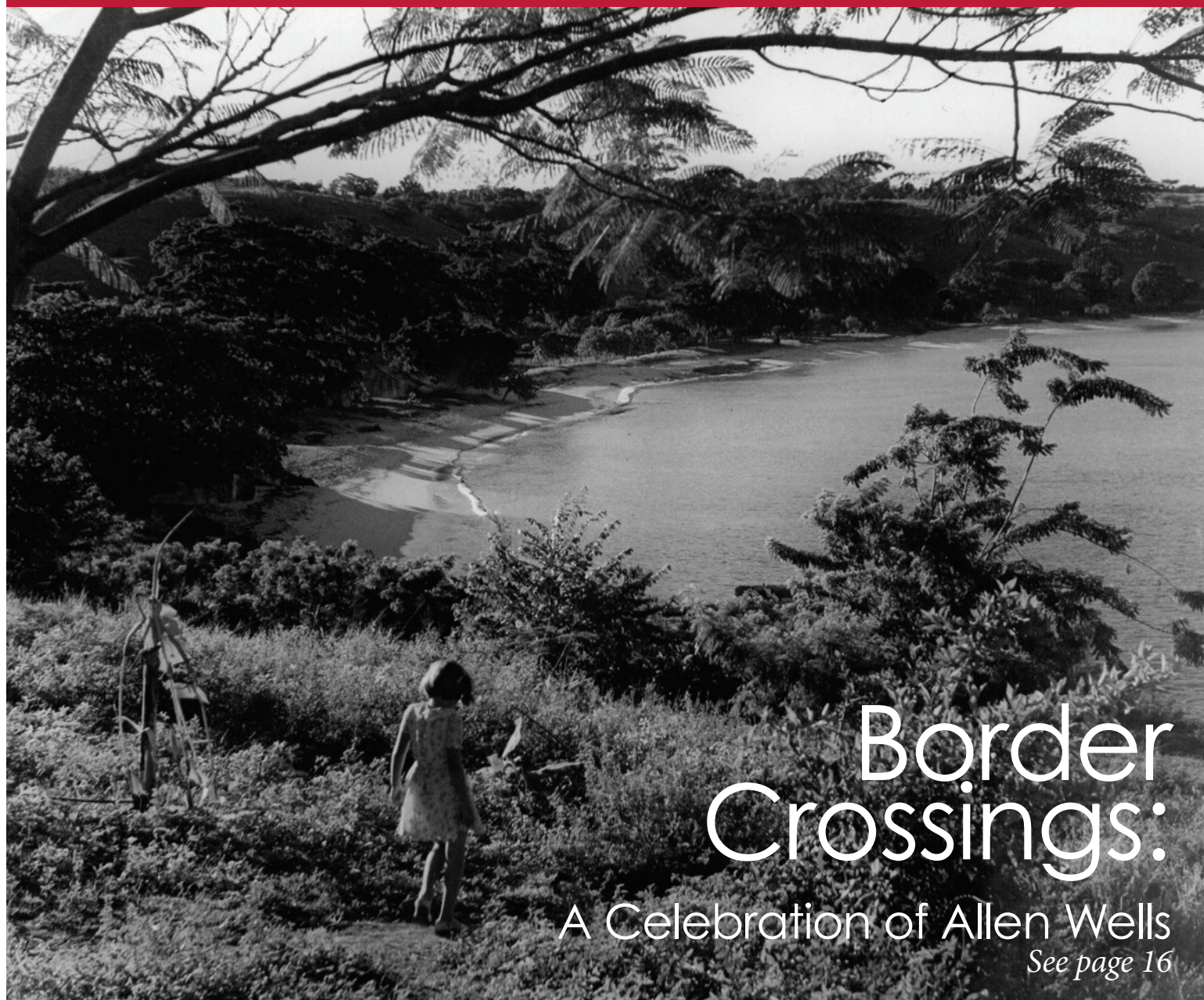


LAS Noticias

THE LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Bowdoin College, May 2019, #11



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A Celebration of Allen Wells

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A Note from the Director



Dear Alumni, Students, Colleagues, and Friends:

With this version of LAS Noticias we are saying goodbye to the traditional printed form of our newsletter. We are pledging to build on the robust community of our students, faculty and alumni, through a more engaging and up to date website, currently under construction. For those of you who wrote contributions and submitted updates on your life year after year, we are deeply thankful for your support. We'll be in touch and will continue to keep you informed on your friends, professors and new passionate students and researchers of Latin American Studies at Bowdoin.

As usual, LAS Noticias brings you snapshots from a year full of intriguing courses, thoughtful student initiatives (**page 11**), exciting alumni adventures beyond Bowdoin (**page 18**), and thought-provoking events (**pages 20, 21, and 24**).

This number opens featuring Marcos López's contributions to the LAS Program, our curriculum and students, and to his field, captured in an interview by our new historian of Latin America, Assistant Professor Javier Cikota (**page 3**). Our piece on Susan Wegner's course (**page 22**) gives you a taste of the amazing work that our professors lead in the classroom. We also continue to celebrate our faculty members' groundbreaking research and numerous achievements (**page 5**).

Expanding on our faculty news, let me share that, in the 2019–2020 academic year, LAS will continue to experience some renovation. Our postdoctoral fellow, Marcio Siwi, will leave us to assume a tenure-track position at a Towson University. After three years with us, Sebastian Urli will transition into an Assistant Professor line in Hispanic Studies, where he'll continue to delight both his students and colleagues with his passion for poetry and his expertise in the Southern Cone. Professor Ireri Chávez-Bárcena, a specialist in Colonial Latin American music, will join the Department of Music, where she will teach a course titled "Experiencing Latin American Music". Meanwhile, Irina Popescu, who came to us last year also as a postdoctoral fellow, will assume a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Irina will widen her repertoire by teaching an advanced seminar in the Fall on "Women, Activism and Performance in Latin America." LAS

faculty as a whole will be also working on the design of a new introductory course featuring contributions representative of our diverse areas of research and disciplinary backgrounds.

Turning to our students, we are highlighting Brandon Morandé's inspiring work about homeless people in Latin America and the United States (**page 8**), among other fascinating samples of ours students' engagement with Latin American realities beyond the classroom (**page 11**). We had an extraordinarily fruitful season of summer research projects, six of which have been awarded LAS Fellowships this year. We look forward to the outcomes of our students' explorations of media, dance, literature and social aspects of Argentina, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Texas and the Francophone Caribbean (**page 12**). Thank you faculty for your advising of these fabulous projects. This number brings us also the reflections of members of our Latin American Students Organization—LASO, on their experience and leadership at Bowdoin (**page 13**).

Finally, I am faced with the bittersweet duty of saying goodbye to Allen Wells, who is formally retiring this year. Allen, none of my words could suffice to express our appreciation for the incredible gifts you gave each of us, as a professional, and as a dedicated, inspiring, and unforgettable educator and mentor, both to our students and to your colleagues. Our readers will hear echoes of your impact on each of us over decades of teaching, through the piece on the symposium that the Department of History and the Program of Latin American Studies hosted on your honor last Fall (**page 16**). I have convinced myself, after long denial in face of your departure, that you'll be always somehow around, lending us your wisdom when in need. We know as well that you will continue to enlighten us with your research as you publish your current book-project, and more. Nevertheless, we all wish you lots of free and fun time. You have earned it through a life of giving! Keep enjoying the growth of your grandkids, and the love of your extended family of friends, colleagues and mentees.

Cordialmente,
Nadia Celis
Program Director, Latin American Studies

Global Labor: Marcos López' Journey from California to Maine

By Javier Cikota



Professor Marcos López met me outside of my seminar room on a windy day in late February ahead of our lunch appointment, and we braved the cold as we debated where to eat. We walked gingerly to Jack Magee's and found a table near the corner. As I effortlessly reduced a pile of french fries to salty crumbs we began talking about everything from mentoring, to research, to growing up in California's Santa Ynez valley, to life in different types of academic institutions, to early experiences of labor, and life in Maine. By the end of the ninety minutes, it was clear to me why everyone—from current and former students, to colleagues and alumni—can't stop raving about Professor López.

We started talking about student mentoring—clearly something Marcos cares deeply about—for students from traditionally marginalized groups, and the first in their families to attend college. Marcos shared with me the work that he has done in support of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows on campus, which

prepares students for a career in graduate school. Over the last few years Marcos has developed a series of benchmarks that he uses to identify potential students early in their Bowdoin careers, asking them if they ever thought about being academics, and crafting a research program with them for their junior and senior years. He asks students to think critically, and reassess often their research agenda, taking advantage of travel resources on campus

and through Latin American Studies to visit their research sites early in their junior years, before returning to do more intensive fieldwork during the summer before their senior year. Marcos' approach to mentorship extends to professionalization: he, for example, has taken students to conferences and symposiums on other campuses to help his students begin networking, and exposing their work to some of the giants in their fields.

In between sandwich bites it dawned on me that his mentoring approach grows out of his own academic trajectory, which built on a series of fortuitous encounters and hard work. Marcos tells me about growing up in the Santa Ynez Valley, a mostly horse breeding

“...his mentoring approach grows out of his own academic trajectory, which built on a series of fortuitous encounters and hard work.”

