



FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM LACS PROGRAM DIRECTOR BEN JUNGE:

Welcome back to New Paltz!



AY 2015-16 was a busy and exciting year for Latin American & Caribbean Studies/LACS, and we are proud of the 20+ academic, cultural, and social events we organized and co-sponsored. Our events, including scholarly research presentations, film, art installations, and musical performances, spanned the region—representing Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela, as well as Latinx experiences in the United States and Latinx-Asian lives in the Caribbean. Some other highlights of the year:



- We are super-proud of our 11 graduated senior LACS majors, each of whom conducted an original capstone research project under the leadership of Prof. Phil Mauceri (Political Science/Int'l Relations). (See Capstone Report.)
- Once again, our faculty showed themselves to be engaged and nationally recognized scholars, making us proud with important research and prestigious awards and fellowships. (See Faculty News.)
- The student group, Museo Escolar (formerly known as the Latino Cultural Center), was revived, and new leadership is excited to share the Museo's artifacts with the campus community. (See Museo Escolar.)
- We are also excited to have launched a LACS online social-media presence (See LACS on Social Media.) During the Fall semester, we'll be completely redoing the LACS website. Stay tuned for updates, photos, and revised forms related to the major and minor.
- We also welcomed Cookie Chandler as part-time LACS program secretary (generously shared by Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies). Cookie's cheer and able support has helped me survive my first year as program director with my sanity intact (more or less!). Thanks Cookie!
- Welcome to new LACS-affiliated faculty in the Black Studies Department, Cruz Caridad Bueno (PhD Economics) and Nicole Carr (PhD English), both of whose research and teaching interests address race and gender in the Caribbean.



Beyond Latin American and the Caribbean's incredible cultural and socio-political histories, LACS events brought our attention to forms of crisis faced by much of Latin America and the Caribbean today. Indeed, after a period of extraordinary economic growth, social progress and growing middle classes during the first decade of the 21st century, parts of the region have fallen into economic and political crisis, with growing economic volatility, environmental degradation, and threats to democratic institutions. We are committed to research and teaching that reflects these ongoing challenges.

I hope you enjoy the updates in the newsletter. Have a great semester!

Capstone Report

Kudos to our Spring 2016 graduating senior LACS majors, each of whom produced an independent capstone projects based on original research. Here are selected titles of these exciting projects:

- Michael Grossman, "NAFTA & CTPA: A Case Study in the Footwear Industry"
- Kim Ianora, "United States Intervention in Panama"
- Amanda Maldonado, "Violence Against Women in the Digital Age: Social Media and Women's Movements in Brazil and Argentina"
- Nicole Mazzara, "Obstacles to Asylum: Women from the Northern Triangle"
- Ana Minalla, "The United Nations and Peace Building in Latin America"
- Noreli Norena, "The Spectrum of Blackness: Our Latino Identity"
- Claiane Rojas, "Transitions to Democracy in Latin America"
- Roniel Urena, "Undocumented Central American Children in the US"
- Betsy Wiener, "Effects of Class Difference and Human Rights Violations in Elderly Population in Latin America"



Faculty News

- Prof. Chris Albi (History) was awarded a fellowship at the Newberry Library in Chicago for the 2016-17 A.Y.
- Prof. Sharina Maillo-Pozo (Languages, Literatures and Cultures) was awarded a National Supermarket Association (NSA) Dominican Studies Fellowship. She has, additionally, been selected to be part of a research project in the Relational Borders Studies Program at Harvard University for the 2016-2017 year.
- Prof. Deyanira Rojas-Sosa (Languages, Literatures and Cultures) received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.
- LACS-affiliated Prof. Denise Oliver-Velez (Anthropology and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies) was recognized as Part-Time Teacher of the Year by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.
- LACS faculty presentations at the 2016 Latin American Studies Association meeting in New York:
 - Ligia Aldana (LLC), "Afrodescendant Women, Violence, Culture and Politics in the Colombian Caribbean: The Cases of Ceferina Banquez y Librada"
 - César Barros Arteaga (LLC), "Redes antes de las redes: usos, abusos y reapropiaciones políticas del billete en dos casos latinoamericanos"
 - Benjamin Junge (Anthropology), "Targeting the 'New' Middle Class: Public Discourses on Socio- Economic Status in Brazil"
 - Sharina Maillo Pozo (LLC), "Peeling off the Skin: Representations of Alternative Spaces of Dominican Womanhood in Contemporary Visual Arts and Performance"
 - Jessica Pabón (WGS), "It Was No Change the World Bullshit": Chicana Graffitera JERK's Excessive Feminist Masculinity"

