LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This past year has been an eventful one for Brandeis, as President Fred Lawrence’s inauguration symposium set the tone for exciting changes to come. I would like to note that Brandeis has renewed its pledge to a liberal arts education and has made a strong commitment to both a more global projection and a more diverse college life. As Brandeis evolves and grows, it is important to remind ourselves that these pillars are also what have always sustained Latin American and Latino Studies, and it is the key to its progress as we promote interdisciplinary study, critical research, and social engagement with a global approach.

LALS course offerings have been refreshed with the addition of two new, energetic faculty members. The seminars that Kay Fellow Kirsten Weld taught last year (“Dirty Wars, Peace Processes, and the Politics of History”) and will teach this year (“20th-Century Social Movements”) explore recent historical developments that impact current social and political processes of the region. Assistant Professor Jerónimo Arellano’s inspiring connections between contemporary and social Latin American and U.S./Latino themes present students with an array of cultural productions in their dynamic complexity. Coming from different disciplines and exploring different topics, these exciting offerings continue to enrich our Program’s approach to the Latino-American (a Latin America that includes the U.S. Latino population) experience in its global and historical intricacy.

(continued on page 7)
LALS EVENTS AT BRANDEIS, 2010-2011


“STATE OF PEACE” (a documentary by Alex Epps ’10, Jonah Cohen ’10, and Ned Crowley ’10): September 21.

MARYSA NAVARRO (Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor): “Eva Perón: History and Myths,” October 5.


“HAITI NINE MONTHS AFTER THE QUAKE” (Global Affairs Table): October 13.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION SESSION: October 14.


LEILA GOMEZ (Spanish and Portuguese Department, University of Colorado): “Viajeros científicos a Sudamérica: Darwinismo y arqueología,” October 25.

LALS MEET THE MAJORS: November 3.


LALS ADVISING AWARENESS EVENT: March 28.


HOOPS FOR HAITI (fundraiser by the Brandeis Haiti Initiative): April 4.


CELESTE RADOSEVICH (2011 Jane’s Travel Grant recipient, Cultural Production Program): “Hacemos una buena pareja: Moving Genders in Cusco’s Salsa Scene,” April 7.


CARTONEROS (a documentary by Ernesto Livon-Grosman): April 14.

JONATHAN TURBIN (2011 Jane’s Travel Grant recipient, Anthropology master’s student): “Memories of Bussa’s Rebellion,” April 15.


A NIGHT FOR HAITI (fundraiser by the Brandeis Haiti Initiative): May 7.
JANE’S FACULTY AWARDS

Six professors were given Jane’s Faculty Development Awards for summer research in Latin America. They are Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology) to conduct final interviews for her book Earthly Value: Minerals, Museums and Markets in Mexico and the U.S.; Charles Golden (Anthropology) for archaeological research in the Sierra del Lacandon National Park, Guatemala; Raysa Mederos (Romance Studies) to travel to Cuba to research the life of Juan Orta Córdoba; Fernando Rosenberg (Romance Studies) to research tango revival and recodification as social memory in Argentina; Faith Smith (AAAS/English) to study Creole and attend the Caribbean Studies Association meeting in Curaçao; and Javier Urcid (Anthropology) to continue mapping and reconnaissance of archaeological sites in Oaxaca.

JANE’S ESSAY PRIZE

Victoria Negus ’12 won the Essay Prize for her paper “Reconocimiento, aceptación y apoyo de un pueblo sin voz: Migración y organizaciones sociales en Santiago, Chile.” She is a minor in the LALS Program.

Jared Fitterman ’12 was awarded honorable mention for his paper “Ideologies of Negritude in Brazilian and American Hip Hop.”

JANE’S TRAVEL GRANTS

Eleven Jane’s Travel Grants were given during the 2010-11 academic year. The students who received the awards to fund research in Latin America and the Caribbean during the winter break are Chiara Bercu ’11: “The Effects of Globalization on Posada Rituals in Guanajuato, Mexico”; Ieva Jusionyte (Anthropology): “Writing on the Margins of the State: News Production in an Argentinean Border Town”; Celeste Radosevich (Cultural Production): “Bailando a lo cusqueño: Performing Latinidad and Andeansness through Dance” (Peru); Mrinalini Tankha (Anthropology): “Cubanos Convertibles: Meanings of Multiple Currencies in Cuba”; and Jonathan Turbin (Anthropology): “Memories of Bussa’s Rebellion (Barbados).”

