Minerva Ahumada Torres has a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Loyola University Chicago. In her dissertation and recent work, she has paid special attention to issues of epistemology—i.e., configuration, framing, focus, representation, ignorance—as well as to ethical decisions and theories. Her work draws from philosophical theory *per se* and intersects with cultural studies. Dr. Ahumada Torres taught classes in Philosophy and Latin American Studies at Loyola University Chicago, and currently teaches Philosophy with a concentration in Latin American Philosophy at Northeastern Illinois University. E-mail: b-ahumadatorres@neiu.edu

Jenn Anderson is a doctoral student in the Department of Communication at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on health promotion through community partnerships in unique populations. In particular, she is interested in the influence of religion and culture on preventative health behaviors like prenatal care, exercise, and healthy eating habits. E-mail: andel1407@msu.edu

Irani Arráiz is an Evaluation Economist at the Office of Evaluation and Oversight of the Inter-American Development Bank. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Maryland at College Park and an MBA from the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración in Caracas, Venezuela. Her most recent work includes impact evaluation of social programs and programs aimed at increasing competitiveness of SME in Latin America. E-mail: iarraiz@iadb.org

Goran Arya will graduate in May 2010 with a BS in Civil Engineering. In addition to excelling in his studies there, he brings to the team a diverse background as he was born in Iran and lived there in his early years. When asked why he became involved in the project, he stated “There are billions of people who go without clean drinking water or who may not have a sustainable energy source. I believe grassroots projects will not only help bolster developing communities but will make us more intertwined with other world citizens.” E-mail: goranarya@gmail.com

Brett Berquist is Executive Director of Study Abroad at Michigan State University. After earning a bachelor’s degree in music and French literature from the University of Missouri, Berquist received a master’s degree in linguistics with high honors from the University of Kansas. He has
also completed undergraduate studies with Université de Paris IV, France and doctoral work in psycholinguistics and second language acquisition at the Université de Technologie de Compiègne France. Brett joined MSU in July 2009 from Western Michigan University, in Kalamazoo, where he served as the executive director of international programs. Prior to this he lived and worked in France where he chaired foreign language departments, and organized and led study abroad programs. E-mail: berquis6@msu.edu

Robert Blake joined Michigan State University in 2009 to direct the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. He previously held positions at Cornell University and Texas A&M University, where more than 30 years of research, extension and teaching were aimed at cultural context-appropriate agricultural system and rural development challenges in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the United States. Program foci include economic, nutritional and genetic issues of management of livestock, especially dual-purpose ruminants, and rural livelihoods from mixed farming systems in these regions. Outreach and development are integral activities. Objectives are to train scientists by investigating options to improve the productivity, net economic returns and sustainability of land use and the livestock component of farming systems. He orchestrates Experience Latin America, a two-course interdisciplinary offering by Michigan State and Cornell universities and Mexican collaborators. E-mail: rwblake@msu.edu; Websites: http://latinamerica.isp.msu.edu; http://ip.cals.cornell.edu/courses/iard4010; http://ip.cals.cornell.edu/courses/iard6010

Anna Bliss is a senior, majoring in International Relations at James Madison College. She is specializing in International Development, Jewish Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She participated in the winter break study abroad program, ‘Experience Latin America’ in Chiapas, México. While in Chiapas, she focused her research on agrarian land tenure and its contexts in a new global economy. E-mail: blissan1@msu.edu

Libby Bogdan-Lovis is co-director for MSU’s Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences. Her research focuses on the political economy of U.S. medicalized childbirth and the integration of evidence-based medicine both in clinical practice and medical education. E-mail: bogdanlo@msu.edu

Mónica Elizabeth Brussolo was born in Victoria, México. She obtained bachelor degrees with honors in Management, Accounting and in Finance from the Tamaulipas State University; a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M International University and a Master in Economics from the University of Texas at Dallas. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate of Public Policy and Political Economy and a CONACYT scholarship recipient. Her research is focused on studying intra-regional inequality and poverty in Mexico and social and economic issues in Latin America with special interest in the associated public policy implications. She has worked with local Mexican governments on the design of the Economic Development Agenda for their regions. E-mail: monica.brussolo@utdallas.edu

