D I R E C T O R ’ S C O R N E R

During 2009 the Latin American and Latino Institute at Fordham University will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary. Originally two separate programs, the Puerto Rican and Latin American Institute at Lincoln Center and the Latin American Studies Program at Rose Hill merged in 1995 to form LALSI. Now with a graduate program in addition to the undergraduate major and minor, LALSI continues to be the intellectual home for faculty and students interested in Latin America and U.S. Latinos.

Many current LALSI faculty members have been involved in LALSI since its inception. Celebrating their years of service, several LALSI faculty members were recently recognized at a university convocation: Claude J. Mangum (African and African American Studies) received the Bene Merenti Medal for 40 years of service; Greta Ann Gilbertson (Sociology) received the Bene Merenti Medal for 20 years of service; and Luz Lenis (Associate Dean, Fordham College) was awarded the Archbishop Hughes Medal for 20 years of service. Congratulations to everyone!

LALSI’s new web page is now available. Full of great photos taken by our faculty and students, there’s information on our graduate and undergraduate programs, as well as a place for alums to send their updates. It also includes the Sourcebook on Colonial Latin America, a pilot project with a special emphasis on the Society of Jesus in Latin America. Here you will find primary sources in translation from all across Latin America. On the Links and Resources page, you will find our filmography (see page 6) and links to newspapers across the region. Check out our new look!

We would like to welcome two new faculty members to LALSI. Dr. Daniel Contreras joined the English Department in fall 2007 and Dr. Rose Perez joined the Graduate School of Social Service in fall 2008. Look for more information on the research projects of these newly affiliated faculty members in the Fall edition of the Boletín. We also welcome Dr. Bonnie Wasserman who joined the Modern Languages and Literatures Department as an adjunct professor of Portuguese. For more on Wasserman, see page 2.

Congratulations go to the many LALSI faculty members who won Faculty Fellowships for 2009-2010: Drs. Daniel Contreras, Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, Carey Kasten, Hector Lindo-Fuentes, Elizabeth Penny, and Orlando Rodríguez will all receive funding for their research. For more on these projects see page 2.

LALSI faculty were honored to have one of their own, Dr. Barbara Mundy (Art History), as the keynote speaker for Arts & Sciences Faculty Day. Mundy, an expert on colonial Mexico, spoke on the impact of artwork and performance on collective memory. For more on Mundy’s talk see page 4.

LALSI hosted many speakers this semester. Among the highlights, a reading by Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Díaz, author of The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, co-sponsored by LALSI on April 15. Also this semester, a Mellon grant from the Fordham College Rose Hill Dean’s office, awarded jointly to the American Studies program and LALSI, brought noted scholar Juan Flores to campus to discuss his new book, The Diaspora Strikes Back, with LALSI and American Studies faculty. For more see page 3.

Finally, since this is my last semester as Director of LALSI, I would like to thank the LALSI faculty, students, and staff for making my time as Director so rewarding.

Elizabeth Penny, Director
Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, Associate Director
Faculty News

Carey Kasten (Spanish) is on leave from Fordham University this academic year and is currently teaching at Boğaziçi University (Istanbul, Turkey). She recently organized a panel for the Northeast Modern Languages Association Convention in Boston (February 2009). The panel is titled "Replaying the Past: Representing the Early Modern in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Spain." She was also featured on the panel, giving a paper titled "Francisco Niev's Sacred Irreverence: Updating Tirante el Blanco." On March 17, she presented another paper at the Congreso de la Asociación Alemana de Hispanistas at Tubingen University in Germany. It is titled "Tradición propagandística: el auto sacramental francuista." She reports that she is enjoying her time in Turkey and looks forward to returning to Fordham in the spring 2010 semester. She will then teach "Spanish & New York City" and a course on the twentieth century Spanish novel.

Christopher Schmidt-Nowara (History) participated in several conferences in 2008, including one in Barcelona that he helped to organize. The subject was the history of slavery and abolition in the Iberian empires. His article "From Columbus to Ponce de Leon: Puerto Rican Commemorations between Empires, 1893-1907" appears in the edited book Colonial Crucible: Empire in the Making of the Modern American State (University of Wisconsin Press, 2009). Also in 2009, Dr. Schmidt-Nowara joined the Cultural Committee of the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute. His goal for the summer is to finish his book Slavery, Freedom, and Abolition in Latin America and the Atlantic World.

