During my sabbatical in spring 2009, I started working with Professor Maria M. Jaramillo (Fitchburg State College) on the edition of a volume of articles about women of African descent in the Americas (the Caribbean, Central America, and South America). This volume highlights the contributions by these women in cultural, social, and political spheres. Among the women studied are Benedicta Da Silva from Brazil, a political activist who struggled as a child and teen-ager in the favelas of Copacabana and worked on behalf of her people until she managed to occupy the position of Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro and Minister of State for the government of Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva. Another woman is Totó la Momposina who has traveled the world performing music whose roots are found on Afro-Colombian cultural heritage. There is also an article on Cuban author Nancy Morejón who has become one of the most important authors throughout the Americas and whose works focus on women’s issues and on the experience and conditions of all Afro-Cubans. Not all the women studied in this volume have received the recognition that these women have. The essays also explore the life stories of other women who have made an impact in their own communities yet their voices have not crossed their country’s borders. Such is the case of Mama Tingo from the Dominican Republic, who struggled to defend the right of peasants to their land and was assassinated during the regime of Joaquín Balanguer in 1974. The same fate was encountered by María Elena Moyano, activist in Villa el Salvador in the outskirts of Lima whose work helped to provide government assistance to women and children in her community.

This project was started during fall 2008. That semester we distributed a call for papers and as soon as the spring of 2009, we started receiving articles and reviewing them. We also pursued research of our own on the subject of Afro-Latin American women. As of spring 2010, we have accepted thirty-five articles. We hope to complete an introduction and submit the manuscript for publication by the end of summer of 2010. This book will be published first in Spanish and we have already started the process of translation for an English language version. Thanks to a Virginia Pyne Kaneb Faculty Scholars Grant, I was able to travel to Puerto Rico during summer 2009, as Visiting Researcher at the Institute for Caribbean Studies at the Universidad de Puerto Rico. I was able to pursue further research on Afro-Caribbean women and had the opportunity to meet with scholars in the field and with writers, such as Myra Santos-Febres, one of the best known writers in Latin America today. I also traveled to the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, to present part of this project on a panel.
The Regis College Theatre Company will present this fall *Spring Storm* by Tennessee Williams, Directed by Dr. Frans Rijnbout, Associate Professor of Theatre. “Spring Storm” is a long forgotten play—both social satire and love story, set in the 1930’s dealing with relationship issues between adolescents and parents, social class, gender and race issues.

The play will be presented in the Casey Theatre on:

- Wednesday, November 10th @ 8PM
- Thursday, November 11th @ 8PM
- Friday, November 12th @ 8PM
- Saturday, November 13th @ 2PM

---

Afro-Descendent Women in the Americas

*continued from front page*

at the annual meeting of the Congress of Colombianists. This spring semester I organized a seminar with some of the collaborators for this volume at the Northeast Modern Language Association in Montreal, and in October I plan to travel to Toronto to speak about the completed project on a panel at the International Conference on Latin American Studies.

By publishing this volume, our main goal is to fill a gap in the area of Latin American studies since publications on the contributions by women of African descent are very limited. The published book will be a very useful tool for scholars, educators and students throughout the world, particularly in programs such as Spanish, Latin American Studies, Women’s Studies, History, and Afro-Latin American studies. In addition, I have been incorporating the topics of research for this project into my courses at Regis College, such as in Hispanic Culture and Latin American literature.

Mrs. Kaneb’s generosity and her support of faculty research at Regis College have made possible the pursuit of this project. Thanks to her, the faculty at Regis has been able to enrich our academic lives and in turn enhance our teaching and continue our enthusiasm for scholarship.
Raffaele Florio, professor of history and heritage studies, is forging ahead in his research on cultural memory. As an anthropological historian Dr. Florio has been conducting a study which explores a society’s collective memory as a form of cultural resilience. Over the past summer he completed an article entitled “The Sea is Not Your Friend: Cultural Memory in a Mediterranean Fishing Village.” The article has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed series on Mediterranean Studies put out by the Athens Institute for Research and Education. The institute has also invited Florio to edit a book dedicated to the field of cultural memory in the Mediterranean world.

Dr. Florio plans to expand his study into a monograph over the next year or so. It will outline his fieldwork in a maritime community on the Cilento Coast of Southwest Italy, analyzing and building a context for the poignant quote from the study’s key informant: “You may love the sea, but never forget: the sea is not your friend.” Using the methods of anthropology, history, and archaeology, it will weave artifacts of three diverse forms—written history, material culture, and cultural memory—into a single narrative, allowing the collective memory of native villagers to interpret the past on its own terms. He evaluates local legend, poetry, and ritual in the context of the sea—in its paradoxical beauty and danger. One of Dr. Florio’s primary goals is to elucidate long-standing threads which have survived within the cultural consciousness of Italy’s southwest coast since the earliest days of Greek colonization.

Students at Regis College will be exposed to the theoretical foundations of such cultural research in a new course called, “Ethnohistory: An Introduction.” They will also get the opportunity to apply their skills in an exhibit in Regis College’s art gallery. Students interested in developing further in the field will find plenty of opportunity for travel, research, and exhibition through the Public Heritage Institute at Regis College which expands these methods culturally and geographically. This year’s projects, in addition to the Mediterranean, include: Colima, Jalisco, and Nayarit in West Mexico; Native cultures of New England and the American Southwest; various regions of Guatemala.
PEER TUTORS
The Student Success Center is the place for your son or daughter to go if he or she is in need of assistance with any course work. There are two professional math tutors available Monday–Thursday afternoons on a drop-in basis; one professional writing tutor (along with approximately twelve peer writing tutors) available Monday–Friday by appointment; and approximately fifty peer tutors who are available to tutor one-on-one in most every subject offered. If the SSC does not have a peer tutor at the time the request is put in, we do our best to fulfill this request by recruiting a tutor through consultation with faculty in that specific discipline. During the Spring 2010 semester, there were approximately sixty-five one-on-one matches (i.e., peer tutor with a student in need of assistance), in addition to approximately thirty-five students utilizing the drop-in math tutoring and 120 students utilizing drop-in writing tutoring services.