As director of Latin American and Latino Studies, it is my pleasure to highlight some of the accomplishments of our students and faculty. Their efforts during these years of uncertainty demonstrate their resilience and fill us with great optimism as we head into 2022-2023.

I therefore open by congratulating our majors and minors who graduated in May 2022 (see names on the back cover). Let us recall that their Spring 2020 was abruptly interrupted by the pandemic; they spent their junior year studying primarily online; and their senior year still included some limitations and disarray. May their persistence pave the way to great rewards as they begin the next phase of their lives. We thank them for being complicit with us in our love and appreciation for the Latin American and Latino experiences.

We are increasing our catalogue of LALS courses. Professor Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé taught his new interdisciplinary LALS course Queer Caribbean and Its Diaspora, which is cross-listed with AFAM. Along that line and in an effort to increase visibility for LALSI, faculty from the History Department have started creating LALS versions of their courses to cross-list. Thus, the following courses were offered in 2021-2022 or will be offered this coming year: LALS 1400: UHC Latin America; LALS 3950: Latino History; LALS 3951: Popular Education and Social Change in the Americas; LALS 3955: Slavery and Freedom in the Atlantic World; and LALS 3968: Mexico. Other such cross-listings will come along in the upcoming years.

This year we welcomed an excellent group of guest speakers, including Puerto Rican writer Mayra Santos-Febres, NYC poet Willie Perdomo, NYTimes photojournalist David González, CEO Cris Mercado, writer/scholar Ernesto Quiñónez, and scholars Geraldo Cadava, Nicanor Domínguez, Wilmer Falcón, Elizabeth Ramírez-Soto and Giovana Xavier.

We congratulate Professors Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, Stephanie M. Huezo and Beth Penry for earning awards and prizes, and Professors Clara Rodríguez and Cynthia Vich for their scholarly activity.

This past year was a year of transitions. I began my tenure as director, replacing Dr. Sara Lehman (Modern Languages and Literatures). I thank her for ensuring a smooth transition and for her consistent service to LALSI over the years. Dr. Miguel García (Modern Languages and Literatures) announced that he will leave Fordham this June 2022 to take a position at Arizona State. We wish him great success.

On a similar note, Drs. Ronald Méndez-Clark and Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé (Modern Languages and Literatures) announced their plans to begin their phased retirement. They have been instrumental faculty members for LALSI and the university for many years and are simply irreplaceable. Nonetheless, over the next three years we have a great opportunity to show them our appreciation and to pick their brains. They have much to offer in insight, perspective, dedication and, above all, commitment to everything LALSI. I hereby offer them the first of many gestures of gratitude.

Finally, with much appreciation we recognize the support of our staff: Isaac Tercero, our program administrator; Luis Peña, our executive secretary at Lincoln Center; and Carlos Cajas our student worker.

Hoping we find increasing normalcy in the upcoming academic year, we wish our LALS students, our faculty and staff, and our friends and families a productive yet relaxing summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

~ Dr. Sal Acosta
Director of LALS and Associate Professor of History
This Spring, Dr. Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé and Dr. Laurie Lambert designed and team-taught a new Interdisciplinary Core Course in AFAM/LALS, *Queer Caribbean and Its Diaspora*, with attributes for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Anthropology, Modern Languages and Literatures, and Comparative Literature. A comparative analysis of queer culture in the Anglophone, Hispanophone, and Francophone Caribbean and its diasporas from the perspective of literature, film, performance, art, and cultural studies, this course provided at the same time a framework for reflecting about the intersectionality of queer theory and Caribbean studies. As a special complement to the course, Profs. Cruz-Malavé and Lambert invited the internationally famous Puerto Rican writer Mayra Santos-Febres to class to discuss with their students her celebrated novel *Sirena Selena vestida de pena* (trans. *Sirena Selena*), a novel about the history of trans communities in Puerto Rico during the times of the AIDS pandemic and neoliberal colonial governance and disinvestment. The students discussed with the author questions about trans self-formation and empowerment, translocality and migration, class, gender and race and the impact of colonial legacies on the formation of queer communal practices and identities.

