Letter from the Director

My first semester as Director of the Latin American and Latino Studies Institute began with a renewed commitment to building on the long-standing connections between NYC’s Latino diasporic communities and Latin America in order to promote two of the program’s and the university’s significant and interrelated goals: to foster among our students and faculty understanding of the important contribution of local immigrant, diasporic communities in New York and effective, international, global citizenship through learning and service. It was with this double goal in mind that LALSI was pleased to enter this year into an agreement with the cultural institute Salón Libroamérica to become the NYC host of their annual Festival de la Palabra. Unlike other festivals, the Festival de la Palabra is a truly diasporic and international festival which celebrates contemporary writing in Spanish and takes place simultaneously both in a Latin American country (in this case, Puerto Rico) and in NY’s Latino communities. The Festival, which brought this past October over 30 distinguished contemporary writers from all over the Spanish-speaking world to New York, was a unique opportunity for our students to interact and dialogue with writers whose work they had previously read in class. It also provided them with the opportunity to serve as interpreters and guides for these writers who were visiting New York and to assist in organizing the Festival’s events. Needless to say, our students were inspired and thrilled. At our event at Fordham Lincoln Center, students were able to discuss the creative process with famed Spanish novelist and journalist Rosa Montero, who had just received Spain’s highest honor in journalism, and with the renowned Puerto Rican writer Mayra Santos-Febres, the Festival’s director.

Following this focus on the contribution of Latino diasporic communities in NY, LALSI also joined this semester Columbia University’s Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race and the Program in Creative Writing in Spanish at NYU in organizing a panel to on the life and works of one of the city’s most important Latino writers of the second half of the twentieth century, the New York Puerto Rican Manuel Ramos Otero, whose papers Colombia University has just acquired for its collection on Latino Art and Activism. As part of its focus on the relationship between diasporas and their home countries, the program also showed interest in and commitment to contributing to the on-going discussion on the current plight of migrants across the US-Mexico border, what Pope Francis has called not just a geopolitical problem but a “humanitarian crisis.” In conversation with the programming of other Fordham departments and centers, we began our contribution to the discussion of this important issue with a talk by the Ecuadorian anthropologist María Amelia Viteri based on her recently published book, Desbordes: Translating Racial, Ethnic, Sexual and Gender Identities Across the Americas, an analysis of the impact of migration on racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual categories in transnational communities in Ecuador, El Salvador and Washington, D.C. Dr. Viteri, who is a former Fordham visiting scholar, revised much of her book while on research at Fordham.

Finally, through a series of initiatives on study abroad and faculty and student exchanges, we hope to make our goal of better understanding the connections between diasporas and their home countries through service and learning a reality. Led by Prof. Hugo Benavides, LALSI faculty hosted officials from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Puebla, Mexico, who signed an agreement with the University which will make possible future faculty and student exchanges. Puebla, as is well-known, is the state from which most Mexicans in New York migrate; we expect that this new agreement will allow us to further explore that transnational connection. In addition to this study abroad initiative, during the semester we recruited students for our two upcoming spring study tours in Latin America: LALS 3930, “Contemporary Cuban Culture in Havana,” and SPAN 3770, “Cultures of Memory and Postmemory in Contemporary Santiago, Chile,” also in the hope that in the future these two initiatives will become sites for students and faculty to engage in scholarship, service, and learning. Dr. Yukio Miki and I organized guided visits to the Guggenheim’s extraordinary exhibit on contemporary Latin American art, Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin America Today, and to the Repertorio Español’s theatrical productions. All in all, it has been an exhilarating, if somewhat breathlessly hectic, semester.
LALSI faculty with the visiting officials from Universidad Iberoamericana, Puebla. LALSI professors Sara Lehman, Hugo Benavides, Barbara Mundy, Arnaldo Cruz-Malave, and Ronald Mendez-Clark welcome Olivia Quiroz Centeno (second from the left), Coordinator of International Academic Affairs at Universidad Iberoamericana in Puebla, México and Gonzalo Inguanzo Arteaga, Iberoamericana's General Academic Director (second from the right).

