



Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program OM204 (845) 257-3487 [www.newpaltz.edu/las/](http://www.newpaltz.edu/las/)

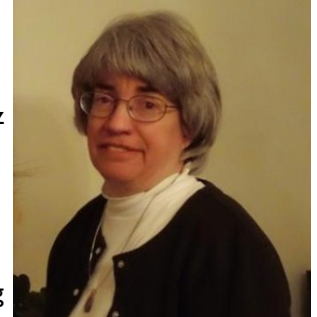
State University of New York—New Paltz

April 1, 2013

Volume I, Issue 2

### Spotlight on: *Prof. Linda Greenow*

We recently interviewed Prof. Linda Greenow, a member of the LACS faculty at SUNY New Paltz since 1985. Here is what she shared with us:



**Q:** Why did you study geography and Latin American Studies?

**A:** I didn't have a dream or a particular goal. I just kept doing what I enjoyed the most, which was learning about geography and cultures and places. I actually began college as a French major, but when I took geography for a general education course, I realized that geography was what I really wanted to study all along. But the term "geography" almost never comes up in our education. One semester, there was a geography course I had to take, "Middle America", because it was the only one that fit in my schedule. Most of the students dropped out the first week when they found out it was about Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean instead of the Mid-west of the U.S. But I had to stay. The professor, Dr. Bloom, really opened a lot of doors in my mind. He had been a Peace Corps volunteer in Chile and everything he taught about was new to me and wonderfully interesting. I became a Latin American Studies minor, took a lot of Spanish courses and studied abroad in Mexico for a semester. That's when I realized I really had only begun to learn about Latin America, and I decided to continue to graduate school to learn some more. But what I especially like about Latin America is not just what I learned in my formal education. It was also learning about the culture and the people, how people are so important in the culture, respecting each other, common courtesies, and concern about others around you.

**Q:** Was there a point when you realized that this was "it" and that you had achieved the greatest satisfaction of your career?

**A:** Yes, a couple of times. Once was when I was inducted as an honorary member into Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish language honor society. I had to give a speech in Spanish, which I could do, but I couldn't decide what to say. Finally I talked about how it is when you learn another language, that you learn about culture and people, ways of thinking, values and yourself! You have to be humble when you are learning a language among the people who speak it. You are going to say silly things, be misunderstood, misunderstand others, and you have to have a sense of humor about it. That will go a long way toward learning the language even more.

A second very satisfying time in my career was when I traveled to Brazil with Professors Dávila and Saavedra, who are both retired now, and Professor Lefkowitz from Political Science. We had been awarded a large and prestigious grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help professors learn more about Brazil in order to teach about it more effectively in their classes. When we were traveling around Brazil in meetings and seminars, we absorbed so much of the language, society, culture and history, and we took that back to our classes. It helped our students in the end, which is what we, as professors, have to always consider.

**Q:** What could you suggest to students to help them with their education or their careers?

**A:** The best way to learn about yourself and your culture is to study and live in another country. Someone famous said that once, and it is really true. It is hard to describe the impact of a study abroad program unless one actually does it and it is a great benefit to anyone, no matter what their major or career might be. I would also say to be open to all kinds of opportunities. I have been fortunate to succeed in my career, but it was partly because I recognized and took advantage of opportunities that came my way even if I couldn't see what the benefit might be until much later. Sometimes the opportunities were actually tough challenges! If you try to pare everything down to the least amount of effort or time, or only what you think you are really interested in at the moment, you miss a lot of the possibilities that could help you have a more satisfying life professionally or personally.

## From the Director

With the arrival of spring, we receive wonderful news on the impressive accomplishments by LACS students. Two LACS graduates earned a Fulbright TA Scholarship to Mexico and a Teach for America Award, respectively. LACS seniors are making a difference in their communities, undertaking internships in the fields of immigrants' rights advocacy, migrant workers' health, and creating awareness about domestic violence in the Hudson Valley.

In addition, along with the Department of Black Studies, LACS is co-sponsoring the First World Diaspora Undergraduate Conference. The theme of the forum, "Social Movements across Diasporas of Color," generated twenty one submissions of interesting proposals including papers on literature, film, music, anthropology, sociology, history, public health, philosophy, and politics, from various institutions. The forum reaffirms LACS's commitment to foster student research initiatives to instill in our young scholars the need to see themselves as producers of knowledge. Dr. Kiran Asher, Associate Professor of International Development and Social Change at Clark University will deliver the keynote address. This coming fall semester, we look forward to an exciting list of courses, offering a total of eighteen classes across seven departments. We will also implement our new major with a slightly different distribution of courses. Soon after that, we hope to have available an opportunity to major in Childhood Education with a concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, keeping with the increasing presence of Latino@merican students in schools.



