The Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) has a long history of activities related to the study of Cuba. Cubanology at Pitt was stimulated to a great degree by the arrival of Carmelo Mesa-Lago as assistant director of the Center in September 1967 (three years after CLAS was founded). Dr. Mesa-Lago had served as Professor of Labor and Social Security at the universities of La Salle and Villanueva in Havana from 1958 to 1961 and as Head of the Law Department and Member of the Board of Directors, Cuban Bank of Social Insurance in 1959. Shortly after his arrival, Pitt became one of the first universities in the U.S. to initiate informal exchanges with Cuba and, by the end of the 1960s, had initiated a program of library exchanges that has expanded over the years. In 1970, an international meeting on Cuban bibliography, held at the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress, entrusted the Center with the publication of a bibliographical bulletin on Cuba. The Cuban Studies Newsletter/Boletín de Estudios sobre Cuba was published and distributed to thousands of scholars until 1975—at which time, it became a biannual, multidisciplinary journal (Cuban Studies/Estudios Cubanos), also produced at CLAS. Published regularly for a decade, the journal became a yearbook in 1986 and has been published since by the University of Pittsburgh Press. In 1971, the University of Pittsburgh Press Latin American Series began publication of scholarly works on Cuba with two volumes. Since that time, the Press has produced over 20 books on Cuba and is recognized as one of the leading scholarly publishers of books focusing on a wide range of issues concerning the island. The Cuban materials in the University’s Eduardo Lozano Latin American Library Collection are among the best in the world. The Library has made and continues to make substantial efforts to maintain a Cuban collection as complete and up-to-date as possible through intensive acquisitions and through an extensive program of 38 exchanges with Cuban institutions and governmental departments. Between 1969 and 2009, the Center held 13 major conferences and symposia on Cuba, many resulting in publications that are seminal to the study of Cuba. In addition, CLAS has been active in bringing examples of Cuban culture to the Pittsburgh region, including important exhibitions of Cuban art. Since January 2000, Pitt has held licenses from the U.S. government allowing its students, faculty, and staff to travel to Cuba in accordance with regulations for educational institutions. For four years, beginning in 2000, the Pitt in Cuba study abroad program was administered by the Center and the Study Abroad Office. The program had a hiatus between 2005 and 2008 because of regulatory changes imposed by the U.S. government. However, it began again in 2009 as a semester-long program in Cuba coordinated by the University of Havana. Overall, between the year 2000 and present, CLAS has used its licenses an impressive 231 times—for 69 undergraduate students, 76 graduate students, and 85 faculty/administrators/staff—for a range of educational, research, and coordinating activities. This represents a rather steady stream of about 20 persons from Pitt each year traveling to the island.
Continuing with its long tradition of research, teaching, and outreach on Cuba, in fall 2010, CLAS focused most of its activities on the country. The centerpiece was the exhibit “Queloides: Race and Racism in Cuban Contemporary Art.” Queloides was co-curated by CLAS faculty member Alejandro de la Fuente (University Center for International Studies Research Professor of History and Latin American Studies) and Cuban artist Elio Rodríguez Valdés. The exhibit opened in Cuba at the Centro Wifredo Lam in Havana (April 16 - May 31, 2010), then moved in an expanded form to the Mattress Factory Art Museum in Pittsburgh (October 15, 2010 - February 27, 2011), and will open in New York on April 12, 2011 at the 8th Floor (a private gallery and event space to promote cultural and philanthropic initiatives). Queloides seeks to contribute to current debates about the persistence of racism in contemporary Cuba and elsewhere in the world. The twelve artists invited to participate are renowned for their critical work on issues of race, discrimination, and identity. Several of them collaborated in three important exhibits in Havana between 1997 and 1999 (titled “Queloides I,” “Queloides II,” and “Neither Musicians nor Athletes”). The last two were curated by the late Cuban art critic Ariel Ribeaux. All these exhibits dealt with issues of race and racism in contemporary Cuba, issues that had been taboo in public debates in the island for decades. Queloides (Keloids) are wound-induced permanent scars. Although any wound may result in keloids, many people in Cuba believe that the black skin is particularly susceptible to them. Thus the title evokes the persistence of racial stereotypes, on the one hand, and the traumatic process of dealing with racism, discrimination, and centuries of cultural conflict, on the other hand. The exhibit included several art forms—paintings, photographs, installations, sculptures, videos—and offered novel ways to ridicule and to dismantle the so-called racial differences.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Professor de la Fuente edited a stunning, bilingual (Spanish/English) catalog that contains essays on the theme of the exhibit and comments on the works of each artist by renowned scholars. The catalog can be ordered from the Mattress Factory at: http://www.mfshop.org/products/%22Queloides%22-Catalog.html.

Activities complementing the exhibit included a Cuban film series, a roundtable discussion with four of the participating artists, two lectures, and a performance by a Cuban Hip-Hop artist. The Amigos del Cine Latinoamericano/Center for Latin American Studies Fall 2010 Film Series—“Cuban Eyes/Cubanize: Fifty Years of Cuban Cinema since the Cuban Revolution”—featured 13 films from or about Cuba. The directors of two of the films introduced their works and led discussions following the screenings—Jauretsi Saizarbitoria for “East of Havana” and Luciano Larobina for “HavanYork.” Armando Mariño, René Peña, Marta María Pérez Bravo, and Elio Rodríguez Valdés took part in “Queloides: Race and Racism in Cuban Contemporary Art—A Conversation with Cuban Artists,” moderated by Alejandro de la Fuente. Professor de la Fuente also presented a lecture on “Debates on Race and History in Contemporary Cuba” and Film Director Luciano Larobina spoke on “The Making of the Film HavanYork: African Diaspora, Colonialism and the Birth of the Hip-Hop Movement in New York and Havana in a
Comparative Perspective.” A performance by Cuban Hip-Hop Artist Soandyr—known as a passionate free-thinker who shares a distinct socially conscious rap ethic and an unabashed criticism of the Cuban government—provided another voice to the controversial and complex subject being addressed.

