CLAS Associate Director John Frechione
suffering the adverse March weather in
Puerto Rico at LASA2006.
(See page 12)

Reid Andrews (History) and Keynote Speaker Teresa Caldeira
( Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine)
at the Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference.
(See page 3)

Former CLAS Director Mitchell Seligson and
new granddaughter Dalia.
(See Shirley K’s Korner, Page 15)

CLAS Associate Director John Frechione
suffering the adverse March weather in
Puerto Rico at LASA2006.
(See page 12)
New at CLAS

Kathleen Musante DeWalt, Director of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), is on the Semester at Sea voyage through April 2006 and then on sabbatical leave through December 2006. During that time, James A. Craft, Professor of Business Administration at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, is serving as Acting Director. Dr. Craft received his MBA and PhD degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He has taught at the University of California and Purdue University and has been a visiting professor at the Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María in Valparaíso, Chile and the International Management Center in Budapest, Hungary. He has lectured and conducted seminars at universities in Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, and Poland and has presented management seminars in Turkey, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, and the Czech Republic. His research and teaching focus on effective talent management in organizations and value creation through effective organizational human resources systems. Dr. Craft was the first Academic Director for the Katz Executive MBA Program, has been Director of the School’s Doctoral Program, and has served as Chairperson of the Katz Organizational Behavior and Human Resources faculty. He is already quite familiar with CLAS, having served as Acting Director in 2000, and we are pleased to have him with us again.

We also are happy to announce that Felipe Zuluaga has joined the Center as an intern for Spring term 2006. For his internship, Felipe will work with international visitors participating in CLAS conferences and lecture series, help with the coordination of conferences/workshops/lectures, and provide research assistance to his internship site supervisor (CLAS Associate Director John Frechione). Felipe is a native of Colombia and a student in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). He is currently completing his Master's degree in International Affairs with a focus on security and intelligence studies, global political economy, and development assistance in Latin America. After graduating in April 2006, Felipe plans to pursue another master’s degree—this one in International Development. He anticipates that additional studies focused on this subject will assist him in finding alternative strategies for peace and development, particularly in countries that experience armed conflict and political unrest.

Conference on Reading Otherwise: The Ethics of Latin American Literary Criticism

October 21-22, 2005

Coordinator: Erin Graff Zivin (Assistant Professor, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh)

The last several decades have witnessed a reorientation of the political and a globalization of the cultural in Latin America, shifting literature’s function as a homogenizing, citizen-forming institution to a more dispersed, fragmented, and (potentially) democratic and liberating practice. At the same time, and perhaps in response to this cultural shift, the field of Latin American literary studies has expanded to include cultural studies, performance studies, postcolonial theory, gender studies, Africana studies, and subaltern studies. In light of these dramatic transformations within a globalized Latin American culture, as well as within the field of Latin American literary studies itself, what value (if any) can we attribute to aesthetics today? Is the reconsideration of artistic creation a mere return to the hegemonic lettered city, or can we begin to think about an “ethical potential” inscribed within the act of reading, that is, a traumatic encounter with otherwise that irreversibly alters what Emmanuel Levinas terms “the imperialism of the same”?

This colloquium brought together scholars on the cutting edge of literary and cultural theory to discuss the possibility of reading (texts, cultures, events) as ethical experience, paying particular attention to issues of subjectivity, victimization, agency, multitude, particularism, difference, and representation.

The event was sponsored by the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, the Center for Latin American Studies, the University Center for International Studies, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences.
Conference Schedule

Friday, October 21
2:15 p.m.
Panel I. Ethics of the Event?
Gabriela Basterra (Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures, New York University; Directeur de Programme, Collège International de Philosophie, Paris): “Ethics, Perhaps?”
Bruno Bosteels (Associate Professor of Spanish Literature, Cornell University): “The Ethical Superstition”
Chair: Joshua Lund (Assistant Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh)

4:00 p.m.
Panel II. Ethics and Cultural Studies
Idelber Avelar (Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Tulane University): “Cultural Studies in the Blogosphere: Academics Meet New Technologies of Online Publication”
Alberto Moreiras (Professor of Spanish and Literature, Duke University): “Infrapolitics and the Thriller: An Alternative Literary History”
Esther Gabara (Assistant Professor of Romance Studies and Art and Art History, Duke University): “‘I Promise She Is a Woman’: Balmoreadas, Acciones, and the Gendering of Ethics”
Chair: Bobby Chamberlain (Associate Professor of Brazilian Culture and Literature, University of Pittsburgh)

Saturday, October 22
9:00 a.m.
Panel III. The Limits of Literature
Sergio Chejfec (Autor, Poet, and Editor, Buenos Aires/New York): “Apuntes sobre mundos construidos”
Gabriel Riera (Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, Princeton University): “Regia Victoria’: Saer or for an Ethics of Writing”
Chair: Emily Maguire (Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University)

10:45 a.m.
Panel IV. Reading to popular, Reading the Particular
Francine Masriello (Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, University of California, Berkeley): “Getting There First: The Experience of Reading”
Doris Sommer (Ira Jewell Williams, Jr. Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University): “Slaps and Embraces: The Ethical Erotics of Particularism,”
Chair: Jerome Branche (Associate Professor of Latin American and Cultural Studies, University of Pittsburgh)

1:30 p.m.
Roundtable Discussion
John Beverley (Professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies, University of Pittsburgh)
Ronald A.T. Judy (Professor of English, University of Pittsburgh)
Giuseppina Mecchia (Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh)
Doris Sommer (Harvard University)

2:45 p.m.
Closing Remarks

The Eleventh Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference was held on February 16 and 17, 2006. Teresa Caldeira, the 2006 Carmelo Mesa-Lago Distinguished Latin American Social and Public Policy Lecturer, delivered the keynote address on “Re-Imagining Inequality: Hip-Hop, Periphery, and Spatial Segregation in São Paulo.”

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 eleventh conference, 16 students from seven departments and schools at the University of Pittsburgh and seven non-Pitt students (from Arizona State University, Georgetown University/Universidad Nacional de General San Martin, Argentina, the Korean Development Institute School, the University of Chicago, the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison) presented papers and eight Pitt faculty members provided discussion.

The 2006 conference was organized by Latin American Social and Public Policy Fellows María José Alvarez (Sociology), Stuart Easterling (History), Verónica Lifrieri (Linguistics), Laura Macia Vergara (Anthropology), Marilia Mochel (Political Science), Gabriela Núñez (Communication), Oscar de la Torre (History), and Javier Vázquez (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/Cornell University Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs. A list of the conference panels, presenters, and discussants follows.
Thursday, February 16
9:30 a.m.
Welcome: James A. Craft (Acting Director, Center for Latin American Studies)

10:00 a.m.
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Labor Inequality
Moderator: Marília Mochel
R. Spencer Foster (Sociology, University of Pittsburgh): “The Influence of Gender and Race on Occupational Segregation in Urban Brazilian Workers”
Verónica Lifrieri (Linguistics, University of Pittsburgh): “Language at Work: English Proficiency among Hispanic Workers in the U.S.”
Jared Coopersmith (Sociology, University of Pittsburgh): “Inequality among Professionals: The Case of Brazilian Schoolteachers”
Discussants: G. Reid Andrews (UCIS Research Professor of History) and Peggy A. Lovell (Associate Professor of Sociology)

1:00 p.m.
Economic Integration
Moderator: Laura Macia Vergara
Justin M. Rivas (University of Wisconsin-Madison): “CAFTA and Central American Implications: A New Development Model, Trade Pact Changes, and Comparisons to NAFTA”
Discussant: James Cassing (Professor of Economics)
2:50 p.m.
Democracy: Stability, Reform and Crisis
Moderator: María José Alvarez
Laura Wills (Political Science, University of Pittsburgh): “Electoral Systems in Latin America: Explaining the Adoption of Electoral Proportional Systems during the 20th Century”
Christina M. Robinson (University of Arizona): “Killing Injustice: Lynching Prevention Programs in Huehuetenango, Guatemala”
Kavin Paulraj (History, University of Pittsburgh): “How Liberationist Catholics Politicized the Countryside and Built the Brazilian Land Reform Movement, 1968-1988”
Discussant: John Markoff (Professor of Sociology, History and Political Science and UCIS Research Professor)

