



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Center for Latin American Studies

Fall 2009

Former President of Chile Ricardo Lagos Visits Vanderbilt

After leading a special session on climate change at the United Nations General Assembly, former Chilean President and current UN Special Envoy Ricardo Lagos spoke at Vanderbilt on October 1st. “I had to visit Vanderbilt,” Lagos explained, “after Fernando Henrique Cardoso told me what a strong Center you have, and I am impressed with all you do.”

Lagos spoke on “Latin American Challenges...After the Crisis” to an audience over 200 faculty, students, and community members. He focused on six specific challenges that face the region and that will define the economic and social policies to be shaped in the coming years. Lagos argued that the major challenges are to improve democratic institutions while maintaining economic growth. Leaders must take that economic growth and create social policies in education and health care to ensure that it “means something to the everyday life of any Latin American citizen.” Finally, he pointed to the challenges of cultural diversity, security, and Latin American participation in globalization to compete in the world market. He stressed that these problems are of course “not exclusive to Latin America, but how they are handled is going to define the place that as a region they will have in the 21st century.”

(A podcast of the lecture may be seen on the CLAS website.)

“We are delighted to bring Lagos, one of the most influential and respected political leaders in Latin America, to campus,” Ted Fischer said. “Lagos is a serious economist and human rights advocate who has refused to be confined into one discipline or role and has made a huge impact in the world.” Lagos provided students, both graduate and undergraduate, a “significant opportunity to hear from one of the world’s leading experts in economic development” said Brian Heuser, of Vanderbilt’s Peabody School of Education.

After earning a law degree from the University of Chile and a doctorate in economics from Duke, Lagos began his political career as

a member of Salvador Allende’s Socialist Party during the early 1970s. He spoke out courageously against General Augusto Pinochet’s human rights violations and was forced to flee first to Argentina and then to the United States, where he lived in exile for several years.

During the 1980s he returned to Chile and founded the Party for Democracy, which gained power through its “NO” campaign against the Pinochet legacy. During his time as minister of education, Lagos introduced a major policy to decentralize Chile’s education system. Later, as minister of public works, he engineered a unique and successful plan to revamp Chile’s road system.

In 2000, Lagos was elected the first socialist president of Chile since Allende was overthrown. During his administration Chile achieved strong economic growth while adopting democratic and social reforms.

Despite high unemployment and tensions with other South American nations regarding access to energy resources, Lagos enjoyed widespread popular support with approval ratings over 70 percent when his term ended. In 2007, he was appointed to his current position as the United Nations Special Envoy on Climate Change by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.



CLAS Welcomes Renowned Cultural Studies Scholar

JESÚS MARTÍN BARBERO, widely considered the father of cultural studies in Latin America, inaugurated the Center for Latin American Studies’ new Visiting Resource Professor (VRP) program during the month of September.

As part of the VRP program, Barbero worked with Carlos Jáuregui of Spanish and Portuguese to offer several sessions in Jáuregui’s graduate seminar. In addition to the registered seminar participants,

15 additional Vanderbilt faculty and graduate students attended the three sessions led by Barbero. Helena Simonett, Associate Director of CLAS, attended Barbero’s seminars, and found them helpful in her own research, especially in relation to intersections between indigenous and popular cultures. The topics were “Los Estudios Culturales Latinoamericanos,” “Repensando lo Popular,” and “Técnica y Política: Espacios/Tiempos no Pensados.”

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Center for Latin
American Studies

CLAS

230 Buttrick Hall
VU Station B 351806
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37235-1806
tel: 615-322-2527
fax: 615-322-2305
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/clas>

Director: Edward F. Fischer

Associate Director: Helena Simonett

Associate Director for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies: Frank Robinson

Assistant Director: Avery Dickins de Girón

Program Manager: Norma Antillón

Bibliographer: Paula Covington

Outreach Coordinator: Claire González

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Mitchell A. Seligson—Political Science

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Director's Corner

As we prepare our application for National Resource Center funding for 2010-2014, we have the opportunity to catalog our strengths and accomplishments. And it reminds us just what a strong faculty and student body we have and all that you have achieved over the last four years.

We have 94 faculty members across the different departments and schools with a substantial focus on Latin America, and we have 76 graduate students working on Latin American topics. Given our size, this is an incredible concentration of Latin Americanists and reflects the substantial investments the College and University have made over the last years.