The recipients for the summer research grants are Joshua Basseches ’12: “‘Activist’ Identities: Inclusive or Exclusive?” (Argentina); MaryCate Brower (Anthropology): “Caipoira, Gender, and Community Empowerment: A Pilot Study” (Brazil); Danielle Fuller (Heller School for Social Policy and Management): “Why the Community-Based Model of Health Care has been Successful at Improving Health Outcomes in Haiti”; Christopher Jensen (Sustainable International Development Program, Heller School; Coexistence and Conflict Program): “Conflict Sensitive Approach to Solar Energy Projects in Haiti”; Katharine Lukach (Anthropology): “Uni-Canañacab Regional Irrigation Project” (Mexico); and Samantha Pietruszewski (Anthropology): “Caves and Excavations: Gaining Valuable Archaeological Field Experience with the Central Yucatan Archaeological Cave Project” (Mexico).

LALS CLASS AT THE ROSE ART MUSEUM

In spring 2011 Fernando Rosenberg brought his class, HISP 160A Culture and Social Change in Latin America, to the Rose Art Museum. Professor Rosenberg and I taught the class together, focusing on a selection of original photographs by the great Mexican photographer Manuel Alvarez Bravo from the Rose’s permanent collection. During a lively discussion, students looked closely at the works of art, exploring Alvarez Bravo’s propensity for finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. They learned about his work’s fusion of European modernist styles with subjects from everyday Mexican life.

The Rose collection includes a small but strong selection of Latin American art available for display, study and research, including works by Ana Mendieta, Alfredo Jaar, Roberto Matta, and David Alfred Siqueiros, among others. These holdings are an excellent resource for learning across the disciplines integrated into the Latin American and Latino Studies Program. We at the Rose look forward to inviting more students and faculty from the program to spend time with these extraordinary works of art.

Dabney Hailey, Director of Academic Programs
Rose Art Museum

Dos pares de piernas, 1928-29
Plata sobre gelatina
Manual Alvarez Bravo
**STUDY ABROAD**

Fifteen Brandeis students studied in Latin America and the Caribbean during the 2010-11 academic year. They attended universities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Mexico.

**WOW FELLOWS**

The Hiatt Career Center selected seven Social Justice World-of-Work (WOW) Fellows to work in Latin America and the U.S. Latino community during the summer. The grants of $3,500 support undergraduate students performing unpaid, full-time summer internships in agencies working for social justice. The following comments by each student were part of their proposals before they began their internships.

Claire Arkin ’12 did an internship at Blinkads, part of a webzine called New Healthy Attitude. Blinkads helps publishers and advertisers create ads that reach the U.S. Latino market. Blinkads uses various social media to achieve the goals of stressing healthy eating and a healthy relationship with food. Claire said, “On a personal note, it is exciting to contribute to magazines that seek to promote health, good food, and a happy and stimulating lifestyle.”

Ariel Barnehama ’13 spent the summer at the Weill Cornell Center for Complimentary and Integrative Medicine in a study that focused on Obesity Related Behavioral Intervention Trials within New York City’s Latino and African-American communities. “Growing up I was raised with a deep love for community service and an understanding of the importance of giving to those in need,” Ariel said of her goals during the internship.

Alexander Hulse ’12 worked at the Mopan Valley Archaeological Project, doing research in the Classic Maya settlements around the site of Xunantunich in Belize. The goal of the project is understanding the political and social organizations at housing groups or center sites. He also worked with this project during the summer of 2010, learning site and unit mapping, excavation procedures, and other procedures relating to a dig.

“Traveling to Mexico multiple times, I developed a fondness for its history and people,” Alexander noted, explaining his decision to choose an internship in that country.

Maya Jacob ’13, a minor in the LALS Program, worked at No One Leaves Springfield, an organization that helps homeowners avoid foreclosure and maintain neighborhood stability. It provides social services to the Hispanic population, and Maya wants to use this knowledge when she attends law school after Brandeis and becomes a civil rights attorney. “As a result of past summers spent working in restaurants with recent immigrants from Mexico and Central America, I became inspired. The internship will deepen my understanding of the judicial system and allow me to accumulate practical skills for becoming a lawyer,” Maya said.

Victoria Negus ’12, a minor in the LALS Program, interned at the Community Legal Services and Counseling Center in Cambridge, a non-profit that gives pro bono legal assistance and low-cost psychological counseling to immigrants and refugee victims of torture, domestic violence, and other crimes. She is considering writing a senior thesis on immigration issues in Boston. Victoria said, “I want to learn more about how typical issues confronting immigrants are exacerbated in the cases of asylum seekers. I will reach this goal of increasing my knowledge base through daily work in filing, case preparation, and assisting the immigration attorneys.”

