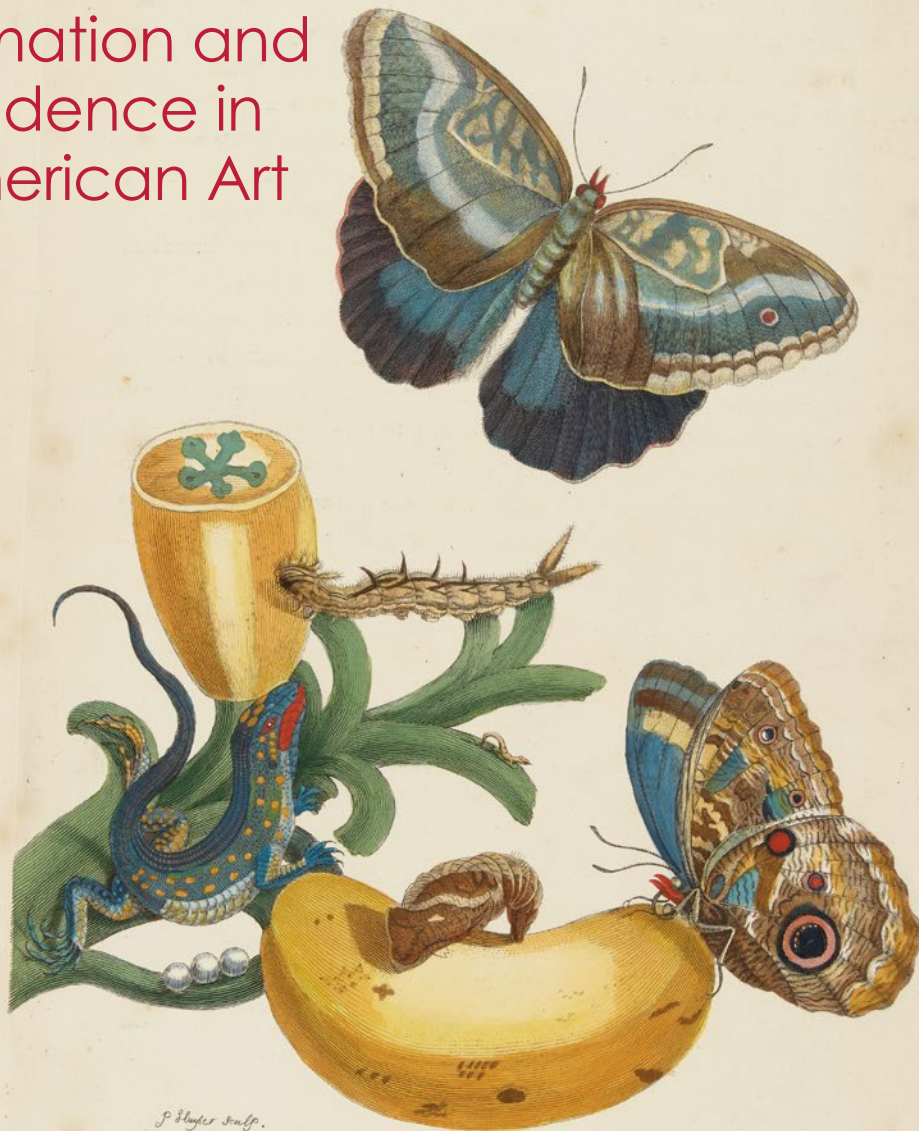


Bowdoin College, May 2018, #10

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Bowdoin

A Note from the Director



Dear Alumni, Students, Colleagues, and Friends:

We are thrilled to share the highlights of another rewarding year of work at the Latin American Studies Program at Bowdoin.

With a wide array of courses, from the arts of ancient Mexico and Peru to contemporary trends in the Southern Cone, Brazil, the Andes, the Hispanic and Francophone Caribbean, and the Latin American communities in the United States, our Program continued to demonstrate our strong commitment to engaging our students with the richness and complexity of Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx cultures and realities. A robust agenda of scholarly events further enriched our course offerings (see page 24). Linked to Professors Jay Sosa's "Carnival and Control: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Brazil", Carolyn Wolfenzon's "Mexican Fictions: Voices from the Border", Nadia Celis' "Beyond the Postcard: Thinking and Writing the Hispanic Caribbean", and Sebastian Uri's "The Hispanic Avant-Garde: Poetry and Politics", the lectures and symposia sponsored by the generous endowment of the Crandall Family Fund, brought the work of a stellar group of scholars to Bowdoin, visiting us from Mexico, Colombia, and the US (see page 20).

As usual, we are proud to showcase the research, service and achievements of our remarkable LAS students and alumni (see pages 10 and 18). Every year, our own passion for Latin America is reignited by projects such as Jonah Watt's honor thesis, "Que vivan los estudiantes", or Kelsey Freeman's '16 inspiring work with migrants on the Mexican side of the border (see page 15). In addition to our students, alumni, and our faculty's latest endeavors (see page 6), this newsletter features two additional sections. Professor Jay Sosa's article, "In solidarity with Puerto Rico", condenses the responses of LAS students and faculty to the humanitarian crisis left by Hurricane Maria (see page 13). Professor Susan Wegner and Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow, Ellen Tani, walk us through recent acquisitions enriching the Bowdoin Museum of Art's collection on Latin America (see page 22).

We are delighted to offer a well-deserved homage to the fabulous work of Nat Wheelwright in this issue's Faculty Focus (see page 3). After more than three decades of passionate teaching, inspiring research and committed service to LAS and Bowdoin, we are wishing Nat a fun, active and restful retirement. This was also the last year of teaching for our one and only Allen Wells, who will enjoy a sabbatical prelude to his actual retirement next year. Allen,

we are simply not ready to say goodbye yet. LAS will also see the departure of Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Greg Beckett, and Associate Professor of Economics, Steve Meardon, who will be pursuing new positions at other institutions. We thank them both for their contributions to our program and wish them "buen viento y buena mar".

Next year we'll be receiving an exciting cohort of both permanent and visiting LAS faculty. Javier Cikota will be joining the Department of History as an Assistant Professor. Javier's research focuses on borderlands, legal culture, and state formation in Latin America in the 19th and 20th centuries, and he'll be joining us from UC Berkeley, where he recently completed his thesis on "Frontier Justice: State, Law, and Society in Patagonia, 1880-1940." He'll be teaching a stirring variety of new courses, including "Borderlands in the Americas: Power and Identity Between Empire and Nation". We will welcome two Postdoctoral Fellows in Latin American Studies, Marcio Siwi and Irina Popescu. Marcio is a historian of Brazil and has recently worked as a College fellow at the History Department in Harvard University. His research, centered on the connections between São Paulo urban planners and New York modernist architecture, cuts across the fields of urban, art and architectural history. Next fall he'll be teaching "Race and Culture in Brazil: The Paradox of Progress". Irina Popescu's research explores human rights discourses in Latin America and the US. Her dissertation, which she recently completed at UC Berkeley, is titled "The Empathy Archive: History, Empathy, and the Human Rights Novel in the Americas". Irina will be teaching a first year seminar on "Human Rights in the Americas". We are also thrilled that the Music Department has hired a scholar of Latin American colonial music. Ireri Chávez-Bárcena will be joining us as an Assistant Professor in the 2019-2020 academic year, after completing a postdoctoral position in Yale University.

Thanks to all of you who have supported the Program, and me, during this first year of my term as the LAS Director. I'm indebted to the former directors for passing on their wisdom, faculty for contributing to our ongoing conversations on curriculum and programming, students for keeping us humble and excited about our work, alumni for staying in touch and contributing updates, our wonderful coordinator, Jean Harrison, for keeping us on track and grounded, and the community for being present and showing interest in our activities. You all make the LAS Program possible!

Cordialmente,
Nadia Celis
Program Director, Latin American Studies



Birds and Trees in Tropical Cloud Forests:

Reflections on Nat Wheelwright's Research and Teaching in Latin America

By Allen Wells

Nat Wheelwright is the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Natural Sciences. He is retiring this summer after a distinguished career of research and teaching.

During his senior year at Yale in 1975, Nat took a course from renowned ornithologist Charles Sibley. When Nat approached his professor midway through the semester about his interest in traveling to South America after graduation that spring, Professor Sibley replied, “How about I give you a salary, a check book, you go buy a truck and a trailer, and you get yourself down to Colombia and Ecuador and collect birds for me?” Sibley wanted Nat to collect bird blood samples for his pioneering taxonomic studies using DNA hybridization. Since Nat had only taken a single Spanish course, the budding ornithologist convinced his mentor to provide enough funding so he could bring along his then-girlfriend (now wife) Genie Stevens, whose facility in Spanish far outshined his. As Nat relates, “He agreed to hire both of us, gave us a check book and off we went in the summer of 1975... With our truck and trailer, we got on a boat in New Orleans and went to Barranquilla, Colombia. We drove all over the entire country, doing field work, collecting samples of tropical birds for six months in Colombia and two months in Ecuador.” Armed

with more than enough bird blood samples, Nat and Genie then travelled down the Pacific coast from Ecuador to Peru and Chile, before crossing the Andes to Argentina and then Bolivia.

“Nat and Genie's extended love affair with Latin America's flora and fauna, language and peoples was on.”

In 1978, Nat began graduate school at the University of Washington where his advisor, noted tropical ecologist Gordon Orians, convinced him to take a two-month, intensive course in tropical ecology run by the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS). A follow up grant took Nat up to the Costa Rican highlands on the Continental Divide in a small Quaker community called Monteverde, where he would subsequently begin thesis research on seed dispersal by tropical fruit-eating birds. As Nat explains, “The birds swallow fruits and an hour later they either defecate or regurgitate the seeds, and then the seeds germinate. The interaction between birds and

fruits really dictates what a forest looks like because seed dispersers are responsible for how seedlings get established.” Nat and Genie's extended love affair with Latin America's flora and fauna, language and peoples was on.

Continued...

Continued from page 3...