This semester, Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé (Spanish) was invited to give a lecture on his recently published book, Queer Latino Testimonio, Keith Haring, and Juanito Xtragangas: Hard Tails, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. An extensive interview on his book appeared in The Advocate (http://www.advocate.com/exclusive_detail_ektid702922.asp). He was recently invited to speak on his book and New York City's gay 1970s culture on Telemundo's morning show, Las Comadres. He participated in the "Postwar Queer Underground Cinema 1950-1968" conference, organized by the Yale University Initiative on the Histories of Sexuality. Dr. Cruz-Malavé won a Faculty Fellowship for a book project on "Memorialization and Mourning in Contemporary Hispanic Caribbean Literature." He has continued to serve as senior faculty mentor for Rutgers University professor Carlos Decena's Career Enhancement Faculty Fellowship project on sexuality and migration, funded by Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson National Foundation, and as advisor for the Latino student organization at FCLC, SOL. Also in Spring 2009 he taught a tutorial on queer theory and a new graduate course on "Latino New York." As associate director of LALSI, he hosted a faculty seminar on the well-known Latino scholar, Juan Flores's latest book, The Diaspora Strikes Back, and organized a queer Latino writers' panel for the Latino student group at FCRH, El Grito de Lores.

Since his last report to the Bulletin almost two years ago, O. Hugo Benavides (Anthropology) has published one book on Latin American melodrama titled, Drugs, Thugs and Divas: TeleNovelas and Narco-Dramas in Latin America (University of Texas Press, 2008), eight articles, two book reviews, and one commentary. The articles include: 1) "Disciplining the Past, Policing the Present: The Postcolonial Landscape of Ecuadorian Nostalgia," in Archaeologies, Spring 2009; 2) "Translating Ecuadorian Modernities: Pre-Hispanic Archaeology and the reproduction of Global Difference," in Cosmopolitan Archaeologies, (Duke University Press); and 3) “Historical Disruptions: Reproducing an Indian Past in Latin America,” in Archaeological Heritage and Human Rights, (Springer Press). In 2008, he also delivered three keynotes addresses and three professional presentations. These include an invitation to speak at the Colloquio de Antropología e Historia Regionales, El Colegio de Michoacán/Centro de Estudios Arqueológicos, Zamora, Mexico. Most recently he has been invited by the University of Bielefeld's Center of Interdisciplinary Research in Germany to the conference on "Mediating Ethnic Identity in the Americas: Ethnic Filmmaking and Film Politics in Globalizing Markets," (March 16-18, 2009). Finally, he is currently working on a final book draft of his latest research on American Football and Horror Films (see WFU interview on February 7, 2009) and the nature of the abject in American popular culture.

Fr. Claudio M. Burgaleta, S.J. (Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education) visited his native Cuba with a delegation from Rabbi Arthur Schneier's Appeal of Conscience Foundation from December 15-19, 2008. A good-will and humanitarian pre-Christmas/Hanukkah visit in the wake of the disastrous past hurricane season for the island, the delegation met with religious and government leaders on the island, including Cardinal Jaime Ortega of Havana and the nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi. The Cardinal and other religious leaders were optimistic about the future of religion on the island under Raul Castro's tenure. Claudio also had an opportunity to pay a quick visit to some of the Jesuits at their parish in Havana. There are a total of just under 30 Jesuits on the island, and the Society has remained working in Cuba since the Revolution, albeit under difficult circumstances and with its apostolic activities restricted to parish work, retreat ministry and the education of seminarians. Fr. Burgaleta's new book Manual de la teología para los católicos de hoy was released on April 9, 2009. For more information, please visit http://www.liguori.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=11308

The figure in our logo is that of Huizilopochtli, main god of the Aztecs, fol. 89R Codex Magliabechiano, mid 16th c. Central Mexico
Janet Sternberg (Communication and LALS) spoke on "Creating a Civil Culture: The Need to Resist Trash Talk in Contemporary Media" at the "Creating the Future" symposium held at Fordham on November 15, 2008. She also participated as a panelist in a full day preconference on "Media Ecology: Theory, Publication, Pedagogy" at the 94th annual convention of the National Communication Association in San Diego, CA on November 20. She also published a newspaper article, "Placar Folgado na Preferência dos Jornais" (Wide Margin in Newspapers' Preference). It appears in the November 5, 2008 issue of O Globo (Brazil).

