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NEWS FROM THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Message from the Director

On the cusp of the new academic year, I find myself at a balancing point between reflection on an exciting year just past, and anticipation of a very promising

time for CLACS students, faculty, and programs in 2007–2008. I am pleased to welcome new students in the Center's MA program, and new Iberianist, Latin Americanist, and Caribbeanist faculty, and to welcome back those returning to Washington Square.

After several years as a member of the CLACS executive committee, last year was my first as Center director. I had

the great good fortune to co-teach our Introductory graduate course with Alyshia Gálvez, our much-loved faculty fellow for the past two years, who leaves us now to take up a tenure track position at CUNY's Lehman College. Alyshia has been a wonderful teacher and dedicated mentor to many students during her time here and she will be greatly missed. Last year we also welcomed Carolina Fermín, the Center's public face, who has skillfully taken over the role occupied for several years by Patricia Oscategui, to whom we wished a regretful goodbye last fall.

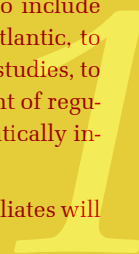
For me academic year 2006–2007 was dedicated not only to administrative efforts and to teaching, but to reflection on our mission as a center for interdisciplinary training and re-

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search. Indeed that was my writ last year. During the next two years, my goal as director, with the help and support of the NYU administration, is to begin to implement some of the innovative ideas brought forward by colleagues last year during our many meetings and Spring semester faculty retreat. In brief, we aim to broaden the Center's mission to include an MA track focusing on Iberia and the Iberian Atlantic, to expand the Center's focus to include doctoral-level studies, to draw into Center-sponsored courses a larger quotient of regular faculty expertise, and above all, to foster authentically interdisciplinary discussion, research, and teaching.

I am certain that all CLACS students and faculty affiliates will



be pleased to welcome new Center Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellows Rafael Sanchez and Carmen Medeiros. Specialists, respectively, in populist politics (and Venezuela) and critical development theory (and the Andes), Professors Sanchez and Medeiros will be co-teaching our redesigned year-long graduate core course, as well as courses in their own specialties. No doubt they will also be participating in many of the Center's sponsored scholarly activities.

Because of the foresight of prior director George Yúdice, and his hard work along with that of Maritza Colón, our indispensable Assistant Director, CLACS (with our consortium counterpart at Columbia University's Institute of Latin American Studies) won Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) funding, along with the ability to award FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) fellowships to our graduate students. FLAS provides critically-important funding to support graduate work, both academic year and summer study, that includes the study of less-commonly-taught languages (such as Brazilian Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and Quechua) and it has been my great pleasure to award these funds to a considerable number of deserving graduate students this year. Building upon this national priority, we will be searching this year for a Quechua Language Lecturer, to serve as a pillar of an expanding

program in Andean studies, and to enable us to provide beginning-level training that our students can use as a springboard to intensive intermediate and advanced courses abroad.

Our NRC funds, on the other hand, help us to provide essential courses, and provide support for faculty to develop scholarly programming. To that end, I am pleased to announce that CLACS will be providing funding for six faculty working groups this year. These mainly interdisciplinary groups will be organizing colloquia, visiting speakers, and conferences. Two focus on the Caribbean and its diasporas, one on Brazil, one on the intersection of literature and political-economy, and a final group will be working on issues of transnational migration.

CLACS is committed to providing our students, and indeed scholars throughout NYU and beyond, with the intellectual foundations and support necessary to successfully explore their areas of interest— from microfinance to social movements, cultural industries to ritual performance, politics to literature—and make a tangible difference in a field of study that is more vital and important than ever. Over the next year I will work to strengthen that commitment. I welcome you to join me in that endeavor.

CLACS Welcomes New Faculty Members!



Carmen Medeiros joins the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies as an Assistant Professor. She earned her B.A. in Sociology at the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium (1982); and her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at the City University of New York (2005). Her areas of specialization are critical development theory, indigenous movements, multicultural citizenship and the neo-liberal project,

and Latin American postcolonial theory. Previously, she taught at the Facultades Latinoamericanas de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO - Ecuador), Trent University, Wheaton College and the City University of New York. Dr. Medeiros has published "Civilizing the Popular? The Law of Popular Participation and the Design of a New Civil Society in 1990's Bolivia" in *Critique of Anthropology* (2001) and "From Andean Peasants to Ethnic Citizens: Local Trajectories of the Bolivian Popular Participation Law" in *Working Papers in Local Governance and Democracy* (1999). Her doctoral dissertation, "The Right to Know How to Understand: Coloniality and Contesting Visions of Development and Citizenship in the Times of Neo-liberal Civility," explores the actions and motivations of the various actors involved in the development encounter. It focuses specifically on the experience of indigenous communities in the Bolivian highlands with the process of participatory development planning as undertaken by a German-funded rural development program in compliance with the regulations stipulated by the 1993 Popular Participation Law. In Bolivia, she has collaborated with the Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Economica y Social (CERES) and the Programa de Investigaciones Estrategicas en Bolivia (PIEB).



Rafael Sánchez also joins the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies as an Assistant Professor. He earned his B.A. in Anthropology from the University of California - Santa Barbara (1981), his MA from the University of Chicago (1985) and his Ph. D. from the University of Amsterdam (2004). Previously he was a Research Associate in the PIONEER Research Program "Religion, Media, and the Public Sphere," (University of Amsterdam)

and a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Religion and Media (New York University). Dr. Sánchez's research interests include religion and state, colonialism, postcoloniality, nationalism, media, modernity, anthropology, history, and social and cultural theory. He is currently working on several projects focused on the fates of sovereignty under highly mediated and globalized conditions. These include two forthcoming, closely related books respectively addressing the establishment of a realm of political representation in the wake of Independence from Spain in Venezuela, and the partial unraveling of such a realm in recent years in this same nation. His research has been funded by the Research Center Religion and Society (University of Amsterdam), The Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (WOTRO), the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, the NWO PIONEER Program "Religion, Media and the Public Sphere (University of Amsterdam), and the Center for Religion and Media (New York University).

CLACS Alumnus Donates Funds for Students to Attend “Encuentro” in Buenos Aires

This summer, CLACS students Melissa Maldonado, Catherine Reiland and Maryann Talavera participated in the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics (www.hemi.nyu.edu) “Encuentro” in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The biannual Encuentro explores performance and politics in the Americas not only via lectures and round tables, but also through performances, work groups, “talleres,” video screenings, and installations. For two weeks, an international gathering of students, scholars, artists and activists develops models of intellectual and artistic inquiry into social and political formations and explores the links between expressive culture and political movements, identities, and social norms in the Americas. The theme of this sixth Encuentro, held at the Centro Cultural Recoleta and the Teatro Empire in Buenos Aires from June 7 through June 18, was *Corpólicas / Body Politics in the Americas: Formations of Race, Class and Gender*. Participants considered how race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and gender are articulated through the body in distinct times, places and imaginaries in the Americas.



Catherine Reiland shows how “hemi” she is during the poster session of the working group “Bodies Politics: Nationalism and Spaces of Performance.” Photocredit: Alicia Carmona

For the second consecutive year, a CLACS alumnus anonymously donated funds to help CLACS students attend the Encuentro. This year, Maryann Talavera, Catherine Reiland, and Melissa Maldonado each received \$1,600, enabling them to take advantage of the Encuentro’s enormous opportunities for learning and creative expression. The students joined Work Groups which, in lieu of academic panels, served as the center of activities at the Encuentro. Melissa Maldonado and Catherine Reiland participated in *Traveling Virgins/Virgenes Viajeras*, chaired by CLACS professor Alyshia Gálvez, and Maryann Talavera joined *Knowing and Caring for the Body: The Political Economy of the Self in Consumer Society*, chaired by Prof. Gisela Cánepa-Koch of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru. The workgroups met frequently during the Encuentro to generate new work and ideas, not to mention explore and find inspiration in their surroundings. Guided by “our much-loved Alyshia Gálvez”, Maldonado recounts that “our workgroup traveled to Luján, Argentina to visit the Basilica of Argentina’s patron saint, La Virgen de Luján. Our pilgrimage was filled with surprises such as finding, in the crypt of the Basilica, sixty-six different statues of the Virgin Mary from all over the world. We traveled, literally, to see the *Traveling Virgins*.” The fruits of these intellectual, creative and actual explorations were presented or performed on the final day of

the Encuentro. Reiland explains that the Traveling Virgins group “fashioned ‘flip books’ that photographically catalogued many of the Virgins we encountered in Luján. Because the little books were not meant to be an exhaustive collection, we invited conference participants to engage in the project by drawing and naming their own Virgins on loose-leaf pages to be pasted on our exhibit.” Such a creative answer to the group’s questions of how religious practices travel across borders and how figures of devotion are re-imagined as they accompany devotees in their transnational migrations throughout the Americas!



MaryAnn and Catherine sought refuge from Buenos Aires’ nighttime chill in a warm and smoky parrilla on Avenida de Corrientes. Photocredit: Catherine Reiland

The Encuentro also featured “talleres,” or workshops, where participants learned creative skills applicable to the conference theme of the body. For example, avid photographer Catherine Reiland and Maryann Talavera participated in a digital photography taller with renowned Argentine documentary photographer Julio Pantoja and NYU professor and photographer Lori Novak in which they learned “how to tell a story through photography,” says Reiland. “The taller met each morning for

about five days. Our assignment: create a photo-essay of scenes in Buenos Aires reflecting issues of the body or other themes from the conference.”