Fordham students at "Under the Same Sun: Latin American Art Today," at the Guggenheim Museum.
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We at the Institute are deeply saddened and mourn the loss of a personal friend and mentor of our Latin American and Latino Studies Institute, Dr. Juan Flores. One of the founding figures of Latino Studies, Juan was not only a great and influential scholar; he was also an amazingly generous, socially-committed and joyful spirit who infused many an academic discussion with intelligence, passion and wit. He was particularly adept at crossing the borders of academia and activism, and bringing into academic conversations the voices of marginalized peoples. It is no wonder that his last self-authored book, The Diaspora Strikes Back: Caribeño Tales of Learning and Turning, not only explored what he coined “cultural remittances,” as a supplement and corrective to the tendency to speak of the contribution of diasporic communities to their home countries or places of “origin” in purely economic terms, but it also included wonderfully narrated oral histories from many of New York City’s diasporic artists and cultural activists. Juan’s particular gift to academia was to broaden our discussions to include especially perspectives from the diaspora, from what he called “globalization from below.” And it is thus that many of us in academic circles owe our introduction to some of the city’s significant writers, artists and cultural activists to him, most notable among these the recently deceased New York Puerto Rican or Nuyorican poet Tato Laviera, with whom he collaborated throughout the years.

Juan’s relationship with our Institute was long and productive. Perhaps unacknowledged to him, he intervened in some of the key moments in our intellectual development as a program. I recall specifically two moments which left a deep mark on our thought and our development as a program of study. During the 1990s when we were forging the Latin American and Latino Studies Institute from what was then a Puerto Rican Studies Institute, which had been founded, as so many other ethnic studies institutes and programs had, as a result of academic activism on the part of faculty and students, I invited Juan to speak at Fordham. In a talk that was mostly a lively discussion with our faculty and especially our students, who were then questioning whether to adopt or not the then new term “Latino” as descriptive of all US Latino communities, identities and experiences, Juan argued for the academic and activist potential of “Latino” as a term that could be conceived not only as a market-driven abstraction but also as a location from which the rich history of interactions between and among Latino groups in the United States could be explored as well as a place from which new alliances and projects could be forged. While some Puerto Rican scholars were bemoaning then the turn toward Latino as a passing of the activist legacy of the civil rights movement and other Latin American scholars were lamenting the loss of Latin American-national-origin specificity in the new term, Juan spoke to our faculty and students about the scholarly and activist, indeed utopian, potential of Latino. Not one given to wallow in nostalgia, Juan spoke that day, as he would often since then, about the possibilities for creative engagement that new hybridities, creolités, historical ruptures, fragmentations and displacements could also enable. The subsequent history of Latino Studies, I believe, has proven him right.

The other key moment that, perhaps unacknowledged to him, would mark our program with his thinking was during the late 2000s when the then director of the Institute, Dr. Beth Peney and I invited him to discuss his latest book, The Diaspora Strikes Back, as part of our LALSI faculty seminar. While much of the writing on migration, especially in cultural studies and theory, has been infused with the progressive, deconstructive notion that the migrant can never return home, Juan insisted instead that, in the contemporary world, migrants were constantly returning home, albeit not to the same place they or their ancestors left behind, and that the cultures of the diaspora, which nativist purists strenuously rejected as a sign of global imperial influence, had already shaped, and would continue to shape, the cultures of their home countries thorough their constant and impacting "cultural remittances," through their incessant cultural and physical returns. In so many ways, our Latin American and Latino Studies Institute, which conceives its disciplinary field not simply as the study of the Latin American and Latino experiences, but as an exploration of the place where Latin America and its multiple diasporas meet and intersect, as the place where what is usually termed international initiatives and local community-oriented projects interact, engage and mutually shape each other, is an heir to the creative and passionate thinking of Dr. Juan Flores, whom we will continue to miss.

As we mourn the passing of our friend and, in a way perhaps unacknowledged to him, mentor, Dr. Juan Flores, our Institute would like to acknowledge how much he left us and how much his legacy is still with us today. We join the Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, which he helped to found, the Afro-Latino Forum, which he also helped to found, NYU’s Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, and his wife, partner, collaborator and co-founder of the Afro-Latino Forum, Miriam Jimenez-Román, in celebrating Dr. Juan Flores’s life and work.

To become better acquainted with the full range of Dr. Flores’s legacy, please visit the In Memoriam dossier of his career and life, lovingly prepared by his former colleagues of the Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños at Hunter College:

“Inspirational,” “thrilling,” “intelligent,” “moving,” “funny,” “oh, so funny,” “and smart,” “I could’ve listened to these two writers all day,” “Too short, I still had more questions to ask,” were the most frequent expressions used by students to describe this year’s Festival de la Palabra’s Spanish literary event at Fordham Lincoln Center. Titled “A Passion for the Everyday: A Conversation with Rosa Montero and Mayra Santos-Febres on Journalism and Creative Writing,” this year’s event coupled two of the most distinguished and influential authors in contemporary Spanish language literature, the Madrid-based novelist Rosa Montero who is also an award-winning journalist for her country’s most largest newspaper, El País, and Mayra Santos-Febres who is a poet, novelist, and short story writer extensively published in newspapers, journals and blogs. Montero is one of the most prolific writers of her generation, the author of over 14 generically hybrid novels whose ironic titles, Te trataré como a una reina [I Will Love You Like a Queen], La loca de la casa [The Crazy One in the Family], La ridícula idea de no volver a verte [The Absurd Idea that I Will Never See You Again], and Instrucciones para salvar al mundo, [Instructions for Saving the World] meditate on Spain’s unevenly postmodern, globalized scene where marginal characters attempt to find new meaning to their lives and survive by building alternative human relations of friendship and kinship, new communities of difference. Santos-Febres is the author of two award-winning novels, Sirena Selena vestida de pena [trans. as Sirena Selena], a finalist for the Rómulo Gallegos Award, Latin America’s most prestigious novel prize, and Nuestra señora de la noche [Our Lady of the Night], first finalist for the renowned publishing house Espasa Calpe’s Premio Primavera, several books of very heart-felt social poems and lucid essays. She writes about the intersections of sexuality and race in the urban Caribbean, where her often marginalized and diasporic characters deploy their wits in order to survive and even thrive, resorting to popular Caribbean cultural strategies of inversion and cunning.

Both writers possess a subversive sense of humor which incisively reveals the intricacies, contradictions and complicities inherent in contemporary, supposedly liberated or liberal discourses of gender. They also have a knack for exposing through humor the violence at the heart of human relations while preserving in their characters the human capacity for tenderness. At Fordham, after a brief introduction by Profs. Rafael Lamas and Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, they read short pieces on the contradictory public role of women writers, on women’s relationship to publicity and marketing in our contemporary mass-media-oriented cybernetic world, and on the difference in the relationship to trauma and mourning between women and men. But the majority of the program was devoted to a wide-ranging conversation with students about their works, their creative process, and their views on gender. Asked by students how they choose the topics they write about, both writers affirmed that they do not choose their topics, but rather, their topics choose them. They eloquently explained how their topics developed from everyday obsessions they were incapable of ridding themselves of no matter how hard they tried, except by writing about them. The strength of a literary piece, they insisted, can be gauged when, on concluding the piece, it remains mysterious to the writer; it still surprises or shocks him or her with “what he or she didn’t know that he or she didn’t know.” Here’s a clip from this extraordinary and fascinating conversation:

http://youtu.be/XgtNtkxBCPU

LALSI professors Arnaldo Cruz-Malave, Rafael Lamas and Sara Lehman with distinguished writers, Rosa Montero [second from the left] and Mayra Santos-Febres [third from the left], the director of the Festival de la Palabra, in an event that explored their passion for the everyday as represented in creative writing and journalism.
FIERCE: The Work and Life of Manuel Ramos Otero

On the occasion of the Columbia University Libraries Acquisition of the Archives of the author Manuel Ramos Otero for its collection on Latino Art and Activism, Columbia hosted a discussion of this important New York Latino writer’s life and work. The event held on October 6th at Columbia’s Butler Library, was organized by Frances Negrón-Muntaner, associate professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia and director of the Columbia Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Rubén Ríos Avila, professor of Spanish and director of the M.A. Program in Creative Writing in Spanish at NYU, and Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature and director of the Latin American and Latino Studies Institute at Fordham. Manuel Ramos Otero (1948-1990) is one of the most important New York Latino authors of the second half of the twentieth century. He is the author of Concierto de metal para un recuerdo y otras orgías de soledad (1971), La novelabingo (1976), El cuento de la mujer del mar (1979), El libro de la muerte (1985), Página en blanco y staccato (1987), and the posthumous book of poems Invitación al polvo (1991), and the anthologies Cuentos de buena tinta (1992) and Tálamos y tumbas: prosa y verso (1998), edited by the poets and critics Lilliana Ramos Collado and Dionisio Cañas.

At the event, Prof. Negrón-Muntaner discussed Ramos Otero’s daring in exploring for the first time in openly homoerotic, provocatively irreverent and experimental poetry and fiction in Puerto Rican and New York Latino literatures the intersections of gender, sexuality and migration. The writer Luis Negrón, author of the acclaimed book of short stories, Mundo Cruel, recently translated into English by Jill Levine and published by Seven Stories Press, spoke of his timid encounter with the author as he began to write and of the inspiring legacy that he has left among contemporary Puerto Rican artists, especially those who deal with issues of gender and sexuality. Consuelo Arias, associate professor of Spanish and Gender at Nassau Community College, performance artist and friend of Ramos Otero, read a beautifully crafted, moving and lucid memoir on the author’s last days as he confronted his
imminent death from AIDS and reflected on his work. And Cruz-Malavé argued that “it was through Ramos Otero’s valiant and indeed fiercely creative effort to reimagine migration from the perspectives both of colonial/postcolonial and queer migrants that he has become a predecessor for the alternative transnational literature and art that is now the prevailing current in the city’s Latino literary and artistic production.”

