

LASA Voluntary Support

by SANDY KLINZING

Muchísimas gracias, muito obrigados, thank you! In a year when difficult economic conditions have taken their toll on contributions to non-profit organizations, LASA members and friends have continued to dig deeply into their pockets to support the Association. Over \$43,661 in contributions were received during 2008, including \$25,000 to establish the new Diskin Dissertation Award, which will be presented for the first time at LASA2009 in Rio de Janeiro.

LASA was additionally honored to welcome three new **Life Members** since our last report, bringing to 68 the number of individuals who have made this significant commitment. We are highly indebted to **Eduardo Silva**, **Gabriela Soto Laveaga** and **Anthony Bebbington** for choosing a LASA Life Membership!

We send our most sincere thank you to these individual donors to all LASA funds during 2008. Many people selected multiple funds and made repeated gifts during the year. Their contributions will support travel to the Rio meeting and help LASA see to it that Congress participation is made available to colleagues everywhere who wish to take part. We look forward to seeing you in Rio and to introducing you to the grantees that will benefit from your thoughtfulness. *(For additional information on Life Memberships or any of the LASA Funds please contact the Secretariat at 412-648-1907 or at lasa@pitt.edu.)*

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Diskin Dissertation Fellowship

Thanks to the support of the donors listed below, the first Diskin Dissertation Fellowship will be awarded at the 2009 LASA Congress in Rio. With your help, and the generous donations from Oxfam and from LASA, we met our goal of raising 25 thousand dollars, which will endow the fellowship in perpetuity. Your commitment to and participation in initiatives like this one are what helps make LASA a vibrant organization, deeply engaged with the issues of the day. The text of the call for nominations follows:

The Oxfam-LASA Diskin Dissertation Fellowship

The award will be presented to an advanced doctoral student or recent Ph.D. The Award Committee will employ three criteria in its evaluations: 1) Overall scholarly credentials, based on the candidate's curriculum vitae; 2) The quality of writing, research and analysis in the dissertation outline and sample chapter submitted; 3) The primary advisor's letter of recommendation. The definition of activist scholarship shall remain broad and pluralist, to be discussed and interpreted by each selection committee.

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Note: The endowed fellowship fund will gladly accept additional donations, which would allow us to increase the value of the dissertation fellowship over time. ■