MaryAnn Talavera participates in Jay Critchley’s “Baile de Mascarillas” by donning a surgical mask with the word “Poder” written in her own hand. Photocredit: Catherine Reiland

The students learned how to layer and modify photographs in artistic ways using Photoshop and NYU provided digital cameras for those who

needed them. Reiland’s project centered upon Buenos Aires’ famous Recoleta cemetery and its neighboring Iglesia del Pilar, and blossomed into a “montage of religious iconography in Argentina.” Talavera took pictures of random Argentine women and, to depict the ubiquity of plastic surgery in this beauty-obsessed culture, created a slideshow during which the viewer first sees the real woman, and then witnesses the photo morph to take on facial features of various celebrities, such as Angelina Jolie’s mouth or Julia Roberts’ nose. Talavera’s academic interests center upon “notions of beauty and how they relate to racial representations within the media” and she conceived of her project “when I was thinking about our workgroup topic of caring for the body. I thought about how we tend to compartmentalize the body into segments that can be sold,” she explains. “The ways we deal with

the body are incredibly interesting to me because there seems to be an obsession over the body within consumer society, however, at the same time there exists a disconnect between people and their bodies, or between the “self” and specific body parts.” Talavera and the other members of the digital photography taller presented their photo-essays at the Encuentro’s close.



The tombs of the famous Cementerio de Recoleta are guarded by beautifully melancholic statues. Photocredit: Catherine Reiland

ture and photographed local musicians performing on a lawn: all this in one day! No day was ever without an adventure or life lesson.” Reiland applauds the Hemispheric Institute for ensuring that the Encuentro not

The Encuentro was indeed thought-provoking, and Buenos Aires only added further sparks to the intellectual and creative fires. Maldonado enthusiastically describes her experience: “The city of Buenos Aires staged the realities of economic crisis, political reforms, and promising transitions. Armed with my camera and notebook, I wanted to document every moment, no matter how ephemeral. I witnessed and participated in a pilgrimage and political protest, ate the most delicious *asado*, watched an independent Argentine film, had a heated debate about a local soccer game at a café, listened to a lec-

ture and photographed local musicians performing on a lawn: all this in one day! No day was ever without an adventure or life lesson.” Reiland applauds the Hemispheric Institute for ensuring that the Encuentro not only ran smoothly, but also enjoyably. “I had a great time and met wonderful people,” she says. “The Encuentro certainly helped me broaden my scope and also fortified my long-term interests in devotional performances.”

It is largely due to the anonymous donation of funds by our alumnus that these three talented CLACS students played a part in something which Maldonado calls “profoundly extraordinary.” Maldonado, Reiland and Talavera have expressed how grateful they are for this act of generosity, as is CLACS. “This blessing,” says Maldonado, permitted them to travel and “we all embraced this experience beyond our means.” Because of this funding, Maldonado was able not only to attend the Encuentro, but also to conduct research for her forthcoming article on Koreans in Argentina for the inaugural issue of *Imaging Global Asia*. She will also be presenting work at the Mid-Atlantic Conference on Popular Culture in November, and has “been able to anchor my presentation on the work of Diana Rayznovich, an Argentine dramaturge and cartoonist whose work I was able to research while in Buenos Aires,” she says. Maldonado fondly tells of “returning to New York City, five pounds heavier and with a plethora of inspiration and resources for my work (and life),” calling her Encuentro experience “the pinnacle (thus far) of my academic experience at New York.”



Melissa Maldonado and Alyshia Gálvez review the weeks events documented through photography. Photocredit: Catherine Reiland

CLACS Hosts Conference Celebrating Cuban and Cuban-American Youth

On Saturday, June 30, CLACS and the NYU Cuban-American Student Association co-hosted the Centro Cultural Cubano de Nueva York 6th Annual Conference, entitled “La Juventud Cubana: raices de esperanza”. The Congress centered upon the work of Raices de Esperanza, an international network of young people dedicated to understanding Cuban realities, promoting awareness about these realities in their respective communities, and forging links of support with young people in Cuba. A volunteer organization run by university students and young professionals with no political affiliation, Raices promotes academic and cultural initiatives among youth to promote the development of a pluralist and democratic Cuban society. The Raices student network has representatives or groups at over 44 universities as well as young professional networks in Miami, Washington, D.C. and New York. They sponsor several on-going projects, including: academic forums; “rapid response” campaigns in response to unjustly repressed and imprisoned youth in Cuba; a Youth eJournal to promote research and study of Cuba by students and young professionals; young professional networking and roundtables; and conference calls with youth in Cuba. In fact, a highlight of the Congreso was a



Cristina Figueredo Zizold and her artwork at the KJCC. Photocredit: Alejandro Zizold

conference call with member of “Jovenes sin censura (Youth without censorship)”, an independent news agency in Cuba, during which the audience was able to ask questions of a 21-year old journalist. During another panel, members of Raices de Esperanza, sons and daughters of Cuban exiles, shared their diverse experiences growing up in the United States as “hijos de los hijos”, or children of the children of the Revolution. Participant Cristina Figueredo Zizold notes that “being

part of the “hijos de los hijos” panel showed me that even as my generation has identified with being American, there is a Cuban passion that is inherited with a desire to preserve the past for the future.” She adds that “participating in the VI Annual Congress of the Cuban Cultural Center of New York was a great experience” because “it showed me the importance of recounting the stories of my grandparents through my Cuban family history.”

The Congreso included talks by celebrated Cubans and Cuban-Americans such as: poet, fiction writer and scholar Gustavo Pérez Firmat; Ramón Colás, the journalist who fled Cuba in 2002 after constant political and racial harassment and subsequently founded Cuba’s independent library movement by sending books to the island from exile in Miami; and poet, novelist, playwright and scholar Andrea O’Reilly Herrera. The closing remarks were given by prize-winning poet, novelist and journalist María Elena Cruz Varela, who in 1991 organized a

human rights organization in Cuba called Alternative Criteria. As a consequence, she was assaulted in her Havana apartment by a government-sponsored vigilante group. Dragged by her hair down several flights of stairs, Cruz Varela was beaten and forced to eat papers with her writings in front of a cheering mob outside her apartment building. She was imprisoned for two years, during which time was named a Prisoner of Conscience by Amnesty International. Cruz Varela, who has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, told her captivated audience



María Elena Cruz Varela. Photocredit: www.elateje.com

that “people only die for two reasons: from love or fear... we were born to be free. We owe ourselves love and respect. To be a victim is to give up your power.”



Panel featuring the children of Cuban exiles. Photocredit: Alejandro Zizold

The Congreso featured a screening of the 2006 documentary “East of Havana”, about three young underground rappers in Cuba struggling to let their music, about the realities and future of their generation, be heard. Miki Flow, one of the rappers featured in the documentary, was able to attend the screening and at the end of the night performed in a

concert with other artists, including Nicolle Chirino, Lisandra Iglesias, Jorge Lyeva, Carmen Peláez, and Rey el Vikingo. Congreso attendees also enjoyed an exposition of art by Carlos Alberto Alvarez, Tanya Alvarez, Arnold Mendez, and Cristina Figueredo Zizold. Below are photos of Zizold’s series entitled Spare Parts (Piezas de Respuesto), a multi media work based upon her grandfather’s original home movies from 1950’s Cuba. She says the paintings pay “homage to my family and to other Cuban families, who collectively struggle to maintain a Cuban history and identity, even through the trials of distance, time and politics.”

Paintings by Cristina Figueredo Zizold, acrylic and mixed media on canvas:



“El Morro”



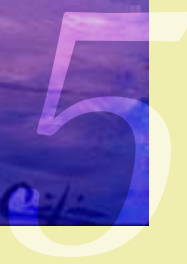
“Abuelo con Tabaco”



“El Beso”



“Carro en Camino a la Ciudad”



Native Language Literacy for a Better Life: *Plazas Comunitarias*

An initiative which CLACS is proud to support is *Plazas Comunitarias*, an adult and youth education, work-force development, and lifelong learning initiative developed by Mexico's National Institute for Adult Education (INEA). The New York *Plazas Comunitarias Network* ("Community Town Squares") was established in New York City in 2006 under the auspices of the Metro Center for Urban Education NYS SBETAC (Spanish Bilingual Education Technical Assistance Center) program at The Steinhardt School with an unprecedented agreement between the Mexican government and NYU.



Plazas students and volunteers

The NYS SBETAC is a funded program of the New York State Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies and is housed at Metro Center. Its mission is to improve educational services for Hispanic/Latino students (K-12) and their families throughout New York State. The NYS SBETAC supports community-based organizations and schools by providing information, professional development, technical assistance, and resources.

As part of this initiative, the Mexican government supplies print and online resources for community centers and schools so that Plazas can provide free instruction for Spanish-speakers in Spanish-language literacy, ESL, math, science, social studies, and GED to Spanish-speaking immigrants. Local *Plazas Comunitarias* programs also offer computer-enhanced instruction to students, as well as an opportunity to complete a certification of primary and secondary school through the Mexican system. Currently, 20 community-based programs and schools are linked to NYU as part of the New York Plazas Comunitarias network in New York City. NYS SBETAC's Resource Specialist Marguerite Lukes has been at the forefront of the Plazas initiative since the onset, recruiting participants and taking the proposal to NYU. The New York City *Plazas Comunitarias Network* is headed by NYS SBETAC and brings together local programs that run plazas, including volunteer groups, schools, and community-based programs. This network meets monthly for professional development, exchange of best practices, and support. NYS SBETAC and NYU maintain the Plazas web portal through which instructional materials are made available, and provides technical assistance.

At their March meeting, attendees included Plazas site coordinators, graduate student volunteers and a representative from the Mexican Consulate in New York. The group discussed how to support immigrant parents with children in New York City schools, such as parent confer-

ences to help them better understand and navigate the public school system, share strategies to help with homework and encourage the development of important language and mathematical skills, and to provide parents with important information on the exams their children must take as they progress to secondary school and on to college. The representative also mentioned plans for book donations to schools, programs, community groups, and libraries. The main topic introduced by Lukes at the meeting was basic literacy instruction for diverse groups of students: the site coordinators and instructors shared their own specific knowledge and experiences, and the group explored methods for articulating instructional goals and objectives. Example lessons plans were shared, and ideas for planning classes that are appropriate for groups of students with different needs were outlined. The meeting also addressed ideas and strategies for literacy development, and tackled such questions as "What are some of the characteristics of literacy and basic education students...and what do we need to keep in mind while teaching them?"

