



## NEWSLETTER

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

October 9, 2012

Volume I, Issue 1

As the new academic year begins, I am happy to report that the program continues to gain visibility and draw increased interest across campus. Many years of hard work by previous dedicated leaders of the program have translated into higher enrollment, and a diverse and larger number of course offerings. Our recent name change has helped us establish the importance of the Caribbean in the region and continues to attract students interested in this geographical area. The approval of our revised major will allow more students to pursue



### From the Director

coursework in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. This fall semester, we welcome three new Latin Americanists to the college and the program: Christopher Albi (History), César Barros and Ángeles Donoso (Languages, Literatures & Cultures). Study Abroad opportunities continue to offer students once-in-a-lifetime experiences that shape their future and impact every aspect of their lives. In closing, we extend a special welcome to Provost Phil Mauceri, a Political Scientist and Latin Americanist, whose areas of specialization include Peru, Venezuela and Colombia, where he conducted research as a Fulbright Scholar.

I thank all of my colleagues and students for continuing to make our program an interesting and exciting field of study.

### A Spotlight on: Prof. Wilma Feliciano



After over twenty five years, Professor Wilma Feliciano is retiring this Fall. She came to the College in 1985 and has taught many generations of SUNY New

Paltz students in her language, literature and culture classes from first-year Spanish to graduate courses. Professor Feliciano is largely responsible for increasing the number of courses on Latino issues, teaching classes on US Latino Literature in Spanish, Latin American and Latina Women Dramatists, and a very popular selected topic course, Growing Up Latino.

In her role as Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program for

the past three years, Professor Feliciano impacted the lives of many students, with whom she maintains very close ties. Through her tireless efforts, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program gained further strength. She oversaw the completion of our five-year self study, the revision of our major, and the revamping of our introductory course.

Recently, Professor Feliciano was awarded the *Orden de los Descubridores*, by the Sigma Delta Pi Spanish National Honor Society for her contributions to Hispanism, and the 2012 Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award, given by the SUNY New Paltz Alumni Association.

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program thanks Prof. Wilma Feliciano for her dedication to the program and her leadership, and wishes her the very best in this new phase of her life.

### Upcoming Lectures and Cultural Events for Fall 2012:

- **Day of the Dead**  
Exhibit Oct. 21-Nov. 2/12  
and *Ofrenda* Nov. 2/12  
Library Lobby
- **Faculty Lecture Series**  
**Benjamin Junge**,  
'The Energy of Others':  
Narratives of Envy and  
Purification among Former  
Leaders from the Porto  
Alegre Participatory Budget"  
Tuesday, Nov. 6/12,  
Honors Center, 5 PM
- **Christopher Albi**,  
"The Rule of Law in 19th  
Century Mexico"  
Tuesday, Nov. 13/12,  
Honors Center, 3:30-5:PM

### Co-sponsored Events:

**Lecture-Justice for Chiapas**, Mexico Solidarity Network  
Tuesday, Nov. 6/12  
CSB Aud. 6-7:30 PM

**Film-Discussion with Filmmaker:**  
*RiseUp*, Wed, Nov.  
13/12, LC 104 5-8 PM

### Special Thanks to:

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

## NEWS FROM ABROAD

¡Saludos desde México! I am a Spanish and Latin American and Caribbean Studies double major in my fourth year. When I was deciding on a place to go abroad where I could build my Spanish language skills, most people expected me to go to Spain or South America. I chose Mexico instead, because of the wonderful program through the Mexico Solidarity Network. This program is a study of social movements in different parts of Mexico and is organized from a radical leftist perspective.



Wendy Cohen, LAM Senior (5th from right)  
Chiapas, Mexico

For the past five weeks, our group of twelve students has been living communally, immersed in the culture of resistance in Mexico. This week alone, my group performed a short play for a group of indigenous children, worked on a mural in our community, visited a Mayan Medicine museum, and attended a workshop on the importance of corn. I am eating a lot of beans and tortillas (which we learned how to make!) and some new fruits like guava and rambutan. Although I have only been abroad for a short time, I learn new things every day about Mexican culture and about myself. I face the challenge of being a *gringa*, but I have learned that it is much more challenging to be a Mexican in the United States. Now, I can't imagine what it would have been like for me if I had chosen not to go abroad. I encourage every student to be open to the experience!



Lana Solomon LAM SUNY NP '12  
Ejido, Mérida - Venezuela

Since my graduation from SUNY New Paltz in May 2012 with a double major in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Spanish, I have been studying and volunteering in Venezuela, where I studied abroad January through June 2011. During my first visit to Venezuela, I took courses focused on Latin American Studies and immediately became fascinated not only by the culture and language but, more significantly, with the political transformation the nation has seen.