11:30 a.m.
Reforming Education in Latin America
Moderator: Gabriela Núñez
Yadira García (Education, University of Pittsburgh) and Luis F. Vivaldi (Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh): “Guatemalan Educational Policy since the 1996 Peace Accords”
Lucía Guerra Reyes (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia): “Policies for People?: The case of the Peruvian National Sexual Education Program”
Matt Rhodes (Education, University of Pittsburgh): “Language Policy and Linguistic Minorities”
Discussant: Clementina Acedo (Assistant Professor of Administrative and Policy Studies, Education)

9:30 a.m.
Political Institutions and Voters’ Behavior in Latin America
Moderator: Verónica Lifrieri
Amy Erica Smith (Political Science, University of Pittsburgh): “Democratic Legitimacy and Regime Stability: What is the Connection?”
Laura Coward (Georgetown University/Universidad Nacional de General San Martin, Argentina): “Clientelism in Argentina: A Bipartite Case Study From the ‘Conurbano Bonaerense’”
Discussant: Scott Morgenstern (Associate Professor of Political Science)

2:00 p.m.
Assessing Public Policy Reform
Moderator: Stuart Easterling
Hernan Maldonado (Korean Development Institute School): “Anti-Drug Policies: On the Wrong Path to Peace”
In 2005, the CLAS Faculty and Student Advisory Committee recommended that the Center focus its conference, symposium, lecture, and publication activities over the next few years on the overarching theme of **Globalization and Diversity/Inequality in Latin America: The Challenges, Opportunities, and Dangers**. This workshop represented the first step in a conference and publication program devoted to the theme.

Unfortunately, the participants from Bolivia were not present. Dr. Magdalena Cajias had to cancel because of duties related to her role in the new administration of President Evo Morales. However, she might not have been able to attend the workshop even if her schedule permitted, because Professor Raúl Prada was denied permission to travel to the United States despite the fact that he held a diplomatic and a tourist visa. This echoes, and regrettable appears to extend to other non-U.S. scholars, the policies that the current U.S. administration has been applying in relation to academics from Cuba. The papers by Drs. Cajias and Prada were read by the conference coordinators.
Workshop Schedule

9:00 a.m.
Panel I: Globalization and Alternative Epistemologies
Marisol de la Cadena (Department of Anthropology, University of California): “Decolonizing Ethnographies and Politics: Always Work in Progress”
Mario Blaser (Division of Social Sciences, York University): “Countering Invisibilities, Fostering Emergences: On Myths and Indigenous People’s (Other) Globalization”
Magdalena Cajias (Department of History, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Bolivia): “Acumulación histórica y articulación ideológica en los movimientos sociales actuales en Bolivia”

11:00 a.m.
Panel II: Globalization and Alternative Politics
Raúl Prada (Department of Sociology, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Bolivia): “La re-estructuración del Estado por otras vías: ¿Existe un capitalismo distinto al que conocemos?”
Marcello Fernández Osco (Department of Romance Studies, Duke University): “Movimiento social indígena boliviano: Otra forma de hacer política”
José Manuel Valenzuela (Research Professor, Department of Cultural Studies, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Tijuana, and Visiting Professor, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh): “Migrantes y mareros: Nuevos actores en la geopolítica estadounidense”

2:00 p.m.
Roundtable Discussion: Moderator: John Beverley
(Professor and Chair, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh)

Latin American Lecture Series

For academic year 2005-06, CLAS’ Latin American Lecture Series focused primarily on the Center’s overarching theme of Globalization and Diversity/Inequality in Latin America: The Challenges, Opportunities, and Dangers—considering these dimensions of globalization for conventional political movements, new social movements, indigenous communities, women, and ethnic/racial minorities in Latin America and the Caribbean. A wide range of topics related to the theme and countries/regions were covered in the lectures.

September 1, 2005
MIGRATION, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND THE AGING EARTH IN ANDEAN QUICHUA RELIGION—by Tod Swanson (Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Center for Latin American Studies, Arizona State University)

September 16, 2005
GENDER AND THE BOUNDARIES OF DRESS IN CONTEMPORARY PERU—by Blenda Feminías (Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh)

October 7, 2005
CUBA AND THE RULE OF LAW by Debra Evenson (Visiting Professor of Law, Rutgers School of Law-Camden)

October 10, 2005
LESSONS OF PRE-ELECTION POLLING IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THE MYTH OF NATIONAL POLITICAL CULTURE AND THE FALLACY OF ELECTORALISM IN CONFLICTED SOCIETIES AND FAILING STATES—by William A. Barnes (Election Polls Consultant; JD, PhD in Political Science)

October 17, 2005
SEX, RACE, AND REPRESENTATION IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS: WHY WOMEN GOT QUOTAS AND BLACKS AND INDIANS DID NOT—by Mala Htun (Assistant Professor of Political Science, The New School for Social Research)

October 21, 2005
NAHUA PERSON, BODY, AND HEALING. REFLECTIONS ON MEXICAN-INDIAN ETHNO-MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE TODAY—by Alessandro Lupo (Professor, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza” Dipartimento di Studi Glottoantropologici e Discipline Musicali)
Latin American Guitar Concert

On November 3, 2005, Master Guitarist Ricardo Iznaola (Director of the Conservatory Division and Chair of the Guitar and Harp Department at the Lamont School of Music, University of Denver) filled the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium at the University of Pittsburgh with a beautifully performed repertoire devoted to Venezuela’s guitar masters—including Raúl Borges, Juan Bautista Plaza, Vicente Emilio Sojo, and Antonio Lauro, among others. He also played his own most recent composition, Triptico Criollo (a tribute to the music of Venezuela) in a duo with virtuoso violinist YuMi Hwang-Williams. The concert was planned to coincide with the publication of Alejandro Bruzual’s newest book, The Guitar in Venezuela: A Concise History to the End of the 20th Century (Quebec: Doberman Yppán, 2005). Alejandro is completing his PhD in Latin American Literature at the University of Pittsburgh. He graduated from the Universidad Central de Venezuela with a degree in Literature, and completed “Guitar Studies” with Leopoldo Igarza, in Caracas. The event was sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, International Shipboard Education, and the Department of Music.
Faculty Publications

**Kathleen M. Blee** (Sociology)


**Jerome Branche** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

**James A. Craft** (Business)


**Robert D. Drennan** (Anthropology)


**Seymour Drescher** (History)

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

**Cecilia Green** (Sociology)

**Gonzalo Lamana** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)


**Peggy A. Lovell** (Sociology)

**Joshua Lund** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

**John Markoff** (Sociology)
Faculty Publications (continued)


Carmelo Mesa-Lago (Economics)
2006. Las Reformas de Salud en América Latina y el Caribe: Su Impacto en los Principios de la Seguridad Social (Santiago, CEPAL-GTZ, Documento de Proyectos).


Elizabeth Monasterios (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

Scott Morgenstern (Political Science)
2004. Patterns of Legislative Politics: Roll Call Voting in the United States and Latin America’s Southern Cone (Cambridge University Press).


Enrique Mu (Business)

Josephine E. Olson (Linguistics)

Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (Political Science)


B. Guy Peters (Political Science)

Lara Putnam (History)

Marcus Rediker (History)

Marla Ripoll (Economics)

Rob Ruck (History)

Richard Scaglion (Anthropology)

Sebastian M. Saiegh (Political Science)

Nuno S. Themudo (Public and International Affairs)

David R. Watters (Anthropology)
At LASA2006

The Latin American Studies Association celebrated its XXVI International Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico from March 15-18, 2006. Despite the adverse weather conditions—lots of sun, temperatures in the mid-80s (°F), and a refreshing breeze wafting the beaches—the 2006 LASA congress was attended by a record high 4,868 persons. CLAS students, faculty, alumni, and friends were a major presence at the meetings once again—chairing panels, presenting papers, or acting as discussants. CLAS staff member Luis Bravo (Coordinator of International Relations and Fellowships) organized (with guidance from Shirley Kregar) a reception for CLAS-affiliated congress participants. The reception was a great success, and we wish to thank all of those who attended and are pleased to present a selection of photographs from the event.

LASA and Academic Freedom

The only dark cloud hovering over the congress was the ongoing policy of the present U.S. administration of denying visas to Cuban scholars scheduled to attend. For LASA2006, 55 scholars from Cuba had planned to participate in the meetings. Three weeks before the start of the congress, the Cubans were informed that their visas to enter the U.S. had been denied. For the previous congress in 2004, all 65 Cuban scholars who planned to attend were informed 10 days before the meeting that they would be barred from traveling to Las Vegas. The first indication of this developing policy occurred in 2003, when only 60 of 105 Cubans were granted visas to attend LASA2003 in Dallas, Texas.