While at the Mattress Factory, “Queloides” attracted more than 10,000 visitors and programming events related to the exhibit enrolled 1,180 individuals (a three-fold increase over the usual enrollments for such programming).

Queloides: Race and Racism in Cuban Contemporary Art was supported by the Christopher Reynolds Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, the Lambent Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Pittsburgh Foundation, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and the University of Pittsburgh’s Central Research Development Fund, Center for International Studies, Humanities Center, World History Center, and Center for Latin American Studies/US Department of Education Title VI NRC grant.

Conferences and Symposia

Violent Armed Groups: A Global Challenge

The Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies (CLAS faculty member Phil Williams, Director) in conjunction with the U.S. Army War College hosted a two-day conference on September 16-17 entitled “Violent Armed Groups: A Global Challenge.” The conference explored the challenges posed by violent armed groups to security and stability in many parts of the world. While some of these challenges seem to be in areas peripheral to U.S. interests, others involve strategic areas, while yet others raise questions about the security of the global commons. The conference sought to: examine the rise of a wide variety of armed groups operating in key parts of the world, including areas of responsibility of the combatant commands; identify key characteristics of these groups including their ability to mobilize support and raise funds; assess the challenges posed by these groups to national security of various states, including key United States allies as well as the U.S. itself; and examine the implications of these groups and their activities for U.S. strategy, doctrine, and force posture. The keynote address was delivered by Robert Mandel (Professor of International Affairs, Lewis and Clark College) on “Global Security Upheaval: Armed Non-State Groups as Stability Enhancers.” A broad array of experts (from universities, government agencies, think tanks, and the media) made presentations on the five panels whose themes were: 1. Context and Conditions: Globalization, Governance, and Demographics; 2. Violent Armed Groups: Finances and Weapons; 3. Insurgencies and Terrorists; 4. Criminal Organizations, Gangs and Violence; and 5. Threat Finance.

CLAS provided support for Samuel Logan (an investigative journalist and analyst on security, politics, and energy in Latin America and author of This is for the Mara Salvatrucha: Inside the MS-13, America’s Most Violent Gang; Hyperion, 2009) to present “The Evolution of Los Zetas” in Panel 4.
At LASA2010

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) celebrated its XXIX International Congress in Toronto, Canada from October 6-9, 2010. The congress was attended by over 3,800 persons. CLAS students, faculty, alumni, and friends were a major presence at the meetings once again—chairing panels, presenting papers, or acting as discussants. The Center held a reception for CLAS-affiliated congress participants and friends, and we wish to thank all of those who attended. A selection of photographs from the reception follows.
Left to right:
Rebecca Carrero, Alessandra Chiriboga, María Venegas, Ulises Arredondo, Hannah Burdette, and Enrique Chacón.

At LASA2010 (continued)

Ignacio Lopez-Vicuña and Alejandro Meter.

Dinorah Azpuru and Lucio Rennó Junior.

Julian Asenjo, Anne Marie Toccket, and Luis Bravo.

Antonio Gómez and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán.

John Frechione and Jennifer Ashley.
**Borges Symposium**

The Borges Center moved from the University of Aarhus (Denmark) to the University of Iowa in 2005. In 2008, the Center came to the University of Pittsburgh with the arrival of its director Daniel Balderston (Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Modern Languages). The Borges Center is an academic center sponsored by the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures and the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Pittsburgh. Variaciones Borges (a journal of philosophy, semiotics and literature) is published twice a year in Spanish, English and French by the Borges Center. Professor Balderston also serves as the editor of Variaciones Borges. On October 15, 2010, the Borges Center convened the Borges Symposium, with the following sessions and presenters.

1:30-3:15 p.m. *First Session (in English)*

Chair: Lies Wijnterp (Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

Evelyn Fishburn (University College, London): “‘This Imminence of a Revelation’: A Study of Epiphanies in Borges’s Fiction”

Daniel Balderston (University of Pittsburgh): “‘His Insect-Like Handwriting’: Marginalia and Commentaries on Borges and Menard”

Leah Leone (Concordia University, Montreal): “Voice Distortion: Character Narration in Borges’s Translations”

3:30-5:00 p.m. *Second Session (in Spanish)*

Chair: María Julia Rossi (Doctoral Student, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh)

Alfredo Alonso Estenoz (Luther College): “La Batrachomyomachia en el contexto de ‘El inmortal’”

Mireya Camurati (SUNY, Buffalo): “Borges ¿un argentino extraviado en la metafísica?”

Roundtable discussion with participants.

The symposium was sponsored by the Borges Center, the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, and the Center for Latin American Studies.