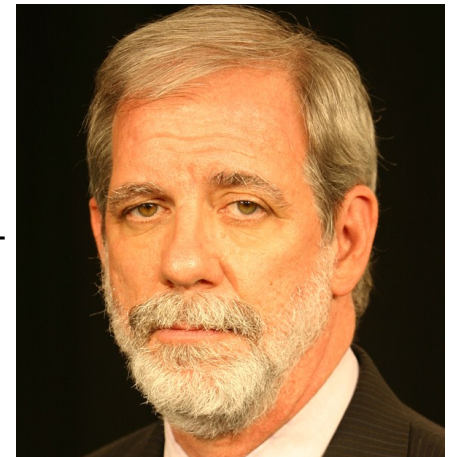
During this second stay in Venezuela, I have had the opportunity to see many of the outcomes of these political and economic changes, especially within the field of education. As a student, I knew that Venezuela was the perfect place for me to be, and at the right time. I have been here for over three months now, working as an intern at the *Alcaldía Socialista del municipio Campo, Ejido, Mérida*. In addition, I recently finished co-teaching a one-month English 102 Summer Intensive Course at the Universidad Politécnica Territorial de Mérida. When I return to the US, I will pursue a career in Elementary Education, with a focus on ESL, and later I plan to enroll in a doctoral program to obtain a degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. My time at SUNY New Paltz, my studies in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and the opportunities they have afforded me, have been some of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Studying abroad has allowed me to grow into a well-rounded and socially conscious being.

## THE STUDY ABROAD CORNER

The Center for International Programs at SUNY New Paltz, in conjunction with the School of Business, recently conducted a business certificate program for international students. This summer, 104 young Latin American business professionals came to SUNY New Paltz. The program was successful thanks to the combined efforts of Jeff Pollard, Coordinator of the Institute for International Business, the Haggerty English Language Program and the Business School staff. The program consisted of 96 Brazilians, 6 Colombians, 5 Chileans and 1 each from Peru and Uruguay. Most were university business students who also hold professional positions.

The certificate program itself was a three week non-credit program. Students were in four tracks: marketing and value management, corporate financial management, competitive project management, and strategic thinking. Hadi Salavitabar, Dean of the School of Business, did an admirable job organizing the business component. The courses were taught by eight different School of Business faculty. Students also took Business English courses offered by the Haggerty English Language Program. Each Friday they went to New York City for site visits with organizations related to their area of study.

The program was run by a Brazilian organization, the International Business School of Sao Paulo, which offers short-term business study abroad programs in the United States and Europe. The head of the group was Professor Ricardo Pitelli de Britto, a faculty member at the University of Sao Paulo. His wife and fellow professor, Elaine Mandotti also accompanied the group.



Bruce Sillner  
Dean of International Programs



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, México

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 Besaçon, 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

## ABOUT THE FACULTY

**Christopher Albi** (History) joined the faculty this year to teach Latin American history. He has published on law in colonial Mexico and recently coordinated an issue for *ISTOR Mexican International History Journal*, on Canadian and transnational history in the Americas. Prior to SUNY New Paltz, he taught Latin American history at the University of Texas, where he received his Ph.D. in 2009, and at Trinity University in San Antonio. In 2011-12 he was a Mendel fellow at Indiana University.

**Ligia Aldana** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) is the current Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program. Her recent publications include "Blackness, Music and (National) Identity in the Colombian Caribbean" in *Cultural Journeys through the African Diaspora* (SUNY UP 2012) and "Adiós ekobia Edelma, guerrera: In Honor of Edelma Zapata Pérez" in *PALARA Publications of the Afro Latin American Research Association* (Fall 2011). She presented a paper, "Space-Making in the African Diaspora in Colombia:" Champeta in Olaya Herrera, Cartagena, at the 2011 forum of ASWAD, the Association for the Study of the World-Wide African Diaspora, at the University of Pittsburgh, PA. Currently, she is coediting a two-part special volume on Afro Colombia for *Negritud: Revista de Estudios Afro Latinoamericanos*, forthcoming Summer 2013.

**César Barros A.** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) curated *Laboring in the Lavish*, an exhibition of the work of Chilean visual artist Alejandra Prieto at Davidson College. He also wrote the texts for Prieto's *Invisible Dust* exhibit at the Y Gallery in New York. He presented the paper "On the Edge of the Cliff: Structural Change, Imminence, and Anxiety in the New Chilean Cinema" at the 2011 ACLA conference, and a paper on the work of the Chilean novelist Diamela Eltit and the Argentinean César Aira at the conference *Representations of Political Violence in Latin America* in Santiago de Chile.

