Cuban Artist Elio Rodríguez

Elio Rodríguez, a Cuban artist currently working in Spain, was the most recent Latin American artist hosted by CLAS to complement its annual Latin American and Caribbean Festival (held on September 29, 2007). Other artists have included Nicaraguan José Ignacio Fletes Cruz (2006), Peruvian Victor Beltrán (2005), and Nicaraguan Alejandro Cabrera (2004).

Much of Elio’s art work employs silk screening and imitates movie marquees. The theme of his images deals with visual stereotypes of Afro-Cubans, as well as with political and gender issues. His work simultaneously reproduces the stereotype while confronting its implications. He was Artist in Residence at the Diego Rivera and Francisco Oller Museum in Buffalo, New York in 2003 and Visiting Professor at Tufts University and Harvard University during 2002. Elio has exhibited in the United States and Europe. An exhibit of his silk screens, entitled “Remakes,” was on display in the Frick Fine Arts Gallery at the University of Pittsburgh from September 24 to October 24, 2007.

During his week-long stay in Pittsburgh, Elio welcomed viewers during the opening reception for “Remakes,” exchanged ideas about art and techniques with Pittsburgh artist Bob Beckman, was interviewed for broadcast by Revista Radial Latinoamericana/Latin American Radio Magazine, participated in fine art instructor Lenore Thomas’ etching class in the Department of Art and Architecture, gave two public lectures, and demonstrated silk screening techniques at the Latin American and Caribbean Festival. In addition to the full schedule of activities, Elio found time to prepare a delicious Cuban dinner for the Center’s staff. Students, faculty, and staff from the Department of Art and Architecture as well as from the Center for Latin American Studies greatly enjoyed working with Elio.
Conferences and Workshops

Interdisciplinary Research Workshop on “Does the Caribbean have a Borderlands? Towards a History of Places in Between and Cultures out of Place”

On February 1, 2008, a workshop on “Does the Caribbean have a Borderlands? Towards a History of Places in Between and Cultures out of Place” was held at the University of Pittsburgh. This workshop, organized by Lara Putnam (Associate Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh), built on the May 2007 University of Pittsburgh-University of Costa Rica conference in San José, Costa Rica “Area Studies, Regional Studies, and Transnational Paradigms” (see CLASicos 62, page 14). At the San José conference, presentations of current research by scholars based in Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, and the United States demonstrated the significant growth of interest in the frontier zones, cultural borderlands, and diasporic communities of the Gran Caribe—the dense web of connections that have long stretched from Louisiana to Campeche and Barranquilla to Barbados, and today encompass immigrant-rich cities like Toronto, New York, Miami, London, and Amsterdam. The 2008 workshop served to focus international attention on the leading role of the University of Pittsburgh in this emerging field of inquiry. Pitt faculty members such as Jerome Branche (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), Alejandro de la Fuente (History), Shalini Puri (English), Lara Putnam (History), and Marcus Rediker (History) are prominent among scholars exploring the boundaries and borderlands of Caribbean cultures. At least ten current graduate students in the Department of History are engaged in research into physical or cultural border-crossing within the Caribbean or at its edges; graduate students in English, Hispanic Languages and Literatures, and Sociology are also exploring related topics. The workshop was sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Latin American Studies, Office of the Provost, and School of Arts and Sciences, and the Hispanic American Historical Review (Department of History).

This workshop brought to the University of Pittsburgh four international scholars whose innovative interdisciplinary research is expanding the boundaries of Caribbean Studies and building new bridges between academic debate and popular culture. The evening preceding the workshop featured lectures on Caribbean music by two of these scholars and poetry, fiction, and ‘true fiction’ readings by renowned Caribbean poet, novelist, critic, and filmmaker Merle Collins. Professor Collins’ visit was sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh’s Global Studies Program, Office of the Provost, and Department of English.

Program
Thursday, January 31
6:30-7:45 p.m.—Caribbean Musical Journeys
Matthew Smith (Lecturer, History and Archaeology, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica): “Wanderers in Love: Migration and Music in the Northern Caribbean”
Jorge Giovannetti (Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras): “Music and History in Jamaica and Puerto Rico: Reggae, Rap, and Reggaeton”
8:00 p.m.—Performance
“Poetry, Fiction and ‘True Fiction’ Readings” by Merle Collins (Professor of Creative Writing, Literature, and Caribbean Studies, University of Maryland)

Friday, February 1
Workshop
8:45-10:30 a.m.—Morning Opening Papers
Shalini Puri (Associate Professor of English, University of Pittsburgh): “Moving Places: Concepts for a Transnational Area Studies”
Jorge Giovannetti (Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras): “Killing in One Place, Digging in Many: Border-Crossing Research, Methodological Dilemmas, and the Jobabo Massacre”
10:45 a.m.–noon—Panel: Divisions and Comparisons in the Colonial Crucible
Isaac Curtis (graduate student, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh): “Mare Enclausum: The Spanish Caribbean and the Spaces Between, 1565-1568”
Jamie Holeman (graduate student, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh): “A Peculiar Character of Mildness: The Image of a Humane Slavery in Nineteenth Century Cuba”
Discussants: Jorge Giovannetti and Karen Fog Olwig
1:00-2:30 p.m. — Afternoon Opening Papers

Matthew Smith (Lecturer, History and Archaeology, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica): “Footprints on the Sea: Reflections on the Haitian-Jamaican Migratory Circuit”

Mary Chamberlain (Professor of Caribbean History, Oxford Brookes University, London): “Culture, Migration and Nationhood: Barbados and Empire 1937-1967”

2:45-4:00 p.m. — Panel: Sexed Bodies and the Politics of Racial Belonging

Nicole Bourbonnais (graduate student, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh): “Why Not Clean Your Own House First?: Religion, Sexual Morality, and Nationalism in the Jamaican Birth Control Debate, 1938-1939”

Becky Klink (graduate student, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh): “When Bodies go Beyond the Skin: The Violent Tendencies of Engendering Race”

Discussants: Mary Chamberlain and Matthew Smith

4:00-5:00 p.m. — Closing Paper

Karen Fog Olwig (Professor of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen): “Relating to Others: On the Edge of the Caribbean 'Continuum'”

5:00-5:30 p.m. — Closing Discussion

Chair of: Lara Putnam (Associate Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh)

13th Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference

The Thirteenth Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference was held on February 14 and 15, 2008. Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón delivered the keynote address on “Human Rights in the Americas: An International Legal Perspective.”

The annual Latin American Social and Public Policy conference features presentations on social and public policy research in Latin America by graduate students from the University of Pittsburgh and other universities, with comments by University of Pittsburgh faculty. For the thirteenth conference, eight students from five departments and schools at the University of Pittsburgh and six non-Pitt students (from American University, Ohio University, Princeton University, and the University of Texas at Austin) presented papers and seven University of Pittsburgh faculty members provided discussion.

The 2008 conference was organized by Latin American Social and Public Policy Fellows María José Alvarez (Sociology), Alejandra Boza (History), Oscar de la Torre (History), Jorge Enrique Delgado (Education), Adriana Dobrzycka (Public Health), Yolanda Hernández-Albújar (Sociology), Gabriela Núñez (Communication), Maria Amalia Pesantes (Anthropology), Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Raga (Political Science), and Juan Antonio Rodriguez-Zepeda (Political Science), with direction and support from Luis Bravo (Coordinator of International Relations and Fellowships). The organizers and the Center would like to thank everyone involved in the conference.

The conference was sponsored by the Latin American Social and Public Policy Program of the Center for Latin American Studies, with supplementary support from a U.S. Department of Education (Title VI) grant to the University of Pittsburgh. A list of the conference panels, presenters, and discussants follows.
Thursday, February 14, 2008
Main Venue: Library, Pittsburgh Athletic Association
(4215 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213)

9:45 a.m.
Welcome: Kathleen M. DeWalt (Director, Center for Latin American Studies)

10:00 a.m. Inequality and Economy in Latin America
Moderator: Adriana Dobrzycka
Brandon Tracy (American University): “Identifying the Subtle Effects of Household Income on Housing Quality in Brazil”
Laura Spagnolo (University of Texas, Austin) and coauthors Alvaro Quezada-Hofflinger and Viviana Salinas (University of Texas, Austin): “Growth with Equity? Pay Inequality in Chile During the Democratic Era (1990-2006)”
Alvaro Quezada-Hofflinger (University of Texas, Austin): “School Choice and Equality: The Impact of Voucher Schools on Educational Inequality in the Chilean Case”
Discussant: Marla Ripoll (Associate Professor, Department of Economics)

1:00 p.m. U.S.-Latin American Relations
Moderator: Alejandra Boza
Yolanda Hernandez-Albujar (University of Pittsburgh): “Democracy in Latin America: Accounting for Internal and External Factors”
Jane Walsh (University of Pittsburgh): “Migrant Mobilization: Tactics and Strategies Facilitating the Success of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers”
Discussant: G. Reid Andrews (University Center for International Studies Research Professor, Department of History)

3:00 p.m. Cultural Expressions and Social Activism in Latin America
Moderator: Yolanda Hernandez-Albujar
Kavin Dayanandan Paulraj (University of Pittsburgh): “Reggae Music and the Politics of Race and Inequality”
Film: Para La Comunidad, Desde La Comunidad by Mark Kendall (Vanderbilt University)
Discussant: Elizabeth Monasterios (Associate Professor, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

Left to right: Brandon Tracy, Adriana Dobrzycka, Marla Ripoll, Alvaro Quezada-Hofflinger, and Laura Spagnolo.

Left to right: Yolanda Hernandez-Albujar, Alejandra Boza, Jane Walsh, Sian Miranda Singh ÓFaoláin, and Reid Andrews.

Kavin Dayanandan Paulraj and Yolanda Hernandez-Albujar.