Jennifer Cairns is a first year Masters student in the Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics department of Michigan State University. She completed her bachelors at Calvin College in Economics and International Development Studies in 2009 and has collaborated with researchers of the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the summers of 2008 and 2009. Jenny is currently working under David Tschirley and is thankful for the opportunity
to continue research at MSU related specifically to promoting food security in sub-Saharan Africa. E-mail: cairnsje@msu.edu

Jorge Andrés Calderón was born in Yucatán, México and graduated in veterinary medicine from the Autonomous University of Yucatan (UADY). At the UADY, he had the opportunity to work with communities in the southern region of Yucatán, specifically working with women's groups to raise the standard of living among highly marginalized communities. He also collaborated with professors from Cornell University to examine characteristics and potentials of smallholder sheep farms. Later he received an invitation for training at Cornell University in system dynamics, international agriculture and rural development. During this period, he earned a Master's degree in tropical animal production at the UADY, focusing on epidemiology. He later worked in the south of the Yucatan with the Campaign for Control of Brucelosis and Tuberculosis. Currently, he is head of program development for the state government in the Sistema para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (DIF—National Agency for Family Development) in Yucatán, where he coordinates community-level actions for the development of Yucatán. E-mail: jorge.calderon@yucatan.gob.mx; Website: http://www.dif.yucatan.gob.mx/index.php

Matthew Carl is a senior undergraduate student at Michigan State University studying Parks, Recreation and Tourism Resources. He is from Plymouth, Michigan. He hopes to work in the tourism industry, preferably internationally, upon graduating. E-mail: carlmatt@msu.edu

Debra A. Castillo is Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow, Emerson Hinchliff Professor of Hispanic Studies, and Professor of Comparative Literature at Cornell University. She is also director of the Latin American Studies Program. She specializes in contemporary narrative from the Spanish-speaking world (including the United States), gender studies, and cultural theory. Her most recent books are Re-dreaming America and the forthcoming Cartographies of Affect: Across Borders in South Asia and the Americas. E-mail: dac9@cornell.edu; Website: www.einaudi.cornell.edu/latinamerica

Deon Claiborne is a second year graduate student in Medical Anthropology at MSU and holds an MPH from UCLA. Her research interests focus on the global expansion of clinical research and how the current clinical research model is challenged by different cultural contexts. Deon has spent the last two decades working in HIV from prevention to recruitment in clinical trials and is currently active in AIDS Activists Treatment Coalition (ATAC), which works with the pharmaceutical industry to develop clinical trials that are both rich in data and inclusive to people living with HIV/AIDS. E-mail: claibo10@msu.edu

Cory Connolly is a senior at Michigan State University, majoring in International Relations and specializing in Environmental Economics and Policy and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The past two years Cory has presented at the CLACS undergraduate conference on Venezuela and Brazil respectively. Cory also served on the planning committee for last year's conference and participated in a faculty-student panel on Latin American security issues. Travel to Brazil, Honduras, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Puerto Rico have informed Cory's studies. Following graduation he plans to attend graduate school in environmental public policy and eventually
pursue a career that ties his interest in environmental concerns with his interest in Latin America. E-mail: connol44@msu.edu

Mark Davis is a doctoral student in MSU’s Hispanic Cultural Studies at MSU. His research interests include colonial literature and the transatlantic movement of popular cultural forms. Prior to going into Spanish letters, Mark did graduate study in cultural anthropology and other social sciences while living and working as director of a study abroad program in Venezuela. Mark currently coordinates programs in Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain for MSU’s Office of Study Abroad. E-mail: mdavis@msu.edu

Mary DeLuca is a junior at Michigan State University, majoring in Professional Writing with a minor in Spanish and a specialization in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She studied art and cultural practice as methods of cultural resistance in Oaxaca, México during the summer of 2008. Her Mexican experiences led to her interest and continued research on the role of the indigenous Mexican in modern texts and films. E-mail: delucam3@msu.edu

Sarah Dowd is a third-year student in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities and is also working towards a minor in Spanish. In *Experience Latin America* she focused on the intersections of tourism with indigenous culture. Sarah expects to graduate in spring 2011. E-mail: dowdsara@msu.edu

