On Wednesday, April 15, 2009, around 300 people packed the Gallery on the first floor of the University of Michigan’s Hatcher Graduate Library to hear Fr. Ernesto Cardenal, the iconic Latin American poet and social activist, read his poems.

Cardenal read his work in Spanish. After each poem, Keith Taylor, coordinator of Undergraduate Writing at the University of Michigan, read a translation in English. The poems ranged from musings on the ultimate place of human beings in the cosmos to elegies written to specific Sandinista compañeros killed during an assault on the San Carlos military barracks in 1977.

At 84 years, Cardenal is an intense and energetic presence. He leans toward his audience as he reads, his body swaying slightly to the music of his poems. His work is filled with both earthy humor and a passionate anger toward social injustice. He writes in the vernacular poetic tradition of Walt Whitman, William Carlos Williams, and the American Beat poets. Allen Ginsberg said, “Ernesto Cardenal is a major epic-historical poet, in the grand lineage of Central American prophet Ruben Dario.”

Ernesto Cardenal was born in Grenada, Nicaragua in 1925. He was forced to leave his country in 1954 after participating in an unsuccessful uprising against the Somoza dictatorship. He spent two years in Gethsemani, a Trappist monastery in Kentucky, under the spiritual direction of Thomas Merton. After being ordained as a Catholic priest in 1965, he returned to Nicaragua and founded a religious community on the island of Solentiname in Lake Nicaragua. He was one of the founders of the Liberation Theology movement and became field chaplain and international spokesperson for the Sandinista National Liberation Front. He was Minister of Culture in the Sandinista government until 1994, when he quit and denounced President Daniel Ortega.

In the tradition of fine poets throughout history Cardenal has sought to speak truth to power. Because of his participation in the Sandinista government, he offended Pope John Paul, who pulled his hand away when Cardenal attempted to kiss his ring during a papal visit to Nicaragua. Cardenal is currently under attack by the Ortega government.

Cardenal was introduced to the Hatcher Library audience by Rev. Joe Summers, vicar of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Ann Arbor. In February, Summers, who was visiting Nicaragua with a church delegation, met Cardenal at the Casa de las Tres Mundos in Managua and invited him to Ann Arbor.

Summers, alluding to the parable of the Good Samaritan in his introduction, asked what people would do if they arrived at the scene of a crime as it was happening.

“If we don’t intervene we are partly responsible for what happens to the victims. If we do intervene, we lose our position of being above it all and undoubtedly we will not emerge with clean hands. This is the dilemma that religious and ethical people are confronted with today. It’s the dilemma Ernesto Cardenal has been willing to confront.”

Following the reading, Cardenal answered questions from the audience. Fernando Velásquez, a poet from Lima, Peru with a PhD. in Spanish American Literatures and Cultures from the University of Michigan, assisted Cardenal as his translator.

Fr. Cardenal signed copies of his most recent collection Pluriverse (New Directions, 2009) at the end of the evening.

The reading was sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the History Department, the American Culture Program, Ann Arbor’s Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, and Shaman Drum Bookshop.
It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to reflect on recent developments at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS). This has been a period of extraordinary growth, beginning in 2006 when LACS became the first time a Title VI National Resource Center. Under our Title VI grant, our annual funding increased more than tenfold, and by means of this we have overseen an enormous expansion in our programming, in both its depth and its range.

Last year, we organized dozens of presentations and conferences, hosted numerous visiting professors, artists, and writers, and engaged in ongoing collaboration with multiple Latin American and Caribbean universities and institutions. Highlights included a reading by the important Nicaraguan poet and political figure Ernesto Cardenal last April and a conference on “Gender, Sexuality, Health, and Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean” last October, whose papers are now being published as a book.

“Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean” last April and a conference on “Gender, Sexuality, Health, and Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean” last October. LACS visitors ranged from the popular Uruguayan writer, singer, and plastic artist Dani Umpo to the distinguished social and cultural historian of Brazil and Haiti, Jean Hébrard, who directs the master’s program in colonialism at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris). Our ongoing relationships with institutions abroad, such as the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, have facilitated Michigan students and faculty participating in summer and term course offerings in Latin America and the Caribbean in fields such as tropical forest management, Quechua language study, and Brazilian modernist architecture.

Although LACS promotes the study of Latin America as a region as well as particular subregions within it (e.g., the Caribbean, the Andes, and Brazil), much of our programming in recent years has emphasized Latin America and the Caribbean as part of a broader Atlantic world, including the region’s deep and long-standing relationship with Africa. Our programming has also explored transnational linkages and globalization in other arenas as well. Finally, the breadth of our programming flows from our collaborative relationships not only with multiple programs and departments within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts but also with the many professional schools on campus, such as Law, Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Public Health, and Music.

Through these collaborations, and thanks to Title VI support, we have been able to boost the Latin American and Caribbean content of courses across the university, while enriching awareness of Latin American and Caribbean societies in all their facets to students of the region. I am happy to report as well that we have been increasing the number of concentrators in LACS as we work to refine our course offerings and requirements. Title VI funding has allowed us, in addition, to expand dramatically our outreach efforts, especially to K-12 schools as well as the broader Ann Arbor community. Such outreach has been a vital part of our center in recent years.

We can report too growth in the funds available to graduate students pursuing Latin American and Caribbean topics, thanks to the generosity of alumnus Alfredo Gutiérrez. In 2008 Mr. Gutiérrez donated $250,000 to the University to endow the Alfredo D. and Luz María P. Gutiérrez Dissertation Grant in Latin American Studies, to which University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman added $100,000 in matching funds. LACS has been placed in charge of administering this grant, which in its first year made two awards of $5,000 and in its second one award of $10,000 to fund graduate students during the completion of their dissertations. We are currently pursuing further sources of private funding to support student and faculty exchanges with Latin American universities and ultimately, we hope, to invite an annual visiting professor from Latin America.

