

# LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

## ANNUAL REPORT - 2012/2013

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 2012/2013, the thirty-one courses in the LACS curriculum were taught by twenty 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 three in the spring semester which were nearly filled to capacity. In fall 2012, three sections of LACS 101 were offered enrolling 90 students. In addition, an Express II INTL 290 course – Social Movements in Comparative Perspective was sponsored by LACS. Humberto Miranda the director of our Cuba Semester Program and an instructor in that Program taught this course which is an interdisciplinary and multi-regional introduction to social movements. In spring 2013, three sections of LACS 101 were offered with an enrollment of 99 students. In addition, one section of LACS 200 ST: Drugs, Guns and Gangs in the Americas was offered, taught by former College of Charleston graduate Jason Taylor who earned his M.A. in Latin American Studies and J.D. from the University of Florida. LACS was also joined by Sarah Wuigk who earned her M.A. in Latin American Studies and History from the Free University in Berlin and taught LACS 101 in spring 2013 and INTL 100 in fall 2012. (List attached) The above does not include LACS course taught in our study abroad program in 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 furthers internationalization efforts of the College and LCWA. Through POLI 266, 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. In spring 2013, the College sent a delegation of students to the Model in Washington for the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The LACS program supported the First Year Experience in fall 2012, offering a Learning Community by Lisa Samuel and Claudia Moran 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 continues to face is that the recent greater attraction of the INTL Concentration 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 2013 was 71 (11 + 60) {in 2012 it was 49 (12+37)} – the balance has decidedly shifted towards the INTL LACS concentration. The LACS faculty has addressed this issue in its meetings this year and last. While it is thought necessary to more aggressively recruit for the LACS major, the faculty is pleased that so many students are engaged in serious study of Latin America and the Caribbean.

LACS had two significant visitors in the fall of 2012. Humberto Miranda, our in-country program director for the Cuba Semester Program, returned for two months (October 13 – December 10) to teach an INTL 290 course on Social Movements and help recruit students for the spring semester in Cuba. This year our signal achievement was to be able to acquire a J-1 visa for him which allowed him to teach the course as instructor of record and join the LACS faculty. The course was quite successful with a registration of 25 and we recruited more than twice the number of students for the Cuba program compared to last year. LACS is planning to bring Dr. Miranda back to the College in fall 2013 to teach two courses. However, this is a considerable expense for the Program and needs to be otherwise funded if the College is interested in continuing these visits. Such a fund existed in the Center for International Education between 2000 and 2005 but was allocated to the Cuba Study Abroad Program when US regulations prevented Cubans from visiting the US between 2005 and 2010. In November we sponsored the visit of Dr. Alberto Perez Lara (November 11 – 16), Researcher at the Instituto de Filosofia, our partner for thirteen years in conducting the Cuba program. Dr. Perez gave a presentation to the College community on “Cuban Reforms Today” about the dramatic changes that are occurring presently in Cuba. The program held at the Addlestone Library was standing room only - 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. LACS reluctantly included LACS 101 in its assessment plans this year because an assessment at the beginning of the major was required. A Portfolio requirement as an overall assessment of the major was added as well. Confusion about when the assessment for the LACS 101 course would begin caused a lack of data collection for spring 2013. No students took the Capstone course in spring 2013, so no data for that was collected.

## **Faculty Professional Development Support**

### Douglas Friedman

Research in Cuba summer 2012, US food sales to Cuba  
Latin American Studies Association spring 2013, present paper

### José Moreira

American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese summer 2012, present  
paper

### Hollis France

Research in Guyana spring 2013, Flipping the Capitalicentric Development Script? A case  
study of the Wowetta Women's Cassava Income Generating Enterprise

## **LACS Students and Graduates**

In 2012/2013 there were 11 LACS majors and 20 LACS minors. Three students graduated with  
degrees in Latin American and Caribbean Studies in 2012/2013.

### **Honors in Latin American and Caribbean Studies 2012 -2013**

Nancy Blayney

### **Outstanding Student in Latin American and Caribbean Studies 2012-2013**

Nancy Blayney  
Kelley Couch.

Andrew Dunham (2008) completed a Master's degree in Latin American Studies at New York  
University and is currently Law Clerk at Zhang and Associates

Collin Laverty (2006) completed a Master's degree in Latin American Studies at the University of  
San Diego last year. He is currently founder and president of Cuba Educational Travel.

Nakashia Dunner (2007) is currently at the US State Department doing consular work in Tijuana,  
Mexico.

Kimberly Cozart (2006) who received her MA from the London School of Economics and Political  
Science and taught part-time for Latin American and Caribbean Studies International Studies at  
the College in 2011-2012, completed her first year of Ph.D. work at the City University of New  
York Graduate Center in Political Science- Latin America.

