Margarita Vargas, LELACS Guest Speaker
Rosario Hubert, Justin Read in front of Lydia Okumura’s installation In Front of Light
On the cover

RLL-Sponsored Fall LELACS Symposium Integrated with Brazilian Artist’s Career Retrospective Exhibition

The Lake Erie Latin American Cultural Studies consortium (LELACS) held its fall semester meeting, hosted by our department, on October 29, 2016. The symposium, “Situations of Latin American Modernity,” included talks by Adam Shellhorse (Temple University), Rosario Hubert (Trinity College), Luiza Moreira (Binghamton University), and RLL's own Fernanda Negrete (assistant professor, French) and Gregory Przybyla (graduate student, Spanish).

The symposium ended with a reception at UB's Anderson Gallery to honor the occasion of Brazilian artist Lydia Okumura's retrospective exhibition entitled "Situations," curated by Rachel Adams of the UB Art Galleries.

LELACS was started by Justin Read (associate professor, Spanish) and Debra Castillo (Cornell University) in 2008 to bring together Latin Americanists across upstate New York to collaborate and advance research. Originally including members from UB, Cornell, Rochester, Syracuse, and Binghamton, LELACS also now includes scholars from University at Albany, Colgate, Ithaca College, Nazareth, and SUNY Oswego. The spring meeting, “Speculative Fiction in Latin America,” took place on April 1 at Ithaca College, and the fall 2017 LELACS meeting, on Latin American Disabilities Studies, will take place on October 21 at the University of Rochester.

(L to R) Margarita Vargas, LELACS Guest Speaker Rosario Hubert, & Justin Read with Lydia Okumura’s installation "In Front of Light," 1977/2015, UB Anderson Art Gallery.
Congratulations to our 2016–2017 Study Abroad Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to announce this year’s study abroad scholarship winners and program locations. Have a wonderful time, and don’t forget to write home!

**Maria E. Becker Scholarship**

*Kara Walsh*, $600: Summer 2016 in Quebec City–Binghamton University

**Brandon Reilly**, $300: Spring 2017 in Paris–SUNY Potsdam’s Global Experiences Internship Program

**Wilma J. Newberry Scholarship**

*Sara Devlin*, $1000: Summer 2016 in Barcelona–Buffalo State College/UB Salamanca

**Mercedes Morales**, $500: Summer 2016 in Madrid–Binghamton University

**Alex Bakke**, $800: Spring 2017 in Seville–SUNY New Paltz

**Teresa DiRado**, $800: Spring 2017 in Granada–SUNY Brockport

**Liam McMahon**, $800: Spring 2017 at the Universidad de Sevilla–SUNY New Paltz

**Linda Diane Rock Scholarship**

**Mercedes Morales**, $500: Summer 2016 in Madrid–Binghamton University


**Juan Cardenas**, $700: Fall 2016 at the Sorbonne, Paris–SUNY Oswego

**Kara Walsh**, $100: Summer 2016 in Quebec City–Binghamton University

**Kelly Aldinger**, $800: Spring 2017 in Lima, Peru–University at Albany ECELA Program

Undergraduate student Liam McMahon in Spain
RLL PhD Candidate Ashley Byczkowski is lectrice d’anglais at the Université Paris Diderot for the 2016-2017 academic year. She sends this report:

Life in Paris... what can I say? C’est magnifique! Existing between the two milieus of professional and student has allowed me to access a whole new understanding of what it means to live in the City of Lights.

As a student, being able to attend conferences, colloquium, and “journée d’études,” in addition to auditing two classes at Paris-Sorbonne, has opened my eyes to the differences between French and American academia and has inspired many ideas for my own project and academic career.

On the teaching side, spending around 13 hours a week with over 100 French and international students has given me a more global perspective on many of the issues being faced by society today. Also, it’s aided me in understanding and respecting the many cultural differences that exist amongst even such relatively similar countries as France and the United States.

