



VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY

# Center for Latin American Studies



volume 42

FALL 2017



## CLAS Announces the Founding of Its Latin American Garden

CLAS broke ground in 2017 to found the Latin American Garden, which features 49 culturally significant plants from the region. The species housed in the garden reflect CLAS' particular strengths in Central Mexico, America, Brazil, and the Black Atlantic regions. The garden contains a sage section, an agave section, and an annual section, which features important food crops like amaranth, corn, squash, and beans.

"One of our center's most important missions is to connect the exciting research and scholarship on campus to our teaching and public outreach," said Ted Fischer, director of the Center for Latin American Studies and Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Anthropology. "With a growing concern about where our food comes from and a growing recognition that we have a lot to learn from indigenous people about sustainability and plant biology, the garden is a great example of how an abstract trans-institutional idea can become a physical reality."

Working with Vanderbilt's landscape architect Robert Waits, horticulturalist Laura Barker, and Grounds Manager Danny McKissack, CLAS broke ground for the garden in early May and invited students, faculty, staff, and the community to take part in the planting on May 10. Although this year is considered a pilot year to gauge how well the plants adapt to Nashville's climate, the garden has thrived in its first few months and will be expanded next spring. Other plans for the garden include an interactive database with a catalog of plants and their uses by native peoples.

The garden will serve as an interdisciplinary teaching tool as it grows and is the focus of a first-year iCommons Seminar taught by Avery Dickins de Girón in spring 2018. "The Latin American Garden will allow us to explore the relationships between people and plants and will provide a starting point for discussions of history and global expansion, politics and economics, diet and health, biochemistry and pharmacology," Dickins de Girón said. "We will use the garden as a microcosm into all of these issues, a way of grounding coursework and discussions on a variety of topics and disciplines in the College of Arts and Science as well as the Schools of Nursing and Medicine, and Peabody College."

The garden also ties into the center's outreach program for K-16 educators in Davidson County. It will serve as a lending garden for Metro schools that wish to expand their gardens, and

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## Devotion in Motion Photography Exhibit Explores Pilgrimage in Mexico

*Devotion in Motion: Pilgrimage and Religious Culture in Oaxaca* traces the modern pilgrimage of over 2.5 million people in honor of Our Lady of Juquila, or "Juquilita," as she is affectionately known in Mexico. Vanderbilt historian **Eddie Wright Rios** and photojournalist Michael Dubose accompanied workers from Oaxaca's Mercado de Abastos who undertook the six-day journey from Oaxaca to Juquila with their families and friends. CLAS collaborated with Wright-Rios to present the photos in an engaging exhibit and educate the community about the importance of pilgrimage. "Mexico is widely celebrated internationally for its expressive, popular customs. But many visitors, and even many locals, remain oblivious to the fervent culture of Catholic pilgrimage embedded in Mexican society," said Wright-Rios.

Contrasting traditional and modern themes, the exhibit presents the differing interpretations of pilgrimage across



generations. "Pilgrimage represents a practice that remains profoundly traditional and remarkably flexible," said Wright-Rios. "It reaches back to ancient customs,

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Edited by Avery Dickins de Girón

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER: EDWARD F. FISCHER

Vanderbilt has a unique advantage in fostering interdisciplinary work—we have the research depth of larger institutions and the geographic proximity of smaller ones. Reading over this newsletter, it is striking the breadth of Latin Americanist work going on across campus. From the Blair School's new suite of Latin American initiatives to Owen's revived Latin Business Week to the many global health collaborations—CLAS serves as a hub and incubator for many projects.

We are proud of the fact that CLAS has developed strong and vibrant collaborative efforts with each of Vanderbilt's schools and colleges. But we should also acknowledge that trans-institutional work, even with Vanderbilt's inherent strengths, is not easy. It requires building up relationships over time, finding a common vocabulary across

sometimes vastly different fields, and the good will and intentions of our colleagues. This is hard work, but the payoff is significant.

In an effort to encourage more innovative programming, we invite proposals for events that will engage the university and community in interdisciplinary perspectives on Latin America. No idea is too big or too small—we love to be surprised with outside of the box suggestions. The proposer will take primary responsibility for organizing the event with our help and funding. If you have an idea, please submit a one paragraph description that includes intended audience (and the different disciplines that would be of relevance for the programming), a rough estimated budget, and a general description of how you would execute it to [clas@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:clas@vanderbilt.edu).

## Garden (Continued from page 1)

it was the focus of a professional development workshop in September. Attended by 30 teachers, the workshop examined three plants native to Mesoamerica and important in Aztec culture that are now touted for their high nutritional value: chia, amaranth, and chocolate. The workshop included presentations by Dickins de Girón on the use of these plants in the pre-Columbian and colonial periods and by TSU Professor of Agronomics Matthew Blair, whose research on plant genetics targets improving the nutritional efficiency of beans and amaranth. Jonathan Ertler, who manages Vanderbilt's greenhouses, oversaw the curriculum

development session that concluded the workshop.

The majority of the plants in the garden were donated by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute at the University of Georgia from their ethnobotanical garden, which was established by anthropologists Brent and Elois Ann Berlin nearly 20 years ago. Blair donated the amaranth, and gifts to CLAS supported the purchase of annual plants as well as supplies for maintaining the garden. The Latin American Garden is located between Natchez Field and 31st Avenue North, adjacent to Lot 73A, and is visible from Blakemore Avenue. For inquiries regarding the garden, contact [avery.dickins-degiron@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:avery.dickins-degiron@vanderbilt.edu).

## CLAS Welcomes Colleen McCoy as New Outreach Coordinator

CLAS welcomed Colleen McCoy as outreach coordinator in May 2017. Colleen leads our public and educational engagement programs, organizes our K–16 teacher workshop series and summer institutes, and manages our social media platforms: Instagram ([Vanderbilt\\_clas](https://www.instagram.com/Vanderbilt_clas)), Facebook ([facebook.com/VanderbiltCLAS](https://www.facebook.com/VanderbiltCLAS)) and Twitter ([@VanderbiltCLAS](https://twitter.com/VanderbiltCLAS)). She also works to develop and maintain partnerships with regional minority-serving institutions and other postsecondary institutions as well as collaborations with local cultural arts institutions, including Cheekwood, the Frist, and the Nashville Public Library. In addition, Colleen will co-coordinate the Américas Award for Children's & Young Adult Literature,

which is sponsored by the national Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs and is presented at the Library of Congress each September.

Colleen holds a B.A. in Spanish and international studies and a B.A. in integrated strategic communication from the University of Kentucky. Most recently, she received a M.Ed. in international education policy and management from Vanderbilt University. Before coming to Vanderbilt, Colleen taught public school in Spain and worked in hospitality in Australia.



## Brazil Initiatives

Thanks to the momentum generated by the founding of the Vanderbilt-Brazil Advisory Board in 2016, Brazil is now the home of the fifth international chapter of the VU Alumni Association. The Brazil Chapter, under the leadership of Luis Paulo Rosenberg, made a strong debut at the annual Alumni Reception in São Paulo on October 19, which boasted a record turnout of 86 participants. The celebration highlighted the collaborative efforts of CLAS, the Owen Business School, the Fundação Instituto de Administração (FIA), and the Instituto Não Aceito Corrupção (INAC). Programming stretched across several days in both Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo and featured talks by Vanderbilt professors **Carolyn Heinrich** (Peabody) and **Noam Lupu** (Political Science).

This year's Brazil Week took place September 11–15 and was themed “Crossing Lines/Passando dos Limites.” Again this year, the week coincided with the residency of FIA undergraduate and executive MBA students. The week kicked off with a student panel discussion about studying abroad in Brazil, followed by the opening reception to welcome the FIA students. Juliana Barbassa, celebrated author of *Dancing with the Devil in the City of God* and current managing editor of the *Americas Quarterly*, delivered the week's keynote talk on Brazil's unprecedented current state of affairs. Other Brazil Week events included the annual futebol game, a screening of the film *Madame Satã*, a feijoada dinner, and a closing reception concert by Choro Nashville. New to this year's series of events was a batucada drum lesson led by Zach Himelhoch from the local group Samba Nashville. At the end of the week, the undergraduate FIA students presented a business plan, “Marketing Vanderbilt in Brazil,” which will be shared with our alumni chapter in Brazil.

The Brazil TIPS group led by **Marshall Eakin** (History) and **Timothy Sterling** (Medicine), “A Multidisciplinary Approach to Assessing Healthcare in Brazil,” has completed its project term. During March and April 2017, a team of student researchers conducted focus groups on healthcare issues in the Rochinha community in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The focus group data was analyzed in conjunction with the most recent LAPOP survey results, concentrating on health care issues. LAPOP postdoctoral researcher, Mollie Cohen, and MALAS/M.P.H. student Heather Ewing produced an Insight working paper for LAPOP



analyzing the stigma surrounding tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment. The four undergraduate students selected to work on the TIPS project transcribed focus group interviews, conducted data analysis, and produced final projects on their findings. Timothy Sterling is now working with Peter Ribeiro and Ewing to produce a journal article on tuberculosis and stigma in Brazil. Now that the TIPS project has ended, the group is preparing an NIH grant proposal with the hope of producing a more in-depth survey to further illuminate the complexities of health care issues in Brazil.

The Brazilian Studies Reading Group, organized by doctoral candidates Jacob Brown, Kellie Samiotou, and Tiago Maranhão, has been active in bringing noted scholars to campus for Fall 2017 to discuss their current projects. Recent guest speakers include: Marcus Joaquim Maciel de Carvalho (UFPE), Suma Ikeuchi (University of Alabama), and Carlos Eduardo Suprinyak (UFMG). Topics discussed have ranged from Japanese-Brazilian immigration, slavery, and the connections between the Vanderbilt Department of Economics and Brazilian universities in the 1960s.

Other fall 2017 events included a visit from Krakrax Kayapó, an indigenous filmmaker from the Brazilian Amazon. Coordinated by CLAS and Richard Pace at MTSU, Krakrax screened footage of his latest documentary on November 27 and engaged in discussion with VU students with the help of Glen Shepard, anthropologist and curator at the Goeldi Museum in Belem, Pará. This event was held in conjunction with the Brazilian Cinema course taught by **Ben Legg** (Portuguese).

To increase collaborative opportunities between Vanderbilt and Brazil, CLAS Assistant Director Nicolette Kostiw convened

the Brazilian Initiatives Working Group in October. The group meets once a semester and brings faculty with research and other interests in Brazil together to facilitate interdepartmental communication, international student recruitment, and project building. Faculty with interests in Brazil are invited to join; please contact [nicolette.m.willhide@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:nicolette.m.willhide@vanderbilt.edu).

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## Devotion in Motion

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but its extraordinary elasticity makes it adaptable to centuries of social and cultural change.”

*Devotion in Motion* premiered at Conexión Américas with an opening reception on August 25 and was exhibited in Vanderbilt's Buttrick Hall Atrium for October, with a reception on October 5. Both receptions featured remarks by Wright-Rios and Dubose. In spring 2018, the exhibit will travel to Miami University of Ohio where it will open February 8–16, and then to Cumberland University March 29–April 6.