Jennifer Giordano is a senior majoring in International Relations in James Madison College with specializations in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and International Development. She has participated in study abroad experiences in Mexico, Australia, Belgium, and Belize. Her research interests focus on international development, international marketing, social media, and the ‘War on Drugs’ in Latin America and the Caribbean. E-mail: giordal4@msu.edu

Alejandro González-Landeros is a native of Mexico and a graduate student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Michigan State University. His research interests focus on Mexico and its cultural development after the Revolution. E-mail: gonza400@msu.edu

Marcela González-Rivas is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University, where she teaches regional planning and development in developing nations and international institutions. Her principal interest is the causes of sustained inequality in Latin America, how inequality can be alleviated. Her work has focused on regional inequality—that is, inequality between sub-national units—and especially how it is affected by trade policies. She is also beginning to work on individual-level inequality as well, with a recent paper on water access in indigenous communities in Mexico. E-mail: mg625@cornell.edu

Ana Luisa Izquierdo y de la Cueva was born in Mexico City and holds a bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees in history from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). She has been a tenured researcher at UNAM’s Mayan Studies Center of the Philological Research Institute for thirty years. A member of the National Research Registry for the study of political and legal institutions of prehispanic and contemporary indigenous peoples, she was Center Coordinator from 1993 to 1999 and from 2004 to 2006, she directed the
master’s and doctoral programs in Mesoamerican Studies. Professor Izquierdo has published two books: *La educación maya en los tiempos prehispánicos* (Mayan education in prehispanic times), published in three editions, and *Acalán y la Chontalpa en el siglo XVI*. She has also authored more than fifty articles on education, law, art, colonial sources, prehispanic political institutions and legal situations of present-day Maya. She has also directed key research projects supported by the National Council of Science and Technology. These include “Conservación, catalogación y digitalización del Archivo Histórico del Tribunal Superior de Justicia del Estado de Oaxaca” (Conservation, cataloguing and digitalizing the Historical Archive of the Superior Court of Justice of Oaxaca) from 2001 to 2003, and “Rescate, conservación, catalogación y digitalización del Archivo Histórico del Tribunal Superior de Justicia del Estado de Tlaxcala” (Rescue, conservation, cataloging and digitalizing the Historical Archive of the Superior Court of Justice of Tlaxcala) from 2004 to 2006. E-mail: analuisaizq@gmail.com

Christopher Jordan is a doctoral candidate in the department of Fisheries and Wildlife studying traditional forest knowledge along the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua. He has research, translating, and living experience in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Nicaragua. During his tenure at MSU, Chris has collaborated closely with both the Animal Studies department and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. E-mail: jordan41@msu.edu

Lynnette King is a graduate student in Medical Anthropology at Michigan State University. She holds an M.A. in Anthropology from Western Michigan University (1997). She plans on conducting pre-dissertation research on medical tourism in Costa Rica in the summer of 2010. Her current research focuses on the experiences of patients who travel to Costa Rica for necessary health care interventions and the impact of the globalization of health care on local health care access. E-mail: lyzaking12@gmail.com

Tina Kosiorek is a graduate student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Michigan State University. Her research interests draw upon the intersections of literature, media and the state to examine the construction of female identity in 20th century Chile. E-mail: kosiore2@msu.edu

Rachel Kramer is a senior in the Residential College of Arts and Humanities and will be completing an internship during the summer 2010 in Quito, Ecuador. In Huamachuco, Peru, she worked with “Proyecto Amigo”, an NGO that provides educational programs to working children and youth. E-mail: kramerr6@msu.edu

Peter LaPine is an associate professor and the program director for the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at Michigan State University. He is actively engaged in health care development in the state of Quintana Roo, Yucatan and has been involved in projects with Angel Notion for the last decade. His work has expanded from outreach and engagement via clinical service provision to collaborative research with several units at MSU. E-mail: lapine@msu.edu