Research in Latin America

Allen Wells (AW): After completing thesis research in Costa Rica, you spent the better part of two decades working in and around Monteverde? How did your research agenda evolve?

NW: I began a long-term research project on tropical trees, which required me to go down once a year to check on several hundred trees of various species in the avocado family. Each year I measured their growth rates and fruit production, and did a variety of other studies relating to the coevolution between plants and animals (see top box on page 5). I conducted research on tropical bird behavior and their diets, on the rhythm over the course of the year of flowering and fruiting in tropical trees, and I even did a study on photosynthesis and growth rates of male versus female trees, which led to a really super interesting study with Bowdoin colleague Barry Logan, a plant physiological ecologist in the Biology department (see bottom box on page 5).

AW: Your investigations at Monteverde continued to flourish. Say a bit about the significance of your collaboration with ecologist Nalini Nadharni.

NW: Nalini and I co-edited a synthetic volume, *Monteverde: Ecology and Conservation of a Tropical Cloud Forest* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000). This anthology brought together some of the most prominent researchers of the region and provided a broad introduction to the biology of that cloud forest reserve, and of cloud forests in general. Fourteen years later, Nalini and I decided that since so much new research had appeared, we needed an update. We reassembled our authors and solicited additional contributions from more than one hundred authors. The revised edition, which was translated into Spanish by various native speakers, including Richard and Francis Joyce,

who are Bowdoin grads and Monteverde residents, included twelve new chapters, showcasing new research by specialists working on mammals, reptiles, plants and other organisms that were not included in the first volume. Our aim was to make the book accessible—open access—to anyone in the Spanish-speaking world, so we posted it on [Bowdoin College's Digital Commons Website](#). It has since been downloaded more than 1800 times.

Teaching in Latin America

AW: More than most scholars, you've made it a point to share the "tropical fruits" of your research with interested students in Brunswick and in Latin America.

NW: One of the benefits of conducting research in the field is the interaction with other researchers. Working with graduate students brings a level of intellectual engagement that I thought I could bring back to the classroom at Bowdoin. That led to my teaching on two dozen OTS courses in Costa Rica, including some in Spanish through the Spanish language counterpart of OTS, the OET, La Organización para Estudios Tropicales. In 1997 I was a visiting faculty member on the first OTS undergraduate seminar program. Teaching in the field did "cross-pollinate;" it led to a wonderful team-taught course with you, Allen, called Environment and Society in Latin America, which we taught on three occasions.

Several of my Bowdoin honors and independent study students have ended up doing research in ecology in Latin America, including Peter Hodum '88, Evan Fricke '11, Francis Joyce '13, and several others. In fact, I just saw one of them, Sheela Turbek '13, at the annual meeting of the American Ornithological Society in Tucson. Sheela's PhD research aims to unravel the evolutionary history and ecology of a fascinating group of seed-eating birds in Argentina. It's an ambitious project but with her experience on Kent Island and courses in Latin American Studies, she's perfectly prepared.



Nat with students in Santiago de Cuba, 2008.



Tropical fruit-eating birds range in size from small tanagers to crow-sized Resplendent Quetzals and Emerald Toucanets to guans the size of a turkey. When I started my research, the dogma was that large birds

were more likely to be dependent on a narrow subset of plants that were in turn dependent on the birds for high-quality dispersal of their seeds. Small birds were believed to have catholic diets and to deliver poor-quality dispersal (i.e., deliver seeds to inappropriate sites). My observations of birds in the wild turned that dogma on its head. It turned out that big birds have big mouths, not surprisingly, which allowed them to eat big fruits. But that didn't mean that they ignored small fruits. As a result, the bigger the bird, the broader the diet. Moreover, the peculiar mating systems of large birds often meant that they were not effective seed dispersers. So, tropical plant-animal coevolution proved to be more complicated than we'd thought!

AW: Where else have you taught in Latin America?

NW: I taught an 8-day long modular course for graduate students in Bolivia at an isolated field station in 2000. The entire course was in Spanish. That was a wonderful experience. In fact, one of the students from that course is now a professor of ecology in Bolivia, and is one of the scholars we recruited to help with the translation of the Monteverde anthology. Then in 2008, I taught a different course on plant-animal interactions in Santiago de Cuba, for graduate students, faculty and civil servants, again in Spanish. I led a semester-long Colby-Bates-Bowdoin course in Ecuador in 2001 with 14 students in which we studied ecology from the Amazon to the Galápagos to the paramo (high treeless plateau). I also had a Fulbright grant that allowed me to do research in Nicaragua and Costa Rica in 1989. In addition I've given papers at ornithology and ecology meetings in Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Panama and Brazil. I also have been to Cuba on two additional trips, the first in 2000 with Genie and Allen, as part of a tour of educational institutions and a second trip with the Brunswick-Trinidad Sister City program. All told, I lived in Central and South America four years or more.

So, all of this is a tangled web of really enriching wonderful experiences in Latin America. I'm thankful for being married to a Spanish professor for many reasons, but one of them is that she was able to tutor me in Spanish to the point where I can I feel comfortable now giving seminars in Latin America in Spanish.

AW: And like something out of a García Márquez tale, with retirement looming, the two of you are coming full circle, heading back to where it all began...Colombia.

NW: Yes, I just found out that I've been awarded a Fulbright grant next year to spend four months in Cali. I intend to translate my book with Bernd Heinrich, *The Naturalist's Notebook: An Observation Guide and 5-Year Calendar-Journal for Tracking Changes in the Natural World around You* (North Adams, MA: Storey's Publishing, 2017) into Spanish and rewrite it so that it highlights tropical flora and fauna and is culturally relevant. The goal is to produce as inexpensive a version as we can, so that Spanish speakers will be able to take advantage of it and become naturalists in their own patios and backyards. I'll also be seeing if I can simulate a Nature Moments or "Momentos en la Naturalesa" series of short videos, comparable to what I've been doing during this sabbatical year. And the third thing I hope to do with the Fulbright is to help three different Colombian universities design and carry out tropical field ecology courses, much like the OTS courses that I've taught for many years.



It's not easy for plants to produce big fruits and seeds, especially in the tropics, where soil nutrients are often in short supply. Barry Logan and I tested the hypothesis that investing in reproduction comes at the cost of growth rate. That could explain why my long-term research on the avocado family found that female trees grow more slowly than males. Could the mechanism be that females simply can't photosynthesize as rapidly as males because they've had to invest so heavily in making fruits? We measured photosynthetic capacity of male and female trees that were known to be brothers and sisters. Sure enough, females had slower photosynthetic rates. Our study was published in 2004 in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#).

Faculty News



GREG BECKETT recently completed a book manuscript on the experience of crisis in Haiti. The book, *How Crisis Feels: Living and Dying in Port-au-Prince*, will be published by the University of California Press in February 2019. He taught a course on Haiti in Fall 2017 and he is co-organizing a conference on the work of Haitian anthropologist Michel-Rolph Trouillot.

The conference will take place at the University of Chicago in October 2018. Greg will be leaving Bowdoin at the end of this academic year to take up a new position at the University of Western Ontario.



MARGARET BOYLE has been teaching and transcribing early modern Spanish recipes, as culinary and curative for the Early Modern Recipe Online Collective. She also published about recipes in *Nursing Clio* for a special issue on Medicine, Gender and Race in Latin America and the Caribbean, and was an invited speaker at the Massachusetts

Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies, where she discussed Women's Health in the Early Modern Iberian World. She continues her work in comedia as well, publishing on Don Juan and the language of protest in the forthcoming book *Don Juan at 400* and discusses adaptation and performance of comedia with US-based playwright Dave Dalton in Comedia Performance.



NADIA CELIS spent some time in Colombia and at the Harry Ransom Center in UT Austin collecting materials for her research about Gabriel García Márquez. She gave several presentations and published two articles based on that research, "Macondo in Austin" (Aguaita 28/29), and "La soledad de Úrsula: Intimidación y violencia en Macondo, ayer y hoy" (Cien años

de soledad cincuenta años después. Cali: Universidad del Valle, 2017). She looks forward to disseminate this research more broadly in her new role as a blogger for the Centro Gabo project. Two other book chapters on Colombian writers Marvel Moreno and Fanny Buitrago came out last year. Back to teaching in the Fall of 2018, Celis joined an initiative to support Puerto Rican students affected by Hurricane Maria. Using a digital platform, she connected Bowdoin students at her upper-class seminar "A Body of One's Own: Caribbean and Latina Writers", with students in the island. In the Spring of 2018, and with the support of the Crandall Family Fund, she organized the symposium "Beyond the Postcard: Sights from the

Peripheral Caribbean". Nadia also served as the Program Director for the LAS Program.



GUSTAVO FAVERÓN PATRIAU finished writing a novel to be published in Spain and Latin America in 2018. He also signed contracts for editing and writing the prologue to an anthology of short stories regarding cannibalism and for the second edition of his book *Toda la sangre: Cuentos peruanos de la violencia política*. Several of

his journalistic articles and opinion columns were included by the Department of Education of Peru in books to be used by state-funded high schools.



After spending last year on sabbatical, **MARCOS LOPEZ** returned to Bowdoin and taught two timely courses that cross-listed with Latin American Studies: *Immigration and the Politics of Exclusion*, and *Latinx in the United States*. He is currently completing several journal articles and his book manuscript, tentatively titled: *El Agua Caliente:*

Agriculture, Water and the Under Currents of Indigenous Farmworker Resistance in Mexico, which examines how migrant indigenous farmworkers use cultural practices to organize in a desert landscape where water is used to nourish thirsty plants bearing fruit for US consumers, but not for the workers who harvest them.



JAY SOSA won an Engaged Anthropology Research Award from the Wenner Gren Foundation to collaborate with Brazilian organization Voto LGBT and aid in its publication of its political opinion surveys of LGBT Brazilians. Jay also published an online report in *Anthropology News* and is preparing an analysis of sexism in the

impeachment of Dilma Rousseff due out in Spring 2019 in *Signs*.



