A warm welcome to our Visiting Professors: Pablo Delano, Madeline Haas Russell Visting Fellow, of Fine Arts, and Brian Fried, Kay Fellow in Politics.
LALS Events 2014-2015

Fall 2014

October 17
Ryan Collins and Holly Doerflinger presented for the Anthropology Graduate Summer Fieldwork Presentations. Collins discussed his archaeological fieldwork at Yaxuná in Yucatan, Mexico and Doerflinger presented on undocumented Latino immigrants in Providence, RI.

October 29
Seth Fein, Warren Center fellow at Harvard University presented "From The Monochromatic To The Technicolor Cold War Within And Between Mexico And The United States".

October 30
LALS led the Dia de los Muertos Celebration, with sugar skulls, tamales, folk art, and an altar.

November 6
Holly Wissler, Ph.D. and applied ethnomusicologist presented "Ancient and Current Indigenous Music Ritual in the Andes of Peru"

November 18
Professor Julie Minich of University of Texas-Austin presented “Who is 'Fully Human'? Junot Diaz and the Human Right to Health”

November 20
Professor Adriana Zavala of Tufts University spoke on her recent Frida Kahlo research and the new exhibition she is curating for the NY Botanical Gardens on Kahlo’s Garden and botanical imagery as Part of the Art and Gender: Global Perspectives Series.

Spring 2015

January 20
Jane’s Travel Grant Presentation: Brandeis Public Health Brigades, Matthew Schwartz and Beth He discussed their service project “Upstream Public Health Interventions in Rural Honduras”

January 30
Jeffrey Dobreiner, Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at Harvard University and Brandeis Alum presented “Localized Integration of Olmec and Maya Traditions at Rancho Búfalo, Chiapas, Mexico”

Jane’s Travel Grants

Adam Gamwell
PhD candidate, Anthropology, “First Steps onto The Farm and into the Laboratory: Making the Global Quinoa Market in the Age of Genetics and Gastronomy”

Sabrina Libretti
HSSP, Hispanic Studies, and Biology Major, “La sostenibilidad y efectividad de los voluntarios viajes medicinales a Latinoamérica” (‘Sustainability and Efficacy of Voluntary Medical Trips to Latin America’) 

Matthew Schwartz and Beth He
HSSP and Biology Majors, representing the Executive Board of the Brandeis Public Health Brigades, “Upstream Public Health Interventions in Rural Honduras”

Ryan Collins
PhD candidate, Anthropology, “When X Marked the Spot: (Re) Making Place and Transforming Social Dynamics Over the Development of Yaxuná, Yucatan, Mexico 1000 BCE to 300 CE”

Josh Freedline
MA candidate, Anthropology, “La Florida/Namman: Investigating a Locus of Politico-Economic Influence in the Classic Maya World”

Sarah McCarty
Fine Arts Major “Considerations of Contemporary Art Practices: Mexico City in Context”

Katherine Peterson
MA candidate, Anthropology, “Excavations at Ix Kuku’ui under Amy Thompson’s project Understanding Ancient Maya (AD 250-900) Cultural Landscapes in Southern Belize through High-Resolution Geospatial Data”

Brontë Velez
Congratulations!

2015 Graduating Seniors

Majors:
- Cristal Sofia Hernández
  LALS and IGS minor
- Petra K. Nelson
  LALS, Hispanic Studies, and Anthropology major
- Mollie Kravitz
  LALS major, Anthropology and IGS minor

Minors:
- Karina Ayala Casanova
  History major
- Mara Lauren Flack
  Anthropology and Hispanic Studies major
- Amanda Caroline de Oliveira Pereira
  AAAS and IGS major, WGS and LALS minor

(Note From Chair, continued)

Our heartfelt thanks as a program go to Professor Donald Hindley upon his retirement. Donald has been a committed scholar and colleague at Brandeis for 52 years, providing the face of Latin American and Latino Studies in the Politics department since the inception of our program. He has shown an unwavering dedication to the cause of social justice in Latin America, the United States and around the world, and has always been eager to bring such issues to the attention of students and faculty alike, for which we are grateful. Our best wishes and hopes go out to Prof. Hindley on this new stage in his life and career.

