>Agosín</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 128a</td>
<td>Politics of Revolution: State Violence and Popular Insurgency in the Third World</td>
<td>Thaxton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 144b</td>
<td>Latin American Politics II</td>
<td>Hindley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 180b</td>
<td>Sustaining Development</td>
<td>Thorne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 171a</td>
<td>Women Leaders and Formation in Developing Countries</td>
<td>Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 108a</td>
<td>Spanish for Bilingual Students</td>
<td>Reyes de Deu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 109b</td>
<td>Introduction to Hispanic Cultural Studies</td>
<td>Mandrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 164b</td>
<td>Studies in Latin American Literature</td>
<td>Balabarca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 166b</td>
<td>Writing the Latin American City</td>
<td>Balabarca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 195a</td>
<td>Latinos in the U.S.: Perspectives from Literature and Film</td>
<td>Reyes de Deu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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