



University of Pittsburgh

*University Center for International Studies
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May 29, 2007

Daniel Balderston, President
Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana
University of Pittsburgh
1312 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear Professor Balderston,

I am writing to support the proposal of the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh to continue to serve as the institutional home for the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana (IILI) and to edit the *Revista Iberoamericana*. The University of Pittsburgh has been the institutional home for IILI for over 40 years. During that time, both the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures (HL&L) and the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) have taken even greater roles in leadership in Latin American Studies. CLAS has been continually funded as a National Resource Center by the US Department of Education since 1979. CLAS also has funding from a number of other sources and supports programs related to Latin America across a wide number of disciplines. Over the years CLAS and HL&L have collaborated on a number of programs and projects including a series of four highly regarded conferences related to Latin American Cultural Studies, as well as a number of other conferences. Most recently we hosted the conference: *Globalization, Diversity, and Inequality in Latin America: The Challenges, Opportunities, and Dangers*, held in April, 2007, which included scholars from several different disciplines. Professor Elizabeth Monasterios was one of the co-conveners of this program. We expect to continue to support activities related to Latin American literature and cultural studies in the future.

In addition to the Instituto, the University of Pittsburgh has been the institutional home for the Latin American Studies Association for over 20 years. This has been a very fruitful relationship for both organizations. Recently Pitt also became the host institution for the *Hispanic American Historical Review*. I believe that the synergy created through this nexus of organizational links and the strong Latin American Studies Program here continues to make the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures and the University of Pittsburgh an ideal home for the IILI.

If the University of Pittsburgh has the successful bid to remain the institutional home for the Instituto and the Revista, I can assure you that the Center for Latin American Studies will continue to collaborate with and support the efforts of both the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures and the Instituto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen DeWalt', written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Musante DeWalt, PhD
Director, Center for Latin American Studies