**La Tasha Brown** (Black Studies) completed her Ph.D. in Comparative Cultural Studies at the Univ. of Warwick in Coventry, England. Dr. Brown joined the Dept. of Black Studies at SUNY New Paltz as a lecturer in Fall 2011. She holds an M.A. in African New World Studies (now African and African Diasporic Studies) with a concentration in Cultural Studies from FIU and a B.A. in History with a Minor in English Literature from

St. Lawrence University. Her areas of specialization include Caribbean Black Diaspora Identity, Intersections of Class, Race, and Gender, Popular Culture, African American History & Culture and Black British Identity & Culture. She has conducted field research in Jamaica and has lived as well as traveled throughout the Caribbean region, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

**Joel Lefkowitz** (Chair, Political Science and International Relations) published a chapter on "New York State and the National Government" in *The Oxford Handbook of New York State Government and Politics*, edited by Gerald Benjamin (Oxford University Press, 2012).

**Ángeles Donoso** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) published "'Yo soy Mario Bellatin y soy de ficción' o el paradójico borde de lo autobiográfico en *El Gran Vidrio* (2007)" in *Chasqui* (2011). In July 2012, she was awarded the FONDART Fondo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes grant, the most important research and artistic grant given by the Minister of Culture in Chile, to complete a book manuscript titled "Memoria fotográfica: políticas y estéticas de la fotografía en Chile 1980-1990," which explores the discourses and practices of Chilean photography during the eighties and early nineties. In April 2012, she presented "On (Changing) Documentary Photography" at the 2012 American Comparative Literature Association Conference (ACLA). She also organized and chaired "Photo (bio)graphies: Collaborative Intersections between Text and Image," a Special Session for the 2012 MLA Convention.

**Laura Ebert** (Economics) received her Ph.D. in Economics from the New School for Social Research with a focus on macroeconomics and development economics. She currently teaches a class on the Economics of Latin America. Her latest research focuses on commodity producing countries in Latin America and Brazil.

**Wilma Feliciano** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) published "In Memoriam: Carlos Solórzano y el proceso creativo (1919-2011) in the *Journal of Latin American Theatre Review* (Fall 2011), and "El negro durante el coloniaje mexicano: *La fiesta del mulato* de Luisa Josefina Hernández" in *Del Palenque a la Escena: Antología Crítica de Teatro Afrolatinoamericano* (María Mercedes Jaramillo, ed., Bogotá: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 2012). She also delivered an invited lecture, "Spectacles of Religiosity: Sacred Theater in Peru," at the Nassau County Community College, sponsored by the NY Humanities Council Speakers Bureau (Oct. 2012).

In addition, Prof. Feliciano received the prestigious award "Orden de los Descubridores," by the Sigma Delta Pi Spanish National Honor Society for her contributions to Hispanism, and the 2012 Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award, given by the SUNY New Paltz Alumni Association.

**Paul Fenouillet** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) was among twenty poetry prize-winning contestants featured in *20 poètes*, French publisher Le chasseur abstrait's biennial anthology of contemporary poetry published in 2012. His most recent publications include two short collections of poems: *Dissipation* (in *20 poètes*, edited by Patrick Cintas. Mazères, France: Le chasseur abstrait éditeur, 2012), *Tout orœilles* (in *Revue d'art et de littérature, musique* 81, 2012), and poetry in French and francophone anthologies and literary reviews. Also published *Gabriel* by George Sand, translated with Kathleen Hart (New York: MLA Texts and Translations Series, The Modern Language Association of America, 2010).

**Patricia Fitzpatrick** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) recently published two articles on Spain's Avant-garde poets Federico García Lorca and Ernestina Champourcin (*Hispanófila* and *Ojancano* 2012) and presented a paper titled "Dominican Identity in Spain: Popular Image and the Effects of Discrimination on the Second Generation" at the *Negritud* International Conference on Afro-Latin American Studies in March, 2012 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**Anita González** (Theater) has been a Fulbright scholar in Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala. She participated in an NEH Summer seminar on the Maya World, and directed productions of *Yanga* (about an Afro Mexican maroon community), *Hymn to Demeter* (with African American and Mexican folklore), and *O Pagador de Promessa* (US English language premier of the play by Portuguese dias Gomes). Her latest project, "Pancho and Minga: Devilish Renegades of Mexico," is an essay for a *Festival Devils* volume edited by Milla Cozart Riggio, Angela Marino Segura, and Paolo Vignolo with foreword by Diana Taylor (Seagull Press, forthcoming 2013).

**Linda Greenow** (Geography) is Associate Professor of Geography, former director, and active member of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies

program on our campus. As Project Co-Director for a U.S. Department of Education Title 6 grant, she worked on faculty and curriculum development to enhance the teaching of Brazil and International Business Spanish on campus. She also served as Co-Chair of the Middle States Re-Accreditation Steering Committee. Her publications include journal articles, book chapters, textbook units, and book reviews.