My daily Parisian lifestyle of commuting to work, putting in hours at the library, and catching up with friends at cafés comes with a strange sentiment towards the touristy part of the city. The Eiffel Tower is so “out of the way,” I rarely see it! And Sacré Coeur feels almost like a day trip away! In the end however, this provides me with the opportunity to play tourist whenever I feel I’m getting too stuck in the “metro, boulot, dodo” of being a graduate student and teaching assistant. And for that, I am so grateful for the Université Paris-Diderot Exchange. It has deepened my love for the French culture, language and literature and I look forward to bringing this joy and passion back with me in the Fall.

Spanish major Sarah Devlin recounts high points of her summer 2016 adventure in Salamanca

Studying abroad at the University of Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain for a whole month this summer was one of the most amazing adventures of my life. Being able to experience the Spanish culture firsthand was a blessing, and having the opportunity to make connections with the professors and students from other countries was extremely rewarding.

Upon my arrival in Spain, I felt extremely nervous because I was worried that even after 6 years of studying the Spanish language, I would not be capable enough to understand and speak the language in its native country. However, I quickly learned that the past 6 years had prepared me for this 4-week journey. My score on the university’s placement exam landed me in one of the superior level groups at the university, and it was then that I knew that this would be an amazing learning experience. Living in a country for an extended amount of time where English is not the primary language is incredibly eye-opening. I was fortunate enough to live with an older couple who have hosted other kids from various countries in the past, so they were extremely patient and understanding when it came to conversing. Although parting from my host family, my amazing professors, my new friends, and the beautiful university was emotional, I feel so blessed to have been able to experience the cultural and educational opportunities that the country of Spain has to offer.
RLL 2016–2017 HIGHLIGHTS

RLL 2016-2017 Highlights in Pictures

Jeannette Ludwig’s Retirement
12/2/2016

Geneviève Oliveira, UB Graduate
Student Excellence in Teaching Award
12/2/2016

Cuadros de Humor y Amor al Fresco
4/7/16

The Plague Doctor
Halloween 2016

Film Screening, Zengierski Family Lectures in Spanish Language & Literature

Bring Me The Head Of Alfredo García
Friday, October 7, 2016
5:00 PM
CENTER FOR THE ARTS
SCREENING ROOM

Directed by: Sam Peckinpah
Starring: Warren Oates, Lupe Vega, Emilio Fernández, and Gil Young
An edgy and ironic 1970s multicultural western that continues to inspire today’s film makers.

After the film: Casual reception and Q&A round table
In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month
Sponsorship generously provided by the Zengierski Family

RLL 6th Annual GSA Conference
4/7-4/8/2017

Welcome Back Picnic, Como Lake Park
9/10/2016

A select group of educators from across the country gathered to address the latest topics and trends in language education. Unlocking a brighter future lies within the application of our deep understanding of how learning happens and how the mind develops. It exists where the science of learning meets the art of teaching, and the partnerships formed at this event will foster best teaching practices and provide meaningful insights that will impact innovation in digital product development and classroom application.

Assistant Professor Stephanie Schmidt gave a presentation entitled “González de Eslaña’s Christian Allegory of the Gran Chichimec: Reimagining the Ancestral North in New Spain” on April 20 as part of the New Faculty Seminar Series, organized by UB’s Humanities Institute. Assistant Professor Fernanda Negrete was a featured speaker April 21 at the “Scholars at Hallwalls” Lecture Series, which highlights new research from the Humanities Institute 2016-2017 Faculty Fellows. Fernanda’s presentation was titled, “The Sensation of Time: Reading Water with Roni Horn and Clarice Lispector.”

Laura Chiesa’s book Space as Storyteller: Spatial Jumps in Architecture, Critical Theory and Literature, was published by Northwestern University Press in July 2016. She discussed the book at the Modernisms Humanities Institute workshop in the spring. Omar Khan, Chair of the Department of Architecture at UB, participated as respondent. In March 2016, Laura invited Kriss Ravetto-Biagioli, Professor of Cinema and Digital Media at UC/Davis, to speak on Mythopoetic Cinema: Reimagining the Borders of Europe in Laura’s European Cinema seminar class.