We have attached for your enjoyment one of Ramos Otero’s most moving stories—moving in both senses of this term: both affecting and migratory, transnational. Titled “Vivir del cuento” in Spanish and astutely translated by Joe Chadwick into English as “The Scheherazade Complex,” this is a tale about the attempt to reconstruct through a fictional testimonial account the colonial migratory routes that took Puerto Ricans to Hawaii at the beginning of the twentieth century, shortly after the Spanish-American War of 1898. It is told from the overlapping, though by no means similar, vantage points of a poor child migrant and his three professional collaborators: a Bronx Puerto Rican historian who lives in Hawaii (Norma Carr), a Puerto Rican woman writer and journalist who has recently relocated to San Juan after living in New York (Magali García Ramis), and a queer Puerto Rican exile writer who lives in New York (Manuel Ramos Otero). The text is excerpted from The Portable Lower East Side. 6.1 (1989): 131-62, and published with the permission of the Joseph Keene Chadwick Estate. Dr. Joseph Keene Chadwick (1954-1992) was a gifted translator of Latin American writers such as José Lezama Lima, an astute literary critic, and early advocate for gay, Irish and Pacific literary studies. He taught at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa until his death in 1992 at age 37 from AIDS complications. We wish to acknowledge Dr. Valerie Wayne for her assistance in obtaining the permission to publish Dr. Chadwick’s translation:

http://www.fordham.edu/download/downloads/id/463/scheherazade_complex

Friend or Foe? Traitor or Victim? The Curious Case of “La Flaca” Alejandra: A talk by Bernardita Llanos on the Chilean-French documentary

La Flaca Alejandra (Dir. Carmen Castillo and Guy Girard, 1994). The film consists of a long conversation between Carmen Castillo and Marcia Merino, also known as “Skinny Alejandra,” a leftist militant who was “turned” into an informant against her former collaborators following extensive torture by Pinochet’s secret police.

Dr. Llanos spoke as part of Dr. Fischer’s SPAN 3066 class. Lecture and discussion were in Spanish. Bernardita Llanos is Professor of Spanish and Chair in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Brooklyn College/CUNY, where she specializes in Latin American film and literature. She is the author of a number of publications, including the book Passionate Subjects/Split Subjects in Twentieth-Century Literature in Chile: Brunet, Bombal, and Eltit (Bucknell UP, 2009).
In Desbordes (un/doing, overflowing borders), Dr. Maria Amelia Viteri, ethnographically addresses the limits and constraints of current paradigms within which sexuality and gender have been commonly analyzed as they intersect with race, class, ethnicity, immigration status, and citizenship.

The book explores the multiple unfixed meanings that the term “Latino” takes on as this category is reappropriated and translated by LGBT “Latinos” in Washington, DC, San Salvador, and Quito. Using an anthropology-based, interdisciplinary approach, she exposes the creative ways in which migrants—including herself—subvert traditional readings based on country of origin, skin color, language, and immigrant status.

It is also a critical look at the multiple ways migrants view what it means to be American, Latino, and/or queer provides fertile ground for theoretical, methodological, and political debates on the importance of a queer transnational and immigration framework when analyzing citizenship and belonging.
Sara Lehman (Modern Languages and Literatures and Associate Director of LALSI) has been teaching her course Spanish Colonialism through Film in the Manresa Honors program for the past two years. This semester she is completing a chapter for the MLA’s Approaches to Teaching the Writings of El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega and also her new critical edition of Don Catrín de la Fachenda, both forthcoming in 2015. For Spring, she is looking forward to teaching the LALSI 3600 course Latin America: Current Trends, as well as a course on colonial poetry and narrative called Expressing the Colonies. Sara will also be accompanying Professor Cruz-Malavé and his students to Cuba for the Spring Break study tour.