Continued...

Continued from page 3...

valley turned wine-growing oasis tucked in the mountains behind Santa Barbara in the central coast of California, and of a formative moment as a teenager. His aunt had always invited her nephews and nieces to work with her in a factory in Northern California during the summer of their senior year in high school. He had seen his older siblings go through this rite of passage and anxiously awaited his chance—but the summer before his senior year the factory relocated away from California to North Carolina, where environmental and labor regulations were relaxed.

Marcos still got to join his aunt for the summer but returned home with less money than his siblings had made years earlier. Beyond learning an early lesson about state regulations and worker's compensations, he brought with him a keen understanding of how his work output was measured on a daily basis. The way productivity was assessed in the factory revealed a grim reality of modern labor practices: "that workers who were perceived as being slow were sent back to temp agencies, while those that were good workers, fast workers, efficient workers were the ones that stayed on." Additionally, the experience placed in sharp relief the racialized experience of the factory: "most of the executives were white and well educated and the factory workers were predominantly black." What this revealed to him was "how even in a space as mundane as the factory setting, social inequalities are reproduced in order to allow companies to flourish." This experience would shape his research interests in years to come.

After finishing high school, Marcos worked and attended community college in Santa Barbara, before moving further north to the University of California in Santa Cruz. He would discover Sociology, and go on to receive his Bachelor, Masters, and

Doctorate degrees from UCSC. That early first-hand experience of social inequality came to inform his later research on labor, migration, and race in the San Quintín Valley in Baja California.

His relationship with the workers in San Quintín Valley is remarkable. He spent years conducting ethnographic research in the region, getting to know the mostly indigenous migrant farm workers and studying the effects of the agro-business on the humans and the landscape of the region. A few years back the farm workers organized a general strike to improve the working conditions, and gained important concessions from their employers. Marcos got to catch up with them during a recent

research trip—a reunion of sorts with people he had gotten to know years earlier, and who were now the leaders of a transformational movement. Marcos' face lit up when he told me that he will be able to include these stories as part of his forthcoming book *El Agua Caliente: Agrarian Landscapes, Water and the Undercurrents of Indigenous Farmworker Resistance*.

Before the plates were empty and we had to go our own ways for office hours, our conversation turned to teaching. As part of the Sociology and Anthropology Department

here at Bowdoin, Marcos has taught courses on Immigration and Diasporic communities, on Latinos/as in the US, as well as on the global politics of work. He regularly teaches a course on classical theory, and a seminar on current controversies in Sociology. I was excited to hear about his courses for the upcoming academic year: besides reprising some of his favorite courses (the introduction to Sociology, the Migration course and the global politics of work) he is teaching a brand new course, called Migrant Imaginaries, which looks at how migrants transform the places they migrate to.

“...even in a space as mundane as the factory setting, social inequalities are reproduced in order to allow companies to flourish.”



Pictures from the field.



Pictures from the field.

Faculty News



MARGARET BOYLE joined students and faculty from Hispanic Studies and Latin American Studies at U-Mass Amherst for the premiere of “Wild Thing”, an English-language translation of Luis Vélaz de Guevara’s 1613 “La Serrana de la Vera”. She gave a keynote in the afternoon before the performance and joined the director for a talkback with audiences

after the show. She also spoke with Leyma López, a director from NYC’s Repertorio Español about her current production of Ana Caro’s *Valor, agravio y mujer*, discussing the show at a symposium at Amherst College and publishing about the production in *Comedia Performance*. She also continues to research on early modern healthcare, in the last year presenting at the MLA and GEMELA conferences as she and Sarah Owens (College of Charleston) complete their forthcoming co-edited volume, *Health and Healing in the Early Modern Iberian World: A Gendered Perspective*. She has accepted a Fulbright Senior Scholar award as a researcher in residence at the Instituto de Historia de la Medicina y de la Ciencia López Piñero in Valencia starting January 2020.



NADIA CELIS enjoyed writing a blog for the Centro Gabo website, where she published advances of her research on “Intimacy and Violence” in Gabriel García Márquez’s work. She also completed and published the article “Entre el ‘crimen atroz’ y el ‘amor terrible’: Poder y violencia en Crónica de una muerte anunciada” (Revista AEGS 2019), that won the

Victoria Urbano Award to Best Critical Essay. She took a maternity leave in the Fall 2018 to welcome a new addition to the family. Returning to teach on the Spring of 2019, Celis designed a new course on the Colombian armed conflict and the transition to peace after the 2016 agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC EP. In collaboration with Professor Faveron-Patriau, Celis co-organized the colloquium “Memory, Truth and Justice: Lessons of the Peace Processes in South America”. This coming June, Celis will be welcoming about 600 members of the Caribbean Studies Association, who will attend the 44th CSA Annual Conference in Santa Marta, Colombia. In her role as the Academic Director of the Cultural Program, she has designed an exciting agenda of events, including expeditions through the sites inspiring “Macondo”, the imaginary town of García Márquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.



JAVIER CIKOTA spent his first year at Bowdoin developing brand new seminars on Race and Belonging in Latin America, and on Race and Gender in Borderlands. He also taught the Modern and Colonial history surveys. He is revising an article on responses to allegations of cannibalism in northern Patagonia and is organizing a panel on

“Argentine History from the Interior” for the Latin American Studies Association conference in Boston. Javier was honored to be part of a public lecture series for the Maine Humanities Council during Spring Break on Conrad’s *Nostromo*, where he gave a lecture titled “Bad neighbors: what Costaguana Tells us about Latin America in the World.” He is excited to teach a First Year seminar on “deviancy” in Latin America in the fall, and an experimental seminar on Crime and Punishment in Latin America in the spring.



Upon returning from sabbatical, during which her book *Guernica en la escena, la página y la pantalla* (Prensas Universitarias de Zaragoza, 2017) was published, **ELENA CUETO**



co-organized the symposium “Rethinking Galdós’s Studies” at Bowdoin. Her own study of 19th century author Benito Pérez Galdós in recent historical fictions and television period films is part of an ongoing research project on constructions of heritage in Spanish cultural production. She contributed an essay on the representation of Catalan anarchism in television series to the volume *Televising Restoration Spain* (Palgrave 2018), which was presented at the Cine-Lit 9 conference in Portland, Oregon and the meeting of the North American Catalan Society in Chicago.



Students in Celis’ “Attesting to Violence: Aesthetics of War and Peace in contemporary Colombia” with guest Irina Junieles (more on Junieles’ page 21).

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MARCOS LÓPEZ spent last summer writing peer-reviewed journal articles based on his research in Mexico's San Quintin Valley, which has become a major hub for strawberry production and a place of employment for over 90,000 indigenous migrant farmworkers that originate from southern Mexico. He continues to work

away at his book manuscript, tentatively titled: *El Agua Caliente: Agriculture, Water and the Under Currents of Indigenous Farmworker Resistance in Mexico*. Over the past year he presented his research at the annual meetings of the Eastern Sociology Society, American Sociological Association, and the Latinx Studies Association.



GUSTAVO FAVERÓN PATRIAU'S new novel, *Vivir abajo*, was published, in two different editions, by Peisa for Peru and Mexico, and by Candaya for Spain and the rest of the



Hispanic world. The novel is currently shortlisted as a finalist for the prestigious Biennial Novel Prize Mario Vargas Llosa. The English translation is underway. The fourth Spanish edition of his novel *El anticuario*, as well as its Spanish e-book version were also published in the last few months. Meanwhile, he is working on his new scholarly project, a book on Jorge Luis Borges's short story "El Aleph." In upcoming months he is invited to the International Book Fairs in Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile, Guadalajara, and Lima, and for a book tour of *Vivir abajo* in Spain.



IRINA POPESCU created and taught the first ever First-year seminar for LAS, "Human Rights in the Americas," during the fall. In March, she organized a three day seminar on Human Rights and Cultural Production in the Americas for the American Comparative Literature Conference in Washington D.C. where she presented a

paper on law and femicide in Argentina. Her article "Legal Frameworks and Cultural Media: Documenting Femicidio in Argentina" is currently under review. With the kind and generous support of Bowdoin College, she is also presenting two new papers on transitional justice and performance in Mexico at the Society of Latin American Studies conference in England as well as the Latin American Studies conference in Boston. Irina also published a piece on pedagogy in *Inside Higher Education* as well as a piece on Radical Art in Oxford's History Workshop.



MARCIO SIWI recently completed an article that explores Latin America's role in the renaming and revitalization of Manhattan's Avenue of the Americas in the 1940s and 1950s—one of New York's lesser known postwar urban renewal projects. The article has been accepted for publication. He is completing a chapter for an edited volume

on São Paulo and has been working on his own book manuscript titled "Making the Modern and Cultured City: Art, Architecture, and Urbanism in Postwar São Paulo." Additionally, he has taught a course on race and national identity in Brazil in the fall and is currently teaching a seminar on cities in Latin America.