SEBASTIÁN URLI'S article "¿Marosa interrumpida?: comunidad, mito, singularidad en Los papeles salvajes" was published in the *Revista de la Biblioteca Nacional de Uruguay*, 3 13 (January 2018). The article deals with the relationship of violence and mythic spaces and how they affect and shape the possibility of community in Marosa di Giorgio's poetry.

Another one of his articles “El hueso se convirtió en un hueso que escribe”: Gelman between “juan” and “Juan” has been accepted for publication in the journal *A Contracorriente* for its May issue. He presented at the II Symposium of the Southern Cone Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) in Montevideo in July and, most recently, the paper “‘Soñamos una esfinge’: Poesía e imagen en Borges” at the Conference: “The Future of Borges Studies” at the University of Pittsburgh in March. An article based on this talk will be published in a special issue of the journal *Variaciones Borges* that will come out in the Fall of 2018. This Spring he also organized the symposium “Intersections of the Avant-Garde: Spain, Latin America and the Problem of the Global in the Early Twentieth Century”.



KRISTA VAN VLEET spent the month of May 2017 in Bolivia conducting ethnographic research and reconnecting with families she first met during fieldwork in the mid-1990s. In order to understand “faithful communication” between the living and non-living in the Andes, she collected stories about people’s prayers to saints and dead relatives, travels to sacred places, and experiences of the miraculous. In the Fall 2017, she taught “Family, Gender, and Sexuality in Latin America” to a fantastic group of students. She is excited that her most recent book project, *Uncertain Aspirations: Caring by and for Young Mothers in Global Cusco*, has been accepted for publication in the “Interpretations of Culture in the New Millennium” Series at University of Illinois Press. After her first year as Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, she is looking forward to a summer of writing, gardening, and walking on the beach.



This academic year, Professor **HANÉTHA VÉTÉ-CONGOLO** published three articles in peer-reviewed journals and chapter books. They are, “L’Africaine en situation plantationnaire.” *Le Pan poétique des muses*, LPDM. Magalesia 2018; “Le Douboutisme dans les sociétés créolophones caribéennes.” *Féminisme, (en)jeux d’une théorie*, Ed. N’Guessan Kouadio Germain, INIDAF, (2017):132-170 and, “Caribbean French-African Creole and African Metaphysics” in *Tracing Language Movement in Africa* eds. Ericka Albaugh and Katherine de Luna, Oxford University Press, (2017): 365-386.



SUSAN WEGNER will work on her natural history research this June at the Biological Research Station at Las Cruces, Costa Rica. Studying Central American fruit-bearing plants and the frugivorous birds that frequent them will shed light on the species sent to the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan as recorded in manuscripts of tributes. This

will also inform her on-going research into bird species imported into Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries and their inclusion in portraits of nobles.



ALLEN WELLS published an essay, “Los informes sobre su desaparición no son exagerados: vida y época del henequén yucateco,” in *De la plata a la cocaína: Cinco siglos de historia económica de América Latina, 1500–2000*, trans. by Mario A. Zamudio Vega, eds., Carlos Marichal, Steven Topik and Zephyr Frank (Mexico City: El Colegio de México and Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2017): 426-454, and he has another essay forthcoming, “Elementos raciales capaces y deseables: El Corte y la fundación de Sosúa,” in Matías Bosch Carcuro, ed., *80 años masacre: Libro Conmemorativo*. He also helped with local arrangements for a symposium recognizing the publication of Professor William Taylor’s *Theaters of a Thousand Wonders: A History of Miraculous Shrines and Images in New Spain* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017). Finally, he is facilitating the Maine Humanities Council’s Portland Community Seminar this spring. Titled “The Past Seeps into the Present: Classics of Latin American Historical Fiction,” the three-book seminar explores the novels of Miguel Angel Asturias, Juan Gabriel Vásquez and Junot Díaz.



CAROLYN WOLFENZON organized the symposium “Aesthetics in Times of Emergency: A Conversation about Mexico” for the Latin American Studies Program and Hispanic Studies Department, with support from the Crandall Family Fund, where writer Guadalupe Nettel and Professor Ignacio Sánchez Prado delivered talks. The symposium was connected with her new seminar “Mexican Fictions: Voices from the Border.” She has recently published two academic articles. “Maximiliano: un Quijote mexicano en *Noticias del Imperio* de Fernando del Paso.” *Mitologías hoy*. Revista de pensamiento, crítica y estudios literarios latinoamericanos for a special issue about historical novels in Latin America (Universidad de Barcelona). She also published “El fantasma que nos habita: *El huésped* y *El cuerpo en que nació* de Guadalupe Nettel como espejo político de México,” *Latin American Literary Review* 44:88 (Fall 2017). She attended two conferences related to Mexican literature at the University of California, Irvine, where she delivered talks that are connected with her book manuscript in progress. She is working with Miriam Fraga on an Independent Study about Latinos in the United States. She was a guest speaker at a Symposium entitled: «A propósito de los 50 años de la publicación del libro *Cien años de soledad* (1967-2017) Balance del Boom Narrativo Hispanoamericano” in Cuzco, Perú, August 14-15, 2017. The symposium was held to celebrate the importance and repercussions of García Márquez and *El Boom* 50 years after *One Hundred Years of Solitude* was published.



A Legacy of Student Activism— Jonah Watt, '18

Interviewed by Carolyn Wolfenzon

What motivated you to major in Latin American Studies?

I came into Bowdoin knowing that I wanted to continue studying Spanish. During the spring of my first year, I took Latin American Revolutions with Allen Wells. While the class was taught in English, it expanded my conception of what it meant to study Spanish. Learning Spanish meant more than memorizing verb conjugations or learning new tenses—it also meant studying Latin American history, politics, and culture.

From there, I took some other classes focusing on Latin American environmental politics and continued with my Spanish courses. I decided to major in Latin American Studies because it gave me a lot of flexibility for courses I could take and also let me take classes with a range of professors. As a Latin American Studies major, I have been able to design my own interdisciplinary academic experience and have loved learning across perspectives.

I know that you were in Chile with a study abroad program. Tell me a bit about the courses that you took and the internship that you did there.

When I was abroad last spring through Middlebury in Chile, I directly enrolled in the Universidad de Playa Ancha, a mid-sized

public university that specializes in pedagogy. I took three courses in the department of Pedagogy of History and Geography—Population Geography, Geography of Latin America, and Social and Economic History of Chile.

I also conducted a part time internship with Explora Valparaíso, an organization that does science and technology education

and outreach in schools and communities throughout the region. For the second half of my internship, I designed and carried out a survey on the social perspective of science and technology in two rural communities an hour outside of Valparaíso. Together with a team of Chilean students, I completed surveys with community members. This data was then used to make recommendations on how the program could improve and outreach for these communities.

Currently, you are conducting an honors project. Could you tell me the main theme? How did you become interested in the theme?

My honors project examines the Chilean movement, taking a historical approach to understand the past decade of student protest. In 2006 and 2011, secondary students

“As a Latin American Studies major, I have been able to design my own interdisciplinary academic experience and have loved learning across perspectives.”



and university students, respectively, led mass protests and school occupations, mobilizing hundreds of thousands of people and demanding reforms to the neoliberal education policies put in place under Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship. The bulk of my thesis focuses on these recent waves of mobilization, while my first chapter goes back to 1906 to explore the beginning of the student movement and earlier mobilizations.

I became interested in this theme for two distinct reasons. First of all, I briefly studied the student movement a few years ago in a class with Professor Jenny Baca. She introduced me to the student movement, as well as other contemporary environmental and indigenous social movements in Chile, which all are protesting the neoliberal policies that were put in place under dictatorship but maintained through democratic rule. Secondly, my interest in the Chilean student movement stems from my own involvement with student activism on campus as well as my semester in Chile. I attended a very politically active public university and became more interested in the movement through conversations with classmates and by participating in marches and other political demonstrations while abroad.

I understand that you returned to Chile over winter break. What did you research then?

I returned to Chile for three weeks with the support of the Grúa/O'Connell research fellowship and the Crandall Family Fund. The main purpose of this research trip was to visit the Archivo de la Federación de Estudiantes de la Universidad de Chile (Student Federation of the University of Chile, FECh). This is the oldest and most prominent student federation in Chile, and they have a small but terrific archive. There, I examined posters, student publications, and newspaper articles from the past decade.

During this trip, I also consulted the newspaper archives at the Biblioteca Nacional and found some great articles about the genesis of the student movement in 1906. I also conducted additional interviews and follow up with other student leaders that I interviewed last August at the end of my semester abroad.

This is your last year at Bowdoin. What are your future plans? Do you think that your studies in Latin American Studies will serve you?

Next year, I will be working in Lima, Perú, for a year through the Princeton in Latin America fellowship, which places graduates with non-profit organizations in Latin America. I will be working with Building Dignity, an organization that works in the community of Villa El Salvador on community development and education. I will be living in the community for the year and serving as the Program Director, where I will be overseeing the Voices of Youth program, which is a leadership program for youth. Additionally, I will also be working to coordinate volunteers that are central to the non-profit experience. I am excited to live and learn in Lima and be faced with new experiences and challenges.

Beyond next year, I think that my studies will continue to direct my future. I plan to return to the United States to work on similar issues here, possibly with migrant farm worker communities in Maine. My research and experiences as a Latin American Studies major have certainly imbued my work with a passion for social justice and a holistic understanding of the issues facing communities both in Latin America and the U.S., and how racism, xenophobia, and imperialism (to name just a few) have historically produced and perpetuated these issues.

What would you say to undecided students to encourage them to study within this major?

I would encourage students to explore different classes and talk with professors throughout the department. The Latin American Studies department is small enough that you can get to know faculty and really find professors whose interests speak to you. Take cross-listed classes both in Spanish and English.

Also, Bowdoin and the LAS department have an incredible amount of resources to support student research. If you are interested in conducting an independent study, summer research, or an honors project, start thinking ahead. I am extraordinarily grateful for the support that I have received from Bowdoin and LAS faculty.



