LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This past year was an exciting one for the LALS Program. It is a pleasure to recognize the hard work of our constituencies, including benefactors, students, faculty, and alumni not only in promoting awareness of the Latin American and Latino world, but for continuing their commitment to justice, fairness, and co-existence. The initiative of understanding the Latino/a history of Waltham and of creating synergies with our disenfranchised next-door neighbors, led by Professor Arrom, is a major highlight of such a commitment. So is the work done by our students and alumni in many classrooms and communities throughout the continent.

In a world of perpetual transformations, our Program is like a microcosm of what surrounds us on a larger scale. We are excited by the arrival of Ronnie Perelis, our new faculty member who specializes in 16th-century trans-Atlantic studies. We are saddened by the departure of three of our colleagues: Roxanne Dávila, Marisol Negrón, and Angela Pérez-Mejía. Their passion for teaching left a deep mark on us and an exemplar to follow, and we wish them the best in their future enterprises. The apt running of the day-to-day challenges of the Program was possible thanks to the efforts of Marilyn Brooks.

Faculty and students alike, we all look forward to a productive academic year.

Javier Urcid

CLASS PROJECT AIDS WALTHAM LATINOS

Fourteen students, led by Silvia Arrom (History), produced a brochure to inform Waltham’s Latino community about local resources that are available to them. The students were members of the fall 2007 History 171b Latino/a History class. Amigos, written in Spanish, lists both public and private organizations that aid immigrants with language classes, health care, housing, immigration, and credit issues, among other topics. One thousand copies of the four-color brochure were distributed throughout the city.

Amigos was part of a class research program under the auspices of the Brandeis Community-Engaged Learning initiative that seeks to build bridges between the university and the local community. “There is an academic component and a benefit to the community as well; it’s a sharing of resources to have both come out better in the end,” said Rachel Kleinbaum ’08, the CEL fellow for the class. Eight Waltham Latino community leaders were interviewed for the project, which traced the history of their community since the 1940s. The 2000 U.S. Census shows that 8.5% of the city’s 60,000 residents self-identify as Latinos, including groups from Puerto Rico, Guatemala, and Mexico.

Members of the class with the mockup of the Amigos brochure
LALS EVENTS AT BRANDEIS, 2007-08


BETSY MARZAHN-RAMOS (Anthropology, 2007 Jane’s Travel Grant recipient): “Style, Affiliation, and Regional Political Dynamics: Small Classic Maya Sites in the Usamacista River Region,” October 8.


MIGUEL LUCIANO (artist): “Boricua Pop: Puerto Rican Folklore and American Consumer Fantasy,” October 17.

OLOGUNDE: AN AFRO-BRAZILIAN MUSIC AND DANCE CONCERT (performance): Dance workshop, October 19; concert, October 20.


MARIA POLINSKY (Linguistics, Harvard University): “What Does It Take to be a Native Speaker, Especially When You Didn’t Fully Learn Your First Language?” November 29.


IBRAHIM SUNDIATA (AAAS/History): “Race and Ethnicity, Religion, Gender, or Sexual Orientation as Teaching Issues,” focus on race and ethnicity, February 14.


SARITA BHALOTRA (Heller School), WILLIAM Mc Donald (Anthropology), and DONALD SHEPARD (Heller School): “The Challenge of Global Health,” March 6.

DEBORAH JENSON (French, University of Wisconsin): “Napoleon in the Colonies: The (Anti) Empire of Jean-Jacques Dessalines,” March 11.


JENNY ALEXANDER (filmmaker), JOHN WILLSHIRE CARRERA (director/attorney), and AMARO J. LARIA (psychologist): “Enforcing Immigration Laws: Who Pays the Price?” April 2.


CARIBBEAN CONNEXION WEEK OPENING CEREMONY: April 30.


LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

Fernando Rosenberg (Romance Studies) presented this year’s Latin American Film Festival as part of his
Global Latin American Film class. The films shown were *Diario de motocicleta*/*Motorcycle Diaries*, *Before Night Falls*, *Maria, llena eres de gracia/Maria Full of Grace*, and *Cidade de Deus/ City of God*.