The infringement on academic freedom represented by the policy of the U.S. administration resulted in a proposition at LASA2006 that future congresses should not be held in the United States until visas are again granted to Cuban scholars who wish to attend the meetings. It is likely that, pending a vote by the membership of LASA, the 2007 congress, scheduled to take place in Boston, will be relocated (possibly to Canada or Mexico), and the 2009 congress will be held in South America.
Left to right: Cecilia Green, Luis Bravo, Blenda Femenias, and María Cristina Saavedra.

Magdalena Lopez and Verónica Garibotto.

Jonathan Hiskey and Dinorah Azpuru.

Ravi Sundaram and Nita Rudra.

Vicente Lecuna and Anadeli Bencomo.

Left to right: Mary Fran Malone, Juliana Martínez Franzoni, and María José Álvarez.

Sebastián Saiegh and Ana Carolina Garriga.

Below: Alejandro Bruzual and Dawn Duke.

Gloria Rudolf and Eva Paus.

Michael Ervin and Linda Stevenson.
Donors

CLAS would like to thank the following individuals who generously contributed funding to support the endowments and programs of the Center for Latin American Studies during 2003-04 and 2004-05. Contributions from alumni, faculty, and friends are especially important to the basic ability of CLAS to maintain and enhance its activities and programs.

If you have not done so already, please join in helping to support the Center. For information, see Contributing to CLAS on our web site at: http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/contributions.html

¡Thanks very much to the contributors to CLAS!

Victor Juan Amram, Jr.  Sarah Stevenson Foster  Josephine E. Olson
Celeste Schieb Angus  John Frechione  Laurence E. Platt
Anonymous  Michele Lynn Geary  Arturo and Nina Porzecanski
Anthony and Linda Barbuto, Jr.  Mark Ginsburg  Violeta F. Rodríguez
Robert S. Barker  Danita E. Gregory  David G. Roger
David Bergad  Jason A. Hitchman  Danielle R. Romanetti
Jack Bishop  Stephen D. Kessler  Stephanie D. Roth
Cole and Marty Blasier  Lucy Laufe  Nancy L. Ruther
Alex F. Braden  Sydney Darce Lewis  Sally Anne Schlippert
Heather S. Callahan  Amy King Liebman  Deborah Lynn Scott
Howard Scott Cook  Felipe Macia  Michael A. Snyder
Charles Dabkowski  Mr. and Mrs. Doug A. May  Cesar Alberto Solis
Bruce Deckman  Carol Jean McGreevy-Morales  Rachel Anne Steigerwalt
Gail Strause Deckman  Brenda J. McLaughlin  Linda S. Stevenson
Kathleen Musante DeWalt  Melanie D. Meade  Maria del Pilar Villegas
Laura Mengon Duran  Michael F. Miller  Janet Harclerode Yu
¡Felicitaciones/Parabéns to the most recent CLAS graduates!

Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies
December 2005
Ileana M. Jara-Yupanqui—Hispanic Languages and Literatures
   April 2006 (anticipated graduation)
Andrea M. Cuéllar—Anthropology (PhD)
Ligia Desiree Díaz-Román—Education: Administrative and Policy Studies
Lauren Rebecca Herckis—Anthropology
Lindsey Michelle Jones—GSPIA: NGOs and Civil Society
Luis Martín del Campo—GSPIA
Kavin Dayanandan Paulraj—History
Ignacio Miguel Sánchez-Prado—Hispanic Languages and Literatures
Felipe Alejandro Zuluaga—GSPIA: Security and Intelligence Studies

Graduate Certificate in Latin American Social and Public Policy
December 2005
Alexandra Barahona—Development Planning & Environmental Sustainability (GSPIA)
Hilary Hensler—Development Planning & Environmental Sustainability (GSPIA)

Undergraduate Certificate in Latin American Studies
December 2005
Kristen E. Boyles—Spanish/Political Science
Simone A. Hudson—Sociology
Rebecca Marie Labancz—Administration of Justice (CGS)/Spanish (CAS)
Jessica Rathbone—Anthropology
Stephanie N. Smith—Accounting (CBA)
   April 2006 (anticipated graduation)
Tara M. Beech—Political Science
Melanie B. Bricker—English Writing
Elizabeth Buncher—Economics/Spanish
Stacy A. Calabretta—Spanish/Anthropology
Rachael Erin Cohen—Political Science/Spanish
Julia McCartney Cusick—Political Science
Christina Marie Gavin—Spanish
Gwen Nemeth Gaviola—Anthropology
Carly Paige Gordon—Spanish
Chaya Marie Harris—Film Studies
Courtney Anne Hill—Spanish
Bridgett Faith Himel—Spanish
Kathryn Simone Hoes—Biological Sciences
Ashley Korinn Janiga—Spanish/Linguistics
Nerissa M. Lindenfelser—Geology
Debra L. Lytle—English Writing
Beth Ashley May—Spanish
Natalie Jane McManus—Spanish
Ashley Lynn McNelly—Spanish/Business
Grzegorz Miaskiewicz—Politics & Philosophy/History (UHC)
Anne Garland Neel—Spanish
Benjamin Daniel O’Dell—English Literature
Molly Jane Panning—Political Science
Benjamin James Pilcher—Urban Studies
Suzanna Hallie Publicker—Spanish/Political Science
Laura J. Ripo—Finance/Spanish
Alayna J. Sands—Spanish
Amanda Santostefano—Communication
Diana Lynn Schmalzried—Spanish/Anthropology
Kasey Anne Sharretts—Spanish/Anthropology
David Spears—Psychology
Kristin Renee Tolbert—English Writing
Luz Amanda Villada—Spanish

Related Concentration in Latin American Studies
December 2005
Andrea J. Gault—Psychology
   April 2006 (anticipated graduation)
Abolaji Elizabeth Awosogba—History/Political Science
Melinda M. Bluemling—Communication/Business
Allison Marie Haines—Anthropology
Seth Jared Hipple—Business (CBA)
Tiffani Leigh Johnson—Business/Communication
Carolyn R. McDevitt—Biological Sciences
Julie A. Starek—Psychology
Ashlee Renee Suskey—Spanish
Student and Alumni News

Jesús Alonso Regalado (MLIS 2000 Library and Information Science) works at the University at Albany, SUNY, as the bibliographer for Hispanic (Spain and Portugal) and Latin American Studies. Jesús is also a Faculty Associate of the Department of Latin American Studies. He accepted the position in Albany a year ago and enjoys the work and the institution very much.

Ariel C. Armony (PhD 1998 Political Science) was honored to be nominated as a candidate for LASA’s Executive Council. Ariel is an Associate Professor of Government and Co-Director of the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Mirna Kolbowski, his wife, is the Chief Financial Officer at Kennebec Federal Savings and Loan in Waterville. Their children, Ian and Alan, have grown up since they left Pittsburgh. Ian is now 12 years old and in the seventh grade, while Alan is in the fourth grade and will celebrate his 10th birthday in May.

Luiz Barcelos (ABD Sociology) left his position at Inter-American Dialogue in January 2005 to work as chief of staff with a Brazilian legislator.

João Carlos Barreto (MPIA 2000 GSPIA—International Affairs) and wife, Danyelle, are the proud parents of Lucas who was four months old in December 2005. João works at the Ministry of Planning in Brasilia, where he deals with issues related to labor and employment. Previously, he worked with science and technology issues. João continues to actively support the programs of graduate education at the University of Pittsburgh.


Ivan Brenes (MPIA 1991 GSPIA—International Affairs) hosted a group of faculty and students from the Semester at Sea (SAS). In November 2005, Ivan gave a group of SAS students a tour of Kobe University campus and then introduced the SAS students to Ivan’s Kobe students. The interaction between the two groups took off almost immediately. “The kids were talking about everything. By the time they were saying good-bye in the cafeteria, some Americans were hugging the Japanese students....In the
afternoon we had great fall weather and we enjoyed Himeji Castle.” Ivan very much enjoyed acting as the intermediary and this may occur again in the spring. (Kathleen Musante DeWalt, CLAS Director, is the Academic Dean of the spring voyage of Semester at Sea.) Ivan is another enthusiastic supporter of all things Pitt. “In one of my recent classes I showed my students a book with pictures of the International Classrooms at Pitt. They were astounded. They could not believe such ‘gorgeous’ classrooms existed. They can’t imagine that people actually study in them.”