These past two years have been remarkably fruitful. And none of the work accomplished by LACS in this period would have been possible without the extraordinarily high level of skill, talent, and dedication of the administrators who run the program: David Frye, who oversees curricular matters and is LACS’s most senior administrator; Bebete Martins, who designs and implements outreach and over-sees general administration (our Key-Ad); and Stephanie Davis, our new Center Coordinator and financial expert. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with and learn from them. I will be on academic leave in 2009-2010, during which time Professor Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof will serve as Interim Director. Thanks to Jesse’s willingness to take on this responsibility, LACS will be in excellent hands.

For 2009-2010 LACS will have an Interim Director, Associate Professor of History and American Culture Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof. Professor Hoffnung-Garskof holds a Ph.D from Princeton University and his area of interest include modern Latin American and Caribbean History, Latino/a Studies, international migrations and transnationalism, music and popular culture, cities, the poor and social movements, and oral history. His book A Tale of Two Cities: Santo Domingo and New York after 1950, was published in 2008 by Princeton University Press. He also has a chapter titled “Michiyag” in Latin American: State by State, edited by Mark Overmyer-Velázquez for Greenwood Press, 2008. Professor Hoffnung-Garskof is looking forward to contributing to the further development of LACS as interim Director in the upcoming year.
Latino rights activists might approach working within or beyond these structures’ restrictions.

Gerry Cadava’s presentation, “Cultural migrations in the Arizona-Sonora Borderlands” challenged the way in which United States immigration debates focusing on the Arizona-Sonora border region have centered on the border as only a point of “labor exchange and criminal activity.” Cadava argues that “this narrow definition of movement between the United States and Mexico not only perpetuates discriminatory representations of Mexicans as little more than poor immigrants, but also ignores the several other migrations—of cowboys, shoppers, students, and art—that have transformed the border region during the post-war era.” Through his cultural historical analysis of department stores as borderland spaces in which Mexicans and Mexican Americans engaged in various consumer practices, Cadava reconstructs a border region that is far more dynamic and complex. In comments following his presentation, Cadava discussed the importance of investigating a wide range of social and cultural spaces through which migrants move.

In commenting on the two presentations, Jesse Hoffnung-Ganski noted that both interrogated the role of Latinos as consumers within the United States and the relationship of this role to the construction of Latino identities. The panel also explored different types of archival and ethnographic research methods that can be used to investigate these questions.

Reflecting upon his participation in the conference, Cadava remarked that the most memorable part of his experience would be meeting the graduate students and faculty at the University of Michigan that make up a “vibrant community of Latin Americanists and Latin Studies scholars.” He noted that it was “admirable the way that [UM’s] Latin American and Latin Studies programs work together to develop scholarship on the Americas.”

LACS Outreach

Outreach, particularly targeting K-12 teachers, is an important part of LACS’s mission, and we try to integrate it into all of our other activities. LACS sponsors or co-sponsors nearly 100 public events each year, including Latin American film screenings, book launches and readings by authors at bookshops and public libraries, art and photography exhibits, concerts, and conferences and roundtable discussions on a variety of scholarly and current news topics. At many of these events, LACS distributes materials for use in K-12 classrooms and creates a related resource page on its website. In addition, LACS makes an effort to involve our visitors from Latin America in some form of community outreach. An average of twenty Latin American scholars and artists visit LACS each year for varying lengths of time.

Some of our most popular activities are created in collaboration with the University Musical Society (UMS). UMS consults with LACS to select world-class Latin American artists to include in yearly programming. LACS and UMS staff collaborate on outreach activities that accompany each performance.

Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

The LACS certificate is designed for students enrolled in a graduate degree program at the University of Michigan, and can be combined with either a masters or a doctoral degree. The Certificate Program is a flexible grouping of courses across at least three disciplinary fields. Along with the application for entry into the program, each student will submit to the Graduate Committee a list of proposed courses that will fulfill the requirement and a brief letter explaining the rationale of the course of study. The course list must include 15 or more credit hours of approved graduate-level courses at least three different departments or schools. Up to six of the fifteen credit hours may be courses that are required for the student’s graduate or professional degree. Up to four of the fifteen credit hours may consist of graduate-level language instruction, such as that offered in the LACS Quechua series. Of the 15 credit hours in the Certificate Program, three will be earned in a required introductory course, LACS 619 “Proseminar on Latin American and Caribbean Studies,” which is offered each year. This course provides a general introduction for graduate and professional school students to Latin America and the Caribbean in the 20th century. There is also a language requirement for the program. To find out more about the Graduate Certificate program, see the LACS website.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies was given a new official status and a new title in May 2009. We are now the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. We will still be known, however, by our beloved old initials, LACS, in honor of our unique origins.

Latin American studies at UM has its roots in the work of such luminaries as Irving Leonard, Professor of Spanish from 1942 to 1966, and Charles Gibson, Professor of History from 1939 to 1984. Months after Gibson’s retirement in 1984, a handful of UM professors came together to propose the creation of an interdisciplinary undergraduate concentration program to be known as the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program.

The hard work of professors Daniel Levine (Political Science), Jeff Parsons (Anthropology) and Laura Kasian (History) paid off. LACS was recognized in 1984 as an undergraduate major. Six years later, in Fall 1990, it was expanded, organized, and formally recognized as an area studies program by LSA, with Professor Scott serving as its founding director.

Since then, LACS has grown dramatically. In 1993 it became a constituent unit of the newly founded International Institute. By 1997 it was already a major interdisciplinary program, linking Latin Americanist and Caribbeanist faculty members from more than a dozen departments and professional schools. That was the year when LACS first received national recognition for excellence as an academic area studies program from the U.S. Department of Education, which awarded LACS the first of many FLAS graduate fellowships in Latin American languages and area studies. Although, LACS has gone on to increase the number of Latin American FLAS fellowship available at UM in every subsequent Department of Education Title VI funding round, growing from two academic year scholarships in 1997 to five today.

In conjunction with the FLAS award, then-director of LACS and Professor of Anthropology Bruce Mannheim initiated the appointment of the University’s first Lecturer in Quechua in the 1999-2000 academic year and created a summer Quechua language program in Cusco, Peru. More recently, LACS has lent support to the Lujo Brazilian Initiative originated by a number of professors in Romance Languages and Literatures, which aims to increase the presence of Portuguese and Brazilian studies on campus.