Dr. Cruz-Malavé also taught his course on *New York in Latinx Literature and Film*. For a unit on the Nuyorican poetry, Dr. Cruz-Malavé invited the acclaimed NYC poet Willie Perdomo, the first Latinx poet to be named NY State Poet Laureate. The students in the class engaged Mr. Perdomo in a discussion of cadence and voice in his poetry, slam and his poetic beginning at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, the relationship of his poetry to Latinx music and NYC poetic traditions, performance, bilingualism, and Caribbean aesthetics. Mr. Perdomo capped the discussion with a reading from his latest book of poetry, *The Crazy Bunch*. The students described the class as a master class on the art of poetry.

For a unit on the disinvestment and gentrification of Latinx neighborhoods, especially the Bronx, Dr. Cruz-Malavé also invited the distinguished Latinx NYTimes photojournalist David Gonzalez to class to discuss his work covering NYC Latinx neighborhoods for the past thirty plus years. Mr. Gonzalez discussed some of his most iconic images of NYC neighborhoods during their various historical periods of government disinvestment and gentrification, especially in the Bronx, and engaged the students in a conversation about the aesthetics and ethics of representing communities in distress. He gave insight into how people survived during these times and on the role of the Catholic parishes in helping to maintain the sense of community. Students were very moved by Mr. Gonzalez’s talk and many of them wrote their final term project on his articles and photojournalism.
On December 2nd, Northwestern University professor, and distinguished Organization of American Historians (OAH) lecturer, Dr. Geraldo Cadava paid a virtual visit to Dr. Daniel Soyer’s class “History 3806: U.S. Immigration and Ethnicity” at Fordham College at Lincoln Center. The students in this Eloquentia Perfecta section, along with a number of guests from the Fordham community, heard Prof. Cadava speak on “The Hispanic Republican: The Making of a Political Identity, from Nixon to Trump.” Dr. Soyer writes, “One focus of the course was on the politics of immigration, and this included a number of looks at what might be termed ethnic politics. Of course, in the back of all of our minds throughout were recent conflicts over immigration policy and how they have shaped national politics. When Fordham’s Latin American and Latino Studies Institute (LALSI) offered funds to bring a guest speaker to class, it seemed the perfect opportunity to have an expert speak on one issue that has perplexed many students and faculty members alike — President Donald Trump’s relatively strong showing among Hispanic voters in the 2020 election. Prof. Cadava provided needed historical perspective, showing that long-standing support for the Republican Party among some elements of the Hispanic population have over time coalesced into a political identity that withstood, and perhaps was even strengthened by, President Trump’s nativist rhetoric.”

The recording for the talk is viewable on YouTube and can be searched for using the talk’s title, and by clicking on the embedded link.

Below: Screenshots of the talk with Dr. Geraldo Cadava (left) and Professor Daniel Soyer (right).
A Talk with Dr. Nicanor Dominguez

Dr. Nicanor Dominguez spoke to Dr. Beth Penry’s senior-level history seminar “Conquest, Conversion, and Conscious: Spain and Catholicism in the Americas” on March 24th. Dr. Dominguez is a well-known specialist in the colonial history of Peru. He received his PhD from the University of Illinois, after completing his undergraduate and master’s degrees from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in Lima. Dr. Dominguez spoke on how documentary primary sources on native Andean religions were produced in the colonial era, first in the 16th century by ecclesiastical chroniclers, and, later, in the 17th century by "visitadores de idolatrías," the priests who were charged with extirpating idolatry. Conversion of native people is one of the main themes of the seminar. The discussion of how the primary sources were created was very useful in helping students understand the explicit and implicit biases in these accounts.

The Tin-Tin and its Andean legacy on the Southern Coast of Ecuador

On March 29th, 2022, Wilmer Falcón (Florida Atlantic University) provided a lecture on the Tin-Tin. The Tin-Tin is a fantastical creature that supposedly preys upon unsuspecting young women in coastal Ecuador when they are left alone or are unaccompanied. This mythical narrative has continued to evolve most probably for centuries and develop until present times. The story of the Tin-Tin has multiple elements that make it a worthwhile research pursuit. At its very core it would seem to be a cautionary sexual tale that is used to keep women, particularly young women, in check and police their sexuality. At the same time, it also seems to provide a broader historical, possibly even colonial, or pre-Hispanic context that seems to further round out and sustain many variants of the myth. It is these sexual and historical elements, particularly as they might have been transformed over centuries of colonial decimation and transculturation, that seem most worthwhile and were the main purpose of the lecture. It is in this guise that many of the social dimensions, and ethnographic, and even contemporary readings of the myth of the Tin-Tin, may also offer extremely productive historical understanding and insights. The lecture was well received by the class on Ancient Tales in the Andes.