David Cocia (2005) is working for the General Services Administration

Marie Morgann (2005) is World Language Teacher at the Cannon School in North Carolina

Emily Rojas (2010) is currently working on her J.D. at the University of North Carolina School of  
Law

Tom Laffay (2011) is Video/Photo Producer at La Isla Foundation, Nicaragua

Megan Gainey (2009) is College Visits Coordinator with College Visits Inc.

Frances Hickey (2009) is teaching Spanish and Yoga in Nantucket, Massachusetts

Kent Roth (2008) is currently owner and manager of Firehouse Hostel and Lounge, Austin, Texas

## Latin American & Caribbean Studies Courses Fall 2012

		Enrolled	Cap	
ANTH 329.01	ST: Indestructible Maya	32	30	BORG
ENGL 233.01	Survey of Non-Western 20th Century Lit.	27	30	LEWIS
FREN 320.01	A Survey of Francophone Literature	22	25	WALSH
FREN 490.02	Aime Cesaire	9	25	WALSH
HIST 250.01	ST: Revolution and Reaction	28	30	COVERT
HIST 350.01	ST: The Real Pirates of the Caribbean	33	30	COATES
INTL 290.03	Social Movmnts in Compar. Persp. Exp II	25	35	MIRANDA
LACS 101.01	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	32	35	FRIEDMAN
LACS 101.02	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud LC	26	26	SAMUEL
LACS 101.03	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	32	35	VERLINDEN
LTPO 270.01	Studies in Brazilian Film LC	11	24	MOREIRA
SPAN 326.01	Latin American Civiliz and Culture I	22	22	OWENS
SPAN 326.02	Latin American Civiliz and Culture I	21	22	OWENS
SPAN 327.01	Latin American Civiliz and Culture II	17	22	ESPINOZA
SPAN 371.01	Survey of Spanish Amer Literature I	17	18	VIEGA
SPAN 372.01	Survey of Spanish Amer Literature II	15	18	COLOMINA-GARRIGOS
SPAN 458.01	Contemp. Hispanic-American Theatre	8	18	LINARES-OCANTO

Total # of students = 377

Average Class size = 22.2

LACS average class size = 30

## Latin American & Caribbean Studies Courses Spring 2013

		Enrolled	Cap	
FREN 326.01	A Survey of Francophone Civilization	24	24	ATTAFI
HIST 364.01	Sugar and Slaves in Colonial Brazil	30	30	COATES
INTL 290.03	International Development	28	35	MALDONADO-BIRD
LACS 101.01	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	32	35	WUIGK
LACS 101.02	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	35	35	COLOMINA-GARRIGOS
LACS 101.03	Intro. to Lat Amer & Caribb Stud	32	35	WUIGK
LACS 200.01	ST: Drugs, Guns & Gangs in the Americas	28	30	TAYLOR
LTPO 270.01	Studies in Brazilian Film	27	25	MOREIRA
POLI 266.02	Model OAS	8	8	FRIEDMAN
POLI 340.01	Politics of Latin America	31	30	FRIEDMAN
SPAN 326.01	Latin American Civiliz and Culture I	10	22	ESPINOZA
SPAN 327.01	Latin American Civiliz and Culture II	11	22	ESPINOZA
SPAN 327.02	Latin American Civiliz and Culture II	12	22	ESPINOZA
SPAN 454.01	Contemp. Spanish-American Poetry	14	15	CARRILLO-ARCINIEGA

Total # of students = 322

Average Class size = 23

LACS average class size = 31.8

## Spring Cuba Semester Program

LACS 103.01	Introduction to Contemporary Cuba -	8
POLI 245.01	Cuban Revolution	9
POLI 340.02	Politics of Latin America	9
POLI 359.01	ST: Soc. & Pol. Movements In LA	9
SPAN 329.02	Current Issues Abroad – Cuba	5

### LACS Graduates - 3

#### Fall – Spring 2012 – 2013

Nancy Eileen Blayney *Cum Laude*

Kelly Ann Couch *Cum Laude*

Julie Anna King *Cum Laude*

### 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
Lisa Covert	History	HSS
Simon Lewis	English	HSS
Luis Linares-Ocanto	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Luci Moreira	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Jose 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
Elizabeth Martinez-Gibson	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Ben Fraser	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Jose Gavidia	Man. & Marketing	SOB
Beatriz Maldonado-Bird	Int'l. Studies/ECON	LCWA/SOB
Mark Del Mastro	Hispanic Studies	LCWA
Alvaro Ibarra	Art History	SOTA
Humberto Miranda	LACS	LCWA
Sara Wuigk	INTL/LACS	LCWA
Jason Taylor	LACS	LCWA