**EMPIRE: A Retrospective**

On November 18 and 19, 2010, the Graduate Program for Cultural Studies at the University of Pittsburgh held its Second Biannual Faculty and Graduate Students Colloquium on “EMPIRE: A Retrospective.” The colloquium brought together international experts from a range of disciplines to address issues, ideas, and concepts emanating from the book Empire by Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri on the tenth anniversary of its publication. CLAS faculty members Hermann Herlinghaus (Professor of Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies) and Joshua Lund (Associate Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literatures) and students Roberto Ponce-Cordero (Hispanic Languages and Literatures) and Carolina Gainza (Hispanic Languages and Literatures) participated in the colloquium. Michael Hardt (Duke University), coauthor of Empire, delivered the keynote lecture. The Center for Latin American Studies assisted in the realization of the colloquium through financial support.
16th Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference

The Sixteenth Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference was held on February 18 and 19, 2011. Carlos Pereira delivered the Twelfth Carmelo Mesa-Lago Distinguished Latin American Social and Public Policy Lecture on “The Political Economy of Public Policy in Multiparty Presidential Regimes.”

The annual Latin American Social and Public Policy conference features presentations on social and public policy research in Latin America by students from the University of Pittsburgh, with comments by University of Pittsburgh faculty and local expert. For the sixteenth conference, twenty-one students from eleven departments and schools at the University of Pittsburgh presented papers and eight experts provided discussion.

The 2011 conference was organized by Latin American Social and Public Policy Fellows Nora Bridges (Anthropology), Alejandra Boza (History), Jorge Enrique Delgado (Education), Chad Dorn (Education), Bruno Hoepers (Political Science), Daniel Munari (Public and International Affairs), Gabriela Nuñez (Communication), Orlando Rivero Valdes (History), Christine Waller (Public and International Affairs), and Yu Xiao (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.

Friday, February 18, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Welcome: Kathleen M. DeWalt (Director, Center for Latin American Studies)

9:15 a.m. CLAS Field Trip—Nicaragua
Moderator: Christine Waller (Public and International Affairs)
Mikaela Alger (Biology/Anthropology): “Invisible Barriers: Unseen Causes of Healthcare Inequality”
Anna Bondar (Pre-Pharmacy): “Self-Medication: Healthcare Choices in a Decentralized System”
Rachele McFarland (Social Work): “Food Insecurity: The Experiences and Perceptions of Mothers in Leon, Nicaragua”
Peter Cahill (Linguistics): “Signing Like the Latins: Constraints on Language Attitude in Deaf Latin America”
Discussant: Matthew Rhodes (Education)

10:55 a.m. Public Policy and Disabilities
Moderator: Jorge Delgado (Education)
Yasmin Garcia (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences): “The Right to Work for People with Disabilities in Mexico”
Maria Luisa Toro-Hernández (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences): “Policies and Practice in Public Transportation Accessibility for People with Disabilities: Comparison between Colombia and the USA”
Discussant: Diego Chaves-Gnecco (Medicine)

Left to right: Mikaela Alger, Christine Waller, Anna Bodnar, Peter Cahill, Matthew Rhodes, and Rachele McFarland.

Left to right: Jorge Delgado, Maria Luisa Toro-Hernández, Yasmin Garcia, and Diego Chaves-Gnecco.
1:15 p.m. Health, Gender, and Poverty
Moderator: Bruno Hoepers (Political Science)
Natalie Kimball (History): “Cultures of Illegality: Induced Abortion and Unexplained Miscarriage in Highland Bolivia, 1952–2010”
Charity Sperringer (Public and International Affairs): “The Effects of Structural Adjustment Programs on Gender, Poverty, and Health in Latin America”
Discussant: Penelope Morrison (RAND Corporation)

2:40 p.m. Industrialization and Investment
Moderator: Daniel Munari (Public and International Affairs)
Marissa Ann Germain (Public and International Affairs): “Taking Microfinance to the Next Level”
Alek Suni (Economics): “Industrialization in Brazil”
Discussant: Marla Ripoll (Economics)

4:30 p.m. 2011 Keynote Address
Twelfth Carmelo Mesa-Lago Distinguished Latin American Social and Public Policy Lecture: “The Political Economy of Public Policy in Multiparty Presidential Regimes” by Carlos Pereira (Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University; Professor, São Paulo School of Economics, Getulio Vargas Foundation, Brazil)

Carlos Pereira began his career as a physician, receiving the MD in Medicine from the State University of Pernambuco, Brazil in 1990. Finding that he was less than enthralled with the practice of medicine, he decided to switch gears and delve into the social sciences. He obtained an MA in Sociology from the Federal University of Pernambuco in 1994, an MA in Political Science from the New School University in 1996, and a PhD in Political Science from the New School University in 2000. In September 2000, he received a two-year post-doctoral fellowship to serve as a Research Fellow in Politics in the Centre for Brazilian Studies at the University of Oxford. Dr. Pereira is currently an Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics in the Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, a Professor of Political Economy in the São Paulo School of Economics and School of Business, Getulio Vargas Foundation in Brazil, and a Visiting Fellow in the Foreign Policy and Global Economy and Development programs in the Latin American Initiative at Brookings Institution. His main research interests focus on political institutions and political economy in comparative perspective—especially in Latin America. Dr. Pereira is the coauthor of Regulatory Governance in Infrastructure Industries (Trends and Public Policy Options No. 3 - The World Bank, 2006) and the author or coauthor of numerous articles in refereed journals. His coauthored manuscript, Power, Beliefs, and Institutions: Understanding Modern Development with an Application to Brazil, has been submitted for review.
Social and Public Policy Conference (continued)