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

¡AHORA! celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month from September 17 through October 24 with the theme “Building Bridges: A través del Arte, el Diálogo, y la Acción.” Charley Ferrer, sexologist and author of *Latina Kama Sutra*, was the keynote speaker and led a workshop entitled “Sex Ed: The Things Mami Didn’t Mention.” Other events during the month were the “Latin Beach Party”; “Take A Look Inside,” stories of Latino migration to the United States; “Latinos: Different Colors, Flavors, and Religions”; “Latino Comedy Fest”; the 2007 Main Event, a night of dancing, music, acting: “Latin Night @ The Stein”; “Hands in HANDS,” a day of activities with children from Waltham; and the Closing Ceremony.

**STUDY ABROAD**

Twenty-six Brandeis students studied in Latin America during 2007-08. They attended universities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru.

**SENIORS WIN JANÉ’S ESSAY PRIZE**

Katie Kelly-Hankin ’08 and Hannah Ramer ’08 received the Jane’s Essay Prize for their individual essays. It was the first time that the award was shared. It is given annually for the best undergraduate research paper in any area of Latin American, Caribbean, or Latino Studies.

Katie’s essay was “Mujeres en La Lucha: El Papel de las Mujeres en la resistencia contra la Minería del Cobre en la Zona de Intag,” and Hannah’s essay was “Decididos a Luchar: El Impacto en la Comunidad de confrontaciones entre una transnacional minera y comunidades locales.”

**JANE’S TRAVEL GRANTS**

Seven Jane’s Travel Grants were awarded to undergraduate and graduate students in 2008.


The recipient for summer research is Anna Pancheshnikov ’09 for “Access to Information, Education, Prevention, and Treatment of HIV/AIDS among Pregnant Women in San Juan, Puerto Rico.”

2008 Jane’s Travel Grant recipients pictured: Hannah Ramer, Rachel Kleinko *08, Anna Pancheshnikov, FIMRC representative Sheela Chandrashekar, and Katie Kelly-Hankin. (Photo by Michael Lovett)

**JANE’S FACULTY AWARDS**

Five Brandeis faculty members received Jane’s Faculty Development Awards. They are: Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) for research on the mineral specimen market in Tucson, Arizona and Mapimi, Mexico; Charles Golden (Anthropology) for research in the Sierra del Lacandón National Park in Guatemala; Fernando Rosenberg (Romance Studies) to attend the Congreso del Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana in Puebla, Mexico; Faith Smith (AAAS/English) to attend a conference on “Obeah and Other Powers: The Politics of Caribbean Religion and Healing” in Newcastle, England; and Javier Urcid (Anthropology) for archeological research in Mexico.
BACLA

The Boston Area Consortium on Latin America, directed by Silvia Arrom (History), consists of nine colleges and universities in metropolitan Boston. It serves as a means for faculty and students to communicate and supplement their resources with those available at other locations. The BACLA web site may be accessed at www.brandeis.edu/departments/lals/bacla.html.

THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS

Lauren Bragin ’08 wrote “The Anatomy of the Art of Survival in the Works of Three Argentinean Disappeared” as her senior thesis.


ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSORS RECEIVE PROVOST’S AWARD

Charles Golden and Javier Urcid have been awarded a grant from the Provost’s Conference Fund to support the upcoming conference on “Usamcinta: The Past, Present, and Future of a Border River.” The Usamcinta is the largest river in Mesoamerica and flows through southeastern Mexico and northwestern Guatemala.

NEW COURSES TAUGHT IN FALL 2007

“Making Modern Subjects: Caribbean/Latin America/ U.S.A. 1850-1950” was taught in fall 2007 by Faith Smith (AAAS/English). The course considered inflections of “the modern” across the Americas, allowing students to compare models and strategies at a historical moment when shifts from slavery to “freedom” and from Europe to the U.S. framed anxieties about empire citizenship, technology, vernaculars, and aesthetics.

“Latino/a History” was taught in fall 2007 by Silvia Arrom (History) and analyzed the history of the different Latino groups in the U.S. from the 19th century when westward expansion incorporated Mexican populations through the 20th century waves of migration from Latin America. It explored the diversity of Latino experiences including identity, work, community, race, gender, and political activism.