Drawing upon her background in adult basic education in New York City, Lukes says she "helped organize the Plazas network in NYC to help provide for adults who need literacy in Spanish to help them be better prepared for the workplace, more active in civic life, and be better prepared to support their children academically, as well as to help as a bridge to ESL." She helped spearhead this initiative "in response to funding cuts for native language basic education for adults, which have been drastic over the past ten years." Literacy programs in native languages as a precursor to learning English are widely misunderstood. Lukes explains that many question the need for such programs, asking: "why shouldn't people just learn English?" Research and practice, however, indicate that skills in the native language are applicable to the second language, thus a student who has more academic preparation in his or her native language will have more success learning English. Moreover, academic skills and content knowledge such as those taught at the Plazas sites not only help adults progress in English, but also provides them with the knowledge necessary to support their children's academic endeavors.

NYUCLACS funds a series of workshops to reinforce these ideas about native language literacy and teach instructors how to put them into practice. NYS SBETAC Director Nellie Mulkay explains that "some workshops are targeted to the development of parent coordinators in the Plazas system, who work with parents and students who are older and trying to get high school diplomas, many of whom are immigrants with low literacy skills in their native languages." At one such workshop hosted by CLACS at the King Juan Carlos of Spain Center at NYU this year, "there were about 40 attendees, including Plazas experts from the Mexican Department of Education's INEA," says Mulkay, "thanks to Title VI support." Also in attendance were directors of community-based organizations that work with Spanish-speaking populations and representatives from New York City schools with students in most need of this kind of specialized education, such as NYC District 79, which



is comprised of Alternative High Schools for older students and includes the schools at Rikers Island Correctional Facility.

Volunteer Opportunities: The *Plazas Comunitarias* sites are largely community-based; several have no salaried staff and are entirely run by volunteers. The individuals running the Plazas programs in NYC communities “are very special, dedicated and extremely talented,” says Lukes, “and more people should know about their work.” One such person is Leo Mercado, a volunteer teacher for the Latin American Integration Center, which is part of the Plazas network, at their Jackson Heights site. An immigrant from Colombia, Mercado says he teaches literacy to a class of fifteen students every weekday morning because “it’s not only about doing something good for others, but being useful to others as well.” Mercado is currently the sole volunteer teacher in Jackson Heights, and at the Woodside office nearby there are two English teachers, “so it would be great to have more volunteer teachers,” he says.

Indeed, Lukes says “there is a great need for thoughtful and dedicated volunteers, regardless of whether they speak Spanish,” such as “students who want to contribute to the community and gain practical teaching experience and learn about the educational needs of Hispanic adult learners.” Student volunteers at *Plazas Comunitarias* are trained and provided with continuous support by NYS SBETAC. Not only can one volunteer to teach, but also to help Plazas sites obtain resources through grant-writing and to assist with other technical and organizational tasks. “For students interested in careers in education or community organizing,” says Mulkay, “contributing ones time to a Plazas center is an opportunity to contribute and to also grow themselves and learn skills.”

For more information on NYS SBETAC and *Plazas Comunitarias*, please see <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/SBETAC.html>. To learn more about volunteering with *Plazas Comunitarias*, please contact Marguerite.Lukes@nyu.edu or call 212-998-5101.

What participants said of the event:

“Having both scholars and authors discussing issues about Mexicans was very helpful and informative.”

“This was a great opportunity, well organized, to reinforce the importance of native language literacy for our English Language Learners.”

“This made it clear to me how I can incorporate children’s culture and experiences into the classroom.”

“I will take what I learned today and put it into practice in my classroom.”

children succeed in school, but also to encourage these students to reflect upon their personal experiences, thereby fostering self-exploration. “In order to succeed in school and beyond, students need the ability to listen and express themselves well, as well as to read and write,” explains Mulkay. “How better to develop these skills than by looking at one’s own life experiences and writing about them?”

The key-note speakers included: The Honorable Ramón Ramirez, Consul General of Mexico in New York; Dr. Ofelia García, Professor of Bilingual Education, Coordinator of the Program in Bilingual-Bicultural Education, and Co-Director of the Center for Multiple Languages and Literacies at Teacher’s College, Columbia University; and Dr. Robert Smith, professor in the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College and at the CUNY Graduate Center, and co-founder of the Mexican Educational Foundation of New York.

Featured authors included: Alma Flor Ada, a native of Cuba, author of numerous children’s books, professor in the International and Multicultural Education department at the University of San Francisco, and founder and First Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE); Spanish-born children’s book author Isabel Campoy, who is also a songwriter, translator, poet and researcher of Hispanic culture and language acquisition; Rigoberto González, author of fiction and poetry born in Bakersfield, California and raised in Michoacan, Mexico, the son and grandson of migrant farm workers, who has taught in New York and most recently as an Associate Professor of English and Latino Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Reyna Grande, who entered the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant from Guerrero, Mexico in 1985, earned a B.A. in Creative Writing and Film & Video from U.C. Santa Cruz in 1999, and published her first novel, *Across a Hundred Mountains*, last spring; and Silvia Dubovoy, a children’s author who heads the Department for the Promotion of Reading Habits in Children and Youths at the Mexican Secretariat of Education.

Mulkay calls the Symposium for Mexican Literature “a therapeutic day for everyone involved...it is cathartic for many of the teachers who have not gone through the process of immigration themselves to learn about seeking out those emotions in the children they teach through writing.” By organizing such events, Mulkay hopes to “reach the teachers who are in the trenches. Everyday they have with their students in the classroom counts; they need all the skills possible from the outset.” As for the collaboration Mulkay says she “could not have been happier” about this “perfect match” and that she hopes “we continue facilitating such events.”

Symposium for Mexican Literature: Reflecting the Migrant Experience

Another component of NYS SBETAC’s collaboration with CLACS this past year was the *Mexican and Mexican-American Authors Symposium: Reflecting the Migrant Experience* (April 27th, 2007 at Columbia University’s Teacher College). The symposium, a collaborative effort of NYUCLACS and the NYS Spanish BETAC at NYU, showcased the experience of Mexican immigrants to the U.S. through literature in Spanish and English. Given the increasing population of Mexican students in the public schools in New York City and State, the symposium addressed what educators should know about this group of migrants and voiced concerns for their futures in the face of high drop-out rates, low achievement, and restrictions to higher education for undocumented students.

Attendees at the symposium, including teachers in the New York City school system, learned strategies to incorporate the experiences of Hispanic immigrants into the classroom through reading and writing activities. “This conference reaches out to teachers and others interested in the education of minorities,” says NYS SBETAC Director Nellie Mulkay. “We invited authors of books with themes of migration to the U.S. because through such literature we understand the various struggles that immigration encompasses. During the course of the symposium participants develop a greater sensitivity for the immigrant experience through the speakers’ presentations and learn skills that teachers can apply to the exploration of the immigrant experience through reading and writing in the classroom.” Teachers learned not only how to help Hispanic immigrant

Students Organize Conference on Human Trafficking in the Americas

On May 8th CLACS presented a graduate-student organized film-screening and discussion centered upon a new documentary exposing how Latin American immigrants are willing to risk everything—even virtual slavery—for the American Dream.

Lives for Sale traces the stories of two young women who were trafficked in the United States, shedding light upon the growing black market trade in human beings and discussing practical alternatives to these tragic realities.



Nina Siulc from the Vera Institute of Justice. Photocredit: Catherine Reiland

The audience was joined by the film's Executive Producer, Larry Rich, producer of twenty documentaries, including *School of Assassins*, which was nominated for an Academy Award. Mr. Rich worked at a human rights organization in Peru, where he produced videos documenting cases that were utilized by communities throughout the country. Mr. Rich expressed he felt "privileged to help tell stories like those told in *Lives for Sale*—to give voice to those excluded from most of the media coverage of the immigration debate. My hope is that this docu-



Executive Producer Larry Rich. Photocredit: Catherine Reiland

mentary helps people see that trafficking is the dark underbelly of bad immigration policy, and that they can do something about that. The solutions are complex, to be sure, but no one I know is in favor of slavery." Mr. Rich also said he "felt very much welcomed by CLACS and by NYU at the screening. The Q&A and the conversations afterward gave me hope—here is a community of people who not only bring their

intelligence to the issues involved—they also care about the underlying human cost."

Also participating in the post-film discussion was Nina Siulc, Director of Research for the Center on Immigration and Justice at the Vera Institute of Justice, where her projects include an evaluation of the Legal Orientation Program, research on unaccompanied children, and design of a new data collection instrument to assess the extent of human trafficking in New York City. The discussion was moderated by recent CLACS graduate Eva Raison, whose work at CLACS focused on Latin American immigration and literacy and who is very involved in a number of programs that work for the welfare of immigrants in New York City. The event was also organized by recent graduate Eileen O'Connor, and Graduate Assistants Catherine Reiland and Maryann Talavera.



Eva Raison moderates the post-film discussion. Photocredit: Catherine Reiland

Human Trafficking Statistics

- **Approximately, 600,000 to 800,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders worldwide.**
- **15,000 to 18,000 of those victims are trafficked into the U.S.**
- **27 million people are enslaved globally**
- **\$9 billion industry annual profits for the traffickers**
- **Ranks 3rd next to arms and drug smuggling in organized crime activities**

Source: *The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking* (www.castla.org)

Documentary Filmmaker Seeks CLACS Students' Participation

CLACS is lending support to *Our Women, Our Struggle* (working title), which promises to be a compelling hour-long documentary that chronicles the lives of three Puerto Rican women activists – Isabel Rosado, Lolita Lebron and Dylcia Pagan – who dedicated their lives to ending social injustice. Collectively, these three women served over 50 years in federal prison as a consequence of their radical political activism.

