

April 24, 2008

Paula Mans '08 wins Fulbright for study in Brazil

As the daughter of a World Bank official, Paula Mans was accustomed to living abroad. For three years of her early childhood, her family lived in Tanzania; they spent her junior year in high school in Mozambique while she attended a private school in nearby Swaziland. She spent a semester of her junior year in college abroad in Argentina.

So she thought she knew what being a foreigner was like, but Brazil surprised her – because she *didn't* feel like an outsider when she first traveled there.

"I've traveled to many places, but I've never felt so immediately included. From the first day I arrived, nobody looked at me as if I didn't belong there. The people are the friendliest people you'll ever meet."

She should feel at home, then, during her year in Salvador, Brazil, as a William J. Fulbright Fellow. The prestigious Fulbright Fellowships were created by Congress in order to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries." The U.S. State Department administers the program.

Mans, a Spanish major who plans to pursue a Ph.D. in anthropology or African-American studies, will spend her Fulbright year researching a community-based supplementary education program for girls in a *favela*—the Brazilian equivalent of a shantytown—in Salvador.

The program Mans will study, called Bahia Street, is a school for girls who live in a *favela* in Salvador. Bahia Street provides supplementary education to the students' attendance at local public schools in all basic subjects including math, science and reading. In addition to this standard curriculum, Bahia Street provides programs in self-defense, health care, sexual education, art therapy, Afro-Brazilian culture, and a series of programs that focus on issues of violence and inequality.

The goal of Bahia Street is to instill in its students the knowledge and leadership skills needed to break the cycle of poverty and violence that dominate their *favela* communities.

"A lot of the instruction is focused on how to protect yourself," Mans explains, "because it's very dangerous for girls in the shantytowns. But it also encourages them to complete their education so that they will have options other than prostitution, which is the only job available to many women there. "

"I read a statistic that said that 13.6% of black Brazilians complete elementary school while only 2.1% will graduate from high school. I want to see if community-based programs like Bahia Street increase girls' chance of success in that environment."

Teaching English will be an entrée into the community for Mans, who hopes to interview students, teachers, and, if possible, students' families, about the effects the school has on their lives.

Mans' parents spend about three months of the year in Brazil, and she says she has become "fairly proficient" in Portuguese by visiting them. She also undertook three weeks of Portuguese study in Brazil that were funded by the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, an initiative of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that aims to "increase diversity in the faculty ranks of institutions of higher learning" by providing support to "minority students, and others with a demonstrated

commitment to eradicating racial disparities, who will pursue Ph.D.s in core fields in the arts and sciences."

The Mellon-Mays program also sponsored Mans' research on Afro-Argentinian literature, which Mans characterizes as an understudied topic.

So are the experiences of women and girls in the *favelas* of Salvador, she says.

"While there is a lot of information about the *favela* situation, it tends to have a very masculine focus—there's very little information about the experiences of women and their struggles. And Bahia [the Brazilian state of which Salvador is the capital] is very underrepresented in the literature," she explains.

"Most of the tourism focuses on Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paolo, cities in the South. But Bahia, which is the poorest state in Brazil, is also its cultural center," she says. "Most of the national foods and cultural products like samba and capoeira that we identify with Brazil originated in Bahia. The tourist industry projects a glamorous image of Afro-Brazilian culture without recognizing the struggles that this population goes through. I want to bring attention to that."

Spring Dance Concert features reconstruction of late work by modern master José Limón

2008 is the centennial year of the pioneering modern dancer and choreographer José Limón, and the Bryn Mawr-Haverford Dance Program will mark it with a reconstruction of one of the master's final works at the Spring Dance Concert on Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, at 7:30 p.m. in Goodhart Theater.

The concert, which is free and open to the public, will feature 40 dancers performing modern dance, jazz, ballet and African dance works by faculty and student choreographers, in addition to a rare performance of Limón's "Waldstein Sonata."

Set to a beloved Beethoven piano sonata of the same name, the "Waldstein" is one of the last dances Limón composed before his death in 1972. Bryn Mawr licensed the work through the Limón Foundation and retained Janet Pilla, a Philadelphia-based expert in Limón's method and work, to teach the piece to Bi-College students.

The group performed the dance a couple of weeks ago at a conference celebrating the Limón centennial at Drexel University, Associate Director of Dance Madeline Cantor reports.