Sara Lehman (Spanish) recently published a book chapter, "Learning By Doing: Applying Language Classroom Techniques to the study of Las Casas," in the Modern Language Association's Approaches to Teaching the Writings of Las Casas, (December 2008). Also in December, she traveled to Guatemala to research and serve as a volunteer translator for a medical and mudslide relief project. Her article “¡La ética colonial tras las interpolaciones en la Laza y guia del ciclo de Antonio Vázquez de Espinosa” is forthcoming in Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana, 68 (2009). In February of this year, she gave a presentation at the Conference of the Northeast Modern Language Association titled "Jungian Archetypes and 'Merchant Stigma' in Colonial Spanish American Literature." Dr. Lehman is currently working on her second book, a study of the systematic association of New World commerce with sin and greed as manifested in literature of the colonial period.

Clara E. Rodríguez (Sociology) professor of sociology and former dean of Fordham’s College of Liberal Studies, has been appointed by Postmaster General John E. Potter to serve on the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee, which recommends subjects to appear on U.S. postage stamps. The Herald-Dispatch (Huntington, WV) has published a story on commemorative stamps and lists Dr. Rodríguez as a member of the current committee: “Choosing commemorative stamps: Citizens' Advisory Committee sifts through thousands of submissions,” (January 8, 2009). The article is available on-line at http://www.herald-dispatch.com/

Bonnie Wasserman arrived at Fordham in fall 2008 to develop a program in Portuguese and to teach Spanish courses. She studied at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of California-Berkeley and spent 1994-95 as a Fulbright Scholar in Portugal. Wasserman is the author of two books, Metaphors of Oppression in Lusophone Historical Drama and Cinema for Portuguese Conversation. She encourages students, especially those with Spanish speaking ability, to take courses in Portuguese. For more information on Bonnie and her work, please visit her website http://www.bonniwasserman.com/
From Inside Fordham, December 22, 2008

Bolivian President Outlines Plans for Sharing Nation’s Wealth

By Janet Sassi

President Evo Morales of Bolivia visited Fordham’s Lincoln Center campus to share the story of his unlikely rise from poverty, and to promote his plans to help Bolivia’s indigenous poor.

Morales is a founder of Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), a grassroots political party that gained a foothold by calling for the nationalization of industry and fair distribution of resources in the energy-rich South American nation.

In his introduction of Morales, Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of Fordham, said, “This may be our moment to be liberated from the notion that, as nations and individuals, we only speak to those with whom we fully agree, only those who are on ‘our’ side.”

Evo Morales, president of Bolivia, plays up his peasant roots during his appearance at Fordham.

[Photo by Ryan Brenizer]

“To engage those who hold beliefs that may oppose our own is the first step in recognizing them as fully human, as part of the human family and worthy of our full and compassionate attention,” he said.

Addressing “The Realities of Democracy,” Morales told a packed house at the McNally Amphitheatre on Nov. 17 that he came from peasant stock, and recounted his family’s experiences as coca farmers in the 1980s. Morales joined the coca union and became a leader in the cocalero [coca growers] movement.

”[But] it was not enough to have union power,” Morales said. “We needed a political instrument for liberation, to help us control all the natural resources. We were not people who were experts in politics; we were the indigenous people, the rural people, who decided to create our own political instrument.”

Morales was elected president on the MAS platform in December 2005 with approximately 54 percent of the popular vote, becoming the nation’s first indigenous president; Morales is of Aymaran Indian descent.

Morales said that before he took office, private industry was reaping 88 percent of the gas revenue from the country while 12 percent went to the Bolivian people. Now, he said, the percentages are reversed. Bolivia has the second-largest gas reserves in South America, after Venezuela.

