

Welcome to *Focus on Faculty*



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We are pleased to bring you a new issue of *Focus on Faculty*. This newsletter reflects the breadth and diversity of the more than 100 Brown faculty and staff working on Latin America and the Caribbean, offering a window onto the exciting scholarship across the university involving the region. In this issue, you will find interviews with faculty about their research and teaching as well as information about recent publications and awards.

We plan to publish one issue of *Focus on Faculty* each semester, and we invite you to contact us if you would like to be interviewed or have news to share.

Thank you for your interest in and support of CLACS.

Richard Snyder, Director of CLACS

Stephen Houston: Permanence and the Classic Maya

Stephen Houston is the Dupee Family Professor of Social Science and a Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology. He is currently completing several books, including a volume for Yale UP, *The Life Within: Classic Maya and the Matter of Permanence*. His other books focus on a royal tomb found at El Zotz, Guatemala, excavations done a decade ago at the Classic Maya city of Piedras Negras, Guatemala, and an edited volume with a colleague on other excavations at El Zotz. Houston has been awarded a MacArthur Fellowship and Guatemala's highest honor, the Order of the Quetzal, Grand Cross.

Tell us a little bit more about your new book, *The Life Within*. This work concerns the nature of Maya materials during the Classic period (AD 250-850). Along with other points, my main focus has been how the Maya depicted and classified wood, jade, limestone, obsidian, and flint, and the properties such materials were thought to

possess. To a surprising extent, many substances were conceived as living or sentient beings. Another focus has been how Maya artists played with cross-media evocations, so that



a bowl might show textile designs or those from basketry. These representational experiments seem to occur mostly at times of social turbulence or rapid change. But the ultimate goal in *The Life Within* is to argue that all such notions expressed an underlying aesthetic of permanence. In many ways, this makes sense in a tropical world where ephemerality and the corrosive effects of the elements played a heavy role.

You have said that receiving the Order of the Quetzal has been one of your "main honors." Can you tell us a little more about the award?

This decoration is usually given to statesmen, visiting dignitaries, and figures who have been important in Guatemalan life and culture. Strangely, it may be the only national Order given--in very different times and political conditions-- to both Fidel Castro and Benito Mussolini! There are many less controversial recipients, of course.

My Grand Cross recognized several decades of research on the ancient Maya and the dissemination of those studies to the English-speaking world.

Often a political award, the Order of the Quetzal was explicitly bestowed in this case to highlight the value of scholarship to the development of Guatemala.

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The Life Sciences and Latin American Studies

This new section of *Focus on Faculty* will explore productive synergies between the nuanced contextual knowledge of place, culture, language and human systems fostered by Latin American Studies, on the one hand, and the cutting-edge research in the life sciences at Brown on pressing problems ranging from environmental change to sustainable agriculture and natural resource management.

Below, Heather Leslie, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology, and Dawn King, Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, discuss their current research in Latin America.

Heather Leslie: Fisheries in Mexico's Gulf of California

Heather Leslie is the Peggy and Henry D. Sharpe Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology. Dr. Leslie leads an interdisciplinary team of researchers focused on the social and ecological dimensions of small scale fisheries in Mexico's Gulf of California, with the support of the US National Science Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and Brown's Environmental Change Initiative.

She co-edited the first synthetic book on the science and practice of marine ecosystem-based management (*Ecosystem-Based Management for the Oceans*, Island Press, 2009), and her innovative approach to conservation science research and training has been featured in pieces by the Science Coalition and *Nature*. She discusses her Mexico research and her field plans for the coming summer.



Can you tell us about your recent research trip to Mexico? Did you have any surprising results?

In January 2013, postdoctoral associate Dr. Leila Sievanen and I travelled to Cabo Pulmo, in the southwestern part of the gulf, to prepare for a series of household surveys conducted in collaboration with Mateja Nenanovic and Prof. Xavier Basurto of Duke University. The goal of this study was to understand the dynamics of small scale fisheries on the gulf coast of Baja California Sur, and particularly how fishermen respond to environmental changes such as climatic variability and institutional changes such as the establishment of protected areas.