In honor of Black History Month, LALS and History faculty Dr. Yuko Miki hosted a conversation with Dr. Giovana Xavier (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) on her recently-published book, História Social da Beleza Negra (Social History of Black Beauty). Xavier is a Black Feminist public intellectual and historian with a wide Instagram following (@pretadotora), where she shares various facets of her life. The book traces the trajectory of Black beauty in the United States in the early 20th century during the Great Migration and Harlem Renaissance.

Xavier captures the hopes and aspirations of Black Americans and the tension between their desire for racial uplift and beauty ideals that were often tied to fair skin and Victorian womanhood. As a Brazilian scholar, she also discussed the challenges she faced in translating U.S. racial and color categories into Portuguese. Xavier began researching her work during her year of doctoral studies abroad at New York University. She recalled her eye-opening experience at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, whose rich holdings on the Black press opened up a world of Black women’s lives that became the foundation for this book.

Although the book is about beauty in the U.S., she recounted how it has resonated with many Black Brazilian women of various generations who found traces of their own stories. Joining the online event were leading scholars of Brazil in the U.S. as well as many Fordham faculty and students from both Fordham and Brazil.

The conversation was part of the events organized by the Freedom & Slavery Working Group, co-organized by Yuko Miki and Laurie Lambert (AAAS/WGSS), which they established to create a community where Fordham faculty, students, and friends can connect to discuss and share work and ideas about Black experiences in the African diaspora.
Faculty News

Dr. Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé’s (Modern Languages & Literatures) essay on activism, mourning and dance, “Dancing in an Enclosure: Activism and Mourning in the Puerto Rican Summer of 2019,” which he delivered as the MLL Inaugural Lecture, was selected as the opening article of issue #68 of the premier Caribbean studies journal Small Axe (Duke UP), which will be released in July 2022. A second annotated and augmented edition of Cruz-Malavé’s Cuentos (casi) completos by the New York Puerto Rican author Manuel Ramos Otero will be published in a co-edition by two of Puerto Rico’s most important scholarly presses, the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and Callejón. For his dedication to queer studies and to his students, he was given the Fr. Bryan N. Massingale Faculty LGBTQ+ Award by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Distinguish Mentoring Award by the Comparative Literature Program. Prof. Cruz-Malavé will begin his Phased Retirement in September of 2022 after 35 years of teaching at Fordham. During this time, he has been chair and associate chair of Modern Languages and Literatures, director and associate director of LALSI, and co-director of Comparative Literature.

Dr. Elizabeth Ramírez-Soto of San Francisco State University's School of Cinema visited Dr. Carl Fischer's (Modern Languages & Literatures) HPRH 2201 course on Memory and Justice in Latin America's Post-dictatorship Era. Ramírez-Soto is an expert in cultural memory, affect, non-fiction cinema, and transnational film practices, and the co-founder of the Red de investigación del Audiovisual hecho por Mujeres en América Latina, or RAMA, the research network on audiovisual creation by women in Latin America. She spoke to students about Patricio Guzmán’s film Nostalgia for the Light and Grupo Proceso’s Film Salt Tracks, and students read a chapter from her recent book, (Un)veiling Bodies: A Trajectory of Chilean Post-dictatorship Documentary.
Dr. **Stephanie M. Huezo** (History) won the CLAH/H-LatAm Syllabus Prize from the Conference of Latin American History (CLAH) for her Modern Central America syllabus.

In the Fall, Dr. **Carey Kasten** (Modern Languages & Literatures) and her “Spanish Community Engaged Learning” class ventured to Jackson Heights, Queens for a walking tour. They learned about the unique history of the neighborhood and sampled a lot of delicious street food. The class also stopped by the Barco de Papel community bookstore to talk to the amazing staff who run the store.

**Right:** Dr. Kasten’s “Spanish Community Engaged Learning” class standing in front of the Barco de Papel community bookstore.

Dr. **Daniela Pila** (Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow, Sociology & Anthropology) invited CEO of Grant Answers Cris Mercado to speak with nineteen Fordham undergraduates enrolled in the “Undocumented Immigration: Living in the Shadows” course. He shared his experiences of growing up undocumented and talked about growing up in Queens, attending CUNY colleges, and how heightened immigration policies affected his upbringing.