“We’ve changed the social and cultural framework and now we have cultural institutions for the most vulnerable,” Morales said. “Before, people were slaves to government. Now, government is slave to the people.”

On the day he was informed that he had won this year’s internationally famous Casa de las Americas Award, an exuberant Professor Juan Flores, the well-known Latino scholar and professor at New York University, discussed his latest book, The Diaspora Strikes Back: Caribeño Tales of Learning and Turning (Routledge 2009), with the faculty of LALS and American Studies at a jointly sponsored, Mellon-grant-funded seminar. Focusing on “cultural remittances” that migrants send or take with them on their return trips “home,” Professor Flores’ book sets out to analyze the impact Hispanic Caribbean returnees, or what he calls “remigrants,” have had on their home countries’ culture. Bearing a wealth of experience from their stays abroad, these Hispanic Caribbean returnees challenge traditional understandings of identity through cultural styles and expressions, often around issues of race, gender and sexuality. Unlike earlier works that have focused on return migrant entrepreneurship, Professor Flores’s book concentrates instead on cultural transactions or transculturation from below, what he also calls “créolité in the hood,” giving thus a nod to Afro-Caribbean cultural meditations on creolization and to the importance of the local in contemporary processes of globalization. A lively discussion about the rich possibilities of applying Professor Flores’s apt term, “cultural remittances,” followed his engaging talk.

From Inside Fordham January 20, 2009

Professor’s First Novel Celebrated by Latin American Studies Institute

By Gina Vergel

Lloyd Rogler, Ph.D., Albert Schweitzer Professor Emeritus in the Humanities, is no stranger to the world of publishing. During more than 50 years as an academic and medical researcher, he has authored eight books.

Barrio Professors: Tales of Naturalistic Research (Left Coast Press, 2008), Rogler’s first work of fiction, was celebrated on Dec. 5 by his former colleagues in the Latin American and Latino Studies Institute with a party and book signing at Duane Hall.

“After years and years of research, I felt that I had things to express in fiction,” said Rogler, 78, the former director of Fordham’s Hispanic Research Center. “I’m a sociologist, but my father instilled in me a love of reading literature, and I always wanted to become an author of fiction. I thought it would be the greatest thing ever.”

Barrio Professors draws on Rogler’s experiences as a participant observer while researching mental illness in the slums of Puerto Rico and the inner city of New Haven, Conn. Rogler’s descriptions of the neighborhoods and its residents are quite vivid.

The informants—or “barrio professors”—whom he encountered during his research were a great source of information during his career, he said.

“They are composites of people I have known,” Rogler said of characters in his book who refuse to surrender to despair and poverty. “I’m glad I’m able to tell their stories.”
LALS! Faculty is Keynote for Faculty Day

Dr. Barbara Mundy, Associate Professor of Art History and former Associate Director of LALS!, was the keynote speaker at this year’s Arts & Sciences Faculty Day held February 6 at Lincoln Center. Mundy’s talk, titled “Moteuzoma rebo: Biombo paintings and collective memory in colonial Mexico City,” looked at the role that artworks play in activating collective memory, by centering on a set of folding screens, called biombos, produced in Mexico City in the late 17th century. These screens were painted on two sides, with one side showing a historical painting of the conquest of Aztec Mexico City (Tenochtitlan) by Hernán Cortés, and the other a map of the 17th century city. Mundy argued that, taken together with other representations of the city, the biombos pushed viewers to see history as a living spectacle in the city streets, perhaps even to replace the seething humanity and chaotic experience that the “now” continually offers with the dramatic and ordered narratives that had been created out of the experience of the wars of Conquest, itself once equally chaotic until tamed by the written word. In doing so, a particular history of the city, that of the triumph of its Spanish residents, was brought to the fore. But by looking beyond artworks, to ephemeral performances in the city, like dances that Mexico City’s Indian community would perform in its streets, Mundy found that the indigenous residents of the city were also offering their own set of collective memories of the city, and shaping a history that contrasted to that of the more powerful Spanish and Creole residents.