We are also thankful for the contributions that Professor Moises Lino e Silva brought to the LALS program and the Brandeis campus over the past few years. Though Moises’s departure for a post-doctoral position at Harvard is a loss for Brandeis, he has made an indelible impression on the students and faculty that he has worked with. Moreover, his excitement for, and engagement with, the research and culture of Brazil have boosted campus interest in a country that is of growing importance globally and locally.

In fact, it is in our connection to Brazil that the LALS program has grown most significantly over the past year and which we will continue to grow in the year ahead. First, the program was very happy indeed to welcome Professor Greg Childs to Brandeis. Greg’s work on issues of race, public sphere theory and health issues in colonial Brazil and the Caribbean bridge many interests at Brandeis, as reflected in his appointments in the History and African and African American Studies departments as well as the LALS program.

Our former program administrator, Adam Gamwell, has left to work on his ethnographic fieldwork in Peru as he works towards a doctorate in the Anthropology Department. Laura Brown has taken over the reins of the department.

(continued on next page)
In addition to her superb work making sure the daily operations of LALS run smoothly, Laura holds a doctorate in Spanish with a deep knowledge of the intersection of politics and literature in Latin America. She is building on this background and her experience in Brazil to contribute significantly to the LALS curriculum. Her upcoming course on the importance of sports in Latin American culture and politics is a new offering for us, and in the spring of 2016 she will be reintroducing Portuguese language instruction to Brandeis.

LALS will also be welcoming two visiting scholars to campus. First, Brian Fried will be the Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Comparative Politics of the Developing World and will teach introductory courses on Latin American politics. His research looks at issues of democracy, development and clientelism in Latin America, with a particular focus on Brazil.

Also joining us for the year as the Madeleine Haas Russell Distinguished Visiting Professor is Pablo Delano, Professor of Fine Arts at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Pablo is a photographer whose work across Latin American and the Caribbean, as well as in Hispanic and Caribbean communities in New York and Hartford, has been featured in exhibitions around the world. His course on documentary photography will bring a new dimension to the arts and LALS at Brandeis.

The vibrant faculty will work closely with our new Undergraduate Department Representative, Estela Lozano. Estela is a senior and dual HSSP and LALS major. We look forward to working with Estela to develop exciting programs and to engage students across campus in activities, topics, and issues important to Latin American and Latino Studies. Estela will be building on a strong foundation laid by our recently graduated UDRs from 2014–2015, Mollie Kravitz and Petra Nelson. Mollie and Petra hosted a series of events, ranging from Meet the Majors to a group trip to New York City for Latin American Culture Week funded in part by the LALS program. We wish Mollie and Petra all the best in their new adventures beyond Brandeis!

Our program was pleased to celebrate the work of many undergraduate and graduate students through support of their research and travels across Latin America, thanks to the Jane’s Travel Grant. Students spent their summer and winter breaks conducting archaeological research in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize, and exploring the lives and economies of quinoa farmers in Peru. Others studied issues of art and identity in Puerto Rico and the complexities of medical volunteerism in Latin America. We were also able to continue our support of the Brandeis Public Health Brigades in Honduras. Our celebration of student work and research was further reflected in the awarding of the Jane’s Essay Prize to Hannah Marion and Arielle Gordon for their thoughtful papers.

(Note from Chair, continued)
Other noteworthy student news

Petra Nelson ’15, LALS major, was initiated into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society and was awarded a Brandeis community service award for her work as the Development Intern at Waltham Family School.

Amanda Caroline de Oliveira Pereira ’15, LALS minor, will begin a PhD program in AAAS at the University of Texas, Austin in the fall of 2015.

(From Chair, continued)

We continued our tradition of sponsoring and co-sponsoring events on campus this past year. Our now yearly Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) event was held in the Mandel Atrium, where students from across campus participated in sugar skull decoration and altar building while enjoying food and music typical of Mexico and Guatemala.

