



VANDERBILT  
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# Center for Latin American Studies



SPRING 2014

## *The Helguera Collection and the Dean's Fellow Program*

*Contributed by Rebecca West, M.A. in LAS Candidate, and Paula Covington, LAS Bibliographer*

The expanding J. León Helguera Collection of Colombian has generated a buzz both at Vanderbilt and around the world. Professor Helguera, Colombian historian, lifelong bibliophile, and professor emeritus of Vanderbilt, continues to add donations to this unique and distinguished collection of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. At this point, it includes an estimated 5,000 documents, broadsides, pamphlets, and *programas*; the nineteenth century collection contains a bit of everything, from government documents to school curricula. Spanning topics such as government administration, politics, religious diatribes, treatises, religion, education, and medicine, the digitization of this collection will further research opportunities for scholars around the world.



Gloria Pérez, a Ph.D. student in anthropology, was selected to work on the digitization of the Helguera Collection as one of the Dean of Libraries' newly established Dean's Fellows. The Dean's Fellows program was established to create opportunities for students to have hands-on access to special collections and to foster in-depth learning experiences. With the support of this program, Pérez is reading, evaluating, registering, and sorting through thousands of documents. The documents that she selects will be digitized and indexed online by subject, and every word will be fully searchable. She will also create an online exhibit and write a series of essays.

Pérez, who is Colombian herself, is particularly well positioned to evaluate these documents. An M.D. and former ER physician, she has returned to graduate school to study anthropology and the effects of internal displacement in Colombia. In a brief conversation on the collection, she noted, among other things, that she saw the influence of the Catholic Church in all spheres of life, even medicine, since the local church served historically as the forum for public health announcements.

Working with the collection will also add new depth to Pérez's own research. As she studies displacement in the country with the highest number of internally displaced people in the world, she has found that this problem did not start with the paramilitary forces. Rather, displacement began with the seizure of coffee plantations in the 1800s, followed by lands with sugar cane, cattle, mines, and so on.

Pérez proudly announced that she has completed the A's. With 25 letters in the alphabet to go, that may not sound like progress. She convinced us of how far she has come, however, when she led us down to Special Collections where she showed off the 15-some-odd boxes comprised solely of "A" documents. Despite the initial limit of 35, she whittled the A's down to about 55 of the best documents—45 of which are not available anywhere around the world. These documents include such treasures as proposals for a new constitution, the declaration of the borders of Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador, and a pamphlet on Nueva Granada (Colombia's name before independence) in the 1840s and 50s establishing the basic definitions of citizenship and other materials that, as Pérez states "define a nation." None of

## K-12 OUTREACH

In fall 2013, more than 35,000 felt the impact of CLAS outreach programs, including K-12 teacher workshops, educator conferences, curriculum, classroom speakers, films, and cultural events.

K-12 teachers took weekly Portuguese classes led by graduate student Steve Wenz (Spanish and Portuguese) that included teletandem sessions with teachers in Brazil. Several presented at the regional World Language Conference on ways to explore the language and culture of Brazil in the K-12 classroom; presentations at regional and national conferences will follow.

CLAS and Tulane again co-coordinated the Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature at the Library of Congress in September 2013. Over 40 D.C. area teachers attended this year's teacher workshop, which focused on ways to include Latin American and Latino children's literature into the K-12 classroom.

CLAS and Glendale Spanish Immersion Elementary School offered a workshop on strategies for K-8 language teachers.

Partnering with the Nashville Public Library, CLAS premiered the marionette performance *The Amazing Twins: Ancient Maya Tales from the Popol Wuj*, created an interdisciplinary curriculum for distribution to teachers, and organized educational sessions at Wright Middle School.

CLAS had major impact on Cheekwood's Día de los Muertos festival, organizing educator workshops and new educational activities, such as the showing of the Popol Wuj marionette show, for the annual celebration.



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Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt has never been as strong. We have remarkable faculty and students working on projects in every school and college on campus. There are so many, most of us are probably only aware of a fraction. Mike Newton at Vanderbilt Law School (and his students) are advising the Peruvian Supreme Court on judicial reform; working with Pelayo Correa and Doug Morgan in the medical school, we are the world center for the study of the particular sort of infectious stomach cancers found in Latin America; and that is just the tip of the iceberg. In Spanish and Portuguese, history and political science, anthropology and sociology—some of the best cutting-edge research on the region comes from Vanderbilt faculty.