Catherine M. Conaghan (BA 1975 Political Science) has an interesting new book in print: *Fujimori’s Peru: Deception in the Public Sphere* (University of Pittsburgh Press, August 2005). The book is very timely given Mr. Fujimori’s recent return to Latin America, his arrest by Chilean authorities, and his continued attempt to regain the Presidency of Peru. Cynthia McClintock, George Washington University, notes: “This riveting book illuminates the extraordinary rise and fall of Peru’s Alberto Fujimori and Vladimiro Montesinos. Conaghan probes a serious challenge facing not only Peru but many countries in the world today—elites’ moral decay, abetting a corrupt government’s capacity to maintain a veneer of legitimacy.

Required reading for scholars, and will engage students and informed public throughout the hemisphere.” Catherine is a professor of political studies at the University of Kingston, Ontario. A December 2005 issue of *Caretas* featured the book and indicated that a Spanish translation is in progress.

Lucia Dammert (MURP 1997 GSPIA—Urban and Regional Planning) is the co-editor with John Bailey of *Public Security and Police Reform in the Americas*, a book published recently in the Pitt Latin American Series, University of Pittsburgh Press. Mitchell Seligson (Vanderbilt University and former CLAS Director at Pitt) reviewed the book: “This excellent and comprehensive volume, edited and written by leading researchers in the field, examines the crime problem, the often ineffectual attempts to control it via police reform, and the threats to democracy that its pervasiveness has generated.”

Jerome Crowder (PhD 1998 Anthropology) returned to Pittsburgh in March 2006 to participate in a flurry of outreach activities sponsored by CLAS. From January through June, a collection of Jerome’s photographs will be on display at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH). “Urban Dreams: The Search for a Better Life in Bolivia”...“explores the process of migration and urbanization in Bolivia by following one family as they leave their rural community for the city of La Paz. It is important to reflect upon how migration and urbanization are rampant throughout the Americas and affect the lives of thousands of people living across this state and in its cities. This essay of photos stimulates our curiosity for learning about cultures in other countries, but also serves as a mirror to view the processes as they occur in the United States.” [from the CMNH web site http://www.carnegiemnh.org/exhibits/index.html] On Wednesday, March 1, Jerome participated in a workshop at CMNH for middle/high school teachers on “Sense of Place: Land and Cultural Identities Around the World” that was sponsored by CLAS and other area programs of the University Center for International Studies. On Thursday, March 2, Jerome returned to his roots (Department of Anthropology) to share his knowledge and experiences in visual ethnography by presenting a lecture at Pitt on “Changing Lenses during Cultural Change: The Evolution of an Andean Visual Ethnography.” When not in the high Andes, Jerome is based at the University of Houston. For more information about this creative anthropologist’s work, see http://www.jeromecrowder.com/index.htm

From Blasier to Mesa-Lago to Seligson to their students...see a list of all the outstanding scholars whose works appear in the Pitt Latin American Series at: http://www.upress.pitt.edu

Pitt’s Department of History was very well represented in the conference “Statutes, Science and the Seas: Slavery and Freedom in the Atlantic World,” co-sponsored by the University of Michigan and the University of Windsor. Oscar de la Torre and Matthew Casey, doctoral students, as well as Dr. Alejandro de la Fuente, participated in this international conference held in late March. Alejandro presented the paper “Slaves and the Creation of Rights in Cuba.” Oscar and Matt presented preliminary versions of their master’s theses in a graduate student roundtable—Oscar’s on “A Survey on the Discourse and Practice of Black Intellectuals and Social Movements in Brazil, 1910s-1988” and Matt’s on “The American Occupation of Haiti and the Politics of Emigration, 1915-1934.”
Shirley K’s Korner (continued)

Leonel Delgado defended his dissertation, “Cartografías del yo: Escritura autobiográfica y modernidad en Centroamérica, del modernismo al testimonio,” in October 2005 and was awarded the doctorate in Hispanic Languages and Literatures. Leonel is currently a Professor in the Instituto de Historia de Nicaragua y Centroamérica of the Universidad Centroamericana in Managua, Nicaragua.

Emilio Del Valle (PhD 2004 Hispanic Languages and Literatures) traveled to Peru last summer as a participant in the NEH-funded institute, “Andean Worlds: New Directions in Scholarship and Teaching.” He spent June 26 through July 31 traveling in Peru and Bolivia, learning about the countries and their former and present cultures. Twenty-four faculty participants were provided “an in-depth survey of Andean culture and history, focusing on pre-Columbian, colonial and contemporary manifestations of Andean culture.” For more information, see: http://www.ccha-assoc.org/andeanworld/index.html

Laura L. Fleischer Proaño (BA 2000 Business/Interdisciplinary Studies) accepted a position as Program Associate with Freedom from Hunger in Sacramento, California where she and her husband moved in 2005. Before leaving for California, Laura and Santi came to Pittsburgh (as they have done for many years) to participate in the Latin American and Caribbean Festival sponsored by CLAS. Since Laura was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador, she and her entire family have promoted the products of ArtePapel. (What could be better than an indigenous women’s group that recycles and uses natural plants to produce beautiful paper and cards! See the web site: www.planetdrum.org) Before moving to California, Laura worked in the Government Development Group of Ohio University’s Voinovich Center for Leadership and Public Affairs. The Center provides research and technical assistance in the impoverished Appalachian Ohio region. She primarily worked with the Governor’s Office of Appalachia on a web portal (www.appalachianohio.com) and with a delegation of legislators on legislative research to promote development in the Appalachian region. Although Laura learned a lot and found the work interesting, she wanted to move into international development, particularly international microfinance. Laura completed the MA in International Development at Ohio University in 2005. An abstract and the full text of her thesis, “Women’s Empowerment and Microcredit in Brazil: A Case Study of the Banco do Povo de Itabira,” can be found at: http://www.ohiolink.edu/etd/view.cgi?acc_num=ohiou1113830516. Santi, an artist from Ecuador, will have his first U.S. art exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery in Sacramento. The gallery owner has asked Santi to prepare more pieces for a larger show in September. See some of the artwork that will be featured at www.phoenixinsac.com.

“A contracorriente welcomes essays, interviews and review-essays about the intersection between literature and social history in Latin America. As the title of the journal implies, its aim is to go against the current of poststructuralist and postmodernist theories by returning to left-wing socio-historical analyses of culture. We hope to foster debate and discussion within this tradition, specific studies of concrete cultural, historical and literary contexts, and critiques of the relativist trends in literary criticism and historiography.” The winter issue of A contracorriente contains an article by Verónica Garibotto and Antonio Gómez, doctoral students in Hispanic Languages and Literatures, “Más allá del ‘formato memoria’: la repostulación del imaginario postdictatorial en Los rubios de Albertina Carri.” A contracorriente is available online at: www.ncsu.edu/project/acontracorriente. Direct correspondence to the editor: Greg Dawes (gadfll@unity.ncsu.edu), Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-8106.

Susan Hallstead (PhD 2006 Hispanic Languages and Literatures) and Juan Pablo Dabove (PhD 2002 Hispanic Languages and Literatures) are the proud parents of their first child, Tomas Gabriel Dabove, born on October 5, 2005. Besides being a new Mother, Susan also is a new Doctora. She successfully defended her dissertation, “FashioNation: The Politics of Dress and Gender in 19th Century Argentina,” and will receive the doctorate in April 2006. A mother, a scholar, a wife, and an instructor of second- and third-year Spanish at the University of Colorado, Susan is currently teaching courses on Spanish culture, Spanish conversation, and composition. Juan Pablo is an Assistant Professor of Spanish and the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Colorado - Boulder. See Juan Pablo’s web site for a list of his many publications, http://www.colorado.edu/Spanish/dabove.htm, some of which he coauthored with Carlos Jáuregui (see Jáuregui entry on following page).
Todd Harvey (BA 2002 Sociology/Spanish) was awarded a Teaching Assistantship for this (his second) semester at the University of Texas. Todd is assisting a professor in a criminology course, a little far from Todd’s interests, but good training nonetheless. Todd has been maintaining his Spanish by tutoring undergrads “which is... a lot of fun and keeps me connected to my passion for languages.” He will use his Portuguese this summer. He recently was awarded a fellowship to go to Brazil in the summer to begin data collection for an original research paper on racial identity, which he hopes will result in the master’s thesis. “I’ll be spending probably two months in Belo Horizonte, at UFMG, working with a professor and conducting in-depth interviews, maybe take a stab at focus groups, and also be looking at a quantitative data set.” The CLAS staff members are cheering Todd on!!!