This semester Emilio Estela (LALSI Visiting Adjunct) brought a few guests to his class, Crime & Minority Rights. Guests included: 1.) Retired Judge Edwin Torres, author of Carlito’s Way, After Hours and Q & A. He spoke on his experience growing up in Spanish Harlem and of his time as the first Latino prosecutor at the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. He also discussed the many cases he presided over as judge and the theories of punishment and the root cause of crime. 2.) His second guest was Mr. Anthony Ricco, Esq. who primarily deals with death penalty defense work. He spoke on the impact of race in the field of litigation. 3.) The last guest lecturer was Larken Kade, Criminal Court Supervisor and Sex Crimes Unit prosecutor. She discussed the law of sex crimes in New York.

Professor Barbara E. Mundy (Art History) was invited to speak in Bogotá, Colombia at the Quinto Simposio Ibero-Americano de Historia de la Cartografía, at the Universidad de los Andes in late September; the trip allowed her to visit the extraordinary colonial city of Quito, Ecuador, whose architectural gems from the 17th and 18th century have led it to be designated a UNESCO World Monument. At the end of October, she presented recent work on indigenous scribes at a conference organized by the Peabody Museum in Cambridge, which gave her the chance to see how Harvard students dress for Halloween. Before Thanksgiving, she gave a lecture on a forthcoming book, "The Death of Tenochtitlan, the Life of Mexico City" at the Institute for Fine Arts, at New York University.

Gioconda Marun (Modern Languages and Literatures) published the following articles:

URL for the interview’s transcript:

In June 2014, Dr. Elizabeth Penry (History) traveled to Modena, Italy for the annual meeting of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies. She, along with Cambridge University colleague, Juan Cobo Betancourt, organized three panels on “Confraternities in the Iberian Atlantic World.” The ten papers on lay religious brotherhoods included presentations on colonial Latin America, including the present countries of Mexico, Spain, Columbia, and Bolivia, and on contemporary Spain. Scholars from Argentina, Peru, Germany, Poland, Canada, the US and the UK participated in the three panels. Dr. Penry’s essay on Spanish resettlement policy in 16th century Peru, written as part of an international research team sponsored by the National Ethnology Museum of Osaka, Japan, will be published in Lima later this year. In December 2013, Dr. Elizabeth Penry gave a paper on the impact of the Council of Trent on indigenous people in the Viceroy of Peru at the conference “The Council of Trent: Reform and Controversy in Europe and Beyond (1545-1700) at the University of Leuven, Belgium. That paper will be published in 2015 in a volume of essays from the conference.
Rafael Lamas (Modern Languages and Literatures) published his book Escuchar e Interpretar: Ostracismos musicales en los albores de la conciencia moderna española (Alianza Editorial)

Listening and Interpreting: Musical Ostracism and the Dawn of the Spanish Modern Subject

The human figure in Goya’s painting “Sad Premonitions of What Will Occur” appears stunned at the Other’s question about its identity. Not being a musician, the figure seems unaware that, in the modern era, answers to the question of identity must rise out of a process of negotiation of meaning. Music, and particularly musical theater in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Spain, provided, on the contrary, personas or masks with which to seduce and dazzle the Other, building in the process negotiated spaces for individual survival. The Spanish authors studied in this book experienced expulsion and failure, and were thus repeatedly forced to reinvent themselves. Their particular relationship to music as a field of negotiated meanings would end up reshaping the conflict between ideology and subjectivity, discipline and freedom so vividly portrayed by Goya in his painting. Their acts of ‘listening’ and ‘interpreting’, conceived as responses to existential negativity, expulsion and failure, provide a rich meditation on the complexities and vicissitudes of the advent of the modern subject in Spain.

This fall, Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé (Modern Languages and Literatures) assumed the directorship of the Latin American Studies Institute after serving as its Associate Director last year. He published an essay on the New York Puerto Rican poet Giannina Braschi in the American Studies Association’s journal American Quarterly’s first issue entirely devoted to the Americas from a Latin American and U.S. Latino perspectives (66, 3 [Sept. 2014]). Titled “‘Under the Skirt of Liberty’: Giannina Braschi Rewrites Empire,” the essay includes a Beyond the Page internet website that extends its argument to other New York Latino authors. He also participated in the American Studies Association’s annual meeting where he gave a talk on his article published in American Quarterly. He collaborated with Columbia University and New York University in organizing the launch of the Manuel Ramos Otero Archives at Columbia University and gave a talk at this launch on “Ramos Otero’s Transnationalism and his ‘Traveling Theater’ of Return.” He published a review of Jean Franco’s book, Cruel Modernity in the journal of literature and social history of Latin America, A Contracorriente (12, 1 [2014]), and gave the introductory commentary on the launch of Urayoán Noel’s recently published In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam, hosted by the Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños at Hunter College. While director of LALSI, Cruz-Malavé remains committed to his other affiliated programs, the American Studies and the Comparative Literature programs at Fordham. He continues to serve as member of the Executive Committee of the American Studies Program at Fordham and will be teaching an interdisciplinary capstone course for Comparative Literature on “Cuba: Revolution, Literature and Film,” which will have a spring study-tour option, LALS 3930, “Contemporary Culture in Havana,” a one-credit study tour on the impact of Cuba’s economic transition on its contemporary cultural expressions.