Our lecture series started off with a bang this year with the visit of Ricardo Lagos. We also inaugurated our Visiting Resource Professor program with Jesús Martín Barbero—and we had 15 faculty and graduate students from various departments attend his seminar (in addition to the students enrolled in Carlos Jáuregui's seminar, which hosted Barbero).

In the summer of 2009, CLAS awarded 20 research grants to students across the College and professional schools. The awards provided crucial funding for students in the early stages of their graduate careers to pursue Latin American research interests.

Through these and other programs, we are working to strengthen Latin American studies on campus and thus strengthen your own work. We are always looking for new opportunities and ways to improve, so give us your feedback.

— Ted Fischer

CLAS National Advisory Board Meeting

CLAS held a meeting of its distinguished National Advisory Board for two days last March. Board members Franklin Knight (Johns Hopkins University), Nora England (University of Texas), Tom Reese (Tulane University), and Tom Trebat (Columbia University), as well as Valerie Marshall (Tulane University) came to Vanderbilt to meet with CLAS staff, faculty, and the university administration to discuss current and future directions for the Center. Mark Rosenberg, President of Florida International University and former Chancellor of the State University System of Florida, also participated in the discussions at the March meeting.

A wealth of innovative suggestions came from the meetings, and CLAS has developed a plan to implement the board's suggestions. The meeting ended with a roundtable discussion of "The Future of Latin American Studies."



Pictured above: Franklin Knight, Mark Rosenberg, Tom Reese, Ted Fischer, Tom Trebat, and Valerie Marshall

New Faculty



Márcio Bahia joins us as Lecturer of Portuguese from the University of Ottawa. His work looks at film, memory, notions of Americanidad, cultural mobility and the entertainment industry. He is currently working on an edited volume on *Filmes de (An)amnésia: memória e esquecimento no cinema comercial contemporâneo*.



Sean Mitchell (PhD, University of Chicago) comes to us from a year as a visiting fellow at the Kellogg Institute at Notre Dame. His ethnographically based work examines social inequality, ethnicity, violence, governance, citizenship, technoscience, and human-nature relations in the contemporary world, particularly in Latin America. Mitchell is Assistant Professor of Anthropology.

Peter Hudson received his PhD in American Studies from NYU in 2007 and comes to us from SUNY-Buffalo. His research looks at the political economic history of US financial institutions in the Caribbean. He is currently working on an “Unofficial History of Wall Street, American Empire, and the Caribbean, 1889-1929.”



Mariano Sana joins us from LSU as Associate Professor of Sociology. Mariano’s current work in the Dominican Republic looks at the effect of personal connections (friendship and acquaintanceship) between interviewer and subject on the reliability of survey data. He is also a Louisiana chess champion and accomplished tango dancer.



Markus Eberl joins us from Tulane as Assistant Professor of Anthropology. Markus studied archaeology and anthropology in Bonn and Tulane. His work looks at communities, settlement patterns, and elite-commoner relations in ancient Maya society; he also works on Mayan epigraphy.



Mareike Sattler teaches K’iche’ Mayan and linguistics as a Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology. Mareike studied at the Universities of Hamburg and Bonn, and her work looks at geographic representations from the perspective of historical linguistics.

Jesús Martín Barbero *continued from page 1*

Prof. Martín Barbero also delivered a public lecture on “Diversidad cultural y convergencia digital.” Video podcasts of the lecture as well as the seminars delivered by Professor Barbero can be seen on the CLAS website.

Barbero, the recipient of seven honorary doctorates, currently holds the title of distinguished professor of communication studies at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá. A pioneer of communication and cultural studies, his books include *Communication, Culture and Hegemony: From Media to Mediation, Televisión y melodrama, Al sur de la modernidad*, and *Oficio de cartógrafo*. Barbero received his PhD in Belgium in 1971, and has held the UNESCO Chair of Communications in Barcelona. He has been a visiting professor at Stanford, NYU, and Berlin, among others. His work has been highly influential in literary criticism, anthropology, communication, and cultural studies.

The VRP program is funded by an award from the Provost’s Enhancing Graduate Education program.



