

Report of the Outgoing President

por MARIA HERMÍNIA TAVARES DE ALMEIDA | Universidade de São Paulo | mhbtalm@usp.br

It was a great pleasure to preside over LASA's Thirtieth Congress in San Francisco—a meeting that was notable in several ways. Most important, LASA2012 represented the Congress's return to the United States after a long absence during which it traveled from Canada (Montréal) to Brazil (Rio) and back to Canada (Toronto), meeting wherever LASA members could freely cross international borders without fear of a last-minute visa denial.

Second, LASA 2012 inaugurated a new era of annual spring Congresses. The new co-chairs Gwen Kirkpatrick and Kenneth M. Roberts have already begun to organize the May 2013 Congress in Washington DC.

Third, returning to the United States through San Francisco proved to be a happy decision. The very special atmosphere of the "Sanctuary City," at once vibrant and easygoing, seemed to energize us as we went about our work. The Congress was a huge success. Around 4,800 participants attended the panels, special sessions, film festival and other featured events that took place over the three hectic and intense days of the conference—and they did so with comfort and ease.

A LASA Congress is a collective achievement, making it difficult to single out individual contributions. Nevertheless, I cannot fail to mention some of the outstanding people who made LASA2012 happen: The Congress co-chairs, Timothy Power and Gabrielle Nouzeilles, worked with 68 track and section chairs selecting papers and panels, and also helped organize some of the presidential panels and featured sessions with extraordinary competence, dedication and good humor. Claudia Ferman has now turned LASA's film festival into an important international

documentary film event. And, last but not least, we must pay tribute to the brave LASA staff and the student volunteers from local universities, who worked under the direction of Milagros Pereyra and Sandra Klinzing, two incredible organizers and problem solvers.

This is my last report as LASA president. Several people have asked me how tough it was to carry out the duties of the presidency. To be honest, I must say that it has been a most fascinating and enriching academic experience, made easier by the professionalism of officers and staff, by the competence of LASA Forum Associate Editor, Fred Rosen, and by the support I had from the Executive Council, from the two past presidents Eric Hershberg and John Coatsworth and, especially, from the incoming president Evelyne Huber, an exceptionally distinguished scholar and an incredible colleague. LASA is now in her competent hands. ■