Other highlights, showcasing only a part of the range of topics covered by LALS, include talks by Professor Julie Minich of University of Texas-Austin on Junot Díaz, Dr. Seth Fein on Latin American Film and the Cold War, and a presentation by the Mexico-US Solidarity Network with Pablo Obando of the Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center on human rights and current events in Mexico (see list of events on pages 2-3). A list of events, past and current, can be found on our webpage. All of these events, films, roundtables, trips, and other activities sponsored or co-sponsored by LALS are possible because of the generous support of our donors through the Philanthropic Initiative, Inc. They also make possible unique opportunities for faculty and student research through the Jane’s Travel Grant and Jane’s Essay Prize programs, and the annual LALS Photography Prize. Their continued support makes the program stronger in every way, for which we are grateful.

We look forward to another year with great excitement.

Charles Golden, Chair

Greg Childs (History) joined the History Department in the Fall of 2014. He presented at the American Historical Association and the Association for African-American Life and History conferences, and as part of the Diaspora Working Group series at Brandeis. He has a forthcoming article in *Social Text* entitled “Spectral and Secret: Torture and the Archive of Slave Conspiracies.” He is currently revising his book manuscript “Seditious Spaces, Public Politics: Antiracism, Sedition, and Freedom in 1798 Bahia, Brazil,” and he is a regular blogger for the African American Intellectual History Society (aaahs.org). He was awarded a Provost Award for summer research.

Cristina Espinosa (Sustainable International Development, Heller School) published the book chapter “Can Development Bridge the Gap Between Activism and the Academe?” and presented a lecture on Indigenous Peoples and Development at the Second Annual Latin American Conference held at Harvard’s JFK School for Social Policy. She also presented “The Construction of Social Exclusion, Diversity, and Identities” for the Students Exploring and Embracing Diversity event at Brandeis. She was awarded a Special Recognition for Act of Kindness Award at Brandeis.

Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) published a book chapter “Mining, Group Actors and Collective Action in Guanajuato, Mexico” in *Resources, Labour and Empire*. She is currently completing a book, *Batea: Impressions made in Colombia*, with her brother, the photographer Stephen Ferry, to be published by Icono Press. Her book, *Minerals, Collecting, and Value across the US Mexican Border* is currently being translated to Spanish. She presented at the American Ethnological Society and American Anthropological Association meetings, as well as the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis. Elizabeth also participated in the Davis Fellows for Teaching and Learning Program and was awarded a Teaching Innovation Grant.

Charles Golden (Anthropology) completed several journal articles and book chapters in the past year, touching on subjects ranging from the analysis of ancient ceramics, the political collapse of Precolumbian Maya kingdoms, and the nature of Mesoamerican rulership and funerary practices. He presented or co-authored five papers at conferences in the United States and Guatemala. Funded by a fellowship from the Marion and Jasper Whiting Fellowship he visited early
human archaeological sites in France in May of 2015. Supported by funds from the Theodore and Jane Norman fund, the Provost’s Research Fund and the Jane’s Faculty Research Fund of LALS, he conducted research in the Usumacinta River valley of Guatemala and Mexico, identifying previously undocumented archaeological sites on both sides of the modern border. He presented the results of this research at the XXIX Symposium of Archaeological Investigations in Guatemala. He was recently awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to support new research to be undertaken at the Maya dynastic capital of the Classic period (AD 250 – 900) in Piedras Negras, Guatemala.


Lucía Reyes de Deu (Romance Studies) was involved in several pedagogical development projects. She was a consultant for high school teachers in Argentina regarding curriculum enhancements. She has also been working to design new courses for Brandeis, including Hisp 105: Spanish for Medical Professionals and a new course entitled Latin@ voices in the US, to be offered next spring.

