

## LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES ANNUAL REPORT - 2011/2012

Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) is an interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary international program housed in the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs (LCWA). LACS offers a minor and major - there are no faculty specifically assigned to LACS, the faculty who teach Latin American, Caribbean and related courses are housed in departments and schools throughout the College (list attached). This faculty has joined together in supporting and managing the LACS programs.

LACS offers few courses itself. The lion's share of the courses in its curriculum are courses offered by other departments on campus. In 2011/2012, the thirty-four courses in the LACS curriculum were taught by twenty-four faculty representing eight departments and three schools (list attached). LACS offered three sections of LACS 101 Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies in the Fall and two in the Spring semester which were nearly filled to capacity. In Fall 2011, three sections of LACS 101 were offered enrolling 97 students. In addition, an Express II INTL 290 course – Social Movements in Comparative Perspective was sponsored by LACS. Humberto Miranda (more below) assisted teaching this course, an interdisciplinary and multi-regional introduction to social movements. In Spring 2012, two sections of LACS 101 were offered with an enrollment of 56 students. In addition, one section of LACS 200 ST: Latin American Economies was offered. (List attached) The above does not include LACS course taught in our three study abroad programs in Chile, Argentina and Cuba.

LACS makes a major contribution to interdisciplinarity, internationalization, personalized education and high impact student experience in a number of ways. First, and most obviously, through its interdisciplinary courses given on campus and in its study abroad programs. LACS, along with Hispanic Studies, operates three semester study abroad programs in Latin America - Chile, Argentina and Cuba. The LACS focus on foreign study and language (LACS requires study abroad and three years of foreign language) supports and further internationalization efforts of the College and LCWA. Through POLS 366, LACS supports student participation in the Washington Model OAS (WMOAS) - a student simulation of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in which over 300 university students - at least one third of them from Latin American universities interact for a week at OAS headquarters in Washington DC. LACS is particularly active in this program as its director is a co-coordinator of the WMOAS and vice president of the Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas (IDDA), the non-profit organization that sponsors the WMOAS. The LACS program supported the First Year Experience in fall 2011, offering a Learning Community by Doug Friedman and Lola Colomina-Garrigos in Hispanic Studies that paired LACS 101 with SPAN 190.

The LACS Program and Faculty participated in the development of and supports the

International Studies major which has a Concentration in Latin America and the Caribbean. In fact, the dilemma that the LACS program has to face is that the recent greater attraction of the INTL Concentrations relative to the LACS major has led to a decline in LACS majors. As interest in taking a major with a Latin American and Caribbean focus has grown – the combined number in

the LACS major and INTL LACS concentration at the end of spring 2012 was 49 (12 + 37) – the balance has decidedly shifted towards the INTL LACS concentration. The LACS faculty addressed this issue in its meeting this year and will more fully examine it during the coming year. The consensus at this year's meeting was that the two majors needed to be explicitly differentiated with the advantages and disadvantages of both made clear to prospective students.

LACS had two significant visitors in the Fall of 2011. Humberto Miranda, our in-country program director for the Cuba Semester Program, visited for over two months – from October to December to assist in the INTL 290 course on Social Movements and help recruit students for the spring semester in Cuba. The course was quite successful with a registration of 35 and we recruited more than twice the number of students for the Cuba program compared to last year. Given US relations with Cuba, it took almost three years to get Miranda a visa to visit the US, but this year compared with last year we were able to get the extended visa which made the course a success. In November we sponsored the visit of Concepcion Nieves, the Director of the Instituto de Filosofia, our partner for twelve years in conducting the Cuba program. Dr. Nieves gave a presentation to the College about the dramatic changes that are occurring presently in Cuba. She spoke of the “new Cuban model of Socialism” to a packed audience – with Humberto Miranda translating.

In addition to the service they engage in College wide and in their respective departments, LACS faculty meet twice a year formally to manage the program. They develop curriculum, discuss staffing of LACS courses and study abroad programs, and engage in significant program review.

## **Assessment**

Assessment efforts for the LACS major have been problematic. LACS is a multidisciplinary major and all guidance regarding assessment fails to address the unique issues attendant upon that. LACS has very few “common” courses for majors -- the introduction course – which is not appropriate for evaluation since the majority of students taking it are not and will not be LACS majors and the capstone course, which we can employ as an assessment tool. All other courses, except for the LACS courses offered in our study abroad programs (LACS 103,104, 105, 106) and special topics courses are departmental courses which make up the bulk of the major. We have suggested using the study abroad experience (which is required of all majors) as a means of assessment – assessing both the knowledge gained and the transformative effect of the experience, but apparently that has been judged as too subjective. We will work with the assessment office to devise assessment tools appropriate to a multidisciplinary major

## **LACS Students and Graduates**

In 2011/2012 there were 14 LACS majors and 24 LACS minors. Six students graduated with degrees in Latin American and Caribbean Studies in 2011/2012.