This field research was part of a broader investigation of the social and ecological dynamics associated with small-scale fisheries in the southwestern part of the gulf region.

How did you choose Cabo Pulmo and why is that a good place to conduct your research?

Cabo Pulmo is one of the three research sites used by our group, which also includes Prof. Sri Nagavarapu (Economics & Environmental Studies). The town has no more than 100 people, and it is situated between the mountains and the beach. It is particularly fascinating because of the tremendous ecosystem responses documented there in response to

the park. Fishermen voluntarily ceased fishing in the area, and the increases in fish diversity and biomass are higher than those observed in many other parts of the world. I'm really interested in understanding the mechanisms behind this conservation success and how lessons learned there could improve conservation and development outcomes in other places. I have a piece in press in *Conservation Biology* on this very topic, and anticipate that conservation success is going to be a rich research topic for a long time to come.

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The Life Sciences and Latin American Studies

Heather Leslie: On Fisheries in Mexico's Gulf of California, cont.

Do you have new or upcoming publications that you are particularly excited about?

We have a forthcoming paper in *Ecological Applications* that illustrates how fishermen's choices about how and when they fish can influence local economies and ecosystems, and the influence that government and the free market can play in shaping those decisions. Using logbook data gathered by

fishermen from three cooperatives based near La Paz, Mexico, we estimated how the size of fish caught is influenced by the price fishermen are paid for differently sized fish.

We observed that fishermen closer to the tourism center of La Paz were paid more for 'plate sized' fish than fishermen farther away from the city. We developed a model linking fish biology with fishermen's behavior in order to

investigate the consequences of this size-based fishery for the ecosystem and the local economy. Postdoctoral fellow Dr. Sheila Walsh led this project with the support of Brown's Environmental Change Initiative.

What will you be teaching at Brown next semester?

I will be teaching a course on coastal ecology and conservation (ENVS 0455).

Dawn King: Cuba's Sustainability and Chilean Environmental Courts



Dawn King is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies. King has a forthcoming article in *Interface: A Journal For and About Social Movements* entitled "The Role of Societal Attitudes and Activists' Perceptions on Effective Judicial Access for the LGBT Movement in Chile." She is also working on a large project centered on the effectiveness of newly created institutions in local food economies in New England and two pieces to be submitted to journals: "Cuba: The Disappearing Model of Sustainability" and "New Environmental Courts in Chile - A Tool for Industry or Environmentalists?"

Tell us about your current research on Environmental Courts in Chile.

It investigates the formation of the Environmental Ministry in Chile as well as the Environmental Courts. Both are supposed to become institutions which bring in more scientific data and environmental concerns to major development projects. Those two areas previously had been streamlined to aid the large development companies in a political system highly entrenched in neo-liberal/capitalist norms. I find that these new institutions only help reinforce the highly entrenched capitalistic paradigm in Chile - to the point where they may ironically hurt environmental interests.

Paja Faundree and Joshua Tucker: Collaborative Research on Indigenous Public Culture in Transnational Perspective

Paja Faundree is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology. Her areas of research interest include language and politics, language and performance, music and language, indigeneity and social movements, ethnohistory, indigenous literacy and new media, conflicts over intellectual property and cultural rights, transnational markets and the politics of knowledge, and ethnic tourism. Her next book project, Magic Mint: A Linguistic Ethnography of the Global Salvia Trade, examines the recent reemergence of global trade in a hallucinogenic plant originally found in the corner of Mexico where she has long done research.



Joshua Tucker is an Assistant Professor in the Music Department.

His research interests include music in Latin America with a particular focus on Brazil and the Andes and concepts like popular music and indigeneity.

He is the author of many papers and presentations, and his book Gentleman Troubadours and Andean Pop Stars: Huayno Music, Media Work, and Ethnic Imaginaries in Urban Peru comes out this Spring.

Paja, you have a new book, *Singing for the Dead: The Politics of Indigenous Revival in Mexico*, to be published in May by Duke University Press. Can you tell us more about that?

Paja: I'm a linguistic anthropologist, and I work on indigenous Mexican languages and their social lives. I focus on one language in particular called Mazatec, in an attempt to look at how this case sits in respect to what's going on with indigenous languages around the country. My work has to do with political mobilization and political activism that's focused on languages. Some of what I'm interested in is modern efforts to record, teach or create written literatures in indigenous languages. So I'm interested in a revival movement.