El Museo Escolar

This message from Museo president and LACS minor, Jonathan Idrovo, and his e-board colleagues Ana Valdez and Sam Klein:

We are bringing back the Museo Escolar, because we believe that it is an extremely important resource for our campus. The main goal for us is to introduce and inform SUNY New Paltz students about the culture of Latin America and the Caribbean while also inviting them to share their own art or findings from the Latin American world to be placed out on display for everyone to see! We hope to have this club help spread the word about our LACS Program while also being a great resource for our student body.

This semester, our office hours are from 11-2 on Fridays in SUB 45.



New LACS Logo

Congrats to Visual Arts major Jenna Pisnoy (Class of 2016), who created the winning entry in our Spring logo contest. We're excited to start using this lovely image in our materials.



Meet LACS Program Assistant, Ashley Murdock



Ever since I was a girl, I have had an interest in the different cultures of Latin America. I used to talk to my great grandmother in Spanish and my next door neighbor who also use to teach me Spanish phrases here and there. As I grew older, this passion grew even more as I took more Spanish classes, made some Latino(a) friends who surrounded me with the culture, and was involved in a Latin dance club. This was the reason for choosing a LACS major at New Paltz. (I am minoring in Anthropology.) I also have a special interest in the struggles of minority women in Mexico and Argentina. During my free time, I enjoy dancing especially to Bachata, going to the beach, listening to music, and painting. I am excited to work with Prof. Junge as the LACS work-study assistant!

LACS on Social Media

Follow LACS on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter:



Alumni Update: Caitlyn Van Damm, Class of 2010

I am finishing my doctoral degree in occupational therapy at the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston. I specialize in pelvic health and chronic pain management (through holistic, non-opioid intervention). I often find that my background in LACS comes in quite handy, as I am able to relate and communicate with my Latino clients better than other staff members at my clinic. I'm so grateful for my experiences at SUNY New Paltz. Big shout out to Ligia Aldana, whose class on music and cultural identity I still think about and cite concepts from, and Linda Greenough, who I know is retired but still got me started on research (which has come in quite handy).



Upcoming Events

We're planning several exciting events for the fall semester, including these two. Stay tuned for updates!

10/5 Balam Ajpu / Mayan Hip Hop

11/1 Gregory Mitchell (Williams College) "Gringo Panic: Sexual Tourism and Moral Policing during the Brazilian World Cup and Olympic Games"

LACS Faculty

Chris Albi (History)

Ligia Aldana (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)

Cesar Barros (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)

La Tasha Brown (Digital Media & Journalism)

Cruz Bueno (Black Studies)

Nicole Carr (Black Studies)

Devon Duhaney (Secondary Education)

Laura Ebert (Economics)

Paul Fenouillet (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)

Patricia Fitzpatrick (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)

Benjamin Junge (Anthropology)

Joel Lefkowitz (Political Science)

Sharina Maillo-Pozo (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)

Francisco Martinez- Hernandez (Economics)

Phil Mauceri (Political Science)

Denise Oliver-Velez (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

Jessica Pabón (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

Jerry Persaud (Digital Media & Journalism)

Luz Porras (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)

Deyanira Rojas-Sosa (Languages, Literatures & Cultures)



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