Elizabeth Monasterios.
5:00 p.m. Trade Liberalization and Economic Policies: Their Impact in Latin America
Moderator: Maria Amalia Pesantes
Jose Rene Argueta (University of Pittsburgh): “Can Cafta Promote Growth and Protect the Environment in Central America without Good Governance?”
Amy Erica Smith (University of Pittsburgh): “How do Neoliberalism Reforms Impact Latin American Economies and Societies?”
Discussant: Paul Nelson (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs)

Friday, February 15, 2008
10:00 a.m. Redistribution, Growth and Government Performance in Latin America
Moderator: Jorge Enrique Delgado
Brandon Tracy (American University): “The Breaker Between GDP and Electricity Consumption in Brazil”
Discussant: Stewart E. Sutin (Clinical Professor, School of Education)

1:00 p.m. Impact of Government Policies and Institutions in Latin America
Moderator: Juan Antonio Rodriguez-Zepeda
Jorge Enrique Delgado (University of Pittsburgh): “Scientific Journals Published by Colombian Universities Indexed by the National Bibliographic Index”
Juan Negri-Malbran (University of Pittsburgh): “Welfare Spending and Minorities in Brazil”
Discussant: Barry Ames (Andrew W. Mellon Professor, Department of Political Science)

2:30 p.m. Public Health, Communication and Community Participation in Latin America
Moderator: Juan Antonio Rodriguez-Zepeda
Julia Nogueira (Ohio University): “Centenary of Chagas Disease: Creating a Prevention Communication Strategy”
Maria Amalia Pesantes (University of Pittsburgh): “Cultural Differences, Community Participation and Health Program: The Challenges of Promoting Community Participation in Rural Peru”
Discussant: Patricia Documét (Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public Health)
Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón (J.D., LL.M., S.J.D) is Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at American University, Washington College of Law, and teaches courses in the fields of international law and human rights law. His most recent books are The Prohibition of Torture and Ill-Treatment in the Inter-American Human Rights System (with Claudia Martin; 2006), published in three languages—English, Spanish, and Portuguese—and Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos (International Human Rights Law) (co-editor; 2004). He coauthored (with Claudio Grossman, Robert K. Goldman, and Claudia Martin) the casebook The International Dimension of Human Rights: A Guide for Application in Domestic Law, published by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB 2001). He is also coauthor of the human rights casebook bestseller, La Dimensión Internacional de los Derechos Humanos, Guía para la Aplicación de Normas Internacionales en el Derecho Interno (with Claudia Martin and Tomas Ojea Quintana; IADB, 1999), as well as the Repertorio de Jurisprudencia del Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, La Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (Inter-American Human Rights Digest) (with Claudio Grossman, Robert Goldman, and Claudia Martin; Vol. I and Vol. II, 1998). He was recently appointed Ad Hoc Judge to sit in the Inter-American Court on Human Rights of the Organization of American States. As correspondent for the British periodical Butterworths Human Rights Cases, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón covers the Americas; he also reports on the inter-American system for the Netherlands Human Rights Quarterly. He has served as international legal consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Organization of American States (OAS), among other institutions. He was also staff attorney at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS, Officer for Latin America at the International Human Rights Law Group (a Washington DC based non-governmental organization), and legal advisor for the Office of the President of Colombia.

Latin American Lecture and Symposium Series

CLAS’ Latin American Lecture and Symposium Series primarily supports visits by scholars invited to the University of Pittsburgh by CLAS faculty members, as well as public lectures by faculty members themselves. As the list below indicates, this results in presentations on a broad range of topics from a variety of disciplines and professions. One goal of the series is to provide the opportunity for CLAS faculty, students, and the general public to be exposed to the great breadth of research approaches that contribute to knowledge about the Latin American and Caribbean region.
Lecture/Symposium Series (continued)

October 30, 2007
FAMILY ENTERPRISE AND THE GLOBAL GLASS CEILING: A LOOK AT BRAZIL—by Audrey J. Murrell (Associate Professor of Business Administration, Psychology, and Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh)

November 1, 2007
GEOPOLÍTICAS DE LA NOVELA HISPANOAMERICANA CONTEMPORÁNEA—by Anadeli Bencomo (Associate Professor of Latin American Literature, University of Houston)

November 7, 2007
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, VALUATION, AND PERFORMANCE: EVIDENCE FROM A VOLUNTARY MARKET REFORM IN BRAZIL—by Kuldeep Shastri (Roger S. Ahlbrandt Sr. Endowed Chair in Finance, Katz School of Business, University of Pittsburgh)

November 7, 2007
THE RUINS OF NATURE—by Gabriela Nouzeilles (Associate Professor of Latin American Studies, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Princeton University)

November 8, 2007
POWER, WEALTH, AND PRESTIGE: INEQUALITY AND THE BEGINNINGS OF LARGE-SCALE SOCIETIES—by Robert D. Drennan (Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh)

November 9, 2007
UN VIAJE, BIÓGRAFICO, CARGANDO LAS MALETAS DE LA POLÍTICA Y EL ARTE—by Ricardo Forster (Professor of History of Ideas, Universidad de Buenos Aires)

November 16, 2007
ACTION RESEARCH IN MULTI-STAKEHOLDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: EXPERIENCES FROM THE EL ÁNGEL WATERSHED IN NORTHERN ECUADOR—by Susan Poats (Anthropologist; President of Corporación Grupo Randi, Ecuador)

November 20, 2007
“RELATOS ENTRE CADENAS”: A FILM PRESENTATION—by Mady Samper (Colombian Film Director)

December 4, 2007
FORMER COLONIES: LOCAL OR UNIVERSAL?—by Roberto Schwarz (Brazilian literary critic)

December 13, 2007
MAYAN ELDERS TALK TO THE LATINO AND NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY—by Don Alejandro Cirilo Perez Oxlaj (Mayan High Priest) and Flordemayo (Mayan Elder and Member of the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers)

January 15, 2008
BOLIVIA: SERVICE AND LEARNING AMONG TUMULTUOUS POLITICS AND RISING INDIGENOUS IDENTITY—by Nicholas Biddle (Latin American Historian and Amizade Bolivia Project Director) with University of Pittsburgh student participants
February 6, 2008

PROFANATIONS OF CUBAN IDENTITY IN JOSÉ LEZAMA LIMA—by Juan Duchesne-Winter
(Professor of Latin American Literature, University of Pittsburgh)

February 18, 2008

FROM IMMIGRANT WORKERS TO DOMESTIC YOUTH: NEW KINDS OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS—Denise Brennan
(Associate Professor of Anthropology, Georgetown University)

March 3, 2008

LA AUTORIDAD EN UNA SOCIEDAD POST-COLONIAL: A PARTIR DEL CASO DEL PERÚ—by Gonzalo Portocarrero Maisch
(Profesor Principal del Departamento de Ciencias Sociales de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú)

March 18, 2008

“¿PUEDO HABLAR? MAY I SPEAK?” (A DOCUMENTARY FILM CHRONICLING THE 2006 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN VENEZUELA): A FILM PRESENTATION—by Christopher Moore (Film Director) and John Beverley
(Professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies, University of Pittsburgh)

New UCIS Director

CLAS is pleased to announce that on August 1, 2007 Lawrence Feick began his tenure as Senior Director of International Programs and Director of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Feick earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees at the University of Delaware and his PhD (1981) at Pennsylvania State University. He has been a member of the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business faculty since 1982 and, in the past, has served as the interim dean and the associate dean of the Katz School. As a Professor of Business Administration, he teaches marketing management and international marketing. His research includes work in international marketing (particularly cross-cultural consumer behavior), consumer information search, word-of-mouth influence, and the analysis of categorical data. Dr. Feick has designed a variety of international programs—Pitt’s Plus3, a joint business and engineering program designed while he was director of the International Business Center, was the winner of the 2005 Andrew Heiskell Award for innovation in international education. He is the coauthor of Country Manager, an international marketing simulation game, and has published articles in a range of professional journals in marketing, psychology, and survey research, including the Journal of Consumer Research, Journal of Marketing, Journal of Marketing Research, International Journal of Research in Marketing, Psychological Bulletin, and Public Opinion Quarterly. He has served as president of the Association for International Business Education and Research (AIBER) and the Sheth Foundation.
Distinguished Andeanist James B. Richardson III

CLAS faculty member James B. Richardson III (Professor, Anthropology) was feted as a Distinguished Andeanist on October 13, 2007 at the Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory, held at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. Dr. Richardson was presented with a plaque by Daniel H. Sandweiss (Dean and Associate Provost of Graduate Studies, Professor of Anthropology and Quaternary and Climate Studies, University of Maine, Orono) and Michael Malpass (Professor of Anthropology, Ithaca College). The inscription on the plaque reads:

Presented to
James B. Richardson III
Distinguished Andeanist

We present this plaque in recognition of your many activities on behalf of North American and Latin American archaeologists

The founder, organizers, and participants in the Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory

2007

The tribute by the Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory recognized Professor Richardson’s coordination of the H. John Heinz III Charitable Trust Grants for Archaeological Field Work in Latin America over the past 20 years, and his involvement in the Latin American Archaeology Program at the University of Pittsburgh since its creation in 1988.

The fact that Professors Sandweiss and Malpass presented the plaque was especially meaningful to Dr. Richardson. He and Dr. Sandweiss have been close collaborators on research concerning maritime adaptations and climate change—in particular, the origins and impact of El Niño on central Andean societies. Moreover, Drs. Richardson, Sandweiss, and Malpass directed an archaeological field school and research program at the Mid-Holocene Siches site near Talara, Peru in 2001—attended by Ithaca College undergraduates and Pitt and Maine graduate students. The Siches site was “rediscovered” by Professor Richardson in 1965 [Charles Barrington Brown, a British oil geologist, located and published on the site in 1922.] and was instrumental in stimulating his long career in research, publication, and teaching on maritime adaptations and climate change in Peru. [For more information on Professor Richardson, see CLASicos 62, page 7.]

Bellet Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Awardee Melanie Dreyer-Lude

CLAS faculty member Melanie Dreyer-Lude, an assistant professor in the University of Pittsburgh’s Department of Theatre Arts, was named a winner of the 2008 Tina and David Bellet Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award.