JAY SOSA published an article "Subversive, Mother, Killjoy: Sexism Against Dilma Rousseff and the Rise of the Brazilian Right," in *Signs: Journal of Women and Culture in Society*. The article examines public representations of former Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff over the course of her political career. In 2016, Rousseff was impeached in a

highly controversial process, and many questioned sexist treatment against Rousseff. The article uses displays of sexism against Rousseff to examine the gender politics of Brazil's rightward turn. With the generous support of Bowdoin College, Jay also delivered papers at the American Anthropological Association (AAAs), Brazilian Studies Association, and the Association for the Study of Portuguese Language. At the AAAs in November, Jay began a two-year position as co-chair of the Association for Queer Anthropology. Support from the college also supported a research trip to São Paulo, where Jay conducted ethnographic fieldwork with LGBT activists after the election of Jair Bolsonaro. In March, Jay participated in the Superlative City conference at Princeton University. The papers from this conference will form a book, also titled *Superlative City*, for which Jay is a co-editor.



SEBASTIÁN URLI'S article "Soñamos una esfinge": Coleridge, poesía e imagen en Borges" was published in *Variaciones Borges* 46 (October 2018). He has also published two poetry books, *Diagnóstico* (Buenos Aires: Zindo&Gafuri, 2018) and, in collaboration with María Auxiliadora Balladares, *Urux. Una correspondencia* (Quito: Pirata Cartonera,

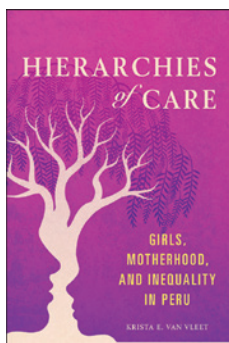
2018). He was one of the Keynote Speakers at the Symposium "Jorge Luis Borges, 40 años de su visita a Ecuador" in the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Ecuador in June, 2018. He also read at the conference: "Juan Gelman. Avatares de su poesía" at the II Feria del Libro Independiente in Quito. Last Fall, with the support of the Crandall Fund and Lectures and Concerts, he hosted the

event “The Contemporary and Its Discontents: A Conversation with Argentine Writer Sergio Chejfec”. And next July he will be chairing the panel “Políticas y poéticas de la ciencia (en la) ficción: algunos ejemplos contemporáneos” in the III Symposium of the Southern Cone Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Starting July 1st he will join the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Bowdoin as an Assistant Professor.



KRISTA VAN VLEET created two new courses this year, “Youth in Global Perspective: Agency and Insecurity” an advanced seminar in Anthropology and Latin American Studies and “Hierarchies of Care: From Kinship to Global Citizenship,” an intermediate-level course in Anthropology and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies.

Her forthcoming publications include a research article, “Between Scene and Situation: Performing Racial and Gendered Alterity in a Cusco Orphanage” (Anthropological Quarterly vol. 92, no. 1, 111-132) and an encyclopedia entry on gossip and rumor in the International Encyclopedia of Linguistic Anthropology. Her book *Hierarchies of Care: Girls, Motherhood, and Inequality* is in production at University of Illinois Press. She presented “Alterity and Intimacy in Traveling Performances” and served as discussant on “Feminist Genealogies and the Anthropological Imagination: New Research on the Andes” at the American Anthropological Association meetings in San Jose, California. She is looking forward to participating in the Latin American Studies Association conference in Boston this May as a discussant for the panel, “‘Hard Work’ and ‘Laziness’ in Latin America: The Racial, Ethnic, and Class Ideologies that Underpin Social Inequality.”



CAROLYN WOLFENZON'S article “El cine de Quentin Tarantino en Julián Herbert: la estética del límite” has been accepted for publication in the journal *A Contracorriente* for its May issue and her book chapter titled “Herejes de Leonardo Padura: una crítica al libre albedrío en Cuba” is forthcoming in a book about Padura’s

work. She gave a talk about the novel “Herejes” by Padura at the XLII Congreso ILLI of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, and she presented her paper: “El cuerpo en coma: la agonía de México en Canción de tumba en Julián Herbert” at the Conferencia de Mexicanistas, organized by the University of California at Irvine. For Bowdoin, she created a new class for

heritage speakers titled Spanish Non Fiction Writing Workshop, hosting journalists such as Leila Guerriero, Selva Almada and Néstor Díaz de Villegas. She took that class to the Boston Museum of Art to see Frida Kahlo’s art and a special exhibition from photographer Graciela Iturbide. She is working on her a book-project titled *New Ghosts in Mexican Literature*.



Carolyn Wolfenzon's class visiting Frida Kahlo's exhibition at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.



SUSAN WEGNER worked this past summer at the Organization for Tropical Studies’ Biological Research Station at Las Cruces, Costa Rica. Working at a project jointly run by scholars from Northern Arizona University and Oregon State University, she contributed to a census of fruits and birds, identifying and counting

each at preset locations at local fincas. This on-going project aims to assess the ecological value of planting fruit trees on the margins of small agricultural plots to provide food and habitat for bird species affected by the 80% deforestation of the Coto Bruces region over the last 70 years. In addition to the census, seeds collected from traps at the sites were sorted, photographed and planted to determine what types of food plants might be being disseminated by birds.

Mobilizing Rights and Humaneness



Interview with Brandon Morande '19 By Carolyn Wolfenzon

Brandon Morande visiting a homeless shelter during his Alternative Spring Break trip in Philadelphia

What motivated you to pursue a major in Latin American Studies (LAS)?

My interests in Latin American Studies have developed substantially over these past few years, yet perhaps somewhat aimlessly and often by simple causality—a winding path for which I remain deeply grateful to numerous professors. I first arrived at Bowdoin hoping to continue studying Spanish, immediately registering for a language course with Professor Faverón. In this course, Faverón exposed us students to a breadth of Hispanic literature with a passion that I believe encapsulates the spirit with which all LAS faculty lead their classes—a clear devotion

to learning that encouraged me to further explore poetry within the department. Why poetry? Honestly, I cannot provide a clear answer, but in the moment it struck a chord with me, helping me through many difficult moments in my life at Bowdoin.

However, pursuing this major has not simply entailed exploring language, but also the local histories, politics, and cultures of communities throughout Latin America, as well as latinx experiences domestically. Accordingly, over the past few years, I have also examined exclusionary US immigration policies with Professor Lopez, Central American revolutionary movements

with Wells, poetic resistance to Southern Cone dictatorships with Urli, and peace processes in Colombia with Celis. Such flexibility and breadth of interests within the department has allowed me to design a multi-faceted academic experience—an opportunity, in my opinion, uniquely available to majors in Latin American Studies.

Have you traveled to a Spanish-speaking country during your time at Bowdoin? What did you learn from this experience?

The summer following my first year at Bowdoin, I received the wonderful opportunity to travel to Cochabamba, Bolivia, fully funded by Career Planning's Preston Public Interest grant. As a health education intern with Mano a Mano Bolivia, I designed and taught CPR and emergency first aid courses for community members, drawing upon my experience as an Emergency Medical Technician back home in Vermont. In this position, I also attended staff meetings and training sessions, during which we regularly discussed government healthcare policies, social development programs, and non-profit initiatives. During this summer, I realized that addressing social issues often requires operating in the public—not private—sector, as well as demanding state accountability for respecting human rights. Moreover, I grew to recognize that health equity depends not upon endless humanitarian aid, but rather on principles of accompaniment and empowerment, whereby affected communities can assume a more dignified role in identifying, developing, and implementing sustainable solutions.

In addition to working in Bolivia, I also studied abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina during my junior spring, participating in an SIT program titled Salud Pública en Ambientes Urbanos.

Alongside other US students, I studied at Universidad ISALUD, a small, private university that specializes in medical training and public health. I completed three courses—"Health Systems, Policies, and Programs," "Epidemiology and Social Determinants of Health," and "Public Health Research Methods and Ethics"—as well as a Spanish language class specifically tailored to health policy. Throughout the semester, our group also traveled to Mendoza and Tucumán to explore how health disparities manifest in other urban contexts. As a core component of the program, I also completed an Independent Study Project, in which I examined access to primary care for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Buenos Aires. Interviewing municipal and non-

governmental service providers, as well as people directly affected by housing insecurity, I investigated how civil society networks, including grassroots partnerships and peer-based initiatives, confronted perceived gaps in state services. This study would thereafter ultimately inform my Honors Project in Sociology upon returning to Bowdoin.

In what ways have you connected LAS to your other major, Sociology?

I believe that my passions across the two majors have coalesced most profoundly in my Honors Project in Sociology, titled: Salud Callejera: Mobilizing Cuidado at the Margins of Neoliberalism.

Reimagining Care for People Experiencing Homelessness in Buenos Aires

My interests in homelessness and health equity ultimately stem from a personal family history. At eleven years old, I lost my father to a heart attack induced by chronic stress, depression, and high cholesterol. At the time, the 2008 recession had thrust him into a tenacious cycle of underemployment and housing insecurity, rendering him unable to afford health insurance or his life-saving prescriptions. In the fall of my junior year, I decided to develop an independent study on federal homeless healthcare initiatives in the US, ultimately concluding that most programs have failed to meet patient needs and, instead, treated homelessness as a symptom of chronic illness rather than a consequence of structural inequalities. Thereafter hoping to assess non-governmental responses to this issue, I pursued the aforementioned investigation in Buenos Aires while studying abroad. This past summer, I returned to Maine, hoping to pursue an Honors Project focused upon primary care services in Portland. Funded by Bowdoin's Denning Fellowship, I interned

with Maine Medical Center's Homeless Health Partners program, where I planned to collect data while conducting interim social work, helping individuals connect with primary care providers and enroll in Medicaid. Unfortunately, Maine Med would not support me as an undergraduate researcher.