Saturday, February 19, 2011
9:30 a.m. Human Rights
Moderator: Gabriela Nuñez (Communication)
Elizabeth Molnar (History): “Afro-Honduran Communal Land Rights: Implications for Scholarship, International Law, and Local Activism”
Chad Dorn (Education): “Mapping the Social Constructions of Child Labor in a Quito, Ecuador”
Juan Nicolas Hernandez-Aguilera (Public and International Affairs): “Strategies against Illegal Drugs Traffic”
Discussant: John Beverley (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

11:00 a.m. Art and Science in Education
Moderator: Yu Xiao (Political Science)
Alessandra Chiriboga Holzheu (Hispanic Languages and Literatures): “The Nicaraguan Avant-Garde and Its Artistic Program”
Jorge Enrique Delgado (Education): “Refereed Journal Publication in Chile — Analysis of Universities and Publications”
Discussant: Martha Mantilla (Eduardo Lozano Latin American Library Collection)

1:15 p.m. Legitimacy and Security in Latin America
Moderator: Nora Bridges (Anthropology)
Margaret O’Brien (Public and International Affairs): “Finding Legitimacy in Juárez”

Left to right: Juan Hernandez-Aguilera, Gabriela Nuñez, Chad Dorn, John Beverley, and Elizabeth Molnar.

Left to right: Alessandra Chiriboga Holzheu, Martha Mantilla, Jorge Delgado, and Yu Xiao.

Left to right: Rebecca C. Englert, Nora Bridges, Paul Nelson, Margaret O’Brien, and Lance Lindauer.
Bolivian Studies Journal Conference

On February 25, 2011, Bolivia Hoy—an inaugural conference to recognize and celebrate the arrival of the Bolivian Studies Journal/Revista de Estudios Bolivianos to the University of Pittsburgh—was held in the Latin American Library Lecture Room. Founded in 1990, the Bolivian Studies Journal was published by the University of Akron until 2000 and by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign until 2008. Beginning in 2009, the Library System of the University of Pittsburgh assumed the publication of this important annual journal. Under the University of Pittsburgh’s editorship—with the support of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, the University of Pittsburgh Press, and the Center for the Study of Latin American Literatures—the journal was physically re-designed and intellectually re-conceptualized to meet the challenges that Bolivia is facing in the new millennium. The Bolivian Studies Journal is a peer-reviewed publication that responds to the growing interest in understanding the past and present of historical and cultural processes in Bolivia. The journal is published once a year and accepts research papers, articles, documents, reviews, interviews, and discussion materials written in Spanish, English, or indigenous languages. Information about the journal and access to the digital publication can be found at: http://bsj.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/bsj/index

Program:
1:00 p.m. Welcome: Kathleen DeWalt (Director, Center for Latin American Studies)
Bolivian Studies Journal Publishing Team
Elizabeth Monasterios (Editor; Associate Professor of Andean Literatures, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures. University of Pittsburgh)
Martha Mantilla (Editor; Librarian, Eduardo Lozano Latin American Collection, University of Pittsburgh)
Timothy S. Deliyannis (University Library System)
Beth Steidle (University of Pittsburgh Book Center)

1:30 p.m. Plenary Speaker Pablo Stefanoni (Director, Le Monde Diplomatique Bolivia): “Bolivia hoy: rupturas, inercias y desafíos”

2:30 p.m. Chris Krueger (Coordinator, Red Bolivia Mundo and LASA-Bolivia Section): “Aportes hacia el diálogo entre Norte y Sur en tiempos de cambio”
Bolivian Studies Journal (continued)

3:30 p.m. Simón Yampana (Delegado Intercultural, Alcaldía de La Paz, Bolivia): “Cosmovivencia Andina. Vivir y convivir en armonía integral”

4:00 p.m. Nelson Jordán Bazán (Universidad Nur, Santa Cruz, Bolivia): “El poder cruceño en su laberinto: encrucijadas en tiempo de cambio”

4:30 p.m. Discussant: John Beverley (Distinguished Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

Lectures and Workshops

September 1, 2010
VOLCANICALLY INDUCED LOSS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, MONTSERRAT, WEST INDIES—David R. Watters (Curator of Anthropology, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and Adjunct Faculty, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh)

September 15, 2010
BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2010—Paulo Sotero (Director, Brazil Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center)

September 16, 2010
TRENDS AND TARGETS FOR ACTIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH: A HUMAN RIGHTS LAW-BASED APPROACH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION’S TECHNICAL COLLABORATION—Javier Vasquez (LLM Director, Ethics and Human Rights Program, Pan American Health Organization/Regional Office of the World Health Organization)

September 17, 2010
DEBATES ON RACE AND HISTORY IN CONTEMPORARY CUBA—Alejandro de la Fuente (University Center for International Studies Research Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh)
September 24, 2010
SOBRE EL PROYECTO DEL LABORATORIO DE DESCLASIFACIÓN COMPARADA: DERROTEROS, CONTRIBUTIONES, DECLINACIONES—Rodrigo Naranjo (Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Universidad Metropolitana, Santiago de Chile)

September 27, 2010
MEXICO’S NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES: VIOLENCE AND ORGANIZED CRIME—Sigrid Arzt (Privacy and Freedom of Information Commissioner, Federal Institute of Freedom of Information and Privacy Rights, Mexico)