## CLAS Partners with Nashville's Global Education Center on Its Third Root of Mexico Series

For the 2017–2018 year, CLAS is collaborating with the Global Education Center (GEC) to present the *Third Root of Mexico*. This nine-month event series celebrates the influence and impact of Africa on Mexican culture and includes art exhibits, poets, multimedia exhibits, documentary screenings, and speakers, who will teach and share the history and influence of the African presence in Mexico. Often called the Third Root because of its place in the cultural identity of thousands of Mexicans along with indigenous and Spanish heritage, Afro-Mexican culture and history has generally been invisible. In addition to the event series, CLAS is working with the GEC to develop a curriculum guide and other resources on Mexico's Third Root.

The nine-month series kicked off in September with the *Invisible Mexico* exhibit by award-winning multidisciplinary artists Hakeem Khaaliq and Queen Muhammed Ali. Through

a blend of transitional viewing and augmented reality through use of a cell phone app, the artists showcase the descendants of African natives who reside in Mexico's rural Pacific and Gulf Coasts. "Khaaliq's project mixes the physical with the virtual, superimposing a computer-generated image onto images of the real world, as seen through a headset or mobile device," GEC Director Ellen Gilbert remarked. "Displaying information overlays and digital content tied to the physical objects and locations featured in the photos, the viewer is immersed in a singular experience of cultural dialogue."

In October, acclaimed poet Xánath Caraza presented a reading, followed by a Q&A session moderated by **Christina Karageorgou** (Spanish and Portuguese). The following day, Caraza led a writing workshop. In November, the series featured *The Third Root* documentary, which follows the Afro-Mexican guitarist Camilo Nu as he takes a musical journey through Southern Spain and North Africa to discover the roots of

Son Jarocho, the traditional music from Veracruz. The screening was followed by a discussion with Nu and the film's director, Reed Rickert.

Spring 2018 events include a documentary series, *Afro Latinos: An Untaught History*, by Renzo Devia that details the history of the estimated 150 million Afro-descendants living in Latin America (February); an exhibit by photographer and famed graffiti artist Sal Rojas (February), a concert by Ida y Vuelta quartet featuring Son Jarocho music and traditional instruments (March); a screening of award-winning documentary *Culture Clash* (April), and *La Otra Cara de Mexico*, an exhibit of masks from throughout Mexico (May).

The Third Root series is made possible with support from Humanities Tennessee, South Arts, Tennessee Arts Commission, Metro Nashville Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, and CLAS. For more information and details on events, see [www.globaleducationcenter.org](http://www.globaleducationcenter.org)

## Move Closer: An Exploration of Tango

In October, CLAS collaborated with the Nashville Opera and the Jean and Alexander Heard Library to highlight the Nashville Opera's production of *Maria de Buenos Aires* and the library's extensive collection of tango related recordings, literature, and memorabilia donated by Simon Collier. The event, "Move Closer: An Exploration of the Tango," featured an engaging presentation by Nashville Opera CEO and Artistic Director John Hoomes. He contextualized the nontraditional music of Astor Piazzolla, the opera's composer, as a radical departure from high society tango. Hoomes delighted the audience with a sneak peek of the sold-out November show, sharing music, as well as the casting and artistic design he brought to the local production of the surreal work.

The event also highlighted the library's collection of tango, particularly through the Simon Collier Collection. Paula Covington, Latin American and Iberian bibliographer at the Vanderbilt University Libraries, provided an overview of the collection, which Collier bequeathed to Vanderbilt: "[Collier] donated this marvelous collection to Vanderbilt



consisting of over 1000 recordings, and memorabilia, manuscripts, correspondence, clippings, and photos. It is one that reflects both his scholarly concern and his very personal interest in this social phenomenon," said Covington. A historian of Chile, Simon

Collier was the former director of CLAS and is best remembered for his book, *The Life, The Music and Times of Carlos Gardel* (1986) and his biography of Astor Piazzolla.

Among the more unusual items are a photo album of stars of the era, belonging to a young fan in Argentina in the 1930s, and a bandleon, the famous accordion-like musical instrument that produces the reedy sound of the tango. Normally housed in Special Collections, many of the items were available for viewing at the event.

Following the presentations, the audience moved to the Library lobby for a reception

and a riveting performance by the Vanderbilt Tango Club. The performance culminated with an interactive tango lesson for the audience. The Vanderbilt Tango Club offers free classes every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Ben Schulman Center for Jewish Life.

## Nursing Community Health Course Introduces a Focus on Central America

CLAS and the School of Nursing offered a new section of the Community Health course (VUSN NURS 5105) focused on Central America in fall 2017. Coordinated by Natasha McClure (DNP, RN, CPNP) and Carrie Plummer (Ph.D., ANP-BC), Community Health is the first in a series of three required courses for all pre-licensure nursing students. Avery Dickins de Girón (Latin American Studies) led the new Central America seminar for a group of students who were selected through a competitive application process. Students in the section are concurrently enrolled in Spanish language classes taught by Maria Paz Pintané and supported by CLAS. As part of the requirements for the yearlong Community Health course, students develop a quality improvement project with a local or international organization. Students in the Central America section are working on a QI project with the Primeros Pasos clinic in Guatemala, led by Shelza Rivas (DNP, WHNP-BC, AGPCNP-BC), in consultation with Primeros Pasos founder and Vanderbilt radiologist Brent Savoie (M.D., J.D.). The students will travel to Quetzaltenango during spring break to implement the project with clinic staff, and then will spend their summer semester evaluating their project to make recommendations for the next phase of the collaboration.

## Doug Morgan Studies Risk Factors Associated with Stomach Cancer in Latin American Populations

Noncommunicable diseases and cancer will likely dominate the global disease burden in the near future. The lower middle income country (LMIC) region of Central America (Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador, or “CA-4”) has some of the highest global incidence and mortality rates of cancer worldwide, particularly in stomach, cervical, and liver cancer, which mirrors rates in the U.S. Latino population. VUMC gastroenterologist and physician scientist Doug Morgan (M.D., M.P.H.) is working with colleagues at Vanderbilt and in Latin America to study risk factors associated with high rates of stomach cancer. In addition to genetic factors, they are investigating environmental factors, such as the traditional fogón (wood stove) used for food preparation, which is ubiquitous in the CA-4. Both the biomass smoke and charred



foods facilitate daily exposure to carcinogens, which may contribute to increased stomach cancer risk in combination with an individual’s genotypes.

In addition to better understanding risk factors for stomach cancer, Dr. Morgan is working with Vanderbilt colleagues on prevention initiatives, including chemoprevention and novel early detection technologies. Supported with Laboratories for Innovation in Global Health Technologies (LIGHT) funding from the Wright Lab, Dr. Morgan and Dr. Anita Mahadevan-Jansen, professor of biomedical engineering and director of the Biophotonics Center at Vanderbilt University, are examining stomach cancer detection methods using light-based



diagnostic tools. The long-term goal is to develop simple, real-time, low-cost technologies that provide stomach cancer diagnosis during endoscopic evaluation, coupled with an optical (or virtual) biopsy. Developing robust, yet portable, tools for cancer detection is particularly important in the high incidence LMIC regions.

Dr. Morgan and collaborators support Vanderbilt, VUMC, and Latin American students who have educational or research interests in global health, cancer epidemiology, and prevention, and/or Latin America. More information on research or education and training in the CA-4 region can be found at the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health website: [www.vumc.org/global-health/research/ca4-research](http://www.vumc.org/global-health/research/ca4-research)

—Elizabeth Rose

## Vanderbilt MPH Student Completes Work at the Central American Medical Outreach Foundation

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) student **Roberta “Birdie” Hutton** recently returned from five months working with the Central American Medical Outreach Foundation (CAMO) in Santa Rosa Copán as part of her M.P.H. practicum experience. Her practicum work involved helping develop an extensive monitoring and evaluation plan for a nursing training program.

*At the Central American Medical Outreach Foundation in western Honduras I helped create an extensive monitoring and evaluation system for the nursing capacitation program at a local hospital through focus groups, interviews, data-flow analysis, and protocol development.*

*I successfully applied my M.P.H. coursework in impact evaluation, statistical analysis, and quality improvement. I saw the importance of improving the quality of care at this low-resource hospital, and my project will be included in grants to generate financial support for this continuing education program. I also actively assisted when CAMO conducted medical brigades in communities that lacked running water and electricity. I gave out new baby kits, toothbrushes, and clothing donations as well as helped with the patient charts for the audiometric and gynecological services. Through these endeavors I have reaffirmed my interest in becoming an active, committed advocate for the health of underserved populations in my future.*

—Birdie Hutton, M.P.H. candidate 2018



CAMO, which is associated with the Hospital de Occidente also in Santa Rosa de Copán, is one of several Central American partner organizations that serve as sites for research, practicums, and integrated science courses for medical students. Other sites include Primeros Pasos in Guatemala and Hospital Escuela Oscar Danilo Rosales Argüello (HERODA) in Nicaragua.

Medical students **Katy Anthony** and **Julia Pitkin** will spend February 2018 completing a clinical rotation at Primeros Pasos, and **Karina Mendoza** and **Stephanie Hadley** will rotate at HERODA.

### MIDP Students Visit Guatemala for Innovation Service Project

First-year students in the Medical Innovators Development Program (MIDP) visited Guatemala in June 2017 in a weeklong innovation service project led by Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences faculty and cofounder of Primeros Pasos **Brent Savoie**, J.D., M.D.

During the service project, MIDP students **Ariel Kniss-James**, **Sai Rajagopalan**, and **Jessica Wen** visited Primeros Pasos and other organizations to identify opportunities where collaboration and innovation can help

meet global health care challenges." I found that global health problems share common themes and threads all over the world," said Rajagopalan. "Social determinants of health care play an overwhelming role in contributing towards poor health when compared to developed countries."

Language barriers, poor literacy levels, and limited access to affordable nourishment were among the issues that the MIDP students identified as challenge areas for health care providers in the Guatemalan communities in which they visited. "These problems are difficult to solve in isolation and thus require broad-based collaboration and networking between organizations that serve different issues in the local communities," added Rajagopalan.

During the project, students completed the observation and ideation phases of the innovative cycle while obtaining in-depth input from the partner organization about the challenges they are facing. Dr. Savoie said that upon their return, students will participate in rapid prototyping of potential solutions, gain user feedback, and iterate those solutions to not only develop new technology, but also to introduce existing technology to meet the needs of those organizations. "Thanks to extraordinary support from the MIDP program and Dr.



Savoie, we have a better understanding of how to think about and approach innovation in global health," said Rajagopalan.

"I'm excited to see what we can accomplish in helping these organizations develop strategies to better facilitate the work of students and universities engaged in research and innovation," added Dr. Savoie. "I also look forward to identifying additional opportunities for collaborative innovation in the future."

—*Krystyna Barnard*

## Blair's Latin American Initiatives and Resources

The Latin American Initiatives and Resources will serve as an umbrella label that encompasses the variety of Latin American activities happening in the Blair School of Music (specifically those of **Ryan Middagh, Robert Fry, Jose Sibaja, and Thomas Verrier**). While this new association will not change what each faculty member does independently, in the future, there will be combined Blair events in which they pool their resources to offer unique and enriching experiences to the Vanderbilt Community.