Protests in Valparaíso, Chile.

Student News

Learning through Engagement in Latin American and Latino Communities

As a complement to their work in LAS courses, students expand on their knowledge through immersion experiences such as Alternative Spring Break trips or the Global Citizens or Denning Summer Fellowships offered through the McKeen Center for the Common Good.

Global Citizens Fellowship LEAH HOWARD '18,

a Psychology major and Hispanic Studies minor, spent the summer of 2017 in Sangolquí, Ecuador working with the nonprofit Manna Project International (MPI). MPI offers English classes, nutrition classes, and various other classes for the community, while also partnering with local public schools and shelters. In addition to teaching classes at the MPI center, Leah spent a majority of her time working with their partner organization, Hogar de la Madre, a shelter for teenage girls who have children as a result of sexual assault. To complement her work and continue to process that experience, in the fall she took Professor Nadia Celis's course, "A Body of One's Own: Latina & Caribbean Women Writers," which focused on female/feminized bodies, the intersection with race, culture, class, etc. and how the gendering and sexualization of bodies works to maintain power structures. Conversations during the course with Puerto Rican writer Mayra Santos-Febres, who encouraged the students to come support her organization's work in schools throughout the island and to learn more about the responses to the hurricanes, inspired Leah and classmate Sylvia Jiménez '19 to lead an Alternative Spring Break trip to Puerto Rico in March. (See more on trip on page 13.)



Leah Howard

THEODORA HURLEY '20,

a Sociology major and Latin American Studies student, partnered with El Arte Sano, a language and cultural organization in Urubamba, Peru, to teach English for ten weeks. She provided basic, intermediate, and advanced English classes to students aged 14 – 40. Her students came from Spanish- and Quechua-speaking backgrounds and were primarily motivated to learn English in order to obtain jobs in the hospitality and tourism industries. In describing what she and her students were learning, Theo explained, "My time in Urubamba demonstrated to me the power of language education to facilitate cross-cultural exchange. Language possesses an incredible capacity to

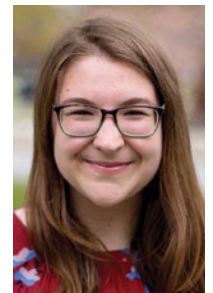


Theodora Hurley

empower people to tell their own stories, and I feel so grateful to have engaged in, facilitated, and learned through cross-cultural exchange." As a student in Professor Marcos López's Immigration and the Politics of Exclusion course this spring Theo has appreciated the opportunity to develop an academic understanding of immigration in light of informal discussions she had about labor and undocumented migration while in Peru.

Denning Summer Fellowship ELLINOR HEYWOOD '19,

a Hispanic Studies major, has been awarded a Denning Summer Fellowship through the McKeen Center to work at Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM). This award, named in honor of Common Good Award recipient and founder of Safe Passage, Hanley Denning '92, is designed for rising seniors who already have a foundation in community engagement and are seeking an in-depth experience working on a public issue of interest related to their academic major. Ellie will work closely with SARSSM's program manager Rosie DiBella to create and facilitate workshops for Latino/a families who have been affected by sexual assault or domestic violence to provide them avenues to express their experiences dealing with SARSSM and the criminal justice system.



Ellinor Heywood

Princeton in Latin America Fellowship

After graduation, JONAH WATT '18

will be participating in the Princeton in Latin America (PiLA) fellowship, a year-long fellowship that places recent graduates with non-profit organizations throughout Latin America. Through PiLA, he will be working with Building Dignity (or Centro para el Desarrollo con Dignidad in Spanish), an organization based in Villa El Salvador, a land-grab community in Lima, Perú. Building Dignity fosters community education and development in the underprivileged communities of Villa El Salvador. Through a social justice based-



Jonah Watt

approach, the program provides educational workshops, youth mentorship programs, and other support services to families in the community.

Fulbright Study/Research Award:

Biology major and Hispanic Studies minor, **GENEVIEVE DE KERVOR '18**, was awarded a Latin American Studies Research Award in 2017 to investigate the role of Chilean opposition in the country's transition to democracy. Genevieve was recently awarded a Fulbright study/research grant, and will be returning to Chile to study zebrafish olfactory development with Dr.



Genevieve De Kervor

Kathleen Whitlock at the University of Valparaíso. In her time away from the lab, she looks forward to leading science workshops in public schools with the outreach program called "Ciencia al Tiro" ("Science Immediately").

Alternative Spring Break Opportunity through Education: Providing Safe Passage in Guatemala City, Guatemala

Led by **JORGE GÓMEZ '18** and **DIA SU '18**, twelve students participated in the College's thirteenth trip to work alongside staff at Camino Seguro (Safe Passage), an organization founded by Hanley Denning '92, to help break the cycle of poverty for families who live and work around the Guatemala City garbage dump. Following an eight-week seminar at Bowdoin organized by the leaders, in which they critically examined issues surrounding service and international aid, and read and discussed recent Guatemalan history with Professor Allen Wells, the students deepened their understanding of the social, political and economic issues surrounding access to childhood education in Guatemala through working with students in classrooms at Safe Passage's preschool, elementary school and reinforcement center, and speaking with women in the organization's CREAMOS literacy



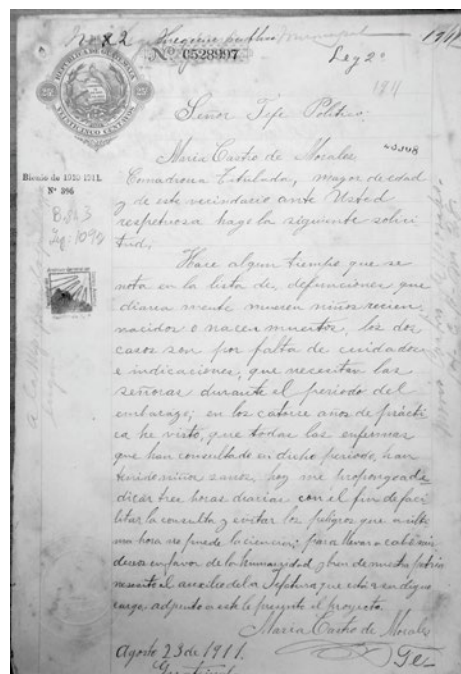
Alternative Spring Break: Providing Safe Passage in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Leaders: Jorge Gómez '18, Dia Su '18

program. Thanks to contacts provided by Jennifer Brookes '91 and Guatemalan historian Professor David Carey, who visited Bowdoin in the fall, the students on the trip further complemented their learning by hearing two very different perspectives on Guatemala's civil war and its aftermath. A professor at Guatemala's Escuela de Gobierno in Guatemala City provided a lecture on the civil war and its consequences, and a Kakchiquel Maya community leader in San Juan Comalapa led the students on a tour of the public murals of Mayan resistance there.

Community-engaged Course

Hispanic Studies/Latin American Studies 3247: Translating Cultures (Janice Jaffe)

Students in this course grapple with translation issues in both theory and practice as they address the challenges of producing work that is both culturally and linguistically appropriate for its intended audience. With public health as one focal area of the course this fall, the students translated crucial documents needed for Latino/a clients of the Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM). In the process, the students met with SARSSM's program manager to gain an understanding of priorities and concerns in trying to provide needed services to vulnerable populations with limited English, as well as to discuss nuances of terminology in the documents. Students also gained hands-on experience working with archival public health documents in conjunction with a class visit and guest lecture by Professor David Carey, Doehler Chair in History at Loyola University, who discussed his research on collaborative spaces between indigenous and western approaches to healing in Guatemala. Specifically,



Letter to JP from María Castro de Morales, 1911. Courtesy of Archivo General de Centroamérica, Guatemala City

students translated both handwritten and typed documents from the first decades of the twentieth century on regulating midwifery, establishing a sanitation board, and preventing the spread of bubonic plague in Guatemala.

Prizes and Research Awards:

Latin American Studies Research Awards:

Sociology major, **CARLOS HOLGUIN '19** and Performance Art major, **URIEL LOPEZ-SERRANO '20** were awarded LAS research awards this year. Carlos will conduct research in Denver, CO and Milwaukee, WI. His research will focus on the ways that youth organizing against gun violence incorporate Latinx and African American experiences into calls for national and local gun reforms. Uriel will conduct research on female playwrights in Latin America and Spain during the 16th and 17th centuries. He will travel to the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas-Austin to examine their collection of comedias sueltas and materials related to the life of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.



Carlos Holguin



Uriel Lopez-Serrano

The John Turner Prize:

Named after Professor Emeritus John H. Turner, this prize is awarded to a graduating Latin American Studies major who, in the judgment of the Program's Faculty, has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. This year, the Turner Prize was awarded to two outstanding graduating majors, **PAOLA MAYMÍ** and **JONAH WATT '18**. Both Paola and Jonah are exceptional students who have excelled in their coursework, while earning the respect of the faculty and their peers. They have also engaged in independent research. Paola completed a research project titled "The Ponce Massacre: Biased Journalism and the Search for a Universal Truth", while Jonah wrote an honors thesis titled "Que vivan los estudiantes: Cycles of Contention and the Chilean Student Movement (1906-present)". Jonah presented his findings this spring at an undergraduate research conference in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.



Paola Maymí



Jonah Watt

The LAS Public Engagement Award:

Recognizes juniors or seniors who have contributed to the understanding of Latin America, the Caribbean, or the Latin American or Caribbean diasporas through exemplary public engagement, meaningful community service, and/or efforts in public education. This year's recipient, **JONAH WATT '18**,

is richly deserving of this award. The summer after his sophomore year, Jonah was an intern at the Maine Mobile Health Program, providing behavioral health screenings, patient outreach, and translating for dental appointments for farmworkers' children in Augusta, Maine. During his semester abroad, Jonah conducted a part-time internship with Explora Valparaíso, an organization that provides science and technology outreach and programming to schools and communities in rural Chile. Most recently, Jonah participated in an Alternative Spring Break trip to Puerto Rico, where the group met with local organizations and learned about community-led relief efforts.