Our role in the Center for Latin American Studies is to encourage and facilitate that work, when possible, and to support students studying the region. But more important is our role as a matchmaker and as a hub to share our work and make new connections between fields of study. This semester we will continue our experiment with 45-minute, talk show-style panels of professors from different

**Helguera cont'd**

these documents has formerly been available online, and many are unique and hitherto unknown, "...so" she explains, "you can imagine the potential." All this just from the A's. Progress indeed!

**Manuel Zapata Olivella Collection**

The library has also embarked on creating a digital database of Colombian interviews with "abuelos analfabetos," or the Voz de los Abuelos Project, one segment of Vanderbilt's Manuel Zapata Olivella Collection. Zapata Olivella was a Colombian anthropologist, doctor, novelist, folklorist, and pioneer in preserving and promoting the nation's ethnic and cultural history and its Afro-Colombian identity. In the 1970s he arranged for a graduation requirement to be put in place in Colombian high schools: students must interview an *anciano* (older person) before graduating. Students were provided with 100 possible questions on topics from politics to

fields. We are also working with LAPOP to make their incredible treasure trove of data more accessible to scholars in other fields on campus.

We have an equally important mandate off-campus: to disseminate knowledge about the region to our political leaders, business community, and to K–12 schools and other colleges and universities. This semester, in honor of Black History Month, we will offer a Teacher Workshop with MTSU and TSU on intersections of black and Latin America, are working with Belmont University to organize outreach events around a visit by Oscar Arias, and continue our digitization of curricular materials for teachers. The library's program of digitizing our singular collections of Colombian also support this outreach.

This semester we will also be writing and submitting a proposal for NRC funding for 2014–2018. By the Department of Education's criteria, we are as strong as any of our peer institutions. At the same time, funding is still uncertain, and one never knows about the vagaries of the deciding committees. We will do our best to represent your many accomplishments in the proposal. Wish us well.

religion, race, and magic.

Pérez describes the collection as having "newly acquired value [from] the recognition of negritude in Colombia....Zapata Olivella is one of the figures coming to the forefront of the black social movement."

Vanderbilt purchased the collection from Zapata Olivella's daughter with the permission of Colombia's Ministry of Culture that Vanderbilt conserve it and begin to make it available digitally. Using the Robert Penn Warren "Who Speaks for the Negro" project as an example, the library is in the process of making the interviews, transcripts, and photographic portion of the collection available as an open online database. Despite the enormity of these efforts, this project is just the tip of the iceberg, and we hope to find funding to complete the rest of it.

Browse the online collections at [helguera.library.vanderbilt.edu](http://helguera.library.vanderbilt.edu) and [mzo.library.vanderbilt.edu/home](http://mzo.library.vanderbilt.edu/home).

*The Latest from LAPOP: Democratic Legitimacy Put to the Test in Upcoming Presidential Elections in Latin America*

Contributed by Matthew Layton of LAPOP (Latin American Public Opinion Project)

Nine Latin American countries will hold presidential elections during the twelve-month period that began in November 2013 (see Table 1). Early news reports suggest that voters will likely re-elect incumbent parties or candidates in Costa Rica, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, and Uruguay, but there are some cases where there is no clear front-runner and elections should be highly competitive (Honduras, El Salvador, and Panama) or where elections will likely result in an opposition victory (Chile). Thus, even if on average, the elections yield few seismic changes in the region's politics, some of them will be contentious and will raise important questions about the legitimacy of democracy in their respective countries.

Questions of democratic legitimacy were prominent in the elections that have already occurred in Chile and Honduras. After Chile's second round of voting on December 15, Chilean voters elected former President Michelle Bachelet for her second tenure as president. This election is the first held in Chile after extensive electoral rules changes, which included a transition from voluntary registration and compulsory voting to automatic registration and voluntary voting. With these changes, voter turnout in the first round fell below 50 percent of the eligible population. This figure highlights the extent to which all of the major Chilean parties will need to find ways to bolster their legitimacy and ability to represent and mobilize this large unorganized body of the electorate in future elections.

Also as expected, the Honduran election was highly contentious. Honduras is still emerging from the disruptions that occurred during the 2009 overthrow of former President Manuel Zelaya. Presidential candidates in the recent election represented the entire partisan spectrum from pro-coup to anti-coup, including Romeo Vásquez, the general who led

the Honduran military during the coup, and Zelaya's wife, Xiomara Castro. The first uncertified results from the election showed that the incumbent conservative party candidate, Juan Hernández, had a

to their democratic legitimacy that are similar to those seen in Chile or Honduras. Overall, this next round of Latin American elections will highlight the region's widespread commitment to the

TABLE 1.