September 29, 2010
SPOTLIGHT ON LATINO HEALTH (Panel Discussion)—featuring Diego Chavez-Gnecco, (MD, MPH; Program Director and Founder of SALUD PARA NIÑOS, Children’s Hospital UPMC, Pittsburgh, and Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh), Patricia Documét, (MD, DrPH; Assistant Professor of Behavioral and Community Health Services, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh), and Laura Macia (President of “9 Lunas”)

October 5, 2010
I, A TOUCAN FROM THE HEADWATERS: AMAZONIAN QUICHUA RELATIONSHIPS TO NATURE—Tod Swanson (Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Arizona State University)

October 14, 2010
QUELOIDES: RACE AND RACISM IN CUBAN CONTEMPORARY ART: A CONVERSATION WITH CUBAN ARTISTS—featuring Armando Mariño, René Peña, Marta María Pérez Bravo, and Elio Rodríguez; moderated by Alejandro de la Fuente (University Center for International Studies Research Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh)

October 14, 2010
ECONOMIC HIT MAN DETAILS HIS EXPERIENCES EXPLOITING LATIN AMERICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST—John Perkins (NY Times Bestselling Author of Confessions of an Economic Hit Man, as well as The Secret History of the American Empire and Hoodwinked)

October 21, 2010
RACIAL SILENCE AND URBAN POLICY IN 20TH CENTURY BRAZIL (Workshop)—featuring Brodyn Fischer (Associate Professor, History Department, Northwestern University) and Lara Putnam (Associate Professor, History Department, University of Pittsburgh)

October 22, 2010
STITCHING CURTAINS, GRINDING PLASTIC: THE TRANSFORMATION OF WORKERS AND THINGS IN BUENOS AIRES—Karen Ann Faulk (Adjunct Professor of History and Anthropology, Carnegie Mellon University)
Lectures (continued)

October 26, 2010
THE MAKING OF THE FILM *HavanYork*: AFRICAN DIASPORA, COLONIALISM AND THE BIRTH OF THE HIP-HOP MOVEMENT IN NEW YORK AND HAVANA IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE—*Luciano Larobina* (Director of *HavanYork*)

November 3, 2010
IMPLICATIONS OF THE ELECTION OF JUAN MANUEL SANTOS FOR COLOMBIA, THE ANDEAN REGION, AND SOUTH AMERICA—*Maria Velez de Berliner* (President, Latin Intelligence Corporation, Washington DC)

November 16, 2010
BRAZIL: ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS POST LULA (Panel Discussion)—featuring *Anne Nemer* (Assistant Dean for Executive Degree Programs, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh), *Bruno Hoepers* (PhD candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh), *Giancarlo Pereira* (Coordinator of Production Engineering Program and Professor, Engineering and Technology, Mackenzie University, São Paulo, Brazil)

November 17, 2010
A READING FROM THE NOVEL *LISBOA*—*Leopoldo Brizuela* (Argentine Novelist)

November 19, 2010

November 19, 2010
THE IMPACT OF TOMÁS GUTIERREZ ALEA ON THE WORK AND LIVES OF LATIN AMERICANIST SCHOLARS: AN INTIMATE DIALOGUE (Panel Discussion)—featuring *John Beverley* (Distinguished Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh), *Jerome Branche* (Associate Professor of Latin American and Cultural Studies, University of Pittsburgh), *Kathleen DeWalt* (Director, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh), and *Mildred López* (PhD student, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature, University of Pittsburgh)
February 2, 2011
USAID PARTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—Scott Morgenstern (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh)

February 3, 2011
SUSTAINABLE BUILDING IN BRAZIL: REVIEW AND UPDATE—Vanessa Gomes (Professor, University of Campinas, Brazil)

February 3, 2011
FILIACIÓN OSCURA: HERENCIA Y TRADICIÓN: CONVERSACIÓN CON UNA POETA VENEZOLANA (Poetry Reading) —Beverly Pérez Rego (Poet and Translator, Venezuela)

February 3, 2011
THE EDGE OF THE ROAD IS LISTENING: THE ART AND THE ORIGIN OF AN AFRO-CUBAN GOD—Robert Farris Thompson (Colonel John Trumbull Professor of Art History, Yale University)

February 22, 2011
PREJUDICE AND TABOO: NEW APPROACHES TO BRAZILIAN NATIONAL IDENTITY—Gislene dos Santos (Associate Professor, Escola de Artes, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil)

February 22, 2011
OTRA AMADA Y OTRO PAISAJE PARA LAS LECTORAS DEL SIGLO XIX. SOLEDAD ACOSTA DE SAMPER SOBRE EL ROMANTICISMO—Carolina Alzate Cadavid (Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia)

Concerts

The Americas—In Concert

On November 20, 2010, Med Health Services and Pittsburgh Cardiovascular Institute, in collaboration with the Center for Latin American Studies, presented the third annual “The Americas—In Concert.” “The Americas—In Concert” series is designed to promote the development of local and national professional musicians, while exposing Pittsburgh’s general public to the musical works of all of the Americas—from North to South. The concerts are free and open to the public. The third concert featured The Eric Mintel Quartet (EMQ). Created six years ago, EMQ’s mission is to expose and reintroduce more people to jazz. EMQ is one of the top jazz combos performing in the country today. The Quartet features Eric Mintel on piano; Nelson Hill on flute and alto and soprano saxophone; Dave Antonow on bass; and Dave Mohn on drums. The four talented musicians approach a song differently every time they play it. They perform straight ahead jazz, but add a lot of different elements like funk and Latin rhythms. The styles go against what people think jazz should sound like.