Visiting Resource Professors

This year the Center for Latin American Studies is proud to announce a new program of Visiting Resource Professors, funded by an Enhancing Graduate Education award from the Provost’s office. These VRPs will be on campus for approximately a month, giving a specialized graduate seminar, working closely with Vanderbilt faculty, and interacting with a wide range of faculty and students affiliated with the Center for Latin American Studies. These Latin American scholars are prominent experts in their field and we welcome them to campus to collaborate with us in the enrichment of intellectual life here at Vanderbilt.

LUCIO RENNO, a political scientist at the University of Brasília, will be in residence the month of November 2009. After receiving his PhD from Pittsburgh, Renno taught at SUNY Stony Brook and the University of Arizona before moving back to Brazil. His work looks at the distribution of information and electoral behavior, and his work has focused on Brazil. His publications include *Reforma Política: Lições da História Contemporânea*.

ALBERTO FUGUET, the acclaimed author and screenwriter from Chile, will be here in March 2010. Fuguet is the leading spokesperson for the McOnda wave of Latin American novelists and writers, which positions itself in opposition to the magical realism of the Latin American “boom” generation. His books include *The Movies of My Life and Shorts* (both translated by Ezra Fitz).

New Graduate Students



Becky Reuse, originally from Erie, Pennsylvania, completed her undergraduate studies in Spanish and International Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) with minors in Latin American Studies and Anthropology. She also attended Universidad de las Américas, Puebla, Mexico, in the summer of 2007. Becky hopes to develop effective education programs in Latin America and the United States that target children of transnational populations.

Steve Taylor is returning to the classroom as a student after being a teacher for eight years. His desire to pursue graduate studies sprouted while studying in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and visiting many of the Nahua and Maya archeological sites surrounding central Mexico in 1999. After completing his MA, Steve plans to pursue a doctorate in anthropology.



Jason Vulcan is from western Montana and comes to Vanderbilt University through the U.S. Army's Foreign Area Officer Program. His love for languages and foreign travel led him to attend the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, where he studied Spanish and Portuguese. Following graduation, he spent 15 months in Brazil working, teaching and traveling to other countries in Latin America. Jason's graduate work in Latin American Studies will focus on economic and social development with interest in community and regional planning.



Hillary Voht is a FLAS Fellow from Denver, Colorado. As an undergraduate she majored

in Latin American Studies and Spanish at Washington University in St. Louis. A summer studying in Quito, Ecuador ignited her initial interest in Latin American Studies. Hillary plans to specialize in Political Science and in her free time she will be volunteering with Vanderbilt's Latin American Political Opinion Project.



Gustavo de Peña is a native of the Dominican Republic but a resident of New York City since the age of ten. Gustavo attended Vanderbilt University for his BA, double majoring in Political Science and LAS. A FLAS fellow in Ki'che' Mayan, Gustavo plans to go into international relations and help stimulate human development within the Americas.

Trevor Lyons is from Chicago via New Orleans, where he got his BA in Political Science with concentrations in Latin American Studies and International Relations at Tulane University. He is a FLAS Fellow in K'iche' Mayan and is pursuing a PhD in Political Science, with policy focusing on poverty reduction and interstate relations in the MERCOSUR region.



Rafael Romero is a Law Professor from Nicaragua. In 2008 he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study an LLM degree at Vanderbilt University and is now currently pursuing an MA in LAS. Rafael has done research on international trade, especially on Aid for Trade, for which he won a prize for the best LLM research in 2009. His research is on citizen participation mechanisms and economic development for Latin America.



Tinker Field Research Grants

Up to \$2,000 to support travel (primarily) and some field expenses for pre-dissertation research in Latin America and Iberia. This funding is intended to support brief periods of fieldwork and language study by students in the early stages of their research. CLAS receives \$10,000 from the Tinker Foundation matched by \$10,000 from the university which provides funding for 10 or more awards each summer.

Simon Collier Travel Award: \$500 - \$2,000 to cover basic travel and subsistence expenses for research in Latin America, with preference given to students proposing research in Argentina or Chile. Open to graduate and undergraduate students.

FLAS Awards: Five awards, each up to \$6,500 for study of Portuguese or a Mayan language. Awardees must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.