**Latin American Countries with Presidential Elections between Nov. 1, 2013 and Nov. 1, 2014**

Country	Election Date	Trust in Elections
Chile	November 17, 2013	64.2
Honduras	November 24, 2013	35.5
El Salvador	February 2, 2014	54.1
Costa Rica	February 2, 2014	54.9
Panama	May 4, 2014	48.0
Colombia	May 25, 2014	46.4
Bolivia	October 5, 2014	47.3
Brazil	October 5, 2014	47.7
Uruguay	October 26, 2014	76.9

Note: The point estimate of average trust in elections is scored on a 0–100 scale based on data from the 2012 *AmericasBarometer* survey conducted by the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP).

relatively large electoral lead; however, Castro's supporters also claimed victory, which has fed the underlying tension in the country. No matter which candidate ultimately prevails, this election is unlikely to produce a government that can claim broad legitimacy in part because overall trust in the elections is exceptionally low in Honduras (see Table 1). Consequently, instability will likely continue to characterize Honduran politics for some time.

In the other countries where elections have yet to occur, there is still considerable uncertainty about voter sentiment; indeed, some countries' parties have yet to fully finalize their selections for presidential candidates. Nevertheless, it is likely that political elites in some of these countries will also face challenges

formal trappings of electoral democracy, but it will also draw attention to the significant variation in deeper democratic consolidation within the region. Citizens across these nine Latin American countries will have the opportunity to voice their opinion on who should rule their countries through their ballots, but, as important as elections are for democracy, these elections alone will be unable to resolve deep social and political problems without the subsequent implementation of effective democratic governance.

See page 11 for more LAPOP news.

## Faculty Publications

**Marshall Eakin** (History), "The Emergence of Brazil on the World Stage," *Latin American Research Review* 48:3 (2013): 221-230.

**Edward F. Fischer** (Anthropology) and Bart Victor, "High-end Coffee and Smallholding Producers in Guatemala," *Latin American Research Review* 49:1 (2014)

**Earl Fitz** (Spanish and Portuguese), "Lima Barreto and Gender: An Inter-American Perspective," *Lima Barreto: New Critical Perspectives*, ed. Lamonte Aidoo and Daniel Silva (Lexington Books, 2013).

**Jane Landers** (History), "The Atlantic Travels of Francisco Menéndez and his Free Black 'Subjects,'" *Biography and the Black Atlantic*, ed. Lisa A. Lindsay and John Wood Sweet (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013). "The African Landscape of 17th Century Cartagena and its Hinterlands," *The Black Urban Atlantic in the Age of the Slave Trade* (The Early Modern Americas), ed. Jorge Cañizares-Ezguerra, James Sidbury and Matt D. Childs (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013).

**William Luis** (Spanish and Portuguese), *Looking Out, Looking In: Anthology of Latino Poetry*. (Houston: Arte Público Press, 2013).

**Paul B. Miller** (French and Italian), "I Hear Therefore I Know: Post-Dictatorial Traumatic Expression and Death and the Maiden," *Studies in American Jewish Literature* 32:2 (2012): 121-140.

**Benigno Trigo** (Spanish and Portuguese), *Kristeva's Fiction* New York: SUNY Press, 2013. "Clemente Pereda: el gran ayunador; Entrevista a Clemente Pereda Berríos," *Exégesis: Revista de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Humacao* 26:73 (2013): 40-48. "On Kristeva's Fiction," *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy* 21:1 (2013): 60-82. "Peacemaker: The Foraker Act and the Poetry of Evaristo Ribera Chevremont," *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* 47:2 (2013): 199-221.

## L.A. Times Journalist and Author Sam Quinones Visits Vanderbilt

In October 2013, CLAS hosted a visit by Sam Quinones, *Los Angeles Times* journalist and creative author of nonfiction (*Antonio's Gun and Delfino's Dream* and



*True Tales from Another Mexico: The Lynch Mob, the Popsicle Kings, Chalino, and the Bronx*). While in Nashville, Quinones was featured in on- and off-campus events. During a CLAS-sponsored brown-bag lunch, he spoke with graduate and undergraduate students about his personal and professional experiences working on the topic of the Mexican drug wars. Off campus, at Casa Azafrán Community Center, Quinones delivered a public lecture entitled "Potholes, Parks, and the PRI: One Reporter's Understanding of the Mexican Drug Wars," which attracted a crowd of more than 180. While at Casa Azafrán, Quinones also met with young Latino writers who recently won a Hispanic Heritage Month essay contest titled "My Hispanic Roots, My American Dream" and sponsored by Conexión Américas.