Yeiri Robert ’12, a major in the LALS Program, interned at the Waltham Alliance to Create Housing’s Advocacy Clinic. The group buys and renovates buildings to provide the city safe and affordable housing. She learned about the legal rights of both renters and landlords in Massachusetts, and a previous internship at the Clinic helped strengthen her desire to be an economic social justice attorney. Yeiri interned at WATCH during her freshman year at Brandeis. “My first day at the clinic was life-changing. I truly learned about what types of problems low-income and undocumented tenants can sometimes face.”

Dara Rosenkrantz ’12 did her internship at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso, Texas. It is a non-profit organization providing legal services to low-income immigrants. During the summer of 2010 she interned at the Students Crossings Boundaries Fellowship and learned of the challenges that face immigrants to the United States, and she wanted to return to El Paso to learn more about the issues facing those who cross the border.

“1 became very passionate about working to aid underserved immigrants populations after interning at Annunciation House last summer. Interning at Las Americas will give me the opportunity to continue to work with and support these populations,” Dana said.

**ESSAYS, THESES, DISSERTATION**


Timothy J. Pershing wrote his dissertation on “The Impact of International Intervention on Democratic Development: Haiti and the 2005/06 Elections.”
ALUMNA NOMINATED

Lisa Shapiro Kubiske ’75 was nominated by President Barack Obama in May to be the United States’ ambassador to Honduras. She was a minor in what was called the Latin American Studies Program at the time she graduated. Ms. Kubiske is a career member of the foreign service and currently serves as the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Brazil.

BRANDEIS LABOR COALITION

The Brandeis Labor Coalition continued its work on campus this year, its mission being to “raise awareness about labor issues and to actively work to help attain fair labor practices,” according to its constitution.

The Coalition was formed in 2004 because of the wage disparity that existed at the time between custodians who were employed by the university and those contacted to work here by an outside group; the outside group’s pay was $3.13 less an hour than the Brandeis custodians. In 2006 the non-University custodians became Brandeis employees and were paid equal wages. Members of the LALS Program have been involved in the Coalition over the past several years because a large number of the employees are from Central and Latin America.

Another issue raised by the BLC is that of fair trade. Students have organized a Fair Trade Fair for several years, working with Ten Thousand Villages, to give Brandeisians the opportunity to purchase handmade items from countries where the workers are guaranteed fair wages for their work.

An annual Worker Appreciation Café helps to bring workers and students together to improve their understanding of each other’s issues and problems.

FACULTY NOTES


Silvia Arrom (History) chaired a panel on “Motherhood, Madonna, and the Marketplace: Laywomen and Business Ladies Across the Americas, 1750-1900” at the Fifteenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in Amherst, MA in June.


Lucia Reyes (Romance Studies) was a member of the panel on “Politics of Curriculum at the Heritage Speakers Classroom” at the Tillie K. Lubin Symposium Lecture at Brandeis in February.

Fernando Rosenberg (Romance Studies) authored “The Return of Tango in Documentary Film” in Tango Lessons (forthcoming). He presented “Documentary and the Police” at the American Association of Comparative Literature Conference in New Orleans in March; “Verdad, reconciliación, y globalización en la narrativa peruana” at V Congreso Transatlántico at Brown University in April; and “Tango Crisis: Entanglements in Tango Art, Film, and Music” at the Latin American Studies Association conference in Toronto in October.


Javier Urcid (Anthropology) published “El Sacrificio Humano en el Suroeste de Mesoamérica” in Nuevas perspectivas sobre el sacrificio humano entre los Mexicanos (2010); “Valued Possessions: Materiality and Aesthetics in Western and Southern Mesoamerica” in Ancient Mexican Art at Dunbarton Oaks: Central Highlands, Southwestern Highlands, Gulf Lowlands (2010); and “En la Cima de la Montaña Sagrada: Escritura y Urbanismo en Monte Albán” in Ciudades Antiguas (2010).
Kirsten Weld (History) presented “A Fourth World War? Nicaragua’s Contra War as a Battleground of Fourth World Politics, Indian Nations’ Foreign Relations, and the U.S. Left” at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations conference in Alexandria, VA in June; “This is What We Were Afraid Of: U.S. Police Assistance During Guatemala’s Cold War” at Harvard University in October; and “Some Trust, Less Justice: Opening the Archives When Impunity Trumps Atonement” at the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany in June.