Maria Knight Lapinski is an associate professor in the Department of Communication and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station at Michigan State University (MSU). She is also the Associate Dean for Research for the College of Communication Arts and Sciences and is currently
working with Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs to evaluate a Packard-funded maternal and adolescent health initiative in northern Nigeria and on maternal health issues in the Yucatan, Mexico. E-mail: lapinsk3@msu.edu

Jonathan Libby is a 2009 graduate from Michigan State University’s College of Civil and Environmental Engineering, where he received a B.S. in Civil Engineering. In his work outside of the University, he has assisted management with Spanish translations and guided international workers with their tasks. He has worked on several phases of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project for the City of Lansing, and other water/sewer-related projects for local municipalities. E-mail: jlibby32@gmail.com

Henrik Mader, a junior in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, studies philosophy. His participation in Experience Latin America led to a research paper focusing on small-scale textile importation policies and exploring trade barriers between Mexico and the United States. E-mail: maderhern@msu.edu

Anna Malavisi is a graduate student in Philosophy with a particular interest in ethics and development. She came to MSU after working for several years as a Development Practitioner in National and International Non-Government Organizations in Bolivia. Her main philosophical interests are ethics, social and political thought and feminist philosophy. E-mail: malavisi@msu.edu

Carlos Edilson de Almeida Maneschy earned a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Universidade Federal do Pará, an M. S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, and a doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. Professor Maneschy currently is rector of the Federal University of Pará.

Kyle Denison Martin is a second-year DO/MPH student in the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Kyle has been visiting Haiti since he was twelve years-old and continues to travel there on a regular basis. His current research interests involve sanitation, health education, and chronic disease management in the Seguin Plateau. Kyle holds a Masters of Arts in Bioethics, Humanities, and Society from Michigan State University. E-mail: marti545@msu.edu

Jason McIntyre is a Bio-systems Engineer senior. The bio-energy project has allowed him to know more about another culture and use his engineering skills to help a community in another part of the world. Our group has met the mayor of the town in Huamachuco, Peru and we were very impressed with his desire to carry out this project. E-mail: mcinty72@egr.msu.edu

Julio Martinez will graduate in 2010 with a BS in Bio-systems Engineering. He is the founder of MSU Innovation. In March 2010, he traveled to Mexico to construct a bio-digester in Monclova, Coahuila. Fluent in Spanish, he grew up Mexico before moving to the United States to obtain his secondary education. E-mail: marti967@msu.edu
Laura Mastin is a senior majoring in elementary education with minors in mathematics and geography. She plans to complete her fifth year student-teaching internship next year in Chicago Public Schools. In May 2008 she attended the Caribbean Regional Development study abroad program in the Dominican Republic. E-mail: mastinla@msu.edu

Austin Melcher is a senior in Chemical Engineering in the College of Engineering. In Huamachuco, Austin worked with the Office of Economic Development in the design and construction of affordable solar water heaters. A hot water heater was installed in the local public hospital and he provided short workshops on the function and value of solar water heaters in local public schools. E-mail: melcher7@msu.edu

Danny Méndez is an assistant professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Michigan State University. His research focuses on contemporary narrative representations of Dominican migrations to the United States and Puerto Rico, analyzing the particular ways in which these narratives challenge conceptions of Latin American literature and Latino Studies. He earned the Ph.D. degree in Caribbean literature from the University of Texas at Austin. E-mail: mendezda@cal.msu.edu

Helda Morales, originally from Guatemala, holds a doctorate in ecology and is a researcher at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, a research center in southern Mexico dedicated to sustainable development in the region. Her research lays the foundation for design and promotion of farming systems compatible with environmental conservation, in particular management practices focusing on pest prevention. She has studied traditional knowledge of subsistence farmers in Chiapas and Guatemala, the ecological mechanisms behind their farming practices and interactions between natural areas and production systems. She teaches graduate courses on biodiversity in agricultural systems, agro-ecology and food systems. She also serves on the Equity Committee of that institution and promotes responsible consumption and sustainable development in the city of San Cristóbal de las Casas, her home for the last 11 years. E-mail: hmorales@ecosur.mx; helda.bruce@gmail.com Website: www.ecosur.mx