Khileen Herry, Candice Thompson, and Laurie Harrison were given the LACS Outstanding Student Awards for 2011/2012.

Andrew Dunham (2008) completed a Master's degree in Latin American Studies at New York University

Collin Laverty (2006) completed a Master's degree in Latin American Studies at the University of San Diego.

Nakashia Dunner (2007) completed her first State Department post in Caracas, Venezuela this year

Kimberly Cozart (2006) who received her MA from the London School of Economics and Political Science taught part-time for Latin American and Caribbean Studies International Studies at the College this year and will start Ph.D. work at the City University of New York Graduate Center in Political Science- Latin America this coming fall.

## Latin American & Caribbean Studies Courses Fall 2011

		Enrolled	Cap	
ANTH 328.01	Aztecs, Maya and their Ancestors	25	25	BORG
ENGL 234.01	Survey of Third World Masterpieces	29	30	LEWIS
FREN 320.01	A Survey of Francophone Literature	24	25	WALSH
HIST 262.01	Colonial Latin America	28	30	COATES
HIST 592.01	The Atlantic Slave Trade	13	13	SARR
HONS 391.02	Latin American Film and Literature	15	15	OWENS
INTL 290.01	Social Movmnts in Compar. Persp. Exp II	35	35	FRIEDMAN/MIRANDA
LACS 101.01	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	30	35	FRIEDMAN
LACS 101.02	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	35	35	SAMUEL
LACS 101.03	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	32	35	VERLINDEN
LTPO 270.01	Visions of Brazil: Culture and Lang	23	35	MOREIRA
POLS 328.01	Moderniz, Dependency & Pol Devel	24	30	FRIEDMAN
SPAN 326.02	Latin American Civiliz and Culture I	21	25	COLOMINA-GARRIGOS
SPAN 326.01	Latin American Civiliz and Culture I	24	25	VEIGA
SPAN 327.01	Latin American Civiliz and Culture II	23	23	LINARES-OCANTO
SPAN 371.01	Survey of Spanish Amer Literature I	15	18	CARRILLO-ARCINIEGA
SPAN 490.01	Postmodernity and Globalization in Contemporary Spanish Amer Narrative	8	18	COLOMINA-GARRIGOS

Total # of students = 404  
 Average Class size =23.7  
 LACS average class size =32.3

## Latin American & Caribbean Studies Courses Fall 2011

		Enrolled	Cap	
ANTH 327.01	Peoples and Customs of the Caribbean	29	22	RASHFORD
FREN 326.01	A Survey of Francophone Civilization	16	20	BEKROU
FREN 482.01	French and Francophone Women Writers	23	25	SIGNORI
HIST 250.01	The Atlantic Slave Trade	28	30	SARR
HIST 263.01	Modern Latin America	23	30	COVERT
INTL 390.01	Small States on the World Stage	25	35	SAMUEL
LACS 101.01	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	33	35	OWENS
LACS 101.02	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	23	35	FRANCE
LACS 200.01	ST: Latin American Economies	9	35	SANDOVAL-HERNANDEZ
LTPO 270.01	Studies in Brazilian Film	8	20	MOREIRA
POLS 333.01	Politics of Contemporary Brazil	15	34	FRIEDMAN
POLS 366.02	Model OAS	10	10	FRIEDMAN
SPAN 326.01	Latin American Civiliz and Culture I	20	22	VASQUEZ
SPAN 327.01	Latin American Civiliz and Culture II	13	22	ESPINOZA
SPAN 327.02	Latin American Civiliz and Culture II	23	22	AVENDANO
SPAN 372.01	Survey of Spanish Amer Literature II	11	18	LINARES-OCANTO
SPAN 447.01	Spanish Dialectology	11	15	BREIDENBACH

Total # of students = 320  
 Average Class size =18.8  
 LACS average class size =21.6

## LACS Graduates - 6

### Fall

Laure Francis Harrison  
Margaret Stoudenmire

### Spring

Khileen Herry  
Winema Sanders  
Candice Thompson  
Emily Williams

## LACS Faculty

Nadia Avendano	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Barbara Borg	Anthropology	HSS
Tim Coates	History	HSS
Maria Colomina-Garrigos	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Herbert Espinoza	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Hollis France	Political Science	HSS
Douglas Friedman	International Studies	LCWA
David Kowal	Art History	SOTA
Simon Lewis	English	HSS
Luis Linares-Ocanto	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Luci Moreira	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Sarah Owens	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
John Rashford	Anthropology	HSS
Raul Carrillo-Arciniega	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Lisa Samuel	International Studies	LCWA
Andrew Sobiesuo	CIE/Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Felix Vasquez	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Marianne Verlinden	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Jose Moreira	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Elizabeth Martinez-Gibson	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Jose Gavidia	Man. & Marketing	SOB
Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez	Int'l. Studies/ECON	LCWA/SOB
Mark Del Mastro	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Alvaro Ibarra	Art History	SOTA