LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Forty six years ago the LALS Program at Brandeis came into existence. For an anthropological archaeologist like me, such a span may seem like the blink of an eye, but qualitatively it is most significant. During that time the Program has brought awareness of Latin American and Latino issues to our intellectual community, and in so doing it has impacted the lives of students (as noted by field notes or classroom testimonials) and the lives of those who benefit from the initiatives of our constituencies (as shown by the news from our alumni). And despite the many challenges that we face, it is revitalizing to realize that student interest in our Program keeps growing at a steady pace.

Next year we will be honored by the presence of Dr. Marysa Navarro Aranguren, the Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor for the 2010 spring semester. Her expertise on Argentinean history will help us all expand our horizons. We also wish much success to our colleague Ronnie Perelis in his new position at Yeshiva University. We are grateful to him for having shared with us his field of expertise.

As always the fulfillment of our mission this past year would not have been feasible if not for the gracious support of our benefactors, the sustained commitment of the LALS faculty, and the indefatigable efforts of Marilyn Brooks. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year to keep strengthening Latin American and Latino Studies at Brandeis.

Javier Urcid

A VIEW OF BRANDEIS STAFF LIVES

In April the Brandeis community was treated to a special theatrical performance, “A Journey for a Better Future/Un viaje hacia un mejor futuro.” Tim Prachner-Dix ’09 wrote his bilingual play in collaboration with several Brandeis custodians who immigrated to the United States from El Salvador and Guatemala. It featured students, custodians, and members of the custodians’ families as actors. Tim created the play based on the stories of staff custodians after establishing relationships with them while working with the Brandeis Labor Coalition.

“I found that the union members had only good things to say about Brandeis and how working here has improved their lives. The thing they talked about the most was their journey to the United States and the struggles of life in their home countries, so I knew that’s what the play had to be about. I wanted people to become more aware of the reasons why many immigrants leave Latin America to come to the U.S. I also hoped the performance would make students more aware of the presence of the custodians on campus and allow more interaction and dialogue between them,” Tim said.
LALS EVENTS AT BRANDEIS, 2008-09

¡AHORA!’s “Hispanic Heritage Month: Latino U.S.A.: Presencia e Identidad,” September 15 through October 18.

MAURICE POSSLEY (reporter) and Reverend Carroll Pickett (chaplain): “At the Death House Door,” film screening and panel discussion, September 18.

COLIN CHANNER (Jamaican author): reading from his novel “Lover’s Rock,” September 23.


ROGER MAGAZINE (Department of Social Anthropology, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico): “Urban Expansion Outside Mexico City,” November 14; “Imagining the Future and Theorizing the Present through Soccer Fandom in Mexico,” November 17.


ALEXANDRA PINEROS SHIELD (Director, Immigrant Programs, Irish Immigration Center): “Immigration History and Policy,” March 5.


RINKU SEN (President and Executive Director, Applied Research Center), STEVEN CAMAROTA (Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies), and PAUL SOLMAN ’66 (journalist): “After the Crossing: Implications of Alternative Policy Responses to Illegal Immigration,” March 11.

BROOKE ROSENBAUER ’09 (2009 Jane’s Travel Grant recipient): “From the Streets to the Field: Soccer and Youth Empowerment in Quito, Ecuador,” March 16.


HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

¡AHORA! celebrated the 20th anniversary of Hispanic Heritage Month on campus from September 15 through October 18 with a variety of programs to emphasize the diversity of the Latin American and Latino experience at Brandeis and throughout the country. The opening ceremony on September 15 featured Louis Perego Moreno in his persona of Tio Louie. Perego is the founder of Skyline Community and a documentary filmmaker and television producer. He screened his documentary “Latina Confessions” on September 16 and spoke afterward about its exploration of Latina issues in the United States.

The month-long celebration continued on September 20 with the “¡ReVeNTó!” concert; “Entre Familia” with James Mandrell (RS) and Ronnie Perelis (RS) who discussed teaching and researching Latino culture on September 22; “Poetry Diary of My Identity,” featuring a night of poetry on September 25; “Coming to America” with Mario Barros, a Cuban émigré to the United States, showcasing his songs, comedy, and book readings on October 2; “Latin Dancing Night with Grupo Fantasia” on October 6; “Race, Politics, and Election 2008” with Mingus Mapps (AAAS/Politics) and Angelo Falcone, the president of the National Institute of Latino Policy, on October 15; and “Latino U.S.A.: Presencia e Identidad,” a variety show featuring dance, music, and performances on October 18.

STUDY ABROAD

A record thirty-nine Brandeis students studied in Latin America during the 2008-09 academic year. They attended universities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.

BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM ON LATIN AMERICA

The Boston Area Consortium on Latin America was headquartered at Brandeis for the seventeenth consecutive year. In addition to Brandeis, the members are Boston College, Boston University, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Tufts University, the University of Massachusetts/Boston, and Wellesley College. BACLA serves as a means for faculty and students with interests in this area to communicate with each other and to supplement their own resources with those available at other locations.

More information may be found at the website www.drclas.harvard.edu/programs/bacula
SENIOR WINS JANE’S ESSAY PRIZE

Juliana Buenaventura '09 received the 2009 Jane's Essay Prize for her senior thesis "An Assessment of President Alvaro Uribe's Counterinsurgency Measures Against the FARC in Colombia." The award is given for the best undergraduate research paper in any area of Latin American, Caribbean, or Latino Studies.

2009 Jane’s Travel Grant recipients Ieva Juslonyte, Brooke Rosenbauer, Professor Javier Urcid, Mariel Gruszko, and Lisa Fitzgerald.

JANE’S FACULTY AWARDS

Five LALS faculty members received 2009 Jane’s Faculty Development Awards. They are: Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) for research in Mexico; Charles Golden (Anthropology) for archaeological research in Guatemala; Faith Smith (AAAS/English) to conduct research at the National Library in Jamaica; Fernando Rosenberg (RS) for research in Argentina; and Javier Urcid (Anthropology) to present two papers at the International Congress of Americanists in Mexico City and to conduct archaeological reconnaissance and documentation of carved stones in Oaxaca.

JANE’S TRAVEL GRANTS

Seven Jane’s Travel Grants were given during the 2008-09 academic year. The recipients who received the awards to fund research in Latin America and the Caribbean during winter break are Yonit Bousany '09: "Ethnomathematics and Curriculum Development in Rural Peru" and Brooke Rosenbauer '09: "From the Streets to the Field: The Use of Soccer in Female Empowerment and Employment, Quito, Ecuador."


WINTER TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS DISCUSS THEIR RESEARCH

Yonit Bousany '09 chose Peru as her research site because she “wanted to study an indigenous language while living in a Spanish-speaking country. The program there (offered by the School of International Training) gave me the opportunity to study Quechua.” A triple major in Language and Linguistics, Anthropology, and Mathematics, Yonit taught mathematics at a rural school in Iquitos for her research project, “Ethnomathematics and Curriculum Development in Rural Peru.”

“I am specifically interested in curriculum development that aims to focus learning on culturally acquired ways of thought. My research underlined that a child’s potential is developed before coming into a classroom. Their assumptions and vision of the world are shaped by the culture they grow up in. By understanding this, and being able to work with this pre-developed potential, we can probe into deeper problems with young students and encourage them to use their intuitions to come to formal mathematical proofs,” Yonit said.

Photos of Yonit’s research may be viewed at www.brandeis.edu/departments/lals/yonitbousany/index.html.

Brooke Rosenbauer '09 majored in Health: Science, Society and Policy and minored in LALS. She worked in Ecuador with A GANAR (The Fundación de las Américas para el Desarrollo). This is the only organization in Latin America that uses soccer as a tool to prepare people for the workforce, which fit into her research on “The Use of
Soccer in Female Empowerment and Employment, Quito, Ecuador.” A GANAR offers a variety of courses in auto mechanics, culinary arts, hotel/hospitality management, and bartending/waitering.

Brooke said, “I couldn’t get over the confidence, professionalism, and dedication of the students in Quito. Walking into the classrooms, seeing the students taking meticulous notes—you would never guess that they come from the poorest neighborhoods in the city. In addition to learning skills, they are learning how to conduct themselves in the workplace and in their personal lives. It is a truly pivotal point in their lives because it represents an opportunity to overcome the class differences that dictate much of Ecuadorian society and to realize their true potential as students and leaders.”

Photos of Brooke’s research may be viewed at www.brandeis.edu/departments/lals/brookerosenbauer/index.html.

MARYSA NAVARRO ARANGUREN TO BE VISITING PROFESSOR

Marysa Navarro Aranguren, Charles Collis Professor of History at Dartmouth College, has been named the Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor for the spring 2010 semester.

MARYSA NAVARRO ARANGUREN (Photo courtesy of Dartmouth College)

Professor Navarro was born in Pamplona, Spain. She was educated in Uruguay and completed her M.A. and Ph.D. in History at Columbia University. She joined the Dartmouth faculty in 1968 and will teach her last course in fall 2009 before retiring as a regular faculty member. Her fields of specialization are Latin American history, Argentine history, Latin American feminism, and women’s history.

A distinguished Latin Americanist, Professor Navarro is the author or co-author of several books, including Los Nacionales (1969); Evita: The Real Story of Eva Perón (1996); and Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Restoring Women to History (1999). She was elected president of the Latin American Studies Association in 2003. She has received a number of prestigious awards, including becoming an “Honorable Citizen” of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and holding the Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat Visiting Scholarship at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University. She is currently working on a book on women’s suffrage in Latin America and a memoir of her family’s history during the Spanish Civil War and their subsequent exile.