## CLAS and Center for Second Language Studies Represent Vanderbilt at TFLTA Fall Conference

Vanderbilt was well represented at the TFLTA (Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association Conference) held in Nashville in November 2013. CLAS K-12 educators who attended the summer 2013 Portuguese Institute at University of Georgia-Athens led a session entitled "Exploring Portuguese with Your Spanish Class," where they shared hands-on ideas with their colleagues about how to incorporate Portuguese language learning and the study of Brazil into their classes.

Connie Sharp, librarian at Jones Paideia Magnet School, and Claire González, assistant director for outreach at CLAS, led

a session entitled "Teaching the Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature," highlighting recent award-winning books and strategies for incorporating them into the K-12 classroom. The Américas Award was founded in 1993 to commend authors, illustrators, and publishers who produce quality children's and young adult books that authentically portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the U.S. and to provide teachers with recommendations for classroom use. Virginia Scott, director for the Center for Second Language Studies, delivered the conference's keynote speech, "Say it Forward."

## CLAS Summer Research Awards Support Global Field Experience with the Vanderbilt Vaccine Center

Last summer, CLAS awarded two Simon Collier Summer Research Awards to allow second-year School of Medicine students Leah Vance and Mana Espahbodi to participate in the Vanderbilt Vaccine Center's global field experience in Argentina.

Since 2009, the Vanderbilt Vaccine Center has partnered with Fundación INFANT, an Argentinean nonprofit organization established by Vanderbilt's Dr. Fernando Polack, to offer students the opportunity to conduct biomedical research and pediatric rotations at hospitals and medical centers in Buenos Aires. Fundación INFANT focuses on translating laboratory findings into preventive and therapeutic medical interventions that promote pediatric health. With this in mind, its main areas of interest include dengue, asthma, breastfeeding, and basic and translational research, as well as

research, consisting of various experiments on the dengue virus, while Vance focused on epidemiology, specifically on understanding the presence of dengue, creating guidelines

for care, and educating the population in order to control possible outbreaks.

The Vaccine Center's unique collaborative field research program focuses on training future leaders and scholars in medicine to address challenges in the field of medicine.

Students in the four-week program have the opportunity to work with a team of local and U.S.-trained researchers and physicians. As part of the team, students investigate both the basic science of viruses and also the clinical effects that cause respiratory infections in infants, children, and adolescents.

Working and researching in Argentina provides Vanderbilt students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture, take advantage of Spanish lessons, and enjoy excursions around the country. The program also offers students intensive on-site orientation and coordination, in addition to multicultural outings. In the past, students have taken excursions to Iguazu Falls and have participated in tango lessons to expand their cultural and terpsichorean horizons.

Research and clinical opportunities with Fundación INFANT are available year-round to School of Medicine students and residents. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information about applying to the program, visit [vvccenter.org/international-research/infant](http://vvccenter.org/international-research/infant) or contact Sarah Ladd at [sarah.ladd@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sarah.ladd@vanderbilt.edu). For more information about CLAS summer award opportunities, visit [vanderbilt.edu/clas/funding-opportunities/student-summer-awards/](http://vanderbilt.edu/clas/funding-opportunities/student-summer-awards/)



epidemiological studies in pediatric respiratory pathogens.

While in Argentina, Vance and Espahbodi, along with other student participants, worked primarily on dengue viruses and the treatment of dengue hemorrhagic fever, a disease that is now re-emerging in the country. Espahbodi conducted basic science

## Faculty News

**Tom Bogenschild** (Latin American Studies, Global Education Office) chaired a panel in November 2013 at the CIEE conference in Minneapolis entitled "Credit Wars: Integration and Dis-Integration in the Study Abroad Curriculum."

**Celso Castillo** (History) presented a paper in February 2014 at a Rice University Symposium "Race and Nation in the Age of Emancipations: A Symposium on the Atlantic World." The title of the paper is "Narrating Abolition, Making Blackness: Race, Republicanism, and Political Belonging in Recife, Brazil 1888-1889."

**Paula Covington** (Latin American Studies) attended the Feria Internacional de Libros in December 2013, which took place in Guadalajara, Mexico.

**Tom Dillehay** (Anthropology) received several grants including a National Science Foundation grant for research on Mapuche Polity Development in Chile; a National Geographic Society grant for research at Monte Verde, Chile; a CONICYT grant for cultural patrimony grant in Chile; and a National Science Foundation grant for analysis of data from Huaca Prieta, Peru.

**Earl Fitz** (Spanish and Portuguese) presented "Sexuality and Humor in Clarice Lispector's Denunciation of the Brazilian Dictatorship: The Case of 'A Via Crucis do Corpo'" in October 2013 at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in Vancouver, WA.