In the film, the women will speak on the historical struggle of Puerto Rican independence while also sharing their contributions to the movement. *Our Women, Our Struggle* will document and preserve the legacy of these courageous woman and their life long commitments. Filmmaker Melissa Montero will cover seven decades of struggle as the

women discuss how they confronted and battled issues of discrimination in the Puerto Rican diaspora. This documentary will also include interviews with secondary subjects who will add to our understanding of Puerto Rican History, the community at that time, the role of these women, and the U.S. approach to dissidents.

Montero is looking for interns for the fall: this is a great opportunity to learn about documentary filmmaking by gaining hands-on experience with an up-and-coming filmmaker focused on social issues in the Americas. Contact her at melissa@ourwomenourstruggle.com.

Photocredits: ourwomenourstruggle.com



The Photography of Visiting Professor Jorge Mario Múnera

Last spring semester, celebrated photographer Jorge Mario Múnera, who held the King Juan Carlos Center's Andrés Bello Chair in Latin American Cultures and Civilization, taught a course entitled *Fotografía Latinoamericana: Visiones y Versiones del Siglo XX*. *Visiones y Versiones* gave a comprehensive overview of the history of Latin American photography presented in a way which is both thoughtful and thought-provoking. In each class Múnera introduced students to the principle photographic archives and photographers of a distinct country or region and considered the political, cultural, and economic context in which these historical archives came into being. For Professor Múnera, teaching is “an opportunity to condense many years of working as



Jorge Mario Múnera's untitled black and white photographs capture shades of Colombia; from *Vista suelta*

a photographer and studying photography into a lesson. It is a chance to examine theories as opposed to practice, and to think about the meaning of photography in Latin America as a large movement throughout the region and not as random singular cases.” Designing this class for his visiting professorship at NYU challenged Múnera to think about his own work in a collective sense: “who are we and what do we do as Latin American photographers?” He believes that “too few courses take on such questions,” and “it would be great to replicate this course in other universities, because photography in Latin America is still a rather invisible topic.

Múnera says he comes from “*La Playa con Cordoba*”, the corner of two streets in the city of Medellín, where he was born and raised. Múnera now makes his home in Bogotá, but perhaps it is fitting to say he is from– and of– Colombia, as the photographer is dedicated to exploring the entirety of his country, to finding and preserving its varied, often hidden, visions. His work has led him to travel extensively and to understand his country intimately: “it is a privilege to know my country” Múnera says.

When asked why he believes photography became the vehicle for these travels through Colombia, Múnera recalls that “my earliest childhood memory is looking at a camera. My aunt was a photographer, which was very rare for a woman in those days, and she took many pictures of me as a child. A camera was the first thing I knew, before books, before poems.” Múnera was further exposed to the craft by family friends, descendants of the photographer Melitón Rodríguez, and at a young age began to study photography books in a bookstore. “I was fascinated by it,” he says. “Since I was very young my dream has been to take photos and publish photography books...at seventeen I decided to dedicate myself to it.” Múnera was aided in this pursuit by two older friends:



Alberto Aguirre, the bookstore owner and a publisher, who gave him books, and Leon Ruiz, “a well known photographer, who helped me get closer to the world of photography.” In his early twenties Múnera studied at the Photography Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. Explaining his decision to study abroad, he explains that “in 1970s Colombia there were not many options for someone who wanted to formally study photography.” He then moved to Madrid to study graphic arts and work in printing workshops, where “the smell of fresh ink became an obsession for me, an addiction stronger than anything.” At the end of the 1970’s Múnera returned to Colombia and dedicated himself to documenting the myriad *visions and versions* of his native land by “working nonstop, taking many photos, creating many projects and publishing books.”

From the outside looking in, the vision of Colombia “was very superficial” Múnera observes: “a country of violence, coffee, cocaine, and nothing more.” Through photography Múnera seeks to show “the richness of our people and places, the other country below this external layer, this scab of violence and narcotrafficking.” His work does not overlook the grim facts of his country’s situation, but rather he “tries to portray concurrent realities.” The product of tireless travel through Andean, Caribbean, Pacific, Orinoco and Amazonian landscapes, Múnera’s photography captures not only the geographical, ethnic and cultural diversity of Colombia, but its psychological and spiritual dimensions as well. “I immerse myself in Colombian realities, which are simultaneously so difficult, and so wonderful,” he says. He strives to portray the truths of “a place where the good and the bad, the very visible and the very invisible, are all present.” Indeed, Múnera’s work renders the invisible visible. Many of his celebrated portraits are of people who are rarely the focus of the general public’s eye, many largely forgotten during decades of violence. Múnera’s photography shows that Colombia has many faces, and in each the gaze is a testimony.

Múnera considers his work “marked by the reality, so multifaceted, of Colombia.” He approaches his projects rigorously, insisting that they are representative of the entire country, and not just a particular region. His favorite subject to photograph is “people and their circumstances, people who live on the limits in Colombia- not only physically but on the border in every sense.” His work spans such subjects as the dancers, musicians, performers and other participants in popular celebrations; the orchid, with over 3,000 species that flourish throughout Colombia’s diverse landscapes; and a series on Colombian writers that Múnera recently presented at the King Juan Carlos of Spain Center at NYU, as well as at the Feria Internacional del Libro in Madrid last September. *40 Escritores Colombianos* features not only the country’s most famous fiction writers such as Gabriel García Márquez or Álvaro Mutis, but also encompasses what Múnera calls “the rich diversity, the many different themes and styles, of writing in Colombia today, which is a reflection of the rich diversity of Colombia itself.” The portraits in-

clude such writers as Hector Abad, Laura Restrepo, Antonio Caballero, Óscar Collazos and Fernando Vallejo. Múnera shortly will be photographing forty additional fiction writers, and is planning a series on Colombian poets. He also has begun working in Barranquilla and Maicao on a series about the life of Arabs or people of Arab origins throughout Colombia.

Múnera currently is photographing another chapter of his country’s history, one set in New York City: “one in every four or five Colombians has been displaced, either having to immigrate as exiles to another country or to move within the country, which is a sort of *incilio*, or exile within the borders of ones nation.” Colombian immigrants in the United States represent “an important part of the country displaced because of economic or political reasons, or in pursuit of opportunities here. These Colombians are not from here nor there and yet at the same time they are of both places.” Múnera’s series of photographs of Colombians in exile shows the many realities of the lives created here “in the Colombian spirit of *echar pa’ delante*.” This spirit of always “moving ahead” is manifested in how Colombians famously make do with what they have and succeed regardless of the circumstances. He envisions this project as a fresco of all the different ways Colombians live in the United States, and his subjects will include scientists, artists, students, undocumented workers, prisoners, in short “all the distinct niches of Colombian society here in the US.” In addition to his work in New York, Múnera has photographed Colombians living in Boston and plans to do the same elsewhere, perhaps in Florida, Houston, and San



Francisco, in order to achieve a balanced representation of where and how Colombians live throughout the United States.

Múnera has invited students in his class to become actively involved in his current fieldwork in New York City as a means of garnering practical experience in documentary photography and the creation of an archive. The students' contributions to the project can be based in their academic backgrounds—be it literature, cultural studies, museum studies or sociology—and individual interests, and as such they form a team who bring multidisciplinary approaches and perspectives to the subject of Colombian exile in New York City.

Students in Múnera's class appreciate "his ability to give a comprehensive background on the photography of the region while making the class even more interesting through his appreciation of this art-form as well as through his experience as a talented photographer," says NYU student Maryann Talavera (MA, CLACS '08). "This course has proved to be incredibly valuable on both academic and artistic levels because Professor Múnera has provided an expansive history of Latin American photography and helped cultivate a passion for the visual cultures

of the region." Columbia student Juan Álvarez (PhD, DSP, '10) observes that "great professors make you feel that class is a dialogue." Múnera creates such an atmosphere by "teaching from practice: he gives theoretical readings, but primarily teaches from experience." Álvarez also notes "a great materiality to the course: for example, listening to invited speakers who have uncovered photographic archives allows us to gain a greater understanding of how Latin American archives are constructed, and what they signify. And the photographs we see in class are fantastic; there are textures only photos can reveal, and they fill a void in knowledge, helping us to make connections to other aspects of culture. What more could one want in a class than to learn that those other worlds exist?"

Professor Múnera's publications include: *Orfebrería y chamanismo*, *Orquídeas nativas de Colombia*, *Coro Alto de Santa Clara*, *La gente del tren*, *Vidas casanareñas*, *La arena y los sueños*, *El corazón del pan* and *Vista suelta*, which won the Colombian Ministry of Culture's National Prize for Photography.

Peter Lucas discovers Rio's "Last Hour of Summer"



Orizon Carneiro Muniz's photos from *The Last Hour of Summer*

This summer, adjunct professor Peter Lucas kept busy in Brazil. For starters, he took a group of students to Rio de Janeiro, where he teaches a course on Human Rights and the Media. Lucas, whose research and teaching focuses on human rights, photography, media, the poetics of witnessing, peace education, and human rights education and documentary practice, explains that one of the main objectives of teaching this class is "to inspire people to become media professionals who work in the area of human rights," and Rio is the perfect place to make this happen. The course is based out of Viva Rio, an influential and innovative NGO with community-based programs on peace and public safety, human rights training for police, conflict resolution, small-arms disarmament,

micro-credit and youth entrepreneurship, and community and environmental development. Viva Rio is noteworthy for bringing cyber cafes to favela communities, and establishing a favela-based web-portal, as well as a hip hop and human rights radio station. Viva Rio is also a site for human rights education training for field workers and community residents. The course has a minor affiliation with the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC) and grants five students from PUC scholarships to take the course each year. During the three-week course, students attend lectures by human right scholars and NGO directors and workers, participate in group discussions, and make site visits to various social justice organizations, favelas, and the camps of Brazil's landless workers, or MST (Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra), movement.