"Reconstructions of this sort are too rare," says Cantor. "In modern dance, there is such a focus on original vision that it's very hard to have a literature, a history. We can watch dances of this era on film, but when you perform a dance, you understand it in a visceral way that you can't by just watching it."

The Limón piece is a prime example of modernist abstraction that eschews storytelling and focuses on pure movement, says Cantor, who performed the piece professionally as a member of Dance Conduit in the 1980s.

"It requires a suspension of postmodern irony in favor of a musical and wholehearted kind of dancing," Cantor observes.

The dancers will be accompanied by a live performance of the Beethoven piano sonata by Noah Farber.

Live musicians—drummers—will also accompany the African Dance Ensemble as it performs its first work by a choreographer new to Bryn Mawr, Rev. Nia Eubanks-Dixon. The piece, titled "Somebodiness," is inspired by the poem "The Somebodiness of Me," by Ruby Dee.

Also on the program is a jazz work by choreographer Myra Bazell of the SCRAP Performance Group, performed to Japanese Taiko drumming, a work with strong ballet influences by Heidi Cruz-Austin, and "Undertow," a modern piece by Philadelphia choreographer Nichole Canuso.

Three student works, by dance majors Ellen Gaintner '08 and Adaobi Kanu '08, and advanced choreography student Sheerley Zinori '08 will round out the evening.

TLI pilots continuing staff education program

Open house in Canaday Library this Friday

A new resource will soon be available for members of the Bryn Mawr staff who are interested in pursuing first-time degrees. This summer, the [Teaching and Learning Initiative](#) (TLI) will pilot a Continuing Staff Education Program that will help aspiring students clarify their educational needs and find programs that fit them.

The TLI will host an open house for its new effort on Friday, April 25, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. as it marks the redesignation of Canaday 316, formerly the Curriculum Resource Center, as the Teaching and Learning Resource Center. The new space will serve as central location for the Continuing Staff Education Program's materials.

The TLI, founded in 2006, has several programs that involve staff, including a learning exchange in which students and staff members are paired to trade skills; a program that teaches reading, writing, and communication skills; and a program that provides instruction in computing.

Staff Education Coordinator Darla Attardi '06, who administers the TLI's staff initiatives, says, "We've had a wonderful response to these programs, but we've consistently heard from staff members who would like to take college courses for credit, not necessarily at Bryn Mawr."

Many staff members are interested in courses that fall outside Bryn Mawr's liberal-arts curriculum, Attardi explains, and the College, whose student body is composed primarily of full-time students who live on campus, generally offers few classes that accommodate the schedules of full-time workers.

Attardi has been working with two undergraduate interns—June Mbae '10 and Maggie Powers '10—to investigate the offerings of local colleges and universities.

"We've collected information from about 15 schools in binders that we'll keep in the Teaching and Learning Resource Center," Powers says. "Each one has an 'at-a-glance' fact sheet with basic information about the school, costs and admission requirements. The fact sheets are uniform so that it's easy to compare programs."

"We also have space in the binders for comments from people who have experience of the programs," Attardi adds.

TLI continuing education consultants will take on the role of guidance counselors, helping staff members navigate the admissions process and identify any financial resources that are available. The \$500 per year that the College offers for professional development can be applied to the program, Attardi says.

Attardi credits Mbae and Powers with most of the heavy lifting on the project: "June and Maggie have really led this effort. They've done the bulk of the work, and they've been very flexible as the plans for the program changed over the course of its development."

"I'm really excited about the possibilities of this program," says Powers, a psychology major with a minor in education. "I've been involved with the TLI as a student coordinator for the staff-student partnerships and as an intern. I love the collaborative relationships you can form in this kind of program, and it feels great to be starting a new effort."

Powers' enthusiasm drew Mbae, a chemistry major whom she'd known since International Student Orientation their freshman year (Mbae is Kenyan; Powers, though American, graduated from a high school in Germany and arrived on campus early, with the international group).

"Maggie told me about the internship, and when Darla told me about it, I thought it sounded very worthwhile," Mbae says. "I hope to see it grow."

Gastronomic guru Molly Stevens to speak

On Friday, May 2, at 4 p.m. in Thomas 224, the Tri-College Food Studies Initiative will present "Food Writing 101: Turning Love of Food Into a Career." The talk will be given by Molly Stevens, a chef, food writer, and cooking teacher who has won high honors for both her writing and her teaching.