NEW COURSES TAUGHT BY VISITING PROFESSOR

Ronnie Perelis (Romance Studies) will introduce four new courses in the 2008-09 academic year. In fall 2008 he will teach “Inquisicion: Brujas, fornicadores, judios y protestantes” and “Contact Zone: Spanish and Indigenous Views of the Encounter and Conquest of the Americas”; in spring 2009 he will teach “Tierras Prometidas” and “AutoBiografia.”

Professor Perelis received his Ph.D. from New York University in September 2006 for his dissertation “Marano Autobiography in its Transatlantic Context: Exile, Exploration, and Spiritual Discovery.” His areas of research include colonial Latin American literature and history, Sephardic culture, and Atlantic studies.

FACULTY NOTES


Roxanne Dávila (Romance Studies) published “La historia de los viajeros a la zona maya” in Ciudades sagradas mayas (2007).

Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) was a fellow at the Newhouse Center for the Humanities at Wellesley College in spring 2008. She presented a paper on “Exhibiting Minerals at the Smithsonian Institute” at the American Ethnological Society in Washington, D.C. in May 2007 and was a discussant on the panel “Making Gender, Making the State” at the Latin American Studies Association in Montreal in September 2007. She presented “Ziegfeld Girls Down a Runway: Exhibiting Minerals at the Smithsonian” at Wellesley College and “Waste and Potency: Gendering Minerals and U.S.-Mexican Space” at Cornell University, both in March.


Marisol Negrón (LALS/Romance Studies) presented papers on “Zurita and the Moment” at the Poetry of the Americas conference in College Station, Texas in April 2007; “Presencia y Proyección” at the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics in Buenos Aires in June 2007; and “El Juicio de la Historia” at LASA.


Fernando Rosenberg (Romance Studies) published “Borges y el juicio de la historia” in *Borges: políticas de la literatura* (2008) and “El novelista, el terrorista, sobre Mao II de Don DeLillo” in *Quimera* (2007). He presented a paper on “Los ojos que nos miran: Presencia y testimonio” at the Instituto Nacional de Literatura Iberoamericana conference in Puebla, Mexico in June.

Faith Smith (AAAS/English) chaired the panel “Literature, Art and Cultural Practice” at the Conference on The Asian Experience in the Caribbean and the Guyanas: Labor and Migration, Literature and Culture in Miami in November. She was a member of the panel “Historical Consciousness and the Changing Meanings of Freedom” at the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora in Bridgetown, Barbados in October.


**ALUMNI NOTES**

**Briana Abrams** '08 is participating in a five month ecology study in Punta Tombo, Argentina, doing research on the importance of penguins as indicators of global climate change and the health of the environment.

**Priscilla Araya** '02 is program director for NY3 of The Posse Foundation. She is developing the Brandeis Science Posse, a program which will bring ten scholars to campus this fall. She is working toward her Master’s Degree at Bank Street College of Education in Bilingual Early Childhood Education.

**Jocelyn Auerbach** '98 is an attorney specializing in immigration and nationality law in Mt. Laurel, N. J.

**Sabrina Assayag Victor** '03 is an attorney for the New York City Law Department’s Tax and Bankruptcy Division.

**Carlos Baia** '94 is the deputy city manager for development in Concord, N.H.

**Larissa Baia** '94 is the associate vice president of enrollment management at Manchester Community College in Manchester, N.H.

**Alejandro Caminos** '95 has launched the IPFC Group (International Public Finance Consulting Group). Its goal is to assist public entities and local governments in addressing their financing and investment needs.

**Juan Corradi** '65 is a professor of Sociology at New York University. He published *Los hilos del desorden: Trayectorias geopolíticas del siglo XXI* (2006).

**Clara Estow** (M.D. '74, Ph.D. '75) has retired after forty years at the University of Massachusetts/Boston in the Department of Hispanic Studies. Her colleagues have established the Clara Estow Prize in her honor, to be awarded to an outstanding junior or graduating senior in the field of Hispanic Studies.

**Nancy Foner** '66 is distinguished professor of Sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY. She published *In a New Land: A Comparative View of Immigration* (2005).

**Susannah Glusker** '62 teaches at the Universidad Iberoamericana and writes for *Inside Mexico*. Her biography of her mother, *Anita Brenner: A Mind of Her Own*, was presented at the Manuel Álvarez Bravo Museum and at the National University’s Book Fair.
Adam Greenwald ’98 is director of development for the American Jewish University in Los Angeles.