February 2018 will be their kick-off month, with two Blair events planned. On February 15, the Blair Big Band welcomes Dominican composer Socrates Garcia for a concert of his works, and on February 27, the Vanderbilt Wind Symphony performs a program of music by Spanish and Latin American composers featuring Jose Sibaja as trumpet soloist with Robbie Fry presenting a pre-concert talk.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Blair activities for spring 2018. On February 28 and March 1, the Wind Symphony with Jose Sibaja will record the final tracks for its upcoming CD *Spanish Eyes* to be released in 2018 on the Klavier label. Members of the wind symphony will then travel to Colombia over spring break for a weeklong concert

tour sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This trip comes on the heels of the successful Colombian tour by Ryan Middagh and jazz students from Blair in 2016. The wind symphony's itinerary will include visits to both Medellín and Bogotá to give concerts, teach lessons and master classes, and to perform side-by-side with Colombian musicians.

Additional Blair activities in Latin America during the current academic year:

- **November 21–26, 2017:** Thomas Verrier will conduct the Banda Sinfónica del Caribe. This residency in Valledupar, Colombia is sponsored by Yamaha Latin America and includes director workshops and masterclasses.
- **November 27–30:** Thomas Verrier will present a rehearsal techniques and pedagogy workshop for directors in Medellín, Colombia. This event is also sponsored by Yamaha.
- **December 1–2:** Brad Deason, director of Vanderbilt's Spirit of Gold marching band, and Thomas Verrier will present workshops with local bands and marching percussion ensembles in Fonseca, Colombia. This annual festival features more than 30 bands from the La Guajira region of Colombia and is sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Colombia.
- **January 24–28:** Thomas Verrier will be the featured clinician at the IV Congreso de la

Asociación Peruana de Directores de Bandas Sinfónicas y Ensembles in Lima, Peru.

- **May 2–6:** Jose Sibaja and Thomas Verrier will travel to the Dominican Republic to work as the soloist and the conductor with the Orquesta Dominicana de Vientos. Sponsored by Yamaha, this will be their second teaching/performing collaborative residency. The first was with the Orquesta Veraguense de Vientos in Panama last August.
- **May 14–19:** Thomas Verrier will be a visiting scholar at the University of Costa Rica, giving lectures and workshops in the Department of Music Education.
- **May 28–June 2:** Thomas Verrier will co-direct the second annual Conducting Symposium of the Americas in Cartago, Costa Rica. This weeklong conducting workshop will welcome participants from throughout North and South America and feature the Banda de Conciertos de Cartago, one of the seven professional national bands of Costa Rica.
- **June 2018:** Jose Sibaja will travel to Costa Rica to perform and teach as a sponsored Yamaha artist.
- **August 2018:** Jose Sibaja will perform as the featured soloist with the National Symphony of Costa Rica with Maestro Giancarlo Guerrero.

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## New Museum Dedicated to Archaeologist Tom Dillehay's Work in Chile

The government of Chile, in conjunction with UNESCO, has announced plans to build a museum in the southern tourist city of Puerto Montt featuring the discoveries of **Tom Dillehay**, Rebecca Webb Wilson Distinguished Professor of Archaeology. His excavations of a nearby site called Monte Verde revolutionized our understanding of how and when the Americas were first peopled. The museum is scheduled to open in 2018; Puerto Montt is a tourist hub for cruise ships that draws around 800,000 visitors from around the world every year. Dillehay has worked in Chile for nearly 40 years, is a dual Chilean citizen, and holds a number of academic appointments at Chilean universities. "This is a great honor," he said. "I greatly appreciate this rare opportunity to bring these discoveries directly to the people of Chile and visitors from all over the world."

Until the 1970s, the prevailing understanding

was that the Americas first began to be populated 13,000 years ago by big-game hunters from Asia who used a distinctive type of fluted stone projectile point called a Clovis point. Dillehay's work revealed the remains of a settlement belonging to a technologically and economically distinct human population that predated the Clovis people by more than a millennium. Subsequent excavations by Dillehay have pushed that timeline back even further, showing that cold-adapted people were well established in the area more than 15,000 years ago—during the final centuries of the last ice age.

The age of the settlement is not the only remarkable thing about it, however. "It's the only Pleistocene Ice Age settlement in the world where you find such excellent preservation of organic materials," Dillehay said. "Most archaeological sites you get stones, maybe bones if you're lucky, but here we get the full spectrum: soft tissue, meat, hides, knotting, architectural

remains of long tents and structures, some genetic evidence now coming out of the humans who were there, and a lot of wood and other items. It's just an amazing record." Because of its archaeological significance, UNESCO is currently considering an application to have Monte Verde named a World Heritage Site.

The Museo Monte Verde will also feature exhibits interpreting Dillehay's ethnographic research of Chile's native Mapuche people. Dillehay is the director of a project on the political identity of the Mapuche's ancestors, the Araucanians, who resisted the Spanish Empire, and the impact of that resistance on their descendants. The facility will also serve as a research station for scholars working in the region.

Dillehay spent fall 2017 in Puerto Montt to work on the museum's exhibits, and he led a Vanderbilt Travel tour to Chile, including Monte Verde in November.

—Liz Entman

# Owen Students Spend Fall Break in Colombia to Learn about Local Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Each fall break, Owen's Global Business Association (GBA) plans an international trip for MBA candidates to learn about doing business in another country. Students receive one credit for the trip, which counts towards the international studies emphasis. This year, 12 students traveled to Colombia to learn about local innovation and entrepreneurship. The trip was coordinated by the GBA as well as the Latin Business Association (LBA): "The goal of the trip is also the goal of the LBA: bringing a little bit more (knowledge) about how to do business in Latin America," said Alejandro Sabillon (MBA'18), vice president of external affairs for GBA and a member of LBA.

Student input shapes the trip at every step of the process, including destination, trip participants, and companies that will be visited. **Mario Avila** (MBA'12), director of the Turner Family Center for Social Ventures, accompanied the students on the trip and helped them decide on the theme of innovation and entrepreneurship: "I gave the trip direction...that's one of the things Colombia has been known for, entrepreneurship and innovation," he said. "I kind of set the tone of the class...and made some connections (but the students handled the details)." **David Parsley**, E. Bronson Ingram Professor in Economics and Finance, served as faculty director, setting guidelines for achieving course credit. He also graded the final presentations students gave after their return.

After a few days of sightseeing in Cartagena, the team headed to Bogotá, to investigate innovation in larger corporations and entrepreneurship in smaller startups. Stops in Bogotá included a rose farm, the U.S. Embassy, and ProColombia, a government agency that promotes exports, tourism, and foreign investment. At their next stop in Medellín, students visited Portafolio Verde and Interactuar. Portafolio Verde is a consulting firm that helps companies reach sustainable development goals; previous clients include Starbucks and other big names. Interactuar provides one-year training programs for entrepreneurs to help them launch their businesses. "For a lot of students, you're learning about a lot of industries you may never work in, like the floriculture industry. That doesn't mean that there aren't parallels and there aren't ideas



from those company visits that can be useful in whatever you end up doing," said Marita Lawler (MBA'18), president of the Latin Business Association.

Students left Colombia with a new perspective on the country, having seen firsthand the efforts it has made to address its infrastructure challenges and promote business. "There were assumptions from students (before the trip) that Colombia is a third world country," Avila said. "(But) the overwhelming response from the students is that it's a bustling country with a lot of opportunity."

The trip gives students a chance to network and make connections, not only with the companies but also with each other. "For me personally, I think these trips during business school are really important, because that's when I have built really strong relationships," Sabillon said. It also allows participants to apply business concepts from their classes in a new environment, and they are immersed in business and industries with which they are unfamiliar. Perhaps most importantly, the Colombia trip helps students develop the international mentality needed to succeed in an increasingly global economy. "If

you want to have that mindset of international business or trade, you need to learn how to do business with someone from Latin America," Sabillon said. "Yes, you're coming to the MBA program, but at the same time, you will work with people from different cultures, and I think this direct experience will help you with that."

—Kara Sherrer

## LAW PRACTICE LAB

Michael Newton led a practice lab in fall 2016 in which students prepared two memoranda of law for the use of Colombian officials in negotiating a sustainable and legally valid final peace deal with the FARC. One opinion addressed the legal validity of the peace agreement as a so-called "special agreement between the parties" within the meaning of Common Article 3 of the Geneva conventions. The second addressed the interface between domestic constitutional reforms needed to implement any peace agreement and the duties and prerogatives of the ICC prosecutor under Article 53 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.



# Latin Business Week at the Owen Graduate School of Management

The Latin Business Association hosted its first Latin Business Week in March 2017 to bring leaders from on and off campus to the Owen Graduate School of Management for a variety of events. The week featured academic, cultural, and social events, including reflections by Read and Mary McNamara on working in Latin America, a discussion of microfinance models in Latino communities in the U.S. led by Mario Avila, a lecture on current events in Brazil by Marshall Eakin, salsa dancing lessons, a cooking demonstration, and Spanish conversation classes. Throughout the week, business

students enjoyed Latin American foods made by local vendors, such as *cochinita pibil*, *arroz con pollo*, *tostones con aguacate*, and fried yucca. The Latin Business Case Competition concluded the week, with Owen students competing against teams from Washington University's Olin School of Management to analyze the international business strategy of Grupo Bimbo, a leading Latin American baking company.

Following the success of this first Latin Week, the Latin Business Association hosted another series of events focused on Latin America in November 2017. Events included a Latin-themed trivia and game night, a coffee with Mexican pastries, a soccer tournament, and several lunch-and-learn presentations featuring Mario Avila (director of the Turner Family Center for Social Ventures), Marcela Gómez (Marcela Gómez and Associates—Hispanic Marketing Group), and Ricardo Erasso (vice president of Macquarie Group). Students also engaged in evening activities, including salsa lessons and



Spanish conversation classes, and ended the week at Closing Bell Latino with music provided by David Vila. The Latin Business Association looks forward to continuing Latin Week and will host the Latin Business Case Competition in spring 2018.

Latin Week is supported by CLAS, the Latin American and Caribbean Student Association, and the Turner Family Center for Social Ventures along with corporate partners AT&T, Deloitte, and Aertson Midtown.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Students in the spring 2017 Latin American Studies research seminar (LAS 4901/5901) taught by Paula Covington and Frank Robinson prepared exhibits from Vanderbilt's Latin American collection as part of their research project in the course. The materials they selected and analyzed (in touchscreens and online) focused on the motivations and movement of peoples to the New World in the centuries following the Encounter and were displayed in the Central Library from April through November 2017. The exhibits highlight the library's rarer Latin American special collections such as accounts of early voyages, manuscripts listing the Brazilian monarchy's slaveholdings, early images of the conquest of Mexico, and maps that once belonged to slave traders and Jesuit in missions. The often colorful travel accounts were penned by a wide variety of writers, including botanists, explorers—and pirates!

We continue to focus on increasing digital and physical access to Vanderbilt's unique Colombian collections. In particular, we are emphasizing review of the newly acquired portion of the Helguera collection. Library fellows Andrea Delgado and Jessica Fletcher, both of



Library Fellows Jessica Fletcher, Andrea Delgado, mentor Paula Covington, and Theodora Saclarides

whom are M.A. in Latin American Studies candidates, added essays online ([exhibits.library.vanderbilt.edu/colombiaindependence](http://exhibits.library.vanderbilt.edu/colombiaindependence)) and digital content to the Helguera Colombiana site (<http://helguera.library.vanderbilt.edu/>) spring. Library fellow Theodora (Dora) Saclarides created metadata for portions of the nineteenth-century broadside collection in preparation for digitization. The digitized site content will also be preserved using the library's Fedora repository to insure its preservation and continued access.