In 2000 LACS expanded service to undergraduate students by offering a minor; in 2001 it began offering a LACS certificate program to graduate students. Steadily increasing activity at LACS throughout these years was reflected in a jump in the number of students and affiliates on its email bulletin list and by a steadily growing number of events organized or sponsored by LACS. In 2006, the U.S. Department of Education further recognized LACS as a center of excellence in area research by making it one of twenty-four Title VI National Resource Centers for Latin American and Caribbean Studies across the United States.

We have, in addition, broadened the scope of LACS to include K-12 outreach as well as support for new curricular initiatives. In recent years we have also invited a significant number of visiting scholars as well as artists to campus. Above all, we have organized an extraordinary number of special events and programs in Latin American Studies, including lectures, conferences, and workshops. Most of these initiatives have been supported by the National Resource Center funding that we received through our 2005 application to the Department of Education.

LACS is now operating at a level comparable to the top Latin American Studies Centers in the United States, as well as to the other NRC-funded area studies centers at the University of Michigan.

Spanish language classes are reintroduced. For the next two decades Spanish is taught in alternate years with Italian; beginning in 1886, multiple levels of Spanish are offered every semester.

Spanish language classes are reintroduced. For the next two decades Spanish is taught in alternate years with Italian; beginning in 1886, multiple levels of Spanish are offered every semester.

The “Good Neighbor Policy” adopted by the Roosevelt administration towards Latin America led to a large increase in the enrollment of Latin American students at UM. In the summer of 1940, at the invitation of the U.S. State Department, the UM International Center hosted a group of students from Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. At the same time, a student exchange program was negotiated with Brazil. For the next several years this program allowed UM to send graduate students to Brazil and to receive advanced students from that country in return. These “Good Neighbor” policies led in November 1941 to the creation of a Committee on Latin American Affairs at UM.

The European focus of Spanish instruction at UM begins to shift towards Latin America with the hiring of Irving Leonard as professor of Spanish. After Arthur Aiton’s semi-retirement due to illness in the mid-1940s, Leonard’s appointment was shifted to the History department, where he was named the Domingo Sarmiento Professor of History from 1962 until his retirement in 1966. Leonard wrote a number of books about the literary culture of colonial Latin America.

Charles Gibson is hired as professor of Latin American history (1959-1984). It is at UM that Gibson worked on the Aztecs under Spanish Rule.

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program is recognized by LSA as an interdisciplinary undergraduate concentration program.

LACS is expanded, organized, and formally recognized as an area studies program by LSA. The founding director is Professor Rebecca Scott (Winter 1991).

LACS becomes a constituent unit of the newly founded International Institute.

LACS receives Title VI funding from the U.S. Department of Education to award FLAS graduate fellowships, in recognition of its excellence as an academic area studies program.

LACS hires Serafín Coronel Molina at the first UM Lecturer in Quechua, firmly establishing the LACS Quechua program that was begun in 1996 by Professor Bruce Mannheim.

LACS adds a Minor to its undergraduate major.

LACS begins offering a graduate certificate program to students enrolled in UM graduate and professional school programs.

The U.S. Department of Education further recognizes LACS as a center of excellence in area research by making it one of twenty-four Title VI National Resource Centers for Latin American and Caribbean Studies in the United States.
2008–2009 CONFERENCES

SEPTEMBER
“Naming Practices in Brazilian and Caribbean History”
Participants considered the symbolic and practical significance of inscribing names on official documents as a way of marking or un-marking out-of-wedlock birth and its association with a dishonorable past, frequently including slave ancestry. Participants included Susann Caulfield (History, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana-Bogotá, Myriam Costillas, Slavery Research Center, French National Center for Scientific Research, Zephyr Frank, History, Stanford University, Jean Michel Hébrard, Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Martha S Jones, History, Afroamerican & African Studies, and Law, University of Michigan, Dominique Rodgers, History, Université des Antilles et la Guyane, Rebecca Scott, History and Law, University of Michigan, and Michael Zeuske, Latin American and Iberian History, University of Köln.

NOVEMBER
“(De)Facing Limits: Charles F. Fraker Conference”
This annual conference is organized by graduate students in Romance Languages in honor of Professor Emeritus of Spanish Charles Fraker. In 2008, the conference included 40 presentations by graduate students from many disciplines and universities as well as three professors, who offered keynote lectures. The conference included presentations on written from Argentina, Chile, and Colombia, as well as Spain. Latin Americanists included Kathryn Keppinger (New York University), Max Ubelaker (Boston University), Belkis Suárez (University of Florida), and keynote speaker Bruno Bosteels (Cornell University).

“The Atlantic World in the Age of the Haitian Revolution”
This panel, part of the conference “The Common World: Conversations in African American and Atlantic Histories,” addressed how the themes first developed by UM History faculty member Julius Scott have matured and been newly interpreted by scholars in the fields of African American history, visual culture, the Atlantic world, and music. Martha Jones, (History, Afroamerican & African Studies, and Law, University of Michigan), Rebecca Scott (History and Law, University of Michigan), Ada Ferrer (History, New York University), Laurent Dubois (History and Romance Studies, Duke University), Jennifer Morgan (Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University), and Carroll Smith-Rosenberg (History, American Culture, and Women’s Studies, University of Michigan) presented.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ON THE MOVE: EDUCATORS’ RESPONSES TO THE CHALLENGES OF URBAN AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Mexican migration to the U.S. has gained an increasingly indigenous character as a growing share of migrants have come from Mexico’s most indigenous states: Yucatán, Chiapas and Oaxaca. Internal migration of indigenous peoples has also accelerated from villages in Mexico and reserves in Canada and the U.S. to urban centers, as a result of declining rural conditions and neoliberal restructuring and trade agreements. This conference addressed the many faces of indigenous migration within North America. María Victoria Avilés (Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Mexico City), Gonzalo Mauro Montiel Agüirre (Union of Bilingual Indigenous Teachers, Baja California, Mexico), Mario López-Gópar (Faculty of Languages, Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez D Oasis and Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto) were participants.