Summer Session 2009 Courses

Session I: May 26-June 25
ECEU 3244 International Economic Policy
ECGA 5415 Gender and Economic Development
HSRG 1400 Introduction to Latin American History
HSRG 3977 Latin American History Through Film
SOEP 2420 Social Problems of Race and Ethnicity
SPGA 5090 Spanish for Reading (non-credit course)

Session II: June 29-August 4
LLLG 1100 Afro-Latin America
ECGA 5540 Emerging Markets

International Economic Policy
ECEU 3244 R11
Session I, Rose Hill: MTWTh, 6-9 pm
Karacaovali, 4 credits
In this course, we rigorously analyze the international trade theory and discuss the related trade policy issues and political economy. We examine the trade policy instruments and international trade agreements and try to gain a better understanding of the current trade issues.

Gender and Economic Development
ECGA 5415 R11
Session I, Rose Hill: MW, 6-9 pm
Combs, 3 credits
The course draws on material from economics and other social sciences to analyze the social nature of gender and economic development in a cross-cultural perspective. Topics include women’s household labor; occupational segregation and earnings; inequality in market work; the intersections of gender, class, race and ethnicity; women and poverty; family structure; public policy and gender equality.

Introduction to Latin American History
HSRG 1400 R11
Session I, Rose Hill: TTh, 9 a.m.-Noon
Peny, 3 credits
A survey of the history of Latin America from the ancient civilizations until the present day.

Latin American History through Film
HSRG 3977 R11
Session I, Rose Hill: MTWTh, 1-4 p.m.
Peny, 4 credits
We will screen Latin American and U.S. films to examine what we learn about events or ideas from Latin American history through film. We will also seek to understand how countries interpret their own particular histories in films. Readings will put the films into historical context.

Social Problems of Race and Ethnicity
SOEP 2420 R11
Session I, Rose Hill: MTWTh, 6-9 p.m.
Kosta, 4 credits
This course explores the historical and contemporary issues surrounding the impact that race and ethnicity have in society. Students will examine how racial and ethnic criteria often guide important economic, political, and social decisions that affect access to resources by various groups and which have major consequences for the individual.

Spanish for Reading
SPGA 5090 R11
Session I, Rose Hill: MW, 6-9 pm
Hoar, 0 credits
Accelerated course in Spanish grammar and reading techniques to prepare students to decipher essays and narrative prose in Spanish fields appropriate to a variety of graduate programs.

Afro Latin America
LLLG 1100 L21
Session II, Lincoln Center: TTh, 1-4 p.m.
Leeds, 3 credits
Introduction to the study of people of African descent in Latin America. Topics include resistance, political thought, identity formation, the flexibility of racial categories and the role of gender, class and visual images in the making of racial identities.

Emerging Markets
ECGA 5540 R21
Session II, Rose Hill: MW, 6-9 pm
Schwalbenberg, 3 credits
Analyzes emerging financial markets in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Students must prepare a study regarding one country’s macroeconomic performance, foreign exchange market and stock market. Complements POGA 6911-Political Risk Analysis.

For more information, please visit the summer session website:
http://www.fordham.edu/summer

Center for Ethics Education | New Cross-Disciplinary Summer Graduate Course
CEGA 6100 (3 credits)
May 18-20, 2009 – Rose Hill Campus

Theories and Applications in Contemporary Ethics

This intensive three-day graduate level course is designed to provide cross-disciplinary perspectives on moral theory and applied ethics. Using a team-teaching approach, this course brings together faculty from different disciplines to provide foundational knowledge about moral theory with contemporary applications.

LALS! faculty members Dr. Monica Rivera-Mindt (Psychology) and Dr. Elizabeth Peny (History) will co-teach on the topic of cultural assumptions and cultural competency.

Requirements include a mastery of the reading materials, active participation, and topic oriented thought papers during the three-day workshop. In addition, successful completion of the course requires a post-workshop paper integrating the course material.