It is increasingly obvious that a major goal for the library and CLAS must be to obtain funding for further digitization of the Manuel

Zapata Olivella and Helguera Colombian collections. The numbers of students and scholars visiting to use these unique materials and those using the digital sites is gratifying, and this level of interest underscores the urgency for making these collections available digitally. In July alone the use statistics (gathered from Google analytics) for the digitally available portion of the Zapata Olivella collection demonstrate clearly the research value of those holdings (by country in order of visits: United States, Colombia, China, Argentina, Ecuador, Germany, Israel, Uruguay, etc.). Those same July data for the Helguera site indicate high and wide-ranging use (United States, Colombia, India, New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Ecuador, etc.).

During 2017, we responded to many research queries regarding the Zapata Olivella collections from scholars located in sites ranging from Israel to Colombia to Pennsylvania. We also worked with visiting Colombianist scholars in fall 2017 from Yale, and the Universidad de Cartagena. They are exploring these two Colombian collections still being processed and we look forward to seeing what treasures they will uncover!

—Contributed by Paula Covington

## Celso Castilho

Celso Castilho is an assistant professor of history. He joined Vanderbilt in 2008 as a postdoctoral student, entering the tenure track in 2010. His research focuses on comparative slavery and abolition, citizenship and theater, and the cultural politics of the African diaspora. For Castilho, the cultural politics of the African diaspora are the interactions of literature—newspapers, novels and theater—with politics, the



economy, and society. In the nineteenth century, these interactions were critical, because literature wrestled with and provided direction forward for the most pressing issues of the time. Castilho completed his Ph.D. work in history at the University of California, Berkeley, where he also completed his undergraduate degree. In between his B.A. and Ph.D., Castilho obtained an M.A. in history from UCLA.

Castilho's first book, *Slave Emancipation and Transformations in Brazilian Political Citizenship* (Pittsburgh, 2016), explores the wide-ranging effects of the process of abolition on popular political practice and the racial borders of national belonging. The book was well received, winning the Bolton-Johnson Prize from the American Historical Association for the best book in Latin American history in 2016 and the Warren Dean Prize from the Conference on Latin American History for the best book in Brazilian history also in 2016.

Tentatively titled, *Slavery and the Public Sphere: The Latin American Repertoires of Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Castilho's latest work probes the phenomenon of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in Latin America, with a particular emphasis on Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Lima, and Buenos Aires. The temporal focus of the work is the 1850s through the 1870s, during the height of activity around *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The book is groundbreaking for two

main reasons: its assertion of geopolitics of Atlantic slavery as crucial and constitutive to the histories of public life and democracy, and its discussion of trans-American cultural and intellectual exchange. Moreover, the book posits that the Americas in general, and Latin America in particular, played pivotal roles in the development of political critiques that underlay modern expressions of democracy.

Castilho's interest in Latin America is, in part, natural given his heritage, but fundamentally born out of his interest in Latin American history. His inspiration was nourished by the African American history courses he took as an undergraduate. The correlations between African American history and Latin American history sparked him to question the standard narrative of Latin America in regard to capitalism and secondary status in global geopolitics.

When discussing how young scholars should approach the study of Latin America, Castilho offers the following advice: "Strive for being as wide ranging as you can, initially. Research is fundamental. Be a producer of knowledge, not just a consumer." In addition to this guidance, Castilho believes that young scholars should wrestle with the two following masterpieces: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez and *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Freire.

Castilho devotes his free time to his five-year-old daughter and 18-month-old twin sons. When questioned about the most interesting place in Latin America, Castilho responded that he would love to retire in Rio de Janeiro, which he describes as the perfect mix of beach, culture, city, and intellectual life.

—Demetrius Murphy

## CLAS Presents Its Outreach Collaborations with Tuskegee University at LASA and IFLE

CLAS Executive Director Avery Dickins de Girón and Interim Director of the Tuskegee University Global Office Rhonda Collier presented the history of the CLAS-Tuskegee partnership over the last five years at the Latin American Studies Association annual meeting. The partnership has included four professional development workshops and film screenings on Afro-Brazilian culture and history, the work of Zora Neale Hurston in Latin America, and the Cuban literacy campaign in 1961, as well as a panel discussion of the shared history of syphilis studies in the U.S. South and Guatemala. The presentation was part of a larger

panel highlighting collaborations between Latin American NRCs with minority-serving institutions or community colleges. Both Collier and Dickins de Girón traveled to Lima in April to present.

In September, Dickins de Girón presented a summary version of the panel for the International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) Title VI Technical Assistance Workshop. Over 350 representatives of institutions planning to apply for the next round of Title VI funding attended the virtual workshop.



## CLAS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY



**T.S. Harvey** joins Vanderbilt as associate professor in anthropology. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and comes to Vanderbilt from the University of California, Riverside. Harvey focuses on the use of medical and linguistic anthropology to study the

intersection of health care, risk reduction, and environmental protection. Specializing in Guatemala and Mexico, his work includes the examination of Maya medicine, disaster relief efforts, and public health campaigns.



**María Magdalena Campos Pons** joins Vanderbilt as professor and Cornelius Vanderbilt Chair of Art. Hailing from Cuba, she uses photography, performance, audiovisual media, and sculpture to explore themes of her multicultural (Cuban, Chinese, and Nigerian)

identity and culture. Intersected with ideas of religion and spirituality, sexuality, and cultural activism, Campos-Pons' autobiographical work seeks to illuminate historical narratives that cross cultures and generations. She has shown her work in the United States, Canada, Japan, Norway, France, Italy, South Africa, and Cuba.

## External Evaluation Program

In accordance with our designation as a National Resource Center, CLAS maintains an extensive evaluation program that provides ongoing feedback on the center's impact and programming. Now in place for seven years, our program is led by **Xiu Cravens**, a higher education monitoring and evaluation expert at Peabody College. Cravens works closely with CLAS staff and an education graduate student intern to create, implement, and improve evaluation protocols. Dia Chakraborty served as evaluation intern for the 2016–17 academic year and helped refine our assessment tools and compile annual reports. The evaluation team produced 21 documents this year, which provided analyses, summaries, and recommendations for CLAS programming, focusing on the core target audience of NRC funding and the program priorities.

CLAS hosted nine professional development workshops for K–16 educators in 2016–17. Each was evaluated with pre- and post-surveys regarding teacher knowledge on the topic, measuring educators' comfort level with incorporating the content learned into lesson plans, and collecting feedback about delivery. Reports show positive and statistically significant results in every workshop in terms of satisfaction, usefulness of materials provided, and introduction of new content. The workshops covered more diverse content than in previous years and attracted a wider range of participants as a result, achieving our goal to increase the number

of first-time participants and teachers with fewer years of experience. In response to previous teacher requests, workshops this year included structured time for teachers to brainstorm and work together on designing lesson plans based on the material learned; this new addition was well received by teachers and will continue in the future.

New this year was a survey for previous workshop attendees to gauge the medium- and long-term knowledge transfer and impact of the workshops on their classroom teaching:

- 81% of respondents noted that they have used the content and materials from workshops in their classrooms, and many more report that they plan to do so during the upcoming school year.
- 77% of respondents have shared aspects of the workshops with their coworkers, increasing the scope of the institutes.

The evaluation team also conducted surveys for a sample of the 150 events CLAS supported in 2016–17. Events were strategically selected based on topic and audience, and assessment consisted of brief interviews and a short survey at the end of each event to determine outreach, knowledge gained, and user friendliness of the activity. Participants indicated an enhanced knowledge of the Latin American region through attending these events, and surveys showed diversity in the academic programs and Vanderbilt schools represented by attendees.

## Faculty News

**Candice Amich** (English) co-edited a new collection, *Performance, Feminism, and Affect in Neoliberal Times*. Published with Palgrave in summer 2017, it contains several essays focused on feminist activism and art in Latin America. Amich is also recipient of a 2017–18 Research Scholar Grant for her new book project, *Precarious Forms: Performing Utopia in the Neoliberal Americas*.

**Robert Barsky** (French and Italian; Law) received a Rockefeller Bellagio writing residency at Bellagio, Italy, for research on his new book for MIT Press: *The Performance of Migration Claims on the Front-Lines: Vulnerable Migrants' First Encounters with Host Country Officials*. He published a new issue of the international border crossing journal *AmeriQuests: Vol 13, No 2* (2017): *Border-Crossing in Law and Literature*, Edited by Robert F. Barsky and David Maraniss. The issue features a series of timely position papers regarding current issues in border crossing, book reviews of border-crossing research, as well as a collection of Beat Generation inspired ruminations about "America."

**Tom Dillehay's** (Anthropology) new volume, *Where the Land Meets the Sea: Fourteen Millennia of Human History at Huaca Prieta, Peru*, was published by the University of Texas Press and was featured in a discussion panel hosted by CLAS and the Department of Anthropology on September 26.

**Markus Eberl** (Anthropology) published a new book, *War Owl Falling. Innovation, Creativity, and Culture Change in Ancient Maya Society* (University Press of Florida), in fall 2017.

**Earl E. Fitz** (Portuguese and Spanish) published *Inter-American Literary History: Six Critical Periods for the Interamericana Series* (Peter Lang, 2017). In addition, his essay originally published as "Machado de Assis: The Reception and Transformation of the Modern European Novel," has been translated into Portuguese and reprinted in Brazil in the book *Machado de Assis: Lido e Relido*, published by Alameda Casa (2017). During 2017, Earl has lectured at the University of Georgia on "Identity in the Americas" and at Davidson College on "Brazil and Spanish America Historically Compared." Fitz spoke about his research on the female characters in Machado de Assis's novels in a CLAS

## Faculty News cont.

First Tuesday lunch moderated by Celso Castilho and Marshall Eakin in October.

**Lesley Gill** (Anthropology) received the Choice Award for Outstanding Academic Titles 2016 for her book, *A Century of Violence in a Red City: Popular struggle, counterinsurgency, and human rights in Colombia* (Duke, 2016).

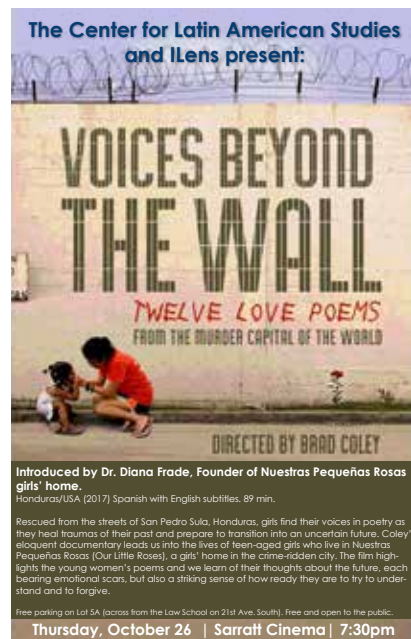
**John Janusek** (Anthropology) contributed the foreword for a new edited volume: *The Casma City of El Purgatorio: Ancient urbanism in the Andes* by Melissa A. Vogel; foreword by Michael E. Smith, Marilyn A. Masson, and John W. Janusek. University Press of Florida; 2016.