At the concert, EMQ performed fresh and invigorating new arrangements of classic jazz standards, original songs by Eric Mintel, and the rarely heard music of jazz great Dave Brubeck.
The recently formed Huellas Latinas Concert Series will present five concerts focusing on Spanish and Latin American classical and folkloric music during 2010-11. The intent of the series is to unite the local community and promote Hispanic culture through music. The music programs are dedicated to celebrating historically important dates and events of Latin American and Spanish culture. The five concerts are:

- September 18, 2010: “Spanish Zarzuelas and Latin American Zarzuela and Opera”
- November 21, 2010: “Music of Puerto Rico”
- January 15, 2011: “Spanish Poetry in German Lied”
- March 12, 2011: “Music of Argentina”
- May 7, 2011: “Music of Mexico”

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 Bunker Abbott (Geology and Planetary Science)

Jorge D. Abad (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Georg Reid Andrews (History)

Elizabeth Arkush (Anthropology)

Daniel Balderston (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)
• 2010. Innumerables relaciones: Cómo leer con Borges (Santa Fe, Argentina: Universidad Nacional del Litoral).

Robert Barker (Law)
• 2010. La Constitución los Estados Unidos y su dinámica actual (San José, Costa Rica: Editorial Juricientro, 3d ed.)
• 2009. “El Concepto de precedente y su significado en el derecho constitucional de los Estados Unidos,” (D. García, tr.), 19 Revista Peruana de Derecho Público 13. [The volume carries the year “2009,” but it was actually published in 2010.]

German Barrionuevo (Neuroscience)
Alvaro A. Bernal (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)  

Kathleen M. Blee (Sociology)  


Walter P. Carson (Biological Sciences)  


Diego Chaves-Gnecco (Medicine)  


Kathleen W. Christian (History of Art and Architecture)  

Louise K. Comfort (Public and International Affairs)  


Maria Auxiliadora Cordero (Anthropology)  


Alejandro de la Fuente (History)

Kathleen M. DeWalt (Anthropology)

Patricia Documé (Public Health)

Robert D. Drennan (Anthropology)

Juan R. Duchesne-Winter (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

Fatma A. El-Hamidi (Public and International Affairs)

Carl I. Fertman (Education)

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran (Public and International Affairs)

Kimberley Gomez (Education)

Steven Hirsch (History)

John Markoff (Sociology)

W. James Jacob (Education)

Gonzalo Lamana (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

Carcelo Mesa-Lago (Economics)
• 2010. “Presente y Futuro de los Sistemas de Pensiones Públicos y Privados frente a la Crisis Mundial,” in Memorias VIII Congreso Regional Americano de Derecho del Trabajo y de la Seguridad Social (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia).

Elizabeth Monasterios (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

Scott Morgenstern (Political Science)

Audrey J. Murrell (Business)

John P. Myers (Education)

Paul Nelson (Public and International Affairs)

Josephine E. Olson (Business)

Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (Political Science)
Frits K. Pil (Business)

Shalini Puri (English)
- Editor. 2010. The Legacies of Radical Politics in the Caribbean (Routledge).

Lara Putnam (History)

Marcus Rediker (History)

Gayle Rogers (English)

Michael Rosenmeier (Geology and Planetary Science)

Nita Rudra (Public and International Affairs)

Rob Ruck (History)

Richard Scaglion (Anthropology)

Ronald D. Stall (Public Health)
Nuno S. Themudo (Public and International Affairs)

John C. Weidman II (Education)

Faculty—Noteworthy

In May 2009, **Seymour Drescher** (History) was invited to become a member of the Academia Europaea, the Academy of Europe.

**Shanti Gamper-Rabindran** (Public and International Affairs) was awarded a 2010 Steven D. Manners Faculty Development Award for her projects “Does Cleaning Up Contaminated Sites Yield Economic Benefits?—A GIS-Econometric Analysis of the Superfund Program.” The project aims to demonstrate a method applicable to estimating the benefits from a host of public goods in urban areas, such as the provision of improved schools and public safety to the neighborhood. The method then could be of use to researchers, urban planners, economists, geographers and demographers.

After 20 years without visiting Cuba, **Carmelo Mesa-Lago** (Distinguished Professor of Economics and Latin American Studies Emeritus) was invited by Cardinal Jaime Ortega to attend the X Semana Social Católica in Havana from June 16 to 20, 2010 and to present a paper on “Envejecimiento Demográfico y Pensiones de Seguridad Social en Cuba.” He had a two-hour meeting with the Cardinal, a discussion with a dozen Cuban economists at the Centro de Estudio de la Economía Cubana, Universidad de La Habana, and a round table for the press. Professor Mesa-Lago published an article on his visit in the Spanish newspaper *El País*, where he has a column. In addition, since 2010, he has been a Member of the Advisory Council of Revista General de Derecho del Trabajo y Seguridad Social, Spain, and Revista Gaceta Laboral, Venezuela.

**Marcus Rediker** (History), an award-winning author and professor of history, was named Distinguished Professor of Atlantic History, effective July 1, 2010. The rank of Distinguished Professor recognizes extraordinary, internationally recognized scholarly attainment in an individual discipline or field. Professor Rediker’s book *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (Viking Penguin and John Murray, 2007) won the 2008 George Washington Book Prize from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the C.V. Starr Center at Washington College, and Mount Vernon; the 2008 Merle Curti Award from the Organization of American Historians; and the James A. Rawley Prize from the American Historical Association. The book has been translated into Swedish and is currently being translated into Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Portuguese. Another of his books, *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age* (Beacon Press, 2004), is under option with Lions Gate Entertainment and is in development as a television miniseries. He also is at work on *The Amistad Rebellion: A Sea Story of Slavery and Freedom*, scheduled for publication by Viking Penguin in 2012.