People actively speak the languages, but they've been

marginalized for various reasons, particularly in public, institutional, and educational settings. I've been studying efforts in the last several decades to combat this marginalization – people writing indigenous languages down, using them to promote linguistic rights, and changing the educational system to some extent.

Josh, is there anything you are working on individually that you are particularly excited about?

Josh: I initially focused on the Andes and popular music. The Andes is understood to be the indigenous part of Peru – for want of a better way of putting it. Geographically, Peru is divided into connotatively indigenous highlands and a connotatively non-indigenous

coast. So my first project was about people who play music from the Andes that isn't indigenous, and use this music to build a sense of themselves that isn't indigenous. It was largely about how people make marks of distinction by circulating through kinds of musical forms. I worked with record companies and radio stations. The project was about media networks as outlets for particular kinds of music that are considered superior as a middle class emerges in the region. As a part of this project, I became friends with many people who are in one way or another indigenous. However, being indigenous is difficult to talk about in Peru. Unlike most of the rest of the hemisphere, Peruvians don't use terms like 'Indian' or 'indigenous.' Instead, indigenous peoples are often described using euphemisms like 'peasant' or 'worker.' I had a

Interview with Joshua Tucker and Paja Faundree, cont.

lot of material left over from this project, and I decided to do something with it, specifically regarding how people perform indigeneity in a place that doesn't provide an easily available way of acting 'indigenous.' Local ways of acting indigenous are frequently stigmatized, so people often try to rescue customs and de-stigmatize them, or they borrow tools from elsewhere. While on sabbatical next year, I plan to study how what it means to be indigenous travels internationally, and how this idea changes as it travels.

I'm also interested in the ways that outside ideas of "Indian-ness" travel into the Andes, and change what it means to be Indian there, and in the way that images of Andean "Indian-ness" travel outward and get received elsewhere in the world.

How did you realize you had a research interest in common?

Paja: I went to Mexico thinking I was going to be interested in people writing literary texts, but all the interesting stuff about language activism and writing the languages down was tied to singing and music. So I inadvertently became interested in musical performance and performing aspects of indigenous languages. That's one of the reasons Joshua and I began collaborating.

Josh: There are a number of different ways to answer that question. First of all, Brown is not all that big (laughs). The music department is literally across the

street and one block up from the anthropology department. And places like CLACS or the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America are interdisciplinary centers meant to draw people together. They work on this level to get you familiar with who's around and doing similar stuff. This doesn't mean that they always facilitate fruitful collaboration, but they frequently do. The other way to answer that question is to say that my wife is a colleague of Paja's in the Department of Anthropology, and her office is right there (points and laughs). So I know Paja through social circles. And finally, if someone makes funding available, you should apply for it (laughs). We are doing two conferences together on indigenous public culture in transnational perspective because good funding was made available to us, and we felt they would be the best use of it.

What are your goals for this collaborative project?

Josh: First, people need to know that there are academics interested in indigenous issues – and in my case, music and performance – around Brown. And not just around Brown. Conferences ideally make people aware of what is beyond Brown as well. A major point is to get people all across the field to know what is going on.

In very concrete terms, we wanted to compile an edited volume based on the second conference. And in personal terms, I guess it's the

same as with all academic work. Getting to know people who are doing great work and engaging in fruitful dialogue with them is always a wonderful opportunity.

Paja: I would just add that there is a coalescing interest in people who work on Native American and indigenous issues here at Brown, but there is little infrastructure for collaboration. Literally *this week* we had a meeting where we christened ourselves: Native American and Indigenous Studies at Brown, NAISAB.

Our conferences are part of the larger project of trying to formalize, centralize and make more visible those kinds of interests here at Brown. Another explicit goal Joshua and I had for these two conferences was to transgress several boundaries, including the Rio Grande.