**Jane Landers** (History) published a new book that features Vanderbilt alumni and ESSS collaborators: *Slavery and Abolition in the Atlantic World: New Sources and New Findings*. Oxfordshire, England: Taylor and Francis Books, 2017. She also authored two new book chapters: "The Revolutionary Black Atlantic: From Royalists to Revolutionaries," in *The World of Colonial America: An Atlantic Handbook*, ed. Ignacio Gallup-Díaz (Taylor & Francis/Routledge, 2017), 293-407; and "Liderança e autoridade em assentamentos quilombolas na América espanhola e no Brasil," *Laços Atlânticos: África e africanos durante a era do comércio transatlântico de escravos*, eds. Carlos Liberato, Mariana P. Candido, Paul Lovejoy and Renée Souldre-LaFrance (Museu Nacional da Escravatura, Edições de Angola: Luanda, Angola, 2017), 197-212. In 2017, Landers was invited to lecture at the University of Minnesota (February), the University of Costa Rica (February), and the University of California, Davis (May); she also made several conference presentations on her research.

**Natasha McClure** (Nursing) was honored at the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards as the winner in nursing education. She and Carrie Plummer received the 2017 VUSN Tradition Meets Innovation Faculty Award for their curricular creativity and meaningful community engagement with their Enhancement of Community and Population Health course.

**Tiffany Tung** (Anthropology) was awarded the College of Arts and Science 2017 Graduate Mentoring Award in recognition of her "exceptional guidance of graduate students toward a high degree of professional accomplishment."

## VOICES BEYOND THE WALL



In October, CLAS and International Lens presented the documentary *Voices Beyond the Wall: Twelve Love Poems from the Murder Capital of the World*. Directed by Brad Coley, the film depicts the lives of teenaged girls living in Nuestras Pequeñas Rosas in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Spencer Reece, poet and Episcopal priest, spent a year there on a Fulbright grant teaching the girls poetry and English. Paula Covington arranged for the founder of the home, Dr. Diana Frade, to introduce the film and the work of the home.



## Haitian Creole Course Leads to Fieldwork Opportunities for Students

For the past three years, Vanderbilt has offered virtual courses in Haitian Creole through a partnership with Duke University. Duke's Haitian Creole instructor Jacques Pierre teaches the course and visited campus in February 2017 to meet with Vanderbilt students as part of Haiti Week. Undergraduate Noemi Monnerville was able to put her study of the

language into practice at the end of the semester when she traveled to Haiti with LAPOP's Caribbean project coordinator, Nicole Hinton, to pre-test their latest questionnaire. LAPOP Director Liz Zechmeister reported that Monnerville proved to be a tremendous help to the team, helping polish the wording of questions in the survey based on her knowledge of the language.



## VANDERBILT WELCOMES TWO HUMPHREY FELLOWS FROM LATIN AMERICA FOR 2017–2018



**Stephen Whyte** is the principal of St. John's Memorial Anglican School, a primary school in Belize. As the leader of both staff and students, Mr. Whyte's chief focus is on measurable student achievement, teacher efficacy, and integrating

novel practices to encourage student learning. One such recent update to the curriculum has been the creation of the school's first computer lab. During his Humphrey year, Mr. Whyte plans to target teacher training and development while simultaneously advancing practices in school curriculum to ensure his students' academic success.

*The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 to honor the late senator and vice president and his lifelong commitment to international cooperation and public service. The program brings accomplished educational leaders from developing nations and emerging democracies to the United States for an academic year to study, gain related professional experience, build their leadership capacity, and foster mutual understanding. The program provides a basis for lasting ties between U.S. citizens and the fellows while strengthening the global exchange of knowledge and expertise. Humphrey fellows are selected based on their potential for leadership and their commitment to public service in either the public or the private sector.*



**Juan Novoa** is the executive director of the Tin Marín Children's Museum in San Salvador, and he strives to integrate the community as an active participant in the museum's mission of achieving childhood engagement and education through

fostering learning in a creative environment. While in the Humphrey Fellowship Program, Mr. Novoa endeavors to glean information to benefit the efficiency, innovation, and sustainability of his museum. In addition, he plans to develop his leadership skills to exponentially impact the efficacy of his organization.

## Graduate Certificate in LAS

The Center for Latin American Studies offers a graduate certificate in Latin American Studies for doctoral and professional students. The certificate allows students to document their regional specialization and encourages them to study outside of their home discipline. Requirements include: 1) 12 credit hours in coursework on Latin America, with at least six hours coming from outside the home discipline, 2) demonstrated conversational or reading proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, or an indigenous Latin American language, 3) participation in a minimum of five extracurricular activities sponsored by CLAS. In 2017, CLAS awarded graduate certificates in Latin American Studies to four students: Christina Bowden (M.Ed.; IEPM), Amanda Ketner (M.Ed.; IEPM), Colleen McCoy (M.Ed.; IEPM), and Yudy Alexandra Rodríguez (Ph.D.; Spanish and Portuguese). For more information on the graduate certificate program, see [as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/graduate-programs/certificate/ster](http://as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/graduate-programs/certificate/ster)

## New Latin American & Caribbean Studies Titles from

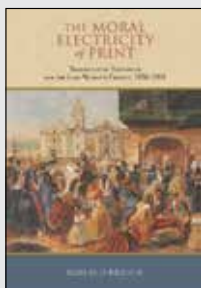


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*How the Lima literary community influenced education, publishing, and a new equality in the post-colonial American world*

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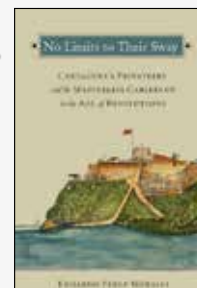
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## CLAS Welcomes New M.A. Fellows

**A**lejandro Botía comes from Caracas, Venezuela, and studied journalism in Bogotá before coming to Nashville. As a political reporter, he has witnessed—from the privileged position of newsrooms—the main changes that have taken place in the region's recent history during the past 18



Botía

years: the triumph and expansion of left wing alternatives throughout Latin America (Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Argentina, Bolivia, Nicaragua), as well as the recent recoil of leftist projects on the continent. In 2007, he wrote *Rise and Crisis of the Fourth Estate, The Press in Democracy*, which was awarded the Investigative Journalism Prize that year, granted by the Bank of Venezuela and the Spanish-language division of Random House. After working as editor-in-chief of a national newspaper and chief correspondent of the Miami-based *Diario Las Américas* in Caracas, Alejandro decided to pause in his career to pursue graduate studies. First, he attended Middle Tennessee State University, where he earned an M.S in media and communication. At Vanderbilt, he plans to improve his knowledge about Latin American's culture and history, learn Portuguese, and focus his research on the political changes, as well as the end of the revolutionary movements, on the continent.

**Rodrigo Casteriana** is a native of Montevideo, Uruguay, but has lived in Stephens City, Virginia, for the past fifteen years. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Shenandoah

University in 2017 with a B.A. in Spanish and a minor in international studies. While at Shenandoah University, he received the prestigious Algernon Sydney Sullivan fellowship. Outside of academia, Rodrigo's biggest passion is soccer. He has been coaching youth soccer since 2014 and taking courses towards



Casteriana

becoming certified under the United States Soccer Federation. Combining his interests in academia and soccer, the topic for his senior project involved researching the lack of participation of the Latino community in local soccer leagues and clubs. At Vanderbilt, he plans to focus on Latin American politics, specifically dictatorships and political reform in South America.

**Sagen Eatwell** is originally from Salem, Oregon, and graduated from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, with a B.A. in Spanish and sociology. During his undergraduate career, he studied throughout Central America, returning to the region for a year after graduation to assist with educational programming for his alma mater. Since then he has worked at an Intensive English program for college-bound international students and helped organize education and service-learning programs in Latin America. Sagen is the first student to enroll in our new dual degree program



Eatwell

with the International Education Policy and Management program at Peabody; students completing the dual degree obtain an M.A. in Latin American Studies and an M.Ed. in six semesters. He is looking forward to the continued study of K'iche' Maya and exploring the educational experience of reconciliation in the Latin American context.

**Demetrius Murphy** is originally from Gary, Indiana, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame. He studied management



Murphy

consulting with a supplementary major in Africana studies focusing on Afro-Latin America. During his undergraduate career, he pursued coursework on Panama, Mexico, and Brazil, and he completed business internships in Panama and Mexico. After graduation from Notre Dame, he worked for two years as a financial consultant. At Vanderbilt, he looks forward to honing his skills in Spanish and Portuguese and deepening his knowledge of Afro-Latin America. He plans to investigate how Afro-Latinos engage in business enterprise and entrepreneurship and has a particular interest in Panama, Cuba, Colombia, and Brazil.

## Andrea Delgado Receives Norma Antillón Award



**E**stablished in 2013 by LAS faculty, the Norma Antillón Award is given at the end of the spring semester to a student completing the first year of the M.A. program in Latin American studies. It is awarded to the student who best exemplifies the traits most admired in Norma Antillón, the much-beloved former administrative assistant at the Center for Latin American Studies: a joyous spirit, concern for others, and collegiality. Award recipients receive a cash prize, and their names are engraved on a plaque housed in CLAS. In 2017, Andrea Delgado was honored with this award for her unflinching devotion to CLAS and deep commitment to education.

# Vanderbilt Undergraduates Intern in Latin American Embassies and Organizations

**K**evin Muñoz, a double major in Latin American studies and political science spent the summer after his sophomore year in Bolivia and then attended CIEE Buenos Aires. “Two weeks after the end of my sophomore year, I boarded a plane alone to La Paz, Bolivia. This was the beginning



Muñoz

of a seven-month-long adventure in which I would live, work, learn, and study in South America. In La Paz, I spent my time working at the U.S. Embassy, where I had the opportunity to learn the many angles and approaches at work in U.S. diplomatic efforts. Through this internship. I was afforded many once-in-a-lifetime experiences, most notably watching and participating in the Aymara New Year at the Tiwanaku ruins. Next, I traveled from La Paz to Buenos Aires, Argentina. In Buenos Aires, I studied at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and lived in a homestay with Olga, my 78-year-old stand-in mother. Olga become a fixture in my Porteño experience and shared with me her thoughts on Argentine history, politics, and culture (alongside her insight into relationships, family, and love). While there, I became deeply immersed



Southworth

in an incredibly cosmopolitan, unique, and diverse sociocultural scene that is incomparable to any other city I have visited. Whether it was my weekly ventures to a very local cumbia spot or camping in the rainy Patagonian wilderness, I feel incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to study abroad in South America.”