The Bellet Awards were established in 1998 with a $200,000 donation from School of Arts and Sciences alumnus David Bellet (CAS ’67) and his wife, Tina, to recognize outstanding and innovative undergraduate teaching in Arts and Sciences. A committee appointed by the Arts and Sciences associate dean for undergraduate studies evaluates teaching skills as evidenced by student-teaching and peer evaluations, student testimonials, and dossiers submitted by the nominees. Full-time faculty who have taught in Arts and Sciences over the past three years are eligible. Each award recipient receives a cash prize of $5,000.

Melanie is head of performance and director of the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program in performance pedagogy in Pitt’s theatre arts department. She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in theater and music
from the University of Denver in 1983. She earned a master’s degree in drama from Washington University in 1992 and an MFA degree in directing from Northwestern University in 2000. Prior to joining the University in 2000, she served from 1997 to 2000 as a teaching assistant in the Department of Theatre at Northwestern University. From 1993 to 1997, she was an artist-in-residence at Washington University and artistic director of ShatterMask Theatre, both in St. Louis, Mo. Among her numerous acting credits are roles in A Woman of No Importance, The House of Blue Leaves, On Golden Pond, Ten Little Indians, Camelot, and The Wizard of Oz. Her professional directing credits include plays in Capital Repertory Theater, Albany, N.Y.; Theater Rampe, Stuttgart, Germany; and Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theater, barebones productions, and Pitt Repertory Theater, Pittsburgh.

Melanie also has maintained an ongoing interest in Argentine theater. In December 2003, she presented a performance workshop on “Translation or Transference? The Function of Language in Storytelling across Cultures” for the international theatre festival “Experimenta 6 Teatro” hosted by El Rayo Misterio, in Rosario, Argentina. In November 2006, she directed A Toothache & A Plague & A Dog—three plays by Argentine playwright Osvaldo Dragún—at Pitt’s Studio Theater.

Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science George Klinzing

CLAS faculty member George E. Klinzing was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for his contribution to advancing science and its applications. The AAAS is the world’s largest society for general science and publisher of the journal Science. Professor Klinzing (Vice Provost for Research and the W.K. Whiteford Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering) received an AAAS Fellow in Engineering. This designation recognizes his distinguished research contributions in gas-solid flows, exploring measurement techniques, electrostatic effects, flow mappings, and dense phase transport in an effort to improve system design. His research focuses on solids processing in such areas as coal cleaning, coal-water slurries, and coal transport. He holds four patents in this area and has copyrights on four computer packages involving calculations and artificial intelligence. Dr. Klinzing earned his PhD degree in chemical engineering at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1963 and joined Pitt’s faculty in 1966 after three years on a university development project in Quito, Ecuador.

Roy C. Palmer Civil Liberties Prize Winner Jules Lobel

From the Pitt Chronicle VIII(32):1 [November 12, 2007]

Lobel Shares Civil Liberties Book Prize
By: Patricia Lomando White
Coauthors say U.S. “losing war on terror”

Jules L. Lobel, a University of Pittsburgh professor of law [and CLAS faculty member], and colleague David D. Cole have won the inaugural Roy C. Palmer Civil Liberties Prize from the Chicago-Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology for their book Less Safe, Less Free: Why America Is Losing the War on Terror (The New Press, 2007).

Lobel and Cole, a professor of law at Georgetown University, will share a $10,000 prize and give a spring 2008 presentation at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

The prize was established earlier this year by Chicago-Kent alumnus Roy C. Palmer, a lawyer and real estate developer, and his wife, Susan M. Palmer, to honor an exemplary work of scholarship that explores the tension between civil liberties and national security in contemporary American society.

In the book, the authors, who are constitutional law scholars, argue that the United States’ war on terrorism has foundered because of what they term the particularly aggressive “preventive paradigm” that the Bush Administration adopted in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Lobel and Cole set out to show that what they call “preemptive coercion” has not only compromised the rule of law in the name of prevention but also has made the United States more susceptible to future terrorist attacks.

The authors suggest that the way to keep America safe and free is to employ noncoercive measures and multilateral cooperation, relying on foreign relations rather than military might.

And, the authors propose, where coercion is necessary and appropriate, America must adhere to basic legal rules, treating the rule of law as an asset in the struggle to keep citizens safe and free.
Faculty Highlights (continued)

Lobel, professor of international and constitutional law in Pitt’s School of Law, also is vice president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, a national civil and human rights organization. He has been one of the foremost legal challengers of what he calls the exercise of unilateral presidential war-making for the past two decades.

Lobel also is author of Success Without Victory: Lost Legal Battles and the Long Road to Justice in America (New York University Press, 2004).

Cole, in addition to teaching at Georgetown University, is the legal affairs correspondent for The Nation, a regular contributor to the New York Review of Books, and the author of Enemy Aliens: Double Standards and Constitutional Freedoms in the War on Terrorism (The New Press, 2003), which won the American Book Award.

2008 Merle Curti Award Winner Marcus Rediker

CLAS Faculty member Marcus Rediker (Professor, Department of History) was selected as the 2008 Merle Curti Award winner for his book The Slave Ship: A Human History (Viking Penguin, 2007) by the Organization of American Historians (OAH). The award is given annually for the best book published in American social, intellectual, or cultural history. In The Slave Ship, Dr. Rediker said he set out to describe “what it meant to live in a wooden world.” He notes that what had happened on the slave ship informed what resulted on land. “It was a social and cultural process that changed people,” he explained. “And the repercussions from that process still resonate today.”


Kellogg Institute Visiting Fellow Aníbal Pérez-Liñán

CLAS faculty member Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (Associate Professor, Political Science) was a visiting fellow at the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, in Fall 2007. During Spring semester 2008, he is serving as a visiting professor at the Instituto de Iberoamérica in Salamanca, Spain. The following is an excerpt from an article titled “Visiting Fellow Profiles,” which appeared in the Spring 2008 Kellogg Institute (Newsletter of the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame) Number 49, pages 14-15. [For the complete issue, go to http://kellogg.nd.edu/publications/NL/NL49.pdf]

Aníbal Pérez-Liñán

Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, associate professor of political science and core faculty member at the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, focuses on questions at the intersection of the two themes.

“One of these topics is the new pattern of instability in Latin America, which usually takes the form of elected presidents being ousted from power but without the military taking over—it is specific governments that collapse, not the democratic regime itself.”

This problem was the focus of Pérez-Liñán’s research as a graduate student at Notre Dame, culminating in his dissertation, published as Presidential Impeachment and the New Political Instability in Latin America (Cambridge University Press, 2007), and continues to engage him.

“Rather than disappearing, this trend has increased in recent years. Unfortunately, the work was timely.”

Currently, Pérez-Liñán, a native of Argentina, is juggling three works-in-progress. One is a comparative study of judicial independence in Latin America. Another analyzes the impact of US funds targeted for democracy promotion and funneled by USAID to 165 countries around the world, partially reported with Steven Finkel and Mitchell Seligson earlier this year in World Politics.
Initially pessimistic, Pérez-Liñán was surprised to find that the funding did have measurable impact. Analysis showed that “funding for democracy is more effective in less developed countries, and, paradoxically, in countries in which there is state failure or civil war. It seems to be more effective in countries that need it the most—and less effective in countries that receive a very high share of total US military assistance in a given year.”

His return to Kellogg allowed Pérez-Liñán to devote himself to his third project with a frequent coauthor, Faculty Fellow SCOTT MAINWARING. Together, they are writing a new manuscript that explores democratization from a different perspective.

“If you look at the history of Latin America, or any other region for that matter, democracies do not usually emerge in isolation. When a democracy emerges in one country, it is very likely you will see transitions to democracy in other countries.

“We want to know why it is that democratization happens in waves and why the wave in the 80s was much more stable and durable than previous waves. Also, we want to understand why some of the democracies now in place are eroding.”

Several findings stand out as the coauthors near the conclusion of their first draft.

“International conditions have a lot of impact on the process of democratization, which goes against traditional work that mainly emphasized domestic conditions. Clearly, the fact that multiple countries move into democracy at the same time indicates this is not just something happening in an individual country.”

“We have also found that different regions of the world have different causal dynamics. Even if you do statistical work, creating a model for the whole world may not be useful.”

Faculty Publications

[Please note: The following list does not represent a complete report of all of the publications produced by the Center’s 120+ associated faculty members over the past few years. The list fundamentally reflects information submitted by some of these faculty in response to a request from CLAS.]

Mark B. Abbott (Geology and Planetary Science)

George Reid Andrews (History)

Robert S. Barker (Law)

• 2007. “La Responsabilidad del Gobierno de Dar Cuenta: La Experiencia de los Estados Unidos,” 92 Revista del Foro 79 (Lima, Peru, 2006*). [*The journal officially identifies the year-of-publication as 2006, but the actual year-of-publication was 2007.]

Alvaro Bernal (Spanish, Humanities Division, Johnstown campus)

Mary E. Besterfield-Sacre (Industrial Engineering)
Faculty Publications (continued)


**Walter P. Carson** (Biological Sciences)

**James Cassing** (Economics)

**María Auxiliadora Cordero** (Anthropology)

**Alejandro de la Fuente** (History)

**Patricia Documét** (Public Health)

**Robert D. Drennan** (Anthropology)

**Seymour Drescher** (History)

**Juan Duchesne-Winter** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)
- 2007. “¿A dónde vas ciudadano?,” *Plural* (San Juan) julio-agosto [ensayo].