In April she will participate in the conference, “Writing and Violence,” organized by the Department of Comparative Literature at UB with a presentation titled, “From Geographies of Spirit to Geographies of Vulnerability.” In July 2017 she will co-organize (with Susan Bernstein) a panel titled “Literature, Theory and Interarts,” at the American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, Netherlands, July 2017, and will speak on: “Literature and Language at their Encounter with Moving Images in Jean-Luc Godard.”

The architectural platform Architecture Player invited her to contribute “The Filmic Emergence of New Behaviors out of the Supersurface,” http://www.architectureplayer.com/, Fall 2016. Her presentation at the ICLA, Vienna, July 2016, “Expanded Art Through Literature and Writing,” has been solicited for the forthcoming publication of the proceedings of the ICLA Conference.

As Melodia E. Jones Chair, Distinguished Professor Jean-Jacques Thomas sponsored several events on the UB campus that took place in the fall (“Fear, Hatred, Terror: Paris and Elsewhere,” organized by the Department of Comparative Literature, where Amy Graves Monroe represented RLL) and in the spring “Excellence in French,” a community outreach for the High Schools of the Greater Buffalo area organized by the Buffalo Alliance Française; a lecture titled “Writing and Vi- o- lence,” organized by the Department of Comparative Literature, where Laura Chiesa represented RLL; the AT BUFFALO CAI Fall 2017 artists-in- residence application co-organized by RLL, Associate Professor Christian Flaugh; the RLL 2017 Annual Graduate Conference “Intersections: Collage of Urban Networks”; and the fourth annual Big Buffalo Quebec Film Festival (BBQFF), with the support of the French RLL graduate students (under the leadership of Geneviève Oliveira).


Amy Graves Monroe has recently presented conference papers at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at SUNY Binghamton, the
University of Paris-Sorbonne and the University of Chicago. She has most recently published articles on islands and sovereignty: "Souverainetés intermittentes: l’Isle des Faisans et la frontière perméable franco-espagnole," on the theoretical elements of storytelling: "The Memorialist and the Historian: A Tale of Two Storytellers," and on Montaigne’s travel journal: "Montaigne en transit: la digestion du terroir.” In addition, she has also recently proposed a new and innovative reading of Montaigne’s essay On Coaches (DesCoches), by showing that the title plays on the word coche as either ‘coach’ or ‘sow’–“Rappeler le cochon: pour une lecture porcine de ‘Des Coches.” She has just been awarded a Humanities Institute fellowship for fall 2017 to work on her book on the early modern event, a project where she tries to get at how early moderns sensed that something (a catastrophe, a miracle, a crime, a courtly event, etc.) had occurred and how they viewed possibilities for prediction and control of future occurrences.

Elizabeth Scarlett presented a paper in the "Traces of the Sacred" session of the Modern Language Association Convention in Philadelphia. The editors of an upcoming collective volume solicited this paper, on the politics of canonization in Spain, in expanded form as a chapter. Her article on Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda and Clara Sánchez is appearing in the June edition of AnMal Electrónica (Universidad de Málaga, Spain). Her reference entry on the director "Luis Buñuel” was published in Oxford Bibliographies in Cinema and Media Studies. In her capacity as Chair of the Department of RLL, she organized and hosted a March professional development day for Williamsville Central Schools District LOTE (Language Other Than English) teachers titled “The Language Bridge into College,” with help from numerous faculty and graduate students. In the Fall semester she taught the first ever offering of SPA 324: Medical and Health-Related Spanish. This was the third new course she has designed and taught for UB, after Spanish Women Writers and History of Spanish Cinema.