While studying abroad in Buenos Aires in the fall of 2016, **Paige Southworth** (LAS, Spanish & Portuguese, and Public Policy major) had the opportunity to work with the legal division of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, an organization dedicated to the restitution of nearly 500 grandchildren appropriated during the military dictatorship. She declassified documents concerning the junta leaders and Argentina’s disappeared peoples recently released by the State Department and denouncements collected by UNESCO. She also attended press conferences and trials with the legal team, including the trial and sentencing of Omar Graffigna, the Commander of the Argentine Air Force

Cont. on Pg. 22

## LAS ALUMNI NEWS

- **Brianne Berry** (B.A., LAS, 2017) is living and working in Madrid on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- **Laura Delgado** (M.A., LAS, 2010) is the program director of the Pionero Scholars Program at Lipscomb University, which aims to create an educational pipeline for local minority students to become public school teachers.
- **Caleb Hayes** (M.A., LAS, 2017) is working as a clinical research associate on global health projects at St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital in Memphis.
- **Shelza Rivas** (B.A., LAS, 2012) is in her second year of doctoral coursework at Vanderbilt’s School of Nursing. As a nurse practitioner, she specializes in women’s health and works with the Latino community in Franklin, Tennessee, with a particular emphasis on empowering young Latinas.
- **Lynsey Sharp** (M.A., LAS, 2017) is enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Science program at the University of Washington in Seattle.
- **Hannah Stack** (B.A., LAS, 2017) works at Academic Programs International and is the program coordinator for study abroad programs in Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Spain.
- **Cory Weaver** (M.A., LAS, 2017) was recently accepted into the State Department’s Foreign Service Officer Program and will be stationed in Venezuela beginning in February 2018.
- **Jason Vulcan** (M.A., LAS, 2010) is the country director for Central America at the Office for the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy on Western Hemisphere Affairs in Washington, D.C.

## Study Abroad Programs to Latin America

**T**he Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad’s has announced the opening of it’s newest center in Rio de Janeiro. The study abroad program will be run in partnership with Pontificia Universidade Católica, and will open in Fall 2018 for Vanderbilt and other students. This will be the fourth CASA site to open in Latin America, following the programs in Cuba, Buenos Aires, and Santiago de Chile. The establishment of a new CASA program in Brazil is important for Vanderbilt students, as two other programs in Brazil closed their doors in 2017: The School for International Training’s program in Fortaleza and the Council on International Educational Exchange’s long-standing program at the Pontificia Universidade Católica in São Paulo.

Students studying through the CASA Cuba program were evacuated due to the impact of

Hurricane Irma in September. Students spent a week in North Carolina as recovery efforts began, and continued their studies until they returned to Havana once the determination was made that conditions were safe. Vanderbilt had one student in Havana for Fall 2017 and expects to send two students in the spring; Spring 2018 enrollment and courses will not be affected by Irma.

A total of 31 undergraduate students studied abroad in Latin America in Spring 2017 and Fall 2018, or will do so in Spring 2018. Vanderbilt’s current approved list of programs includes CASA Cuba, CIEE Buenos Aires, CIEE Santiago, CIEE Valparaiso, SIT Brazil, and SIT Chile programs, and Heraldo Falconi’s Maymester course in Peru.

Three additional Maymester courses in Latin America are on the slate for 2018:

- Utila, Honduras, taught by Norbert Ross (Anthropology): ANTH 2114 Above and Below the Surface: The Caribbean between Climate Change and Tourism
- Southern Brazil, taught by Guilherme Gualda (Earth and Environmental Sciences): EES 3865 Field Investigations
- Cuzco and Sacred Valley, Peru, taught by Heraldo Falconi (Spanish and Portuguese): SPAN 3330 Cultural Studies in the Andes —*Global Education Office Team*

## 2017 SUMMER AWARDS

**CLAS awards nearly \$100,000 for summer research and language study in Latin America each year through Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships, Simon Collier Travel Awards, and Tinker Field Research Grants. In 2017, CLAS awarded funding to 17 students; see p.17 for Tinker grantees).**

### Simon Collier Travel Awards

A historian of Chile with an expertise in Argentine tango, Simon Collier served as a former director of Vanderbilt CLAS and was chair of the Department of History. Simon Collier Travel Awards fund student research in Chile and Argentina, as well as other projects on cultural arts elsewhere in Latin America. Ranging from \$500 to \$2,000, these awards are available to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at Vanderbilt.



**Lauren Lambert**, a third-year undergraduate student majoring in Spanish and Portuguese as well as medicine, health, and society, was awarded \$2,000 for her project entitled, "Rural Access to Reproductive Health Services and Maternal Perceptions on Family Planning in Guatemala." The Palajunoj Valley of Guatemala is home to approximately 15,000 indigenous inhabitants that live in ten communities. The Primeros Pasos clinic is located in the valley, providing health care at a reduced cost and executing various interventions in the surrounding communities. Lambert worked with one of those interventions, the "Nutrition Recuperation Program." After working with the directors and learning that no reproductive health research had been conducted previously in the valley, she decided to interview the women enrolled in the program in order to identify reproductive health barriers and maternal perceptions of family planning. Upon conclusion of her study, Lambert provided Primeros Pasos with a new reproductive health curriculum to incorporate into

the nutrition program. Two weeks after her departure, the clinic started sending out Guatemalan medical students to provide education based on the curriculum she provided.



**Akshay Soni**, a fourth-year undergraduate student majoring in anthropology and Portuguese, was awarded \$2,000 to conduct research entitled, "Amazonian Archaeology: Indigenous Responses to Colonialism in the Lower Amazon Basin." The site of Carragedo, which is located on the southern banks of the Amazon within the Municipality of Gurupá in the Brazilian state of Pará, has been continually occupied for the better part of three and a half centuries. Portuguese colonists viewed it as a strategic hub between the Lower Amazon Basin and Central Amazonia. The main objective of Soni's study was to conduct preliminary fieldwork in a virtually untouched and relatively unknown site to weigh the potential for future research efforts. In areas of abundant terra preta, a variety of historic and pre-colonial artifacts emerged, including stoneware, ceramics, glassware, construction materials, and metal tools. Analysis of these materials will help answer questions relating to spatial production and settlement over time.

**SUMMER AWARDS  
APPLICATIONS FOR 2018  
ARE DUE JANUARY 15, 2018**

### Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

CLAS is awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Education for FLAS fellowships to support the intensive study of Portuguese or Latin American indigenous languages. Graduate and undergraduate students, as well as students at other universities, are eligible to receive summer FLAS fellowships.

In 2017, CLAS awarded seven students FLAS fellowships. This includes Vanderbilt undergraduates **Fernando Mendez Campos** (Engineering) and **Rasul Dent** (Undeclared), as well as **Elvira Aballi** and **Jacob Brown**, both doctoral students in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. All four Vanderbilt students attended the Portuguese Language and Culture program in São Paulo sponsored by Tulane and Vanderbilt. Three students at other universities were awarded FLAS funding to study K'iche' through the Mayan Language Institute hosted by Vanderbilt, Tulane, University of New Mexico, and University of Texas: **Rachel Gardella**, an undergraduate major in linguistics at the University of Virginia, **Josie Juarez**, an undergraduate major in linguistics at Brigham Young University, and **Matthew Richey**, a doctoral student in Spanish at University of Virginia. Gardella and Richey have studied K'iche' through the distance language partnership between Vanderbilt, UVA, and Duke.





## 2017 SUMMER AWARDS

### Tinker Field Research Grants

Funding from the Tinker Foundation and the College of Arts and Science supports graduate summer research projects in Latin America. Awards support travel expenses related to field research for graduate students conducting pre-dissertation research in Latin America. This award supports initial hands-on field research and the development of independent research projects. For summer 2017, CLAS awarded eight Tinker Field Research Grants to students in anthropology, Earth and environmental sciences, Latin American studies, and political science.



**Kristy Barnes**, a first-year M.A. student in Earth and environmental sciences was awarded \$3,000 to conduct her research project entitled, "Examining the impact of non-grazing ungulates on nitrogen cycling in the Brazilian Cerrado." Throughout June 2017, she conducted field research in the Cerrado region of Mato Grosso do Sul, as well as laboratory research at UNESP and USP. To evaluate the impacts of large ungulates on the N cycle in tropical forests, her research quantified the nitrogen cycle in semi-deciduous, broadleaf forest patches in the Brazilian Cerrado using stable isotope analysis as well as total nitrogen, total carbon, and available nitrogen analyses. During the first week, Barnes worked with Brazilian collaborators to modify her sample design. She spent the subsequent three weeks collecting soil samples and plant censuses in forest patches of white-lipped peccary presence and absence and then prepared samples for isotope analysis at the stable isotope facility at USP-Piracicaba.



**Miguel Cuj**, a second-year M.A. student in Latin American studies, was awarded \$2,000 for his research project entitled, "Health Issues: Survivors of the armed conflict in rural Guatemala." Cuj conducted fieldwork in western Guatemala with the goal of assessing the opinion of the older population about health issues in the aftermath of the armed conflict in Guatemala. The methodology of the data collection was through a standard survey and interviews in the local Maya language. Cuj began working with a local NGO and field workers to choose the population in the rural communities. He completed forty-six surveys and fourteen interviews. In general, participants talked about four areas: health status, nutritional status, religious status, and quality of life after the armed conflict.



**Andrea Delgado**, a second-year M.A. student at the Center for Latin American Studies, was awarded \$3,000 to conduct her project entitled, "Economic Well-Being in Chinchero, Peru: Weaving Traditions and a New International Airport." The objective of her research was to evaluate female

weavers and artesanía vendors' perspectives on the plans to construct a new international airport. Specifically, she examined how these women perceived that the airport would affect their well-being at work, home, and in the community. She measured well-being in two ways: life satisfaction on a scale of 1–10 and the Quechua term *sumac kawsay* ("to live pretty"). Delgado's fieldwork was conducted in the small town of Chinchero, located in the department of Cusco in Peru, where she conducted 50 interviews with female vendors and weavers located at numerous commercial "textile centers" and in the public plaza.



**Jessica Fletcher**, a second-year M.A. student in Latin American studies, was awarded \$2,000 to conduct research entitled, "Examining Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Slavery, Law, and Movement Across the Atlantic Caribbean in the National Archive in Havana, Cuba." In July and August 2017, she travelled to Havana to conduct historical research at the National Archive of the Republic of Cuba. The goal of her research was to examine archival documents and manuscripts connected to historical themes of slavery, movement, and the law in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the Atlantic Caribbean. Fletcher's project was built upon a foundation of preliminary research conducted during her first year in the M.A. program in which she examined freedom petitions from New Orleans courts by slaves from across the Caribbean.

## 2017 SUMMER AWARDS



**Kyle Harper**, a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology received \$3,000 to carry out his research project entitled "Politics of Assimilation, Landscapes of Differentiation: Indigenous Responses to Colonial Integration in the Lower Amazon Basin." During the mid-eighteenth century, the Lower Amazon Basin underwent major social, political, and economic changes as a result of the expulsion of the Portuguese Jesuits and a set of subsequent reforms known as the Directorate. The purpose of Harper's research is to begin to understand the occupational phases, both precolonial and historic, of the Carrazedo site, as well as the overall potential for material culture within the archaeological record. Ultimately, the objective of his research is to identify the community-level (e.g., architecture, spatial layout, materiality in general) responses of the former indigenous inhabitants of Carrazedo in order to understand the potential for indigenous decision-making and autonomy.



**Kristina Lee**, a rising second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology, was awarded \$3,000 to conduct her project entitled, "Excavating Slavery and its Legacy in Peru." In a country well known for its archaeological tourism, Kristina Lee visited Peru in the summer 2017 to consider how her own archaeological research may benefit a largely marginalized population: African descendants of slaves in Peru. Over the course of two months, she visited nine locations along the coast to hone bioarchaeological methods, analyze archival data, scope potential field sites, and interview leaders and community members on the topic of slavery and African descendants in Peru. She returned from the field with exciting plans and opportunities to begin identifying her future field site and build on her research alongside Peruvian colleagues.



