



Noticias

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Latin American & Iberian Studies Program • UCSB

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Following last year's PRP report, the Latin American and Iberian Studies program implemented a series of curriculum changes intended to strengthen the program's instructional coherence and outreach. A new course, LAIS 10, is being offered for the first time this fall, to introduce freshman and sophomore students to Latin American and Iberian Studies. The course is being taught by **Silvia Bermudez**. Program requirements were streamlined to allow students to take LAIS 100, LAIS 101 or LAIS 102 in fulfillment of the upper-division course requirement.



A detailed analysis of the career paths of past LAIS masters students was also done, with the assistance of current LAIS grad student **Paul Bancroft**. Almost half (49%) of our masters' students wind up in PhD programs after completing their degrees, specializing in Latin American and/or Iberia as an area. An additional 10% teach in public schools, usually in bilingual programs; 8% became journalists focusing on Latin America-related issues; and 8% work in the non-profit sector serving poor and minority communities in the U.S. and Latin America. With the support and advice of our cohort of graduate students, the program also began revising the curriculum offered to LAIS masters students, strengthening the methods component of the program and starting a 'thesis-writing group' in fall 2007.

Kathleen Bruhn continues as the LAIS director. John Foran has been acting Director of Graduate Studies since spring 2007, but will be replaced by Cecilia Mendez in winter quarter 2008. Silvia Bermúdez has served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies since last fall, but is stepping down due to increased university service responsibilities.

– Kathleen Bruhn

NEW AFFILIATES

In 2006-2007, LAIS approved two new faculty members as affiliates. **Hallie Eakin** is an assistant professor of Geography. Her research interests focus on unraveling the implications of globalization for present and future vulnerability of local populations via food production and security. Her book on climate change and economic risk among agricultural communities in rural Mexico was recently published by the University of Arizona Press. **Juan Pablo Lupi**, assistant professor of Latin American literature in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese was confirmed as an affiliate as well. His article, "Origenes ante las vanguardias," is forthcoming in *Revista Iberoamericana*. More generally, he is working on two projects, science in Latin American literature and a book on the Cuban writer José Lezama Lima. Our most recent affiliate is **Amber VanDerwarker**, assistant professor of Anthropology. She is a specialist in archeology, focusing on Mesoamerica and the Southwestern United States.

FACULTY NEWS

Anne Bancroft published a book, *Finding Women Writers of Costa Rica: A Bibliographical Guide to Anthologies of Poetry and Short Stories*, with the SALALM Secretariat (2007).

Silvia Bermudez (Spanish and Portuguese) received a grant from the Academic Senate to conduct research at the Kwame Nkrumah Institute for African Studies at the University of Ghana. This last

continued on page 2

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas with LAIS masters' students Nicole Pacino and Larissa Veloz

In fall 2007, the campus also held a celebration in honor of Don Luis Leal, distinguished professor of Chicana and Chicano studies, on the occasion of his 100th birthday. The two-day event included a conference on the influence of his work on later generations of writers and scholars, a dinner in his honor, and the production of a book and film of his life. On November 15-16, Don Luis will be honored by a national audience in Mexico City for his lifetime achievements.

During winter quarter 2007, UCSB was proud to welcome **Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas** to campus as the Visiting Regents' Lecturer. Mr. Cardenas was sponsored by **Gabriela Soto Laveaga** and the History Department.



L-R: Donaldo Urioste, UCSB LAIS affiliate Francisco Lomeli, Don Luis, and author Miguel Mendez.

FACULTY NEWS

piece of research enabled her to finish her latest book manuscript, "Rocking the Boat: The Rhythms of Immigration in Spanish Pop Music, 1984-2000," now under review.

Kathleen Bruhn (Political Science) has a new book coming out with Cambridge University Press (2008), *Urban Protest in Brazil and Mexico*, which looks at how alliance with political parties affects the likelihood that various kinds of popular organizations will engage in unconventional protest.

John Foran (Sociology) is co-editor of a book coming out this fall, *Revolution in the Making of the Modern World: Social Identities, Globalization, and Modernity* (Routledge, 2007). He also wrote a chapter for the book on political cultures of opposition, looking at the way in which the Zapatistas and elected left-of-center governments are finding new avenues for

radical social change that differ from guerrilla movements of the 20th century.

Anabel Ford (ISBER/MesoAmerican Research Center) partnered with the local non-profit Exploring Solutions Past to bring to Santa Barbara two Maya Forest Gardeners from October 11-16. They were able to meet with local gardeners, permaculturalists, healers, and midwives from our area. They also gave several public presentations and met with **Amber VanDerwarker's** (Anthropology) class in Meso-American archeology to discuss the survival of traditional Maya land use practices.