**Benjamin Junge** (Anthropology) published "Another U.S. is Necessary": Perceptions of the World Social Forum Process by U.S. Civil Society Organizations" in the *Journal of Globalization Studies*. He presented new research on religion and participatory democracy at the 2011 meeting of the American Anthropological Association and the 2012 Latin American Studies Association meeting. In addition, through his Mellon/LASA grant, he co-led a workshop on religion and social movements at Boston University in April 2012.

**Deyanira Rojas-Sosa** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) presented a paper titled "Abstenerse ranas!" The use of Label Metaphors in personal ads on the Internet to perform gender and transmit ideologies about heterosexuality" at the IGALA 7-7th International Gender and Language Association Conference at the Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS), São Leopoldo, Brazil (June 2012).

**Jerry Persaud** (Co-Chair, Communication and Media) received his Ph.D. from York University. His areas of research and teaching include Popular Culture, Critical Mass Communication, Cultural Studies, Theory, The Body, Criminology/Crime, Race and Ethnicity.

**Luz Porras** (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) teaches Spanish language and conversation courses. She organizes and leads the Spanish language *Mesas de Conversación/Conversation Tables* and *Noches de Cine*.

**Roberto Vélez-Vélez** (Sociology) focuses on social movements, collective memory and globalization. His latest articles concentrate on anti-US sentiment in Latin America and the anti-military movement in Vieques, Puerto Rico. He published "Reflexivity in Mobilization: Gender and Memory as Cultural Features in the Mobilization of Women in Vieques (1999-2003)" in the journal *Mobilization*, and "Anti-American Resistance in Latin America: An Issue of Sovereignty, Militarization and Neoliberalism" in the journal *Sociological Compass*.

## SCENES FROM SOME OF OUR FALL 2012 EVENTS



LAM Faculty at our Fall Reception

*Ofrenda* - the Day of the Dead  
Luz Porras with students organizers  
at the Sojourner Truth Library



Latino Yoga class with Juan Carlos

## SPRING 2013 - LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES - COURSE OFFERINGS

CRN	Course	Sec	Title	Cr	Days	Time	Instructor	Attributes
772	LAM270	01	Introduction to Latin American Studies	3	TF	0925A-1040A	Ligia S. Aldana	GE3: WRLD, Effective Expression/Written, Liberal Arts
461	ANT304	01	Ancient Mesoamerica	3	TF	0140P-0255P	Jennifer A. Newman	GE3: WRLD, Liberal Arts, Systematic Inquiry
1371	BLK205	01	The Black and Latino Experiences: Writing For Scholars	3	TF	0925A-1040A	Rachel Rigolino	GE3: HUM, Effective Expression/Written, Information Literacy, Liberal Arts
989	BLK309	01	Intro Afr-Brazil History	3	TF	0140P-0255P	Zelbert L. Moore	GE3: WRLD, Effective Expression/Written, Liberal Arts
1537	ECO493	02	Economic Development of Latin America	4	TWF	0925A-1035A	Laura C. Ebert	ECON, Liberal Arts
1751	ECO493	03	Eco Dev of Latin America	4	TWF	1215P-0125P	Laura C. Ebert	ECON, Liberal Arts
934	GEO207	01	Current Issues in Latin American Geography	3	MR	0430P-0545P	Linda Greenow	ECON, Liberal Arts
956	HIS278	01	Ltn AM History Since 1825	4	TWF	0925A-1035A	Christopher P. Albi	ECON, Liberal Arts
304	HIS278	02	Ltn AM History Since 1825	4	TWF	1050A-1200P	Christopher P. Albi	GE3: WRLD, Liberal Arts, Systematic Inquiry
522	SPA372	01	Culture of Latin America I	4	TWF	0140P-0250P	Ligia S. Aldana	GE3: WRLD, Liberal Arts, Systematic Inquiry
524	SPA376	01	Survey of Latin American Literature	4	MWR	1215P-0125P	Cesar A. Barros	GE3: WRLD, Liberal Arts, Systematic Inquiry
729	SPA493	01	Negotiating Identity: Transatlantic Migrations in the Age of Media	3	R	0430P-0720P	Patricia Fitzpatrick	SPA, LAM, Liberal Arts
1917	SPA493	02	Dominican Identity	3	TF	1050A-1205P	Ligia S. Aldana	SPA, LAM, Liberal Arts
197	WOM430	01	Women in the Caribbean	3	MR	0140P-0255P	Denise R. Oliver-Velez	SPA, LAM, Liberal Arts

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

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