Latin American Studies Association (LASO)

The Latin American Students Association (LASO) hosted the second annual Latinx Heritage Month and Beyond, a series of events dedicated to fostering cultural celebration and conversation for both students of Latin American heritage and the greater campus community.





In solidarity with Puerto Rico

By Jay Sosa

On September 24, 2017, Hurricane Maria touched ground on Puerto Rico, devastating families and communities in its wake. Access to roads, electricity, telecommunications, medical services, and even food and water supply were all severely compromised, leaving especially rural Puerto Ricans in vulnerable situations. The recovery was slow, and hundreds of thousands of island residents were without power for months after the initial storm. The aftermath of Hurricane Maria means that Puerto Rico will be rebuilding its energy grid, infrastructure, hospitals and schools for years to come. These challenges raise serious questions about the political future of Puerto Rico, its sovereign status vis-a-vis the United States, and changing demographics as residents leave the island.

Bowdoin Responds

As the devastation in Puerto Rico affected Bowdoin students, parents, alumnae, faculty, and staff, various groups on campus mobilized to support impacted communities. After Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria as well as the earthquake in Mexico, the Latin American Students Organization (LASO) began a fundraising drive to assist survivors of these various natural disasters. Partnering with Brunswick restaurants Frontier and Taco the Town, students raised over a thousand dollars in donations. Students used this money to buy supplies and join with Northeastern University Students to send a relief package to the island. Professor Nadia Celis opened up her Fall 2017 class “Latina and Caribbean Women Writers” to address the ongoing crisis. Joining an initiative from the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, Professor Celis created a parallel version of the class to be offered long-distance to students whose classes were cancelled in the island. LAS faculty Gustavo Faverón-Patriau and Sebastián D. Urli

offered a second long-distance seminar. Celis also hosted a virtual conversation with writer, professor of literature, and organizer of Puerto Rico’s Festival de la Palabra, Mayra Santos-Febres. Santos-Febres highlighted the resilience of Puerto Ricans in the island, and the overwhelming support of those in the diaspora, while encouraging students to consider how they could contribute to Puerto Rico’s recovery: *“I don’t believe institutions, I’m sorry. Not in institutions of power, of hierarchical power. I’ve lived enough to know that those things don’t work. And I think that for younger generations, that’s even more obvious than it was for us. What does work are commitment to social justice and connections that are true.”*

In coordination with the Romance and Languages and Literatures Department, the LAS Program also led a proposal that moved Bowdoin College to grant fellowships to two college students from Puerto so they could continue their studies on our campus for the Spring 2018 semester.

Students Visit Puerto Rico

Inspired by Santos-Febres' remarks, students designed a one-week visit to Puerto Rico over spring break, organized with the support of the McKeen Center for the Common Good, Associate Dean of Students for Diversity and Inclusion, Leana Amáez, and the Latin American Studies Program. In preparation, students established a GoFundme page and held two different fundraisers on campus, including a "Cafe con Leche" event in the library and dance lessons in Helm. The success of these efforts allowed them to provide donations to all of their partner organizations.

Students collaborated with Salon Literario and other nonprofit organizations conducting hurricane relief efforts and other community-based work. Feminist organization "Taller Salud," addresses women's and LGBTQ rights, provides alternative healthcare, and facilitates community discussions around domestic violence. Students learned about their local programming and their immediate post-hurricane efforts related to distributing water, food, and other basic supplies.

Students also worked with "Las Tres Mosquiteras," a nonprofit that helps communities build mosquito nets and water filters for themselves and their neighbors. Volunteering with Las Tres Mosquiteras allowed them to work closely with community members in the Cubuy region of Canóvanas. They praised the organization's detailed craftsmanship making mosquito nets as well as concern for vulnerable neighbors and thoughtfulness of all participants involved. At "Crearte," a vocational school located in Yabucoa, Bowdoin students met with youth who learn through "aprendizaje," a methodology focused on learning through artistic expression. At Museo de Las Americas, students encountered an exhibit, "Catarsis/Reconstruyendo después de María," displaying post-hurricane artwork, offering critical perspectives toward U.S. and international aid and Puerto Rican representation in the media.

Students Reflect on Their Experience

"We embarked on this trip to witness social and cultural intervention on a human level in the context of a natural disaster. After Hurricane Maria, we observed grassroots organizations that broadened their mission to make up for limited federal and international aid. "Taller Salud," for example changed almost overnight from a primarily women's health organization to a center for community health, nutrition assistance, child and elderly care, and, even, negotiation between broader state and non-profit networks in order to secure necessary supplies for

affected communities. This shift in consciousness affirmed our belief in the power of work that arises from within communities. We were constantly moved by such work happening. Remarkably, our most productive days were spent simply sitting down and listening to local activists and social workers. Hearing their stories, frustrations, and motivations justified our decision to contribute directly to these organizations so that they can continue their

work. We hope also hope to establish direct relationships between them and Bowdoin in the future.

Currently, we are working to establish an official Alternative Spring Break Trip to be offered annually through the McKeen Center. We hope to divide the trip between one group focused on education, which would work with Crearte, and another focused on public health and community activism, which would partner with Taller Salud. Additionally, we hope to institute summer internship positions with both organizations. Through these internship positions, students would have the chance to work closely with community members, understand community demographics, and begin to understand how these

organizations structure their approaches to health, education, service, and, most importantly, partnership."

“After Hurricane Maria, we observed grassroots organizations broadening their mission to make up for limited federal and international aid. This shift in consciousness affirmed our belief in the power of work arising from within local communities.”

"El rumor del palmar"

*Yo soy fuerte como las raíces de la ceiba
Le temo al porvenir, la niebla que oculta la cima
Me pregunto de dónde vienen sus lluvias*

*Mi pueblo es un arroz mamposteo
Los ojos de mi gente son un amanecer
Sus manos son raíces de mangle*

*Y cuenta mi historia el rumor del palmar
Reflejan mis palabras en las olas
Donde escuchamos
Somos el futuro de esta tierra.*

Sylvia Jimenez, '19
Diego Grossmann, '20
Michelle Veras, '20
Jonah Watt, '18
Leah Howard, '18

Mexico and the Journey North: On the Freedom to Move Freely



By Kelsey Freeman and Janice Jaffe

Photo courtesy of Tess Freeman

Kelsey Freeman '16 is passionate about immigration policy, indigenous rights, social justice, and public policy. Her work focuses on the effects that policies have on specific communities, an area she has explored through research, teaching, and non-profit work. While at Bowdoin, Kelsey developed and led a McKean Center service trip to work with Passamaquoddy Native American students, conducted research on Mayan education in Mexico, taught summer school at the Native American Youth and Family Center, and co-managed Bowdoin's Alternative Spring Break program. She also wrote a grant-funded honors project in Government and Legal Studies on the development of two indigenous social movements in Latin America, which involved a research trip to southern Mexico to interview indigenous leaders.

Most recently, Kelsey received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English and study migration in central Mexico. While working at a local migrant shelter, she conducted 50+ interviews with migrants and wrote about their experiences. She is currently finishing writing a book that interweaves migrant stories with anecdotes from her own experiences in central Mexico to explore broader political tensions relating to migration. Kelsey currently lives in Bend, Oregon, where she works as the Native American College Prep coordinator at Oregon's oldest community college.

You studied abroad in Mérida, Mexico, and worked in a school with a large indigenous student population there. What particular aspects of that work and your studies in the Yucatán led you to pursue a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant position in Mexico following graduation?

When I studied abroad in Mérida my junior year, I was already interested in indigenous rights. I had led a Bowdoin Alternative Spring Break trip to work with Passamaquoddy students in

Downeast Maine and done research on college-going trends among Native American students through The Mitchell Institute in Portland. Through these experiences, I began to see how education is a vehicle for sovereignty in many indigenous communities. In Mérida, I wanted to better understand the tension between conforming to the standardization in Mexico's education system versus passing on cultural knowledge. To do so, I worked with a professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán on an independent study in a Mayan school in the rural village of Canicab.

This project sparked my interest in a Fulbright in two ways. First, it gave me essential strategies for pursuing independent research. My professor was very hands off, which was difficult, but ultimately allowed me to figure out where I wanted to take the project and reach out to those who could help. For example, I met someone who ran a cultural community center in a village called Yaxunah, and the next thing I knew, I was there conducting interviews. That particular experience in Yaxunah also allowed me to see the intersection between indigenous rights and immigration. I stayed

with an indigenous man who had been deported from the U.S. three different times yet continued to head north because cheap imports from the U.S. had destroyed his agricultural livelihood. Immigration, therefore, was both a political and cultural issue. As I thought about post-grad, I knew I wanted to conduct some sort of independent project focused on migration, and Fulbright seemed like a great vehicle to pursue that.

How was the location of your Fulbright placement tied to migration, and how did you get involved with the migrant community there?

I was placed in Celaya, Guanajuato (Central Mexico), which is right along the path that many migrants take north. In Celaya, migration marks the city. La Bestia (what migrants call the freight train that they take across Mexico) bisects it, giving the streets a transient nature. Within the first few weeks of my grant, my supervisor at my university connected me to a migrant shelter, where I both led conversations about cultural differences in the U.S. and interviewed migrants. Although the conversation would begin with culture, we would quickly move towards talking about U.S. politics, which in the wake of the 2016 election, turned out to be a more relevant topic. Such conversations helped me create a comfortable space where migrants could open up, which was essential for the individual interviews.

Aside from my work at the shelter, I always kept my eye out for stories that would lend new insight into the issue of migration. I interviewed students and professors from the university where I taught, state and municipal government officials, friends who had previously lived in the U.S., and even the man that sold juice near my apartment.

How and why did your work at the migrant shelter evolve into a book project? What are some of the common threads that you felt important to share with a broader audience?

When I applied for the grant, I knew I wanted to write about migrant stories, but I had little idea what form that would take. I pictured coming away from the year with a few polished stories that I could share in my hometown in Colorado (which has a high immigrant population). But the more I interviewed, the more I wrote, and the more pieces there were to this migration puzzle. Eventually, I realized I had enough material for a book, so I started treating it as such.