The name "Native American and Indigenous Studies" has packed into it a number of deeply entrenched divisions across which people don't often speak. Native American studies are usually centered in North America, First Nations is its own thing, and then indigenous stuff is generally Latin America, but also across the globe. So there is balkanization, and one of our ideas was to bring people from the Americas at large to engage in these conversations. We hope to bring together activists, scholars and performers. We strive to foster conversations with people who are coming at this subject area from multiple perspectives.

Evelyn Hu-DeHart: The Chinese Diaspora in LAC

During her sabbatical in 2011-2012, **Evelyn Hu-DeHart** spent one semester in China as the Santander Visiting Scholar at Tsinghua University, Beijing. While at Tsinghua, she lectured extensively on the "Chinese Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean" at universities in Beijing and throughout China. She offered presentations in English, Chinese, and on a few occasions, Spanish. Consisting mainly of graduate students and faculty, the Chinese audiences were receptive and enthusiastic; most of all, they were curious and often quite astounded, as the migration, settlement, integration, and identities of "Chinos-Latinos" is not a well-known subject. Among the many personalities she introduced to the Chinese were the world renowned Sino-Afro-Cuban painter Wifredo Lam and the award-winning Sino-Peruvian short story writer Siu Kam Wen.



Now back at Brown, Hu-DeHart is teaching for the third time her bilingual (English-Spanish) First Year Seminar on the U.S.-Mexico border, entitled "The Border/La Frontera." This year, China's Zhejiang UP will publish a book of eight translations of her articles on the Chinese diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean. The International Affairs Office has awarded her a translation grant to help with the considerable cost

of translation. Also forthcoming in 2013 with NYU Press is an edited volume on Latino politics, co-edited with Marion Orr of Brown Political Science and Tony Affigne of Providence College Political Science. This book is the culmination of the multi-year Latino politics research project at the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA) which Prof. Hu-DeHart directs, with a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation.

Her current project is to write a book based on the letters of a Chinese who emigrated to the Americas, leaving behind his wife and a newborn son. She explains, "*He was never able to return to China, dying in Cuba in 1975. During this long time away from home, he regularly sent letters home and remitted money to support his family. His son, now retired as a professor of Chinese, has kept 45 of the letters from the 1950s, before Castro's Revolution, to his death in 1975. In collaboration with the son, Prof. Huang Zhoucai, my plan is to write a transnational family history bookended around these letters, describing the life of Fernando Wong in the sugar plantation town of Sagua La Grande in Cuba on one end, and the family's life in the village in Taishan County, source of more than 60% of out migrants to the Americas in the early 20th century, on the other.*" Based on Spanish, Chinese and English language sources, the book will be published in all three languages.

Hamerly Presents New Publications

Michael Hamerly, Professor Emeritus at the University of Guam, is currently an invited research scholar at the John Carter Brown Library. He gave presentations this Spring on two of his books: *Recuentos de dos ciudades: Guayaquil en 1899 y Quito en 1906: un estudio comparativo* (Guayaquil: Biblioteca Municipal de Guayaquil, 2012) and *Bibliografías de bibliografías ecuatorianas, 1885-2010* (Quito: Corporación Editora Nacional; Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Sede Ecuador). He also traveled to Cuenca, where he conducted a two-day workshop on the role of Ecuadorian universities in historical research.

In May he will be in Lima speaking on "Andean Studies Resources in the United States" at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

Stephen Houston: Permanence and the Classic Maya

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Is there something in particular that attracts you to Mayan culture? It has an endless capacity to surprise. Just when I think I have a handle on what the ancient Maya were like, some new find or intellectual discovery reshapes them into a new and richer configuration.

What courses are you teaching at Brown? How do they align with the research you are doing currently or have done in the past? I teach seminars on various Maya topics, including Maya glyphic writing, a broader class on the Classic Maya, along with comparative courses on royal courts and archaeological theory. I'm also preparing a course on writing systems of the world with Prof. Felipe Rojas and another on an introduction to archaeology with Prof. Andrew Scherer. The class on the Classic Maya involved the preparation of a book, *The Classic Maya* (Cambridge UP), which was written with Prof. Takeshi Inomata of the University of Arizona. The seminars also have often resulted in book projects done in collaboration with graduate students: *Fiery Pool* (Yale UP, an exhibit catalog, for a show that traveled to three venues around the country), *Re-Presenting the Past* (with Prof. Sheila Bonde, in the Joukowsky Institute publication series), and *Veiled Brightness* (University of Texas Press). I am planning another right now entitled *The Body Adorned: Maya Clothing and Dress*.