Lucas also collaborates with Viva Favela (www.vivafavela.com.br), a Rio-based web portal which is produced entirely by favela residents who act as reporters and photographers for their community. According to the Viva Favela website, the inside perspec-



tive of these "community correspondents," as they are known, "helps expose all of the human, historical, cultural, economic, and social dimensions of these areas." An offshoot of Viva Rio, the web portal's mission is "the human right of visual inclusion," says Lucas, "they are working for the right to represent themselves." Aided by a grant from The Open Society of the Soros Foundation (OSI), Lucas recently helped organize an exhibition of photos by seven Viva Favela photojournalists. The exhibition traveled to favelas throughout Rio de Janeiro, where they hung enlarged, waterproof photos in the streets portraying myriad aspects of life in the city's marginalized communities. (To view the online gallery, visit www.fotofavela.com.br). Lucas is completing a book about these photojournalists titled *Viva Favela: Photojournalism, Visual Inclusion, and Human Rights in Brazil*.

The Last Hour of Summer

Another exciting project is *The Last Hour of Summer*, an exhibition and forthcoming book and documentary inspired by 200 small black and white photographs Lucas found in a Rio flea market of women on the beach in Ipane-



ma during the summer of 1963. Lucas says that when he found the tiny photos some four years ago, he “knew they were special. They were taken on the eve of the military coup, and capture a last moment of innocence. This time before the coup is what Brazilians call ‘the last hour.’ It’s also the last hour for Black and White photography before the widespread introduction of Kodacolor film.” Intrigued, Lucas immediately started trying to solve the mystery of why and where the photos had been discarded, literally thrown in the trash where they were salvaged by the person who sold them to Lucas at the flea market. Fortunately, on the back of each photo was the name of each woman and the date. There were also two self-portraits. Lucas invited photography historian Mauricio Lisovsky and researcher Fernanda Lo Bianco to help him find the artist who had taken such beautiful

took to a dental office to inquire about the subject’s identity. In a serendipitous stroke of luck, someone there did indeed know this dentist, now retired, and upon looking him up revealed that he currently lives in the same building as Lo Bianco. The dentist revealed the name of the photographer, his patient for forty years: Orizon Carneiro Muniz, a lawyer and “weekend photographer”. Stricken with polio, Muniz could barely walk. He was very cultured and the center of a community that had sprung up in the early 60s at Posto 8, the area of Ipanema where the photos were taken. Unfortunately, Muniz had already passed away, but his best friend was able to identify many people in the photographs, and provided Lucas with 4,000 more.



Lucas exhibited one of his photography projects during June and July at the Casa Laura Alvin, a cultural center on the beach near Posto 8 in Ipanema, as part of the largest photo biennial in Latin America, Foto Rio. The show received much press, and many of the people who Muniz had photographed read about Lucas’ discovery in an interview with him in the newspaper Globo. They attended on opening night, eager to fill in many gaps in the story of these photos. Lucas recently signed a contract with Desiderata, a publishing house based in Rio, to write a book with Lisovsky about Muniz’s photos. The book will address not only the life of the photographer and give a history of Ipanema during few years preceding the military coup, but also it will talk about the universal beauty of the photos, explains Lucas, “how they capture the ephemeral nature of lost youth, love, and summertime.”



Lucas is currently spending the last hour of this summer in Rio working on a documentary film about Muniz and his social circle during Rio’s summer of ‘63. He says the documentary will not only be about photography, but also “what Ipanema was like before the world discovered it and during the age of the coup.” The question of memory also provides a vital lens: “What survives in this world? What disappears? And what is eternal?” Lucas asks. Visually, he says that “super-8 footage and the photos will drive the film” and the music will be “bossa nova music from that era.” He hopes to be done with the project in a year. “Although this is my first film,” he says, “the documentary should extend my previous work on human rights and visual culture in Brazil.”



ful portraits. A key to solving the mystery was one odd photo of a dentist, which Lo Bianco

Featured Student Publication

One of the ways our students put their insights into action is through powerful words! Here, an article by CLACS student and journalist Diego Graglia ('07), published on April 11, 2007 in the *New York Daily News*.

Graglia, a journalist from Argentina, says the idea for the article below "was born out of the class *The Cold War in Latin America* I took with Professor John Coatsworth at Columbia... I did a presentation on a book about the American intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965. After that I thought, 'With Dominicans being the biggest immigrant community in New York, I'm sure I can find former revolutionaries living inside the country they once fought.' That was my inspiration and that hunch was correct."

Based in New York for over five years, Graglia has written for newspapers in Chile, Argentina and the U.S. He writes "about the convergence of the U.S. & Latin America; about the intersecting paths of Latinos, Americans and Latin Americans."

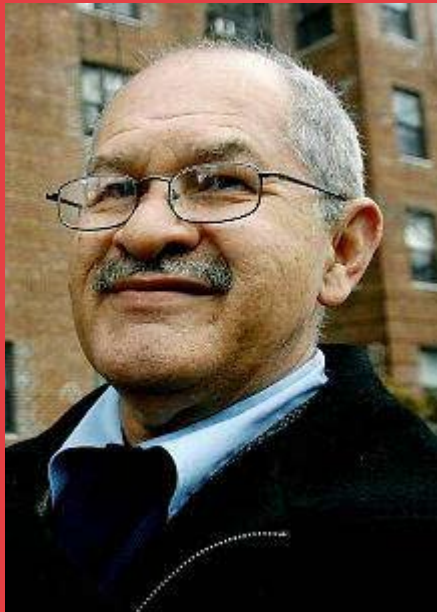
He entered the CLACS program in Fall 2006 as a McCracken Fellow and concentrates in Latin American politics and 20th century history "with the goal of improving my ability to cover U.S.-Latin America relations at every level." You can learn more about Graglia and read his excellent work at www.diegograglia.net

GRAY-HAIRED REBELS

These Dominicans faced U.S. troops back home in '65

by DIEGO GRAGLIA

The revolutionaries are among us. They walk the streets of Washington Heights and the Bronx; they root for the Yankees and for Pedro; they own a bodega, or sell insurance, or hold the elevator door open for you.



Andrés Hernández: 'I've adapted to the American system.'

"That the country would be democratic and that everyone would have a job, that was what we wanted."

On April 24, 1965, pro-democracy Dominican officers rebelled against a right-wing government which 19 months before had deposed Juan Bosch, the country's first freely elected president.

The rebels - and thousands of civilians who joined the fight - are

membered as the *constitucionalistas*, for they demanded that the 1963 constitution be respected.

"We wanted to reinstate President Bosch's government, which had been usurped by a group of military officers and the national oligarchy," says Andrés Hernández, 65, who was a second-year cadet when the revolution started.

Today he's a lab supervisor in a designer clothing factory in New Jersey and lives two floors above his friend Estévez.

The constitution of 1963 had been written after the assassination of longtime dictator Rafael Leónidas Trujillo led to an unprecedented democratic opening. Bosch, a left-of-center politician, attempted moderate social reforms during his seven-month term.

Four days after the revolution started, the American ambassador forwarded Washington an urgent request by the governing junta to send "unlimited and immediate military assistance" to stop a rebellion that had an "authentic Communist stamp" and would "convert this country into another Cuba."

Hours later, with the stated purpose of protecting American citizens in the Dominican Republic, the first direct U.S. military intervention in Latin America in more than three decades had started.

"We had cornered [the military junta forces] and we were winning," says former Capt. Miguel Zapata, the New York president of the Fundación 24 de Abril of former *constitucionalistas*.

"Only San Isidro [military base] was left and we were advancing on it when the invading forces arrived. They repressed us, and we had to pull back."

A months-long standoff ensued, which ended with the naming of a provisional government and a suspect 1966 election in which Bosch was defeated by Joaquín Balaguer, who would go on to dominate Dominican politics for 30 years.

With Balaguer in power, a ferocious repression was unleashed. Zapata, whose elite team of military divers had a big role in the fighting, says several of his colleagues were killed. "They would run them over with a car or gun them down at night," he says.

The violence forced many to leave their beloved Quisqueya. Some became an early seed of what today is the largest immigrant community in New York.

"They have become integrated into the community and [the revolution] is a separate chapter in their lives," says sociologist Ramona Hernández, director of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.



Cristian Estévez Gil: 'Our fight was for democracy.'

Still, many former revolutionaries became involved in community issues here, Hernández says. And they spawned a generation of engaged youngsters who looked up to them.

“We wanted to be like Caamaño,” says community activist Radhamés Pérez, referring to revolutionary leader Col. Francisco Caamaño Deñó.

Pérez, 52, vividly remembers seeing a *constitucionalista* column enter his town of San Francisco de Macorís.

Although the American government said it was preventing a Commu-

nist takeover, the rebels were ideologically diverse.

“They labeled us supporters of Fidel Castro and leftist groups, but those were false accusations,” says Estévez.

Zapata, on the other hand, still defends socialist ideals. But he says he has to live with the irony of having become a U.S. citizen and raised his four children “in the claws of the enemy monster.”

Hernández, an American citizen too, sees no contradiction in that. “I’ve adapted to the American system,” he says.

Featured Faculty Publication: Performing Religion in the Americas, edited by Alyshia Gálvez

As students of former CLACS Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor Alyshia Gálvez well know, there are myriad roles played by religion in the Americas. Perhaps now more than ever, religiosity is a fluid web of relationships and meanings with varied purposes and significances. The



Images of the Virgin wrapped in plastic from the book's title page. Photocredit: Ulla Berg

meaning of religious practice in relation to the rest of society is a question taken up by a collection of articles, of which Gálvez is the editor: *Performing Religion in the Americas: Media, Politics, and Devotional Practices of the 21st Century* (Berg Publishers, 2007). Contributions from scholars such as Jean Franco, Zeca Ligiéro, Leda Martins, Diana Taylor, and Gálvez herself show how religion and religious practices are markedly diverse throughout the contemporary Americas, and as such speak much to the resilience of individual cultures to the homogenizing forces of globalization. *Performing Religion in the Americas* highlights how practices of faith are reflective of other performative

aspects of social life in the 21st century, particularly politics and culture, and indicate how individuals in the Americas define themselves in relation to others on local, regional and transnational levels.