In my book, tentatively titled *The Freedom to Move Freely: Exploring the Migrant World and the Privileges of Citizenship*, I interweave migrant stories with anecdotes from my experiences in Mexico to explore what it means to have or lack power as a migrant. I delve into Abraham's story as he was kidnapped by the infamous Zeta cartel, beaten, and barely escaped. I follow Jacqui, an eight-month pregnant woman traveling with her two toddlers and risking everything whenever she hauled her kids atop a freight train. I detail the stories of dozens of migrants who flee poverty at home only to become exceedingly vulnerable as they head north. The violence that they seek to escape continues to rear its ugly head. The result? A harrowing journey that strikes at the heart of the human ability to endure.

"Migrar es sufrir," many migrants bemoaned as they passed through the migrant shelter where I worked. Migrating is suffering.

The more I heard these itinerant stories, spilling out in various Spanish dialects, the more I saw that undertaking this seemingly endless journey north was the essence of being powerless.

The Freedom to Move Freely is ultimately about respect for those that overcome the systemic obstacles. It highlights that migration is a game of options, or lack thereof. Those that lack certain privileges are more likely to leave their countries but are less likely to have legal avenues for migrating. They then put themselves at extraordinary risk to climb the ladder towards perceived success. In short, a lack of privileges (such as being poor and from the developing world), leads to a lack of options, which in turn creates an incredibly vulnerable population

repeatedly traveling through Mexico and across the border.

You were in Mexico during the U.S. presidential election in 2016, and then when the travel bans and restrictions were issued in 2017. What kinds of responses did you see in your host community in Mexico and among the migrants at the shelter?

Almost every day, someone would ask me about the U.S. election, usually by tentatively inquiring whom I was voting for. It's hard to even write about this topic without exposing my own political views, so I will unabashedly say that being in Mexico in 2016 was particularly devastating for me. Students, friends, coworkers, and migrants would ask me about the election, and I would do my best to explain the dynamics that I felt factored into the result. However, many people I spoke to in Mexico were fearful. A friend with family in the U.S. asked me if I thought genocide against

“Those that lack certain privileges are more likely to leave their countries but are less likely to have legal avenues for migrating. They then put themselves at extraordinary risk to climb the ladder towards perceived success..”

Mexicans might break out. Migrants that came through the shelter brought all kinds of rumors that I did my best to dispel. My student turned down an opportunity to study abroad in the U.S. because of the increase in hate crimes associated with the election. As a Fulbright grantee, part of my role was to be a representative of my country, which was a difficult role to fulfill, but my conversations about U.S. politics were some of the most important moments of my grant.

Can you recommend a book or film that you read or saw in your time in Mexico that was especially illuminating for you in your work?

I did a lot of reading on migration, and some of the most informative books for me were Oscar Martinez's *Los migrantes que no importan* (titled *The Beast* in English), Luis Alberto Urrea's *The Devil's Highway*, Sonia Nazario's *Enrique's Journey*, Lauren Markham's *The Faraway Brothers*, Ioan Grillo's *El Narco*, among others.

The last part of your time in Mexico was rather turbulent. What happened, and what insights into the complexities of Mexican politics did you draw from the experience?

A month before I was scheduled to go home, my relationship with the migrant shelter where I had been working shifted. Just weeks before, I had started volunteering at a second shelter. On a Saturday afternoon, the director of the second shelter took me aside.

"The other migrant shelter is linked up with organized crime," the director told me, followed by a two-hour long story with all the details. I listened to his protracted story that meandered back to one basic theme: the director of Celaya's other shelter, linked up with a local cartel, was selling migrants to a human trafficker. In the world of migration, there are traffickers that are paid to transport migrants—the coyotes or polleros that supposedly guide migrants across the border. But then there are the traffickers that pay for migrants. They become bodies for the sex trade, organ trade or drug smuggling. According to the story I was told, these traffickers were of the second type.

The director showed no proof that his story was true, but he also offered such vivid details that it was difficult to imagine him inventing the whole tale. Suddenly, the supposed "sanctuary" where I had spent so many evenings no longer seemed so safe. But most importantly, what happened to migrants I interviewed? A raw and tragic truth revealed itself: I had spent months hearing hundreds of searing stories about the journey north, only to find out that the same tragedies were unfolding right before me, permeating the hushed spaces where these stories were told.

The few options I had showed me a lot about corruption in Mexico. What could I do with this information? Local police could be already

tied up with organized crime. The press was not a reliable outlet. The municipal government may or may not already know, since it helped fund the shelter. In Celaya, there was no telling who was already involved. So, I went to my one outlet: the Fulbright commission. And their response was to scoop me out of Celaya, plopping me down in a much safer city, and shield me from violence that only distantly touched me in the first place. A month later, I returned to the U.S., left to grapple with the extraordinary privilege that allowed me to leave while migrants continued to face atrocities.

How does one address the unjust force of the world's contradictions? I personally have to believe in the power of stories.

You've just begun a new job focused on college preparation for Native American students. What is that position, and how did your work at Bowdoin and in Mexico inform the path you're on now?

I recently started a position at Central Oregon Community College (COCC) where I'm in charge of creating a college readiness program for Native American high school students. In this program, students take a college prep course during the school year, followed by a weeklong academic and leadership course on campus in the summer. This new job feels like a wonderful progression from the work I've done at Bowdoin and in Mexico. From facilitating discussions through the McKen Center to my work with Native communities across the country to understanding the macro issues behind the daily barriers my students face, Bowdoin helped prepare me in innumerable ways. In addition to my work at COCC, I continue writing and navigating the publishing process, with the goal of bringing migrant stories to a wider audience.



"Rosaura" courtesy of Tess Freeman.



Kelsey Freeman

Alumni News

EMILY (SCHONBERG) COOPER '10

In July, Emily started working as an Alumni Relations and Events Coordinator for a small private school in the woods of Beverly, MA where they teach only French — gasp. At least Spanish helps a little! The man who inspired her to take Spanish, her grandfather and one of the great loves of her life, passed away this December at the ripe old age of 94. She would like to pass along this saying that he, Kenneth Carlos Schonberg, lived by (and, in this small way, keep his memory alive): “La vida es corta pero ancha.” So though our time here is short, let’s continue to jam pack it with good-doing, with wonders, and with loving all things we’re lucky to have and see, both great and small.

RUSS CRANDALL '94

Russ is finishing up a book on the history of America’s war on drugs.

JULIET EYRAUD '16

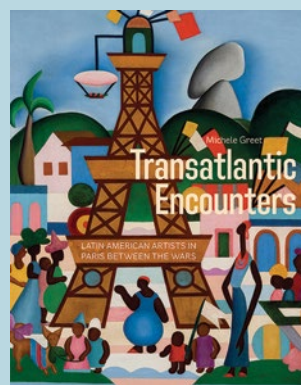
Juliet has spent the year teaching at la Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología (UTEC) in Lima, Peru as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. In addition to assisting in English classes, this semester she is helping develop a writing and research course with a professor and academic coordinator in the Humanities Department. Apart from her work at UTEC, Juliet is organizing 3 Hackathons for young women in Lima and Arequipa, Peru with funds from the US Embassy. The Hackathons, which consist of a series of workshops related to technology, engineering, computer programming and design, will be held in early May and will involve about 300 students. Outside of work, Juliet has enjoyed traveling throughout the country, surfing, hiking, and eating as much Peruvian food as possible. When she returns to the US in July, she will be starting a job at ThoughtWorks in Chicago as a Software Engineer.

MICHELLE GREET '93

Michelle is currently serving as President of the Association for Latin American Art. She has also received a grant from George Mason University to take her spring Mexican Muralism seminar students to Mexico City over the spring break. In 2017 she gave lectures on her research in Istanbul, Quito, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, DC.

KATE LEIFHEIT '12

Kate is in her second year of a PhD program in Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins. Her dissertation work is about the effects of residential eviction on child health and development. In addition,



Michele Greet’s book, *Transatlantic Encounters: Latin American Artists in Paris between the Wars* has been published by Yale University Press.

Paris was the artistic capital of the world in the 1920s and '30s, providing a home and community for the French and international avant-garde, whose experiments laid the

groundwork for artistic production throughout the rest of the century. Latin American artists contributed to and reinterpreted nearly every major modernist movement that took place in the creative center of Paris between World War I and World War II, including Cubism (Diego Rivera), Surrealism (Antonio Berni and Roberto Matta), and Constructivism (Joaquín Torres-García). Yet their participation in the Paris art scene has remained largely overlooked until now. This vibrant book examines their collective role, surveying the work of both household names and an extraordinary array of lesser-known artists.

she collaborates with colleagues in pediatrics on projects aimed at improving health and well-being among Latino children. This year, she was lucky enough to work on a paper about positive spillover effects of the DACA program, specifically demonstrating that children of DACA-eligible parents were more likely to receive WIC, compared to children of DACA-ineligible immigrant parents.

JACK MENSİK '14

Jack is currently pursuing an MA degree in Latin American Studies at the University of Chicago. He plans to spend the summer in Mexico City conducting fieldwork for his thesis on the use of rainwater harvesting systems in Mexico City’s water-stressed peri-urban neighborhoods. The fieldwork will be entirely ethnographic—interviews, participant observation, etc. His goal is to assess what happens to understandings and practices of citizenship when residents don’t rely on the state for water. He’s also looking forward to getting to know Mexico better and hopefully eating some good food!

ANDREA NOBLE '15

After returning from a Fulbright ETA in Ecuador in August 2016, Andrea spent 5 months in her hometown in Wyoming before returning to Maine to complete her student teaching with Bowdoin Teacher Scholars. In May 2017, she finished her student teaching

in Spanish at King Middle School in Portland. There, she was introduced to the Teaching with Comprehensible Input (TCI) method of language acquisition. It is truly amazing and a method that she recommends everyone checks out! She is now working as the 11th/12th grade Spanish teacher at Codman Academy Charter Public School in Dorchester, MA. Every day she incorporates not only language but also cultural instruction from her knowledge gained at Bowdoin, abroad in Argentina, and then in Ecuador into her classroom. She is grateful for the opportunity to continue studying and using the language as well as getting to share it with others!