Fernando Rosenberg (Romance Studies) developed a new class entitled Literature and Human Rights in Latin America. He published the article “The Return of Tango in Documentary Film” in Tango Lessons and co-authored an entry "Buenos Aires" in the Oxford Bibliographies in Latin American Studies. His article "Derechos humanos, comisiones de la verdad, y nuevas ficciones globales" was reprinted in Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana, and his book chapter "Vanguardias, contemporaneidad y sentido de la historia" is forthcoming in the collection Nuevos mapas de las vanguardias: Miradas desde (o hacia) América Latina. His book After Human Rights: Literature, Visual Arts, and Film in Latin America 1990-2010, is forthcoming with the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Laurence Simon, (Director, Center for Global Development and Sustainability, Sustainable International Development Program, Heller School) gave numerous international talks this year, including for the Distinguished Lecturer Series at the National Law School at India University in Bangalore, India; the Keynote Lecture at the TERI University/Brandeis University Inaugural Conference; the Chairman’s Lecture at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies in Hyderabad, India; the International Paulo Freire Forum in Turin, Italy; the Founder’s Lecture at the Indian Institute for Dalit Studies in New Delhi, India; and for the Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion at the School of Social Sciences of Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India. He also published “Overcoming Barriers of Marginalization: Programs in Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University” in Leadership for Social Justice in Higher Education.

Faith Smith (English) published the article, “Kingston Calling: Mais’s Paris, 1954” in the book Beyond Windrush: Rethinking Postwar Anglophone Caribbean Literature. She conducted archival research at National Library of Jamaica and the Institute of Social and Economic Research in Jamaica, as well as archives in Trinidad for her manuscript “Whose Modern? Forging Futures in the Trans-Caribbean.” She presented "Early Entanglements: The Caribbean’s Boer War" at the University of Pennsylvania and "Walking Razors: Kingston’s Flânerie, 1900 and 2010" at the Caribbean Studies Association. She discussed the 1907 earthquake of Kingston, Jamaica and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti in her talk "Strolling in the ruins" for Brandeis DEIS Impact event. This summer she attended the 12th Havana Biennial Conference in Cuba with support from a Norman Grant.
Summer 2015 has been a visual treat, beginning with the opportunity to take in artists' installations along Havana’s Malecón early every morning during the first week of June. A Brandeis Norman Award and LALS faculty research grant allowed me to attend the 2015 Havana Biennial, and I was also delighted to be able to visit the studios of the Cuban painters Manuel Mendive, Choco (Eduardo Roco), and Juan Roberto Diago. But it has been late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photography that has seized my imagination these past weeks. “Chief S. O. Alonge: Photographer to the Royal Court of Benin, Nigeria,” an exhibit at the Smithsonian’s African Art Museum, "From Within and Without: The History of Haitian Photography" at Fort Lauderdale’s NSU Art Museum, "Awakening Jamaica: Photographs by Valentine and Sons, 1891" in Miami, are all fresh reminders for me of some of the stakes of photography in the imperial age – the subject of the book chapter I am revising. Photography was an important medium for capturing tropical landscapes and the "disappearing native," as European and North American tourists crisscrossed the Caribbean with their kodaks after the Spanish American War. To theorize photography as a key instrument of conquest in that turn-of-the-century era is to be conscious of potential pitfalls, particularly for the literary scholar:

a) using photographs as the evidence of the past – being taken in, that is, by its terrible promise to disclose the "truths" of culture, morality, and physiognomy; b) turning the photograph into the illustration of the real deal – my written text; c) rushing to interpret the hierarchical scene of powerful photographer and colonized sitter, and missing the messier scene of subversion, reciprocity, refusal, anxiety, curiosity. As I revise the chapter, I am finding these to be enormously challenging but productive issues, in my attempt to see the turn of the twentieth century more clearly.
Fall 2014 LALS Courses

AAAS 125B Caribbean Women and Globalization: Sexuality, Citizenship, Work - Smith

AAAS 126B Political Economy of the Third World - Nyangoni

AMST 55A Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration in American Culture - Powers

ANTH 55A Anthropology of Development - Lino e Silva

ANTH 153A Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions - Urcid

ANTH 168A The Maya: Past, Present and Future - Golden

ENG 127B Migrating Bodies, Migrating Texts - Smith

FA 178A Frida Kahlo: Art, Life and Legacy - Ankori

HISP 111B Introduction to Latin American Literature and Culture - Rosenberg

HISP 192B Latin American Global Film - Rosenberg

HISP 196A Topics in Latina/o Literature and Culture: Latin@ Fictions of Detection - Mandrell