**Erie Graff Zivin** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

**Cecilia A. Green** (Sociology)
Gonzalo Lamana (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

Jules Lobel (Law)

Oscar L. Lopez (Medicine)


Patrick Manning (History)


Carmelo Mesa-Lago (Economics)

Faculty Publications (continued)


Daniel Mossé (Computer Science)


Paul Nelson (Public and International Affairs)


Josephine E. Olson (Business)


Erin O’Rourke (Linguistics)

Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (Political Science)

Louis A. Picard (Public and International Affairs)


Frits K. Pil (Business)


Shalini Puri (English)

Marcus Rediker (History)


James B. Richardson III (Anthropology)


Marla Ripoll (Economics)

Richard Scaglion (Anthropology)


Faculty Publications (continued)

Larry J. Shuman (Industrial Engineering)

Ronald D. Stall (Public Health)

David R. Watters (Anthropology)

¡Felicitaciones/Parabéns to the most recent CLAS graduates!

Related Concentration in Latin American Studies
December 2007
Chrismas Bailey—ARTSC: Spanish; Minor: Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Culture
Takisha Townsend—ARTSC: Spanish
April 2008 (anticipated graduation)
Jenna Lynne Arment—ARTSC: Neuroscience
Jessica Lynn Benes—ARTSC: English Writing
Briana Diane McDivitt—ARTSC: Studio Arts
Justin Michael Mountain—ARTSC: History/Anthropology
Amanda Dawn Paxton—ARTSC: History/Spanish
Sarah Margaret Voye—SRHS: Rehabilitation Science

Undergraduate Certificate in Latin American Studies
December 2007
Nicole Makrinos—ARTSC: Spanish
Elizabeth Martino—ARTSC: History
Michael Santos—ARTSC: Biological Sciences
Karen Unger—ARTSC: History

April 2008 (anticipated graduation)
Jesse A. Blumenstock—ARTSC: Biological Sciences
Laura Mastrangelo Bové—ARTSC: Politics-Philosophy
Meghan Caitlin Byrne—ARTSC: Biological Sciences/Spanish
Meagan Kathleen Carnahan—ARTSC: Psychology
Kathryn E. Charlton—ARTSC: Linguistics
Lauren Elizabeth Cox—ARTSC: Urban Studies
Margaret Anne Daloisio—SHRS: Rehabilitation Science
Kandi Lee Felmet—ARTSC: Psychology/Sociology
Kelly Allison Grout—ARTSC: Psychology
Brooke Aleta Harkness—ARTSC: English Literature/Spanish
Amy B. Herlich—ARTSC: Spanish/Business
Clenk Hans Hermoza—ARTSC: Psychology/Spanish
Frederick Kenneth Hernández—ARTSC: Spanish
Amelia B. Marritz—ARTSC: Sociology/Spanish; Minor: Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Culture
Faculty Publications (continued)


Marla Ripoll (Economics)


Ronald D. Stall (Public Health)


David R. Watters (Anthropology)

Lauren Ann McCalla—ARTSC: Political Science
Colette N. Menaldino—ARTSC: Politics-Philosophy/Economics
Megan L. Park—ARTSC: French/Spanish
Ashley R. Petraglia—ARTSC: Environmental Studies
Teresa Elizabeth Pizzella—ARTSC: History
Nathan Matko Riley—ARTSC: Spanish
Amy Risko—ARTSC: Psychology
Lauren E. Scott—ARTSC: Communication/Business
Anne Elizabeth Seiler—ARTSC: Biological Sciences
Katie Elizabeth Sheatzley—ARTSC: Psychology/Spanish
Daniel Kline Sherrill—ARTSC: Music
Ravit Rahel Shpiez—ARTSC: Spanish
David Anthony Slebodnik—ARTSC: Spanish/Anthropology
Megan Elaine Soukup—ARTSC: Linguistics
José Manuel del Río Zolezzi—GSPIA: Urban and Regional Affairs
Yadira E. García—EDUCATION: Administrative and Policy Studies
Ana Carolina Garriga—ARTSC: Political Science
Patrick W. Littell—ARTSC: Linguistics
Cílitali Martínez—ARTSC: Hispanic Languages and Literatures
Gabriela Nuñez—ARTSC: Communication/Hispanic Languages and Literatures
Miguel L. Rojas-Sotelo—ARTSC: History of Art and Architecture
Katia Mara Silva—GSPIA: Development Planning and Environmental Sustainability
Viviana Siveroni Salinas—ARTSC: Anthropology
Katrina Elizabeth Spillane—GSPIA: NGOs and Civil Society
Rebecca Anne Vonada—GSPIA: Development Planning and Environmental Sustainability
Sarah Lake Vuong—Law (JD)/GSPIA: Human Security
Sarah E. Wagner—GSPIA: Global Political Economy

Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies
December 2007
Caleb Holtzer—GSPIA: Development Planning and Environmental Sustainability/GSPH: Behavioral and Community Health Sciences
April 2008 (anticipated graduation)
Jaclyn M. Belczyk—Law (JD)

Graduate Certificate in Latin American Social and Public Policy
December 2007
Veronica Lifrieri—ARTSC: Hispanic Linguistics
April 2008 (anticipated graduation)
Eric Hulsey—GSPH: Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (PhD)
Nerissa M. Lindenfelser—GSPIA: Development Planning and Environmental Sustainability

Student and Alumni News

Mauricio Achata, along with three other law (JD) students, participated in the 2007 Niagara International Moot Court Competition in Cleveland, Ohio.


Anadeli Bencomo (PhD 1999 Hispanic Languages and Literatures), an Associate Professor of Latin American Literature at the University of Houston, returned to Pitt during the fall term to present a lecture for the department and CLAS. (Details about the lecture and a photo of Anadeli appear in a previous section of this issue.) In 2007, Anadeli published a coedited volume on transnational studies entitled Ir y Venir. Procesos transnacionales entre América Latina y el norte (Santiago, Chile: Bravo y Allende Editores). Her husband, Alex Bruton (MPIA 1996 GSPIA–Economic and Social Development), works at Moroch advertising firm; he also teaches a class at the University of Houston on “Marketing to US Hispanic Consumers.”
David Bergad (BA 1978 Self-Designed) who was a member of CLAS’ first field trip to Brazil in 1976, writes: “I still bring up my Brazil experience when meeting new people. I’ve told my undergraduate story to countless folks over the years, so it feels like just yesterday. With the wonderful world of email, I was able to reconnect with a member of my host family from Belo Horizonte! We will always be brothers, he assures me!” David has been the sound editor for nearly fifty major films, see: http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0073933. One (and a CLAS staff favorite) that David did a great deal of work on, including interpreting in Portuguese, is “At Play in the Fields of the Lord.” When post-film production jobs became scarce, David worked for a short time in real estate in San Francisco. He is now back in the film industry, working with old friends at the Saul Zaentz Company (www.zaentz.com) where he is the assistant to Saul; David also is in charge of licensing film stills, clips and screenings. The company holds the rights to “Lord of the Rings” and “we were all in London last June to attend the opening of the musical on the West End. What a great trip! I work with lots of great folks and Saul still comes to work everyday at 87!”

The Bergads in Brazil: Dr. Laird Bergad (see CLASicos 62) continues to split his time between NY and Brazil where he has a house on the coast of Bahia in Trancoso. Carol Bergad has lived in Belo Horizonte since 1981 where she is an English teacher. David, on the other hand, has not been in Brazil for 13 years but did travel to Thailand, Cambodia, and Bali in April 2007.

Lisle Brunner and four other students/graduates from the School of Law participated in the 2007 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition regionals held in Philadelphia, PA.


Julio F. Carrión (PhD 1993 Political Science), Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations and Director of the Latin American Studies Program, has been at the University of Delaware since 1998. From LARR, Julio’s “...main research interests focus on public opinion and political behavior in Latin America. He is currently working on the microfoundations of mass support for illiberal rule in Latin America, and on a book about social transformations and political change in the Andes.” His most recent publications include Cultura Política de la Democracia en el Perú with Patricia Zárate (Lima: Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 2007) and The Fujimori Legacy: The Rise of Electoral Authoritarianism in Peru (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006). Julio’s review essay on “Authoritarianism and Democracy in the Andes: State Weakness, Hybrid Regimes, and Societal Responses” appears in the Latin American Research Review, 42:3 (2007):222-234. One of the books reviewed is that of another renowned political scientist and Pitt alumna, Catherine M. Conaghan, Fujimori’s Peru: Deception in the Public Sphere (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005).

Ricardo Córdova Macías (PhD 2001 Political Science) was a Visiting Research Scholar and Visiting Associate Professor with Princeton’s Latin American Studies program during the fall semester 2007. Ricardo is the Executive Director of FUNDAUNGO in El Salvador. La Fundación Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo “es una institución privada sin fines de lucro, creada en 1992 con la misión de contribuir al desarrollo democrático del país, para mejorar la calidad de vida de los salvadoreños y salvadoreñas en un marco de participación y ampliación de las oportunidades económicas, sociales y políticas de la población. FUNDAUNGO funciona como un centro de estudios e investigaciones y como una entidad dedicada a la educación, capacitación y asesoría que ofrece servicios mediante programas y proyectos orientados al alcance de los siguientes objetivos: (1) Mejoramiento de la capacidad propositiva de la sociedad civil para orientar a la solución de los problemas comunes; (2) Municipios con una gestión de gobierno más participativa y orientada al desarrollo local, equidad y democracia; (3) Ampliación de las oportunidades educativas, productivas y de gestión del sector laboral formal e informal.” www.Fundaungo.org.sv

Luciana Sleiman Cozman (MA 1996 Political Science) sends greetings from Santos, Brazil where she continues her work in the family’s Social Security Law Practice. Her husband, Fabio, is now a full professor at the Mechatronics Department at the Universidade de São Paulo. They have two children—Isabel, 5 years old, and Nicholas, 11.
Jorge Enrique Delgado is a doctoral student in Social and Comparative Analysis in Education, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, in Pitt’s School of Education. The Law Center of the University of Houston published Jorge’s “Science and Technology and Scientific Publication in Latin American Higher Education” in the 2007-08 monograph series of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance (IHELG). For information on obtaining a copy or to communicate with Jorge about his work on the production and dissemination of knowledge in Latin American universities, contact him at jdelgado4501@yahoo.com.ar.

Rebecca Englert, doctoral student in Anthropology, received a Fulbright Fellowship for dissertation research in Mexico during academic year 2007-08.