**Gabriela Ore Menendez**, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology, received \$2,000 to conduct research entitled, "Legacies of Colonial Landscapes: transformations in settlement and land use in mid-Colonial Peru." Ore Menendez conducted preliminary archival research, archaeological reconnaissance, and ground truthing in Lima and Huarochiri. Her research centers on how the "Reducción General de indios" (general resettlement of Indians) changed the pre-Hispanic agricultural landscapes, and how indigenous

communities reclaimed previously occupied land by creating a second wave of *reducciones* closer to prior agricultural infrastructure. During the month of June and early July, Ore Menendez visited the Archivo Arzobispal de Lima (Lima's archbishopric archive) where she found several documents about the early history of Huarochiri's church administration. In July, she visited with the Tupicocha district in Huarochiri, where she talked with the Tupicocha community and presented her dissertation project. Later, she performed a preliminary reconnaissance of the agricultural areas around town and obtained ground truth satellite remote sensing results. Additionally, with the help of Prof. Steven Wernke, she used a multispectral and thermal camera to obtain aerial data of abandoned agricultural fields to compare previous results with new high-resolution imagery.



**Facundo Salles Kobilanski**, a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Political Science, received \$3,000 to conduct research entitled, "Mass Attitudes Formation Towards Salient Foreign Governments: The Evaluation of the Chinese Government in Panama as a Case Study." He conducted research in the city of Panama on the impact of interactions with migrants on locals' attitudinal outlooks. The goal of this research was to provide qualitative evidence to the research question and theoretical framework of his doctoral dissertation prospectus. Furthermore, Salles Kobilanski wanted to immerse himself in a foreign country and gain experience and interview skills before conducting extensive dissertation research.

## 2017 Portuguese Language and Culture Summer Language Program in São Paulo

Tulane University's Stone Center for Latin American Studies and CLAS hosted the popular Portuguese Language and Culture program in São Paulo again in 2017. This six-week intensive academic

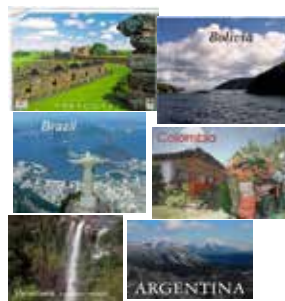
program is a FLAS-eligible language program offered in partnership with CET Academic Programs at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (PUC-SP). Students enrolled in the program earn 6–7 credits and

will took Portuguese language courses (intermediate and advanced levels) taught by CET faculty, as well as a course on current social issues in Brazil taught by PUC-SP faculty. Students lived with Brazilian host families or in apartments with Brazilian roommates in São Paulo for a total Portuguese immersion experience and participated in excursions in and around São Paulo. CLAS awarded Summer FLAS fellowships to four Vanderbilt students to attend the program this year: Elvira Aballi, Jacob Brown, Rasul Dent, and Fernando Mendez Campos. The program was led by Tulane's Megwen Loveless and took place from June 12–24. The program will be offered again in 2018; for more information see [as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/regional-specialities/summer-program/](http://as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/regional-specialities/summer-program/)



## Latin American Film Festival

In partnership with The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons, CLAS presented a new Latin American Film Festival series on Wednesday evenings from August 30 to September 27, 2017. The theme for the series was “Landscapes in People and Places,” and the intention was to provide an introductory glimpse into the complexities of Latin American culture to first-year undergraduate students. Each film screening was hosted by one of The Commons houses and featured dinner for participants as well as a post-screening discussion led by a faculty member. The series brought together faculty and students from a wide array of programs and was attended by a total of 250. Plans are currently underway to make the Latin American Film Festival an annual event in the fall semester. For more information, see [as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/filmfestival](http://as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/filmfestival)



### LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL @ THE COMMONS

**Theme: LANDSCAPES IN PEOPLE AND PLACES**  
Join the Center for Latin American Studies and The Commons as they present a film series focused on Latin America! Each of the five film screenings will also feature a **free dinner** and a group discussion led by a VU faculty member specializing in the themes presented in the film. For more information, check out our event page: [as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/filmfestival/](http://as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/filmfestival/)



All film events will run from 5:30pm-7:45pm	
<b>August 30</b>	"The Motorcycle Diaries" (multiple countries) Discussant: Dr. Marshall Eakin Suberland House
<b>September 6</b>	"Landfill Harmonic" (Paraguay) Discussant: Dr. Thomas Verrier North House
<b>September 13</b>	"Madame Satã" (Brazil) Discussants: Dr. Ben Legg & Dr. Alicia Monroe Memorial House
<b>September 20</b>	"Maria Full of Grace" (Colombia) Discussant: Dr. Lesley Gill Crawford House
<b>September 27</b>	"Even the Rain" (Bolivia) Discussant: Dr. Carwil Bjork-James Hank Ingram House
<b>QUESTIONS CONTACT:</b> Dr. Nicholas Kouris (nkouris@vanderbilt.edu) Dr. Chelsea Johnson (chelsea.johnson@vanderbilt.edu)	

### THE AMAZING TWINS: ANCIENT MAYA TALES FROM THE POPOL WUJ

This fall marks the five-year anniversary of the premiere of *The Amazing Twins: Ancient Maya Tales from the Popol Wuj*, a marionette show created by CLAS and the Nashville Public Library. Based on indigenous texts from the Western Highlands of Guatemala, *The Amazing Twins* continues to delight viewers with 516 people attending nine performances in 2016. Upcoming performances in 2018 are April 13–14, 19–21, and 26–28 at the Nashville Public Library Children's Theater.

## K-16 Summer Brazil Institute Draws Brazil-U.S. Comparisons



CLAS collaborated with the University of Georgia and Tulane University to host a weeklong professional development institute for educators, “Somos Nós: Brazil on the Move” in June 2017. This was the third institute of a four-year series focused on Brazil. Throughout the week, educators from Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Georgia, Florida, and Maryland explored the history and culture of Brazil, studied Brazilian Portuguese, and collaborated to design innovative curriculum and teaching strategies for use in their classrooms.



The program featured faculty from all three partner universities. Vanderbilt’s **Alicia Monroe** (African American & Diaspora Studies) discussed the history of the transatlantic slave trade to Brazil and the changing concept of citizenship in the country. Using film, literature, music, and pop culture, Ben Legg (Portuguese) examined the historical relationship between Brazil and the United States. Other presentations included a focus on indigenous peoples of Brazil, as well as the current educational structures of Brazil.

Lunara Gonçalves (UGA) provided introductory Portuguese language classes, and Megwen Loveless (Tulane) introduced strategies for incorporating game play to engage students in language learning. The institute also included daily curriculum development sessions led by Lou Tolosa-Casadont, clinical associate professor and World Language Program coordinator at UGA. In addition to these sessions, the teachers engaged in interactive activities outside of the classroom, including a tour of UGA’s Latin American Ethnobotanical Garden led by Karen Moss Bryan and a capoeira class with



Jaclyn Donelle from Capoeira Passo a Frente. The institute concluded with presentations by participants to showcase the new curriculum resources they developed.

CLAS awarded travel scholarships to Mary Bradshaw (Marshfield Public School District; Marshfield, MA), Angela Gordon (Henderson High School; Havertown, PA), and Farryn Slaton-Barkley (Cirrus Academy; Macon, GA) to attend the institute. Each of these teachers developed a complete unit based on the summer institute; these resources are available on the CLAS website ([vanderbilt.edu/clas](http://vanderbilt.edu/clas)).

## CLAS Collaborates with ReadWorks to Provide Educators with Latin American Content



The K'oyopos live in villages with their large families. Together, the children and parents create body paint using their spit and charcoal. They dance back patterns on their skin to communicate with their ancestors. The K'oyopos are often seen several miles, and each wife has a different partner that paint on their bodies. They also use body paint for special rituals and ceremonies. The K'oyopos often get lost (including colorful paper flowers) in their hair for decoration. Families wear matching headdresses. They believe that headdresses represent the universe and a transition into adulthood. K'oyopos chiefs have elaborate headdresses full of vibrant feathers. The K'oyopos also make necklaces out of small beads in bright colors.

Storytelling is important to the K'oyopos. They pass down stories and legends about their history to younger generations by telling them at ceremonies. Dancing is also important to the K'oyopos, and they dance to celebrate seasons and the changing of the seasons. Today, the K'oyopos are making videos to tell their stories and sharing them online with the entire world.

First image link: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:K'oyopos.jpg>

Second image link: Personal image from CLAS

Vanderbilt University Center for Latin American Studies

The Center for Latin American Studies partners with ReadWorks, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving reading comprehension for K–12 students. Home to the largest library of curated nonfiction and literary articles in the United States, ReadWorks provides open access to content, curriculum, and training to educators.

This year, CLAS produced 55 articles focused on Latin America for the organization's Article-A-Day program, which have reached 2,425 students. "We are thrilled to be partnering with Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American Studies to share their expert content on Latin American culture and history with students and teachers, from across the nation. This superb content is helping thousands of students to become better readers, and the response from the classroom has been wonderful," said Manjula Raman, the ReadWorks

director of content and curriculum. The article sets contributed by CLAS focus on a variety of topics for young readers: prominent Latin American women; indigenous peoples of Latin America; instruments and crafts in Latin America; history and customs of the Day of the Dead; the Maya; Guatemala; holidays in Latin America; and food and drink in Latin America. Written for grades 3–8 and available for download from the Readworks and CLAS websites, these article sets provide young readers with the opportunity to develop a daily reading habit and build their knowledge, vocabulary, and reading stamina.

## Cheekwood's Día de los Muertos Festival

Each October, Cheekwood brings the traditions of Día de los Muertos to Nashville with a festival that includes Latin American music and dance, vibrant art activities, a marketplace, altar displays, and Latin American foods from local vendors. As part of our educational outreach efforts, CLAS works closely with Cheekwood to provide educational materials for the festival, and Colleen McCoy and Avery Dickins de Girón serve on the festival's advisory board. Each year prior to the festival, CLAS and Cheekwood host a professional development workshop on a topic related to Día de los Muertos. **Eddie Wright-Rios** (History) guided 40 teachers through the history of the celebration, as well as modern interpretations, particularly the satirical beginnings of calavera (skeleton) imagery. **Avery Dickins de Girón** then shared a video depicting the *barrilete* (kite) festival that takes place on November 1 in the towns of Santiago and Sumpango, Guatemala, and led a short discussion.

CLAS also participates in the creation of altars for the Cheekwood festival, and this year's centerpiece was a kite, modeled on the giant kites flown in Guatemala. For the Kaqchikel Maya members of these two communities, the kites serve as a symbolic connection to the dead and help guide returning spirits to their families. Once the celebrations have ended, the kites are burned, allowing the dead to return peacefully until the next year. CLAS staff and graduate students painted the small replica *barrilete* for the Cheekwood altar and volunteered at the festival, explaining the Mayan tradition to visitors.

CLAS produces a bilingual booklet on Día de los Muertos celebrations in different countries that is distributed to festivalgoers. An updated version of the booklet was created this year and handed out to the more than 3,000 people who attended the festival in 2017.