**Rob Ruck** (History), author of the recently published *Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game* (Beacon Press, 2011), spent a week in Nicaragua in February 2011 doing seminars and talks for the US Embassy in Managua, Matagalpa, and Bluefields about race, baseball, and the Caribbean.
Nuno Themudo (Public and International Affairs) received the 2010 Best Article on Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Research award from the Association of Researchers on Nonprofit Organization and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) for his article “Gender and the Nonprofit Sector,” published in 2009 in *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 38(4):663-683. The paper examines whether women’s inclination towards altruistic behavior and participation in the nonprofit sector translates into stronger nonprofit sectors in countries with higher women’s empowerment—defined as women’s relative control over resources and participation in political and economic forums. The research showed that there is a strong relationship between women’s empowerment, volunteerism, and the nonprofit sector worldwide.

Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (Political Science) received a $138,317 research grant from the National Science Foundation (Law and Social Sciences Program) for the project “Supreme Court Stability in Latin America.”

Richard Scaglion (Anthropology) received a 2010 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring. The award recognizes University of Pittsburgh faculty members who demonstrate outstanding mentoring of graduate students seeking a research doctorate degree. Faculty recipients of the award are those who do an outstanding job of promoting the personal and professional development of students. Winners receive a cash prize of $2,500 and are honored publicly.

David R. Watters (Anthropology), who worked for 28 years as a curator in the Section of Anthropology at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH)—the last 11 years as Head of the Section—retired in November 2010. As a Caribbean archaeology specialist, Dr. Watters also was a core faculty member of the Center for Latin American Studies and an Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh from the time he started CMNH. His primary interest throughout his professional career has been Caribbean archaeology; he conducted research on the prehistoric and historical archaeology of Montserrat, Barbuda, Antigua, and Anguilla. Over the past decade, he conducted a study with Oscar Fonseca Zamora (then with the University of Costa Rica) of the photographic and written archives of Carl V. Hartman, Carnegie Museum’s first anthropology curator (1903-1908). Hartman performed some of the initial archaeological research in Costa Rica. Dave was an active member of CLAS and, for almost three decades, worked conscientiously to foster good relations and collaborative programs between the museum and university. We wish Dave all the best for the future.
We are saddened to report that Amanda Castro (PhD 1991 Hispanic Languages & Literatures), prize-winning poet, passed away in Honduras on March 19, 2010. Amanda authored several books and was recognized with two top poetry prizes in Central America. She will be remembered as an accomplished poet and a dedicated teacher and activist for women’s rights. Between 1997 and 2001, she taught at Colorado State University. She left on medical disability, but continued to work tirelessly for women’s rights in her native Honduras almost until the day she died. In her relatively short life (1962—2010), Amanda accomplished a great deal. Among other things, she wrote a number of poetry books and a sociolinguistic study on Honduran Spanish and founded the Ixbalam editorial house and several women collectives around creative writing and the arts in Tegucigalpa. Her poetry earned her the “Certamen de Joyas Florales” poetry prize of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean in 1993, and the “Hoja del Laurel” prize in Honduras in 2008.

Mary Ellen Conaway (PhD 1976 Anthropology) received the Excellence in Peer Review Service Award from the American Association of Museums and the Distinguished Service Award from the Carson Valley Kiwanis Club this past spring. She teaches anthropology at Western Nevada College and serves on the board of Active Volunteers in Douglas County, NV.

Betina González (PhD Candidate, Hispanic Languages and Literatures) is the author of Juegos de playa (Alfaguara 2008), a collection of tales formed by a novella and four short stories that explore the fears and fantasies of a little girl during the Falkland War between Argentina and the United Kingdom. Her first book, Arte menor (Alfaguara 2006) won the Clarín Annual Literary Prize for novels and was recently translated into German. Betina’s research focuses on nineteenth century non-canonical literary works in Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. Her dissertation will explore the relationship between politics and morals in animal stories and in Post-Romantic Latin American drama.

Samantha Hosein (BA 2010 Political Science), a former CLAS student ambassador, is currently working in India. She writes: “Dear Julian, I want to thank you very much for the reference and let you know that I really appreciate everything that you and the Center for Latin American Studies has done for me while I was a student at Pitt and continue to do for me now. I am now in India where I am teaching English at a youth center for underprivileged children in New Delhi. I will be here for six months and I am so excited! Thank you again for everything! –Samantha”

Sonia Lenk (PhD 2007 Hispanic Linguistics) is an Assistant Professor at Western Kentucky University. Her book Minorias y bilinguismo sostenido was published in July 2010 by ABYA-YALA. Her article with Magdalena Herdoiza, “Intercultural Dialogue: Discourse and Realities of Indigenous and Mestizos in Ecuador and Guatemala,” will be published in the next issue of the Intercultural Journal of Education for Democracy. Sonia also directs a Service Learning Program through KIIS in Ecuador. This summer, the program conducted some health and educational brigades in Quito, Chota, and the rainforest. For the past four years, she has also co-organized (with the Director of Diversity at WKU) the Series “Tracing the Unexplored” which covers various topics of the Hispanic culture. She also collaborates with her students in the Free Health Fairs for Hispanics, interpreting for the doctors and the Hispanics.
Gerardo Gomez Michel (PhD 2011 Hispanic Languages and Literatures) nos escribe: “Hola Julián, Perdón por tanto retraso en responderte, pero te cuento mis aventuras de los últimos tiempos. Sucede que luego de estar un año un poco apurado en Tijuana, México, debido a la crisis, decidí buscar algunas otras oportunidades, y finalmente conseguí un puesto en una universidad coreana! Llegué a Seúl hace dos semanas, ya empecé a dar clases en la Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, en el departamento de español y en el posgrado de estudios regionales. Todo parece que va bien, y el choque cultural no ha sido tan demoledor como pensaba al principio.”