In spring 2010 she will teach History 175a, “Argentina: From Perón to the Dirty War,” which will also count as the seminar course LALS 100a.

LEAVETAKING

Professor Ronnie Perellis (RS) completed his two year appointment at Brandeis and has accepted a position at Yeshiva University in New York. We thank him for his interest and participation in our Program and wish him continued success in his new position.

PHI BETA KAPPA

Juliana Buenaventura ’09 was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the country’s oldest academic honor society. It was founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary and now has chapters at 276 American colleges and universities.

ESSAYS, THESES, DISSERTATIONS


Allan Amanik (NEJS) wrote his master’s thesis on “La Década Infame and the Central Secular Jewish School Organization, 1930-1943: Prewar Precedents to the Postwar Fate of Yiddish Among Argentine Jewry.”
Flavia Celestina Peréa (Social Policy, Heller School) wrote her doctoral dissertation on “Academic Performance Among Children of Immigrant Families from the Dominican Republic: The Influence of Language.”

FACULTY NOTES


Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) co-edited Timely Assets: The Politics of Resources and Their Temporalities (2008). She presented papers on “Substances of Patrimony” at the King Juan Carlos Center/Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University in February and “Thinking the Social: The Intellectual History of CSR in Guanajuato, Mexico” at the Rethinking Extractive Industries Conferences at York University in Toronto in March.

Ricardo Godoy (SID) received the 2009 Heller School for Social Policy and Management Teaching Award.


Fernando Rosenberg (Romance Studies) published “Cultural Theory and the Avant-Gardes” in The Blackwell Companion to Latin American Culture and Literature (2008). He spoke about the artist Nicolás Guagnini at the Harvard University Art Forum in April 2008; he spoke on “¿El sentido del testimonio: Entre lo que vemos y los que nos mira?” at the University of Pennsylvania, October 2008; and he presented a paper on “Novel of Truth and Reconciliation” at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference at Harvard University in March.

Faith Smith (AAAS/English) presented papers on “Gender and Diasporic Modernities in the Late Nineteenth Century” and “Speaking Out of Turn: Deportees, Returnees, Refugees” and participated in two Roundtables: “The Place of Journals in the Making and Remaking of the Study of the Caribbean” and “Discrepant Discourses: Identity and Diaspora in Contemporary Caribbean Writing” at the Caribbean Studies Association in Kingston, Jamaica in June.

Ibrahim Sundiata (AAAS/History) presented papers on “Race in the Caribbean, Two Models” at the Caribbean Studies Association in San Andrés, Colombia in June 2008 and “Obama, Blackness, and Brazil” at Bridgewater State College in December 2008.


ALUMNI NOTES

Jocelyn Auerbach Klein ’98 is a high school Spanish teacher in New Jersey.

Ramón Barquín III ’96 published the memoirs of his grandfather, Ramón Barquín, Dialogues with Fidel, Raúl Castro, and El Ché (2009), based on the elder Barquín’s discussions with the top Cuban revolutionary leaders in 1959.

Peshu Black ’07 spent the last year in Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile. She now resides in New Hampshire, teaching English and doing administrative work on English computer programs for a Chilean company.

Victor Hugo Coral, Jr. ’04 is living in Cali, Colombia. He works at CORAL VISION LTDA, specializing in customs brokerage, logistics, and international transportation.

Nancy Foner ’66 published Across Generations: Immigrant Families in America (2009). She is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Jesse Gordon ’04 graduated from Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine in June. During the spring she worked at a clinic in Montevideo, Uruguay. She is doing her residency in family medicine at the MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, IL.
Vanya Green '99 heads a world music group in Los Angeles (www.vanylouvoice.com) and has opened a recording studio for children with cancer at UCLA.

Donna Guy '67 is Professor of History at Ohio State University. She wrote Women Create the Welfare State: Performing Charity, Creating Rights in Argentina, 1880-1955 (2009).

Kendra Harrison '07 is a high school Spanish teacher in Acton, MA. She continued her studies with Middlebury College's Spanish graduate program this summer in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Nell Hodo '96 is a physician who works at a community health center in Salt Lake City, UT, providing primary care to an indigent, predominantly Spanish-speaking community. She was interviewed for "Healthcare: Facing Barriers," a 2007 film produced by KUED, a public television station.

Temma Kaplan '64 is Professor of History at Rutgers University. She was the discussant on the panel "Transnational Areas, International Initiatives, and Latin American Women's Mobilization: Exploring 20th Century (Feminist) Activism beyond the Nation State" at LASA.