Nevertheless, numerous professors suggested that I expand upon my research from Argentina, encouraging me to apply for the Grua/O'Connell Research Award and LAS Crandall Fund, which funded a return trip to Buenos Aires this past January. In comparison to my study abroad project, this thesis focuses more upon how state and non-state entities, differentially

Continued on page 10

influenced by neoliberal ideals, conceptualize *cuidado* (care) for people experiencing homelessness. To briefly summarize, I find that municipal services and, to a lesser extent, the public health system of Buenos Aires make individuals responsible for housing insecurity by ‘medicalizing’ poverty as a symptom of psychosocial illness potentially curable through economic and social rehabilitation. Yet, those who do not conform with such pathologization confront heightened criminalization and exclusion from care services. As an alternative response, I investigate the actions of grassroots and peer-based organizations, which reimagine care as a collective right and site of political mobilization. Fortunately, I have received the humbling opportunity to present this research in April at the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology’s spring conference in Santo Domingo.

Do you have any plans for the near future?

Yes—which now feels so relieving to say! I recently received the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, which provides a one-year grant for graduating seniors to travel outside of the US and pursue an interest that, although they may have developed over the years or only recently discovered, has aspects that remain unanswered. As a Watson Fellow, I will explore how peer-based communities resist the isolation associated with homelessness by cultivating an inclusive space for individuals to share their experiences, foster relationships,

and help one another survive the streets. More specifically, I want to examine how these communities occupy and redefine images of homelessness in previously inaccessible spaces, ranging from physical locations to artistic mediums. To unravel such questions, I plan to speak with people affected by extreme housing insecurity, ultimately aiming to better understand my role as a recipient of their stories and fuel my passions for promoting human connections via street-outreach. Although my itinerary will likely change, I plan to leave the US in late July, first traveling to London, where I hope to speak with homeless artists and photojournalists. Thereafter, I plan to meet with government housing first residents in Denmark, indigenous Māori in New Zealand, soccer players in Chile, and displaced refugees in Colombia, as well as interact with a mix of state, non-governmental, and peer-based organizations.

Beyond this next year, my plans remain quite uncertain—aspiring to either conduct street-outreach as a social worker, propose legislation as a public health lobbyist, manage free clinics as a nurse practitioner, or research homeless peer movements as a sociologist. Prior to graduate school, I nevertheless plan to work at least one year with a US-based non-governmental organization, serving individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Thereafter, I would ideally pursue a PhD in sociology or public health, either domestically at the University of North Carolina, Michigan, or Washington, or internationally at the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina.



Brandon teaching CPR with the Mano a Mano organization in Bolivia in July of 2016

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 McKean Center for the Common Good.

SYLVIA JIMÉNEZ '19 has been awarded the Latin American Studies Public Engagement Prize for her work on hurricane relief in Puerto Rico. Sylvia is a major in Neuroscience and a minor in Hispanic Studies and since September 20th, 2017 when Hurricane María ravaged Puerto Rico she has been working eagerly with the Bowdoin Community and with different organizations throughout the US and Puerto Rico to create awareness of the situation and help advancing relief causes. With the help of the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) at Bowdoin, they had two successful fundraisers hosted by local restaurants. She also organized a donation drive for Puerto Rico soliciting supplies from members of the community with the help of Student Activities and the Bowdoin Children's Center, as well as a group at the North Eastern University, who agreed to take the school's material donations. And she also helped with the organization of the McKean Center supported Alternative Spring Break trip to Puerto Rico. The purpose of the trip was to provide the opportunity for Bowdoin students to establish connections with organizations on the island and learn first-hand about the recovery process after the hurricanes, as well as the island's history and culture underneath the postcard-perfect image.



Sylvia Jimenez

BRANDON MORANDE '19 and **NAPHTALI MOULTON '19** have been awarded the John Harold Turner Prize in Latin American Studies. This prize is awarded to a graduating Latin American Studies major who, in the judgment of the Latin American Studies Committee, has achieved academic distinction and has contributed to an understanding of the region.

Brandon is a Latin American Studies and Sociology double major. He is currently working on his honors project on the homeless in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the national public health system that fails them, and emerging civil society care networks that seek to empower them. His thesis, *Salud callejera* (Street health): Mobilizing cuidado (care) at the



Brandon Morande

Margins of Neoliberalism, interrogates why public health services neglect to incorporate the homeless in program planning. Brandon has conducted research in Buenos Aires and has also worked with MaineHealth Access to Care in Portland, where he assisted those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and other low-income consumers enroll in MaineCare and connected them with primary care providers. He has recently presented a paper at the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology conference held in the Dominican Republic.

Naphtali is a Latin American Studies and History double major and he is also a Government and Legal Studies minor. Naphtali is passionate about Latin American History and U.S. foreign policy. At Bowdoin he has worked on topics such as the U.S. intervention in Haiti from 1915–1934 and U.S.-Argentine relations during World War II. He has also done a summer internship with the American Friends Service Committee at the end of his sophomore year, which has provided him with valuable experience in conducting policy research, speaking to politicians and staffers, and attending briefings in DC.



Naphtali Moulton

Summer Research Grants

We were excited to receive a number of well conceived proposals to develop research in Latin America with the support of our faculty. With our partial or full support, this coming summer the following projects will be advanced.

DIEGO GROSSMANN '20 will be in Bogotá, Colombia, working on “The Colombo-Venezuelan Border Through the Lens of the Colombian Press,” under the supervision of Professor Nadia Celis.

ELYSE VELORIA '20 will travel to the Dominican Republic to investigate dance. Her project is titled “Performing Identity: Bachata and Developing Dominicanidad” under the supervision of Professor Adanna Jones.

LAUREN ELLIOTT '20 will conduct research in Texas on “Bilingual and Dual Language Programs: Language and Cultural Preservation in Texas” under the supervision of Professor Margaret Boyle.

ELIJAH KOBLAN-HUBERSON '20 will work in Guadalupe and Martinique under the guidance of Professor Hanétha Vété-Congolo, on a project titled “French Antillean Identity: Across Lands and Seas” through his project.

ELLEN GYASI '20 will travel to Sao Paulo to pursue her project on “Politics of Positionality: An Exploration into Black Personhood in Brazilian Universities” under the mentoring of Professor Jay Sosa.

ELIANA MILLER will be in Buenos Aires to advance in her project “Life is but a Game: Simulacra and Deceit in Argentine Literature and Games”. Professor Carolyn Wolfenzon will supervise her project.



Diego Grossman



Elyse Veloria



Lauren Elliott



Elijah Koblan-Huberson



Ellen Gyasi



Eliana Miller

Denning Summer Fellowships

Through a Denning Summer Fellowship **ELLINOR HEYWOOD '19** worked with Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine to empower and support survivors of sexual violence. Her primary project centered around creating workshops for Latinx survivors of sexual violence in the Portland area, focusing on the experience of survivors with public services (such as law enforcement and the Department of Health and Human Services) and how these experiences could be improved. Ellinor also created a directory designed to improve resources for elders who have experienced abuse.



Ellinor Heywood

Through a Denning Summer Fellowship **JUDY OLIVARES '19** spent ten weeks at Child Protective Services in San Antonio, Texas shadowing caseworkers who worked one-on-one with families. This experience gave Judy an opportunity to research her Latinx target population and provided her with invaluable experience with child welfare. Judy's time in San Antonio is part of her journey to become a Child Social Worker in the future.



Judy Olivares

Alternative Spring Breaks

Cultivating Community: 2019 Alternative Spring Break Trip to Immokalee, Florida

Bowdoin students, led by **BEN HOPKINS '20** and **ARIEL GONZALES '21**, engaged in hands-on work and communication with migrant families in Immokalee, Florida. Students examined the impact of income inequality on immigrants' access to housing, education, and social services in a rural farming community. This trip further explored the impact of culture on shaping immigrant identity and experience. One participant summarized her experience by saying the trip “educated [her] about educational opportunities and systems in low income, underprivileged areas of America.”



Ben Hopkins



Ariel Gonzales

Opportunities Through Education: 2019 Alternative Spring Break Trip to Guatemala City, Guatemala

A group of Bowdoin students, led by **REYNA PARKER '20** and **LOUIS MENDEZ '19**, partnered with Safe Passage, an organization centered around the Guatemala City garbage dump that provides educational opportunities for the city's poorest children. Students engaged in activities to help them better understand the socioeconomic and political implications of childhood education access in the area. One student was able to “see the impacts of these [social and political] issues first-hand as [he] interacted with the teachers, parents, and students of Safe Passage.” While he understood the benefit provided by voluntourism, he reiterated “why it is important to tackle issues at a government level” in addition to the important work provided by volunteers.