More information: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/clas/grants>

Summer Awards

With the FLAS award **Laura Delgado** attended a study abroad program for six weeks in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, through the University of Florida-Georgetown Consortium. Laura will now write her Master's thesis on the political nature of the Brazilian Catholic Church in the 1930's in conjunction with the rule of President Vargas.

Katie Willison from the department of Spanish & Portuguese received a FLAS award for the summer of 2009, studying the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. During her six weeks in Rio she attended a program organized by the University of Florida, taking courses in Advanced Portuguese and Brazilian Culture at the Instituto Brasil Estados Unidos and living with a host family in Copacabana.

With the support of a FLAS Fellowship awarded by CLAS, **Jennifer Vogt**, doctoral candidate in the department of Anthropology, took intensive grammar classes. Thanks to her gained language skills she is able to understand interactions between native speakers

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Faculty Profiles Faculty Profiles

Ifeoma Nwankwo, Associate Professor of English, has embarked on a project to uncover the neglected histories of past generations, especially those of African and Caribbean descent. Nwankwo is the principal investigator and founding director of Voices from Our Americas, a project to advance cross-cultural and cross-generational understanding among the peoples of the US Caribbean and Latin America. The project focuses first on Panamanians of West Indian descent- the heirs of British West Indians who came to Panama to work for United Fruit Company or build the Panama Railroad or Panama Canal.

CLAS is supporting the Voices from Our America project to package information collected in the interviews into curriculum development resources for K-12 teachers, local organizations and community education events. Information collected from the interviews is being packaged into forms that are the basis of collaborations with local organizations, community education events and curriculum development workshops for K-12 teachers. Nwankwo and her team also plan to disseminate research findings through scholarly articles, a book of interviews, and a digital library.

Voices from Our America furthers the work of higher education institutions by linking research, K-12 curriculum development and community education. The project embodies the emergent field of 'public humanities,' providing a distinctive way for Vanderbilt to take its place among other top universities that have embraced this burgeoning approach to understanding the humanities' work in the world," Nwankwo said.



Jane Landers, Associate Professor of History and former director of CLAS, never stays still. Her latest book, *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions* was published this fall by Harvard University Press and she was recently named Advisory Editor for *Oxford Bibliography On-line: The Atlantic World*.



Landers directs an active FIPSE/CAPES program of exchange with Brazil; the Ecclesiastical Sources for Slave Societies (ESSS) project in Brazil, Cuba, and the circum-Caribbean, which is digitizing the oldest black church records in the hemisphere; and she coordinates the Circum-Atlantic Studies Seminar at the Warren Center.

If this were not enough, she had a busy summer full of new and exciting events. She delivered papers at the University of Texas, the Rockefeller Foundation, at LASA in

Rio, and at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas.

While in Brazil, she attended the FIPSE/CAPES directors meeting in São Paulo to discuss work done on the group's theme this year: "Race, Development and Social Inequality: Access and Equity in Higher Education in Brazil and the United States." She and the other directors, including Marshall Eakin, had a book launch at the Universidade de São Paulo for the essays their students wrote on race and affirmative action funded by the U.S. Consulate.

In July, Landers was a guest scholar at a variety of summer institutes, including two NEH Summer Institutes and one at the Florida Humanities Council. In August, Landers attended a British Library Workshop at the Centro Nacional de Estudios y Documentación de las Culturas Afrocolombianas hosted by Pablo Gómez, doctoral candidate in the department of History.

New CLAS Staff

Helena Simonett, Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies and Adjunct at the Blair School of Music, has taken on an appointment as Associate Director of CLAS. Helena will oversee FLAS, Graduate Certificate, language evaluation, and summer grants programs.

Originally from Switzerland, Helena received her PhD in Ethnomusicology from UCLA. Her research on Mexican popular music and its transnational diffusion resulted in the publication of a number of articles and two books, *Banda: Mexican Musical Life across Borders* and *En Sinaloa nació: Historia de la música de banda*. She is currently doing research on the musical life of an indigenous community in Sinaloa, northwestern Mexico.



Claire González began in August as our new Outreach Coordinator. We were fortunate to be able to recruit Claire, as she brings over fifteen years of classroom experience and great energy to CLAS. Claire received her BA in French and Spanish from Earlham College and her MEd from David Lipscomb University. A native Nashvillian, Claire has travelled extensively in Spain, Mexico, and throughout Latin America. She brings her expertise and passion to our K-16 curriculum development program. She will be organizing the teacher workshops and summer institutes offered by CLAS as well as strengthening business and community outreach. Claire will also edit the newsletter and website.