Peter Kornbluh '79 chaired the panel "Pinocchet Decade: Documents, Dictators, and the Pursuit of Justice in Latin America since 1998" at LASA. He directs the Chile Documentation Project and the Cuban Documentation Project at the National Security Archive in Washington, D.C.

Carlos Méndez '98 is in charge of operations and fundraising for the Fundación Renacer, a humanitarian aid organization founded by his father, Apolinar Méndez-Ubiera. The foundation has offices in Brooklyn, NY and La Romana, Dominican Republic. He may be reached at manos@terra.com.

Rubén Rumbaut (M.A. '73, Ph.D. '78) is Professor of Sociology at UC/Irvine. He published "Survivor: Cuba. The Cuban Revolution at 50" in Latin American Perspectives (2009). He spoke on "U.S.-Cuban Relations: Contexts and Constituencies for Change" at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in September 2008 and on "International Migration in Global and American Contexts" at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna in October 2008. He led a delegation of ENCAUSA/US-CUBA to Congress, lobbying on behalf of the Cuba travel bills in March 2009.

Lynn Stephen (Ph.D. '87) created a new research center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies at the University of Oregon, where she is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies. The center's website is http://cllas.uoregon.edu/index.html. She also created a website entitled "Making Rights a Reality: The Oaxaca Social Movement, 2006 – Present." The website address is www.mraroaxaca.uoregon.edu.

Aileen Walborsky Josephs '82 was appointed Honorary Consul of Guatemala in Palm Beach County, FL as a result of years of defending the rights of Guatemalan immigrants. She works with the Center for International Migration and Integration on issues related to the Guatemalan diaspora in South Florida, promoting transnational development projects aimed at creating sustainable communities. More information may be found at www.consulhonorariaguatemala.com, www.cimi.org.il.

Renata Wasserman (Ph.D. '74) published Central at the Margin: Five Brazilian Women Writers (2007). She is Professor of English and Director of American Studies at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

IN MEMORIAM
The LALS Program notes the passing of Rafael L. Ramírez (Ph.D. '73). He was the founder of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and served as the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. Professor Ramírez was president of the editorial board of Caribbean Studies from 1961 to 2006 and was the author of several books and numerous articles on Puerto Rico.

LALS GRADUATES
The LALS Program extends congratulations to its 2009 graduating seniors:

The majors are:
Alexei Alvarado — additional major in Psychology; magna cum laude;
Juliana Buenaventura — additional major in Politics; minors in German Language and Literature and Russian Language and Literature; summa cum laude; highest honors in Politics; Phi Beta Kappa; Wien International Scholarship;
Adriana Campos — additional major in International and Global Studies; magna cum laude; Joel Friedland '76 Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship;
Meredyth González — additional majors in Spanish Language and Literature and Sociology;
David Mendoza Pekala;
Daniel Newman — additional major in History;
Marisol Portillo — additional major in Creative Writing;
Lara Rosenwasser — additional major in Biology; minor in Spanish Language and Literature; Justice Brandeis Scholar;
Malaika Schwartz — additional major in Health: Science, Society and Policy.
The minors are:
David Burt — majors in Politics and History;
Aviva Cormier – major in Anthropology; magna cum laude;
Rebecca Kupchan – major in American Studies; additional minors in Art History and Hispanic Studies; cum laude;
Rachel Nadas – major in International and Global Studies; magna cum laude; high honors in International and Global Studies;
Lilia Pineda – majors in Psychology and Hispanic Studies;
Brooke Rosenbauer – major in Health: Science, Society and Policy; cum laude; honors in Health: Science, Society and Policy; Saval-Sachar Undergraduate International Scholarship;
Jordan Rothman – majors in History and Politics; additional minors in Economics and Education; magna cum laude; honors in History;
Kate Rubin-Marx – major in Sociology, additional minor in Women’s and Gender Studies.

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), Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology), Ricardo Godoy (Sustainable International Development), Charles Golden (Anthropology), Donald Hindley (Politics), James Mandrell (Romance Studies), Wellington Nyangoni (African and Afro-American Studies), Ronnie Perelis (Romance Studies), Lucia Reyes (Romance Studies), Fernando Rosenberg (Romance Studies), Laurence Simon (Sustainable International Development), Faith Smith (African and Afro-American Studies/English), Ibrahim Sundiata (African and Afro-American Studies/History), Eva Thorne (Politics), Patricia Tovar (Economics), and Javier Urcid (Anthropology).

ITEMS FOR THE 2010 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; web: www.brandeis.edu/departments/lals/contact.html.

The LALS Program is planning on publishing its annual newsletters online in the future. If you wish to continue receiving them, send your e-mail address to: Mbrooks@brandeis.edu. Our newsletters may be found at: www.brandeis.edu/departments/lals/newsletters.html.

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