**Elizabeth Heitman** (Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society) presented ways to integrate education on research ethics and scientific integrity into the graduate science curriculum to the administration of UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) on December 4-7.

**Jane Landers** (History) traveled to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in October 2013 to present a paper entitled "The First Maroon Wars in the Americas: Hispaniola in the Sixteenth Century," at the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora conference. In October 2013, Landers served as historical consultant and was interviewed for the PBS documentary *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*.

## Grad Student News

**Ashley Larson** (Latin American Studies) presented a paper in January 2014 at the Atlantic World Research Network conference "Atlantic World Foodways: The Carolina Lowcountry, Africa, Italy, and Spain." The title of the paper was "Serving A National Myth: Visions of Gastronomy in Gilberto Freyre's Brazil."

**Matthew Layton** (Political Science) was awarded the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship in order to continue his dissertation research on the politics of conditional cash transfer anti-poverty programs in Latin America.

**Chelsea Williams** (Latin American Studies) gave a talk in November entitled "Why Does it Matter? Same-Sex Marriage in Mexico" at University of Maryland's Latin American Studies Center's VII Graduate Student Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Will Young** (Latin American Studies) and Laura Sellers (Political Science) collaborated with Professor Elizabeth Zechmeister (Political Science) on a project and coauthored paper, which will be presented at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in April. Their presentation is entitled "The Middle Class, Insecurity, and Democracy in Latin America."

## Alumni News

**Brittany Jenkins** (M.A. 2011) completed her M.A. at Columbia and is working toward her Ph.D. in sociology, concentrating on law and society, at Northwestern University. She is a part of the Comparative Historical Social Science Interdisciplinary Workshop that stresses the importance of placing social science in a historical context, where she continually meets historians and the Latin American Studies cluster.

**Alexa Remis** (M.A. 2008) is currently a third-year law student at the University of Texas School of Law in Austin where she also serves as the administrative editor of the *Texas Law Review*. She spent last summer as a summer associate at Gibson Dunn in Washington, D.C., and she currently interns at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Austin. Upon graduation, Alexa completed a yearlong clerkship with

## FACULTY PROFILE

### Dominique Béhague

**D**ominique P. Béhague is associate professor of Medicine, Health and Society (MHS) and affiliated faculty in the Department of Anthropology at Vanderbilt. Originally trained as an anthropologist, she began her foray into the intersections of global health and anthropology during her master's work at Bryn Mawr College, where she also completed her bachelor's degree. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology and social studies of medicine from McGill University in Canada in 2004. From 2002 to 2010, she was lecturer (assistant professor) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where she also held a Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Fellowship. During her time there, Dominique completed a master of science in epidemiology, out of which she developed a new research interest on the contemporary changes in statistical modes of reasoning within global health.

Dominique's long-standing research on the emergence of new forms of community-based psychiatry in Pelotas, Brazil, was some of her most formative, laying the groundwork for her later interests in the rise of global mental health expertise. Dominique is currently part of a team partnering with CLAS to develop a proposal to critically examine current evidence and policy practices in global mental health. The partnership, which includes colleagues in MHS and CLAS at Vanderbilt, the Department of Social Science, Health and Medicine at King's College London, the London School



of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and the Institute of

Social Medicine at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, recently received funding through the Vanderbilt International Office to host a proposal development workshop and to begin exploratory research for the project. Dominique is working directly with Ted Fischer and Avery Dickins de Girón to design the proposals, which include plans for close collaboration with colleagues in Brazil and Ecuador.

Since her arrival at Vanderbilt, Dominique has developed and led three classes for MHS and one in anthropology. Her Global Health and Social Justice class focuses on understanding a new wave of critical global health studies, examining health as part of a broader international development issue. Her research-based Psychiatry, Culture, and Globalization class explores the history of debates on globalization and culture in psychiatry and the influence of this history in global mental health today.

Each year, Dominique spends the summer term working at King's College London. She recently became a member of the Senior Editorial Board for the Vanderbilt University Press. She is currently completing research for an upcoming book compiling results from a ten-year study on the role of community psychiatry in young people's lives in Pelotas.

## 2014 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### Teacher Workshop

CLAS offered a Black History Month workshop for teachers in February entitled "Intersections of Black and Latin America: Many Movements, One People." As many as 25% of Latin Americans are Afro-descendants. In honor of Black History Month, CLAS and MTSU's Teaching with Primary Sources program collaborated to offer K-12 teachers a workshop examining the intersections of the many movements that make up the diaspora and the historical realities that unite them. Educators heard presentations by faculty from TSU (Crystal de Gregory) and Vanderbilt (Ruth Hill) and developed plans for their classroom using primary source materials from the Library of Congress.