Maria Herrera-Sobek (Chicano Studies), **Francisco Lomeli** (Spanish and Portuguese), and **Sara Poot-Herrera** (Spanish and Portuguese) are co-editing a

continued on page 3

FACULTY NEWS

book project in honor of Don Luis Leal, entitled 100 Años de Lealtad. The book is part of the 100th birthday celebrations held this fall to honor his lifetime achievements.

Mario García (History) has published a collection of writings by and about César Chávez's religious beliefs and their connection to his life of social action, entitled *The Gospel of César Chavez: My Faith in Action*.

Carlos Morton (Dramatic Art) has had productions of several plays in the past year, including "The Miser of Mexico," in Fort Worth Texas, "Frontera Norte," in San Germán, Puerto Rico, and "El Jardin," at Warsaw University in Poland.

Horacio Roque-Ramírez (Spanish and Portuguese) published an article in *CENTRO: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, entitled "'Mira, Yo Soy Boricua y Estoy Aquí!' Rafa Negrón's Pan Dulce and the Queer Sonic Latinaje of San Francisco."

Harvey Sharrer (Spanish and Portuguese) has published a book chapter, an article, and an edited book in the past year, *Lanzarote del Lago* (edited with Antonio Contreras). His article, "Um novo fragmento da General Estoria de Afonso X em Português Medieval" appeared in the journal *Santa Barbara Portuguese Studies* special issue on the Middle Ages and Historical Linguistics, which he also co-edited.

Gabriela Soto Laveaga (History) won a prize for the Best Article in the Health, Science, and Society section of the Latin American Studies Association. This article, "Uncommon Trajectories," analyzes the confluence of scientific, political and social factors that came together in the search for the mass production of synthetic steroid hormones from a Mexican plant. Professor Soto-Laveaga shows that the medications that are consumed today (i.e., oral contraceptives, cortisone, antihistamines) had their chemical origins in the most unlikely of places, Mexican selvas, and with the most unexpected of participants, Mexican campesinos. She is now working on a project about union organization and strikes by doctors in Mexico.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

New Students 2006-07

Four students began the Masters program in Fall 2007.

Miguel Becerra (B.A. Cal State University Bakersfield, Sociology) Miguel is a central fellowship winner for the 2007-2008 academic year. His research interests are race/ ethnicity and inequality issues in his home country, Peru. Miguel notes, "after living in the U.S. for seven years, I became particularly interested in understanding the hierarchical relationships in Peru, as well as the whole Andean region. I plan to carry out fieldwork in Peru for my thesis."

Steven Lockwood (B.A. UCSB, History). Steve's research interests developed early, during his undergraduate career. He will write his thesis on the governance of the Portuguese South Atlantic Empire in the 17th century. His goal is to finish the M. A. program in 1 year and transfer into a Ph.D. program in History next fall. He hopes to one day become a professor of Portuguese and Brazilian History or to a curator at a museum.

Justine Meyr (BA, Brandeis University, History and Italian Language/Literature) Justine's interests lie in higher education in the U.S. and Latin America; particularly second language acquisition and student exchange. She plans to focus on Chile and how bilingualism and student exchange is affecting their economy and culture.

Natalie Rogers (B. A. Azusa Pacific University, Spanish) Having had the opportunity to live and study in both Spain and Mexico during her time as an undergraduate, Natalie became interested in the social and developmental connections that link Spain and Mexico. The role of women in Latin American society and the development of Mexico's national identity through the performing arts are her primary research interests.

continued on page 4

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Continuing Students

Paul Bancroft spent four weeks in the summer of 2007 doing field research in Cuba for his masters thesis on literacy programs. He is the LAIS T.A. for fall 2007, assisting **Silvia Bermudez** in LAIS 10, and will work with **Mary O'Connor** in spring 2008 in LAIS 101.

Thomas Clark is working on his masters' thesis about the globalization of sport, looking at baseball in Latin America and the United States.

Zachary McKiernan is writing his "masters' thesis on historical memory in Chile, focusing on the different ways in which the national stadium serves as a symbolic carrier of memories." He argues that the stadium's emblematic events—Allende's inauguration, Pinochet's concentration camp, Pope John Paul II's convocation, to name a few—represent the greater social, cultural, and political processes in which they exist. He then uses *place memory* as a starting point to investigate the significance of these events and processes in regards to both the individual and collective memories that interrogate and remember the past—for better or worse. Zachary will be traveling to Chile during the winter quarter to advance and further test his current working theory. He has also recently started his first quarter of teaching SPAN 1 in the Spanish and Portuguese Department.