Margarita Vargas served as Vice-President of the Women and Gender Studies Caucus affiliated with the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA). She was also elected to serve as the Area Director of Spanish and Portuguese and thus introduced keynote speaker Ann Marie Stock at the annual conference. She was also invited to function as the managing editor for Mexico for the online theatre news source The Theatre Times. In her capacity as Director of Graduate Studies and with the help of the staff, she organized two Recruitment lunches; the one in the fall included colleges in Western New York; and the spring one targeted students in our own language, literature, and culture classes.

This academic year, she presented three different papers on Mexican playwright Bárbara Colio at the following conferences: the 19th Annual Mediterranean Studies Association Congress held in Palermo, Sicily between May 25-28, 2016; the Twenty-second Annual Congreso de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea at the University of Texas at El Paso on March 4, 2017; and the North East Modern Language Association (NeMLA) held in Baltimore, MD between March 23-26, 2017.

Congratulations to French Ph.D. candidate Geneviève Oliveira (see picture page 5) for receiving the Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award! As a result, she was honored at the 13th annual Celebration of Student Academic Excellence ceremony on Thursday, April 20, as well as at the Excellence in Teaching Award luncheon. This prestigious award reflects her dedication to making UB a vital learning center. We can all be proud of her. Thank you to all in the department who contributed to her nomination and training.

David Castillo co-authored an article with William Egginton titled “Empire of Solitude” in: The Philosophical Salon. He also co-authored a book chapter with Egginton titled “Cervantes’s Treatment of Otherness and Contamination in Persiles and other works.” He gave a Scholars on the Road talk at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library: “Reality in the Age of Truthiness,” and most recently introduced a screening of the movie “1984” at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Buffalo.
RLL graduate students presented papers at a number of professional conferences this year. They are:


Lori Chilcott. “From Past to Present: 16th Century Humanists’ Search for Identity through Politics, Religion and Literature,” University of Kentucky Languages and Literatures Conference, Lexington, KY, April 20-22.


Benoit Ngolo. “Corps et désir dans Sarrasine (Balzac 1830),” XXXIe édition, Journées de linguistique, Québec, Canada, March 16-17, 2017.


Congratulations— to Alberto Montefusco Canales and Laure Bordas, who successfully defended their dissertations; to graduate students Elham Dehghanipour, Beatriz Llugany, Benoit Ngolo, Guillaume Yoboue, Eva Santos García, Joelle Carota, Nicole Sedor and Matt Szkrypczyk, who all passed their Qualifying Examinations; and to Andrea Cocos (Spanish), Geneviève Oliveira (French) and Marie-Gratias Sinon (French) who received their master’s degrees this year!

Alliance Française Dictation Competition Held

High school French students from across Western New York participated in the annual Excellence in French Studies Competition held at SUNY at Buffalo on Saturday, March 11. Committed and motivated students braved cold and stormy weather early on a Saturday morning to complete a rigorous dictée excerpted from Le Petit Prince, read by French PhD candidate Geneviève Oliveira. The competition is co-sponsored and funded by the SUNY at Buffalo Melodia Jones Fund Chair; Total cash prizes totaling $525 were awarded to Caroline Magavern, first place, Nichols School (Thomas Michaud, teacher), Emily Wasley, second place, Starpoint High School (Suzanne Staskiewicz, teacher) and Delaney Dynas and Samantha Wasley, third place, Stillpoint High School (Ahmadou Kourouma), “NY African Stud.”

Kara Walsh named RLL Outstanding Senior

French major Kara Walsh was nominated by no fewer than five RLL faculty members for this year’s outstanding senior award. She had the highest GPA of all the candidates, is proficient in three if not four Romance languages, has served as CAS Ambassador for RLL, has studied abroad, and has interned with Greenpeace. Kara Walsh is, in short, a wonderful example of the informed and engaged global citizens that we strive to cultivate in RLL. We can be very proud to have her represent us at Commencement. Congratulations, Kara, and best wishes for success in your future endeavors.