Summer Awards *continued from page 4*

in market transactions and inter-household exchanges of labor, which constitutes the core of her dissertation work.

This summer **Jonathan Stern** had the opportunity to participate in a FLAS funded Kaqchikel language program in Guatemala. He now has a solid grounding in this captivating Mayan language and has every intention of returning next summer in order to enhance his language skills while concomitantly furthering his research into the rise of intercultural bilingual education in Guatemala.

As a result of the grant from the Tinker Foundation, **Erin Woodruff**, a doctoral candidate in the department of History, spent one month in Sevilla, Spain working in the Archive of the Indies. While in the archive she successfully found and transcribed many documents that she will use in several research projects.

Brian Faughnan, a doctoral candidate in the department of Political Science, used Tinker funds to spend two weeks in Pereira, Colombia this summer to conduct pre-dissertation research. Brian intends to study the effect of the changing nature of institutions on political behavior and attitudes throughout Latin America.

Aided by the field research grant from the Tinker Foundation, **Brendan Weaver**, a doctoral candidate in the department of Anthropology, engaged in several meaningful research activities within the countries of Chile and Peru for two months this summer. These activities included ethnohistorical research in Santiago, Cuzco and Lima, Peru, and archaeological reconnaissance in the Department of Arequipa, Peru.

Pablo Martínez is a doctoral candidate in the department of Spanish & Portuguese studying Modernism and its literary and linguistic pamphlets particularly through the work of Rubén Darío. With the use of his Tinker funding, he was able to spend 17 days in Nicaragua, visiting Managua and León, the two most important centers in the country as well as the two most important regions in Rubén Darío's cultural upbringing.

Gerson Levi-Mendes is a third year graduate student in Anthropology who works with ethnoarchaeology of shamanism among the Yanomami Indians in the Brazilian Amazon. With the aid of the Tinker Grant this summer, Gerson was able to make two trips to Roraima in Northern Brazil to cultivate relationships with several tribes and shamans in order to do more in depth doctoral research there in 2010.

A new round of awards for the FIPSE/ CAPES Student Exchange Program with Brazil has been announced. Students interested in studying Race, Development, and Social Inequality: Issues of Access and Equity in Education in Brazil and the US at one of our partner institutions—the Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA) or the Universidade do São Paulo (USP)—should apply. Grants of \$4000 each will be awarded to up to three students for study in the spring or summer terms. Undergraduates (for spring only) and graduate students are both eligible, provided they have the requisite knowledge of Portuguese. The application form is available at <https://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/site/jMi5Lq/applicationform>.

LAS 4 + 1 MA Program

Requirements for Admission to the Program:

Must have an undergraduate major in LAS (or in exceptional cases a closely related field with sufficient LAS content), must have taken LAS 201 and LAS 290 during undergraduate years, and apply in the junior year. For more information go to <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/clas/undergraduate>

Medical student **Lucile Gregg** used the grant from the Tinker Foundation to help fund her work for three months this summer in sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinics in the province of Escuintla, Guatemala. Her work was devoted to interviewing the local female sex workers about partner notification, which is a public health measure that is designed to advise the at-risk sexual partners of patients with STIs to seek testing and treatment.

James Krause, a doctoral candidate in the department of Spanish & Portuguese, arrived to São Paulo, Brazil on June 17, 2009 with high aspirations of spending three weeks of archival research at the Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros at the University of São Paulo thanks to the support of the Tinker Foundation. Much to his surprise and disappointment, university faculty, staff, and students were on strike, which had been going on since early May. Whether it was providence, serendipity, or good fortune, the strike ended at the end of June and he was able to enter the archives for several intense days of research in the João Guimarães Rosa Collection.

Marlon Escamilla Rodríguez, a doctoral candidate in the department of Anthropology, spent five weeks in the northwestern region of El Salvador this summer studying the underwater cultural heritage of Lake Güija with the funds provided by the Tinker Foundation

Through funds from the Tinker Foundation, **Matthew Velasco**, a doctoral student in Anthropology, participated in archaeological excavation, survey, and laboratory work in three regions of the south-central highlands of Peru: the Andahuaylas province, the Colca valley, and the Titicaca Basin.