**Left:** Cris Mercado, CEO of Grant Answers, addressing Dr. Pila’s class “Undocumented Immigr-
Due to Dr. Clara Rodriguez’s (Sociology & Anthropology) contribution of a chapter in a recently published book she was interviewed for a forthcoming HBO Max series. The official title of the series is "Menudo: Forever Young," and it will be released on HBO Max on June 23rd of this year. In addition, the first two episodes will be premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City on June 11th! Also, she will be continuing her work on the Boquerón Environmental Consortium for Social Justice with Ms. Carmen Collins. Ms. Collins got her Master’s in Public Communications at Fordham in 2021 and is now pursuing her doctoral degree at St. John’s. Ms. Collins is interested in doing a comparison of Puerto Rico and the Canary Islands for her dissertation. Together they have also partnered with the Sea Grant Program at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez on this project.

Lastly, Dr. Rodriguez was invited by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Institute for the Study of “Race” & Social Justice at The University of New Mexico (UNM) to participate in a facilitated convening with scholars, key federal administrative agency heads and other leaders entitled, “Employing an Intersectionality Framework in Revising Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standards for Collecting Administrative Race and Ethnicity Data.” As they stated, "Participants will be limited to about 30 leaders like yourself. We believe that you have an important role in moving the conversation forward."

This Spring semester Dr. Ernesto Quinonez (Cornell), the author of such works as Bodega Dreams and Taina, visited Professor Emilio Estela’s (LALSI) class “Crime, Literature and Latinos.” Mr. Quinonez talked about the connection between criminal law and storytelling in his book Chango’s Fire. He shared his creative process, his love of writing, and encouraged the students to pursue their aspirations in an engaging and personal conversation he had with all of them.

Dr. Cynthia Vich (Modern Languages & Literatures) gave the MLL Inaugural Lecture entitled "The Rubble of Neoliberal Urbanization. A Cinematic Critique of 21st Century Lima". Later, she was invited to give a lecture at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio, on October 27, 2021. The lecture was entitled "Framing the National into the Global: Claudia Llosa's The Milk of Sorrow and Peru's Cinematic Boom of the Early 21st Century". She also published the translated into Spanish version of the book she and Sarah Barrow edited in English for Palgrave last year. That book Cine peruano de inicios del siglo XXI. Dinamismo e incertidumbre was published by the Fondo Editorial de la Universidad de Lima, Peru. Finally, Dr. Vich was interviewed for "El Placer de los Ojos" a weekly program about Cinema that runs on Peruvian National TV - Canal 7.

**Right:** The flyer for The Rubble of Neoliberal Urbanization

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**Dr. Cynthia Vich**  
Associate Professor of Spanish  
Member, Latin American and Latino Studies Institute

In person and via Zoom. Registration Link:  
https://edhem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZLkY0uqzG0sGyqayz1QaceQpOHgkTOJ8gV  
36/212
Dr. Elizabeth “Beth” Peny’s (History), Associate Professor of History and Latin American and Latinx Studies, and former Director of LALSI, has won the Conference on Latin American History’s Howard F. Cline Memorial Prize for her book, The People Are King: The Making of an Indigenous Andean Politics (Oxford University Press, 2019). Peny received her award during the American Historical Association’s 135th annual meeting held in New Orleans in January 2022.

The Cline Prize, established in 1976 is awarded every other year “to the book or article in English, German, or a Romance language judged to make the most significant contribution” to the history of indigenous people in Latin America. Affiliated with the American Historical Association, the Conference on Latin American History “is devoted to encourage the diffusion of knowledge about Latin America through fostering the study and improving the teaching of Latin American history.”

The People Are King re-examines two key moments in history: the massive resettlement of indigenous people in the wake of the Spanish invasion, and the revolutionary movements of the late 18th century. As one reviewer wrote, The People Are King demonstrates how indigenous Andean communities became “grassroots laboratories” for participatory democracy and popular sovereignty, and in doing so “helped establish the foundations of the modern world.”