Marilyn Feke Manley (PhD 2004 Hispanic Languages and Literatures) was awarded the “Junior Faculty Innovative Teaching Award” at Rowan University where she is an Assistant Professor in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department. She received the award for incorporating Quechua into two Honors Program courses.

While at Pitt, Marilyn was a recipient of the prestigious U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for the study of Quechua during academic year 2000-01, summer 2001, and academic year 2001-02. The following are some excerpts about Marilyn’s use of Quechua in the teaching at Rowan University from Rowan Today (October 17, 2007). For the complete article, see: http://www.rowan.edu/today/news/index/PR/1899.

Passion for teaching—and teaching Quechua—earns Manley Rowan’s Junior Faculty Innovative Teaching Award

...Manley, who recently received Rowan’s Junior Faculty Innovative Teaching Award, believes students learn more about a language when they have some personal involvement with it.

To that end, she created two Honors courses—‘Linguistics and Cultures of Native South America,’ co-taught with Geography/Anthropology Professor Maria Rosado, and ‘Modern Descendants of the Incas: Quechua Language, Culture and History’—to educate Rowan students about the language and the cultural diversity of South America’s native peoples.

Both courses included the study of Quechua, one of her research specialties. Quechua is a language that's spoken by about 10 million descendants of the Incan Empire in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, northern Chile, northern Argentina, southern Columbia and western Brazil. According to Manley, Rowan is one of approximately 20 universities in the United States that teaches the Quechua language.

“Quechua is a less commonly taught language and it’s rare to find the study of it anywhere in the United States,” says Manley, who studied the language at the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned her doctorate.

“One of the big motivators to learn language is culture,” she continues. “In learning the culture and the history, students learn the context of the language.”

According to Manley, Quechua has always been primarily an oral language. Only recently—in the 1970s—linguists devised a written system for the Quechua language. During the reign of the Incan Empire, speakers used quipu, a system of knotted ropes, to communicate at a distance. In class, Manley taught students to tie quipu knots. Additionally, she taught her students the wayno, a traditional Andean dance.

Students learned traditional Andean music by playing pan-pipes known as zampoñas. And in both courses she developed, the class visited local alpaca farms, where students learned about alpacas, which are widely used as domestic animals by Quechua speakers....

“Rather than simply memorizing Quechua vocabulary words and learning facts about the Incan culture in a vacuum, these students emerged from both classes feeling as though they had come to experience and know Andean culture and Quechua language in a very personal way,” she adds....

Established by Rowan Writing Arts Professor Sanford Tweedie, Rowan’s Junior Faculty Innovative Teaching Award recognizes a junior faculty member who demonstrates “innovative and meaningful teaching that promotes student learning.”...

“The selection committee was particularly impressed with the diversity of learning experiences, both in and outside the classroom, that Professor Manley included in her courses,” Tweedie says. “And student evaluations lauded her teaching abilities.”

Anne Garland Neel (BA 2006 Spanish) was admitted to graduate school at Tulane, Vanderbilt, and Emory. She was awarded funding for graduate studies at all three schools. After visits and much deliberation, she accepted the offer from Emory University where she has a five-year fellowship for doctoral studies in Spanish. Anne Garland is very excited about getting back into academe. (Was there ever any doubt in anyone’s mind that she would eventually be a prof? Not in the mind of CLAS’ academic advisor!) The faculty and graduate students at Emory were extremely helpful and welcoming, and an additional bonus is that Emory is only two hours from Birmingham and Anne Garland’s family.

Claudio Gomez (MPA 2002 GSPIA—Public and Non-profit Management) had one week’s notice to leave his former position and move to the museum as the Director
CLAS Khipukamayuq (continued)

(National Museum of Chile). “The selection process started in early February and I got the phone call offering me the position on April 10th (at 5:30 PM!) On April 18th I was here giving my first speech to the staff (62 people). My appointment lasts for 3 years, renewable for another 3 years. After that I have to apply to the position in an open selection process, just like I did this time. I do not have to tell you how interesting and challenging this job is, but...the most attractive thing of coming here was to start a process that will get a fully renovated museum as a result....This museum is 177 years old, as old as the Smithsonian itself and many other museums in South and North America.”

Carly Gordon (BA 2006 Spanish/Anthropology) writes: “...the English Opens Doors program made a promotional video about the program and asked me to be in it, so for about 2 days straight a camera crew was taping my every move here in Chile (of course a lot of it was staged!) It was so funny, and such a great experience.” See: http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=7038V-YYCJ8. If anyone has any questions about the program, Carly would be happy to try to answer them. Contact her at: carlypg_7@hotmail.com.

In February, Emily Haimowitz (BA 2007 Spanish/Political Science) departed for Costa Rica where she will be a Peace Corps Volunteer for the next two years. Viva Voluntarios del Cuerpo de Paz!

Christine Indovina (BA 2004 Spanish) finished her second term as an AmeriCorps member in 2006. Her primary role in AmeriCorps was to help rebuild the post-Katrina ESL program in New Orleans where she currently works as a paid staff member. Her official title is Program Coordinator and Instructor of the Hispanic Apostolate Community Services ESL Program/Catholic Charities of New Orleans. The program is for adult-education English as a Second Language. Christine is applying to various schools to get a master’s degree in TESOL. Could she be a Peace Corps Volunteer for the next two years. Viva Voluntarios del Cuerpo de Paz!


Margarita Jara (PhD 2006 Hispanic Languages and Literatures) published “Integrating Technology into a Dialectology Class,” Academic Exchange Quarterly 22(4):38-44 (2007). Last summer, Margarita and the CLAS khipukamayuq who had just descended from the altiplano met for a café in Miraflores. From Lima, Margarita traveled to Iquitos where she spent almost three weeks doing interviews for her research on language ideologies in Amazonian Spanish dialects. Upon returning to the University of Las Vegas, she learned that her article (cited above) had been accepted for publication.

Carlos Jáuregui (PhD 2001 Hispanic Languages and Literatures), Enrique Dussell, and Mabel Moraña* are the editors of Coloniality at Large: Latin America and the Postcolonial Debate (Duke University Press, 2008). This nearly 700-page study with contributions by over 20 scholars: “... brings together classic and new reflections on the theoretical implications of colonialism in Latin America. By pointing out its particular characteristics, the contributors highlight some of the philosophical and ideological blind-spots of contemporary postcolonial theory as they offer a thorough analysis of that theory’s applicability to Latin America’s past and present. Written by internationally renowned scholars based in Latin America, the United States, and Europe, the essays reflect multiple disciplinary and ideological perspectives. Some are translated into English for the first time. The essays include theoretical reflections, literary criticism, and historical and ethnographic case studies focused on Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Brazil, the Andes, and the Caribbean” (www.dukeupress.edu). Carlos A. Jáuregui is Associate Professor of Spanish and Anthropology at Vanderbilt University. Carlos also has a second book in press: The Conquest on Trial: Carvajal’s Complaint of the Indians in the ‘Court of Death’ (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2008).

* Mabel Moraña is the William H. Gass Professor of Arts and Sciences and Director of the Latin American Studies Program at Washington University, St. Louis. She was formerly the Chair and Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literatures at Pitt.
Dorcas Jenkins Francisco
(BA 1999 Japanese/Spanish) completed the MPIA in GSPIA in 2001 and the EdD in Education with a specialization on Human Development in 2007. The focus of her field research was bilingual education in Mozambique. Dorcas, her husband, Laudemino Francisco who earned a PhD in Political Economy at Howard University, and their daughter, Maya, who is two years old, have made Mozambique their home. It was truly a delight to welcome Dorcas back to campus. Dorcas participated in the CLAS Seminar/Field trip to Montevideo, Uruguay in 1996 as a freshman. She not only completed an outstanding field research project but also provided an outstanding example for others to follow of adapting to and learning from difficult cultural situations. Congratulations, Dorcas, on all of your life’s accomplishments!

Patricia Kanashiro (MID 2005 GSPIA—Development Planning and Environmental Sustainability) participated in The Washington Business Research Forum held in Arlington, VA, on January 4-5. Patricia presented a paper on: “ABN AMRO Real Bank: Public-private Partnership to Address Socioeconomic Vulnerability of Children and Adolescents in Brazil.” Sponsored in collaboration with Howard University and the National HBCU Business Dean Roundtable, the forum included over 20 papers by professors from Howard, George Washington, Morehouse, Marymount, and six other universities. Sessions focused on Finance, Accounting, Management and Marketing, and Information Systems and Technology. Patricia was the only student among the 40 professors who presented. The papers will be published in a forthcoming journal. Patricia is a student in the doctoral program of economics at George Washington University. She also has an internship with the International Labour Organization (ILO) of the United Nations where she is researching forms of cooperation among multilateral agencies and other organizations to increase global awareness about child labor and slave labor. Patricia’s was among the 10,000 applications for the World Bank’s Young Professional Program; from that pool, 800 applicants were selected to submit a detailed application. Patricia was one of the 800! Only 35 positions are available.

Gerard LaForgia (PhD 1990 Public Health) continues to live and work in São Paulo for the World Bank. He expects to be there through July 2008; after that he may be reassigned to South or East Asia. Jerry and Ada have two children: Ambar is attending her first year of college and Anthony goes to college next year.

Matthew Ligozio (MBA 1999 Finance) is Senior Vice President-Change Mgt Executive, Bank of America in Atlanta, Georgia. Since graduating from Pitt, Matthew completed training to become a Certified Treasury Professional.

Jennifer Belobrajdic Lisotto Baumann (MPIA 2002 GSPIA—Economics and Social Development) is a Senior Consultant in the health field (specializing in HIV/AIDS) in Johannesburg, South Africa. “I’ve been in southern Africa since I graduated (even though I had every intention of moving to Brasil!) but the first opportunity I got to work in development took me to Africa instead.”