Are you especially excited about any of these recent projects? I am thinking of, and have partly written, a book about men in the ancient Maya society. Tentatively entitled *The Quetzal Plume*, it is the volume I wish to complete during my next sabbatical, along with an integrated book on my excavations at the dynastic capital of Piedras Negras, Guatemala.

Thomas A. Lewis, Co-Director of Religion & Internationalism Project



Thomas A. Lewis (Religious Studies) is a co-director of the Religion and Internationalism Project, a collaborative effort by the Department of Religious Studies, the Cogut Center for the Humanities, and the Watson Institute for International Studies. Focusing on the interrelationships among religion, secularization, and internationalism, the project has initiated the Questioning Religion Symposium series and was recently awarded an International Humanities postdoctoral fellowship position through the Cogut Center which will be filled in the Fall of 2013.

For more information, see http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Humanities_Center/initiatives/religionandinternationalism.html.

Bookshelf

- James N. Green, "Desire and Revolution: Socialists and the Brazilian Gay Liberation Movement in the 1970s." In *Human Rights and Transnational Solidarity in Cold War Latin America*, ed. Jessica Stites Mor, 239-67. Madison, University of Wisconsin Press (Critical Human Rights Series), 2013.
- Paja Faudree, *Singing for the Dead: The Politics of Indigenous Revival in Mexico*, Duke UP.
- A Korean translation edition of Richard Snyder's book, *Passion, Craft and Method in Comparative Politics* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), co-authored with Gerardo L. Munck, was published by Humanitas Press. The book includes in-depth interviews about their research with several leading Latin Americanists, including Guillermo O'Donnell, Philippe C. Schmitter, and Alfred Stepan.