For additional information on the course and participating faculty members, please visit: http://www.fordham.edu/ethicscourse
Early Admission M.A. student Jessica Thompson traveled to Ithaca, New York (April 2-4) to present a poster on Peruvian Artistic Action at Cornell University’s “Regional Identity in Times of Globalization and Diaspora” conference. A total of 35 abstracts were accepted and equally allocated to three oral sessions and two poster sessions. The abstract for Jessica’s work:

Colonialism’s legacy, self-determination, democracy and neo-colonialism are all important topics in today’s globalized and mostly post-colonial world. Peru is an interesting example of the successes and failures of a post-colonial country. More than half of Peru’s population lives in poverty and the people have been subjugated by the Incas, the Spanish, multiple periods of military control, and dictatorships. Since 1980 there have been around seventy thousand deaths attributed to internal violence. The two primary actors in this conflict, the Peruvian government and Peru’s communist organization the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso), are held responsible for the majority of these deaths. In April of 2000, after the questionable re-election of Alberto Fujimori, a group of artists and intellectuals called the Colectivo Sociedad Civil (CSC) began artistic demonstrations or “actions” in opposition to Fujimori and more generally government corruption. For example, one of these actions, “Lava la bandera” or “wash the flag,” encouraged Peruvians to bring their Peruvian flag to Lima’s Plaza de Mayo and publicly wash it, and then hang it to dry. The movement became widespread with Peruvians washing their flags in the central squares of towns all over Peru. This demonstration of both patriotism and disgust with governmental corruption is especially moving in light of Peru’s repressive history. This is just one example of how art and artistic actions have given voice to the Peruvian people.

**The Bernardo Vega-Roberta Menchú-Tum Award**

Named for a pioneering Puerto Rican worker-intellectual and a Nobel prize winning author, the Bernardo Vega-Rigoberta Menchú-Tum Award is given annually to the Rose Hill graduating senior who has, in the judgment of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, demonstrated excellence in the study of Latin American and Latino culture. The 2009 award winner is Matt Fiess. In his letter nominating Matt, Dr. Hugo Benavides, Professor of Anthropology writes, “I have had the pleasure of knowing Matt both in my courses and outside of them. He has always presented himself with enormous intelligence, candor and concern for others; characteristics that I believe make him a worthy recipient for that honor. In all his classes, including an independent study on Indian politics in the Andes, he always managed to provide extremely careful political and social analysis of the situations discussed. However, he always did this with an enormous interest in understanding the full dimension of the human beings caught in the different cultural contexts that we were discussing. It was precisely this double search for knowledge and respect for the communities of Latin America that made him take a leave from his studies to live in Bolivia for half a year. This was also one of his main concerns when he looked to study abroad in Mexico, making sure that he would end in a place that both validated intellectual and human concerns. Because of all the above I strongly recommend Matt for this award.”

**Congratulations to Matt on a well deserved award!**

Matt Fiess (FCRH ’09) with members of his host family in Cochabamba, Bolivia
Congratulations Class of 2009!

Mona Ariton, FCLC
Maureen Burke, CBA
Matt Fiess, FCRH
Amanda González, FCLC
Giselle Henao, FCLC
Kristina Jacobs, FCRH
Jovan Jaiman, FCRH
Astrid Y. Pérez, FCLC
Erin Quinn, FCRH
Karissa Risi, FCRH
LeeAnne Villodas, FCLC

Filmography Now Available on LALSI’s New Home Page

Faculty and students with an interest in film from and/or about Latinos, Latin America or Spain now have a new tool for their research. LALSI’s new home page includes a filmography of films available on campus. The filmography includes brief descriptions of films, their country of origin, languages and subtitles, runtime, format, year of release and the location on campus (Quinn Library, Walsh Library or the LALSI offices in FMH). Over 300 films are listed in the filmography. The LALSI administrative staff worked hard to include every film available on campus. Please help us keep the filmography up to date; if you find a film Fordham has that is not listed in the filmography, please let us know. Send updates to lalsi@fordham.edu with “filmography” in the subject line. If there are films you would like us to purchase, please send that information too.