Margarita Jara Yupanqui (PhD candidate Hispanic Languages and Literatures) has accepted a tenure track position at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. Margarita shared her multidisciplinary work experience and research in the lecture, “Indigenous Identity: The Case of the Kukamiria in the Peruvian Amazon,” that she presented in March to a packed seminar room as part of the CLAS lecture series.

Carlos Jáuregui (PhD 2001 Hispanic Languages and Literatures) had a busy year, part of which was spent preparing his prize-winning book, Canibalismo: canibalismo, calibanismo, antropofagia cultural y consumo en América Latina, for publication in January 2006. Carlos received the prestigious Premio Casa de las Américas for Canibalismo... in January 2005. During the year, he traveled to Colombia and presented papers, served on panels, and organized roundtables at Duke, North Carolina, and West Virginia University. In addition to Carlos’ position as Assistant Professor of Spanish and Anthropology at Vanderbilt University, he is currently serving as the Director of Graduate Students. Tatiana also is teaching at Vanderbilt; she had four classes of Spanish in the fall.

Lindsey Michelle Jones and Felipe Zuluaga co-authored “From Authoritarianism to Democracy... and Back? The Effects of Economic Crisis on Democratic Transitions in Latin America,” Swords & Ploughshares XV(1):28-36. Their article appears in the first edition (fall 2005) of a graduate student journal published by the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC. Additional information about the journal is available at: email SandP@american.edu; web site http://www.american.edu/sis/sword. Lindsey and Felipe are both scheduled to receive master’s degrees in April 2006 from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Lindsey’s specialization is NGOs and Civil Society, while Felipe concentrates on Security and Intelligence Studies.

Mary Fran Malone (PhD 2004 Political Science) and Lucia Dammert (MURP 1997 GSPIA—Urban and Regional Planning) have now co-authored three articles for publication. Their latest, “Does It Take a Village? Fear of Crime and Policing Strategies in South America,” will appear in a forthcoming issue of Latin American Politics and Society. Mary also has two other articles that have been accepted for publication: “Policing in Costa Rica,” World Police Encyclopedia (forthcoming, Routledge Press) and “Declining Hegemony? Assessing the Church’s Political Power in Chile” with William Lies (PhD 2003 Political Science) in Paul Christopher Manuel, Clyde Wilcox, and Lawrence C. Reardon’s (eds.) Of Crucifixes and Swords: The Relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the State in Regional and National Perspectives (Georgetown University Press, forthcoming). A Visiting Lecturer in 2005-06, Mary will be appointed an Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of New Hampshire, in the fall of 2006. Mary also is co-advisor for Model United Nations, as well as a member of the Library Committee, Graduate Committee, and Undergraduate Research Committee. http://www.unh.edu/political-science

Luciano Martinez was offered and accepted a tenure-track position at Swarthmore College as an Assistant Professor of Spanish with a specialization in Latin American literature in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. Luciano also looks forward to participating in the Latin American Studies program. Ranked as one of the top five small liberal arts college in the country by various publications and reports, positions at Swarthmore are very highly sought after. Luciano expressed his honor at being interviewed for the position; being offered and accepting the job was an event of great joy for him and for those of us who have worked with him during his graduate studies. As a graduate student at Pitt, Luciano has ardently supported the programs of Hispanic Languages and Literatures as well as the Center for Latin American Studies. In 2005, he was awarded the Cole and Marty Blasier Award for his voluntary work in support of Latin American Studies at Pitt. Also in 2005, Luciano was the recipient of the Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award; Dr. Elizabeth Baranger is a Swarthmore alumna! When perusing the college’s web site, Luciano discovered an alumni profile about Dr. Baranger [http://www.swarthmore.edu/bulletin/index.php?id=176].
Luciano is currently completing the dissertation by means of an Andrew Mellon Doctoral Fellowship. For those of you who do not know about Swarthmore, it is a private liberal arts and engineering college located near Philadelphia, PA. The academic program for its 1500 students is rigorous and the student/faculty ratio is very small. For more information about the college and its distinguished alumni, see Swarthmore’s web site.

*Congratulations to one of CLAS’s most enthusiastic and gracious supporters....Luciano Martinez.*

**Edward B. McColly** (BA 2005 Spanish and Sociology) accepted an internship in Atlanta, Georgia, while awaiting a decision on his application to the Peace Corps. Edward graduated in April 2005, *magna cum laude*, with dual degrees in Spanish and Sociology. While an undergraduate, Edward studied at the University of Madrid (Spain) and was a participant in the 2005 Seminar/Field Trip to Fortaleza, Brazil. [Ligonier Echo 09/29/05]

**Melanie Meade** (BA 2003 Interdisciplinary Studies) is an Adjunct Spanish Professor at Bowie State University. She is also applying to the Washington, DC Public School System as a teaching fellow.

**José Luis Mendez** (PhD 1996 Political Science) presented a paper on “El desarrollo e implantación de servicios profesionales en el sector público en México” at the international conference, “La Gerencia Pública en América del Norte” at El Colegio de México in October 2005. José’s dissertation supervisor at Pitt, Guy B. Peters (Maurice Falk Professor of American Government, Department of Political Science), was the keynote speaker for the conference. He presented “La Internacionalización del Paradigma Post-Burocrático en América del Norte.”

**Jorge Nallim** (PhD 2002 History) was Resident Director of Sarah Lawrence College’s program in Havana, Cuba during the fall term 2005. The program has been running for five years, but this year’s program was the first in which all of the students were from Sarah Lawrence. This is one of the few remaining U.S. undergraduate study programs in Havana. In December, Jorge joined Andrea and the children in Winnipeg, Canada, where Jorge has accepted a position as Assistant Professor (tenure track) of History at the University of Manitoba. The university is a large research institution—the only one in central Canada. Will this scholar of Prat survive the change from 30 degrees Celsius to minus 30 Celsius? [Read CLASicos for the continuing story.] >>>This just in: “only” two feet of snow remains on the ground in Winnipeg as of April 6...and there IS an organization of Manitoban Argentines!!!!!

**John Niggle** (BSE 1998 Mechanical Engineering) has handed his position at FS-Elliott over to **James Flemming** (BSE 2005 Electrical Engineering)...CLAS engineers at work! As John’s replacement, Jim will be traveling throughout Mexico and South America. John, however, has left the Latin American region to relocate to Shanghai, China. Not many Spanish speakers in Shanghai, but there are some, he writes. John and his wife are learning Mandarin Chinese and hope to have a working facility in the language by the end of their stay in China. As Service Coordinator of Asia/Pacific, John is working with the company’s largest customer base—the Asia/Pacific region—which is also the location of its packaging facility. (FS-Elliott makes large centrifugal air compressors.) “My main function here is to support our customers and improve the ability level of our local distributors throughout the Asia/Pacific region, which mostly is comprised of Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, and of course China and Taiwan, although I am sure I will visit Korea, Japan, and the rest of the countries in this area. In addition to that I will mostly be acting as a communication link between our headquarters in the states and our people over here.”

**Francisco Javier Olivares** (MID 2003 GSPIA—Development Planning and Environmental Sustainability) is a Budgeting and Planning Consultant with CANTV. He reports that the interdisciplinary research paper that he submitted to obtain the Certificate in Latin American Social and Public Policy will be published. Francisco wrote a first version of this paper for Professor Paul Nelson’s course in the fall of 2002. “Commercializing Microfinance and Deepening Outreach?” will appear in the *Journal of Microfinance* 7:2.

“Abstract: Does commercialization mean mission drift? Christen (2001) argues that commercialization, which is characterized by profitability, competition, and regulation, does not have any effect on large differences in loan size between regulated and nonregulated MFIs. I used data from 28 Latin American MFIs to conduct a multiple regression analysis to test for some of Christen’s conclusions, as well as for other factors that, according to the literature on microfinance, may affect loan size. The results of the regression indicate first that the type of institution, in terms of NGO versus financial institution, regardless of being regulated or not, has no effect on loan size. Second, the age of the institution predicts loan size in a direction contrary to that suggested by Christen. Third, competition turned out to be significant, in contradiction to Christen’s conclusion; it appears that more competition may lead to larger loan sizes and less depth of outreach. Finally, the models confirm an old belief in microfinance: there is a trade-off between depth and sustainability.”