### Contact Us! We want to hear from you!

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### Special Thanks to:

- The Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dr. James Schiffer, for his steadfast support of our program.

## Upcoming Lectures and Cultural Events:

- **Faculty Lecture Series**
  - **César Barros**  
"Anxiety, Aesthetics and Politics in the New Latin American Cinema."  
Tuesday, April 9/13, 3:30 p.m., LC104.
  - **Deyanira Rojas-Sosa**  
"Latino Students' Narratives about Discrimination in the Classroom."  
Tuesday, April 23/13, 3:05 p.m., Honors Center.
- **First World Diaspora Undergraduate Conference, Social Movements and Activism Across Diasporas of Color.** Sat., April 6/13, 8:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m., SUB 62/63.
- **Bordando por la paz / Embroidering for Peace**  
Exhibit Mar. 12/13-April 5/13, Reception Wed., April 3/13, 3:00 p.m., STL Lobby. Presentation on the Women of Juarez by Jessica Purcell, EOP Advisor.
- **Cinco de mayo, talk by Prof. Chris Albi and celebration**  
Tuesday, April 30/13, 3:30 PM, SUB 62/63.
- **Soccer Game and International Picnic**  
Wed., May 1, 1:30 p.m., Turf Field.
- **Film Screening: Precious Knowledge**  
Wed., April 10/13, 5:00 p.m., HUM 209. Co-sponsored by LASU.
- **Talk/Demonstration: "The Importance of Corn for Central America."** Wed., Apr. 10/13, 6:30p.m., Bevier Hall Basement Lounge.

## Focus on: *Student Internships and Research*

As a Senior in the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program, I am now completing my capstone research project on the Global Health policies of the Pan American Health and World Health Organizations, as well as researching the effect that social and environmental factors have on the state of tropical diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean. I became interested in this field of research after studying abroad in Guayaquil, Ecuador during the Spring 2012 semester at the Universidad de Espiritu Santo, where I was given the opportunity to complete an internship at the Father Damien House Foundation, working with elderly patients affected by Hansen's disease (leprosy) in the city's center. This opportunity to study abroad and volunteer has given me a sense of direction as I near graduation, with a new passion for Global Health and the desire to continue traveling. This semester I am also interning with Hudson River Health Care, working with an outreach employee who manages the cases of many migrant workers, driving patients without transportation to the clinic from their workplaces on farms and orchards throughout the Hudson Valley. I will also be including research on the health of migrant workers in New York State in my capstone, as my internship working with migrant agricultural workers has made a clear connection between Global Health issues, and health problems that are relevant in the United States, and even within the community of the Hudson Valley. Finally, after graduation in May, I plan to teach English abroad in either Colombia or Spain, and upon my return to the United States, I would like to attend Graduate School to specialize in the fields of Global Health and Epidemiology.



**Ashley Lavery**, Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Spanish Majors, Anthropology Minor

I am a senior with double major in Spanish and Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and a double minor in Anthropology and Linguistics. Currently, I am interning at the YWCA of Ulster County in Kingston as a part of an Independent Study and Capstone Research Project. My areas of research, including the topic of my Independent Study, focus on Domestic Violence within the Latino and Latin American communities in the Hudson Valley. Part of this agenda examines the assistance that is provided to both survivors as well as victims within this area.



In Spring 2012, I studied abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the Pontificia Universidad Católica. While there, I had the opportunity to travel and learn more about a different culture, and this experience inspired me to take on my current project. I took a Migration in the Americas course where I learned about immigration/emigration and its causes, and began conducting my initial research. Next year, I will pursue my Masters of Social Work at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College with a concentration in Clinical Practice. My future goal is to work with families, individuals and groups, such as the Latin American community and youth of color.

**Veraluz DeLeón**, Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Spanish Majors, Anthropology and Linguistics Minors

As part of my Latin American and Caribbean Studies Senior Capstone Experience, this past winter break, I interned at The Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont & Mamaroneck for a total of 75 hours. The HRCLM was founded in 1998 in an effort to serve and cater to the needs of the growing Latino population of Westchester County. It was founded and established in Mamaroneck, NY because of its central location, making it easily accessible to other Latino populations in the surrounding towns of Larchmont, New Rochelle, and Harrison.