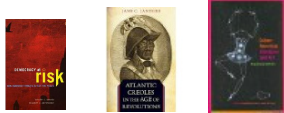
With support from CLAS and the Tinker Foundation, **Courtney Campbell**, doctoral student in History, traveled this summer to the city of Recife in the Brazilian Northeast for five weeks. With the funds generously granted her through the Center for Latin American Studies and the Tinker Foundation, **Caissa Revilla-Minaya**, a doctoral candidate in the department of Anthropology, spent nine weeks in the Tzotzil Maya municipality of San Pedro Chenalhó, in Chiapas, Mexico.

This summer, medical student **Rejoice Opara** spent eight weeks in Costa Rica aided by the Simon Collier Travel Grant working on her Emphasis research project. This experience combined Rejoice's interest in neonatology which gives her experience in international health, in which she plans to seek a career.

Miriam Martin, a doctoral candidate in the department of History, utilized her FLAS grant to attend Middlebury College Portuguese School during the 2009 summer term. She entered a new language without any prior experience, and emerged seven weeks later with a solid foundation in grammar and strong conversational ability.

Kudos

- **Christina Karageorgou** was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure! Congratulations!
- **Marshall Eakin** has been named director of the Ingram Scholars Program.



Publications

- **Elizabeth Zechmeister** and co-author Dr. Jennifer Merolla, *Democracy at Risk: How Terrorist Threats Affect the Public* (University of Chicago Press, 2009)
- **Jane Landers:** *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions* (Harvard University Press, forthcoming, Fall 2009).
- **Katharine M. Donato** and Melissa Marschall, 2009 "The Challenges of Educating Latino Students: Engaging Parents as Partners." In Alan Booth and Nancy Landale (eds.), *Development of Hispanic Children in Immigrant Families: Challenges and Prospects*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.
- **Robert Barsky:** *Zellig's America: Linguistics, Radical Politics and Zionism in the Twentieth Century*, Cambridge; London: The MIT Press, 2009
- **William Luis:** "Exile, Memories, and Identities in Gustavo Pérez Firmat's Next Year in Cuba." *Cuban-American Literature and Art: Negotiating Identities*. Eds. Isabel Álvarez Borland and Lynette M. F. Bosch. Albany: SUNY Press, 2009.

Invited Lectures and Papers

- **Jane Landers:** June, 2009 : at LASA in Rio, "The Circulation of Literature and 'Inflammatory' Ideas Among Free Blacks in 19th Century Cuba."
- **Katharine Donato:** "Gendered Consequences of International Migration." Keynote speaker for International Women's Week 2009, sponsored by International Studies Program and The Alice Drum Women's Center, Franklin & Marshall College.
- **Earl Fitz:** Keynote Speaker, Brown University, May 1, 2009, "Is Brazilian Literature American? Brazilian Literature in an Inter-American Context," on the role Brazilian literature will play in the development of Inter-American literature as a new discipline.
- **Liz Zechmeister:** "Democracy under Threat." Paper prepared for presentation at the Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, June 11-14, 2009, Brazil. (with Jennifer Merolla).
- **Stella Flores:** "The Students We Share: New Research from the United States and Mexico". UCLA; July, 2009.

Maya Culture Conference

September 25th through 27th the Dept. of Anthropology hosted a conference in memory of Prof. Pierre Robert Colas, who was killed in August 2008. The conference, entitled "Maya Culture: Identity, Language and History", brought scholars and friends of Robby together to honor his legacy with what he would have enjoyed most: good conversations and academic exchange. Given his life of a cosmopolitan scholar, friends and colleagues in attendance included people from Belize, Germany, Guatemala as well as the USA, indicating some of the footprints Pierre has left on this planet. The conference was supported by the Dean's office and sponsored through the generosity of Susan and Ruff Fant. The event will be followed up by student activities as well as a Festschrift publication.

PAULA COVINGTON spent the summer on a consulting project for the University of Oxford's Bodleian library system. She interviewed academics and students across the university who are engaged in Latin American and Iberian research and prepared a report assessing the Hispanic collections and making recommendations about collection procedures, reader services, and subject consultant staffing needs.