Community Health & Advocacy: 2019 Alternative Spring Break Trip to Post-Hurricane Puerto Rico

ELLINOR HEYWOOD '19 and RAY TARANGO

'20 led a group of Bowdoin students to Puerto Rico, where they connected with community-based health and advocacy organizations to address recuperative efforts in Puerto Rico post-hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The group also examined issues of identity surrounding the relationship between Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland. One student “learned above all else how a small community is able to support its members,” not only through health-based efforts but also “in all areas of life.” She could see the genuineness in the way community members “frequently [and] lovingly” interaction.



Ray Tarango

Student Research

The Allen Wells Latin American Studies Funds also provided funding for student research projects.

BRANDON MORANDE '19 is currently completing his thesis project, Salud Callejera (Street Health) which investigates the neglect of homeless population within public health services in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Portland, Maine.

RAY TARANGO '20, is working on a project which centers investigating how an indigenous community in central-Mexico organized against the threat of violence in order to protect their land.

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.



The LHM kickoff party.

The purpose of LASO: a first-year and senior perspective

Louis Mendez '19 and Daniela Quezada '22

LOUIS MENDEZ '19

Four years ago on move-in day, my mom tried to leave without saying goodbye. Like any concerned mom, she was worried that my decision to come to Bowdoin would make me forget my identity, or that my upbringing would prevent me from fitting in. However, like every strong mom, she refused to cry in front of me because she didn't want her fears to shape my Bowdoin experience. Although this was four years ago, I still remember the moment I caught up to my mom driving away from Winthrop hall in tears. And, to this day, I'm glad I caught up to her because her fears caused me to look for people with similar stories in a campus filled with the unknown.



Louis Mendez

The Latin American Student Organization is an organization that has been dedicated to bringing awareness of Latin American culture to Bowdoin's campus. Throughout my time at Bowdoin College, I have seen LASO accomplish this goal while also becoming a

Continued on page 14

growing symbol for unity among Latin American students. I started going to LASO the week the gangster party had taken place. By the spring semester when the tequila party occurred, LASO felt like a second home. As a first year, I was conflicted by these events because their actions and the student responses were antithetical to the promise of inclusion and acceptance I was promised when I came to the college. Thankfully, LASO was the one place that made me feel like I could vent while also giving us the platform to take action.

In the following years, LASO's presence has grown on Bowdoin's campus. From the Latinx Heritage Months to the Quinceanera, these events were made to educate our campus on what being Latin American looks like while also highlighting the people who have made a positive impact in our community. Throughout the years, we have found ways to make our identity more accessible to the general community so that in the years to come narrow ideas, such as sombreros and tequila, won't be how my identity is defined.

My name is Louis Mendez and I am this year's LASO president. My parents grew up in El Salvador and immigrated to the United States in search of a better life. They have defined for me what it means to be latino, and my experiences have reinforced my identity. However, during my four years at Bowdoin, I have also come to learn that latinidad is a concept that has changed over the years. After four years, I believe people want something different from the organization, though I don't know what that is. Although I'm leaving in May, I look forward to seeing how first-years, such as Dani, help LASO grow.

DANI QUEZADA '22

My name is Daniela Quezada and I am currently a first-year representative of Bowdoin's Latin American Student Organization. Being an active participant in LASO has broadened by experience of understanding Latin American culture. I am a Latin American woman myself, a Chicana to be exact, and grew up in a community where I, as a Mexican, was the majority. Fast forward to my freshman year of college at Bowdoin, still a Mexican woman, but the complete opposite of the majority. I always knew that living in the United States, I was considered a minority, yet I never had the burden of feeling as such in southern California. I was aware of whatever culture shock Bowdoin would generate for me coming into school this past fall, but it is with our campus' Latin American Student Organization that I found peace, comfort, and, consequently, reconciled with myself in a pool that does not mirror my identity that I have long known for my entire life.

LASO has hosted a variety of social events this year, from sharing our culturally curated cuisine to discussing the perplexities of managing Latin identity on campus. One of my favorite weekly

meetings is actually quite recent; we had a guacamole and salsa making contest. It may seem very simple at glance, but a handful of members in attendance, a clove of fun spirit, and a sprinkle of chile verde created the perfect recipe for a taste of home. LASO has become exactly that for me; a home away from home.

Of course, like most affinity clubs, there are some struggles to be endured in facilitating such a meaningful organization. Absentmindedly, perhaps, I expected ALSO to be filled with most of the Hispanic/Latino identifying students on campus when I first arrived at Bowdoin. I have noticed this to be the opposite of the case; we don't have a large pool of loyal attendants at our meetings—only a handful of familiar faces. This may seem a bit alarming at first, but as LASO board, I have made an effort to connect with Hispanic/Latino identifying students outside of LASO meetings and events because ultimately, a LASO priority is to support, unify, and represent nuestra gente, on and off campus, regardless of labels. From this, I have noticed that many Hispanic/Latino individuals that do not frequent LASO but who occasionally pop in, are just too involved with other matters on campus, being involved, showcasing their abilities, their true selves—succeeding—and I find immense comfort in knowing that LASO is always there to support them and recharge them when necessary. Nevertheless, going into this next year and new LASO term, I hope that our members can grow closer, with higher attendance and passion, to develop a stronger familia that will become a defining part of Bowdoin.

I have recently been elected Vice President for LASO for this upcoming year, and I could not be more excited about anything at Bowdoin (except, perhaps, having vegetarian “chicken” nuggets in the dining hall again). Our new board is very passionate about the culture that we strive to cultivate on campus, only learning from past experience. An imperative concept we are strongly holding to heart going into the next year is arranging a programming of events that depicts the Latin experience across its entire spectrum, from Central America to the Caribbean. Our next step is Latinx Heritage Month which takes place at the beginning of fall, so get excited!



Dani Quezada



The original 2018–2019 LASO board under Louis' presidency.

Came to Bowdoin to Find her Place in the World at Home

by Elena Cueto and Yanna Muriel '05

Shortly after graduating with a double major in Spanish and Latin American Studies, Yanna Muriel moved back to Puerto Rico to work in her family organic farm in Utuado.

She soon engaged in the revitalization of agriculture on the island, that is, in making life in the country a viable choice after decades of steady abandonment, and reintegrating locally grown produce into a marketplace otherwise saturated with food imports. As she became a farmworker, farmer, market vendor, assistant cook, market coordinator, agricultural activist, and mother of two girls, she confirmed the paradox of how food is a very important aspect of any culture and yet its cultivation has become undignified. Her efforts to correct such perceptions were featured in the New York Time in 2016, as part of an expose about life in Puerto Rico and new initiatives that aim to transform it.

Yanna is not alone in her commitment to restoring pride and dynamism to the island's countryside, and beyond. She works from the platform Movimiento de Agricultura Ecológica de Puerto Rico, and is also representative for Latin America in the INOFO (Red Intercontinental de Organizaciones de Pequeños Productores Ecológicos). It is challenging, but Yanna remains focused on the important goal of supporting the construction of healthy food systems, like organic farmer markets that strengthen the work of "urban and rural farmers who believe in building self-sufficient communities based on the vital power of seeds to produce nourishing meals".

Yanna recognizes the impact of education and the role that Bowdoin has played in making her life-choices. She identifies herself as the product of a high-quality, rural public education system sustained by very dedicated and passionate teachers in spite of teaching a curriculum based on a colonial/Eurocentric perspective. Her first exposure to the history and geography of Central and South America did not come until she came into contact with high school teachers who fed her interest in the region. However, because of her impetus to integrate herself into