**Joan Paluzzi** (PhD 2002 Anthropology) was based in Boston for three years as the administrative coordinator for one of the Task Forces in the United Nations Millennium Project. She worked with 70 international experts
and four sub-groups, attending meetings all over the world. Joan is now an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro [http://www.uncg.edu/ant/faculty.html]. “My interest in Latin America remains constant. I have a proposal in for a small grant to research the Barrio Adentro project (primary health care) in Venezuela during the summer of 2006.”

Ashley Pierson (BA 2004 Interdisciplinary Studies) is currently in the MPIA program of the University of California-San Diego’s school of International Relations and Pacific Studies.

Renowned economist Arturo Porzecanski (PhD 1975 Economics) was named one of 13 University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureates in 2005. This award, begun in 2000, recognizes outstanding Pitt alumni for both their personal and professional accomplishments. On October 20, 2005 all 13 honorees returned to their alma mater for an all-day event in which they met individually with faculty and students, participated in discussion panels with current students and alumni, and attended a dinner hosted by Chancellor Nordenberg. As gracious as always, Arturo spent the entire day openly sharing his experience and knowledge. After leaving Wall Street where he was an award-winning economic forecaster, Arturo accepted a position as a Scholar of International Finance at American University and adjunct positions at both NYU and Columbia University. The staff of CLAS send their warmest wishes and best regards to Arturo and his family.

Michelle Reilly (BA 2004 Environmental Studies) completed her AmeriCorps contract with the Nevada Conservation Corps. “I had a wonderful time visiting the great monuments of the west and working to improve or preserve them. I am now headed a little further south. I will be working with the US Park Service based out of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. My official title is Biological Science Technician...What is lovely about this particular position is that I will get to travel to more of our national parks—Canyon de Celly, Arches Bryce, Zion, the Grand Canyon and, if I am especially fortunate, I may have the opportunity to float down the Colorado River for ‘work’. As for my future plans...If all goes well I have my mind set on attending the University of Georgia in Athens for their Conservation Ecology program.”

Lynne Prostko Hummel (BA 1977 Spanish) is back at work for the University of Pittsburgh! She met Dorolyn Smith (BA 1976 Self-designed major in Latin American Studies) in Brazil where Dorolyn was on a recruiting trip for the English Language Institute (ELI—of which Dorolyn is Associate Director). Lynne ended up recruiting for ELI at Pitt! Dorolyn and Lynn met and became friends during their CLAS classes and seminar/field trips.

Laura Ripo (BA 2006 Finance/Spanish) spent the fall term studying in Spain. “I am enjoying Spain very much, but feel much less part of the culture than I did in Chile and Brasil....I am even more impressed with the CLAS field trip after going with another study abroad program.” Laura is now in Brazil where she is studying Portuguese and seeking an internship that is relevant to her studies in business.

Andrew Roche (BPhil 1989 Economics) sends greetings to all his friends from Pitt. He is pictured here with wife Stephanie, daughter Isabelle (2 and 1/2 years old), and son Thomas (5 years old).

J. Montgomery Roper (PhD 1999 Anthropology) and Lucy had their second child—a baby girl born on Friday morning, March 3, 2006. “Her name is Kaia Palmer Chang Roper. Kaia, pronounced Ki-ya, has several meanings. We took it from the Greek meaning for earth, or the Earth Goddess (another form of Gaia). (In Hawaiian it means Sea, which is nice, but not the basis for which we chose the name.) Palmer comes from my grandmother’s (through my mother) maiden name. (My first name—Jackson—was my mother’s grandmother’s last name. She then married a Palmer.) The Palmers were apparently Tories who lived in NY and were given land on Prince Edward Island in Canada by the British Crown when the Revolutionary War started...Kaia weighed 7 lbs and was 20 inches long. Both Lucy and Kaia are healthy...Phoenix is absolutely thrilled to have a little sister and has spent lots of time adoring her.”

Stephanie Roth (BA 1992 Spanish/Political Science) spent a month volunteering with FEMA last fall. “We were all supposed to go to the Gulf states but during training Hurricane Wilma gained speed and we all got shifted to Florida to be there for the immediate response. No one ever hears much about Wilma but it was a Category 3
storm when it hit Florida, and it did a lot of damage, primarily in the Keys, Naples and Ft Lauderdale. My group worked the Keys at first, then we moved to southern Dade County....I actually spent a fair amount of time in Key West. My job was community relations and outreach. Being part of the immediate response was good because we did a lot of different things and were in contact with victims every day. We set up and staffed with the National Guard the distribution centers where people go for ice, food, water, supplies, ...[and] the help centers where people go to talk to FEMA people about the assistance they might be eligible for and get registered. In the Keys there was a lot of flooding and people lost their cars, so transportation was an issue. We went...with the Red Cross to deliver supplies, ice, water, etc. We canvassed neighborhoods to check on people after the storm....In five weeks I slept in six hotels and put 2100 miles on a rental car...because there was so much flooding and people lost everything. You’d walk down the street and see everything people owned—dressers, beds, refrigerators, couches, etc.—out on the street for trash pickup. Housing will be a longer term issue there because of the mold that invaded people’s houses. FEMA has trailers but on an island like that there’s nowhere to put them....When we got to Dade County...I got to use my Spanish a lot! I was the ONLY person in my group of 25 who could communicate with the Spanish speakers....Since I spoke Spanish I...went to a lot of community meetings, neighborhood canvasses, etc....The work was overall rewarding but dealing with the bureaucracies...was frustrating at times....I knew I was helping people and that made it all worth it.”

Alejandro Royo (PhD 2005 Biological Sciences) has been a Research Ecologist with the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Branch Forestry Sciences Laboratory, in Warren, PA since May 2002. Last year, he completed the doctorate at Pitt with a dissertation entitled “Mammal-Plant Dynamics in Forests: Interactions and Implications for Understory Plant Diversity.” “I began my career with the Forest Service in 2002 as a participant in the Scientist Recruitment Initiative program with RWU NE-4152 in Warren, Pennsylvania. I am interested in testing basic ideas regarding the mechanisms that structure forest plant communities and forest succession.” Alejandro’s main research focuses on the role competition by understory plants and herbivory by ungulates and small mammals in structuring the diversity and abundance of tree seedlings in the understory prior to overstory gap formation. “Additional research interests involve regeneration of forest systems following catastrophic wind disturbance and subsequent salvaging, the impact of soil-borne pathogens on early tree establishment, and elucidating the role mammalian herbivores play in the maintenance of herbaceous plant communities across a wide latitudinal gradient. The majority of this work is in collaboration with other investigators and spans a large geographic gra-
the International Parliament of Writers in Puebla. He also presented a paper entitled “El sublime objeto de la frontera” at New York University’s conference “Los Estados Unidos” in April 2005 and presented a keynote lecture on “Amores Perros in the Refugee House.”

Leonard Sekelick (PhD 1996, MA 1992 Hispanic Languages and Literatures; BA 1990 Spanish) has enjoyed living in Washington, DC for eleven years. “As of last year, I became a tenured full professor of Spanish at Prince George’s Community College, located in the Maryland suburbs. I also teach a graduate course in international affairs on modern Latin America at George Washington University each semester and continue to work year-round as a language analyst for the US government, except for those times when I happen to be traveling—which in recent years has been quite a bit.

2005, in particular, was a year of lots of Latin American travel for me. I started and finished my year, a month at each end of the year like bookends, in Argentina. While there I also visited Uruguay and Chile. (I was in Chile for Michelle Bachelet's presidential victory in January of this year!) At different points during the rest of 2005, I could be found in Costa Rica, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

For the first time since beginning my love affair with Latin America 18 years ago as a CLAS field trip participant in Cuenca, Ecuador in 1988, I am returning to Ecuador to visit my host family. Until this past fall, we had been out of touch for around 15 of those 18 years, and much has changed to be sure. The trip will only be for ten days, but I am sure our shared nostalgia and our desire to rediscover the lost years will make for a very special 2006—which in recent years has been quite a bit.

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I also want to return to Brazil at some point in the not-so-distant future. I was last there in 1994 so it has been a while. You might say that I am feeling the saudades a bit. Maybe I will go at the end of 2007. I do not think I would go back to Guarapari where my Brazilian CLAS field trip was in 1990, but I would love to get to know Salvador and perhaps Recife. I would go this year but already have plans for December. I will be in South Africa and Botswana. I doubt I will encounter many Spanish or Portuguese speakers there, but I will make the best of it! I think I feel a Brazilian breeze in the air for December 2007 perhaps.”