Grants

- Interdisciplinary Research Grant, Vanderbilt University, 2009-10, \$95,970 (**Katharine Donato** and **Ifeoma C.K. Nwankwo**).
- **Robert Barsky:** 2008-9: Faculty Enhancement Grant, Vanderbilt University, for "Zellig Harris's America," \$20,000.
- **Tom Dillehay;** FONDYCYT, Chile, for research on parliamentary structure of Mapuche society in 16-21th centuries. (with J.M. Zavala).
- **Philip Rasico;** University Central Research Scholar Grant, Vanderbilt University: 2008-2009. For research in Barcelona, Spain.
- **W. Frank Robinson;** Johns Hopkins University, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute entitled "Slaves, Soldiers, Rebels: Currents of Black Resistance in the Tropical Atlantic, 1760-1888," Summer 2009.

PABLO GOMEZ was awarded a British Library Major Research Preservation grant for his project "Creating a Digital Archive of Afro-Colombian History and Culture: Black Ecclesiastical, Governmental and Private Records from the Chocó, Colombia." This project will recover, catalogue, digitize and make freely available to researchers through the internet, approximately 100,000 ecclesiastic, governmental and personal records of African and Afro-descendant communities in the Chocó region of Western Colombia. A team from Vanderbilt, including Jane Landers, Pablo Gómez, David Wheat and David LaFevor, traveled in July 2009 to the Chocó to start the project delivering equipment and conducting a workshop to train local archivists in archives digitalization and preservation.

New Latin American Study Abroad Experiences Offered at Vanderbilt



The VISAGE program, administered by the Global Education Office, offers Vanderbilt undergraduates a year long course of study that combines academic coursework, service learning, and summer study abroad. In 2010, all three VISAGE programs will focus on Latin American countries: Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Students prepare for their abroad experience by studying relevant issues affecting the country and field site in the spring semester, as well as exploring the topics of global citizenship and service learning. In the four week study abroad segment students serve as volunteers in local projects and conduct research guided by faculty. A capstone Fall semester seminar offers students the chance to reflect upon their experience abroad and integrate it into a research paper that combines concepts from Spring semester coursework.



As one of the program's flagship courses, VISAGE Nicaragua has been offered since 2008. This year it will be directed by Frank Robinson and will focus on Family, Community and Social Justice. Led by Chalene Helmuth,

the Costa Rica program explores Ecotourism, Civic Engagement and Social Corporate Responsibility. New in 2010, VISAGE Guatemala

will be taught by Ted Fischer and Avery Dickins de Girón and will focus on Health, Development and Culture.

A CLAS Faculty Curriculum Development Award enabled Chalene Helmuth to design the Costa Rica course, first offered in 2009. This summer, students spent two weeks in Monteverde, home to the famous cloud forest, and split the remaining two weeks between San Jose and a small village on the country's west coast. Students constructed nature trails to provide a safe place for children to walk to school, participated in seminars on sustainability, and conducted interviews with community members and hotel owners on the effects of tourism and environmental responsibility. According to participant Stephanie Mann, "our work as a group was what continuously brought us full-circle – connecting our insights and reflections to flesh out a sense of hope and empowerment for the future." Paige Harmony described VISAGE as an opportunity that "not only allows you to experience another culture, but to interact with that culture in a manner that lends it permanence." Get more information at www.vanderbilt.edu/geo.

Guatemala Spring Break

In March 2009 Cynthia Paschal, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, led a group of twelve undergraduates in her BME 290F course to Guatemala City for a week of service learning. Paschal, her ten biomedical engineering students, one mechanical engineering student, and one Latin American Studies student went on the trip. They were joined by Ed White, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Dean Emeritus, and their host María José de Gallardo of the Shalom Foundation. The group worked for three days in the Hospital General San Juan de Dios (HGSJDD), a large public hospital with dedicated employees and limited resources. It was an eye-opening experience for students and professors alike to understand the conditions in which these medical professionals work. The group lent their aid by cleaning, testing and repairing equipment, the highlight being fixing an electrosurgical unit that had been inoperable for a long

time. The group also spent a day at a school to paint a new library and then visited a medical clinic to deliver donations obtained by the Biomedical Engineering Department. They were also able to tour the engineering facilities of the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala and participate in a mini-conference with engineering faculty and students. The group toured a coffee plantation, explored the old city of Antigua, took a salsa dance lesson, and explored an artisan market. The inauguration of the new program delivered a week-long experience of service and cultural learning. Noting that it was a great experience, Paschal said that students represented Vanderbilt well on this trip. She will be leading another group of students again in Spring 2010 with the help of a VIO funded \$10,000 grant. This program will introduce components of an international curriculum including foreign language and cultural competency.