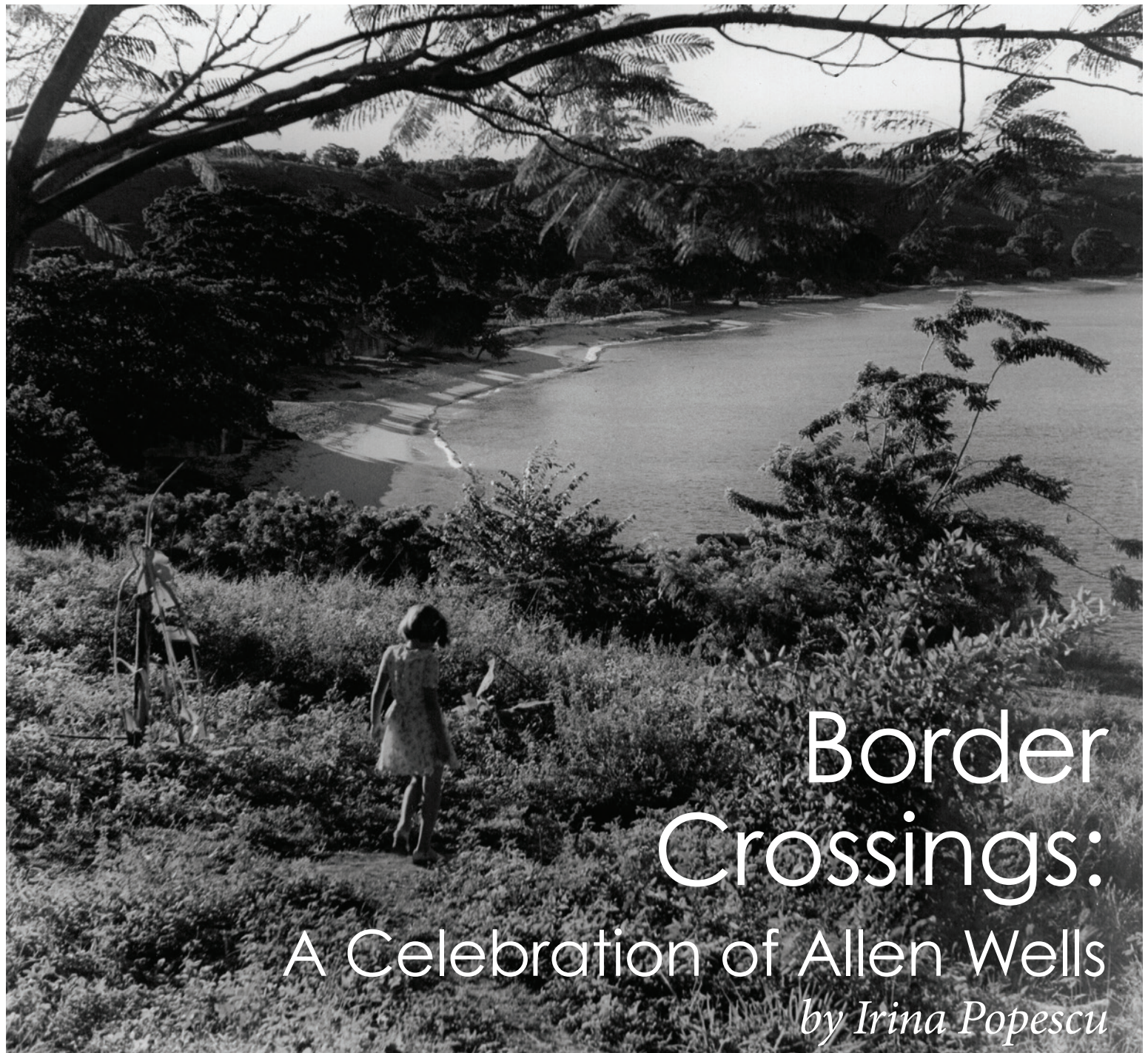
North American society she began her studies at Bowdoin in a different direction, by taking courses in government and the sciences. Yanna soon

realized, however, that these subjects did not motivate her. As she recalls, a moment of revelation came when her Salvadoran friend, Miguel Brizuela '01, perceiving her discontent, took her to Edward Pols House. There, after talking to the professors, she felt at home and discovered a path to continuing deepening her knowledge about Latin America. At the same time, she also began to pursue a certificate in education, which has served as the basis for the educational program Interpretación Agrocultural that she has since developed for farmers. She states: "The things for which we aspire: freedom, relevance, visibility, community, sovereignty, we can reach them by different ways. I chose agriculture."

Yanna has especial fond memories of the one-off team-taught course offered by the Latin American Studies program in 2005 titled "Caribbean(s)." In this course, she became conscious of the importance of political and social movements in Puerto Rico, in spite of the little existing research on the topic. At the symposium organized as part of this course, students had the opportunity to present their theses: Yanna's had to do with agriculture as a space of resistance and an instrument to acquire sovereignty in Puerto Rico, "the oldest colony in the world".

Yanna came back to Bowdoin in October of 2018 to participate in the Latin American symposium celebrating the career of Professor Allen Wells, where she presented on her leadership and agricultural management projects. She witnessed how the LAS program has continued to grow, as well as efforts to diversify its offering through guided activities that address issues of racial and gender equity. She felt satisfied to see a definitive turn away from the traditional and conservative visions of Latin America that still persisted on campus during her time here.





Border Crossings:

A Celebration of Allen Wells

by Irina Popescu

The History Department and Latin American Studies Program paid tribute to Allen Wells on Friday, October 26th with a one-day symposium dedicated to honoring his career at Bowdoin. His work has been a foundation for many Latin American historians and scholars worldwide and, as the symposium quickly showcased, his legacy continues on in the many students he has shaped throughout his years teaching at Bowdoin.

The celebration started with a dinner, held the night before, where Allen's lovely family, former students, friends and colleagues joined around a delicious Caribbean-inspired dinner. This set the collegial scene for the symposium the following day, an all-day

event composed of three panels. The panel presenters ranged from former students who Allen has and continues to influence, to his closest colleagues and mentors who have been constantly influenced by his scholarship on Latin America.

The second-day of the symposium, in the Lancaster Lounge of the Moulton Union, was a remarkable academic function bringing together senior professors sharing work that has been in gestation for a decade, young researchers sharing cutting-edge scholarship, and recent Latin American Studies alumni showcasing the nexus between activism and scholarship. Allen's dedication to interdisciplinarity within his own work was echoed by the panel presenters' diverse interests and approaches. Presentations included distillations of Inquisition records in colonial Mexico (Bill

Taylor), political biographies of retired governors (Ben Fallaw), research on racial attitudes in modernist Brazilian cinema (Chip Blake), on immigration law for Latin American scholars (Sarah Edgecomb), and even a roadmap to future historians trying to piece together the War on Drugs (Michael Lettieri). Audience members were privy to the many ways Allen brought together the different strands of Latin American and Latinx studies in his scholarship and teaching.

Steve Stein, a leading Latin American historian, and formerly Allen's graduate advisor, kicked the celebration with an unexpected break during his presentation, opening an assortment of Argentine wine bottles. Audience members were escorted to the main lobby and given two glasses of wine for the "interactive" part of Stein's presentation. As we all cuddled back together inside the Lancaster room on the quite usually cold Friday in October, we raised our glasses (this time literally) to Allen.

Allen has always sought to illuminate a wide scope of Latin American history both in his scholarship and in his teaching and this was showcased by the panelists during the symposium. As panelists discussed everything from the hidden economic forces shaping coffee production in "El Dorado" during the seventeenth century (Steve Topik) to the challenges of organic farming as an activist practice in Puerto Rico (Yanna Muriel), the effects of Allen's diverse and expansive scholarship were demonstrated yet again. Allen emphasized in his scholarship an attention to both large structures and intimate stories that have shaped the continent, and continue to do so. After all, history is not unconnected to the present, as Ian Yaffe, who works with migrant workers in the non-profit organization Mano en Mano (Hand in Hand) in rural Maine, reminded us. Allen's impact on his students always went beyond the the classroom and continues to enact real political change, as evidenced by all the panelists who applauded his constant support and guidance.

Many of the panelists alluded to Allen's empathy and compassion, underscoring how much Allen continues to impact the lives and works of those he comes in contact with. Miguel R. Tinker Salas, who presented on small but impervious ways in which the US drew Venezuela into its orbit during WWII, alluded to Allen as "the voice of calm in a department that was rather stormy" when remembering his time with him at the University of California,

San Diego many years ago. Michele Greet, who presented on the ways in which Brazilian artists pushed back against Europeans' expectations of their country, recalled that for her own work on Brazil Allen was "where everything began." Cassia Roth, who

presented her work on women and birth control in Brazil, shared the handwritten feedback to one of her papers which she had received a decade earlier from Allen. In a humorous anecdote concerning Allen's obsession with semi-colon use ("the semi-colon bugaboo"), Roth reminded the audience that what Allen did best was to make students realize that, in order to understand and effectively write about history, we must first learn how to approach historical subjects with empathy. These panelists and their warm anecdotes reminded us how Allen has undeniably left a permanent mark upon the intellectual and activist work of the many students who came together, from all over the Americas, to celebrate him.



Xander, Allen's grandson, giving a speech and stealing the show

Thank you to the History Department, the Latin American Studies Program, The Crandall Family fund and the Robert J. Kemp Symposium fund for making this event possible. A special thanks to Jean Harrison and Rebecca Banks for their tremendous work in organizing and facilitating such a momentous event. And thank you to Allen for being the kind of historian who teaches all of us how to be better humans today.



Allen Wells

Alumni News

IVY BLACKMORE'S interest in Latin America started with a class on Latin American Revolutions taught by Prof. Allen Wells. This interest grew and intensified during the two and a half years she served as a Peace Corps agriculture/food security volunteer in rural Nicaragua. During her time in Nicaragua, Ivy cofounded a weaving collective (<http://www.nica-tejidos.org/>) with her mother that has, for the past 10 years, worked to (1) enable the weavers to meet their basic needs, provide medical-care and a clean living environment for their families, and keep their children in school; (2) lessen the families dependence on traditional and limited agricultural production; (3) promote gender equality and new means of social interaction among the weavers, their families, and the community; (4) empower the weavers to build a sustainable business and save for the future.

Ivy is currently a doctoral candidate at the Washington University in St Louis Brown School of Social Work, Public Health, and Social Policy (<https://sites.wustl.edu/iblackmore/>). Since it was not possible to conduct research in Nicaragua due to the instability and lack of infrastructure, Ivy found an opportunity through collaborators to conduct her dissertation work in the Andes of Ecuador. Her research used mixed methods to assess the vulnerability context of three indigenous communities. Specifically, she characterized population and resource trends, detailed the seasonality of food availability, employment opportunities, and illness and, assessed household asset accumulation and perceptions of household well-being. Ivy will be at her first LASA congress in May 2019! She will be presenting her dissertation research as part of the Ethnic Resistance and Challenges panel.