The volume includes ethnographies from Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Canada and the United States and its contributors hail from a wide range of academic backgrounds, including theater, performance studies, English, comparative literature, history, sociology and anthropology. Among the diverse themes explored are: the contemporary effects of the Iberian conquest—“accomplished with the cross as much as with the sword”; forms of devotion to the Virgin Mary; the legacy of transatlantic African cultural formations; how symbolism specific to particular faiths becomes currency in other areas of culture; the translocal characteristics of faith practices and the mobilization of religiosities; the relationship between faith and government in the post-9/11 United States; and religion as a means to embracing globalization.

As Gálvez says in her introduction to *Performing Religion in the Americas*, “one of the refreshing aspects of this volume [is] its utter lack of cynicism and deep appreciation for the meanings that people construct in all kinds of unique and everyday ways in our transnational era.” Indeed, she has provided students of culture and politics in the Americas a wide and sympathetic lens through which to observe how people in the Americas construct and perform their identities and stories in relation to the rest of local and transnational society.

Faculty Research Travel Grants

CLACS has awarded Faculty Research Travel Grants for Summer 2007 to support the following projects:

Indigenous Enterprises: The Rise of Bolivia's New Cultural Elites

Jeff Himpele, PhD of NYU's Department of Anthropology was given a grant for travel to La Paz, Bolivia, where he researched changes in indigenous cultural production among the Aymara middle classes and indigenous videomakers in the context of current political transformations under the regime of Evo Morales, Bolivia's first self-identified Aymara president.

Mercosur and the Dynamics of Bilingual Learning of Spanish and Portuguese

Miriam Ayres, PhD of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese teaches the undergraduate course Portuguese for Spanish Speakers. With CLACS funding she traveled to Buenos Aires this summer to observe the linguistic consequences of Mercosur's treaties and edu-

cational laws on bilingualism. Investigating the dynamics of bilingual learning, she visited schools, observed language classes, interviewed instructors, etc. to find out whether the theories of the effectiveness of learning closely-related languages are verifiable in practice. She hopes to discover additional reasons to promote the benefits of Spanish and Portuguese bilingualism among NYU students.

Determinants of Presidential Approval in Chile, 1990-2007

Patricio Navia, PhD of NYU's General Studies Program and CLACS, traveled to Chile to investigate the factors that affect presidential approval ratings in Chile. His research will fill a gap in literature—as there are no studies on the determinants of presidential popularity in Latin America, and test the validity of existing theories that explain presidential popularity in industrialized nations. In Chile, Navia is interviewing leading pollsters to assess their objectives, as well as presidential pollsters and others who worked with former presidents on their public image, to determine to what extent presidents paid attention to polls and used them to inform strategies or policies.

FLAS Awardees!

CLACS recently awarded academic-year FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS (FLAS) to CLACS MA students who will study Brazilian Portuguese as an integral part of their academic programs.

A 2006-2007 Academic Year FLAS fellowship, which includes NYU tuition remission and a stipend, was awarded to **Lidia Rebecca Villatoro**, a journalist and educator with a concentration in Latin American and Caribbean politics. With knowledge of Portuguese, she will be able to study the history and political culture of Brazil, the largest country and economy in Latin America.

Stephen Brown was another recipient of a 2006-2007 Academic Year FLAS to study Portuguese. Upon graduation he plans on pursuing a freelance journalism career in Brazil and Ecuador, with a focus on social movements in those countries.

Patrick Higdon also received a 2006-2007 Academic Year FLAS. His academic focus is cultural citizenship and human rights in Latin America, and he would like to focus his future research (both as a CLACS MA student and then in a doctoral program) on Brazil. Aided by his increased fluency in Portuguese after studying the language at NYU, Patrick conducted fieldwork in Brazil this summer on the relationship between culture and rights. He participated in a three-week international human rights delegation to Rio de Janeiro led by Peter Lucas, a CLACS professor. He also worked with a social program in Porto Alegre called Ritmica Brasil, which organizes community musical groups to combat the effects of poverty on children.

A 2007-2008 Academic Year FLAS was awarded to **Vanessa Erazo**, whose main area of academic interest is Latin American politics, specifically in Mexico and Brazil. Vanessa's study of Portuguese will greatly aid her research for her CLACS MA project: a comparative study of

the portrayal of social movements, namely the FPDT (Frente de Pueblos en Defensa de la Tierra) and MST (Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra), by the Mexican and Brazilian media. Vanessa plans to pursue a career creating documentary feature films and programming for public television and hopes to make a documentary about activists in Brazil.

Katherine Dart was awarded both a FLAS fellowship for the 2006-2007 academic year, and a 2007 Summer FLAS to study intermediate Portuguese at the Harvard University Summer Program in Rio de Janeiro. Her growing language skills are supporting her graduate studies in sustainable development. For her Master's Project at CLACS, she is investigating the growth of the soybean industry in southern Brazil and its affects on the land of the Legal Amazon.

CLACS awarded two other 2007 Summer FLAS fellowships, which cover tuition for language-learning programs and provide a stipend, to:

Leah Price, a CLACS MA student, studied Advanced Portuguese in Harvard University's Summer Program in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Greater fluency in Portuguese will help her continue to make Brazilian studies an integral part of her intellectual pursuits, perhaps in a Comparative Literature PhD program, where she would continue to study the tensions caused by Brazil's economic, geographical and racial divides. She also plans to use her language skills to participate in the promotion Brazilian culture, especially in literature and the arts, as a way to aid communities as they forge cultural, social and political agency.

Pilar Rau, a PhD student in Socio-cultural Anthropology, studied Intensive Intermediate Quechua in a course offered by the University of Michigan in Cuzco, Peru. This language training will help her conduct dissertation research: a 12-month ethnographic study collecting data in Cochabamba, Lima, and Cuzco, Peru on Cochabamba social reproduction, economic strategies, and understandings of the global cultural and economic discourses in which the Cochabamba peasant community participates.

Funding for Summer Research

CLACS awarded Tinker Foundation Awards to 22 graduate students conducting research in Latin America, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Summer travel grants were given to students from various departments and schools for research on topics ranging from the Brazilian artist Hélio Oiticica, to East Indians in Argentina, to the effects of the 1959 Revolution in preventing the development of a Black collective identity in Cuba. The awardees are:

Jennifer Adair (PhD candidate, History): *Participation, Protest, and Political Culture: A Social History of the Argentine Democratic Transition, 1981-1990*

Lina Britto (PhD candidate, History): *Narcotrafficking and Regional Culture in Colombia During the Marijuana Boom Years, 1965-1985*

Lori Cole (PhD candidate, Comparative Literature): *Decham in Buenos Aires: The relationship between the European and Latin American avant-garde production and how these aesthetic models resurface in contemporary practice*

Josie Davis (MA candidate, Tisch School of Arts): *Sustainability in the Americas: Youth Agency through Photography and Movement Based Performance Practice Buenos Aires, Lima & Trujillo*

Vanessa Erazo (MA candidate, CLACS): *Impact of New Media in the human rights movement in Mexico*

Maison Graham Rippeteau (MA candidate, CLACS): *Public Education*

in the Dominican Republic: Two Overlooked Areas With Immediate and Long Term Importance

Carolyn T. Kormann (MA candidate, CLACS & Journalism): *Ecuador's Oil Legacy: Investigate the ongoing struggle between indigenous groups and oil companies over oil exploration and production in the Amazon*

Joanna L. Lane (MA candidate, CLACS): *Original Ethnographic research in Cuba to identify the effects of the 1959 Revolution in preventing the development of a Black collective identity and a social movement*

Angela Marino-Segura (PhD candidate, Spanish & Portuguese): *The Festival of the Danzantes del Diablo during the Corpus Christi Festivals in Venezuela*

Felipe Martínez-Pinzón (PhD candidate, Spanish & Portuguese): *Endangered dialogues: Oppressive readings and subversive writings in Francoist Spain*

Melcion Mateu (PhD candidate, Spanish & Portuguese): *Political and artistic atmosphere of Portugal in the decade of the mid-1930s*

Kristy Maruca (MA candidate, CLACS & Museum Studies): *Understanding Hélio Oiticica, Rio de Janeiro*

Venkatesan (Ram) Natarajan (PhD candidate, Anthropology): *East Indians in Argentina: Identity, Nationalism, and Pan-Americanism*

Fernando Pérez (PhD candidate, Comparative Literature): *Brazilian "concrete poetry"*

Catherine Reiland (MA candidate, CLACS): *Investigate Guatemala's definition of nationalism and political motivations in the appropriation*

and reappropriation of indigenous, colonial and tourist iconographies by various entities

Jodi Roberts (PhD candidate, Fine Arts): *Contributions South American artists made to the establishment of an artistic and literary vanguard in Spain in the late 1910s & 1920s and the movement known as Ultraísmo, Buenos Aires*

Daniel Rodriguez (PhD candidate, History): *Conduct Preliminary archival research into conflicts around prostitution in early twentieth-century Cuba*

Carolyn E. Satin (PhD candidate, Education): *Ecuadorians in Spain: Social Networks, Support Services and Integration*

MaryAnn Talavera (MA candidate, CLACS): *Brazilian identity and its representation in the media*

Camila Vergara (MA candidate, CLACS): *Analyzing women's role as social and political actors in the process of transition to democracy in Chile*

Lidia Rebecca Villatoro (MA candidate, CLACS): *Tracing Liberation Theology in the Modern Latin American Catholic Church, A Case Study of Brazil*

Anna Value Ward Wilking (PhD candidate, Anthropology): *Social Implications of sex workers who are also mothers in a Catholic context, Ecuador*

CLACS also awarded Summer Field Research Grants (which fund summer research in the Anglo or French speaking Caribbean or Puerto Rico) to:

Ken Georges Irish-Bramble (PhD candidate, Political Science): *Changing Patterns of Political Violence in Jamaica*

Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo (MA candidate, CLACS): *Exploring the Body Politics of Pentecostes in Puerto Rico*

Recent CLACS Events and Activities

PRESENTATIONS

Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals In The Cuban Revolution: a book discussion about a little-known chapter of Chinese and Latin American history as told through interviews with Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong, three Chinese-Cubans who fought in the revolutionary war that brought down the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship and became generals in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The Lawless Planet: Globalization, Dispossession, Lawlessness: a talk by Adolfo Gilly, historian, essayist, journalist and one of the leading intellectuals in Latin America today. Over the course of half a century he has closely observed many of the most important political processes in the region. Gilly's most recent book *Historia a contrapelo* (2006) is based on lectures he delivered at NYU.