Amy Milner is completing her thesis on "Community Development in Globalized El Salvador: A Case Study of *Regalo de Dios*." She spent a month in winter 2007 doing interviews with community members in Regalo de Dios and is analyzing the social forces, political agents, and institutional structures that shape community development.

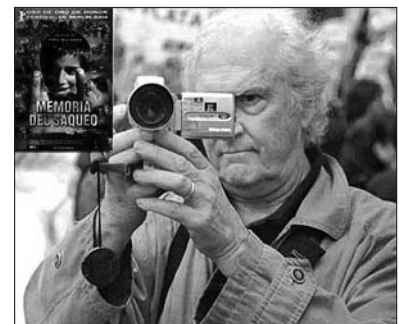
Yully Nieves is presenting first-year research on pro-environmental efforts in South America at the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies. Last spring she presented pedagogical research at the Student Research Conference on Latin American and Iberian Studies and is currently writing on the use of technology in second language acquisition. In addition, she completed the Summer Teaching Institute

for Associates training and continues to teach Spanish. She was the LAIS student representative to the Graduate Student Assembly last year and is currently a member of the PCCLAS Board of Governors and Publicity Committee. In her second year Yully is taking courses in the Education department and investigating higher education reform in South America. She will be the LAIS T.A. in spring 2008 for LAIS 101, with Professor **Bill Robinson**.

Amy Rosner is writing her masters thesis on counter-hegemonic cinema and ideology formation in Argentina. Her research is a comparative study between 1968 and post-2001 social/political documentaries, with a focus on two films by Fernando Solanas: *La Hora de Los Hornos y Memoria del Saqueo*). Her thesis advisor is Cristina Venegas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In spring 2008, LAIS expects to host the distinguished Argentine filmmaker (and presidential candidate) Fernando Solanas. Nominated by Film Studies professor and LAIS affiliate Cristina Venegas, Solanas has received a Visiting Regents' Lecturer position (held last year by **Cuahtémoc Cárdenas**).



Fernando Solanas

ALUMNI NEWS

Karen Aburto (M.A. 2007) completed her thesis on Chilean exile experience. The thesis was nominated for the Best Masters Thesis prize.

Nicole Pacino (M.A. 2007) won the 2007 award for Best Masters Thesis (shared with **Steve Pent**) for her thesis examining local, grassroots organization against foreign mining companies in Ecuador. Her thesis contributes to the study of anti-globalization and environmental social movements, but also reflects thoughtfully on how participation in the movements changed the role of women in the community. She has entered the PhD program in History (with two years of TAship) and will be continuing her work on the impacts of globalization in Latin America under the supervision of **Gabriela Soto Laveaga**.

Rafaela Acevedo-Field (MA 2000) is continuing her doctoral coursework and supported with a Teaching Assistantship in the UCSB History Department. She is finalizing her dissertation prospectus on crypto-Jews and the Mexican Inquisition during the colonial era and working with Professor **Sarah Cline**.

Ricardo Caton has passed his doctoral oral exams in History and will start archival work on his dissertation project on Mexican foot soldiers during the U.S. Mexican War. He has been working with **Sarah Cline** and **Gabriela Soto Laveaga** as mentors and is funded by a Special Regents Fellowship.

Claudia Johnson (MA 2007) completed her masters thesis in June 2007, "From Colonial Hell to National Purgatory: Racial Exclusion in the Evolution of Cubanidad." Since her graduation, she has been working as an instructor at Santa Barbara City College in the continuing education program and for the Law and Society program at UCSB. In fall 2007, she is teaching LAIS 100/200 at UCSB.

Andrew Leonard (MA 2006) was promoted to Major in the U.S. Army and has been assigned to serve on the international military staff of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB). The IADB is an international committee of nationally appointed defense officials, who develop collaborative approaches on common defense and security issues facing the Americas. The IADB provides technical advice and services to the Organization of American States (OAS). The IADB also provides a senior-level academic program in security studies for military, national police and civilian leaders at the Inter-American Defense College (IADC).

Steven Pent continues as the editor of the bilingual weekly newspaper, *El Tiempo*, based in Santa Maria and with distribution throughout the Central Coast. *El Tiempo* deals with issues affecting Latinos locally, including housing, education, employment, immigration, and transportation. Steve also won the Best Masters Thesis prize for 2007 (shared with **Nicole Pacino**) for his historiographical thesis on indigenous conflict in Peru.

Kevin Smith was awarded a UC Mexus dissertation fellowship and a UCSB History Department dissertation fellowship to pursue his archival work in Mexico and Spain for his dissertation project on the ecological changes in the Basin of Mexico in the colonial era and beyond. He has been working with **Sarah Cline** as his mentor.



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