Rafael Ponce-Cordero (PhD 2010 Hispanic Languages and Literatures) is Assistant Professor of Spanish, Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Central Michigan University and the author of Dinámicas Socioeconómicas Regionales: La lucha de Guayaquil por un obispado propio y la pugna con Cuenca a fines de la colonia (Facultad de Ciencias Económicas de la Universidad de Guayaquil 2009). The book is an examination of regional religious issues and identities in eighteenth century Ecuador.

Katrina Spillane (MA 2008 GSPIA) is teaching at the Universidad Nacional de Honduras. At the VI National Conference for English Teachers in Tegucigalpa, Honduras (April 28-30, 2010) she was co-presenter of a paper on “Multicultural Inclusion in the English Classroom: Voices of Ethnic and Indigenous Students at the Universidad Nacional de Agricultura.”

Paola Subero (MA 2010 GSPIA) writes us about her new life in the Dominican Republic: “Muchas gracias por tu mensaje. Te cuento que llegué bien y estoy feliz de estar de vuelta con mi familia. Por suerte llegué a tiempo para el nacimiento de mi primer sobrino, y ese niño se ha convertido en la luz de mis ojos! Justo ahora en Noviembre empecé a trabajar como Encargada de Estruc­turación en un puesto de bolsa de mi país. Se llama Parallax Valores Puesto de Bolsa, S. A. (PARVAL) http://www.parallax.com.do/app/do/frontpage.aspx No es exactamente lo que estaba buscando, pero está de lo más interesante. Estoy aprendiendo mucho sobre el mercado de valores dominicano, el cual está relativamente en sus inicios cuando comparamos con otros países de la región. Un abrazo, Paola.”

CLA—Noteworthy

We are very pleased to announce that Karen Goldman joined the Center for Latin American Studies as the Assistant Director for Outreach in November 2010. Karen holds a PhD (1990, awarded with distinction) in Latin American and Spanish Literature from Columbia University and received her B.A. in Latin American Studies from Barnard College and her M.A. and M.Phil. from Columbia. Karen has taught at Yale University, Pitzer College in Claremont, California, and Chatham University. In Spring Term 2011, she taught “Introduction to Hispanic Literature and Cultural Studies” at Pitt. She has published on several different topics related to Latin American literature and culture—with a recent focus on Spanish and Latin American Cinema and representations of Latinos in U.S. popular culture. Karen also has experience working with the broader community and K-12 teachers. She was Chatham University’s faculty representative to the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute and currently serves on the National University Advisory Board of The Yale National Initiative for Improving Teaching in Public Schools. We are delighted to have Karen join us and hope you will stop by the Center to say hello and get to know her.
Fall 2010 was a turbulent time in the CLAS offices. Strangely, early that year, two staff members discovered that they were with child and were both scheduled to deliver their offspring in October.* They informed their CLAS colleagues that they, therefore, would be away from the office for most of the Fall. [This period also coincided with our lack of an outreach coordinator, given Roz Santavicca’s retirement in July 2010.] In the absence of the mothers-to-be, CLAS struggled to give birth to numerous events and activities and they, in turn, each successfully produced a beautiful baby boy. On October 11, 2010, Nicolas Allard-Maguina was born to Adriana Maguña-Ugarte (Center Administrator) and her husband Francis Allard—weighing in at 9 lbs., 15 oz. Two days later, on October 13, 2010, John Mateo Hank (aka ‘Jack’) emerged from his mother’s womb to the delight of his parents—Luz Amanda Hank (Academic Affairs and Outreach Assistant) and her husband Jason Hank. Jack weighed in at 8 lbs., 4 oz. While Adriana and Luz were occupied with pregnancy, delivery and, finally, motherhood, CLAS was able to survive in a relatively respectable fashion with the help of three student assistants who were hired to partially fill the gaps left by Adriana and Luz. Kristen Brinson, David Freifeld, and Moriah Mock quickly adapted to the CLAS milieu and made Fall 2010 tolerable. The students were ably guided by Devon Taliaferro (CLAS Secretary/Receptionist), who also took over many tasks that were ‘in process’ when the mothers-to-be temporarily abandoned their cubicles. In the middle of winter, Luz and Adriana returned to the Center at full speed—undoubtedly realizing that nothing that CLAS or the University could throw at them could equal the passage and process involved in becoming a mother; or its ultimate fulfillment. We are pleased to report that both families are doing very well—as is the Center once again!

*Speculation has it that the coincidence in timing might be attributable to their consumption of some Amazonian river water that the Associate Director brought back from his last trip to said watershed. As we all know, the Amazon River is home to the pink dolphin (*boto*)—legendary for its fecundity—and the essence of this mammal in the water might have played some role. [Editor’s note: By the way, this note is nothing more than a fabrication of a relatively bizarre mind.]
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