APRIL
“Climate Change and Its Impact in Latin America: Differential Vulnerabilities, Adaptation Options and Development”
Panel participant Ben Orlove (Anthropology, University of California - Davis), Emma Tompkins (School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds) and Maria Carmen Lamos (School of Natural Resources and Environment, UM) discussed the human dimensions of climate change and their effects on the vulnerability of different peoples and countries. This panel examined the tensions and challenges that have emerged in contemporary Bolivia and the implications these may have for our understanding of indigenous politics in Latin America. Maria Elena Garcia (Comparative History of Ideas Program, University of Washington) presented on “Encounters with Interculturality: (Un)Learning Indigeneity in the PROEBI Andes,” and José Antonio Lucero (Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington) presented on “El encuentro entre campesinos y ciudadanos no se pudo evitar: Violence, Democracy, and Contention in Bolivia.” The panel was chaired by Gustavo Verdesio (Romance Languages, University of Michigan), and comments were offered by Javier Sanjínés (Romance Languages, University of Michigan).

JUNE
“Mexico City Air Pollution and Birth Outcomes Project”
Dr. Álvaro Osorio-Vargas (Dirección de Investigación Básica, Instituto Nacional de Cancerología), Dr. Felipe Vadillo-Ortega and Dra. Myrna Godines-Erquives (Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Dra. Nardhy Gómez (Instituto Nacional de Perinatología), and Georgina Echaniz Pellicer (Instituto Nacional de Ecología) discussed their ongoing research on air pollution and preterm birth in Mexico City in collaboration with faculty in the UM School of Public Health. The meetings engaged a wide range of topics: recruiting and retaining study participants, analyzing and tracking biological samples, questionnaire design and administration, and practical challenges and benefits of collaborative international environmental health research.

“AFTER MULTICULTURALISM: RE-THINKING THE POLITICS OF INDIGENITY IN THE ANDES”
With the historic 2005 electoral victory of Evo Morales in Bolivia, analysts have begun to speak of a “post-multicultural” moment in the Andes, one that breaks with earlier top-down models of recognition and promises the emergence of new forms of popular governance and new practices of decolonization. This panel examined the tensions and challenges that have emerged in contemporary Bolivia and the implications these may have for our understanding of indigenous politics in Latin America. María Elena García (Comparative History of Ideas Program, University of Washington) presented on “Encounters with Interculturality: (Un)Learning Indigeneity in the PROEBI Andes,” and José Antonio Lucero (Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington) presented on “El encuentro entre campesinos y ciudadanos no se pudo evitar: Violence, Democracy, and Contention in Bolivia.” The panel was chaired by Gustavo Verdesio (Romance Languages, University of Michigan), and comments were offered by Javier Sanjínés (Romance Languages, University of Michigan).

Graduate Student Profile: Edgardo Pérez-Morales
Edgardo Pérez–Morales is a graduate student in the History Department at the University of Michigan and a regular participant in LACS events. Pérez-Morales studies Latin American History and his research has concentrated on the New Kingdom of Granada (current day Colombia and Ecuador) from the perspectives of material life and the environment. He has done research regarding the history of the South Pacific region of Colombia, and is now studying the dynamics of slavery and freedom in the region during the transition from colony to republic. His recent research in the archives in Bogota and Seville includes work regarding the transatlantic dynamics between Spain and the New Kingdom of Granada during the eighteenth century. Pérez-Morales is also coauthor of the book Tumaco. Historia, memoria e imagen (2005), and was codirector of the volume Caminos, rutas y nómadas: huellas espaciales y estructuras sociales en Antioquia (2005). He has published articles in the journals Historia y sociedad (Medellín), Fronteras de la historia, Revista de historia colomiano latinoamericana (Bogotá) and Proceso: revista ecuatoriana de historia (Quito). Before attending the University of Michigan, Pérez-Morales graduated from the History program at Universidad Nacional de Colombia -Medellín- in 2005 and received an M.A. in Cultural Studies from Universidad Andina Simón Bolivar –Quito- in 2007.
2008-2009 LECTURES

AUGUST

Joel Rodríguez-Saldaña, “Implementing Structured Diabetes Care in Latin America”
Dr. Rodríguez-Saldaña is the Director of Resultados Médicos, Desarrollo e Investigación, Pachuca, Mexico. His lecture was organized in conjunction with the Medical School.

SEPTEMBER

Daniel Balderston is the Mellon Professor of Modern Languages at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of “Out of Context: Historical Reference and the Representation of Reality in Borges (Duke), Borges, realidades y simulacros (Biblos), and El deseo, enorme cicatriz luminosa: Ensayos sobre homosexualidades latinoamericanas (Beatriz Viterbo), among other works.

Arthur Avilés and Charles Rice-González, “Black and Latina/o Queer Arts in the Bronx”
Leading modern dancer and choreographer Arthur Avilés and playwright and novelist Charles Rice-González spoke about their creative work and their experiences directing the Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), an alternative performance space that caters to community groups and artists as well as avant-garde downtown performers. A former dancer with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Avilés has directed his own company (the Arthur Avilés Typical Theatre) since 1996. He and Rice-González founded the Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance in an old factory building in Hunts Point in 1998.

Peter Manuel, “From Contradanza to Son: New Perspectives on the Prehistory of Cuban Popular Music”
The contradanza, in its diverse forms, was the most popular creole dance in the Spanish Caribbean in the nineteenth century. In this presentation, Peter Manuel [Professor of Ethnomusicology, CUNY Graduate Center] called for a reconsideration of conventional Cuban music history, arguing that vernacular forms of Cuban contradanza exhibited many of the most characteristic features of the popular dance musics that would eventually be called “son” and, later, “salsa.”

OCTOBER

José Kozer, part of the Fall Series “Performing Identity in the Caribbean”
Cuban-American poet José Kozer gave a bilingual reading of his poems in Spanish and in English translation. Kozer was born in Havana in 1940, the son of parents who migrated to Cuba from Poland and Czechoslovakia in the 1920s, and the founder of a group of Cuba’s first Ashkenazic synagogue. He is the author of over 18 collections of verse.