The creation of the HRCLM came about as a result of a highly publicized legal case, involving undocumented workers who had been harassed by local police. When I began working at the center, I noticed immediately that the majority of workers who came to look for work and to use the services offered were of Guatemalan descent.

Every morning at 9 am, I helped workers, waiting patiently for work, to secure various jobs for the day. I also taught ESL (English as a Second Language) classes offered in the early mornings, and helped in every aspect of the center's services: event organization, community outreach, and clerical duties, among many others. In addition, I participated in personnel meetings and planning endeavors. After my time with the HRCLM, I became interested in working in the non-profit sector and plan to attend law school to become an immigration lawyer.



**Michael Trivino**, International Relations and Latin America and Caribbean Studies majors, Black Studies minor.

As former director of El Puente, videographer, and community organizer in New York City, I am currently completing my Latin American and Caribbean Studies Capstone Experience on the history of immigration from Ecuador to the United States. Within this project, I am producing a companion photo essay/video narrative documentary that records the experience of Ecuadorean women who are day laborers in Brooklyn, NY. The photo essay and video narrative documents the women as they look for work and deal with issues of inequity, acculturative stress caused by being separated from their families, language difficulties and the fear of deportation. My project has a strong focus on gathering narratives and exploring the experience of coming to the United States as an undocumented person, looking for work, and the challenges and triumphs that come from this journey. I examine the many layers of the life of an Ecuadorean immigrant domestic worker through visual narratives in photography and video interviews to foster a deeper understanding of this segment of the female Latin American population in the USA.



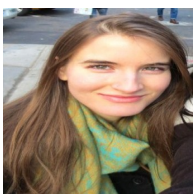
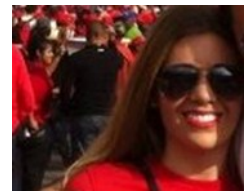
**William Orellana**, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Major

## News from Our Recent Graduates

**Wendy Cohen ('12)** has been awarded the 2013-2014 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant. Soon she will be heading back to Mexico to embark on this prestigious venture, providing assistance to teachers of English and non-native English-speakers, while serving as a cultural ambassador for U.S. culture.



**Lana Solomon ('12)** has been chosen to join the highly selective organization Teach for America. She will attend a summer training institute before joining the 2013 corps in Massachusetts, where she will offer her leadership to the challenge of ending educational inequity in the area.



**Laura Valdés ('12)** is a Language Access Specialist and Programs Assistant for the New York office of the *Coalición Rural*, and organization based in Washington, DC. She is also currently enrolled in the Translation and Interpretation Certification Program at CUNY-Hunter in New York City.

**Nora Lang ('09)** was awarded a Graduate Research Assistantship at UC San Diego. She is pursuing an MA in Latin American Studies at the University of California-San Diego, specializing in bilingual education policy development and implementation in the Andean regions of Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. She recently received a grant to travel to Peru and Bolivia this summer to conduct field work. As a graduate research assistant, Nora works with numerous scholars in the field. As a Spanish instructor, she encourages her students to pursue their interests involving Latin America.



## THE STUDY ABROAD CORNER



The CIP team: (from left to right) Christian F. Wilwohl, Kathryn Rich, Caitlin Paul and Christian Speedling

The Center for International Programs at SUNY New Paltz has long-standing relationships with the following institutions in Latin America through which New Paltz students have the opportunity to study abroad and Latin American students come to study at New Paltz:

Pontificia Universidad Católica, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Pontificia Universidade Católica, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Tecnológico de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico

Through these partnerships, New Paltz students can enrich their studies of Latin America and improve their Spanish and Portuguese language skills through direct immersion in the local culture. Students can also study French in Paris and Besançon, France. The presence of students from these universities at New Paltz enhances campus diversity and opportunities for cultural exchange for students, faculty, and staff. For more information, please contact:

Christian F. Wilwohl, M.A., Study Abroad Coordinator  
Center for International Programs 845-257-3125  
wilwohlc@newpaltz.edu  
studioabroad.newpaltz.edu

## LACS FACULTY MEMBERS

**Christopher Albi** (History)  
**Ligia Aldana** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)  
**César Barros A.** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)  
**La Tasha Brown** (Black Studies)  
**Devon Duhaney** (Chair, Secondary Education)  
**Laura Ebert** (Economics)  
**Paul Fenouillet** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)  
**Patricia Fitzpatrick** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)  
**Anita González** (Theater)

**Linda Greenow** (Geography)  
**Benjamin Junge** (Anthropology)  
**Joel Lefkowitz** (Chair, Political Science and International Relations)  
**Deyanira Rojas-Sosa** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)  
**Jerry Persaud** (Co-Chair, Communication and Media)  
**Luz Porras** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)  
**Roberto Vélez-Vélez** (Sociology)