Classically trained as a chef in France, Stevens has directed programs and taught at the French Culinary Institute, the New England Culinary Institute, and L'Ecole de Cuisine La Varenne in Burgundy, France and Venice, Italy. She has been named "Cooking Teacher of the Year" by both *Bon Appétit* magazine and the International Association of Culinary Professionals.

But aspiring cooks not fortunate enough to study at Stevens' side can still benefit from her wealth of culinary knowledge through her writing.

Described in *The New York Times Book Review* as "a beautifully clear writer who likes to teach," Stevens is a contributing editor at *Fine Cooking* Magazine and a regular contributor of articles and recipes to *Bon Appétit*, *Saveur*, and the *Oregonian*, among other publications.

Stevens' cookbook *All About Braising: The Art of Uncomplicated Cooking* won accolades from around the world, including a 2005 James Beard Foundation award and an International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) award. *Food & Wine* listed the book as one of the top 10 cookbooks of 2004.

From 2000 through 2005, Stevens and Fran McCullough co-edited the Houghton-Mifflin annual series *Best American Recipes*, which culminated in *The 150 Best American Recipes: Indispensable Dishes from Legendary Chefs and Undiscovered Cooks*; the final book was a finalist for the IACP award. Other Books include *One Potato, Two Potato* and the New England volume in the Williams-Sonoma New American Cooking series.

BMC to test emergency siren next Wednesday

If you plan to be on the Bryn Mawr campus next Wednesday, April 30, at about 3 p.m., be prepared: the College plans to test its recently acquired emergency siren, which is mounted atop Canaday Library.

The siren, a key element of the College's emergency-response system, uses radio technology to produce a [warning tone](#) and a voice message through four powerful omnidirectional speakers.

According to Director of Public Safety Mike Hill, the siren will alert members of the Bryn Mawr community that a message has been sent through the [e2Campus system](#). Those who have registered for e2Campus notifications will receive text messages and/or e-mails; the same messages will appear on the Bryn Mawr College home page and the gateway pages for [students](#) , [faculty members](#), [staff members](#), and [parents](#).

The e2Campus system will be tested along with the siren next Wednesday.

The siren, manufactured by Whelen Engineering, is capable of producing a sound intensity of about 120 decibel –the equivalent of the sound level in front-row seats at a loud rock concert--at 100 feet . Its range at 60 decibels—the equivalent of normal conversation—is about 7,200 feet.

The decibel range makes the siren audible throughout the Bryn Mawr campus and a bit beyond, but not loud enough to cause hearing damage with limited exposure, says Occupational Health and Safety Officer Don Abramowitz.

Hill says that Haverford has purchased a similar siren, and the two colleges have agreed to use the same sound as a warning tone so that its significance will be the same on either campus. Hill is also working with colleagues at the Shipley and Baldwin schools and Harcum College to coordinate emergency communications, since the schools' proximity makes it likely that any emergency situation would affect all three schools.

A silent test of Bryn Mawr's siren, which ensured that it was picking up the radio signal, has already been conducted, Hill says.

The system includes a backup generator so that the siren can still be sounded in the event of a power outage as well as a second radio transmitter that is kept in a different location in case the Public Safety Department's offices in the Maloney Building are inaccessible.

"In the worst-case scenario, we also have bullhorns, and we have investigated every possible means of communication, including the housekeeping staff's walkie-talkies," Hill says.

"Emergency response is like a living, breathing thing," says Hill. "You have to re-examine it and tend to it all the time."

Hill is part of an emergency-response working group that regularly discusses new technologies and issues as they arise.

"We did a tabletop exercise in January with the Lower Merion Township Police, the Bryn Mawr Fire Department, and all kinds of emergency responders on our campus," Hill says. "It went pretty well, and we plan to do tests and exercises once or maybe twice a year. We learn things from every test. Hopefully, we'll never have to put that knowledge to use."

May Day to be celebrated Sunday, May 4

Bryn Mawr students will briefly set aside their books to gambol on the green at the College's annual May Day celebration on Sunday, May 4. The day's events begin at 5:45 a.m., when sophomores awaken seniors with a song written by Henry VII and conclude just before midnight as the credits roll on *The Philadelphia Story*, starring Katharine Hepburn '28. In between is breakfast of strawberries and cream, the Convocation in Goodhart, at which academic awards are announced, Maypole dancing, plays, concerts, and all manner of frivolity. The schedule: .