To find the filmography, follow the links on the Links and Resources page of LALSI’s home page http://www.fordham.edu/academics/programs_at_fordham/latin_american_and_latinos/english/links_and_resources/index.asp

On Thursday, October 30, LALSI celebrated Faculty-Student Day, an informational session for LALS majors and minors and other interested students and a chance for students to mingle and talk informally with faculty about their upcoming spring courses. At a well-attended event of over 40 students Professor Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, the Associate Director of LALSI, welcomed everyone and spoke about the requirements for the major and minor and introduced students to the new Early Admission M.A. in LALSI. There were several lively presentations by invited guests. Professor Ronald Méndez-Clark, the Director of the International Study Abroad Program, discussed with students opportunities to study abroad in Latin America and Spain. Professor Rafael Lamas, the Associate Chair of Modern Languages and Literatures, informed students about Fordham’s new exciting summer program in Granada, Spain, which he directs. Kate Cavanaugh, the Associate Coordinator of the Service Learning Program, explained to students how to engage in service learning and receive credit for it while Professor John Beam, Executive Director of the National Center for Schools and Communities discussed opportunities for volunteering.

Sophomores/Juniors: Interested in Applying for a Prestigious Fellowship?

If your GPA is 3.5 or higher, and you are in your junior year or earlier, you may be eligible for a prestigious fellowship. The Office for Prestigious Fellowships can help guide you through the application process. The Office prepares students to compete for a broad range of scholarships and fellowships, including the Fulbright, Ford fellowships and National Science Foundation (NSF) grants.

For more information, contact The Campion Institute Office for Prestigious Fellowships: http://www.fordham.edu/academics/office_of_the_senior/index.asp

Alumni News

Ricardo Martínez (FCRH ’06) has been working at the LGBT Community Center in Manhattan for about a year. He initially worked in the Public Policy department and currently works in the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) department as an Education & Family Support Services Specialist. As a member of YES, Ricardo helps to provide LGBT young people between the ages of 13 and 21 with community support to foster healthy development in a safe, affirming, sex-positive, alcohol and drug-free environment. He sends a warm hello to all!

Alumni

Send us your pictures! Send us your news!

We want to hear from you! Really! Where are you working? Are you studying? Do you have a particularly interesting internship? Are you doing anything related to Latin American or Latino Studies? Have you seen any classmates lately? Send us your pictures and news so we can publish them here in your space.
Spring 2009 Events

Pulitzer Prize Winner Junot Díaz Reads at Fordham
Wednesday, 15 April

Junot Díaz author of Drown and The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao is the recipient of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. His fiction has appeared in The New Yorker, Best American Short Stories and The O’Henry Prize Stories 2009. He has received a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the 2003 U.S.-Japan Creative Artist Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the Rome Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters among others. He is the fiction editor at The Boston Review and The Rudge (1948), and the Nancy Allen professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Along with student groups El Grito de Lares, Academia Hispana and PRIDE Alliance LALSI co-sponsored readings and performances by three local Latino authors at Rose Hill: Charles Rice González, Charlie Vazquez, and Karen Jaime.
Tuesday, 7 April 2009

“Tacit Subjects: Dominican Transnational Identities and Male Homosexuality in New York City”
Professor Carlos Ulises Decena, Woodrow Wilson Foundation Career Enhancement Fellow

With Respondents:
Norma Fuentes-Mayorga, Department of Sociology
Monica Rivera-Mindt, Department of Psychology
Friday, 27 March

Professor Decent, an interdisciplinary social scientist, writer and cultural critic, teaches in the departments of Women’s and Gender Studies and Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University. Through the support of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation’s Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Scholars and the mentorship of Professor Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, Professor Decena has spent the 2008-2009 academic year completing revisions for his book project, Tacit Subjects: Dominican Transnational Identities and Male Homosexuality in New York City. This study, based on ethnographic research conducted for his dissertation, focuses on the role that unspoken and unspeakable understandings play in the construction and sustenance of individuals and collectivities.

Juan Flores (NYU) discussed his book, The Diaspora Strikes Back, with the faculty of LALS and American Studies (funded by a Mellon Faculty Grant from the RH Dean’s Office)
Wednesday 11 February

[For story see page 3]

Professor Carlos Ulises Decena, Woodrow Wilson Foundation Career Enhancement Fellow

Master’s Degree Program in LALS

This exciting and innovative new Master’s degree combines Latin American and Latino Studies. Students will have hands-on experience with an internship, service learning project or research either here or abroad.