## Brazilian Studies Reading Group

**T**he Brazilian Studies Reading Group welcomed various scholars this past fall to share their research with students and faculty. During Brazil Week, CLAS co-sponsored a discussion with Bianca Freire-Medeiros (Sociology, Center for Research and Documentation on Brazilian Contemporary History [CPDOC] at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, Rio) based on a chapter entitled "Tourism in 'the largest favela in Latin America'" from her new book, *Touring Poverty* (Routledge, 2012). In October, Mario Ramiro (Visual Arts, University of São Paulo, Brazil) presented a history of sound urban intervention and discussed his artistic involvement in the CLAS co-sponsored Vanderbilt/USP collaboration, "Boom Box Bikes." Additional talks were also given

by Vera Lucia da Silva (Ph.D. candidate, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina) and Courtney Campbell (Ph.D. candidate, History).

The Brazilian Studies Reading Group is a seminar led by graduate students and sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center, which provides a forum for the discussion of contemporary Brazilian topics. Each semester, the group facilitates interdisciplinary dialogues with pre-circulated readings, discusses works-in-progress by graduate students and faculty, and invites recognized scholars to present new work. Seminar coordinators are Ashley Larson (Latin American Studies), Max Pendergraph (History), and Guilherme Russo (Political Science).

## CLAS SUMMER AWARDS PROGRAMS

### Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

The Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University receives funding from the Department of Education to support Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) awards for intensive studies of Portuguese or indigenous Latin American languages. Fellowships provide tuition expenses for the study of Portuguese, K'iche' Mayan, Quechua, or another indigenous language (up to \$5,000) and a stipend of \$2,500. Any graduate or undergraduate student with Lusio-Brazilian or indigenous language-related interests and who is a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident is eligible to apply.

### Latin American Studies Field Research Grants

Awards are for approximately \$2,000 each and are intended primarily to support travel expenses related to field research for individuals conducting pre-dissertation research in Latin America during the summer of 2014. Any Vanderbilt graduate student in the College of Arts and Science with Latin American-related interests is eligible to apply, although preference will be given to doctoral students. The award is not

intended for advanced dissertation research, but rather to support initial hands-on field research and the development of independent research projects.

### Simon Collier Travel Award

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 preferentially fund student research in Chile and Argentina; awards may also be given for projects on cultural arts and research elsewhere in Latin America. Ranging from \$500 to \$2,000, these awards are available to both undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at Vanderbilt University.

Applications are due February 5, 2014, and will be announced in late February. To download applications, go to [vanderbilt.edu/clas/funding-opportunities/student-summer-awards](http://vanderbilt.edu/clas/funding-opportunities/student-summer-awards).

For further information, please e-mail the associate director ([helena.simonett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:helena.simonett@vanderbilt.edu)) or the administrative assistant ([alma.paz-sanmiguel@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:alma.paz-sanmiguel@vanderbilt.edu)), call (615) 322-2527, or visit the CLAS office at 230 Buttrick Hall.

## Alumni News cont.

Judge Gregg Costa in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas before starting her law degree.

## Mexican Studies Group

In fall 2013, Helena Simonett (CLAS) organized a brown bag lunch talk with Arturo Santamaría Gómez (Professor of Sociology, Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, Mazatlán) on soccer and Mexican neo-national identity, titled "Futbol y patria: La nueva identidad mexicana," and a panel by Marian Mendoza Gómez (Universidad Veracruzana) and Paulo Martínez (Vanderbilt University) on Mexico's recent educational reform and ensuing nationwide protest and brutal governmental response: "La encrucijada de la Reforma Educativa en México: Una mirada interdisciplinaria a la crisis social y política."

The Mexican Studies Group, co-sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities and CLAS, brings together faculty and graduate students from history, political science, literature, sociology, art, anthropology, music, pedagogy, and Latin American Studies. For spring 2014 semester events, please contact co-organizer Edward Wright-Rios (History).



### Glendale Elementary Students Create Their Own Camioneta

Glendale Elementary educators Tina Torbert, Susan Davenport, Melanie Sanabria, and Lindsey Hays have created an integrated thematic unit on Guatemala, based in part on what they have learned at CLAS workshops. The children, all 80 of them, delighted in tasting fruits and coffee from Guatemala and displaying a splendid "camioneta" filled with all types of passengers!



## STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS TO LATIN AMERICA

Vanderbilt offers a number of programs for undergraduate students to study abroad in Latin America through both semester and summer programs. The Global Education Office (GEO) administers programs to Argentina (Buenos Aires), Chile (Santiago and Valparaiso), Dominican Republic (Santiago), and Brazil (São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro); recently added programs in Fortaleza, Brazil, and in Chile offer research-oriented experiences.

Summer programs to Latin America include the Vanderbilt Initiative in Scholarship and Global Education (VISAGE) to Guatemala and Costa Rica, a new Costa Rica course, and occasional Maymesters. 2014 Maymesters give students the opportunity to study in Brazil or Peru through Spanish 204: "Cultural Studies in the Andes (Cuzco, Machu Piccu, and Lima)" or Earth and Environmental Studies 210: "From Volcanoes to Rainforest: Geology and Ecology in Southern Brazil." Each year, CLAS also offers Portuguese language study in Brazil through the Portuguese Language and Brazilian Culture Summer Program in São Paulo, and the study of K'iche' Mayan in Guatemala through our Mayan Language Institute.

### SUMMER PROGRAM IN SÃO PAULO • JUNE 22–AUGUST 1, 2014

## Portuguese Language and Brazilian Culture

This intensive, academic program is organized by Tulane, Vanderbilt, and Emory universities with the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (PUC-SP). The program is open to both graduates and undergraduates and is eligible for students with summer FLAS fellowships. Students take a Portuguese language course (two levels are offered) taught by PUC-SP faculty

and a Brazilian culture course taught by faculty from one of the partner universities; in 2014, Rebecca Atencio from Tulane will direct the program.

Most students stay with host families in São Paulo for a total Portuguese immersion experience. São Paulo, the largest metropolis in South America, is an exciting center for fine arts, theater, music, and cultural life.

This city is a medley of Brazilians from the country's 26 states and from multiple ethnic groups, which makes for an exciting mix of traditions and fabulous food on every street. 2014 will be an especially exciting year with the World Cup beginning June 12.

For more information and to apply, go to [stonecenter.tulane.edu/pages/detail/315/Summer-in-Brazil](http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/pages/detail/315/Summer-in-Brazil).

### ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA • JUNE 14–JULY 27, 2014

## Mayan Language Institute: K'iche' and Kaqchikel Mayan Language and Culture

The Mayan Language Institute is an intensive, FLAS-eligible, six-week summer immersion language program in Guatemala for the study of K'iche' Mayan or Kaqchikel Mayan. Students study with both U.S. faculty and native speakers and participate in cultural activities, lectures, discussions, and excursions. Mareike Sattler, who leads Vanderbilt's academic-year K'iche' Mayan program will help led the institute.

With more than 1.5 million K'iche' and Kaqchikel speakers in Guatemala, the goal

of the institute is to help students develop and advance proficiency in their chosen language and to gain a better understanding of the cultural and political contexts that have affected the historical development and preservation of the language. Efforts to protect these languages are playing a pivotal role in the Maya struggle to regain control over their political and cultural destiny.

Students pursuing K'iche' Mayan will spend three weeks in Antigua and three weeks in Nahualá. Students pursuing Kaqchikel

Mayan will spend their six weeks in Antigua. All students will be placed with local families for homestays.

The Mayan Language Institute is a partnership with Vanderbilt's CLAS, Tulane University, University of New Mexico, University of Texas, and University of Chicago. For more information and to apply, go to [stonecenter.tulane.edu/pages/detail/320/Mayan-Language-Institute-in-Guatemala](http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/pages/detail/320/Mayan-Language-Institute-in-Guatemala).

## Spring Break Service Projects to Latin America

Vanderbilt's spring break volunteer programs to Latin America shattered records last spring with nearly 200 students traveling to the region. The trend continues for spring 2014, with interest in these programs growing steadily. Given the variety of both program description and location, it is not surprising that the programs are attracting more and more students each year. Manna Project alone has 12 spring break trips planned to locations throughout the region, including Guatemala, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Puerto

Rico, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, and Belize. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Manna Project, a student-led service organization that has gained international recognition for its impact on universities at home and communities abroad. As a brainchild of former Vanderbilt Alternative Spring Break participants, Manna is a testament to the compassion, collaboration, and potential that characterize such excursions.

Alternative Spring Break continues its incredible service with trips this year to the border of Mexico and Nicaragua,

and Project Pyramid boasts sites in both Haiti (The Haiti Outreach Project) and Guatemala (Nutri +). Project Pyramid exemplifies the interdisciplinary cooperation that CLAS works to foster across the university. Project Pyramid's overarching goal is to alleviate poverty through three pillars of sustained partnerships, education, and responsive action by bringing together Vanderbilt graduate, professional, and undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines.