In July Professor Héctor Lindo-Fuentes (History) delivered a paper at the XII Conference of Central American Historians, he also organized the history of education sessions for the conference and commented on two books. In September he traveled to the XVII International Conference of the Latin American History European Association (AHILA) at the Free University of Berlin where he delivered another paper. He also published a book review in La Nación, a newspaper in Costa Rica.
**Student News & Events**

**Maria Aponte** (GSAS’13) writes: During my last semester of completing my graduate work in Latin American Latino Studies, I worked on launching a program honoring Latinas over 50. My program is called Latina 50 Plus. The focus of the program is it to honor our Latina pioneers who established themselves in career paths such as, education, art, community services, health services and law. The Inaugural luncheon was held here at Fordham University this past June. For more information you can visit my website: www.latina50plus.com. I am also happy to announce that I will be adapting the book, *Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia* into a full length play for spring/summer 2015. *Presumed Incompetent* is a path breaking account of the intersecting roles of race, gender, and class in the working lives of women faculty of color. Edited by Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs, Yolanda Flores Niemann, Carmen G. González, and Angela P. Harris and published by Utah State University Press. I am still in Career Services here at Fordham under my new role as Diversity Initiatives Coordinator. My focus will be on growing our diversity programming in Career Services. More details to come in the spring. Please Save the Date!

“*There is this basic value that whatever you do, you do for the community and the family. It is not about you as an individual. Yes, it is important to do well, but because it will enable others to do well. Even in the midst of dire circumstances, people will say let me see if I can help.*” ~ **Anna Cabral**, Unit Chief for Strategic Communications, External Relations Division of the Inter-American Development Bank

Last Fall, on Thursday, September 18th in the O’Keefe Commons from 5:00 to 7:30 pm, the student-run group *Academia Hispana* invited **Ana Cabral**, the former 42nd U.S. treasurer and current Unit Chief for Strategic Communications in the External Relations Division of the Inter-American Development Bank, to speak on her life, the challenges she has faced and her accomplishments; followed by a Q&A. This event was part of a series of events that occurred across Fordham’s campuses celebrating Latin Heritage Month. Another student-run group *El Grito de Lares* helped to sponsor this event.

**Congratulations to LALSI’S M.A. Graduate HUIWEN FU**

We would like to acknowledge **Huiwen Fu** (GSAS’14) who completed her MA in Latin American and Latino Studies this past summer with an excellent thesis on “Comparative Study on Slum Formation, Impact, and Redevelopment between Brazil and China”, directed by Prof. Christopher Rhomberg. Congratulations, Huiwen!
Upcoming Events

The Curran Center for American Catholic Studies presents the premiere of Gayla Jamison’s *In Our Son’s Name*, a new film that features the courageous and ethical quest of our LALS colleague, Prof. Orlando Rodriguez, and his wife, Phyllis Rodriguez to make peace in a post-9/11 world dominated by war after the loss of their son, Gregory, in the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. The film will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Orlando and Phyllis Rodriguez and the filmmaker Gayla Jamison. Tuesday, February 24th at 5:30 pm in Keating First.

**“Empowerment, Humanitarian Aid, and the Normalization of US-Cuba Relations.”** With *Margaret Crahan, Sujatha Fernandes*, and *Achy Obejas*. In a historic broadcast, Presidents Obama and Castro simultaneously announced the normalization of diplomatic ties between Cuba and the United States, severed in January of 1961. The aim of this policy change, Pres. Obama explained, is to “unleash the potential of 11 million Cubans” to create a more democratic and prosperous social and economic system. In this panel renowned Cuban scholars, activists and artists *Margaret Crahan, Sujatha Fernandes*, and *Achy Obejas* explore the impact of the normalization of US-Cuba relations on the empowerment of the Cuban people in the island and the diaspora, on our humanitarian assistance to the island, and our relationship to US Latinos and Latin Americans. **Dr. Margaret E. Crahan** is Director of the Cuba Program at the Institute for Latin American Studies at Columbia University. She has been the Henry R. Luce Professor of Religion, Power and Political Process at Occidental College, and is currently the Vice President of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. **Dr. Sujatha Fernandes** is Associate Professor of Sociology at Queens College, CUNY, and author of *Cuba Represent!: Cuban Arts, State Power, and the Making of New Revolutionary Cultures*, which combines social theory and political economy with in-depth, engaged ethnography to explore social agency in post-Soviet Cuba through the arts. **Achy Obejas** is the acclaimed Cuban-American author of the novels *Ruins* and *Days of Awe*, the translator into Spanish of Junot Díaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, and a journalist and blogger of renown.