CAILEY OEHLER '15

Cailey returned to the United States this fall (bringing along a feline friend from Bogotá) to begin work as a Spanish teacher and coordinator of global and multicultural learning programs at The Wellington School in Columbus, Ohio. The part of her work she is most excited about is founding a new program that sends all of their high school students to travel abroad during their junior year (at no cost to them). The students also work with faculty mentors for three years on interdisciplinary projects exploring global issues.

ALEXANDRA REED '10

Alex graduated from The University of Michigan Law School this May, and now she is clerking for a federal district court judge in the Northern District of Illinois. Next year, she'll be clerking for a federal appeals court judge on the D.C. Circuit. She was lucky enough to get back to Maine three times this year. She gave a talk at Bowdoin about the Department of Justice's investigations into police misconduct (thank you, Prof. Wells!). Then she attended two beautiful back-to-back Bowdoin weddings: first Ian Yaffe ('09) and Eliza Ruel and then Kyle Mikami ('10) and Rebecca Hoover. Both Kyle and Ian are LAS alumni too!



VANESSA RENDON-VASQUEZ '13

Vanessa is running her first marathon this November in NYC supporting Team for Kids, a non-profit organization that raises funds for inner-city youth fitness programs across the country. Her goal is to fundraise \$2,620 (\$100/mile). Please support Vanessa and

Team for Kids in their endeavor to provide kids with the childhood they deserve. Any donation, no matter how small, will make a difference.

If you would like to make a donation and receive updates on her running journey, please follow her on Twitter (@vrendonvasquez) and Instagram (@runningthevery). If you happen to be in NYC

and plan to be part of this incredible experience on November 4, 2018 as a fellow runner or spectator, feel free to email Vanessa at vrendonvasquez@gmail.com.

CHRISTINE RHEEM '15

Christine will graduate from Boston College this semester with a Master's in Secondary History Education and a license to teach history for grades 5-12 in Massachusetts. It's pretty exciting to hold the titles and training to enter into the hard and necessary work of teaching in public schools! She's also planning on adding an ESL license, so that she can be well-equipped to work with immigrant students in Boston. In the meantime, she's teaching 9th grade U.S. history in a diverse full-inclusion setting. Their next unit is centered around investigating the motivations behind, and consequences of, U.S. westward expansion and imperialism. She'll be including a healthy dose of Latin American history, especially around the implications of the Monroe Doctrine and the Mexican-American War. She's been learning a lot about what it means to take a field as broad as history and turn it into meaningful and relevant learning objectives that her students grow from and are engaged by. When she's not teaching in school, she's finishing up her graduate degree. A highlight from her program of study is her independent study on Boston's immigrant history. At the end of the independent study, she'll have created a curricular unit and materials based on histories of the many immigrant groups in Boston today and a comparison of the various waves of immigrant arrivals and integration in Boston's long history.

HANNAH SHERMAN '15

Hannah recently completed a Business Binational Fulbright in Mexico City, during which she took business classes in Spanish at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and worked at Collective Academy, an education startup that runs a part-time Masters in Business & Technology for high-potential, non-traditional Mexican students. Collective's mission is to create the next generation of leaders in the Mexican entrepreneurial ecosystem. She's decided to remain in Mexico City and will continue working as the Director of Marketing & Strategy at Collective Academy. She loves living in Mexico and traveling around Latin America and looks forward to doing so for the foreseeable future.

NATASHA SOTO '15

After college, Natasha worked in education in NYC while writing for a bilingual newspaper in the predominantly Dominican neighborhood of Inwood in NYC. She is currently working on several immigrant outreach initiatives at the New York Public Library. She will begin a creative writing MFA program at Rutgers-Camden University in the fall.

Continued on page 21...

The Crandall Family Fund at Work

Through the generous support of the Crandall Family Fund, this year the Latin American Studies Program organized lectures, symposia, and helped to fund student research projects.



Symposia:

"Aesthetics in Times of Emergency—A Conversation on Mexico with Guadalupe Nettel and Ignacio Sanchez Prado"

November 21, 2017

The crisis that Mexico is experiencing, as well as the unusual levels of violence since Vicente Fox's government openly declared the war on drug trafficking in 2006, are themes that predate the visibility given to Mexicans in current debates on immigration in the US, and are of equal importance to understanding what is currently occurring in Mexico.

Award winning Mexican author, Guadalupe Nettel, and Ignacio Sanchez Prado, a scholar on contemporary Mexico and Mexican film, joined Associate Professor Carolyn Wolfenzon in a conversation about the responses of writers and filmmakers to the crisis and escalating violence that Mexico has experienced in the last decade. Speakers demonstrated how, in times of crisis, literature and film engage with reality attempting to find new aesthetic ways of describing the ever more chaotic happenings of our twenty-first century.



Beyond the Postcard: Sights from the "Peripheral" Caribbean

March 1 and 2, 2018

From the times of Columbus to our days, when millions arrive in the islands under the spell of the global tourist industry, imagination has been a defining force behind the representation and the material

lives of Caribbean people. Caribbean artists have continuously contested the traps of the distorting mirror. Attempting to define the region from the inside, Caribbean intellectuals have depicted

both its heterogeneity and the common trends that bond the societies of the meta-archipelago.

Organized by Associate Professor Nadia Celis, "Beyond the Postcard" featured guest speakers from Mexico, Colombia, and the US, addressing cultural and aesthetic expressions from areas often considered "peripheral" within the Caribbean itself, such as the Continental and Diasporic Caribbean.

The symposium began with a lecture, On Demons, Patriarchs, and Folk Music: García Márquez's Caribbean, presented by Ariel Castillo Mier (Universidad del Atlántico, Colombia) on Thursday, March 1. Lectures on Friday, March 2 began with an introduction by Nadia Celis, and included La "bamba rebelde": Son Jarocho and the Sounds of Dissent with Bridget Christine Arce (University of Miami), Decolonizing Diasporas: Destierro Across the Afro-Atlantic with Yomaira C. Figueroa (Michigan State), and Mapping the Yucatan Peninsula from the Mainland Caribbean: Hurricane Stories with Margaret Shrimpton Masson (Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán). Presentations stressed the complexity and flexibility of regional boundaries, challenging not only popular fantasies, but also prevailing scholarly perceptions of Caribbean societies.



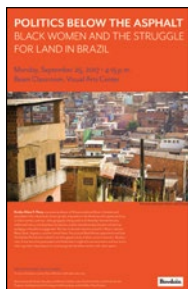
Intersections of the Avant-Garde: Spain, Latin America and the Problem of the Global in the Early Twentieth Century

April 17, 2018.

The end of the Nineteenth Century and the beginning of the Twentieth found the United States, Latin America and Western Europe linked in several ways: from wars such as the Spanish-American War (1898), or First World War (1914–1918) to revolutions such as the Mexican Revolution (1910–1930); from the economic depression of the 30s to the development, especially in Latin America, of modern cities and modern states. The circulation and production of literary discourses was not the exception: the so called historical avant-gardes of Western

Europe (Surrealism, Expressionism, Futurism, Ultraism, Dadaism, etc.) where appropriated and transformed by different artists and writers in the United States and Latin America. These cultural exchanges took place through critical discussions centered on the roles of art and literature in a world that was constantly and rapidly changing. This symposium offered the opportunity to reconsider notions of the historical Avant-Garde in the Hispanic World, taking into account the ramifications of two important axes: the individual/collective aspect of the avant-garde and the local/global one.

Organized by Postdoctoral fellow Sebastián Urli, the symposium included two presentations, “When Did the World Break? Radicalism in the 1920s and 1960s” by Gayle Rogers, professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, and “Living Out the Contradiction: Pablo Neruda and the Avant-Garde” by Greg Dawes, distinguished professor of Latin American literature and culture at North Carolina State University. Professor Rogers and Professor Dawes also visited Professor Urli’s seminar “The Hispanic Avant-Garde: Poetry and Politics”.



Lectures:

“Politics Below the Asphalt: Black Women and the Struggle for Land in Brazil”

On September 25, 2017, Assistant Professor Jay Sosa hosted Keisha-Khan Y. Perry, Associate Professor of Africana Studies at Brown

University. Perry specializes in the critical study of race, gender, and politics in the Americas with a particular focus on black women’s activism, urban geography and questions of citizenship, feminist theories, intellectual history and disciplinary formations, and the interrelationship between scholarship, pedagogy, and political engagement. She has conducted extensive research in Mexico, Jamaica, Belize, Brazil, Argentina, and the United States. Her lecture drew from Perry’s book *Black Women against the Land Grab: The Fight for Racial Justice in Brazil*, an ethnographic study of black women’s activism in Brazilian cities, where she examines their participation and leadership in neighborhood associations and how and in what ways their interpretations of racial and gender identities intersect with urban spaces.

Student research:

The Crandall Family Fund also provided funding for student research projects. 2017 Latin American Studies Research Award recipient, Jonah Watt ’18 returned to Chile over winter break to work in the archives of the Federación de Estudiantes Chilenos and to conduct interviews with student activists for his honors thesis, “Que vivan los estudiantes: Cycles of Contention and the Chilean Student Movement, 1906–present.”

Alumni News *continued from page 19...*

LAURA TILL '12

Laura is currently finishing up her 2nd year of medical school at UVM. She just finished her stint as leader of the Spanish student interest group; they’ve mostly been working with the migrant health program to raise language access awareness and recruit bilingual medical students to interpret for farm workers at the free dental clinic. She sneaks down to western Panama whenever she can to volunteer for Floating Doctors, a remote medical NGO affiliated with the University of Southern California. She’s looking forward to starting her clinical training this coming year in Connecticut and Florida, where she’ll be able to speak even more Spanish!