Image courtesy from Ivy Blackmore

ZULMARIE HATCH is still working at iMentor doing college success with high school students in Chicago as their Associate Director of Program. This past August she got married here in Chicago and now expecting a little girl later this Spring!

MICHELE GREET is Director of the Art History Program at George Mason University. In 2018 she published two books, *Transatlantic Encounters: Latin American Artists in Paris between the Wars*, Yale University Press, and *Art Museums of Latin America: Structuring Representation*, "Research in Art Museums and Exhibitions" series, Routledge, with co-editor with Gina M. Tarver. She has two forthcoming essays in exhibition catalogues at US and Brazilian museums: "Para Francês Ver: Tarsila do Amaral's Brazilian Landscapes," in Tarsila do Amaral. Exh. Cat. São Paulo: Museo de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand and "Looking South: Lincoln Kirstein and Latin American Art," in Lincoln Kirstein. Exh. Cat. New York: The Museum of Modern Art. Over the past year she also gave lectures on her research at the Smithsonian, the Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas (Mexico City), Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City), as well as at Bucknell, Middlebury, and NYU. But best of all she returned to Bowdoin to participate in "Border Crossings: A Symposium Celebrating the Career of Professor Allen Wells."

ANDREA NOBLE '15 is teaching high school Spanish at Codman Academy Charter Public School in Dorchester, MA. She plans on returning to Ecuador this summer (where she did her Fulbright) to visit.

SOL RHEEM '15 is a history teacher for English learners at Somerville High School in Somerville, MA. She teaches all levels of English learners, from newcomers to advanced learners. She says it has been really exciting to adapt the U.S. History and World History curricula to be relevant to her students' interests and contexts, and she's pulled from her Bowdoin courses to do so - including lessons on Latinx immigration, music, U.S. intervention in Latin America, and decolonization. She is now working with a great team of educators and her students are amazing. She's happy to be an educator and looks forward to many more years of teaching.

NATASHA SOTO is in the first year of her MFA program at Rutgers-Camden University. She predominantly writes creative nonfiction, and is branching out into fiction and poetry. Spanish pops up in her work often, and she is enjoying attending readings in the Philadelphia area that feature bilingual and Latin American writers. As part of her creative writing degree, she teaches writing to freshmen at Rutgers-Camden. While she loves all of the classes she is taking, one of her current favorites is called “Writing Revolutions”, which looks at the rhetoric and poetry of revolutions in The United States and Cuba. As part of the class, she will travel to Havana during Spring break (and fulfill her lifelong dream of traveling to Cuba!). She is also enjoying revisiting some of the work of Latin American authors she was introduced to as a Latin American Studies major, this time from a craft perspective.

KENNETH WEISBRODE '91. In *Eisenhower and the Art of Collaborative Leadership*, Ken examines Eisenhower’s unique art of collaborative leadership by tracing its roots in his family and education, and then by measuring it against the standards of some classic texts by scholars of leadership and the presidency. It is a concise portrait of one of America’s most important and talented leaders, and a case study in sound leadership.

LAUREN WITHEY '06 is finishing her dissertation in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on forest conservation efforts among Afro-descendant communities on the Pacific Coast of Colombia. These communities were granted title to their lands, along rivers of the tropical rainforest lowlands between the ocean and Colombia’s western Andes, starting in the late 1990s. Yet their community organizations have struggled in many cases to establish the governance strength they had hoped for: at the moment they began receiving title to their lands, Colombia’s long-running civil war came to their villages, with fighting between the FARC-EP, paramilitaries, and Colombia’s national army. Despite violence and threats, many communities have resisted the efforts of these actors to displace them from their lands or drag them into the conflict. An interest among many bilateral aid organizations to support these resisting communities and encourage them to simultaneously protect the biodiverse rainforests of the region have led to a range of conservation and development programs there, with interest in such efforts growing in the wake of the 2016 peace accord between the FARC-EP and the Colombian government. Lauren’s work takes a grounded perspective on how the latest of these efforts, a climate change mitigation program known as REDD+, has landed in this context, asking what lessons the experience in Colombia may also have for forest conservation programs around the world.

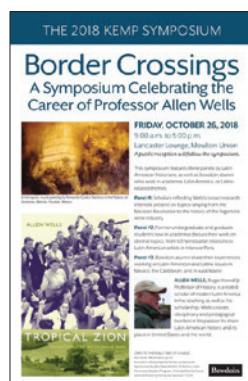


Image courtesy from Laura Withey

The Allen Wells Latin American Studies Funds

Through the generous support of the Allen Wells Latin American Studies Funds (formerly the Crandall Fund), this year the Latin American Studies program organized lectures, symposia, and helped to fund student research projects.

Symposia



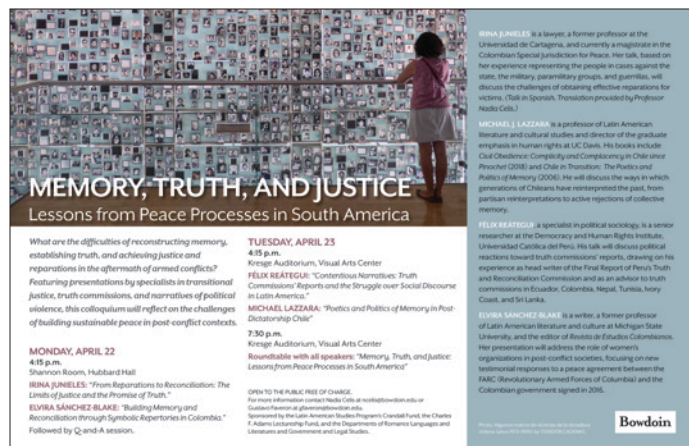
Border Crossings: A Symposium Celebrating the Career of Professor Allen Wells

October 26, 2018

This symposium featured three panels by Latin American historians and Bowdoin alumni working within Latin American or with Latinx-related themes. Scholars reflected on Allen's broad research

interests by presenting on a series of topics, from the Argentine wine industry to U.S.-Venezuelan relations.

Many of Allen's former students, colleagues and friends came together to pay tribute to his astonishing career by showcasing how both his disciplinary interests and his pedagogy have and continue influencing their own careers.



Memory, Truth, and Justice: Lessons from Peace Processes in South America

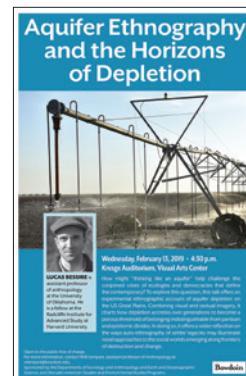
April 22-23, 2019

This symposium featured three scholars from the United States and Latin America working on the topics of reconstructing memory, establishing truth and achieving justice in post-conflict

societies. Irina Junieles is a lawyer and currently a magistrate in the Colombian Special Jurisdiction for Peace. Michael J. Lazzara is a professor of Latin American literature and cultural studies and director of the graduate emphasis in human rights at UC Davis. Félix Reátegui is a specialist in political sociology and a senior researcher at the Democracy and Human Rights Institute at the Universidad Católica in Peru. Lectures and discussion sessions reflected on the challenges of building sustainable peace in the aftermath of armed conflicts in Latin America.

Lectures

On February 13, 2019 Bowdoin welcomed **LUCAS BESSIRE**, an Assistant Professor of anthropology at the University of Oklahoma to give a talk called "Aquifer Ethnography and the Horizons of Depletion". Bessire explored how may "thinking like an aquifer" help challenge the crises of ecologies and democracies defining the contemporary. He offered an experimental ethnographic account of aquifer depletion on the US Great Plains to illuminate how settler legacies can shape new approaches to the social worlds coming from destruction and change.



On Monday 5, 2018, Professor Sebastián Urli welcomed one of Argentina's leading novelists, **SERGIO CHEJFEC** for a conversation on "The Contemporary and its Discontents". Chejfec is the author of numerous books, including *Los planetas* and *El visitante*. He is currently a distinguished writer in residence at New York University's MFA program in Spanish.



Colloquium explores memory, truth and justice after conflict

What does it take to achieve lasting peace? How do countries find justice when victims are counted not in dozens or hundreds, but millions? How do people reconstruct memory the conflict? What does it mean to say "Never Again"?

Those were just a few of the questions on the table at the colloquium titled "Memory, Truth and Justice: Lessons from the Peace Processes in South America," on April 22 and 23. Featuring three speakers with expertise in different Latin American conflicts, the event aimed to consider the challenges of building sustainable peace.

Irina Junieles, who spoke on Monday, April 22, is a magistrate on Colombia's Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz (JEP, or Special Jurisdiction for Peace), a transitional justice system created by the Peace Agreement signed in 2016 between the Colombian government and the FARC, a guerilla movement that had been active in Colombia for more than 50 years. Junieles argued that long term peace depended on not just the absence of conflict, but the extension of the full guarantees of citizenship to all.