**Encrucijadas/Encruzilhadas.** On February 27 and 28, 2015, Fordham will be partnering with NYU to co-host a two-day conference on Latin American film called Encrucijadas/Encruzilhadas; Carl Fischer is one of the organizers. Co-sponsored by a number of Fordham departments including LALSI, Communications, Comparative Literature, and Modern Languages and Literatures, as well as by NYU’s Cinema Studies and Spanish and Portuguese Departments, the theme of the conference will be Corpsos/Corpus/Corpses. Focusing on disparate themes related to bodies in Latin American film—including representations of violence, bodies of evidence in documentary and fiction, and issues of gender and sexuality—the conference will bring together archivists, scholars, and filmmakers in the NYC area for workshops, discussions, and curated screenings. Encrucijadas/Encruzilhadas is the second iteration of this event, following a successful inaugural event in 2013--also co-sponsored by LALSI--that included participants from NYU, Columbia, Fordham, Princeton, and SUNY/Stony Brook.

**Cherrie Moraga.** On March 25, the Chicana author, theorist and playwright Cherrie Moraga will be visiting Fordham to lead the second annual Queer Seminar. Co-sponsored by LALSI and the Theater Department, this will be the second annual Queer Seminar at Fordham. Moraga is expected to facilitate a discussion of her 2011 book *Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness*, and then participate in a workshop with theater students and the Pregones Theater Company.

This spring, LALSI alumni *Li Yun Alvarado* (GSAS’09), *Wise Latinas* editor Jennifer DeLeon, and Prof. Clara E. Rodriguez will participate in a LALSI sponsored roundtable discussing the anthology *Wise Latinas: Writers on Higher Education*. The conversation is open to the Fordham community and is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2015 from 11:30am - 1:00pm at the LC campus.

The Latin American and Latino Studies Institute is proud to cosponsor Fordham’s *Poets Outloud Reading Series* event with the great New York Latino poet *Willie Perdomo* who will be reading from his latest book, *The Essential Hits of Shorty Bon Bon*. A poet of “lyrical intelligence, ferocious wit and searching humanity,” as described by the Pulitzer-prize-winning author Junot Díaz, *The Essential Hits of Shorty Bon Bon* is the first book of poetry by a Latino published by Penguin Poets. On April 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Fordham-Lincoln Center, 12th Floor Lounge.
LALSI 3930, "Cuba’s Contemporary Culture in Havana"
May be taken with COLI/SPAN 4018, "Cuba: Revolution, Literature and Film", or independently (March 14-22, 2015)

Havana, one of the world’s most historically significant and hauntingly beautiful cities, has long been the center of Cuban culture and an exporter of cultural forms to the rest of the world, from music and dance to art, literature and film. This one-week one-credit spring study-tour course will explore the renewed importance of Havana as both a local and global purveyor of culture since the fall of Soviet-style socialism in the 1990s. It will focus on the city’s vibrant contemporary cultural scene in music, art, dance, literature and film as exhibited in museums, galleries, workshops, concert halls, and community centers and will give students a lived sense of the issues, topics and concerns addressed by contemporary Cuban artists in new innovative forms that respond both to local conditions of economic transition and to a globalized world market.

In Havana, Casa de las Américas, the island’s premier cultural institute, will be our host and the city will be our classroom. Meetings in January and February prior to departure for the tour will introduce students to Cuban politics and history and prepare them to be knowledgeable guests. The group will be led by Prof. Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, Director of the Latin American and Latino Institute at Fordham University.

SPAN 3770, “Cultures of Memory and Postmemory in Contemporary Chile”
Dates: Spring Semester 2015, including the OPTIONAL Study Abroad May 12-25, 2015

Santiago, Chile is a dynamic metropolis, a thriving, safe center of Latin American business, and a place where different artistic media have sought to work through the memories of a troubled history. Through interactions with Chilean students and professors, discussions with documentary filmmakers, indigenous and student activists, historians, and politicians, this one-credit study tour will allow you to explore artifacts and movements of cultural memory—literature, criticism, film, photography, theater, and other media—that illuminate efforts in Chile to come to terms with its recent dictatorial past. The trip will depart immediately after the final exam period ends.

