Efforts continue strong to advance LASA’s mission through enhancing the value of the LASA Endowment as well as securing support for its many other funds. For the LASA2013 Congress the Association was able to count on $269,821 for travel grants for Latin American and Caribbean scholars. Much of this funding was provided by foundations, but the majority ($149,000) came from interest on the LASA Endowment. Individual members contributed $7,284 to the LASA Travel Fund. The Student Fund received $4,326 and the Indigenous and Afro-descendant Fund, $3,984.

We also are pleased to report that the LASA Endowment currently stands at $4.9 million. One of the endowment’s chief sources of support is from LASA Life Memberships: a full $2,200 of the $2,500 fee is a direct contribution to the endowment. Since our last report in the fall of 2013, LASA has seven new Life Members: Elaine Carey (St. John’s University), Todd Eisenstadt (American University), Tulia Falleti (University of Pennsylvania), Jadwiga Pieper Mooney (University of Arizona), Monica Rankin (University of Texas, Dallas), Peter Smith (University of California, San Diego, the 2013 Kalman Silvert Award recipient), and Lynn Stephen (University of Oregon). These generous members bring the number of Life Memberships to 99 and represent a commitment not only to the Association but to future generations of Latin Americanists. We extend to them our most sincere thanks.

A strong effort is also under way to build the endowment through bequests. With members of the LASA Fundraising Committee leading the way, the number of bequest pledges now stands at 24. At the May 2013 Congress a special reception honored members who had already made their commitments. President Merilee Grindle and the co-chairs of the committee are planning another reception for the Chicago Congress. (For more information about the bequest campaign and plans for honoring donors at LASA2014, please see the article that follows.)

During 2013 nearly 650 gifts were made to LASA funds; these contributions totalled over $15,800. Many donors once again “rounded up” when renewing their membership or registering for the Congress; others contributed to several funds at once. LASA is extremely grateful to all these donors for their generosity. We wish to particularly acknowledge the following individuals for their gifts since our last report:

- Rolena Adorno
- Paulo Almeida
- Ingrid Ambrogi
- Frances Aparicio
- Kirsten Appendini
- Claudia Avellaneda
- Florence Babb
- Carmen Bastidas
- Bernadete Beserra
- Félix Besio Echeverría
- Rafael Betencourt
- Michelle Bigenho
- Lucio Bolivar
- Fabian Borges-Herrero
- Rachel Bowen
- Beatriz Buxos Gallardo
- Juan Caballero
- Gloria Caballero-Roca
- Manuel Camacho Higareda
- Andrea Casals
- Amy Chazkel
- William Cooper
- Janaina Cordeiro
- Linda Craft
- Jean Crissien
- Isadora Cruxén
- Juan José Daneri
- José Del Tronco
- Milagros Denis
- Paloma Díaz
- Enrique Dussel Peters
- Simón Escoffier Martínez
- José Fernández Alonso
- Efren Figuera
- Gustavo Fischman
- Herlinda Flores Badillo
- Daynali Flores Rodríguez
- Charles Fortin
- Maria Freier
- Francis Galan
- Sergio González Varela
- Gustavo Gordillo de Anda
- Manuel Grajales
- Tomás Alejandro Guevara
- Sergio Gutiérrez-Negrón
- Charles Hale
- Claude Hargrove
- Heather Hennes
- Nayesia Hernández
- Roxana Humeres
- Orldy Inoa Lazala
- Guillermo Irizarry Diaz
- Camila Jara
- Iris Jave
- Susanne Jonas
- Nathan Keegan
- Andrew Kirkendall
- Kathryn Lehman
- Gerardo Leibner
- William LeoGrande
- María Magdalena Leue Luna
- Bernardo Lins
- Nils Longueira Borrego
- Rodrigo Losada
- Luiza Lusvarghi
- Livia Magalhães
- Fernando Martínez Escobar
- Yolanda Massieu Trigo
- Irma Méndez de Hoyos
- Michael Miller
- Selene Moreno
- Fanni Muñoz Cabrejo
- David Myhre
- Elizabeth Ocampo Gómez
LASA Bequest Campaign Gains Momentum

by Cynthia McClintock and Kevin J. Middlebrook | Co-chairs, LASA Fundraising Committee

In 2012 LASA launched a major campaign to build its endowment fund through bequests from its members. The LASA Fundraising Committee is seeking bequests of a minimum of $10,000 (or a percentage of an estate that will produce a bequest of $10,000 or more) to benefit the endowment. We emphasize that this initiative is about bequests, not current gifts to the Association.

The endowment is the principal source of travel grants to LASA Congresses. It also supports many of the Association’s special projects. The generosity of donors to the endowment benefits future generations of Latin Americanists by nurturing their scholarship for many years to come.

Bequest donors become members of the new Kalman Silvert Society. At the Congress in Washington last year, we honored 21 distinguished LASA members for their bequest pledges: Arturo Arias, Cole Blasier, Cornelia Butler Flora, Ron Chilcote, John Coatsworth, Carmen Diana Deere, Merilee Grindle, Evelyne Huber, Jane Jaquette, William LeoGrande, Cynthia McClintock, Kevin Middlebrook, Marysa Navarro, Scott Palmer, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, Lars Schoultz, Gabriela Soto Laveaga, Barbara Stallings, and George Vickers. In recent months, we have welcomed three additional members of the Kalman Silvert Society: Arturo Escobar, Richard Fagen, and Robert R. Kaufman.

President Merilee Grindle will host a special reception at the upcoming LASA Congress in Chicago (Thursday, May 22, 9:00–10:30 p.m.) to honor contributors to this campaign. In addition, Kalman Silvert Society members will be given a special gold ribbon to wear at LASA Congresses, and their names will be inscribed on a plaque on permanent display at the LASA Secretariat.

We hope that many more of you will join the bequest campaign. None of us can take it with us, and we are confident that many of you will want to demonstrate just how much LASA has meant to you and continue to strengthen the Association.

We are grateful to the members of the Fundraising Committee who have worked hard to bring the bequest opportunity to the attention of LASA members. The 2014 committee includes Edna Acosta-Belén, John Coatsworth, Carmen Diana Deere, Marysa Navarro, Scott Palmer, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, Lars Schoultz, Gabriela Soto Laveaga, Barbara Stallings, and George Vickers.

For further information about the practical steps involved in making a bequest to LASA, please contact either of us (Cynthia McClintock, mcclin@gwu.edu; Kevin Middlebrook, kevinmiddlebrook@aol.com) or Sandy Klinzing at the LASA Secretariat (sklinz@pitt.edu).

We look forward to seeing you in Chicago in May.