Zenaida Moreno is a third-year doctoral student in Hispanic Cultural Studies in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Michigan State University. Her studies concentrate on Mayan indigenous narratives from Guatemala and Chiapas, México produced between 1985 and 2006. Her research advances the idea that indigenous narratives re-contextualize the experience of subordination in a neoliberal system and that, through literature, they re-signify and revitalize aspects of their culture in an effort to ensure cultural survival. E-mail: morenoze@msu.edu

Ronald Nigh graduated from Stanford in 1977 with a doctorate in Social Anthropology, specializing in human and political ecology. His dissertation studied traditional Maya milpa agriculture in the highlands of Chiapas. Following this he completed a one year post doc at a public research institute in Chiapas, where he continued to work on traditional Maya agriculture and its relationship to biodiversity and forest regeneration, themes that continue as a central focus of his research today. From 1985 to 1988 he worked for several environmental NGOs, including Nature Conservancy and Greenpeace, developing programs in Mexico. In 1987, he and a small group of professionals founded a non-profit called Dana Association, dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture as an option for peasant and indigenous smallholder in Mexico.
and Central America through training and research. Dana’s principal projects today are La Granja Orgánica, a non-profit shop providing an outlet for organic farmers in Mexico City and the Esquipulas Seed Saving Garden Project in San Cristóbal de las Casas. He is currently a research anthropologist and professor at CIESAS, Mexico’s principal anthropology research institute. Currently (with Helda Morales) he is developing a Garden-based science teaching program in farmer communities in Chiapas. He is based in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas. E-mail: rbnigh@gmail.com; Website: www.ciesas.edu.mx

Forrest Nussdorfer is a senior majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Social Science. Forrest’s field research project focuses on the resilience of youth who are forced to work from a young age in local informal gold mines where they are exposed to great risk. E-mail: nussdor5@msu.edu

Judith Elena Ortega Canto is a tenured researcher and immediate past director of the “Dr. Hideyo Noguchi” Regional Research Center (Centro de Investigaciones Regionales) at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY). She holds a degree in medicine from the UADY Medical School, a Master of Science degree in social medicine from UAM-Xochimilco, and a doctorate in Social Sciences/Medical Anthropology from El Colegio de Michoacán, A.C. Professor Ortega’s program foci include the examination of illness from social, cultural, and environmental perspectives: public health, community medicine, ecology, and medical practice, in addition to traditional research methodology. A member of the National Research System, she also has collaborated with local programs, such as: Merida Strategic Plan, City Council for Women, and the State Government Institute for Gender Equity. She began researching health and illness in marginalized groups, such as henequen (sisal) laborers and their family members, and inmates of the state prison. She led a research project on socio-cultural aspects of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in corn pickers in Campeche. Another research project examined children’s development and growth and women’s reproductive health in urban slums. More recently, her research has focused on reproductive health to determine causes and effects of reproductive health/illness in women, couples, and adolescents. Qualitative methodology is employed to explain the behavior of these groups within a social relations framework. Her book (in progress), entitled Female Reproductive Process: Knowledge, Genre, and Generations, reconstructs from a socio-cultural perspective, the system of social relationships between couples and alternative reproductive healthcare providers, including midwives and allopathic doctors, among other societal actors. E-mail: ocanto@uady.mx

Tricia Phelps is an undergraduate student in the Residential College of Arts & Humanities with a specialization in Environmental Studies. She plans to graduate in 2011 and pursue a graduate degree in Architecture with an emphasis on sustainable practices at the University of Cincinnati. E-mail: phelpstr@msu.edu

Lawrence L. Prokop, DO is an associate professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) at Michigan State University. He trains medical students and resident physicians in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in the classroom, medical clinic and hospitals, and also coordinates the Neuromusculoskeletal I and Chronic Illness systems courses. In addition, Dr. Prokop volunteers each year at a free clinic, Angel Notion, in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, which focuses on indigenous populations as
well as the training of staff, medical, speech and language pathology students in medical issues, and how treatments can be modified for the locale and available facilities. E-mail: prokop@msu.edu