Frances Hagopian ’75 is the Michael Grace II Associate Professor of Latin American Studies at Notre Dame University. She presented “Latin American Catholicism in an Age of Religious and Political Pluralism: A Framework for Analysis” at LASA.

Daniel Handel ’02 works for Chemonic International in Washington, D.C. He is currently working in the Asia Region on an anti-corruption project in Indonesia.

Kendra Harrison ’07 is teaching middle school Spanish. She attended the Middlebury College Language Program this summer for Spanish.

Lauren Kanter ’04 graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine in May and will be doing her residency in emergency medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Peter Kornbluh ’79 presented “The Posada File: International Archives on the Terrorist Bombing of Cubana Flight 455” and co-chaired the workshop “Talking with Fidel: U.S.-Cuban Negotiations Since 1959” at LASA.


Brooke Linden ’06 is teaching English in Hamamatsu, Japan, a city with a large Brazilian population. She published “A Little Brazil and a Long Road Ahead” in the Shizuoka Chronicle.

Doris Lowry ’78 teaches middle school Spanish in the Newton, MA public school system.

Sarah Reynolds ’01 is working with a National Public Radio station on Cape Cod, MA and Atlantic Public Media creating short community documentaries. She does free lance audio documentary work for the Southern Poverty Law Center on Latino immigrants in the U.S.


John Saxe-Fernandez ’64 directs The World in the XXI Century Research Program of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Humanities and is a professor on the faculty of Social and Political Science at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He published Terror e Imperio (2006).


Lynn Stephen (Ph.D. ’87) is distinguished professor of Anthropology and chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of Oregon. She presented “Oaxaqueños en Oregon y California: Experiencias de jóvenes,” co-chaired a panel on “Otros Saberes I: Conocimientos colaborativos de intelectuales Indígenas y Afrodescendientes,” and organized and chaired “Otros Saberes II: Conocimientos colaborativos de intelectuales Indígenas y Afrodescendientes” at LASA.

Barbara Tenenbaum ’68 is a specialist in Mexican Culture, Hispanic Division at the Library of Congress. She presented “Mexico in New York, 1940” at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C. in March.

Steven Volk ’68 is professor and chair of Latin American Studies at Oberlin College. He co-authored “Gender, Order, and Femicide: Reading the Popular Culture of Ciudad Juárez” in Atzlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies (2007).

## LALS GRADUATES

The LALS Program extends congratulations to its 2008 graduating seniors.

The LALS majors are:

- Elina Alterman, additional major in Sociology; minors in Legal Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies;
- Raphy Cuevas;
- Ramón de Jesús, minor in Education; Posse Scholarship,
- Rachel Kleinbaum, additional major in Sociology; minor in Social Justice and Social Policy; cum laude; Elise Boulding Sociology and Social Activism Award.
- Cori O’Neill, additional major in Health: Science, Society and Policy major; cum laude.

The LALS minors are:

- Lauren Bragin, majors in Philosophy, Comparative Literature, and European Cultural Studies; summa cum laude; high honors in Comparative Literature; Phi Beta Kappa;
**LALS 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 (RS), Elizabeth Perry (Anthropology), Ricardo Godoy (SID), Charles Golden (Anthropology), Donald Hindley (Politics), James Mandrell (RS), Marisol Negrón (LALS/RS), Wellington Nyangoni (AAAS), Ronnie Perelis (RS), Ángela Pérez-Mejía (RS), Lucia Reyes (RS), Fernando Rosenberg (RS), Laurence Simon (SID), Faith Smith (AAAS/English), Ibrahim Sundiata (AAAS/History), Eva Thorne (Politics), Patricia Tovar (Economics), and Javier Urcid (Anthropology).

**THE 2009 NEWSLETTER**

Do you have professional information to share about your work that is related to Latin America or Latinos in the U.S.? Send your information to: Marilyn Brooks, LALS administrator and newsletter editor: Brandeis University, LALS/MS 036, Waltham, MA 02454; fax: 781-736-2253; e-mail: MBrooks@brandeis.edu. Due to space limitations, we will be able to publish only those items related to Latin America or Latinos.

Faculty, students, and friends at the LALS luncheon on May 1.

*(Photo by Michael Lovett)*
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