Gina Ulysse, “Loving Haiti, Loving Vodou”
Gina Ulysse, Haitian-born poet, artist, and performer and Associate Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies at Wesleyan University, gave a presentation and “rant” drawn from her current project, “Loving Haiti, Loving Vodou: A Book of Remembrances, Rants and Recipes.”

Alvaro R. Osorno Vargas and Leonora Rojas Bracho, “Toxicological Evaluation of PM2.5 and PM10 in the City of Mexico and its Correlation with Soil Content: A Study to Evaluate and Direct Control Measures”
The presentation of Drs. Osorno (Instituto Nacional de Cancerología, Mexico) and Rojas (Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Mexico) was arranged by LACS and the School of Public Health. The presentation of Drs. Osorno (Instituto Nacional de Cancerología, Mexico) and Rojas (Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Mexico) was arranged by LACS and the School of Public Health.

NOVEMBER

Lucía Suárez, “Ruins of Havana, Memories of Cuba”
Lucía Suárez, Associate Professor of Spanish, Amherst College, shared with UMA’s community of Cuba observers her thoughts on literary and visual depictions of the Cuban capital over the past two decades. Suárez is co-editor, with UMA Professor of Anthropology Ruth Behar, of The Portable Island: Cubans at Home in the World (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2008).

December

Peter Gose, “Purified Blood: Racial Slurs, Honor, and Litigation in Seventeenth Century Lima”
Peter Gose, Professor and Chair of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University, presented on the peculiarities of early modern Spanish racism, his new research interest, and addressed such vexed issues as the origins of racism and the interaction of nationalism and colonialism in racism’s historical development.

JANUARY

Flávio Limoncic, “The Brazilian Automotive Industry in International Context: From European Origins to American Crisis”
Flávio Limoncic, Associate Professor of History at Universidad Federal del Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO), described and analyzed the Brazilian automotive industry in the 1950s and 1960s, the crisis it faced in the 1980s, and its restructuring in the 1990s. He also explored the challenges that it faces in the current global financial crisis.

Keila Grinberg, “International Borders, Fugitive Slaves, and the Concept of ‘Free Soil’ in 19th-Century South America”
Keila Grinberg, Associate Professor of History at the Universidad Federal del Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO), presented in Portuguese on the ways in which slavery became a central issue in international relations in nineteenth-century Latin America.

Guilherme Werneck, “Potential Uses of Spatial Analysis and Remote Sensing for the Control of Vector-Borne Diseases: The Case of Visceral Leishmaniasis Urbanization in Brazil”
Dr. Werneck is Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, State University of Rio de Janeiro, and Visiting Scholar, Department of Epidemiology, National School of Public Health, FIOCRUZ. In this lecture, he explored the ways that population growth, migration, and the chaotic expansion of major Brazilian cities have led to inadequate living conditions and environmental destruction, which are key factors associated with the spread of new and resurgent infectious diseases in Brazil, such as, visceral leishmaniasis. His presentation was co-sponsored by the School of Public Health and the Medical School.

MARCH

Paula Repetto, “Tobacco Use Among Adolescents in Chile: Individual and Family Determinants”
Paula Repetto, Professor of Psychology at the Universidad Católica de Chile, presented her work that draws on the World Youth Tobacco Survey to determine why Chile has one of the highest rates of adolescent smokers in the world. This presentation was a collaboration between LACS and the School of Nursing.

Maria Elena Diaz, “Anti-slavery in Madrid’s High Court: Entangled Histories and Discourses on an Atlantic/Caribbean Frontier, 1780s-1814”
Maria Elena Diaz, Associate Professor of History at UC Santa Cruz, presented work from her book-in-progress (“Blood, Race, and Nativeness: Conquering Identities in Colonial Eastern Cuba”) treating the juridical and vernacular meanings of freedom in Cuba during the Age of Revolution. Diaz explored late-eighteenth-century litigation efforts by members of a former mining community in El Cobre — free and enslaved subjects of African descent — on behalf of their collective freedom and their legal incorporation as a town. Diaz suggested that the discursive proposals related to the case of El Cobre represented an alternative model to the revolutionary anti-slavery of Haiti as well as a rejection of the Atlantic world of plantation slavery then emerging in Cuba.

Claudia Kedar, “Constructing the ‘New Economic Order’: Latin America, the US, and the Creation of the IMF”
Claudia Kedar, a native of Buenos Aires who recently completed her dissertation in History at Tel Aviv University, explored the history of the 1944 Bretton Woods conference that established the foundations for the IMF and the World Bank. Designed to forge a permanent economic agreement between nations and remove traditional causes of friction and war, the conference comprised representatives from 45 nations, including every Latin American nation except Argentina. Kedar argued, though, that Latin American nations played only a passive role at the conference and as a result the multilateralism it claimed to establish did not improve the fortunes of Latin America in the postwar era.
Marcia Ochoa, “Sacar el Cuerpo: Transformista and Miss Embodiment in Venezuela”
Marcia Ochoa, Assistant Professor, Community Studies Department, University of California at Santa Cruz, spoke on transformistas and misses accomplishing their femininity through the use of technologies such as cosmetics, clothing, and implants. They use the concept of “sacar el cuerpo,” which suggests a relationship between “nature” and “technology” wherein the latter is supposed to be employed to help “nature” express itself and draw out what is naturally there.

José Antonio Lucero, “A Quantum of Anti-Imperialism? U.S.-Bolivian Relations in the Age of Evo Morales and James Bond”
Improbably, a recent James Bond film cast 007 on the side of the Bolivian people fighting against the coup-plotting CIA and a water-privatizing capitalist predator. Jose Antonio Lucero, Assistant Professor at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, and the author of The Politics of Indigenous Representation in the Andes (U. Pittsburgh Press, 2008), explored both how the “Bolivia” of the film has served as a vehicle for projecting certain Northern anxieties about the Global South and the way in which “coup-talk” became part of the governing strategy of Evo Morales, as the “U.S.” came to occupy an important place in the anti-imperial “master-frame” of Bolivia’s domestic oppositional politics.