ALUMNI NOTES

Carlos Baia ’94 is the deputy city manager for development in Concord, New Hampshire, overseeing planning, engineering, code enforcement, zoning, and licensing for the city.

Ramon Barquin ’96 is researching the influence of freemasonry in Cuba and Puerto Rico as a vehicle to strengthen the foundations of democratic political systems. He has published two essays on the subject, including an initial review in the Journal of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy. He continues working with the governments of Puerto Rico and El Salvador through his management consulting firm. He currently serves on the Governor of Puerto Rico’s Council of Advisors.

Pesha Black ’07 taught Spanish at Greenfield Community College in Greenfield, MA during 2010-11.

Juan Corradi ’65 is a professor of Sociology at New York University. He published South of the Crisis. Latin American Perspectives on the Late Capitalist World (2010).

Nancy Foner ’66 received the Distinguished Career Award from the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association. She is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

Alejandro Caminos ’95 recently joined SNW Securities to head their California Public Finance offices. He will be leading the company’s efforts regarding public infrastructure and economic development financing.

Susannah Joel Glusker ’62 published Avant-Garde Art & Artists in Mexico: Anita Brenner’s Journals of the Roaring Twenties (2010). She continues to teach at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City.

Donna Guy ’67, professor of History at Ohio State University, was the organizer of and discussant on the panel “Latin American Sexualities: Past, Present and Future”; presented “Escribame Argentina: Las madres escriben a Eva Perón” (1946-1951); and was a participant on the panel “Historia de las mujeres y de género en America Central y Argentina: Balances y perspectivas” at the Latin American Studies Association conference in Toronto in October.

Kendra Harrison ’07 continues to teach Spanish at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. She completed her master’s degree at Middlebury College this summer. She is a board member of AMIGOS, Boston chapter where she trains high school students to do community service projects in Latin America.


Peggy Levitt ’80, professor of Sociology at Wellesley College, is the International Fellow on the Faculty of Social Sciences at Vrije University in Amsterdam for 2010-12.

Roberto Márquez ’66 is professor of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Mt. Holyoke College. He was the discussant on the “Latino/a Studies in the 21st Century: The State of the Field” at the Latin American Studies Association conference in Toronto in October.

Anna Pancheshnikov ’10, recipient of a 2010 Fulbright grant, spent three months studying in Salvador, Brazil and two months conducting research in Puerto Rico on how HIV/AIDS affects women. She also audited courses at La Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago.

Sarah Reynolds ’01 is a free-lance radio producer and multimedia storyteller. She is a board member for the Immigration Reform Collaborative Fund. In 2009 she won a Project Censored Award from the Southern Poverty Law Center for her investigative work on “Close to Slavery: Guestworker Programs in the United States.” She currently writes for the WNYC newsroom.

Eduardo Saenz Rover (Ph.D. ’89) published “Entre Carlos Lehder y los vaqueros de la cocaína. La consolidación de las redes de narcotraficantes colombianos en Miami en los años 70” in Cuadernos de Economía (2011).

John Saxe-Fernández ’64 is a professor on the faculty of Social and Political Science at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He co-edited Reposicionamiento de la Federación Rusa: Retos y Alternativas Geoestratégicas (2011) and Reforma Energética (2011).
Benjamin Singerman ’99 is an attorney for the Federal Defender’s Office for the Middle District of Florida.

Lynn Stephen (Ph.D. ’87) is the director of the Center for the Study of Latino/a Studies and professor of Anthropology at the University of Oregon. The Center created the Latino Roots Project that included photos and two video documentaries of immigrant Latino families in Oregon. The project was on display for more than a year at the Lane County, Oregon Historical Museum. She was the discussant on the “Local and Autonomous Legality in Mexico: Justice and Indigenous Women’s Activism”; presented “Oaxaca Community Radio: Testimony, Radio, and New Forms of Politics”; and was the organizer on the “The Gendered Economic Crisis in Mexico” panel at the Latin American Studies Association conference in Toronto in October.

Barbara Tenenbaum ’68 is a specialist in Mexican Culture, Hispanic Division, and curator of the Jay I. Kislak Collection in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress. She was recently awarded the first Judy McInnis Award for Distinguished Service to the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS) in honor of her all-around contributions to the field of Latin American scholarship and a lifetime of service to the organization.