Rocio Quispe-Agnoli is Director of the Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State and Associate Professor of (post)Colonial Latin American Studies in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Professor Quispe-Agnoli is also affiliated with the American Indian Studies Program and is a core faculty member of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Center for Gender Studies in a Global Context. She earned an M.A. in Sciences du Langage in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Toulouse II, and an M. A. and Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies at Brown University. E-mail: quispeag@cal.msu.edu

Maria José Ricalde Parada was born in Mérida, México and graduated from the Autonomous University of Yucatan (UADY) in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in nutrition. Her community work career began with a Health Services of Yucatan program, “The Fight against Child Malnutrition”. Her resulting research led to the conclusion that the southern region of Yucatan is especially limited by high incidences of poverty, illiteracy (predominantly a Mayan-speaking region) and malnutrition. Malnutrition in children two years of age and younger was documented and guidance was provided to their mothers. She continued with follow-up and evaluation until child nutritional status was recuperated. Later, she joined the Integrated Family Development System of Yucatan as director of the “Fight against Childhood Malnutrition” program. Within months, she was entrusted with the Food Orientation Department, where high priority was placed on children under the age of five years and those not attending school or at risk who most needed nutritional assistance to improve their condition. At project conclusion, she was appointed Director of Nutrition and Community Development, where she administers human, material and financial resources according to Social Assistance policies and regulations, providing nutrition and community development for 105 municipalities in the state of Yucatan and the city of Mérida. E-mail: maria.ricalde@yucatan.gob.mx; Website: http://www.dif.yucatan.gob.mx/index.php

Marília Scaff Rocha Ribeiro is an assistant professor of Portuguese. She teaches Portuguese language courses as well as courses on Luso-Brazilian literature, cinema, music, and culture. Her interests in scholarship interests include contemporary Brazilian novels, visual studies, autobiography, and the relationship between narrative and concepts of experience. E-mail: ribeirorm@msu.edu

Elizabeth Rilley is a senior in International Relations at James Madison College. She recently participated in the Experience Latin America I & II program. During the study abroad component in Chiapas, México, she was inspired to enter the field of ecotourism with the hypothesis that ecotourism, when properly managed, could be an effective global mechanism for poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. She will graduate in August 2010 after an internship to structure a rural tourism industry in Palampur, India. She hopes her career will bring her back to Latin America in the future. E-mail: rilleyel@msu.edu

Lindon Robison is professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. His research focuses on social capital and
poverty reduction in developing countries (Latin America in particular); finance and production economics; attachment values and socio-emotional goods and their influence on farmland values; environmental practices, surveys and framing responses and transaction costs with recent research in Nicaragua. E-mail: robison@anr.msu.edu

**Sandra Rozo** is a research fellow at the Office of Evaluation and Oversight of the Inter-American Development Bank. She is an economist from the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. She holds a Master Degree in Economics from the same university. Her most recent work has been focused on impact evaluation of social and productive programs in Latin America. E-mail: sandraroz@iabd.org

**Elvira Sánchez-Blake** is an associate professor of Latin American literature and culture at Michigan State University. Her research interests are Colombian and Mexican contemporary literature and cultural issues. She is the author of *Patria se escribe con sangre* (Anthropos, 2000), a presentation and analysis of testimonials from women in the Colombian conflict. Also, she is co-author of the anthology, *VocesHispanas Siglo XXI: Entrevistas con autores en DVD* (Yale University Press, 2005) and co-author of the critical edition, *El universo literario de Laura Restrepo* (Taurus, 2007). Her novel *Espiral de silencios* (Beaumont Eds, 2009) interweaves crucial events and echoes of testimonials from actors and agents of Colombia’s recent history. E-mail: sblake@msu.edu

**Olga J. Santiago** is a doctoral candidate in the Kinesiology Department. She has a bachelors degree in Accounting and a master degree in Hospital and Health Administration. After 14 years as a hospital and health care administrator in Puerto Rico she realized the need for greater physical activity as a means to prevent and decrease hospitalizations and chronic diseases. She decided to pursue a doctoral degree in kinesiology in the program of Psychosocial Aspects of Sports and Physical activity in the Department of Kinesiology, College of Education. Her research interest is in parents influence in child’s physical activity and sport; and physical activity participation opportunities for Hispanic children. At the present she is working in her dissertation about family social capital and child's physical activity. E-mail: santia37@msu.edu