April
Marcia Ochoa, “Sacar el Cuerpo: Transformista and Miss Embodiment in Venezuela”
Marcia Ochoa, Assistant Professor, Community Studies Department, University of California at Santa Cruz, spoke on transformistas and misses accomplishing their femininity through the use of technologies such as cosmetics, clothing, and implants. They use the concept of “sacar el cuerpo,” which suggests a relationship between “nature” and “technology” wherein the latter is supposed to be employed to help “nature” express itself and draw out what is naturally there.

ARThUR AITON LECTURE

“Blackness and Whiteness in the Montevideo Carnival, 1900-2000”
On Thursday, March 26th, 2009 George Reid Andrews visited the University of Michigan and gave the History Department’s annual Arthur Aiton Lecture. Andrews is Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh and the author of The Afro-Argentines of Buenos Aires, 1800-1900 (1980), Blacks and Whites in São Paulo, Brazil, 1868-1888 (1991), and Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000 (2004). His lecture, “Blackness and Whiteness in the Montevideo Carnival, 1900-2000,” examined one of the most popular features of the annual Montevideo Carnival from the 1860s to the present, the drumming and marching groups that perform candomblé, Uruguay’s African-derived “national rhythm.” These groups adopt a black racial identity, but since about 1900 have been majority white in composition. Andrews considered the racial messages that these performances convey and the consequences for Uruguayan society.

The recipient of the 2009-2010 Alfredo Gutiérrez Dissertation Award in Latin American and Caribbean Studies is Sergio Miguel Huarcaya. Huarcaya will use the Gutiérrez Award to support the writing of his dissertation.

The work, entitled “Subjectivity and Indigenous Political Activism in the Ecuadorian Highlands,” explores the emergence of the Ecuadorian Indigenous Movement. Using ethnographic and archival evidence, he argues that indigenous challenges to dominant constructions of social identity and differentiation during the 1970s and 1980s were fundamental for the articulation of ethnic demands by the leadership as well as for the massive support for mobilization on ethnic grounds by the indigenous peasantry.

The $10,000 Gutiérrez Dissertation Award is given annually by LACS to a Ph.D. candidate in order to support dissertation write-up. LACS particularly encourages nominations of students whose dissertation has interdisciplinary appeal. Recipients of the Gutiérrez Grant are expected to concentrate on writing the dissertation during the period of the award.

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies offers three levels of Quechua language instruction during each academic year. LACS also offers an intensive summer course in Quechua in Cusco, Peru. This program, now at Centro Tinku and directed by Dr. Jean-Jacques Decoster, offers the same three levels of Quechua language that we offer in Fall and Winter at the UM in Ann Arbor, but the courses are more intensive as the program is of shorter duration. Classes meet daily for four hours per day for seven weeks and are equivalent to a full academic year course.

This unique program offers high-quality intensive language instruction by the faculty of Centro Tinku along with the experiences of living and learning in the ancient Inca capital of Cusco. A series of lectures on Quechua culture and history and an extensive program of excursions and cultural events supplements the courses.

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2008-2009 LACS VISITORS

**Maria P.T. Helena Machado** offered a minicourse on “Perspectives on Slavery, Abolition, and Post-Emancipation in the Emergence of Contemporary African-Brazilian Social Movement” for LACS in the Fall of 2008. As well as participated in a double Bate Papo talk with Beatriz Mambigonian. Machado, a native of São Paulo, Brazil, is an Associate Professor in the History Department of the University of São Paulo. She has published widely on slavery, abolition, and scientific travel in nineteenth-century Brazil. Her books include Crime e escravidão (1987), O Plano e o pânico (1994) and Dólares intinos (1998). Recently, she published Brazil through the Eyes of William James (2006), a critical edition of James’ writings during his travels in Brazil. Her current research focuses on the Agassiz expedition to Brazil, with a special focus on the photographic collection, which includes African, Afro-Brazilian, and “mixed-race” subjects.

**Mario Pecheny** offered a minicourse on “Contemporary Politics of Sexuality and Public Health in Latin America” for LACS in the Fall of 2008. Pecheny, who earned his Ph.D. in Political Science (Université de Paris III), is a Professor at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and researcher at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Argentina). Pecheny’s research interests focus on what he terms “the Bretton Woods-U.S.-Latin American Triangle.” She has served as the Managing Editor of the specialized journal Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe.

**Dani Umpi** is the pen name of Daniel Umpièrrez, a Uruguayan artist born in 1974 in Tacuarembó, a small town in Uruguay near the Brazilian border. He graduated from the Uruguayan University of Communication, majoring in publicity. During that time, he took on the pseudonym “Dani Umpi” for his work as a writer, singer, and plastic artist. His works include three novels, Aún soltera, Miss Tacuarembé, and Sólo te quiero como amigo. In 2006, he was nominated for an MTV Latin American Award in the category “Best Independent Artist” for his electro-pop album Perfetto. While an artist-in-residence at LACS in Fall 2008, Umpi offered workshops on song writing as well as on Uruguayan music. He also participated in workshops on writing and publishing fiction in Latin America.

**Jessica Callaway** offered two minicourses, “Os Meninos e Meninas de Rua: Race, Citizenship, and Abandoned Children in Brazil” and “The Rhetoric of Brazilian Abolition” for LACS during the Winter 2009. Callaway also gave a lecture, “The Fruits of Labor: Abolitionist Rhetoric and the Law of the Free Womb in Nineteenth Century Brazilian Fiction,” sponsored by LACS, Romance Languages and Comparative Literature. Callaway works on issues of race and gender in Brazilian literature and culture. Her current project focuses on the rhetoric of the Brazilian abolitionist movement and, in particular, the influence of the 1871 “Law of the Free Womb” on nineteenth-century popular culture. She received a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University and a B.A. in the same field from the University of Michigan.