5:45 a.m.	Sophomores prepare May Day baskets and wake the Seniors with "The Hunt is Up" written by King Henry VIII
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7 a.m.	Senior gather at Goodhart and proceed to Pen Y Groes to wake President Vickers. Ye Taylor bell rings until 7:05 to welcome in the May
7:15 a.m.	Seniors sing ye Magdalen Hymn to the Sun from Rock Tower
7:30 a.m.	The classes breakfast together on Strawberries and Cream: Seniors in ye Campus Center, Juniors in Rhoads Dining Hall, Sophomores in Haffner Dining Hall and Freshwomen in Erdman Dining Hall.
8:45 a.m.	Convocation held in ye Goodhart Hall, where Academic Awards are announced
9 a.m.	Ye Morris Dancers perform in front of Pembroke Arch. Rain site: Thomas Great Hall
9:30 a.m.	Ye Grande Processional with the President of the College, the May Queenes, Traditions Mistresses, Songs Mistresses, Worthies and Princes and Princesses of the Court, May Pole Dancers, Jugglers and Pirates. Rain site: Thomas Great Hall
10 a.m.	May Pole Dancing on ye Merion Greene. May Queenes are crowned, and ye President and ye May Queenes deliver Humourous Speeches
10:30 a.m.	Senior Hoop Race down ye Senior Row
11 a.m.	May Hole Dancing on ye Denbigh Green
11:15 a.m.	A Picnic lunch is served on ye Merion Greene until 1:15 p.m. Rain site: Rhoads Dining Hall
11:30 a.m.	Scottish Country Dancing on ye Merion Greene. Rain site: Goodhart Music Room T-shirt sales in front of ye Campus Center until 5 p.m. Rain site: Campus Center Foyer Snacks provided on Merion Green until 4 p.m.
noon	African Dance Sessions on ye Thomas Greene sponsored by Dance Department. Rain site: Thomas Great Hall (until 3 p.m.) Henna Painters sponsored by SAW, Wax Hands, Tarot Cards, Palm Reader, Pirate-themed Antique Photos, Face Painter and Airbrush Tattoo in front of ye Canaday Library. Rain site: Lusty Cup
12:30 p.m.	A <i>Capella</i> concert on ye Carpenter Roof featuring Acabellas, Chaverim, Counterpoint, Extreme Keys, JWAHIR, Lavender's Blue, Looney Tunes and Night Owls. Rain site: Thomas Great Hall. Greek play in ye Sunken Garden. Rain site: Gateway Conference Room.

<i>1 p.m.</i>	Rugby Sing-Along and Human Chess on ye Denbigh Greene Rain site: Denbigh Living Room.
<i>1:30 p.m.</i>	Flute Choir performs on ye Campus Center Mezzanine Robin Hood play in ye Taft Garden. Rain site: Goodhart Music Room
<i>2-5 p.m.</i>	May Day Concert on Merion Green. Rain Site: Schwartz Gymnasium
<i>3 p.m.</i>	"Romeo & Juliet" and "Twelfth Night" as presented by Bryn Mawr College Shakespeare Performance Troupe at ye Taft Garden. Rain Site: Gateway Conference Room.
<i>4 p.m.</i>	Greasepaint performs on ye Carpenter Roof. Rain site: Goodhart Music Room
<i>4:30 p.m.</i>	"Cenci: The Musical: On Ice" as presented by Bryn Mawr College Shakespeare Performance Troupe at ye Taft Garden. Rain site: Goodhart Music Room.
<i>4:30 - 7p.m.</i>	May Day Banquet in Erdman Hall, featuring a Renaissance Quartet and Court Jester.
<i>5-8 p.m.</i>	Dessert served in ye Sunken Garden.
<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	3XL performs on ye Carpenter Roof.
<i>7 p.m.</i>	Ye Bryn Mawr Renaissance Choir Concert in Thomas Great Hall
<i>8 p.m.</i>	The last Step Sing of the year on ye Senior Steps.
<i>10:45 p.m.</i>	The Philadelphia Story, starring Katharine Hepburn '28, in Thomas 110.