**Eric Sarb** attended the Caribbean Regional Development study abroad program in the Dominican Republic in May 2009. He is a junior in Urban and Regional Planning and currently works as a research assistant for Michigan Citizen Planner at the MSU Land Policy Institute and will be interning with the Michigan Environmental Council in Lansing this summer as well. His planning interests include new urbanism, sustainability, and renewable energy. E-mail: sarberic@msu.edu

**Katelyn Sass** is a senior in secondary education, majoring in history with a minor in geography. She will complete her teacher certification next year as a student intern in the Greater Lansing area. She participated in the Caribbean Regional Development study abroad program in the Dominican Republic in May 2009. E-mail: sasskate@msu.edu

**Salsa Verde** is Geoff Deibel, saxophone; Todd Gaffke, saxophone; Marliz Gonzales, vocals; Rusty Smith, trumpet; Peter Nelson, trombone; Mikel ‘Mikelela’ Arkauz-Zubillaga, trombone; Nate Bliton, piano; Douglas ‘Fabio’ Ferreira, bass; Pablo ‘Papi’ Bagilet, vibraphone; Dr. Jon Weber, percussion; Hunter Seide, percussion; Ty Forquer, percussion. E-mail: weberjon@msu.edu; Website: www.msu.edu/course/mus/155/Salsa
Vicente Sánchez-Ventura is consul of Mexico in Detroit, a post he assumed in June 2006. Prior to coming to Detroit, he was the deputy consul general at the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin, Texas from 1999 to 2006. His career in international diplomatic service is diverse and extensive. Consul Sánchez has served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Mexico at Nicaragua, from 1994 to 1997, as Deputy Consul General at the Consulate General of Mexico in New Orleans from 1990 to 1994, as Deputy Consul General at the Consulate General of México in Puerto Rico from 1988 to 1990, and as Consul in Charge of protection and legal council to Mexican nationals for the Consulate General of Mexico in Dallas from 1985 to 1988. He has been a member of Mexico’s Foreign Service organization since 1981. He is a graduate of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), where he received a bachelor’s degree in International Relations. E-mail: regvalent@gmail.com; Website: http://portal.sre.gob.mx/detroit/

Dan Sharp is an assistant professor of ethnomusicology at Tulane University. He holds a joint appointment in the Newcomb Department of Music and the Stone Center for Latin American Studies. Dan is currently working on a book on nostalgia, cultural citizenship and the musical performance of cultural roots, focusing on Samba de Coco Raízes de Arcoverde and Cordel do Fogo Encantado from Arcoverde, Pernambuco. E-mail: danbsharp@gmail.com

Arlene Sierra, Assistant Chair in the Department of Radiology, has been associated with Michigan State University since 1972. She has served on numerous medical and academic committees on a local, national and international basis. Mrs. Sierra is a business and medical consultant to numerous private and public entities within the United States and abroad.

Emílio José de Castro e Silva was born in Salvador, Brazil. He earned an M.D. degree from the School of Medicine at the Federal University of Bahia and a Ph.D. in physiology from the Ribeirão Preto School of Medicine, University of São Paulo. He is currently full professor in the Department of Physiology and Health Sciences Institute of the Federal University of Bahia and since 2002 has served as Head of the Office for International Affairs. E-mail: emilio@ufba.br

Lou Anna K. Simon is the 20th president of Michigan State University, advancing knowledge and transforming lives in Michigan and around the world as part of MSU’s land-grant tradition and vital role in furthering the global common good. Her commitment to applying knowledge to benefit society is reflected in her key initiatives, particularly in economic development and international engagement. She recently expounded on these commitments in Embracing the World Grant Ideal: Affirming the Morrill Act for a Twenty-first-century Global Society, a monograph available online at worldgrantideal.msu.edu.