GEORGIA WHITAKER '14

Georgia is in her third year of a PhD program in Latin American history at Harvard University. Her dissertation is on human rights and neoliberalism in the Cold War in Chile, and she’s looking forward to spending next year in Santiago and Washington, D.C. conducting archival research! She also recently adopted a kitten, Zarzamora.

CHRISTIAN ZAVARDINO '17

Since graduating from Bowdoin last year, Christian has been busy working in his hometown on Long Island while applying to history PhD programs. He’s delighted to say that he has accepted a PhD offer beginning in the Fall from UCLA, where he hopes to continue his research into the religious, cultural, and imperial politics of the early modern Caribbean within the context of the Atlantic World. He was also fortunate enough to have an article accepted for publication in the *Michigan Journal of History*, an undergraduate history journal based at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The article represents an edited portion of the honors thesis he completed at Bowdoin (with Professor Wells as his adviser!). After spending nearly a year out of the academic world, he is more than ready to dive right back into it and begin his career as a scholar and historian in earnest!

The Crandall Family Fund for Latin American Studies

Established in 2013, the fund was created to support student research and to promote faculty-student collaboration, thanks to a generous lead gift from Russell Crandall '94, Associate Professor of Political Science, Davidson College.

To donate to the Crandall Family Fund, make checks payable to Bowdoin College and write “Crandall Family Fund” on the memo line. Donations can be sent to:
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Nature and the Body: Transformation and transcendence in Latin American Art

Susan Wegner, Associate
Professor of Art History, and
Ellen Tani, Andrew W. Mellon
Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow



Maria Sybilla Merian, Banana Plant with Teucer Giant Owl Butterfly and a Rainbow Whiptail Lizard, 1705, hand-colored engraving on rag paper. Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Lloyd O. and Marjorie Strong Coulter Acquisition Fund

Presented here are three artworks spanning three centuries, each of which approaches the cyclical nature of life in Latin American culture from biological, social, and spiritual perspectives.

The Bowdoin College Museum of Art recently acquired four important hand-colored engravings by the pioneering naturalist Maria Sibylla Merian (Swiss, 1647–1717). Her drawings and prints of insects and plants of Dutch Surinam rank as some of the earliest and most exquisitely observed images of South American flora and fauna.

Merian travelled to Surinam in 1699 at age 52 with the goal of recording the unique plant and insect life there. Thanks to the Amerindian and African slaves who assisted her, Merian learned the native names and medicinal uses of the plants she encountered. As an outsider to the plantation society that ruled the economy of Surinam, Merian criticized the treatment of slaves and the monoculture of sugar cane fields that endangered the variety of plants in the region. Her drawings and prints opened this tropical ecosystem to European naturalists, earning her accolades as an insightful entomologist and influential botanical artist.

Typical of Merian's images, her engraving *Banana Plant with Teucer Giant Owl Butterfly and a Rainbow Whiptail Lizard*, 1705, records the full life cycle of the Giant Owl Butterfly, from egg to larva to chrysalis to butterfly, a process of metamorphosis not well understood before her investigations. She also includes the species' favored food plant and one of its predators, thus capturing a tiny, complex interaction of species over time.

Another recent acquisition represents transformation of a different kind: *Silueta Sangrienta* (*Bloody Silhouette*), 1975, a video by feminist performance artist Ana Mendieta (Cuban American, 1948–1985). Mendieta, who immigrated to the United States from Cuba as a teenager, frequently made work about the relationship of the body to site, anchoring her investigations in the Afro-Cuban belief system of Santería. In *Silueta Sangrienta*, the idea of blood and body converge as Mendieta inserts her body, both literally and metaphorically, into the land as a blood-like liquid fills its impression in the earth. Blood, both as a physical life force and a loaded symbol in numerous belief systems, draws a visceral reaction that conjures a host of associations, from violence and disease to birth and vitality. It is a recurrent material and motif in her work, much of which embraced a broad and longstanding concern with the natural cycles of creation and decay in human culture, and the core of which is represented by her series of “earth-body” actions, films, sculpture, and photographs known as *Silueta*. As Mendieta described in 1981, “I have been carrying out a dialogue between the landscape and the female body (based on my own silhouette). I believe this has been a direct result of my having been torn from my homeland (Cuba) during my adolescence. I am overwhelmed by the feeling of having been cast from the womb

(nature)...Through my earth/body sculptures I become one with the earth... I become an extension of nature and nature becomes an extension of my body.”

The work was acquired by the New Media Arts Consortium, a partnership of New England colleges that collaborate on an annual selection and acquisition of one work of new media art. The consortium includes Bowdoin College, Colby College, Mount Holyoke College, Brandeis University, and Skidmore College.



Still from *Ana Mendieta, Silueta Sangrienta* (*Bloody Silhouette*), 1975. Super-8mm film transferred to high-definition digital media, color, silent. Runnign time: 1:51 minutes. Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Museum Purchase, Lloyd O. and Marjorie Strong Coulter Fund in partnership with the New Media Arts Consortium, a collaboration of the art museums at Bowdoin College, Brandeis University, Colby College, Mount Holyoke College, and Skidmore College. © The Estate of Ana Mendieta Collection, LLC. Courtesy Galerie Lelong.

Mendieta's video was also included in a selection of objects on view for a class visit in fall 2017. Professor Nadia Celis and students from her course “A Body ‘of One’s Own’: Latina and Caribbean Women Writers” (GSWS3326/LAS3226/HISP3226) came the museum's Zuckert Seminar Room to view works from the collection. Among those discussed was a photolithograph by Marta María Pérez Bravo (b.1959 in Havana, Cuba) titled *Oddun Para* (1997). On the open palm of each hand rests a symbol of an orisha, a Yoruban deity in the Santería religion. In the left hand, a yellow sun flower represents the goddess Oshun, and in the right, a blue lightning bolt represents the god Shango. Handwriting



inscribed over the entire image conveys a prayer to these orishas, their partnership symbolizing the balance and tension between the different energies of each deity, between female and male, and between water and fire.

Marta María Pérez Bravo, *Oddun Para*, 1997. Photolithograph on paper. Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Anonymous Gift and Museum Purchase, Lloyd O. and Marjorie Strong Coulter Fund.

A Year In Events

The Latin American presence at Bowdoin, 2017–2018



FILM SCREENINGS AND LECTURE WITH

RAOUL PECK. Meryem Belkaid welcomed the visit of Raoul Peck, a filmmaker acclaimed for his historical, political and artistic work. Born in Haiti, he grew up in Congo, France, Germany and the United States. His films include *The Man by the Shore* (Competition, Cannes 1993); and *Lumumba* (Cannes, 2000, HBO). He recently released his last feature film, *The Young Karl Marx* (2017). Peck's lecture on "Identity, History and Race", was held on 10/24/2017.

FILM SCREENING, *BENDING THE ARC*.

Coordinated by Greg Beckett, 11/10/2017. Thirty years ago, as much of the world was being ravaged by horrific diseases like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, three young people, barely out of their teens—Jim Yong Kim, Paul Farmer, Ophelia Dahl—came together in a squatter settlement in Haiti. Determined to provide the same world-class level of medical care they would expect for their own families to the Haitians that soon became their friends, they faced enormous obstacles that made them question the way they were delivering health care. In partnership with the patients, they would come to develop a revolutionary and controversial model: training ordinary Haitian villagers as health care workers. The groundbreaking work they began in Haiti would eventually grow to have massive global effects.

AIN'T I A WOMAN!: CORE ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE.

Hosted by Hanétha Vété-Congolo, 11/20/2017. This show is a musical and theatrical celebration of the trials and triumphs of four passionate African American women: abolitionist and womanist Sojourner Truth; anthropologist, writer, and womanist Zora Neale Hurston; folk artist Clementine Hunter; and civil rights fighter Fannie Lou Hamer. The musical score is drawn from the heartfelt spirituals and blues of the Deep South, the urban vitality of the Jazz Age, and contemporary African American music.

AN OTHER HUMANITY: AN AFRO-LATINX RITUAL REVALUATION OF SAARTJE

BAARTMAN. 11/30/2017. Nadia Celis welcomed Dr. Xhercis Mendez, assistant professor in Philosophy at Michigan State University. Her work brings together the trajectories of US-based

women of color, transnational and decolonial feminisms, sexuality studies, and Afro-Latinx/diasporic religion and philosophies. In her talk, Mendez challenged the representation of the most famous of the "Hottentot Venuses," who occupies the scholarly imagination as the preeminent example of systemic dehumanization and the production of racial and sexual alterity. Mendez highlighted what an engagement with Afro-Latinx ritual practices may offer to reimagining Baartman, racialized bodies, gender, power and the human.

KENNETH V. SANTAGATA MEMORIAL LECTURE: "DEFINE AMERICAN: MY LIFE AS AN UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT".

3/1/2018. Hosted by Marcos Lopez, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and filmmaker, Jose Antonio Vargas shared his experience and work. Vargas is the founder of Define American, a non-profit media and culture organization that seeks to elevate the conversation around immigration and citizenship in America. In June 2011, the *New York Times* published a groundbreaking essay he wrote chronicling his life in America as an undocumented immigrant. A year later, he appeared on the cover of *TIME* magazine worldwide with fellow undocumented immigrants. He then wrote, produced, and directed *Documented*, a documentary feature film on his experience. In February 2016, Jose launched #EmergingUS, a multimedia news platform he conceived focusing on race, immigration, and the complexities of multiculturalism.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN THE LATIN AMERICAN COLD

WAR. 4/26/2018. Allen Wells welcomed Georgia Whitaker '14, currently a PhD candidate at Harvard University and a proud Bowdoin Latin American Studies alumnus! Her talk explored the Latin American history of human rights in the context of the Cold War, focusing on the fraught relationship between the transnational left and the human rights movement. She emphasized the consequences that changes in human rights discourses during the Latin American Cold War had on how we think about state terror, neoliberalism, inequality, and the ways in which dictatorships reckon with the past and transition to democracy.