Aileen Walborsky Josephs ’82 has been the Honorary Consul of Guatemala in Palm Beach County, Florida since July 2007.

Jo Wexler ’69 lives in Oaxaca, Mexico and serves on the Board of Directors of the bilingual Oaxaca Lending Library. She and her husband are the authors of the guidebook “Viva Oaxaca.”

UNDERGRADUATE DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES

The LALS Program thanks its two Undergraduate Departmental Representatives for the past academic year, Chiara Bercu ‘11 and Audrey McCracken ’11.

For 2011-12, Laura Aguirre ’13 will be the UDR for the Program. The UDR publicizes the Program’s events, meets with current and prospective majors and minors to talk about the Program and its courses, and brings student concerns to the faculty.

LALS GRADUATES

The LALS Program congratulates its 2011 seniors: Chiara Bercu – majors in LALS, International and Global Studies, and Anthropology; minor in Hispanic Studies; cum laude; Zamira Castro Jiménez – major in Sociology; minor in LALS; cum laude; Posse Scholarship; David De La Cruz – majors in LALS and Sociology; Emily Gatzke – majors in LALS and Health: Science, Society and Policy; minor in Hispanic Studies; Audrey McCracken – majors in LALS, Anthropology, and International and Global Studies; minor in Hispanic Studies Minor; cum laude; Rachel Sier – major in History; minors in LALS and Social Justice and Social Policy; summa cum laude; high honors in History; Brandeis Achievement Award; Patrick Thomas Campbell Award in History for the best senior thesis; Richard Kaufman ’58 Memorial Prize for Leadership and Academic Excellence; Emily Smizer – major in Anthropology; minor in LALS; cum laude; Stroum Family Waltham Endowed Scholarship; Laura York – major in International and Global Studies; minors in LALS, Economics, and Art History; Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

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: Jerónimo Arellano (Romance Studies), 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), Lucía 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), Patricia Tovar (Economics), Javier Urcid (Anthropology), and Kirsten Weld (History).

(Letter from the Chair, continued from page 1)

It makes me proud, on behalf of the faculty, to see our students passionately exploring a vast array of social, historical, and cultural problems: from migration in Chile to Afro-Brazilian music and dance, from health care and solar energy in Haiti to Cuba’s currency, to name just a few. This year’s Jane’s Travel Grants and Essay Prizes are again the most concrete proof that our students understand the global relevance of Latino-America, enjoy the possibility of deepening their understanding by researching in and about the region. LALS is fortunate to be able to support and recognize our students’ most fruitful
efforts, thanks to the generosity of our Program’s sponsors.

As you read this newsletter, our Program administrator Marilyn Brooks will have retired after eighteen years of loyal dedication to LALS. We have evolved and consolidated, thanks in part to Marilyn’s management, as she was responsible for the day-to-day task of keeping all the different pieces aligned—and did so with kindness and efficiency. This newsletter is the last that was edited under her careful supervision. We wish Marilyn a very happy next stage of her life.

_Fernando Rosenberg_

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(Filmmakers, continued from page 1)

Buenos Aires, the so-called ‘cartoneros.’ The film is a vivid testimony to a labor practice that has grown exponentially and gained visibility after the 2001 economic crisis, but one that has been a traditional resource among the poor. Furthermore, the film strives to redefine the meaning of what is rightfully called ‘labor’ and the social sanction of what is ‘formal’ and ‘informal’ economy.

Dr. Livon-Grosman spoke eloquently about the reconstitution of political values in moments of deep crisis, how space is negotiated by different social movements, and about his experience as a filmmaker. He got interested in the topic because of the way ‘cartoneros’ were presented in mainstream media in the aftermath of the 2001 crisis. “It was too sentimental; the process of actual recycling was ignored.” He completed the movie in 2006. It was his first film project and was a collaborative effort, he stressed. “Film is a bunch of people doing things together—it’s almost impossible to do a film all on your own.”

LEAVETAKING

By the time you read this newsletter, I will have retired; my last day was June 30th. I’ve been at Brandeis for eighteen years and have enjoyed every one of those years. Working with the LALS faculty and the Program’s majors and minors has been a wonderful experience, and editing the newsletter every summer has been a very special part of my job.

_Marilyn Brooks_
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Newsletter Editors: Marilyn Brooks and Adam Gamwell
Latin American and Latino Studies
Olin-Sang 218/MS 036
Brandeis University
Waltham, MA 02453-9110