An Evil Hour in Colombia: Forrest Hylton, a Ph.D. candidate in Latin American History at NYU, discussed his new book which gives a 150-year history of Colombia's internal violence as a social and political phenomenon and discusses how the United States has contributed to these social and political circumstances.

México: ¿Ahora qué/What Now?: Carlos Monsiváis and Rossana Reguillo, two of México's foremost intellectuals, discussed the elections, Oaxaca, and the country's future possibilities.

El País del nunca jabaz: Humor político y nuevas tecnologías mediáticas: Jose Antonio Baz (Jabaz) is Mexico's best known political cartoonist today. This discussion inaugurated the installation of Jabaz's humorous photomontages, which piece together real images from television and the web, in the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center. Commentary by Mexican visual artist and political humorist Felipe Galindo, whose *Manhatitlan Chronicles* received the Best Animation Award at the Cambridge Latino Film Festival.

Bolivia: A New Democracy, One Year After Elections: a talk by H.E. Gustavo Guzmán Saldaña, Ambassador of the Republic of Bolivia to the U.S. Ambassador Gustavo Guzmán has spent the past twenty years working in journalism; he served as editor of *La Razón* and founded *La Prensa*, two of Bolivia's leading newspapers. He co-founded and was editor of *Pulso* magazine. He has also published numerous books and worked for the Municipality of La Paz as a consultant in political communication.

How to Make Enemies Doing a Non Fiction Magazine: The Case of How Inca Kola beat Coke: a presentation by Julio Villanueva Chang, founder and editor-in-chief of *Etiqueta Negra*, an acclaimed Spanish-language nonfiction magazine based in Lima, Perú. Chang is a 1995 recipient of the Inter-American Press Association Award (IAPA) in Feature Writing. His profiles and features written for *El Comercio*, Lima's most important daily, are collected in his book *Mariposas y Murcielagos* (1999).



“ciudadMULTIPLEcity”: **Art and the City: an Experiment in Context**

On April 25, 2007 CLACS presented a talk by Gerardo Mosquera and Adrienne Samos, curators of the 2003 ciudadMULTIPLEcity urban art event in Panama, on the connection between

art and the city— an increasingly urgent matter of debate. ciudadMULTIPLEcity was a project that gathered international artists, including Francis Alÿs, Ghada Amer, Gustavo Artigas, Cildo Meireles and Gu Xiong, and had them respond to Panama City's fascinating complexities. This event, in George Yudice's words, made “the public experience even more audible and legible, turning the city into creative actor and artwork.” Mosquera and Samos discussed the issues of art and the public realm and screened a video documentary on ciudadMULTIPLEcity by Rich Potter.

American Visa: A Book Presentation

On April 11 CLACS presented a book presentation with Juan de Recoechea, author of the novel *American Visa*, and his translator Adrian Althoff. About the novel: Armed with fake papers, a handful of gold nuggets, and a snazzy custom-made suit, an unemployed schoolteacher with a singular passion for detective fiction sets out from small-town Bolivia on a desperate quest for an American visa, his best hope for escaping his painful past and reuniting with his grown son in Miami. Mario Alvarez's dream of emigration takes a tragicomic twist on the rough streets of La Paz, Bolivia's seat of government. Alvarez embarks on a series of Kafkaesque adventures, crossing paths



with a colorful cast of hustlers, social outcasts, and crooked politicians—and initiating a romance with a straight-shooting prostitute named Blanca. Spurred on by his detective fantasies and his own tribulations, he hatches a plan to rob a wealthy gold dealer, a decision that draws him into a web of high-society corruption but also brings him closer than ever to obtaining his ticket to paradise. About the author: Juan de Recacoechea was born in La Paz, Bolivia, and worked as a journalist in Europe for almost twenty years. After returning to his native country, he helped found Bolivia's first state-run television network, served as its general manager, and dedicated himself to fiction writing. Mr. Recacoechea is the author of seven novels. *American Visa* is his first novel to be translated into English.

“From Slavery to Freedom? New Perspectives on the Haitian Revolution”

New perspectives were presented on “Voltaire and Dessalines in the Theater of the Atlantic” by Laurent Dubois of the Michigan State University Department of History. And Jean Casimir, of Université d'État d'Haïti, Faculté des Sciences Humaines, gave a talk on “The Haitian Victims of 1804”. Discussants were NYU professors Ada Ferrer, of the History Department, and Sibylle Fischer, of Spanish and Portuguese.

CONFERENCES

CLACS, in conjunction with NYCCLAS, was a proud sponsor of **CENTRAL AMERICA 20 YEARS AFTER ESQUIPULAS II**, a conference held at the United Nations on June 13 on the Peace Process in Central America. Speakers included:

- Oscar Arias, President of the Republic of Costa Rica and 1987 Nobel Peace Prize winner
- Daniel Ortega, President of the Republic of Nicaragua
- Vinicio Cerezo, Former President of the Republic of Guatemala

Other panelists were former government officials, civil society leaders, academics, and UN agency representatives from around the world. Session topics included Security and Violence, Democratic Governance, Economic Development and Social Development.

Common Vocabularies, Different Perspectives: New Political History on Nineteenth Century Latin America was a symposium which took place on May 4 and 5, which brought together historians from Latin America and the United States to present some of the most exciting current research within Latin American history. Panels highlighted prominent conceptual categories such as hegemony and subalternity, state-formation, the public sphere and civil society, liberalism and republicanism. Participants— including John Coatsworth, Renato Gonzalez-Mello, Jeremy Adelman, Ada Ferrer, Pablo Piccato, José Moya, Sinclair Thomson, Claudio Lomnitz, Nara Milanich and Barbara Weinstein— addressed key approaches to questions of political culture, elite and popular politics, and the connections of political history to intellectual, cultural, and social history.

SEMINARS AND WORKING GROUPS

Ecue's Atlantic: Time, Space, and Historical Consciousness: a Cuban Studies Working Group discussion with Stephan Palmié (Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago).

ANAMESA: The new issue of *ANAMESA*, an interdisciplinary graduate student journal which is a collaborative project by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and NYU's Draper Interdisciplinary Master's Program is now available at <http://www.nyu.edu/pubs/anamesa/index.htm>. This issue explores the concept of “Borders” For submission guidelines or more information contact anamesa.journal@gmail.com.

CAM! Contemporary Art of the Americas: CAM! is an interdisciplinary working group open to **graduate** students with particular interest in contemporary art from the Americas. CAM invites scholars, artists, critics and curators currently working, exhibiting, or visiting New York to join our dialogue and make contact with students. To learn more about Contemporary Art of the Americas or to be added to the listserv, please send a brief note to kmm515@nyu.edu.

The Latin America History, Economy and Culture Workshop: an interdisciplinary space for NY Consortium students and faculty, as well as visiting scholars, to present and discuss their ongoing research on different topics concerning Latin America. The workshop meets every other Monday at New York University. For more information or copies of working group papers email Carmen Iizarbe at: ilizc263@newschool.edu

Alumni Updates:

Read what our graduates have been up to!

Marc Antone ('05) got married last fall and moved to Boston. He is teaching 12th grade Humanities (World History and English Language Arts).

Ben Aplin ('06) works at the New York headquarters of a NGO called FilmAid International, which screens films at refugee camps in East Africa. The films are educational as well as for entertainment and psychosocial therapy. FilmAid also has projects that involve refugees making their own films. Ben works in the fundraising and grants department.

Trisha Baca ('03) has worked for three years at Friends Academy in New York as a high school Spanish teacher. She plans to pursue a MA in Education, perhaps at NYU.

Ana Blanco ('05) is in the The New School's Ph.D. program in Political Science. She also works for a human rights and communications NGO called Population Communications International.

Debbie Blumberg ('05) worked as a Metro reporter for a Gannett Newspaper in central New Jersey until summer 2006, when she moved back to New York to take a job as a reporter for *Dow Jones Newswires*. Her articles frequently appear in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Kirsten Bunch ('01) is Director of Programs and New Business at Aid to Artisans. She currently manages projects in Afghanistan, Egypt, and El Salvador.

Elda Cantú ('06) is teaching Social Science in a private high school in Monterrey, Mexico. She teaches Regional Studies and Global Issues, in English, to seniors. She also coordinates an annual event at the school, a

student-organized congress on economics and globalization from which we pick the students who will participate in a larger program: the Voices of the Future program. This program is run by the Virtual Trade Mission (<http://virtualtrademission.org>) and brings young people to APEC meetings to interview business and government officials and produce multimedia materials to share with other schools. Elda is the Leading Educator for the Voices of the Future event in Australia next September, and last year she accompanied students to the APEC summit in Hanoi.

Tara Castillo ('03) graduated May 2007 with a JD from American University Washington College of Law. In September, she will begin working as an Associate at Alston & Bird LLP in Washington D.C. This year she published a law review article with a law journal at the University of Texas and was Senior Note &

Comment Editor of the *American University International Law Review*. During the summer of 2005 she worked as a legal intern in the Banco Estado Office of General Counsel for Investment and trade in Santiago, Chile and studied at the Universidad de Chile and Diego Portales in Santiago.