HIST 175B Resistance and Revolution in Latin America and the Caribbean - Childs


Spring 2015 LALS Courses

ANTH 148A Media in Latin America - Ferry

FA 77B Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Art - Falconi

HECS 42B Literature and Human Rights in Latin America - Rosenberg

HISP 108A Spanish for Heritage Speakers – González Ríos

HISP 109B Introduction to Modern Spanish Cultural Studies: Modernity - Mandrell

HISP 111B Introduction to Latin American Literature and Culture - Arellano

HISP 160A Culture and Social Change in Latin America - Rosenberg

HISP 167B Twice-Told Tales: Colonial Encounters and Postcolonial Fiction in Latin America - Arellano

HISP 175A Topics in Latin American History: Freedom & Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean - Childs

IGS 170A The Rise of Brazil - Brown

NEJS 132A Latin America and Its Jews: A Cultural History - Wassner

New course offerings for 2015-2016!

FA 18A Digital Documentary Photography

HISP 182A Narratives of the Drug War

HISP 196A Topics in Latina/o Literature and Culture: Latin@ Fictions of Detection - Mandrell

HIST (tbd) History of Graffiti

LALS 170A Sports, Games, and Politics in Latin America

POL 144A Democracy and Decay

PORT 14B Accelerated Beginning Portuguese

Photo by Hannah Marion
Joy Brenner-Letich '16
Schools for Chiapas, Chiapas, Mexico
Joy worked as a teaching assistant under the supervision of lead teachers. She supported children by reading, cooking, tidying, playing, and singing with them. She worked with curriculum experts within SfC to create a curriculum specifically for Stanley Elementary school fifth graders about contemporary Mayan cultures and their struggle for human rights.

Zari Havercome '16
Empowering Through Education Camp, Hinche, Haiti
As a counselor Zari was responsible for creating a public-health curriculum and proposing it to Boston Public School ESL teachers for review to strengthen their programs. Zari assisted teachers in designing and implementing innovative units of studies for Haitian students living in Boston. In Haiti, Zari participated in camp staff debriefings, trainings, and activities. Zari also worked on future development and publicity for the camp.

Paulina Kuzmin '17
Hospital General Pablo Arturo Suarez, Quito, Ecuador
Paulina provided support to the nurses and performed various tasks at the hospital, including organizing the hospital rooms and preparing beds. She was also responsible for bathing babies, and giving them attention when needed. Paulina was tasked with retrieving medicine from the pharmacy and accompanying the patients to different places in hospital to be tested.

Daniela Marquez '17
Fundación Cultural Cofradía, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Daniela’s work with the Fundación Cultural Cofradía was centered on projects related to the preservation and promotion of the Afro-Dominican culture both nationally and internationally. The Cofradia provided her with the opportunity to network and connect communities and organizers in charge of keeping popular Afro-Dominican cultural traditions alive, all the more important given both the traditional suppression and recent legal measures affecting Afro-Descendants. Furthermore, she was involved in documenting, through photography and video, the different aspects of the popular culture.

Mijal Tenenbaum '16,
Tip Communicación, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Mijal spent the summer working in an Argentine PR firm, in the Creative Department. This project involved advertising, writing copy, and reaching out to media representatives to help bring attention to TIP’s brands. Mijal was able to see how brand personalities are treated and used in the media, and how ideas and numbers turn into creative ads and campaigns. Mijal was also able to network with media representatives.

Special Thanks

to our dedicated and energetic faculty Jerónimo Arellano, Greg Childs, Cristina Espinosa, Elizabeth Ferry, Ricardo Godoy, Charles Golden, Donald Hindley, Moises Lino e Silva, Ricardo López, James Mandrell, Wellington Nyangoni, Lucía Reyes de Deu, Fernando Rosenberg, Laurence Simon, Faith Smith, and Javier Urcid and to our UDRs, Mollie Kravitz and Petra Nelson for all their hard work in keeping the LALS program vibrant and growing!