The People Are King has won six other prizes: the 2022 Best First Book Prize, given triennially by the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Studies; the 2022 Best Book in Colonial Latin American Studies (Honorable Mention), given triennially by the Colonial Section of the Latin American Studies Association; the 2020 best book on Bolivia Prize, given by the Bolivian Section of the Latin American Studies Association; the 2019 Flora Tristán Prize for the best book in any discipline that offers a “significant contribution to Peruvian academic knowledge,” given by the Peruvian Section of the Latin American Studies Association; the 2019 Murdo J. MacLeod Book Prize for the best book on Latin American History (Honorable Mention) from the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association; and the 2019 Susan M. Socolow-Lyman L. Johnson Chile-Rio de la Plata Prize, awarded biennially for the best book on Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay given by the Conference on Latin American History.

In addition, Dr. Peny was recently awarded a Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome for her project “The Italian Renaissance in Diaspora: Jesuit Education and Indigenous Modernities.”

From the announcement:

“The American Academy in Rome announced today the winners of the 2022–23 Rome Prize and Italian Fellowships. These highly competitive fellowships support advanced independent work and research in the arts and humanities. This year, the gift of “time and space to think and work” was awarded to thirty-eight American and four Italian artists and scholars. They will each receive a stipend, workspace, and room and board at the Academy’s eleven-acre campus on the Janiculum Hill in Rome, starting in September 2022.

Rome Prize winners are selected annually by independent juries of distinguished artists and scholars through a national competition. The eleven disciplines supported by the Academy are: ancient studies, architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, landscape architecture, literature, medieval studies, modern Italian studies, music composition, Renaissance and early modern studies, and visual arts. The selected candidates were ratified by the Board of Trustees of the American Academy in Rome.

Nationwide, the Rome Prize competition received 909 applications, representing 47 US states and territories and 19 different countries. Thirty-three Rome Prizes were awarded to 37 individuals (four prizes are collaborations), representing an acceptance rate of 3.6 percent.”

For more information on the American Academy in Rome and the Rome Prize, click here.

Middle Left and Background: The book cover of The People Are King.

Bottom Right: A group photo of all awardees during the American Historical Association’s 135th annual meeting held in New Orleans. Photos by Dr. Stephanie Huezo
After graduating, **Danielle E. Flores** (FCRH’13) began working in Human Resources in the elder care industry as a job placement coordinator for Home Health Aides. Then in 2020, she stepped away from healthcare to explore ways she could use her recruiting experience to support her high school, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, located a few blocks from the Rose Hill campus. Not long after, a professor at Fordham, who specializes in Public Relations, presented her with the opportunity to place a select few of his advanced students in the Development Department at Mount St. Ursula. That fall, Fordham students used their interviewing and communications skills to promote Mount St. Ursula’s largest fundraising event of the year, the 165th Anniversary Gala. Through this opportunity, Fordham’s students helped raise over $60,000 in a single night!

After the pandemic, Danielle joined a global retail company, where she is currently working in their HR Administration department. Danielle says that her studies in Latin American and Latino Studies have helped her build effective relationships with her international colleagues, not only because of the program’s language studies component, but also because of her exposure to international history and cross-cultural communication. While working at her full-time job, Danielle continues to support Human Resources initiatives at Mount St. Ursula and consults for nonprofits and new businesses on marketing and employee placement initiatives. She wants the LALSI community to know that if there are any students or alumni who are interested in exploring a career in HR, locally and/or globally, she will be happy to speak with them. Her email is Danielle.Flores@leverthree.co, and you can find her on LinkedIn as Danielle Escoto Flores, PHR.

**Sarah Molinari** (FCLC’11) finished her PhD in Anthropology at the CUNY Graduate Center in 2021. Sarah is now a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at Florida International University, where she is working on a Mellon Foundation project on climate justice in South Florida and preparing her book manuscript on the politics of debt and disaster recovery in Puerto Rico. Sarah’s recent publications appear in a variety of academic and public-facing outlets such as *Society and Space* and *Truthout*. She continues to develop collaborative digital projects, including the Puerto Rico Syllabus and Home/Field.
Congratulations
Class of 2022!

Majors
Ashley Blasi FCRH
Diana Lopez FCLC
Izabella Pereira FCLC
Maribelis Vega FCRH

Minors
Holly Aloi FCRH
Ashley Arias Ramirez FCRH
April Gore FCLC
Madeline Grantham-Philips FCRH
Alexander Haquia FCLC
Claire Hay FCLC
Gabriella Langella FCRH
Lizet Molina FCLC
Garisamar Ramirez FCLC
Nicole Sanchez FCRH
Marco Symington FCRH
Laura Vasquez FCLC
Maria Velasquez FCLC