Simon has a distinguished history at Michigan State University. After earning her Ph.D. in 1974, she became assistant director of the Office of Institutional Research (now Office of Planning and Budgets). From there, she moved into a variety of administrative roles, including assistant provost for general academic administration and associate provost. She served as provost and vice president for academic affairs from 1993 through 2004—acting as interim president in 2003—and was appointed president by the MSU Board of Trustees in January 2005. In the area of international engagement, Simon is a member of the executive committee of the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa. E-mail: presmail@msu.edu
Francis Smart is a first year doctoral student of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. He studied under John Antle at Montana State in his masters and undergraduate degrees. Currently he is studying under Jeff Wooldridge and John Hoehn. His research interests include: estimator design, production economics, cap and trade, as well as the economics of health and food security. E-mail: smartfra@msu.edu

Amanda Smith holds an M.A. in Hispanic Literatures from Michigan State University and will begin her doctoral studies in Colonial Latin American Literature and Culture at Johns Hopkins University in the fall. Her research interests include Andean studies, colonial spatial construction, and Catalina de Erauso. E-mail: asmith@msu.edu

Diómedes Solano-Rabago is a doctoral student at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Michigan State University. His main areas of study include contemporary Latin American literature and postcolonial studies. His dissertation research focuses on Mexican aristocracy and grand bourgeoisie in twentieth-century literature. E-mail: solanora@msu.edu

Andrew Sommerlot is a Bio-systems Engineering Senior at Michigan State University. He has studied multiple types of alternative energy, including designing small scale digesters for producing bio-methane and has also studied designed models for urban crop and small ruminant farming. E-mail: andy.sommerlot@gmail.com

David Tapia-Vidal graduated with a bachelor degree in journalism from Universidad Austral de Chile, M.A. in communications from Eastern Michigan University, and M.A. in Literature from MSU. He is currently a doctoral student in Cultural Studies in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, College of Arts and Letters at MSU. David’s interests are Latin American Literature and Culture, specifically Chilean contemporary cinema and representations of nation, nationalism, identity, and globalization. E-mail: tapiadav@msu.edu

Alejandro Villanueva is regional director of Latin America and Caribbean Programs at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan. Based in Mexico City, Alejandro provides leadership and direction for Latin America and Caribbean programming initiatives. He holds a master's degree from the DUXX Graduate School of Business Leadership in Monterrey and a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the Universidad Iberoamericana. Prior to joining the Foundation, Alejandro was marketing director at AXA in Mexico and responsible for advertising, strategic marketing, customer management and other projects. He was head of Communication and Corporate Affairs at the ING Group of Mexico City, a position that included designing and implementing a strategy for corporate philanthropy. Alejandro previously worked as engagement manager at McKinsey & Company in the US, Spain, the Netherlands, India, Morocco, Mexico, Central America and South America. As an elected city counselor he represented 12 suburbs of the Mexico City municipality of Álvaro Obregón. He founded CIVIX, a nonprofit organization that provides strategy counseling to social projects. In addition to the Kellogg Foundation, CIVIX has supported Harvard University, The World Resources Institute, Ashoka and the Mexican Health Foundation. Alejandro also has developed collaborative initiatives to provide low-income families and communities with affordable and relevant products and services. Website: http://www.wkkf.org
Helene Weldt-Basson holds a B.A. from Barnard College, an M.A. from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. She taught at Columbia, Fordham, and Wayne State Universities before joining the faculty of Michigan State University as associate professor last year. She is the author of *Augusto Roa Bastos's I the Supreme: A Dialogic Perspective* and *Subversive Silences: Nonverbal Expression and Implicit Narrative Strategies in the Works of Latin American Women Writers*, as well as numerous articles on twentieth-century Latin American fiction. E-mail: hwbasson@msu.edu

Kelsey Winkel is a junior attending Michigan State University where she studies Spanish, TESOL, Secondary Education, and Latin American and Caribbean studies. Her main focus in CLACS includes the study of ancient civilizations in Latin America, specifically the Inca. Her goals for the future are to teach high school, as well as become a horse judge. E-mail: winkelke@msu.edu

Natalie Youakim is a senior in Urban and Regional Planning and currently works for the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development in Lansing. Her planning interests include coastline development, community development, and urban design. She attended the Caribbean Regional Development study abroad program in the Dominican Republic in May 2008. E-mail: youakimn@msu.edu