Doctoral students Carolina Maldonado (Education) and Miguel Garcia (Political Science) are the happy parents of Pablo Garcia-Maldonado who was born January 21 at 6:52 a.m. Pablo weighed 5 pounds, 2 ounces at birth. Follow the link to see pictures of the family’s first hours together. From Miguel: “As you can see, we are absolutely thrilled with our baby boy!” http://www.flickr.com/photos/22791463@N08/sets/72157603775060050

Mary Frances Malone (PhD Political Science), husband Sascha, and daughter Sonia happily announced the addition to their family of Eva Martina Barth-Malone. Eva Martina was born on January 30, 2008, weighed in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 inches head to toe. Congratulations!
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Emlyn R. Mandel, a sophomore in Political Science and Spanish, received the Helen Pool Rush Nationality Room Scholarship to study the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture at the Universidade Federal da Bahia in Salvador da Bahia, Brasil.

Andrea Marcolla, a sophomore in sociology, was awarded the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Nationality Room Scholarship for study of the Spanish language and research in sociology in Puebla, Mexico.

Megan McLean, doctoral student in history, visited Pittsburgh in February 2008 to present a talk entitled “Squatters in Paradise: The Development of Cancún, 1970-2000,” as part of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate Program Speaker Series in the Department of History. Megan plans to defend in the fall or winter of next year. In the meantime, she is very busy with her daughter Ruby. Megan and her husband, Michael Ervin (PhD 2002 History), teach history at Central Washington University where Mike also directs the Latin American Studies program.

This spring Phillip McKissick (BA 2002 History) will complete the master’s degree in Public Policy and Management, H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University. As part of his degree program, Phillip became involved in a systems synthesis group project to build an interactive web portal for winners of the Equator Prize, which is awarded by the UNDP to worldwide communities involved in sustainable development. The objective is to give these community organizations a strong web presence, to share best practices, connect to donors, and interact with other communities. Phillip returned to study in Pittsburgh after spending two years (2003-2005) in Peace Corps/Bolivia. There he was a sanitation volunteer in the Department of Oruro in the altiplano. During most of his time in Oruro, he worked on a government-NGO-Peace Corps collaborative project in the development of a low-cost well drilling method to provide potable water in rural areas. The project was successful and resulted in the expansion of Peace Corps presence and more potable water to other villages in Oruro.

Benjamin Meriçli, a junior in engineering physics and linguistics, was invited, along with a number of other Pitt students, to present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Maryland. Ben presented his findings from field research completed during the CLAS 2006 field trip to Ecuador: “Intersections of Afro-Ecuadorian Culture and Language: A Sociolinguistics Profile of Ecuador’s Chota Valley.” Salisbury University was the host of the conference, held on April 10-12, 2008. “NCUR® 22 will bring together undergraduates involved in scholarly and artistic activities from more than 300 colleges and universities in the nation. Since the first conference in 1987, NCUR® has grown to become a major annual event drawing well over 2200 undergraduates, faculty and administrators to promote undergraduate research in all fields of study.”

Hanne Muller (MPIA 2004 GSPIA—Development Planning and Environmental Sustainability) and Siddhartha Baviskar (PhD 2004 Political Science) send their greetings to all from Denmark via Ravi (their smiling son in the photo). In 2007, Siddhartha was appointed as a researcher at the Danish National Centre for Social Research. Hanne completed a course in process management at the Danish Gymnastics and Sports Association (the NGO where she works). Oscar Ravi is acquiring a working vocabulary and is now able to communicate his needs very effectively. “Among his favorite words are: baba (father), moar (mother), nej (no; usually uttered with great vehemence), ja (yes), tisk (biscuit), baaboo (any vehicle that resembles an ambulance or fire engine), jinjin (the meaning of which still eludes us), baby (the Infant Jesus) and last but not least trator (tractor).” Quiz for readers: Which of the six (or seven including baby talk) languages shared by this international family are given above?

Jorge Papadopulos (PhD 2001 Political Science) was named Director of the Banco de Previsión Social in a formal ceremony held in November 2007 in Montevideo: “El Directorio del Banco de Previsión Social tiene el agrado de [anunciar] la ceremonia de asunción del Dr. Jorge Papadópulos como Director de este Organismo, que se realizará el día lunes 26 de noviembre.”

Monica Perz-Waddington (BPhil 1989 Economics/History/Latin American Studies) was rediscovered through the newsletter of the Pennsylvania Governor’s School for International Studies (PGSIS) where she worked for three summers during her undergraduate years.
in Pittsburgh. From the *Friends of PGSSIS Annual Newsletter* 2007-08: “My world now is my family and my community in Northern Virginia/metro Washington, D.C. My husband Dave and I have three wonderful boys—Joseph (8), Theodore (5), and Jeffrey (2). We live in Springfield, Va. For the time being, my master’s degree in public health from John Hopkins University is on the back burner while I attend to my calling as a mother and pastoral musician. My previous work in refugee and immigrant health policy and HIV/AIDS prevention education called on all my experiences working across cultures and using my Spanish language skills. Now I teach my children Spanish (my eldest is in a Spanish immersion program); sing songs from all over the world; play drums from Africa, the Middle East, and Ireland; and interact in a very multi-ethnic community. As a music minister, I direct folk choirs in two churches in Arlington, VA; compose music for psalms and general worship; and collaborate with our Spanish-speaking choirs for special celebrations. I also write secular songs and hope that everyone can hear my rendition of ‘Pancakes’ on their favorite radio station some day. A few years ago, I produced a CD—Truly Loved—to minister to people in need of peace and consolation, especially those who have had miscarriages.”

**M. Amalia Pesantes**, a doctoral student in anthropology, was awarded the Schweitzer fellowship. “The Pittsburgh Albert Schweitzer Fellows Program (PSFP) is a one-year interdisciplinary fellowship program focused on community service and leadership development. PSFP is one of eight programs in the nation of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship....the Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program provides service opportunities for professionals-in-training who seek to help the underserved in the Greater Pittsburgh area.” Amalia’s proposed project in 2008-09 will involve working with the Latino community of Pittsburgh to reduce health disparities by providing information on existing inexpensive or free health services for people without insurance and by participating in events where this information can be provided in Spanish and in a timely fashion.

**Kenneth Polsky** (MPIA 1998 GSPIA—Economic and Social Development) is the Regional Representative for Latin America for Catholic Relief Services based in Baltimore, MD. Ken had worked with Catholic Relief Services previously as Head of Programming in Nigeria, 2005-2007, and as Emergency and Livelihoods Advisor in Southern Africa, 2001-2005. In 1999-2001, Ken worked with Action Against Hunger in Honduras, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. From 1995-1998, while he was completing the master’s degree, he also worked as the Caribbean Programs Coordinator with Global Links in Pittsburgh. Congratulations, Ken, on working to make a difference in this world!

**Amira Rahim**, a junior in sociology, was selected as a member of the Class of 2008 Young People For (YP4). “… (YP4) is a long-term leadership development program that identifies, engages and empowers progressive leaders to promote social change in their communities…. [the] year-long fellowship program for college students starts with an all-expenses-paid National Summit in Washington, D.C., and provides organizational and financial support for executing meaningful social justice work.” As a member of the PA League of Young Voters and Student Vote Coalition, she increased the number of student voters on campus. With Working America, she encouraged workers to vote during the final four days before elections. In March 2007, she lobbied Congress with USSA to increase higher education funding. Amira is committed to widening access to higher education and is the president and founder of the university’s first Minority Pre-Law Association which establishes a network for traditionally underrepresented students in the legal field.

**Brent Rondon** (MPA 1995 GSPIA: Public Management and Policy) currently serves as the Manager of Global Business Programs, Duquesne University Small Business Development Center. Brent, who worked at CLAS back in his student days, was recently named the 2008 Western Pennsylvania Small Business Week/Minority Small Business Champion of the Year by the Pittsburgh District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Congratulations Brent, on this wonderful honor!

**Miguel Rojas Sotelo**, doctoral candidate in the History of Art and Architecture, returned to Pittsburgh from North Carolina to present a lecture in the Department of History of Art and Architecture in November 2007, entitled “Alternative Aesthetics, the Street, the Media and the Environment.” He also recently had an article published in *Disfagia*, the online journal, entitled “Our Space is Our Time: Preliminary Report on Latin American New Artistic Practices.”
Kelly J. Flynn-Saldaña (MPIA 2001 GSPIA: Economic and Social Development/MPH 2001 GSPH: Behavioral and Community Health Sciences) is the Senior Public Health Advisor and Deputy Health Team Leader in the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at USAID. Kelly performs management functions in relation to the health team and health budgeting for the region and also advises on matters related to public health in general and health systems reform specifically. She travels to Latin America frequently as part of her job. The newest addition to the Flynn-Saldaña family is Lucy who was born on January 29, 2008. Her sister, Abigail, is now 3 years old.

Amy Scott Matsuo (BA 1992 Spanish/Political Science) is the Director of KPMG LLP, Financial Services Regulatory Practice, in Cary, North Carolina. “I just came back from a Copper Canyon, Mexico tour. It was beautiful and all [my] Spanish came back!” Viva CLAS!!

Michelle Seyman Gerdano (BA 1978 Political Science/Spanish) has been doing appellate litigation for 23 years in the Solicitor’s Office of the Department of Labor. Her husband, Sam, continues as the Executive Director of the American Bankruptcy Institute (bet he’s busy these days...). Marisa, their oldest daughter, graduated from Georgetown Visitation in June 2007 and is now finishing off her first year of college at the University of Dallas. She will spend the fall semester 2008 in Rome, Italy, where UD has a campus. Sammy is 16 and a sophomore and is on the varsity ice hockey team (3-time state champs). Natalie at 13 is an avid fan of Harry Potter (as is one Brazilian CLAS staff member).