With the M.A. in Latin American and Latino Studies, you may work with a non-governmental organization here or abroad, pursue advanced graduate work in a specific discipline (such as History, Spanish, Anthropology, etc), or use the degree to enhance knowledge of Latin American and U.S. Latinos for a career in business, marketing, or consulting.

New Opportunity for Fordham College Juniors: The Early Admission M.A. Degree in Latin American and Latino Studies

If you are a now a Fordham College sophomore, it is not too early to think about the Early Admission Master’s degree. Apply during your junior year and earn a Master’s Degree with just one additional year of coursework beyond your bachelor’s degree by taking two graduate courses during your senior year. These two courses will count toward your Bachelor’s Degree and your Master’s Degree. With this head start, you can complete the Master’s Degree in just one additional year. You do not have to be a Latin American and Latino Studies major or minor to apply.

For more information see the LALSI web page at http://www.fordham.edu/lalsi or write to us at lalsi@fordham.edu.

Monica Rivera-Mindt (Psychology) offers comments on Decena’s research while Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé (MLL) looks on

Professor Kimberly J. Brown (Northeastern University) lectured on “Race in Brazil” for Professor Hugo Benavides’ course “Race in the Americas”
Friday, 20 February
Fall 2009 Course Offerings

*Below, please find a sampling of our course offerings for Fall 2009. For the complete listing and descriptions, visit our website www.fordham.edu/lalsi and check under “courses”

**Rose Hill:**
- ANTH 2900 Social Theory in Anthropology
- ANTH 3470 Peoples and Culture of Latin America
- ARHI 1101 The Social Lives of Images
- COLI 3522 Strange Memories, Strange Desire
- LALS 3601 Latin American Archaeology
- SPAN 2640 Spanish & New York City
- SPAN 3500 Literature of Discovery

**Lincoln Center:**
- ECON 3235 Economics of Latin America
- HIST 3806 U.S. Immigration/Ethnicity
- LALS 3352 Pol. Issues and Procedures in Criminal Law
- POSC 3501 Third World Politics
- SOCI 3670 Hispanic Women
- SPAN 3530 Excess in Spanish Literature
- SPAN 3850 Narrating the City

**Graduate Courses:**
- HIST 5902 Colonial Spain, 1808-1939
- LALS 5001 Latin American and Latino Cultures
- REGR 6251 U.S. Latino Theology

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**THE LATIN AMERICAN & LATINO STUDIES CONCENTRATION**

The Latin American and Latino Studies program integrates a series of courses in the humanities, social sciences and the arts designed to acquaint students with Latin America and the experiences and cultural expressions of the Latino populations in the United States. The interdisciplinary approach aims at exposing students to the methods, materials, and tools of various disciplines. The major prepares students for graduate study and to enter the fields of international trade and finance, foreign service, teaching, publishing, and Hispanic media and communications.

The **MAJOR** consists of ten courses: (a) an introductory course; (b) two courses from the social sciences; (c) two courses from the humanities/arts; (d) one upper elective in history; (e) one methods seminar (normally taken in the junior year); (f) one capstone seminar (normally taken in the senior year); and (g) two electives. Seniors may wish to write a senior essay under the guidance of one of the program’s faculty members.

The **MINOR** consists of six courses: (a) an introductory course; (b) two courses from the social sciences; (c) two courses from the humanities/arts; and (d) one elective. Since language competency in Spanish is expected, majors and minors should take at least one Latin American/Latino literature course above the 2001 level. Students are encouraged to study in Latin America.

Courses that fulfill College requirements may, where appropriate, be credited toward the major or minor. Students whose particular interests do not conform to the pattern of electives described above are encouraged to consult with the director or the associate director to work out a program more appropriate to their needs.

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*LALSI* provides an intellectual home for students and faculty who are interested in Latin America and the Latino Populations of the US. With offices on both campuses, the Institute acts as a clearinghouse for information, organizes conferences, invites speakers to the university, maintains video/journal collections and sponsors film series and internships.

*LALSI*’s newsletter *BOLETíN* is published twice a year.