2014-2015 LALS Faculty grants were awarded to:

- Jerónimo Arellano to attend a Screenwriting conference in Chile
- Greg Childs to attend a Jean-Michel Basquiat exhibit in Toronto
- Charles Golden to conduct excavations in Guatemala
- Cristina Espinosa for research in Peru
- Elizabeth Ferry for translation of her book to Spanish
- Moises Lino e Silva to conduct research in Brazil
- Fernando Rosenberg to conduct research in Argentina
- Faith Smith for a conference in Cuba
- Javier Urcid for research in Mexico
Josh Freedline, Jane’s Travel Grant

“In my research this summer as part of El Proyecto La Florida (The La Florida Project), directed by Dr. Joanne Baron of University of Pennsylvania, we were successful in mapping the core plazas of the Classic Maya city of La Florida/Namaan. The focal reason for mapping La Florida/Namaan was to obtain a more accurate view of where each structure is located in its respective plaza. We used a total station, an instrument calibrated to read slope distances from the device to a particular point, to map the site. This technology allowed us to record specific locations on the landscape to create a topographically accurate map. During the cartographic process, I noticed that the tops of many structures had very clear view-sheds with the Rio San Pedro. This river flows just to the north of La Florida/Namaan, and had been used as a highway for goods, people, and information during the Classic Period (250-909 A.D.). I also got the chance to explore the area north of the San Pedro, which has structures scattered around as well. From these structures there is also a clear view of the general area where the El Naranjo core is located. Based on the multiplicity of these viewpoints, I hypothesize that La Florida/Namaan may have been a city structured around a strong commercial economy. Such urban planning would have meant that the elite of this city had control over who and what passed through this sector of the Rio San Pedro, thus making La Florida/Namaan a formidable presence in the geopolitical landscape of this region.”

Katherine Peterson, Jane’s Travel Grant

“My project this summer was in the Toledo District in Belize. I did an analysis of osteological remains from the Plaza Tomb of Muklebal Tzul, an ancient Maya site. The remains were excavated in 1996 by another archaeologist. He has since moved on, leaving the remains in the care of the project director at Uxbenká, Dr. Keith Prufer. Through my analysis, I was able to determine a minimum number of individuals, which is thirteen. This number is relatively high for one tomb. There were very few complete bones and no complete skeletons. However, the preservation was good considering the typical preservation of the area. The majority of remains did not have any particular markers that would indicate higher status, however, there were a few notable dental modifications and one possible cranial modification. This indicates that one or more of the individuals in the burial might have had a higher social status. I also did a brief analysis of the artifacts found in the tomb with the human remains. There was a large quantity of lithics and ceramics. The majority of the lithics were simply flakes, however, there were a handful of lithic tools. The ceramics were a mostly domestic assemblage dominated by low-fired unslipped jars and bowls. There were a few interesting ceramic sherds from “incensarios” (incense burners) and miniature vessels, but not many. The combined information leads to a tentative conclusion that this burial probably did not contain individuals with a significant status, but may have been ritually significant due the location in the plaza and the quantity of individuals buried in the same tomb.”
Adam Gamwell, Jane’s Travel Grant