## 2017 Mayan Language Institute

**N**ow in its fifth year, the Mayan Language Institute is an intensive six-week language immersion program in K'iche' Mayan and Kaqchikel Mayan. Students, study with both U.S. faculty and native speakers, and participate in cultural activities, lectures, discussions, and excursions to gain a better understanding of the cultural and political contexts that have affected the historical development and preservation of the language.

Both Kaqchikel and K'iche' students spent the first week in Antigua for a general orientation and introduction to Mayan culture, history, and languages at the University of Texas, Austin's Casa Herrera. The students visited archeological excavations at San Andres Semetebaj, with the Kaqchikel students returning to Antigua for the remainder and the K'iche' students continuing to Nahualá for the rest of the program.

Both student groups lived with local families for homestays.

In 2017, the K'iche' program was led by Marieke Sattler (Vanderbilt University) and Malcolm Miguel Botto (Brigham Young University), with Judie Maxwell (Tulane University) and Ambrosia (Ixnal) Cuma Chavez leading the Kaqchikel program. This year students were invited to attend the Guatemala Scholars' Network conference in Antigua in early July, offering them the opportunity to hear directly from scholars about current research in Guatemala and to make connections in the field.

Dates for the 2018 program are June 17–July 27. The MLI is organized by CLAS with Tulane's Stone Center for Latin American Studies, the Latin American and Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico, and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies at the University of Texas.

## LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Vanderbilt Latin American and Caribbean Student Association (LACS) aims to bring together people from the geographical and historical area of Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean islands, and South America, as well as those who are interested or passionate about the region. LACS seeks to build cultural awareness through talks, cooking classes, and other events each semester. In fall 2018, LACS hosted a screening of the film *No* by Pablo Larrain on the referendum to determine if Pinochet would remain in power in 1988; more than 30 Vanderbilt students participated in the discussion following the film. For more information about LACS or to join, contact [lacs.vanderbilt@gmail.com](mailto:lacs.vanderbilt@gmail.com).

## Vanderbilt Undergraduates Intern (Continued from page 15)

during the second junta who was the last living Argentine dictator to be condemned. In addition to this, she met with members of the organization, including one of its founders, Delia Giovanola, as well as others who had been appropriated as children, in order to better understand the organization and its history. This life-changing experience inspired her to pursue a future career in human rights, as well as a master's degree in Latin American Studies, focusing on post-dictatorship period in the Southern Cone. Southworth has also interned in the U.S. Embassy in Argentina, and will begin her M.A. in January 2018 as 4+1 student.

**Danielle McKeiver** (Elementary Education, 2017) is currently serving as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Mexico for 2017–18.



2017 Américas Award Winners

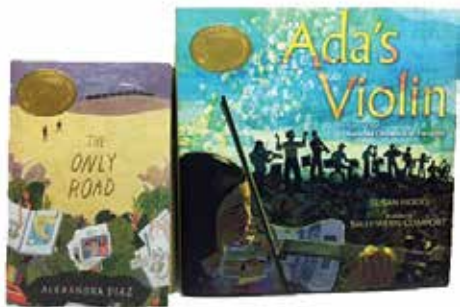


Américas Award Ceremony at the Library of Congress

## 2017 Américas Award Winners Recognized

The 2017 Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature was awarded to *Ada's Violin* written by Susan Hood and illustrated by Sally Wern Comport (Simon & Schuster, 2016) and *The Only Road* by Alexandra Diaz (Simon & Schuster, 2016). Honorable mention went to Nadia L. Hohn for *Malaika's Costume* (Groundwood Books, 2016) and Reyna Grande for *The Distance Between Us* (Simon & Schuster, 2016). The awards were presented at a ceremony in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., on September 22. Authors Hohn, Grande, Diaz, and Hood spoke at the ceremony, as well as illustrator Wern Comport.

CLAS and Tulane University held a professional development workshop for educators



the previous day. This year's workshop, called "Exploring the Diverse Roots of Migration in Latin America & the Caribbean," was hosted by American University. The workshop prepared K-12 educators and librarians to engage students with topics of migration, family, and socio-economic barriers within Central America and the Caribbean today. Speakers included 2017 Américas Award winner Alexandra Diaz, as well as honor book authors Reyna Grande and Nadia L. Hohn. These authors, along with a curriculum specialist, discussed teaching strategies to accompany the books with workshop participants.

The Americas Award is sponsored by the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs and co-coordinated by Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American Studies and Tulane's Stone Center for Latin American Studies. The award recognizes children's and young adult books that authentically portray Latin America. For more information about the Américas Award, as well as this year's ceremony and workshop, visit [claspprograms.org](http://claspprograms.org).



The Américas Award review committee selected thirteen commended titles this year:

- *Burn Baby Burn* written by Meg Medina. Candlewick Press, 2016.
- *Juana & Lucas* written by Juana Medina. Candlewick Press, 2016.
- *Lion Island* written by Margarita Engle. Simon & Schuster, 2016.
- *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth* written by Cathy Camper and illustrated by Raúl the Third. Chronicle Books, 2016.
- *Mamá the Alien / Mamá La Extraterrestre* written by René Colato Laínez and illustrated by Laura Lacámara. Children's Book Press, Lee & Low Books, 2016.
- *Margarito's Forest / El Bosque de Don Margarito* written by Andy Carter and illustrated by Allison Havens. Hard Ball Press, 2016.
- *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* written by Javaka Steptoe. Hachette Book Group, 2016.
- *Rainbow Weaver - Tejedora del arcoiris* written by Linda Elovitz Marshall and illustrated by Elisa Chavarri. Children's Book Press, Lee & Low Books, 2016.
- *Shame the Stars* written by Guadalupe García McCall. Lee & Low Books, 2016.
- *Somos Como Los Nubes / We are Like the Clouds* written by Jorge Argueta and illustrated by Alfonso Ruano. Groundwood Books, 2016.
- *The Memory of Light* written by Francisco X. Stork. Arthur A. Levine Books, Scholastic, 2016.
- *The Princess and the Warrior* written by Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2016.
- *The School the Aztec Eagles Built* written by Dorinda Makanaōnalani Nicholson. Lee & Low Books, 2016.

## Celebrate Nashville

Metro Parks recognizes the diversity of cultures and traditions in Nashville with their Celebrate Nashville festival, which takes place in Centennial Park each October. Now in its twenty-first year, the festival features a marketplace, food, dancing, and live music from cultures around the world, as well as a global village. CLAS hosts a booth in the global village each year to highlight the unique characteristics and qualities of a country in Latin America. Guatemala was the focus of this year's booth, which showcased our language program in K'iche' Mayan, our trans-institutional initiatives in Guatemala, and related study abroad opportunities. Visitors viewed artifacts from the Guatemala culture box, completed a coloring sheet, and received a keychain from Guatemala. Alma Paz-Sanmiguel, Colleen McCoy, and a number of graduate students contributed to make the booth a success.



# LAPOP's Latest Americas Barometer Survey Indicate Disillusionment and Declining Support for Democracy in Latin America

How is democracy faring some forty years out from its (re)emergence in the Latin America and Caribbean region? The short answer: The public is disillusioned with democracy, and support for key democratic institutions is on the decline.

This concerning conclusion emerges from LAPOP's most recent AmericasBarometer survey, which was conducted in 2016–17 in 29 countries, with more than 43,500 respondents. To assess citizens' confidence in democratic governance, the AmericasBarometer measures support for core democratic principles (for example, political tolerance) and institutions (elections, for example), evaluations of basic liberties, experiences with the rule of law, and opinions on the quality of government service provision.

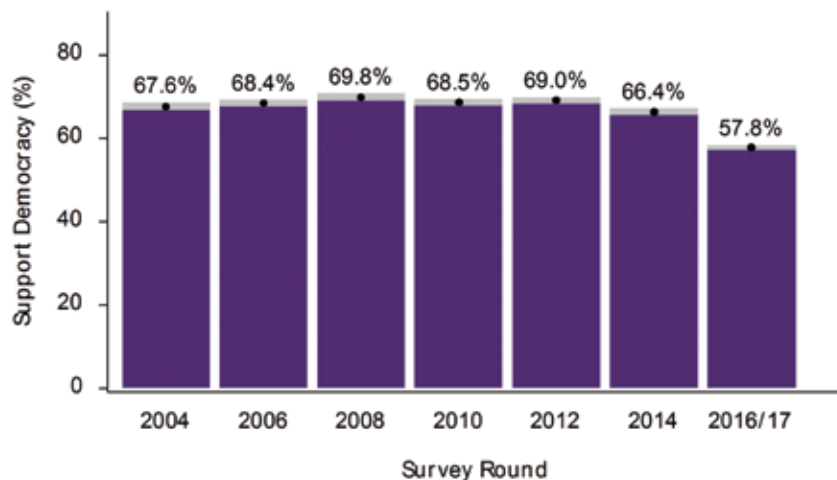
A nuanced analysis and discussion of these factors across countries, times, and subgroups are the focus of LAPOP's new book-length report, *The Political Culture of Democracy in the Americas, 2016/17: A Comparative Study of Democracy and Governance*. The report and accompanying datasets were released at a launch event at Florida International University, and online, on September 26, 2017.

One of the report's more alarming findings is that, for the first time since the AmericasBarometer began in 2004, the percentage of individuals in 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean who say that democracy is the best form of government in spite of its

flaws has decreased significantly. While 66.4% of the public agreed that democracy was the best form of government in 2014, 57.8% of the public said they supported democracy in 2016/17—a decline of nearly nine percentage points. In light of recent corruption scandals, economic stagnation, and flawed elections across the region, these findings may not be particularly surprising. Yet, this is certainly troubling news for those who support and promote democracy across the region.

Support for the abstract concept of democracy is not the only way to measure citizen commitment to democratic values and practices. The LAPOP report also considers support for specific institutions and practices. On the one hand, trust in political parties has declined, trust in elections has remained stagnant at low levels, and support for executive coups (that is, the shuttering of congress) has increased. Yet, on the other hand, the report shows that tolerance of the political rights of minority groups and viewpoints increased in the Latin America and Caribbean region in 2016/17. This may be a silver lining to citizen frustration with democratic politics: when public confidence in democracy, elections, and parties is degraded, citizens may become more supportive of political participation by all members of the public.

More information about the 2016/17 AmericasBarometer study and other public opinion research by LAPOP can be found at [www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop).



95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2016/17 - LAC21; GM\_y\_07132017

## 2016-2017 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

### Thursday, September 7

Amaranth, Chia, Chocolate, and the Aztec: A Hands-On Exploration of Latin American Plants  
Vanderbilt University

### Thursday, September 21

Exploring the Diverse Roots of Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Washington, D.C.

### Friday, October 20

Día de los Muertos: Traditions and Celebrations Across Latin America  
Cheekwood Botanical Gardens

### Friday, January 26

From Trash to Triumph: The Story of the Recycled Children's Orchestra of Paraguay  
Vanderbilt University

### Thursday, February 8

Exploring Haiti with the Works of Edwidge Danticat  
Vanderbilt University

### April

Latin American Film Institute

### July 7–17

Somos Nós: Brazil Institute 2018 in Salvador, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo

For more information about upcoming workshops, visit [vanderbilt.edu/clas/teacher-workshops](http://vanderbilt.edu/clas/teacher-workshops)



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