RLL Students Honored at 2016-2017 Celebration of Student Academic Excellence

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UPDATES FROM ALUMNI

Nicolas Schlienz received his PhD in Psychology from UB, and relocated to Baltimore after completing a clinical residency in Boston. He is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Ana Ozuna PhD, Assistant Professor of Black Studies/Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Hostos Community College, CUNY, Bronx, NY: “Since joining Hostos Community College in August 2013, I have participated in a number of scholarly and professional development activities to extend my knowledge in the areas of Caribbean Studies and Black Studies. For the last two years, I have participated in an annual Caribbean Studies conference in Merida, Mexico and New Orleans, Louisiana where I presented papers in anti-Haitian sentiment in colonial Hispaniola and the legacy of maroonage in Jamaica. In the summer 2014, I served as academic director for the four-week Guzman Ariza Summer program, which serves at-risk students from Dominican and Haitian heritage in Puerto Plata communities in Dominican Republic. In this capacity, I supervised Dominican and American teachers who developed student-centered math and literary lessons for 8-15 year old students. In addition, I developed and presented workshops on various pedagogical topics including the implementation of learning stations, backward design and interactive teaching strategies.”

Conor T. McLennan, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology at Cleveland State University, received his BA from UB in 1999 with double majors in Spanish and Psychology – graduating with honors in both. He also received his PhD in Cognitive Psychology from UB in 2003. He then spent three additional years at UB in the Department of Psychology working as a Research Scientist in Professor Paul Luce’s Language Perception Laboratory. He started his career at Cleveland State University in August 2006 - just completing his 10 year. Conor sends a link to a paper that he and one of his doctoral graduate students had published last year in Bilingualism: Language and Cognition: “Mouse tracking reveals that bilinguals behave like experts.”

Michelle Buehring, Class of 1971: “I am presently working for the DoD as a curriculum developer and teacher/trainer out of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, WA. My work there mostly centers around better professional writing techniques for language interpreters whose native language is not English. I have also authored three textbooks - two for the ESL field (A Different Angle and The Talking Edge - JAG Publications) and one workplace Spanish text (Work into Spanish - Work into Spanish Publications).

Howard Jay Smith graduated in 1972 with a major in Asian Studies, and received an EdM in Foundations in 1975. He is currently a Vice President and Wealth Advisor at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. He shares news of his recently published third book, a novel, “Beethoven in Love: Opus 139,” which has received great critical acclaim since its release.

Foreign Service Officer and UB alumnus David Turnbull, RLL 2016 Commencement Party Speaker

Nuria Cruz and Pepa Anastasia at NeMLA Baltimore, March 2017

Alumni continued >
Calling all RLL Alumni!

Stay in touch with your friends and colleagues, and share what you’ve been up to since graduation.

Please send your news and photos to rll-info@buffalo.edu

Give to the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Thank you for your support of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. With the support of alumni and friends, we can provide vital resources to enhance our department and provide support for students, research projects and programs. We are grateful for your generosity. You can support your department and help to provide for our students by making a gift online.

http://rll.buffalo.edu/alumni-friends/support-the-department/

STAY CONNECTED

You will always be a part of UB and we want you to stay connected and get involved by:

- Attending alumni events and programs
- Becoming a Regional Network Leader
  Help build a strong network of alumni in your region
- Mentoring UB students
- Attending career events with students
- Recruiting prospective students as a UB Admissions Ambassador
- Connecting with an alumni chapter in your area
- Giving to UB and making an impact on students
- Following UB and the College of Arts and Sciences on social media

To get involved, visit
http://www.cas.buffalo.edu/alumni-friends/get-involved/ or email UB-CollegeAlumni@buffalo.edu

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Henry Berlin and Fernanda Negrete, on the birth of Rosa....

To Sarah and Katie Hart, on the birth of twins Maggie (L) and Aubrey!
RLL News
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures June 2017

(716) 645-2191
rll-info@buffalo.edu