Former CLAS Director (1986-1992) and alumnus Mitchell A. Seligson (PhD 1971 Political Science) and former CLAS faculty member Susan Berk-Seligson welcomed granddaughter, Dalia Ella (see photograph on front cover of this issue), who was born on March 26, 2006 to daughter Amber and her husband, Gadi Levanon. Dalia Ella joins Maya Rahel (now 2 years old) as Mitch and Susan’s second granddaughter. Congratulations to the Seligsons and Levanons!

Michelle Seyman Gerdano
(BA 1978 Political Science/Spanish) is now in her 20th year in the Solicitor’s Office at the Department of Labor where she recently returned to full-time status. Sam Gerdano is the Executive Director of the American Bankruptcy Institute—his 15th year in this position. Recently Sam has been especially busy with media appearances and legal education programs which accompanied Congress’ new legislation on bankruptcy. Michelle and Sam have three children (Marisa, Sammy, and Natalie); Marisa, the oldest, is beginning to look at colleges. [!think Pitt, Marisa!]

Kevin Skillin (MPIA 1998 GSPIA—Economic and Social Development), Becky, and their three children are still in the DC area—but not for long. Kevin’s new assignment will be back in Latin America. The family will be moving to Quito, Ecuador in the summer of 2007 where Kevin will serve as the Cultural Affairs Officer at the Embassy, helping to “promote cultural and educational opportunities for Ecuadorians and Americans.” Their youngest daughter, Anna, is now a year old; all the children enjoy flying (an asset for the children of a Foreign Service Officer!).

Andrew Stein (PhD 1995 Political Science) and wife, Kim, threw a 50th anniversary party in November 2005 for Andrew’s parents. Andrew continues to work in the Office of Research, U.S. Department of State.
Jennifer Van Horn (JD 2001; MPIA 2001 GSPIA—International Affairs) will delight in knowing that CLAS now has more law school students in its programs than ever before—11 at last count! Jenn has been working for Jenkins & Gilchrist, PC in Dallas, Texas since graduating from Pitt. She continues to use her language skills in Spanish, Portuguese and Italian in obtaining work visas for professionals and athletes, including Olympic ice skaters and PGA tour golfers. In response to our alumni survey question, “How has your Certificate or studies of Latin America benefitted you?” Jennifer responded, “The language skills have helped me thus far, and my background in Latin American [studies] has opened doors to business opportunities.” [website: www.jenkens.com/jenkens/practicearea.asp?practice=immigration]

Mirellise Vazquez (MPIA 2000 GSPIA—International Affairs) continues to enjoy life and work in Washington, DC. In March 2005, she accepted the position of Senior Policy Advisor at Christian Children’s Fund (CCF), a non-sectarian, international, non-governmental child development organization. To get to better know the organization, in June 2005, she visited CCF projects throughout Honduras and in Oaxaca, Mexico. This was Mirellise’s first trip to Oaxaca “...which I highly recommend as a place to visit. Oaxaca reminded me a lot of Antigua, Guatemala, but much less touristy.... This year, I’ve also reconnected with my alma maters, speaking at Franklin & Marshall’s government career forum and to some American University Washington Semester students about careers in international affairs. I’ve also attended a couple of F&M and GSPIA related receptions, which are always interesting.

The job itself is quite different from what I had been doing at the U.S. Department of Labor, as I am no longer directly overseeing technical assistance projects. Rather, I now focus on policy and advocacy. Most recently, I participated in a civil society working group that came up with concrete recommendations, aimed at USAID and the State Department, on a legislatively mandated strategy on assistance to orphans and vulnerable children. We held an event on Capitol Hill to raise awareness on the bill and the recommendations, where Ms. Angelina Jolie was one of the speakers. It is really nice to be on the ‘other side’ now, where people talk...and do something about [the big issues], sometimes putting aside major differences for a common cause. My job also takes me on a fairly regular basis to the World Bank and the IDB, the Brookings Institute, and quite a bit to Capitol Hill. Currently, I am working on developing an advocacy strategy for the organization...In this process, though, I have met many interesting and knowledgeable colleagues and organizations working on similar issues. Next, I am slated to go visit our HIV/AIDS, education, and food security programs in Ethiopia and Kenya in January, which will be amazing.”

Nicolas Vivalda (PhD candidate Hispanic Languages and Literatures) will begin teaching at Vassar in the fall as an Assistant Professor (tenure-track position).

Maria Victoria Whittingham successfully defended her dissertation and will receive the doctorate in Public and International Affairs in April 2006. The dissertation: “For the People Without the People” is subtitled “A story of five administrations in Bogotá, a study on urban governance and decentralization, a public policy analysis on the complexity of change.” M. Victoria persevered when others would have faltered. Congratulations, Doctora Whittingham!

Lora Woodward (BA 2005 English Writing) was working in Tena, Ecuador during the first months of 2006 at a biological reserve in the rainforest. “I work for the Jatun Sacha Foundation at the Jatun Sacha Reserve about an hour by bus ride east of Tena. I have been working there for just over two weeks now [as of March 21]. I teach math and English three days a week to elementary school children that live a couple miles up the road. The rest of the time I do maintenance work at a botanic garden and help at the station. I will be at the reserve for another two weeks and then I am going to take Spanish classes and travel for the following six weeks. Everything is going well...although there are some large protests in the country over a free trade agreement with the U.S. I have not been personally affected aside from a bus strike here and there.”

In the summer of 2006, Lora will again work for the Student Conservation Association; she doesn’t know the specific location but she will lead a group of six high school volunteers on a month-long trip in a national park. In August 2006, Lora leaves for Thailand!, where she begins a year-long teaching internship at the Prem Tinsulanonda International School in Chaing Mai (www.premcenter.in.th). “I am very excited about the opportunities ahead of me.”
Faculty Highlights

Eric J. Beckman (Bayer Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering and Codirector of the Mascaro Sustainability Initiative [MSI]) was honored as the 2005 Engineer of the Year by the Engineers’ Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP) in February 2006 for his “outstanding leadership, innovative guidance, and service to the engineering profession and society.” Professor Beckman has also been the recipient of a Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation (1992) and the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2002) for his work in the development of nonfluorous, highly carbon dioxide-soluble materials. His research encompasses the design of more sustainable products and processes. Current projects include designing sustainable alternatives to products and processes that employ chlorine, like PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic; greener alternatives to acrylamide (a harmful chemical used in various industrial processes); and benign ways of making the environmentally friendly substance hydrogen peroxide. In 2004, CLAS partnered with MSI on a National Science Foundation IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship) Program grant. MSI was awarded the five-year $3.2 million grant in June 2005. The grant will provide international research rotations for University of Pittsburgh engineering graduate students at the University at Campinas (UNICAMP) in Campinas, Brazil. CLAS will provide training in the Portuguese language and an orientation to Brazil for the Pitt graduate students.

Robert D. Drennan (Professor of Anthropology) was elected to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in April 2004 and was named Distinguished Professor of Anthropology in January 2006 for his significant and continuing achievements in original research. He is one of only four members of the Academy on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh. Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg noted that “Election to the National Academy of Sciences is one of the highest forms of recognition that can be earned by any faculty member.” At Pitt since 1977, Professor Drennan is an archaeologist whose interests focus on the origins and development of the structures of complex societies—especially chiefdoms, regional settlement pattern studies, and household archaeology. His principal methodological specialty is quantitative data analysis and computer applications. He conducts fieldwork in Mesoamerica, northern South America, and China. According to the NAS web site, “Drennan is a leading theorist on the emergence of hierarchical society, through his comparative study of the origins and development of novel community structures. His statistical innovations have advanced archaeology dramatically. He pioneered a multidimensional-scaling program that allows prehistoric households to be ordered from egalitarianism to hereditary rank.” Dr. Drennan has maintained an active role in the activities and programs of the Center for Latin American Studies. He was instrumental in the creation of the Latin American Archaeology Program in 1988, is the Director of the University of Pittsburgh Latin American Archaeology Publications, and, since 1983, has been a Profesor Visitante in the Departamento de Antropología at the Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia. Professor Drennan also served as the Interim Director of CLAS in 1992-93.

Daniel Mossé (Professor of Computer Science) is the recipient of a 2006 Tina and David Bellet Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award. Dr. Mossé earned the Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics at the University of Brasilia in Brazil in 1985 and the Master of Science and PhD degrees in computer science at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1990 and 1993 respectively. His research interest is in distributed systems, specifically the allocation of computing and network resources in the realm of real-time, power management, security, and fault tolerances. He has been involved in the design and implementation of distributed, real-time operating systems. His work bridges the gap between the operating systems and networking research fields. Dr. Mossé will receive a one-time cash prize of $2,000 and a grant of $3,000 in support of his teaching as a Bellet Award recipient.