The Skillins left the U.S. for Quito, Ecuador in August 2007 where Kevin (MPIA 1998 GSPIA—Economic and Social Development) began his job as the Cultural Affairs Officer in the U.S. Embassy. The Embassy employs about 300 Americans and Ecuadorians. One of Kevin’s first assignments was to plan a multi-city trip for the Ambassador to get to know the central highlands region, as well as meet folks who are working on USAID projects in the area. Kevin also works with visiting artists. He accompanied the members of “AFAR,” a hip hop group from Atlanta, to concerts in Guayaquil, Riobamba, and Quito. In turn, the Jazz Envoys, a group of four Ecuadorian jazz musicians, spent two weeks in the U.S. at a jazz camp in Kentucky and in Washington, D.C. Kevin acted as the MC for the Jazz Envoys’ concert in the coastal city of Esmeraldas. Quite a diverse job, Kevin has! Becky is teaching English privately; she also teaches the girls’ Sunday school class (in Spanish). The children, Timmy and Laura, attend Alliance Academy International which has a U.S. curriculum with classes taught in English; it is a Christian school with about 440 students K-12. The children take daily Spanish classes but Becky says they pick up a lot more Spanish on the bus! Timmy is 8 or perhaps 9 by the time this is printed and in 3rd grade; Laura is 6 and in kindergarten; Anna was 3 in February.

“As the Cultural Affairs Officer, Kevin will continue to promote the diversity of American art and culture here in Ecuador. So far, he has traveled to the coast, the jungle, and the central highlands helping bring artists and others meet and discuss their craft with Ecuadorians. A watercolor artist, hip hop musicians, the director of the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, a modern dance troupe from Seattle, and an ecological sociologist are some of the visiting experts that came from the States to give presentations and open discussions. Kevin really likes promoting ‘mutual understanding’ by working with such interesting people throughout Ecuador.” [The Skillin Newsletter]

Stephanie Schuessler, a senior majoring in history and Spanish, spent the first weeks of January in El Salvador as a member of Global Youth Connect. This is a national organization that takes about ten people (ages 18-25) to countries that have struggled with human rights abuses and/or civil wars. It is basically a multicultural learning experience dealing with the topic of human rights. The group worked with Salvadoreans, visited massacre sites, attended lectures, and did volunteer work. The final report of the group’s accomplishments can be read at: http://www.globalyouthconnect.org/pdf/salvador_report2008.pdf.
Mitchell A. Seligson is an alumnus of CLAS and Pitt (PhD 1974), former professor of political science at Pitt, and former director of CLAS (1986-1992). His LAPOP project at Vanderbilt University continues to receive major funding and accolades. His students and colleagues are reaping the benefits! See www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop. Mitchell recently appeared in Vanderbilt’s Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies newsletter with former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso who lectured at Vanderbilt in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Center in 2007. ¡Congratulations to Mitchell and to Vanderbilt’s CLAIS!

Lynn Guadalupe Staigers (MID 2007 GSPIA—Development Planning and Environmental Sustainability) is enjoying her job with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Given that her field of experience and expertise has been Latin America, she has been attending many events and seminars on a wide range of development issues concerning various world regions. “I have attended numerous conferences on global warming and its impact on developing countries and what can be done about it. That is probably the subject that has caught my attention the most. It is a very complicated topic—as the countries that will be impacted most by climate change have contributed the least to the problem, yet are the most vulnerable and lack the capacity to deal with the problems it causes.” A recent business trip to Malawi was Lupe’s first trip outside of the Americas. Lupe also is in charge of the JICA’s newsletter that is distributed to the World Bank, USAID, and other organizations.

Linda S. Stevenson (PhD 2000 Political Science) is Assistant Professor of Political Science at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Her review article entitled “Fragmented Feminisms and Disillusion with Democracy: Social Movement Downswings, Inadequate Institutions, and Alliances under Construction in Latin America,” appeared in Latin American Research Review 42:3:205-221. Linda focuses her research and publications on public policy as well as issues of gender in relationship to civil society and globalization in Latin America generally but especially on Mexico. In addition to teaching and publishing, Linda is Coordinator of Latin American Studies at West Chester.

Mahogany Thaxton (BA 2006 Communication) works for Federal Express (Fed Ex) in inside sales. She manages a territory (small portions of five states, including NY, NH, PA, MA, and VT) by increasing and maintaining transportation revenue for over 1,000 customers. She helps people “grow their business.” In the process, she herself has “learned more about the transportation industry than I ever thought was possible!” She provides logistical and transportation solutions for business. Although she hasn’t been using her considerable Spanish language skills, she hopes to have the opportunity to work within FedEx on the Latin American market.

Gladys M. Varona-Lacey is a Professor and Chair of the Modern Languages and Literatures Department at Ithaca College. She is also Co-director of Latin American Studies at Ithaca. From the web site of Ithaca College (www.ithaca.edu): “Gladys M. Varona-Lacey...received her B.A. from Wells College and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Hispanic Languages and Literatures and a Certificate in Latin American Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. She teaches all levels of Spanish language and Latin American literature and has authored and edited several books in her field. Professor Varona-Lacey has taught at M.I.T., Tufts University, Boston University, and Harvard University. She is currently editor of the Latin American Series published by Peter Lang Publishing Inc....Professor Varona-Lacey co-directs the Latin American Studies Minor Program as well as the Certificate Program in International Business.”

Mirellise M. Vazquez (MPIA 2000 GSPIA—International Affairs) and Tom are happily ensconced in Stamford, Connecticut. Married in August 2007, both have since been doing a lot of work-related travel. A honeymoon trip to Greece is planned for the spring but last fall and winter,
friends’ weddings took them to: New Hope, PA; Newport, RI; Austin, TX; Boston, MA; and Versailles, France! They recommend Versailles—particularly the gardens. After France, they traveled to Italy where they spent a few days in Rome: “I enjoyed most the antiquity of it all, and the food!!” Mirellise’s work for Christian Children’s Fund at the United Nations has recently involved the organization’s strategic planning process. “I am learning a great deal and am eager for the implementation of the new plan and direction for the organization.” In her “spare time,” she has been volunteering for the Hillary Clinton for President Campaign, primarily in their New York office, and more recently in Connecticut. In addition to office work, Mirellise also collected signatures for the primary and had the chance to volunteer at a few fundraisers where former President Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker. “At one of the events that I attended, I got to meet Ron Howard and M. Night Shyamalan, which was awesome!!”

Luz Amanda Villada
(BA 2006 Spanish), CLAS Academic Affairs and Outreach Assistant, was married on Friday, December 28, 2007 to Jason Hank on the beach in Clearwater, FL. Luz is now Mrs. Jason Hank or Luz Amanda Hank. Jason, who teaches Spanish at Beaver Area High School, has proven to be a fantastic recruiter for CLAS—sending along many excellent students to the program.


Carolyn J. (CJ) Wilson (BA 1979 Spanish) is living in Puerto Natales, Magallanes, southern Chile, and teaching English as a volunteer. “It’s great to remember CLAS and my days there as I immerse myself again in Latin [American] culture.”

Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures Graduate Student Conference

On October 5 and 6, 2007, graduate students in the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures convened the conference “(des)articulaciones in/with Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Processes.” The conference coordinator was Sarah Ohmer. Other students assisting in the success of the conference were: Claudia Arteaga, Gloria Arteaga, Deborah Bensandon, Alejandro Canedo, Emily Cherne, Alessandra Chiriboga, Jonathan DiBlasi, Mauricio Duarte, Gerardo Gomez-Michel, Koichi Hagimoto, Becky Klink, Fabio López, Aarti Madan, Citlali Martinez, George Palacios, Leah Strobel, and Fernando Toledo.

A list of the conference panels, presenters, and discussants follows.

Friday, October 5, 2007
9:00 a.m. Identidades: Raza Género y Sexualidades
(Primera parte)
Rubén Sánchez-Godoy (University of Pittsburgh): “Representations of Slave Suffering in Alonso Sandoval’s Instauranda Aethiopum Salute”
George Palacios (University of Pittsburgh): “Herejía y profecía en el pensamiento de Marcus Garvey y su impacto en el imaginarse la diáspora africana a través del siglo XX”
Discussant: Sarah Ohmer

10:45 a.m. Espacios urbanos y migraciones
Richard Parra (New York University): “La casa de cartón y los cambios sociales en la Lima de los veinte”

Diana Vela (State University of New York at Buffalo): “El papel de la raza en la configuración del espacio urbano en ‘Alienación’ de Julio Ramón Ribeyro”
Claudia Arteaga (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú): “Identidad, ciudad y deseo en Cuzco después del amor de Luis Nieto Degregori”
Gabriela McEvoy (University of California, San Diego): “Inmigración, identidad híbrida y proceso de modernización en la novela Los Turcos del escritor chileno Roberto Sarah”
Discussant: Fernando Toledo S.
2:30 p.m. *América Latina y el Estado-nación: entre dos flancos*

**Liesder Mayea** (University of California, Riverside): “The Future of the Latin American Nation State”

**Ernesto Rosen Velásquez** (State University of New York at Buffalo): “Are There Really Cultural Latinos?”

**Eid A. Mohamed** (George Washington University): “The Borderlands between Two Identities in Paredes’ *George Washington Gomez* and Piri’s *Down These Mean Streets*”

Discussant: **Jung Won Park**

4:00 p.m. *Documentary Screening*

“La Historia de los Noticieros de TV en Colombia (1954 – 1980),” presentación a cargo del realizador **Fabio López de la Roche** (University of Pittsburgh)

Saturday, October 6

9:00 a.m. *Identidades: Raza Género y Sexualidades* (Segunda parte)

**Leah Strobel** (University of Pittsburgh): “Questions of Privilege and the Unified Subject in Clarice Lispector’s *A Paixão Segundo G. H.*”

**Sarah Ohmer** (University of Pittsburgh): “Healing and Resisting Patriarchy: Nation, Race and Female Sexuality in Aurora and Rosario Morales’ *Getting Home Alive*”

**Luz Elena Rodríguez** (Universidad de Puerto Rico): “Migraciones trasnacionales: La historia del Caribe hispano representada a través de la metáfora del travestismo en *Sirena Selena vestida de pena*”

Moderator: **Becky Klink**

11:00 a.m. *Keynote Address*

Introduction: **Leah Strobel**

**Debra A. Castillo** (Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow and Professor of Romance Studies and Comparative Literature, Cornell University): “Transamericans: I Call It New Orleans”

Discussant: **Joshua Lund**

2:30 p.m. *Lenguajes y medios: hegemonías, subordinaciones*

**Carolina Gainza** (University of Pittsburgh): “Hackers y el movimiento por el software libre en América latina. Una lucha contra la hegemonía tecnológica”

**Gabriela Núñez** (University of Pittsburgh): “Oralidad y escritura en la educación andina”

**Julia Haeyoon Chang** (University of California, Berkeley): “Painting Colonial Subjects: Race, Gender and Transnational Identities in Eighteenth Century Spain and Mexico”

**Edward Chauca** (University of California, Los Angeles): “La voz y la memoria no se subordinan: un análisis de *Basura*”

Moderator: **Fabio López de la Roche**

4:45 p.m. *Film Screening*

*La sombra del caminante*, de Ciro Guerra

Comentarios: **Carolina Rueda** (University of Pittsburgh)

6:45 p.m. *Panel de conclusiones y cierre*

(des)articulaciones in/with Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Processes

Moderator: **Lizardo Herrera**

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**Connie Acosta** is the Investigator for the Federal Public Defender, Western District of Pennsylvania. For nearly a decade, Connie was a dedicated member of the CLAS staff, providing outstanding service to the university and the Latin American community in Pittsburgh.