“On a bright, sunny August afternoon, I stood at a Campo Ferial an hour north of the city of Puno, Peru. Numerous farmers and producer associations were showing off the incredible biodiversity of quinoa, and its smaller cousin cañihua (so they maintain). These quiñeros, or quinoa farmers, are somewhat of an anomaly in the booming global quinoa market, growing anywhere from 10 to over 150 different kinds of quinoa. How the science of biodiversity and construction and flows of markets affect each other is a key question I aim to uncover in my research. Many indigenous Quechua and Aymara farmers in the department of Puno grow more than one kind of quinoa on their farms as a matter of tradition and practicality. However, today there is a growing tension for quinoa farmers between growing for the market using government-sponsored mejorada (or improved) seeds, and hence easier market access and income from quinoa, and maintaining traditional practices of ancestral biodiversity. At the fair I asked a couple to tell me about the history of a particular variety of quinoa they had. The wife said ‘oh this variety has been grown on our land for a long time, grown by our ancestors.’ Her husband quickly broke in, and said ‘no, no this variety is a mejorada, modern variety. Ready for market.’ I also spoke with other farmers who reject government certified seeds. A common story I heard goes something like this: the Government simply takes “lost” seeds and certifies and renames them, but they are the same. One farmer likened this to a child’s baptism in which the name changes, but the child is essentially the same. Both of these farmers participate in agrobiodiversity conservation and in the production of seeds for market. In short, it has been interesting to see how at festivals celebrating agrobiodiversity, market and scientific tensions become visible in many ways.”
Daniela Sánchez: WOW internship
“During my first week in the Dominican Republic I felt like a familiar stranger. When I arrived to the airport I instantly felt how unfamiliar I was with my country of birth. Back in the United States I thought of the Dominican Republic as home, yet in the DR I realized this concept of origin was more constructed than reality. Luckily, working for Fundación Cultural Cofradia helped me to get a better understanding of my culture. At the organization, I worked towards the preservation and promotion of the Dominican and Dominico-Haitiano traditions. Sometimes I would get frustrated when witnessing the lack of support of these traditions and, consequently, the lack of support that the practicing communities receive from the government and other religious institutions. At the same time I was moved and amazed by the ability of the practitioners of these traditions to endure the systematic oppression and continue passing them along to future generations.”

Notes from the Field

Alumni News

Adam M. Greenwald ’98 is the Executive Director of The Soldiers Project, a nonprofit that provides free mental health counseling to post-9/11 Veterans and their loved ones. Adam works out of the Los Angeles headquarters where he lives with his two children. He welcomes any Brandeis connections via LinkedIn.

Zami Castro Jiménez ’11 graduated this past May with an MS Ed degree in Mental Health Counseling from the University of Miami. This August she started her first semester as a PhD student in Counseling Psychology at the department of Educational & Psychological Studies, School of Education & Human Development at the University of Miami. She will work with Dr. Daniel Santisteban’s research team, who focuses his research on culturally competent interventions with Latino populations and substance abuse.


Luis Rubio ’83, Global Fellow at the Mexico Institute, published the book, A Mexican Utopia: The Rule of Law is Possible (Wilson Center, 2015).

Loretta Stein, ’06 recently graduated from her residency in ophthalmology at Naval Medical Center San Diego and is now practicing at the Naval Hospital Yokosuka in Japan. She also participated in a medical humanitarian mission in Guatemala performing cataract and eye surgery.

Kim Tellez ’85 continues to teach in a bilingual charter school in the San Fernando Valley. Her youngest child will attend high school this fall, and her second child just graduated from CCNY with a degree in English. Her oldest has worked as a computer analytics person for four years.

Sabrina Victor ‘03 and her family recently moved to Poughkeepsie, New York, where she is working as in-house counsel for Allstate insurance. In November 2014 they welcomed a new addition to our family, their daughter Noa Jordana Victor. She reports big brother Max is very happy.

Frances Hagopian ’75, Peter Kornbluh ’78, Roberto Márquez ’66, Yaser Robles ’03, Lynn Stephen ’87, and Steven Volk ’68 participated in the 2015 Latin American Studies Association Conference in San Juan.
During 2015-2016 we will be joined by renowned photographer, Pablo Delano, Professor of Fine Arts at Trinity College. Pablo traveled to Puerto Rico this summer to document the urban art scene, which has garnered greater critical attention in light of the profound economic crisis marked by the government’s default on debt payments, high rates of unemployment, the closing of 100 public schools, a dramatic increase in the sales tax, the threat of further austerity measures, and an exodus of residents to the U.S. mainland. The work from this summer concentrates on the San Juan neighborhood of Santurce, where an arts-focused youth culture is serving as an incubator of urban renewal, with murals covering hundreds of walls. Pablo’s photography has covered a range of topics, including Afro-Caribbean traditions, Hartford’s evolving built environment, and the diverse ethnic groups of Honduras. The images shown here and more can be found on his website, www.pablodelano.com.
LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES
Brown 101/MS 095
Brandeis University
415 South St
Waltham, MA 02453-9110