Sherry Cesare-Pumar ('01) currently lives in Huntington, NY and is married to Carlos Pumar, from Venezuela. She works for MassMutual Life Insurance Company in Insurance and Investments in Woodbury, NY. She and her husband travel often, both to Venezuela to visit family and other places in Latin America.

Danielle Pilar Clealand ('04) is in the Political Science doctoral program at UNC, Chapel Hill.

Marianna Crespi ('05) is a new mother to Isabel Lili, born March 27, 2007.

Saul Cunow ('06) is at UCSD getting his Ph.D. in Political Science. He is excited for some warm winters and maybe surfing lessons.

Ulysses De la Torre ('05) is living in Mexico City, working in structured finance and risk management for Distributed Capital (www.distributedcapital.com).

Julie Delgado ('05) works for Network News Service as a permanent freelance writer and does translations independently for institutions such as NACLA. She is also doing research for a PR firm and has done Spanish-language copywriting for an advertising agency.

Zammy Diaz-Lebron ('06) graduated with her second MA in Performance Studies from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in May 2007. She spent the summer studying German, and traveling throughout Europe before returning to New York, where she is working at the Institute for International Education.

Pamela Dise-Moran ('05) became a mother to Alexis Kaitlyn Moran on April 24th. She is currently on maternity leave from the Morristown Memorial Hospital's Carol G. Simon Cancer Center Molecular Oncopathology Lab, where she works as the Assistant to a Dominican hematopathologist with various clients in the Dominican Republic, Florida & New Jersey. Pamela also works as a Silpada Designs Representative, selling jewelry made of silver & semi-precious gemstones at home shows. View the jewelry at <http://www.mysilpada.com/sites/Pamela.Dise-Moran>.

Deslyn Downes Dyer ('01, joint degree Museum Studies) has worked for the last two years as the Assistant Director at the Louis Armstrong House Museum in Corona, Queens. A national historic and NYC land-

mark, the museum is the home of jazz great Louis Armstrong and receives visitors from all over the world (www.satchmo.net).

McChesney Emanuel ('90) is now the Consul General of Antigua and Barbuda based in New York.

Rosa Fernandez ('03, joint degree with Museum Studies) lives in Spokane, WA with her husband and baby girl, born in February 2004. She worked as a Spanish interpreter at the Museum of Art and Culture and as an Adjunct Professor of Spanish at Whitworth College, both in Spokane, until moving to Nashville, TN in December 2005. There, she worked as a freelance Spanish translator and tour guide at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts exhibition "Mexico: A Revolution in the Arts".

Jane Folpe ('01) is Associate Director of Professional Education at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She administers the Citigroup International Journalism Program and the Covering Globalization Seminar and works on curriculum development for the school's professional education division. Jane has been an instructor in Computer-Assisted Financial Reporting at the Universitat de Barcelona/Columbia University Master in Journalism Program in Spain and has lectured on this subject at workshops for journalists from developing countries at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism and the Initiative for Policy Dialogue. Ms. Folpe is a co-author of *Business and Economic Reporting: Covering Companies, Financial Markets and the Broader Economy*, published by the International Center for Journalists in 2005. She also authored chapters on accounting and internet reporting in *Covering Globalization: A Handbook for Reporters*, published by Columbia University Press in 2004.

Alicia Kingue ('06) is Manager of Individual and Corporate Membership in the Development Department of El Museo del Barrio.

Regina Kirk ('02) works in East Harlem as the director of Parish Services at St. Cecilia's Church, a small community outreach program that provides social services to the community of El Barrio. The program runs a food pantry, an immigrant mother's fellowship group, provides case management for families in crisis, and performs housing advocacy.

Eliza Kwon-Ahn ('01) has been working as the Administrator of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) at Columbia University since June 2003. She also became a mother on June 22, 2006, to a baby girl named Abigail Ahn.

Julie Larido ('01) works as the Managing Director at Guy Carpenter & Company, LLC,

an insurance company in Manhattan.

Erin Liljedahl ('04) is in New York working at a commercial litigation law firm and considering law school.

Mariano Lopez-Seoane ('04) is in his fourth year of the doctoral program in NYU's Department of Spanish and Portuguese. He also works as a translator for Latin American publishers and as a journalist for newspapers in his homeland, Argentina.

Melisa Lujan ('03) recently was promoted to the position of Assistant Registrar at El Museo del Barrio, where she has worked for four years.

Diana Macchio's ('06) daughter, Olivia Norma, was born on April 19th, 2007. Mother and daughter are doing fine and Diana is really enjoying motherhood.

Megan McGrath ('06) is living in Park Slope, Brooklyn where she and her husband welcomed their first child, Henry Joseph Stephenson, on August 30th, 2006. Visitors and babysitters welcome!

Alyssa Misner ('07, joint degree Journalism) recently was hired as a corporate investigator at James Mintz Group, an investigative services firm that gathers hidden business facts all over the world for corporations, law firms, financial institutions and non-profits.

Pablo Morales ('06) is the editor of the *NACLA Report on the Americas*, here in NYC.

Gabriel Nelson ('06) is at UCLA in a PhD program in sociology. He is starting a project on the concentration of wealth amongst landowners and financial capitalists in Guatemala and is interested in becoming involved in economic and social development in Latin America.

Matus Nemeth ('06) lives in Brussels, Belgium, where he works as a freelance interpreter for European Union institutions, mainly the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. He performs simultaneous interpretation of English, Spanish, Czech and Slovak.

Laura Orrico ('06) is in UCLA's PhD program in sociology.

Eleonora Rabinovich ('05) is in Buenos Aires, working at an NGO called Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (Association of Civil Rights, ADC) as the director of the Freedom of Expression Program. She is involved in a project on "indirect censorship" in Argentina and also coordinating a project on the same topic covering several countries in Latin America. She also occasionally contributes to articles to various media.

Jenny Reid-Austin ('04) has been in Oxford,

England, studying at the University of Oxford since October. She is pursuing a MSc. in Forced Migration at Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House.

David Rondon ('03) graduated from George Washington University School of Law in May 2007.

Maggie Russell-Ciardi ('01) is currently working as the Director of Programs for the Americas at the International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience (www.sitesofconscience.org). In June she traveled with the International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience for a conference on memorialization and democracy, jointly organized by the Coalition, FLACSO Chile, and the International Center for Transitional Justice. The conference explored how the process of constructing memorials about human rights violations and struggles for human rights could further processes of democratic transition and consolidation in Latin America and throughout the world.

Mateo Samper ('06) is the Program Officer for Public Policy Programs at Americas Society/Council of the Americas.

Margaret Siegel ('01) works for Travelers Aid at JFK Airport, which provides customer service to passengers through a volunteer program and social services to stranded passengers.

Shanida Smith-Carter ('02, joint degree Journalism) is the senior producer for News 12 Brooklyn, a 24-hour cable news station run by Cablevision and lives in New Jersey.

Heather Singmaster ('01) works in the Education Department at the Asia Society on an initiative to get U.S. kids learning more about the rest of the world. She was married on July 29, 2006 to Gabriel Nadel, who is the Director of Operations at Girls Prep Charter School. This summer they are vacationing in Tibet.

Rebecca Anne Tally ('04) spent the summer in Bogota, Colombia conducting research for her dissertation. She is in her fourth year of the Ph.D. program in Latin American History at Cornell University. She was recently awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for a year of dissertation research in Colombia.

Lisa Viscidi ('06) is the reporter covering Latin America for Energy Intelligence Group, a company that publishes daily and weekly publications on energy issues, mainly oil and gas. She both covers events in the U.S. and travels to Latin America a few times per year.

Rachel Watts ('02) is currently the Director of The MYC youth center in San Rafael, CA, which opened in October 2006 after several years of program planning and construction. The largest population of youth served are of Central and South American heritage (www.themyc.org).

Andrew Whitworth-Smith ('03) recently began a Ph.D. program in Communications and Media at U.C. San Diego.

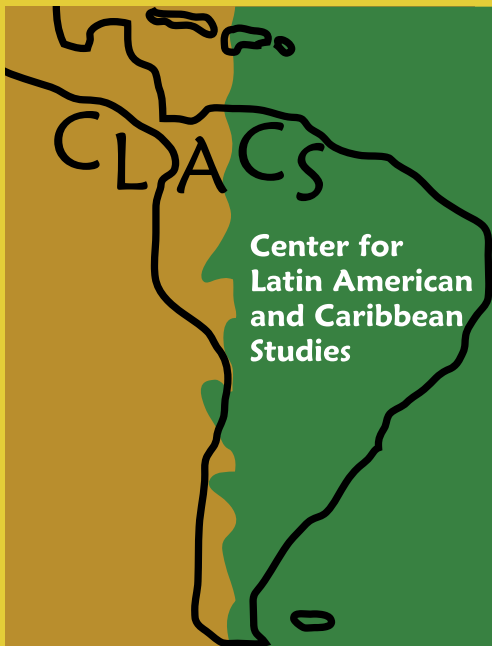
Julia Young ('02) is working on a Ph.D. in Latin American History at the University of Chicago. She is studying transnational religious politics among Mexican emigrants to the United States during the Cristero War



Julia Young ('02) and husband Spiro in Coyoacan, Mexico City in April 2007

(1926-1929). During Academic Year 2006-07, she was awarded a Fulbright-Hays grant to conduct archival research in Mexico. She moved to Mexico City in November with her husband, Spiro Roiniotis, and has greatly enjoyed traipsing around the city visiting numerous archival collections and becoming intimately familiar with Mexican bureaucracy. She and Spiro were married in September 2006 in Athens, Greece, and were delighted to have two fellow CLACS graduates as guests, Nila Boquin and Carola Mandelbaum. In August 2007 they will move back to Washington, D.C., where Julia plans to finish writing her dissertation. She can be reached at jgdy@uchicago.edu.

Carin Zissis ('05) became the Managing Editor of *as-coa.org* (Americas Society/Council of the Americas) this July. Previously, she was a Staff Writer for *CFR.org*, the news analysis site of the Council on Foreign Relations.



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