## SCENES FROM OUR SPRING EVENTS



Annual Soccer Game and International Picnic



Making Tortillas in Deyo Hall





Setting up Sojourner Truth Library Display:  
“Embroidering for Peace”



For more information:

<http://globalvoicesonline.org/2012/08/01/>

[mexico-embroidering-for-peace/](http://mexico-embroidering-for-peace/)



Sponsored by: Sojourner Truth Library, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major Connections, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, Dept. of Languages, Literatures & Cultures, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, LASU Latin American Student Union, LCC Latino Cultural Center, Spanish Club, Latino Week



FALL 2013 - LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES COURSE OFFERINGS

| CRN  | Course | Sec | Title   | Cr | Days | Time        | Instructor          | Attributes   |
|------|--------|-----|---|----|------|-------------|---------------------|--|
| 1007 | LAM270 | 01  | Introduction to Latin American Studies                      | 3  | TF   | 1215P-0130P | Ligia S. Aldana     | GE3: WRLD, Effective Expression/Written, Liberal Arts                            |
| 2370 | ANT305 | 01  | Cultures of South America                                   | 3  | TF   | 1050A-1205P | Benjamin M. Junge   | GE3: WRLD, Liberal Arts, Systematic Inquiry                                      |
| 915  | BLK231 | 01  | Development of Afro-Latin American Civilization (1492-1825) | 3  | MR   | 0430P-0545P | Zelbert L. Moore    | Liberal Arts   |
| 1027 | BLK272 | 01  | Rap and Spoken Word   | 3  | MR   | 0140P-0255P | La Tasha A. Brown   | GE3: HUM, Effective Expression/Oral, Effective Expression/Written, Liberal Arts  |
| 2308 | BLK309 | 01  | Introduction to Afro-Brazilian History                      | 3  | MR   | 0305P-0420P | Zelbert L. Moore    | GE3: WRLD, Effective Expression/Written, Liberal Arts                            |
| 1355 | BLK311 | 01  | Blacks in the Caribbean, 1992-Present                       | 3  | MR   | 0600P-0715P | Zelbert L. Moore    | GE3: WRLD, Effective Expression/Written, Liberal Arts                            |
| 958  | FRN320 | 01  | Francophone Cultures  | 4  | TWF  | 1050A-1200P | Paul B. Fenouillet  | GE3: WRLD, Effective Expression/Oral, Effective Expression/Written, Liberal Arts |
| 967  | GEO307 | 01  | Understanding Latin America                                 | 3  | MR   | 0430P-0545P | Linda Greenow       | Liberal Arts   |
| 734  | HIS277 | 02  | Latin American History to 1825                              | 4  | TWF  | 0925A-1035A | Christopher P. Albi | GE3: WRLD, Liberal Arts, Systematic Inquiry                                      |
| 2428 | HIS302 | 01  | American Immigration  | 3  | TF   | 0140P-0255P | Lee Bernstein       | Liberal Arts, Writing Intensive  |
| 1726 | HIS377 | 01  | History of Mexico   | 3  | TF   | 1050A-1205P | Christopher P. Albi | Liberal Arts   |
| 1778 | HIS393 | 03  | Crime and Rebellion in Latin America                        | 3  | TF   | 0140P-0255P | Christopher P. Albi | Liberal Arts   |
| 1401 | SED358 | 01  | Education Across Borders                                    | 3  | TF   | 0925A-1040A | Susan M. Books      | GE3: WRLD, Effective Expression/Written, Liberal Arts, Writing Intensive         |
| 1396 | SOC493 | 01  | Globalization   | 3  | MR   | 1215P-0130P | Roberto Vélez-Vélez |  |
| 876  | SPA315 | 01  | Spanish for Native Speakers                                 | 4  | MWR  | 1050A-1200P | Deyanira Rojas-Sosa | GE3: FLNG, Effective Expression/Written, Liberal Arts                            |
| 977  | SPA372 | 01  | Culture of Latin America                                    | 4  | TWF  | 0140P-0250P | Ligia S. Aldana     | Liberal Arts   |
| 995  | SPA376 | 01  | Survey of Latin American Literature                         | 4  | MWR  | 0305P-0415P | César A. Barros     | Liberal Arts   |
| 2333 | SPA493 | 01  | Hispanic Linguistics  | 3  | MR   | 0140P-0255P | Deyanira Rojas-Sosa | Liberal Arts   |