**Jean Michel Hébrard** taught a course in LACS and History, “Empires of the Atlantic World: Cultural Approaches” in the Fall of 2008. Hébrard is a distinguished cultural historian who has written on topics as varied as literacy in Southern Europe, the culture of auto-didacts in France, sacramental records in Brazil, and, most recently, slavery in the Atlantic world. He is the co-author with Anne-Marie Chartier of the magisterial volume Discours sur la lecture, 1880-1980, which has gone through two editions in France and has been translated into both Spanish and Portuguese. He has recently organized two important special issues of the journal Cahiers du Brésil Contemporain, one titled “Writing Slavery, Writing Freedom,” focused on slavery in comparative perspective, and the other on recent scholarship in Brazilian cultural history. He has co-organized a special issue of the journal Genèses on law and slavery. He has published widely in many languages, in journals from the French Años in 1980 to the Polish Programizaci in 2006. Professor Hébrard’s current position in France is a joint one, as Inspecteur Général in the French Ministry of Education, and as Professeur Associé at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales.

**Claudia Kedar** is a visiting researcher and scholar from Fall 2008 through Fall 2009, will offer a course entitled, “The New Economic Order: Latin America and the International Monetary Fund” in Fall 2009. Kedar also gave a talk in Winter 2009, entitled “Constructing the ‘New Economic Order’: Latin America, the US, and the Creation of the IMF” and will give another talk in Fall 2009 entitled, “Peronist Argentina Reconsidered: New Evidence on Peron’s Foreign Economic Policy.” Kedar was born in Argentina, has lived in Israel for many years, and recently completed her Ph.D. studies at the Graduate School of History, Tel Aviv University. Her dissertation in economic history and international political economy is entitled “The Routinization of Dependency: Argentina and the International Monetary Fund, 1944-1977.” Kedar’s fields of interest include the history of the IMF and the World Bank, U.S.-Latin American relations, dependency theory, and contemporary modern Argentina. Her next project will focus on what she terms “the Breton Woods-U.S.-Latin American Triangle.” She has served as the Managing Editor of the specialized journal Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe.
African Studies
Co-sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern and North
Middle East and North Africa.

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Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo (Cendes-UCV), Caracas)
Associate Professor, Universidad Central de Venezuela,

“el Imperio?
Escape the Market of
Russia Help Chávez Boost Oil Production and
Can Iran, China, and

September 21, 2009 4:00-6:00pm Hatcher Library
Jacinto Barrera Bassols is a historian based in Mexico City who specializes in early twentieth century radical political movements, especially those related to the Mexican Revolution.
Co-sponsored by the Labadie Collection (Special Collections—Hatcher Library)

Thomas O’Donnell, “Can Iran, China, and Russia Help Chávez Boost Oil Production and Escape the Market of el Imperio?”
September 28, 2009 4 PM 1644 SSWB
Thomas O’Donnell (UM Ph.D. in Physics and Visiting Associate Professor; Universidad Central de Venezuela, Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo (Cendes-UCV), Caracas) will present work that examines the political economy of a globalized energy sector, petroleum, as a basis for understanding both U.S. geostrategy and the trajectories of major oil-producing states in Latin America and the Middle East and North Africa.
Co-sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies

David Fitzgerald, “Citizenship à la Carte: Emigration and the Sovereign State”
October 27, 2009 4 PM 3512 Haven Hall
David Fitzgerald is Associate Professor of Sociology and Associate Director of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, University of California, San Diego. He will present on his current work, financed by the National Science Foundation, that examines relationships between liberalism and racism in the immigration and nationality laws of 22 countries in the Americas between 1850 and 2000.
Co-sponsored by the Program in American Culture

Maria Elena Martínez, “León y Gama’s Treatise on Skin Color and the Enlightened Creole ‘Science’ of Race in Eighteenth-Century New Spain”
November 12, 2009 4pm 1014 Tisch Hall
Maria Elena Martínez, Associate Professor of Latin American History and American Studies and Ethnicity, University of Southern California. This presentation is part of a larger project on transformations in racial thinking that took place in Spanish America in the last third of the eighteenth century.
Co-sponsored by the Science, Technology, and Society Program, the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, and the Department of History

November 13, 2009 12pm 1644 SSWB
Participants will include José Molina, Professor, Instituto de Estudios Políticos y Derecho Público, Universidad del Zulia; Alejandro Velasco, Assistant Professor, Latin American Studies, New York University; David Smilde, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of Georgia; Miriam Kornblith, Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, National Endowment for Democracy; Daniel Levine, Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan.
Co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science

Claudia Kedar, “Peronist Argentina Reconsidered: New Evidence on Peron’s Foreign Economic Policy”
November 20, 2009 12pm 1644 SSWB
Claudia Kedar (Institute for Latin American Studies at Tel Aviv University and LACS Visiting Scholar) recently completed her dissertation on the history of IMF-Argentina relations. This paper will assess and problematize assumptions about the nationalist and populist character of the Peron government’s relations with the United States, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.

Bernardo Vega, “Contemporary Dominican-Haitian Relations”
December 10, 2009 4pm 1644 SSWB
Bernardo Vega, President, Fundación Cultural Dominicana, is the author of more than forty books treating Dominican and Caribbean economics, history, and archaeology. Among other prominent positions, he has served as the Governor of the Dominican Central Bank and Dominican Ambassador to the United States (1997-1999). He is a widely published scholar of the history of relations between neighboring Haiti and the Dominican Republic during the twentieth century.

Niló Cruz, A Reading
September 16, 2009 6:00-8:00pm Pringle, 8SBG
Pulitzer prize-winning Cuban-American playwright Niló Cruz will give a reading from his plays for the Playwrights and the Public Series and MESA’s Hispanic Heritage month. Cruz is currently writing the book for the musical AINA/with with music by Frank Wildhorn and a screenplay about Alina, daughter of Fidel Castro.

GLOBAL LENS FILM SERIES

November 10, 2009 2:30 pm and 4pm 1636 SSWB
Mutum, a film by Sandra Kogut (Brazil, 2007)
In this adaption of the Brazilian short story “Campos Gerais” by João Guimarães Rosa, director Sandra Kogut illuminates details of rural life to portray one boy’s coming-of-age amidst events both great and small.