You will have the chance to explore the vibrant theater scene by attending local performances, and you will visit the homes of the famous poet Pablo Neruda. There are great opportunities for full immersion in the language and a chance to learn about family structure and tradition while living with a local family for the duration of the program. This study tour also includes a day trip to the picturesque port city of Valparaíso and a service project where we will collectively translate the website of a Chilean memory organization into English—a great opportunity to gain translation experience. The course and tour will be led by Prof. Carl Fischer, an assistant professor of Spanish in the Modern Languages and Literatures Department who lived and worked in Santiago for several years.

Eligibility: Applicants must have passed or have taken the equivalent of SPAN 2500, have an advanced level of Spanish, and/or be bilingual. Cost: $3,275. Apply Online now on the ISAP website or by clicking here. Application Deadline: March 1, 2015. For more information please contact Carl Fischer cfischer8@fordham.edu.

LALSI | BOLETIN 14
“I know there is no straight road, no straight road in this world, only a giant labyrinth of intersecting crossroads.” - Federico García Lorca

Program Academics | Student Services | Requirements: Fordham in Granada seeks to provide an exceptional opportunity for students to learn Spanish culture in context. Distinguished professors from Fordham University and the University of Granada deliver quality instruction in small class sizes. Individualized tutoring is offered to each participant to aid in the adjustment to the new academic setting. Participation in a number of cultural events, excursions, and trips conducted by professors with expertise in literature and the arts will complement the rigorous course work.

Program Academics: Students are required to take five courses while in Granada. One of the five courses, “Spain in Context” is taught by the Fordham in Granada Director, Dr. Rafael Lamas. This course is open exclusively to program participants. The other courses, one of which is a Spanish language course, will be taken at Universidad de Granada’s Centro de Lenguas Modernas. Depending on the students’ academic interests and language proficiency, up to two courses may be taken in one of the Universidad de Granada’s many departments (Facultades), which include but are not limited to the following: Art History, Business, Communications, Culture, Economics, Geography, History, International Studies, Language, Literature, Music and Politics. Participants may also take a course at the Conservatorio de Música de Granada.

Language Immersion: Upon arrival and prior to the start university courses, participants will engage in an intense language immersion program.

Tertulias: Students and Dr. Lamas regularly host prominent Spanish figures (artists, writers, musicians, professionals) and discuss the various developments within that person’s field. Past guests included artist José Freixanes, writer Andrés Neuman and Laura García Lorca director of the Federico García Lorca Foundation.
**Internships:** Programa de Prácticas. Coordinated by the University of Granada, students enroll in a course which includes an important service-learning component in schools, companies, or NGO’s.

**Workshops:** Fordham in Granada organizes short workshops conducted by leading professionals. Past workshops were devoted to Creative Writing, Journalism, and Cooking.

**Student Services:** Fordham in Granada’s office is centrally located and close to the Universidad de Granada. Participants are offered individualized tutoring services and can expect their academic progress to be closely followed and guided by program staff. Intercambios (conversation exchange activities) are also coordinated through this office as well as through the CLM. All program participants have Universidad de Granada insurance, and are granted access to all Universidad de Granada facilities.

**Housing:** An integral component of these programs is the full immersion living arrangement. Semester and Summer participants will live with a Granadan family for the semester. Homestay families provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as a supportive environment for participants to acclimate to their new surroundings. Families are carefully selected by the Universidad de Granada in consultation with Dr. Rafael Lamas, Director of Fordham in Granada.

**Excursions:** During the Spring program, participants will engage in a number of cultural excursions within Granada as well as take short trips to other parts of Spain, Portugal, and Morocco. In previous terms, students visited Sevilla, Córdoba, Nerja, Ronda, Guadix, Cabo de Gata, Portugal’s Algarve region, and Morocco where they met with local students and lived with Moroccan families.

**Social Engagement & Mission:** Students have also the opportunity to make a difference by engaging in charitable activities and social service organized by the Jesuit community of Granada.

**Requirements:** Must have completed an advanced-level course of Spanish - equivalent to SPAN 2001 for Fordham students, Must be enrolled in an appropriate Spanish course in the semester prior to departure, Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0

**Student Blog:** Check out the blog to learn more about the Granada program from the perspective of recent Fordham University students! [http://neoyorquinosengranada.blogspot.com.es/](http://neoyorquinosengranada.blogspot.com.es/)