Rob Ruck (Senior Lecturer in History), with cowriter and coproducer Daniel Manatt, premiered the documentary film The Republic of Baseball: The Dominican Giants of the American Game on March 19, 2006 at the San Diego Latino Film Festival, during the off day of the 2006 Baseball World Cup finals that were held in San Diego. The film is based on Dr. Ruck’s book, The Tropic of Baseball: Baseball in the Dominican Republic (Mecklermedia, 1991; Carroll & Graf, 1993; and University of Nebraska Press, 1999), which was awarded the MacMillan-Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) Award in 1991. He also is the author of Sandlot Seasons: Sport in Black Pittsburgh (University of Illinois Press, 1993) and was project director, producer, and writer of Kings on the Hill: Baseball’s Forgotten Men—a documentary about the Negro Leagues and the role of sports in the Black community, for which he received an Emmy Award for Outstanding Cultural Programming in 1994.
Grants Received

Tinker Grant
The Center is pleased to report that it is the recipient of a Tinker Foundation, Inc. Field Research Grants Program award for 2006. The award provides $15,000 from Tinker, with matching funds of $7,500 each from the University Center for International Studies and the Office of the Provost. The grant is renewable for two additional years. The purpose of the grant is to provide graduate students with funding to carry out short-term predissertation field research in the Latin American/Caribbean region and Iberia (Spain and Portugal) in order to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of language, terrain, and culture; to familiarize themselves with information sources relevant to their studies; to conduct pilot studies and preliminary investigations; and to develop contacts with scholars and institutions in their fields.

CLAS was first awarded funding under the program in 1981. From 1981 to 2005, CLAS made awards for short-term field research in Latin America and Iberia to 373 graduate students and, from 1981 to 1996, to 39 junior faculty members (who also were eligible during this period)—expendiing a total of $752,131 on these grants. Of this total, $210,000 came directly from The Tinker Foundation, Inc., $135,000 from University funds required to match the Tinker contributions, and $407,131 from other funds generated by CLAS. Overall, grant recipients have come from twenty departments and schools of the University and traveled to every country in Latin America (the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries of the Western Hemisphere) and to Spain.

Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Grant
CLAS’ Outreach Program, directed by Rosalind Eannarino, has been awarded an $82,000 Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad for a teacher-training program to be held in Brazil. The program, Northeastern Brazil: People, Culture and History, will take place during Summer 2006, and 12 to 14 educators from public and private secondary schools in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia will be selected to participate. Northeastern Brazil: People, Culture and History will consist of five distinct components: (1) intensive Brazilian Portuguese language training; (2) a pre-trip seminar preparing the educators to conduct research in Brazil; (3) a five-week field research and material collection segment in Brazil (specifically in the states of Pernambuco and Bahia); (4) a post-trip curriculum development segment at the University of Pittsburgh; and (5) a curriculum sharing and dissemination phase. The curriculum sharing phase will continue with dissemination of the finished products nationwide via the network of National Resource Centers on Latin American Studies; through CLAS’ website (where they can be accessed by an international audience); and by providing a series of professional development workshops for teachers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. The program participants will share their experiences and introduce the new curriculum to educators in the tri-state area as part of CLAS’ outreach program.

2006 Global Academic Partnership (GAP) Awards
GAP is an initiative of the Global Studies Program (University Center for International Studies/Graduate School of Public and International Affairs) and the Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. It is designed to strengthen interdisciplinary research and curriculum development on critical global issues, while enhancing international scholarly ties and raising the international profile of the University of Pittsburgh. The program made three awards for 2006—all involving faculty associated with the Center for Latin American Studies (marked in bold below).

The funded projects are:
- Globalization and Diversity/Inequality in Latin America: Challenges, Opportunities, and Dangers, with CLAS faculty members Elizabeth Monasterios (Hispanic Languages and Literatures) as Lead Applicant and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (Political Science) as Co-Applicant, and foreign partners from the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Bolivia.
- Research in Sustainable Community Development, with CLAS faculty members Kathleen Musante DeWalt (Anthropology and Public Health; Director, Center for Latin American Studies) as Lead Applicant and Larry Shuman (Industrial Engineering) and Eric Beckman (Chemical and Petroleum Engineering) as Co-Applicants, and foreign partners from the University of Campinas, Brazil and the University of Puerto Rico.
- States at Risk: “Building Knowledge About Children in Armed Conflict,” with CLAS faculty members Simon Reich (Public and International Affairs; Director, Ford Institute for Human Security) as Lead Applicant and Barry Ames (Political Science) as Co-Applicant (along with Maureen McClure [Administrative and Policy Studies] and Charli Carpenter [Public and International Affairs]), and foreign partners from the Peace Research Institution of Oslo and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.
Obituaries

Rolland G. Paulston

We are sad to report that CLAS faculty member Rolland G. Paulston (Professor Emeritus of Administrative and Policy Studies in the School of Education) died on January 25, 2006 of acute leukemia. He was 76. Dr. Paulston grew up in southern California and earned a bachelor’s degree in geography and art history from UCLA in 1952. He completed a master’s degree in economic geography at the University of Stockholm, Sweden, and taught social studies in the Los Angeles Public Schools and at the American High School of Tangier, Morocco, before earning his doctorate in comparative education at Columbia University. He joined the faculty of the School of Education at Pitt in 1968, was appointed full professor in 1972, and professor emeritus in 1999. He also served as president of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) in 1975 and, in 1999, was named an honorary fellow of the group for his more than three decades of leadership in comparative education. An expert in Latin American education reform, Professor Paulston was perhaps best known for his work in social cartography—the mapping of the space of ideas in educational discourse. His social cartography work has had a wide impact on the field.

Dr. Paulston is survived by his wife, Christina Bratt Paulston (Professor Emerita of Linguistics), two sons, a brother and sister-in-law, and a sister. The family requests donations to the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104.

Paul E. Watson

On November 11, 2005, Paul E. Watson, a major contributor to Latin American and International Studies—as well as a dear friend to many at the University of Pittsburgh—passed away. Services were held in Graysville, Indiana where Paul had moved after retiring from Pitt in 1985. Professor Watson was at Pitt at the beginning of its thrust toward prominence in international studies. Prior to coming to Pitt in 1963, Paul was already an established scholar at the University of Oregon, where he served as a Professor of Education and as the Assistant Dean of Continuing Higher Education. At Pitt he was appointed as a Professor in Educational Administration and International and Development Education. He also was the Assistant Chief-of-Party of the University of Pittsburgh faculties in Ecuador from 1963 until 1966. Paul was involved in numerous projects in Latin America as a participant and consultant—Ecuador 1963-66, Guatemala 1967 and 1968, El Salvador 1967 and 1969; as a consultant for the Ministry of Education in Venezuela in 1970 and 1971, for USAID in Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile; on development education projects in Honduras, Costa Rica, Bolivia, and Colombia. Professor Watson was also a consultant and participant in educational projects at the ministerial level in Africa and Asia. However, he returned again and again to Latin America. Even before CLAS was founded, Paul had established a base in Ecuador for cooperation between Pitt and universities in Ecuador that continue to the present day. He was one of a core group of faculty who provided guidance for and support of the development of the Center for Latin American Studies in 1964. In 1968, when University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Wesley W. Posvar decided to establish an umbrella organization to coordinate international programs and activities at Pitt, Paul (who at the time was Director of the International Programs Office) was the obvious choice to serve as Co-Director of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS). He held that position until 1981. His love of and work in Latin America continued throughout his life, and he was often called upon by the directors of CLAS to support their initiatives and fill in as needed. For example, in 1971, Paul served as Acting Director of CLAS. Beyond all of his academic, administrative, and international accomplishments, those of us who had the opportunity to work with Paul Watson remember him with delight. His honesty and straightforward approach were tempered by a wonderful sense of humor, and his peals of hearty laughter were recognized through UCIS. His embrace of new ideas and his acceptance of opposing viewpoints made him a popular sounding board for innovative projects and ideas. He was a highly valued colleague and friend—and is missed. The staff and faculty of CLAS extend their sympathies to Carol, Lynn, and Steve.
The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University’s mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in University programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs and complaint/grievance procedures, please contact William A. Savage, Assistant to the Chancellor and Director of Affirmative Action (and Title IX and 504 Coordinator), Office of Affirmative Action, 901 William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260; (412) 648-7860.