November 17, 2009 2:30 pm and 4pm 1636 SSWB
Possible Lives (Las vividas posibles), a film by Sandra Gugliotta (Argentina, 2006)
After her husband mysteriously disappears during a business trip, Clara embarks on a desperate mission to find him. This film is a suspenseful and haunting study of grief and letting go.

December 1, 2009 2:30 pm and 4pm 1636 SSWB
My Time Will Come (Cuando me toque a mi), a film by Víctor Arregui (Ecuador, 2008)
Dr. Arturo Fernández of the city morgue is physically and emotionally isolated from the world around him. He develops an oddly intimate relationship with the personal lives of his cases, gradually forcing him to confront his connection to the living and the dead. Adapted from the novel De que nada se sabe by Alfredo Noriega, director Victor Arregui’s serpentine tale is a dark yet sympathetic portrait of one man’s solitude set against a richly textured rendering of Quito, Ecuador’s capital city.

November 20, 2009 12pm 1644 SSWB
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My Time Will Come (Cuando me toque a mi), a film by Víctor Arregui (Ecuador, 2008)

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Recent Books by LACS Faculty

Diaspora Conversions: Black Carib Religion and the Recovery of Africa
Paul Johnson is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Afroamerican and African Studies and Director of the Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History. Johnson recently published his second book, winner of the Wesley-Logan Prize of the American Historical Association, Diaspora Conversions: Black Carib Religion and the Recovery of Africa (University of California Press, 2007). The book explores how societies change when they join diasporas by examining the religion of the Garifuna, historically known as the Black Caribs, from the Central American coast of the Caribbean. An estimated one-third of this population has migrated to New York City in the past fifty years. Johnson conducted research in Honduras as well as in New York to uncover how spirit possession rituals were performed in different spaces of this migration.

A Tale of Two Cities: Santo Domingo and New York after 1950
Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof is Associate Professor of History and American Culture and 2009-2010 Interim Director of LACS. Hoffnung-Garskof recently published his first book, A Tale of Two Cities: Santo Domingo and New York after 1950 (Princeton University Press, 2008). This transnational history explores Dominican life in Santo Domingo and New York City. The work considers issues of migration, United States imperialism in the Caribbean, perceptions of modernization, and youth culture in the Dominican Republic and the United States. The book also explores how urban communities in both countries developed as individuals migrated between them and how migrants adapted to the cultural and social landscapes of the communities that received them.

An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba
Ruth Behar is Professor of Anthropology and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan. She recently published An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba (Rutgers University Press, 2009). This book was produced in collaboration with award-winning Havana-based photographer Humberto Mayol. Mayol's work has been widely exhibited in Cuba, the United States, Europe, and Latin America. An Island Called Home explores Behar's own journey back to the island, seeking traces left of the Jewish presence in Cuba, following the massive Jewish exodus off the island after Fidel Castro came to power in 1959. Many of these Yiddish speaking Jews had only arrived in the 1920s from war-torn Europe. This book documents both this community's history and Behar's experience uncovering it.

From Harvey River: A Memoir of My Mother and Her Island, 2009
Lorna Goodison, Lernaul A. Johnson Collegiate Professor of English and of Afroamerican and African Studies and one of the Caribbean’s leading poets, recently published From Harvey River: A Memoir of My Mother and Her Island (Emblem Editions, 2009). The book explores Goodison's own familial past in a small Jamaican village and their move to the big city, Kingston. She draws upon local stories and language to create a memoir of her forebears that powerfully evokes generations of family and community life in Jamaica and illuminates how memory and family construct our sense of home. Harvey River was selected as a “Globe and Mail” Best Book.

FLAS Program

A Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship provides tuition and a stipend to students studying designated foreign languages in combination with area studies or international aspects of professional studies. The aim of the program is to encourage the study of less commonly taught languages. FLAS Fellowships are administered by the area studies centers and are awarded competitively through annual fellowship competitions. The U.S. Department of Education (US/ED) funds these awards under the provisions of Title VI of the Higher Education Act. The amount of funding and number of awards granted is contingent upon annual US/ED program approval, federal regulations, and continued congressional funding.

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LACS Administered FLAS Awards

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<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Summer 2008-2009</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Emlen</td>
<td>Jesse Lewis</td>
<td>Joe Donlin</td>
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<td>Randy Hicks</td>
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<td>Rachel TenHaaf</td>
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<td>Shana Melnysyn</td>
<td>Katherine Fultz</td>
<td>Randy Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kairos Marquardt</td>
<td>Nick Emlen</td>
<td>Shana Melnysyn</td>
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Shana Melnysyn
Shana Melnysyn is a third-year Ph.D. student in Anthropology and History. She also holds a M.A. in Latin American Studies. She has received two Portuguese FLAS Awards from LACS, the second being for summer 2009. During her M.A. studies Shana conducted research in Brazil on reggae and popular culture. In the past several years as a student at the University of Michigan, she has also worked for non-profit organizations in Brazil and Mozambique. She is currently researching historical and contemporary religious movements and transnational connections between Portugal, Brazil, and Angola. The majority of Melnysyn's travel experience and research work has been done in Portuguese-speaking countries. The FLAS program has offered her the opportunity to improve her Portuguese grammar and writing skills, while also working on her dissertation abroad.

Alison Joersz
Alison Joersz used her FLAS award to study in two different programs run by the University of Massachusetts, Boston in Summer 2009. The first program was a three-week Kreyòl intensive program located in Boston and the second was a four-week study abroad program in Haiti (called “Haiti Today”). The program in Haiti consisted of courses in language, culture, and history with excursions to important cultural and historical sites throughout the country. She met important scholars of Haitian studies and worked with Haitian university students. These experiences helped shape her preliminary research plans for next summer while both programs helped dramatically improve her language skills.

Shana Melnysyn, kitchen of a family of rastas, Luanda (Angola)
The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) at the University of Michigan seeks to advance knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean and to heighten interest in this region among members of the UM community and the general public. Through collaborative partnerships across the university, LACS fosters teaching and research on Latin America and the Caribbean in a wide range of disciplines and professional schools. LACS has been designated a National Resource Center by the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI program and is a member of the UM International Institute.