**Jennifer Ashley** is the Graduate Student Coordinator, Center for Latin American Studies, Brown University. Jennifer’s primary “job” is as a doctoral student in Anthropology at Brown where she focuses on Chilean and Venezuelan urban segregation, media and social movements. She completed her master’s thesis on “Mediating Fear: Discourses on Crime in Santiago, Chile.” Prior to enrolling in Brown, Jennifer worked for five years in Chile with the School for International Training in Santiago, where she directed the program on Economic Development and Globalization. Before that, she served as a staff member in the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh, from 1999 to 2000.

**Julie Bavdek Wagner** (BA Political Science/Sociology) resides in Johnstown, PA where she is a Juvenile Officer with the Johnstown Police Department. Prior to holding this position, Julie was a Russian Linguist with the US Army Child Protective Services, PA Dept of Welfare. Julie studied Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian while a student at Pitt. She writes: “During the course of my employment, I am occasionally called to speak to individuals in Spanish. I have continued to develop language skills through various Spanish language courses for Law Enforcement. It has also been useful to understand cultural differences when communicating with individuals of a Latin American culture...I participated in the CLAS [seminar/field trip] program during the summer term 1985, to São Luis, Maranhão, Brasil. The changes and improvements of your program that have taken place since that time are amazing! It is so great to see the programs prosper and offer students such a valuable learning experience. I still keep in touch with my Brasilian family. My son is now a freshman at Pitt and hopefully he will also choose to study abroad.”

From CLAS: “Thank you, Julie! The CLAS seminar/field trip has become a model much copied but never quite surpassed as a multidisciplinary study and research training program for undergraduates...the personal opinion of sakregar! AND...it attracts the very best students!!!”
Carlos Mamani is Associate Professor and Chair of the Foreign Languages Program at Gannon University in Erie, PA. Carlos became acquainted with CLAS staff when he came to Pittsburgh to carry out research in the Lozano Latin American Library Collection under a CLAS Library Research Fellowship. Dr. Mamani has been an honorary Center Associate of CLAS for over a decade, traveling to Pittsburgh to consult the library collection as well as CLAS outreach resources. In October 2007, Dr. Mamani was honored at the 2007 Minority Achievers Luncheon sponsored by Minority Opinion magazine for his contribution in educating students and community members about Latin American people and cultures. The formal luncheon featured a keynote address by the Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer of the Community College of Allegheny County. Dr. Kathy W. Humphrey, Vice Provost and Dean of Students at the University of Pittsburgh, was also presented with an award as a 2007 Minority Achiever.

John Soluri, Associate Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University, is the author of Banana Cultures: Agriculture, Consumption, and Environmental Change in Honduras and the United States (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2006). The book was reviewed in the Latin American Research Review 42(3):253-254 (2007) by Mark Carey: “Representing some of the best new environmental history of Latin America, John Soluri’s Banana Cultures is a well-written, clearly argued, and engaging history of Honduran bananas...Soluri’s ability to weave multi-leveled analyses and sophisticated ideas into clear, concise prose accessible to undergraduates makes for an excellent book.”

In Memorium: Martha Hiett Blasier

It is with deep regret that we report that Martha (Marty) Blasier—the wife of CLAS founder and first director Cole Blasier—passed away on February 20, 2008. Marty grew up in tiny Monticello, Illinois, 20 miles west of Champaign, where she was state champion of the baritone, a heavy brass horn. In 1942, she enrolled in the University of Illinois where she served as secretary of the freshman class and met class president Cole Blasier. Cole left for World War II in 1943 and Marty graduated in 1945; they married in 1947. During this period, Marty also began training with two early specialists in speech therapy. In a time when speech and reading disorders such as dyslexia and stammering were little-understood—especially in schools—she became the first speech therapist in the Highland Park, Illinois public schools. She continued her work when Cole moved to New York to study for his doctorate in Russian studies at Columbia University. In 1951, Cole began working in intelligence for the State Department, leading to diplomatic assignments in Belgrade, Bonn, Munich, and Moscow. At the launch of the Cold War, Marty went from being a specialist in speech pathology to a diplomat’s wife. Her speech therapy training helped her in this role as she learned to speak Spanish, Serbian, German, and French—although never exactly fluent in them. According to her husband (in a 100-page book called “Celebrating Marty” that he presented to her on their 60th wedding anniversary last September), “Marty survived as a polyglot because she is a natural mimic and totally unimpeached by linguistic formalities.”

In summer 1958, while serving as Foreign Service Officer and Soviet specialist on assignment to the US Embassy in Moscow, Cole met then-Pitt Chancellor Edward H. Litchfield. After six years of back-and-forth meetings and discussions, the Blasiers left Cali, Colombia (where Cole was on assignment with the Rockefeller Foundation) and moved to Pittsburgh in summer 1964 where Cole would found and direct the new Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. In Pittsburgh, Marty resumed her work, introducing speech therapy to the city’s Head Start program in 1966 and working with the Pittsburgh Public Schools, while also traveling with her husband to Argentina, Colombia, and other parts south. She founded the Southwest Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association, and received honors from the group in 1985. Cole left the directorship of the Center in 1974, but remained as a faculty member in the Department of Political Science until the late 1980s when he and Marty moved to Washington, DC and Cole became head of the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress. Upon retirement, the couple finally settled in Mitchellville, Maryland.

Marty is survived by her husband; a daughter, Holly, of New York City; a son, Peter, of Point Breeze; and three grandchildren. The staff of the Center for Latin American Studies extends it most sincere condolences to Cole and his family.
De mi corazón

Forty years have passed since Dr. Cole Blasier, founder and first director of the Center for Latin American Studies, hired a shy, idealistic young woman as the Secretary/Receptionist. He taught the former Peace Corps Volunteer how to be a professional, introducing her to academia and showing her how to function effectively with tact and diplomacy. During those formative years, a daunting learning curve was made manageable by the support, help, and care of June Belkin, CLAS’ publications and proposal professional. The Assistant and then Associate Director of CLAS, Dr. Carmelo Mesa-Lago provided intensive training in analyzing projects, breaking them into doable tasks, and effecting change. In other words, the neophyte learned how to work harder than ever, meet deadlines, and achieve goals.

In 1974, Dr. Blasier turned the direction of a Center that had slowly and steadily become the flagship of international studies at Pitt to Dr. Carmelo Mesa-Lago. During the following decade, he honed the analytical and organizational skills of the secretary who had taken over the administration of the office. Dr. Mesa-Lago began to entrust the administrator with editing his books and articles (which required her to purchase an unabridged dictionary in order to understand words that she had never seen nor heard previously).

When the Assistant Director of the Center left in 1976, and in response to June’s nudging/encouragement/suggestion of confidante and coworker, Carmelo appointed the secretary—administrator—executive assistant as the Assistant Director of CLAS for Administration. By this time, Dr. Blasier and Dr. Mesa-Lago had become Cole and Carmelo (at least outside of the office in the wonderful get-togethers with sherry at Cole and Marty’s, at delicious dinners prepared by Elena Mesa, and at parties at June and Barry’s). In the office, the team’s commitment to build a Latin American Center that was among the very best in the nation was achieved when CLAS received its first National Resource Center award in 1979.

In 1983, John Frechione joined the CLAS staff. From then until now, John has provided humor, non-judgmental observations, and balance during the best and worst of times. Lunches became a tradition and an escape—to discuss the inner working of cars, ethnohistory, pop music and film, or casava’s use in the diet of people of Amazonia. Triumphs...and tragic losses...were shared. Life-long friendships formed with fellow staff, students, and faculty who provided guidance and support through the decades. The Associate Director for Academic Affairs focused her efforts on what she believed in the most—students and their international education as a means to cultural understanding and discussion rather than conflict. Enrollments grew, students excelled; they became more involved, acquired better language skills and cultural knowledge. Former participants in the CLAS Undergraduate Seminar/Field Trip became the project’s directors. CLAS alumni spread around the world.

Then...one day, not too long ago, children of alumni began to come to CLAS to seek the advice of their parents’ advisor. She had not changed all that much over four decades. She was still a little shy and nervous when speaking in front of groups. But, her determination had overcome her reserve. Her dedication was to students—to helping them achieve their goals, to find their way. Impatient with anything that thwarted those goals, she sometimes bulldozed her way through obstacles—but always with the best of intentions.

Gracias! fellow staff members, students present and past, teachers and friends among the faculty and colleagues across this country. Thank you all for allowing me to learn, to grow, and to share that knowledge!

Un abrazo de Shirley
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