## Boom Box Bikes: A Collaborative, Urban Sound Intervention

In October, CLAS was co-sponsor of “Boom Box Bikes,” a unique collaborative public performance that culminated with a workshop and art intervention, a form of artistic expression where the public is confronted with art in everyday environments, rather than having art contained within a sanctioned space.

Professors Mark Hosford (Department of Art-Vanderbilt) and Mario Ramiro (Department of Visual Art and Communications-University of São Paulo) led students from various

disciplines in group workshops creating the uniquely designed mobile stations. After completion, students rode through campus and various locations in Nashville with the bikes, having been transformed into mobile sound systems that became a moving mixing board.

Faculty and students created, sampled, mixed, and produced music and sounds in order to have a collaborative effect between each bicycle as they rode together and fanned apart. Sounds ranged from a recording session with the Vanderbilt VORTEX percussion ensemble,

traditional rock and electronic music, to native bird recordings from Brazil.

The interdisciplinary project was part of a larger collaborative platform Conversations/Conversas, an initiative by Vanderbilt’s Department of Art and the School of Visual Art and Communications at University of São Paulo, which creates artistic connections between Nashville and São Paulo, Brazil. The goal of the project is to reflect on the legacy of modernist architecture, the future of urban imagination, and sustainability.



# BOOM BOX BIKES



LAPOP commenced the sixth round of *AmericasBarometer* in January 2014, which followed an extensive round of pre-testing of the survey instrument in 27 countries in the Americas. Data collection, for the majority of countries, occurs via smartphone—collecting nearly 50,000 interviews across 27 countries. LAPOP is preserving many of its historic batteries for across time comparison, but LAPOP is also introducing new questions on the survey covering the following topics: state capacity, violence, clientelism and voting, and sports as social capital. LAPOP expects data collection to be completed by mid-year 2014 and will again release the data, free of charge, to the public.

In addition to preparing and executing the 2014 round, LAPOP and its affiliates have been busy publishing, presenting at conferences, and developing Insights reports (for more information, see [lapopsurveys.org](http://lapopsurveys.org)) on LAPOP’s *AmericasBarometer* data. Highlights among the many presentations featuring LAPOP data include a panel discussion in November 2013 at the Observatorio de la Democracia at the Universidad de los Andes (Colombia), where Mitchell Seligson (Vanderbilt University), Miguel García Sánchez (Universidad de los Andes), Juan Carlos Rodríguez Raga (Universidad de los Andes), and Darío Vargas (communications consultant) participated in a panel discussion highlighting the results of LAPOP’s national survey on public perceptions of the peace process in Colombia. In terms of reports that appeared in 2013, LAPOP is especially proud of the extensive use of LAPOP data within the recent UNDP Human Development Report on “Seguridad ciudadana con rostro humano: diagnóstico y propuestas para América Latina.”

With more than thirty years experience, LAPOP is the premier academic institution carrying out surveys of public opinion in the Americas. Every two years, LAPOP carries out the *AmericasBarometer* survey, which currently covers 26 nations including all of North, Central, and South America as well as the Caribbean. In addition, LAPOP publishes dozens of high quality academic studies and policy-relevant papers each year.

## CLAS EVENTS SPRING 2014

### January 17

LAS Graduate Student Roundtable

### January 23

"Diversity and Change in Latin American Jewry" with Rabbi Joshua Kolluck

### February 4

LAS Faculty Lunch Panel Discussion

### February 5

Black History Month Teacher Workshop  
"Intersections of Black and Latin America: Many Movements, One People"

### February 6

Community Conversation at Casa Azafrán  
"Life on the Fence: A Long View of Guest Worker Programs"

### February 10

Guatemala Health Summit

### February 10

Mexican Studies Group Roundtable

### February 13-14

Latin American Business Challenge Case Competition

### February-March

Peter Kaulicke (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú) at Vanderbilt

### February 20

Screening of documentary *Second Cooler* at Divinity School



### March 21

Mexican Studies Group Lecture with Pablo Piccato, Columbia University

### March 22

Books and Beyond Multicultural Book Fair at Casa Azafrán



### March 24

Brown Bag Seminar with Jean-Marie Simon

### March 27

Festa Junina

### April 4

World Cup Panel

### April 4

Year-End Celebration

### May 14-June 11

VISAGE Guatemala

### June 14-July 25

Mayan Language Institute for K'iche' and Kaqchikel Mayan

### June 22-August 1

Brazilian Portuguese and Culture Summer Program



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