A key part of that process in Colombia is the pursuit of truth. For the last decade the Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica (CNMH, or National Center of Historical Memory), has worked on collecting the memories of the conflict. After the 2016, a Truth Commission was created to complement the work of the JEP. The Commission is tasked with documenting evidence and memories of the conflict in order to document the effects of the war on the victims, support reparation processes and revitalize traditional cultures that have been marginalized or outright attacked. In her own work, before joining the JEP, Junieles supported the memory gathering process of the families of 15 rural residents who were assassinated in the massacre of Los Guáimaras in 2002. Though neither the perpetrator nor the murderers were ever identified, by proving without a doubt the existence of the massacre, their memories opened up room for the victims' families to demand further justice and reparation. In her current position, Junieles is part of the implementation of a justice model aimed to establish truth as a mean to repair the integrity of the victims.

Félix Reátegu, who also spoke on Monday, is a senior researcher at the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú and was the head writer of the final report of Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2003. He spoke to some of the challenges posed by truth-seeking, noting that memory is often construed into a national narrative, which

inevitably simplifies social diversity and pushes out certain voices that may contradict that narrative. Truth and reconciliation reports, moreover, are nearly always academic in nature, rather than written for the people who have been marginalized by conflict.

However, Reátegui noted that truth commissions, though flawed, are better than the alternative, citing Canadian scholar Michael Ignatieff: "Truth commissions are not aimed to be the bearers of all the truth that is there to be exposed. But they reduce the margin of lies that can exist without being challenged in a society."

On Tuesday, Michael Lazzara, professor of Latin American literature and cultural studies at UC-Davis, spoke about the construction of memory in Chile after the brutal dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Lazzara focused on the many iterations of telling and re-telling the story of Jorgelino Vergara. Known as "El Mocito," Vergara began working for the Chilean police at the age of 16, in a servant-like role in a secret detention center. When he was arrested in 2007—nearly two decades after the fall of the Pinochet regime—he testified against many ex-Pinochet officials, leading to 74 convictions. Since then, Vergara has been portrayed as a victim (for falling into the hands of the dictatorship at a young age), an example of popular fascism (for supporting the regime) and, later, a human rights hero for his testimony against other officials.

Lazzara criticized this last portrayal in particular as downplaying the gravity of crimes to which Vergara was complicit. He noted that, in the aftermath of a violent conflict, it's typical for people to try to reject any notion that they may have had some responsibility. However, the idea that "we are all victims" of a war or dictator dilutes the very real and painful victimhood the society's most marginalized experience.

After Lazzara's lecture, the three speakers gathered for a roundtable to take questions from students and professors. Alternating between English and Spanish (Junieles delivered her lecture in Spanish, while the other two had spoken in English), they discussed how issues of memory and justice played out differently in different countries and different eras. Still, they concurred that acknowledging that violence happened was the most basic, crucial condition for reconciliation, in any scenario.

The colloquium was sponsored by the Latin American Studies Program's Allen Wells (formerly Crandall) Fund, the Charles F. Adams Lectureship Fund and the Departments of Romance Languages and Literatures and Government and Legal Studies.

Seeing Ancient Latin American Arts through 21st c. Museum Websites

by Susan Wegner



Clay thread "mask" on Mayan seated lord (ca. 500–800)

This spring, students from Art History 1300: Art of Ancient Mexico and Peru took up the task of assessing just how visible arts from ancient Latin American cultures are on museum websites around the nation. They evaluated websites from the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine-Orono, the LA County Museum of Art, The Denver Art Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Using critical analysis of texts, labels, photographs, search terms and engines on the websites of these museums, they evaluated the appropriateness of varied terminology used, such as “Pre-Columbian Art” (Denver Art Museum), “Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas” (Met), “Arts of Ancient Americas” (Boston Museum of Fine Arts) versus “Indigenous Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas” and “Decorative Arts, Pre-Columbian” (BCMA). Since the Maine House, joining other state legislatures, just passed a bill on March 19, 2019, that would change the name of the “Columbus Day” holiday to “Indigenous People’s Day,” this was an opportune moment to reflect on the public use of “Columbian” terminology on websites.



Sabrina Hayden '21, Thea Bell '22, and others compare photographs from websites to the actual West Mexican effigy sculptures (200 BCE—200 CE) in the BCMA collection.

After examining a small group of West Mexican, Maya, and Totonac ceramic effigy figures close up, with the aid of Sean Burrus, Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow and preparator José Ribas '76, the students compared that experience to viewing these same objects on the BCMA website (a massive work-in-progress, only in its first decade of design). In the Zuckert Seminar room of the BCMA, the students saw the 3-dimensional ceramic sculptures in the round.



Sean Burrus, Mellon Curatorial Fellow, points out a Totonac ecstatic figure.

Thanks to Sean Burrus’s expert handling of the works, students were able to appreciate how Maya effigy figures made for burials were formed as whistles in order to speak the language of the dead. They heard the small clay pellets rattling in one figure, underlining the importance of sound in funeral traditions from the 8th c. in the Yucatán.



Garrett Mitman '22 scrutinizes a pair of battling shamans in a Colima vessel (100 BCE—100CE) that probably helped guard a West Mexican shaft tomb.

Using magnifying glasses, the class observed closely the textures of the materials making up these works, some of which are over 2200 years old.

In person, they got an immediate sense of scale, appreciated the fine, minute detail of the clay works, such as the “mask” tattooed on the face of a seated Maya Lord from the Jaina Island, Campeche, and noticed the fragments of color still adhering to the surfaces of the objects.

Finally, they recommended additions and improvements to the websites that would enhance the study and appreciation of these works from many ancient Latin American cultures represented in our museum and others.

A Year In Events

The Latin American presence at Bowdoin, 2018–2019



Where did Trump come from?: Reproductive Politics, Whiteness, and Neoliberalism

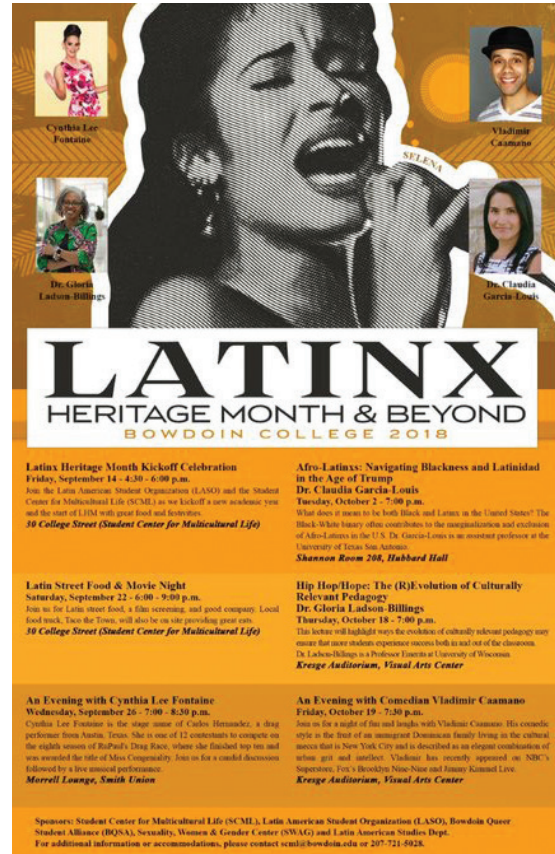
On October 22, 2018, Laura Briggs, Professor and chair of Women, Gender and Sexuality studies at the University of Massachusetts, gave a talk analyzing the transition from President Obama to Trump. Briggs' explored how both white supremacy and neoliberalism have been enacted through attacks on the reproductive and family forms, especially targeting women of color.

#MeToo in Early Modern Spain

On April 23, 2019, Professor Margaret Boyle welcomed Sonia Pérez Villanueva, an Associate Professor of Spanish from Lesley University. Villanueva's talk used visual, literary and legal histories to offer a rich examination of the cultural roots of gender violence. She introduced early modern artists and authors such as Miguel de Cervantes and Francisco Rizi, who portrayed female subjects as victims of violence in an aesthetically beautiful way, cementing the idea that female suffering is an essential and even pleasurable element of culture.

The Common Good in Tech: Behind the \$20 MM Facebook Fundraiser for RAICES

On November 26, 2018, the McKee Center organized a conversation with Dave Willner '06, to hear the story about how Willner and another Bowdoin Alumni set out to raise \$1,500 for separated families at the US/Mexico border. The \$1,500 initial goal took off as the campaign went viral, raising over \$20 million in donations for RAICES, a Texas-based legal immigration service non-profit.



Latinx Heritage Month

This year LASO organized a plethora of exciting events for Latinx Heritage Month. They kicked off the month with a celebration in the Center for Multicultural Life, where students, faculty and staff gathered to eat delicious food, listen to music and partake in the many stories that the students were sharing. This followed a Latin Street Food & Movie night, where the local favorite Taco the Town provide delicious eats. The events which followed were varied and powerfully captured the Latinx experience on campus. Cynthia Lee Fontaine, one of the contestants on Ru Paul's Drag Race gave an interview and a performance on September 26, 2018. Dr. Claudia Garcia-Louis from the University of Texas, San Antonio, spoke to students about how to navigate blackness and latinidad in the Age of Trump. On October 18, Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, spoke about culturally relevant pedagogy both inside and outside the classroom. The Latinx Heritage Month ended with a night of laughs, provided by Dominican-New-York comedian Vladimir Caamano.