Faculty and Staff Working on Latin America and the Caribbean

Almeida, Onesimo Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Amor y Vázquez, José Emeritus, Hispanic Studies
Andreas, Peter Political Science / Watson Institute
Augusto, Geri Taubman Center / Public Policy
Baiocchi, Gianpaolo Sociology
Bakewell, Liza CLACS
Bauer, Beth Hispanic Studies
Becker, Adeline Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
Bensmaïä, Réda French Studies
Bianchi, Cesario Medical School
Bliss, Joseph Medical School
Bogues, Anthony B. Africana Studies
Borkan, Jeffrey Medical School
Burgess, Katrina Watson Institute
Bushnell, Amy Research Associate, History
Clayton, Michelle Hispanic Studies
Cope, R. Douglas History
Coulombe, Dominique University Library
Dal Bo, Pedro Economics
Delessio, Dorothy Medical School
Diaz, Joseph Medical School
Dzidzienyo, Anani Africana Studies
Egilman, David Community Health / Biology & Medicine
Elliott, Claudia International Relations
Empkie, Timothy Medical School
Fagan, Mark Medical School
Faudree, Paja Anthropology
Fiering, Norman Emeritus, John Carter Brown Library
Figuroa, Patricia University Library
Fischer, Karen Geological Sciences
Flanigan, Timothy Medical School
Gander, Forrest English / Literary Arts
García Coll, Cynthia Education / Psychology and Pediatrics
Goldman, Roberta Medical School
Granai, Skip Medical School
Green, James N. History
Gutmann, Matthew Anthropology, VP International Affairs
Hamerly, Michael John Carter Brown Library
Harrison, Emily Medical School
Hastings, Justine Economics
Heath, Dwight Emeritus, Anthropology
Henderson, John V. Economics
Henry, Paget Sociology
Houston, Stephen Anthropology
Hu-DeHart, Evelyn History
Itzigsohn, José Sociology
Jacoby, Karl History
Jaquette, Jane Watson Institute
King, Dawn Center for Environmental Studies
Kirkman, Geoffrey International Advancement
Kriz, K. Dian History of Art and Architecture
Lagos, Ricardo Professor-at-Large, Watson Institute/CLACS
Leinaweaver, Jessaca Anthropology
Leslie, Heather Environment Sciences and Biology
Lewis, Thomas Religious Studies
Lindstrom, David Sociology
Lowenthal, Abraham Watson Institute
MacCarthy, Sarah Division of Biology and Medicine
Mazzucchelli, Aldo Hispanic Studies
McGarvey, Stephen Medical School
Merrim, Stephanie Hispanic Studies / Comparative Literature
Miles, William F.S. Political Science
Miller, Kiri Music
Nagavarapu, Sriniketh Economics
Neil, Christopher Marine Biology Laboratory
Nunn, Amy Medical School
Ortega, Julio Hispanic Studies
Pacheco, Maria Portuguese & Brazilian Studies / Education Alliance
Perry, Keisha-Khan Africana Studies / Anthropology
Remensnyder, Amy History
Rivas-Drake, Deborah Education
Roberts, Timmons Sociology
Rodriguez, Besenia Associate Dean of the College
Rodríguez, Pablo Medical School
Rodríguez, Ralph American Civilization
Saint-Amand, Pierre French Studies
Scherer, Andrew Anthropology
Schuhmacher, Nidia Hispanic Studies
Simas-Almeida, L. Portuguese & Brazilian Studies
Simon, Peter Medical School
Skidmore, Thomas Emeritus, History
Smith, Marcia Medical School
Smith, Victoria Hispanic Studies
Snyder, Holly University Librarian
Snyder, Richard Political Science, Director of CLACS
Sobral, Patricia Portuguese & Brazilian Studies
Sobral, Silvia Hispanic Studies
Stallings, Barbara Watson Institute
Stonestreet, Barbara Medical School
Sylvain, Patrick CLACS
Tejada-Bergés, Trevor Medical School
Taub, Joshua International Advancement
Tucker, C. Joshua Department of Music
Valente, Luiz Portuguese & Brazilian Studies
Vieira, Nelson Portuguese & Brazilian Studies
VanWey, Leah Sociology
Walker, Corey Africana Studies
Ward, Kenneth John Carter Brown Library
Warren, Kay Anthropology / Watson Institute
Weitz-Shapiro, Rebecca Political Science and Public Policy
Whitfield, Esther Comparative Literature
Ybarra, Patricia Theatre, Speech & Dance
Zerner, Catherine Art & Architecture

This just in!

CLACS Affiliated Faculty Members Receive Awards for Excellence in Teaching

CLACS is proud to announce that two affiliated faculty members –**Patricia Sobral** of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies and **Nidia Schumacher** of Hispanic Studies– received awards from the Undergraduate Council of Students (UCS) and the Administrative Affairs Committee. Professor Sobral received the Teaching and Advising Award and was nominated by students in both categories. The award comes directly from student nominations.



Patricia Sobral also received the 2012 Harriet W. Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning at Brown. She was enthusiastically nominated by her colleagues and students in recognition of her extensive mentorship through example to support colleagues and students in their development into successful practitioners of reflective teaching, together with her leadership at Brown, nationally, and internationally in implementing professional development in pedagogy.

James Green Receives 2013 Research Seed Award

James Green, Professor of History and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, was awarded a 2013 Seed Award by Brown's Office of the Vice President for Research for his project **Opening the Archives: Access to Information, Memory, and Justice Thirty Years After the End of the Brazilian Military Dictatorship**. The project, which will be implemented in conjunction with the Brazilian and U.S. National Archives, will be carried out by a group of twelve Brown and two Brazilian students who will digitize and index U.S. State Department documents on Brazil from 1960 to 1980 that will appear on websites in Brazil and at Brown. The team will also identify documents for the Truth Commission's investigations. This effort reinforces Brown's reputation as the leading U.S. institution focusing on contemporary Brazilian history. Professor Green is collaborating on the project with Sidnei Munhoz of the State University of Maringá (Paraná, Brazil).

Thank you!

CLACS would like to extend a special thanks to **Corinne Cathcart**, who gathered the information for *Focus on Faculty* and conducted all of the interviews. Corinne is double concentrating in History and Political Science and writes for numerous publications in the Brown community. She is currently a Communications Assistant at the Watson Institute.