Visiting Scholars in Peabody and A&S



Mr. Wilson Javier Vásquez Calderón of Colombia is a professional at the Education Ministry in Colombia. He is the head of the process for managing, identifying, evaluating, selecting and transferring the best practices in higher education in Colombia, and organizing international forums to show them. Also, he advises interdisciplinary teams to construct competencies that align with Colombia's educational policies.

Alicia Canevaro has taught English for over twenty years and previously served as an English Coordinator Nexus for grades k-12. She will work with academic experts, perform site visits to American classrooms, and interview teachers to record best practices for teaching a second language to students. Alicia would like to research new forms of technology to take back to her English classroom for the benefit of her students.



Alicia Marconi has served as a Teacher Educator for the past seven years and previously taught English for over ten years. Her research will focus on ways to improve the instruction of teachers in Argentinean universities. She will study the differences between teacher-centered programs and student-centered programs to see which is more effective in producing qualified and successful teachers.



Christine Rivas comes as a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellow; her work looks at gender and marriage, piracy, and the military in seventeenth and eighteenth century Latin American history (especially the Dominican Republic)

Doris Palomino is a second year M.Ed. candidate in Organizational Leadership at Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. She holds a Bachelor degree in Social Psychology, and Diplomas in Gender Studies and Human Resources. Her interest is the relationship among the educational actors in schools and universities especially trust building in educational institutions.



Andean Workshop Hosted by Vanderbilt, University of Chicago and Harvard

The third annual VanChiVard workshop was held at Harvard in April on the theme "Materiality, Ontology, and the Andes." VanChiVard, an annual anthropological workshop hosted by Vanderbilt University, University of Chicago, and Harvard University, was initiated by Tom Dillehay of Vanderbilt and Alan Kolata of the University of Chicago six years ago to focus on critical issues in social and historical theory and present and critique current research concerning the Andean region. The group currently counts around 30 faculty and advanced graduate students actively involved in the organization.



In September, working with Eddie Wright-Rios, the Department of History, and the Commons, CLAS hosted filmmaker Natalia Almada. Screenings of two of her documentaries were held for students, faculty, and members of the community.

Tiffany Tung was the 2009 recipient of the Madison Saratt Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Final selection was made by the Chancellor on the basis of nominations made on-line by undergraduates. Students were asked to rate a nominee according to the nominee's concern for an individual's student learning, the organization and engagement of classroom presentation, the clarity and fairness of criteria for awarding grades, and accessibility and helpfulness outside of class.



Archeoastronomy

Anthony Aveni, renowned archeoastronomer, participated in a weeklong K-12 teacher workshop in June. At the workshop participants heard from Vanderbilt faculty and graduate students and distinguished guest speakers about Mayan and Incan archeoastronomy with particular focus on the groups' mathematical and calendrical systems, archaeology, religious beliefs and social practices. The workshop took place both on the main campus of Vanderbilt and at the mountaintop campus at Dyer Observatory. Anthony Aveni interacted with teachers and gave an evening public lecture at Dyer. Workshop attendees also visited the state-of-the-art planetarium at Nashville's Adventure Science Center and toured the Dyer Observatory Star Chamber where they participated in a sundial activity, and a discussion of the equation of time-astronomical principles.



K-16 CLAS Teacher Workshops

In September, CLAS offered two teacher workshops, which were attended by over 50 Nashville area K-16 teachers. The first of these workshops was on the Latin American Drug Trade, with Helena Simonett, Pablo Gómez, and Lesley Gill presenting various aspects

of the subject to the teachers. The second workshop was on Ancient Andean Indigenous Groups, with teachers hearing from archeologists Tiffany Tung and John Janusek about the Wari and Inka Empires. This workshop also had a curriculum component, which allowed teachers to work in groups and share ideas about how to implement this information into their curriculums.

K-12 Outreach Calendar

January 27-28: Teacher Workshop with Nashville Symphony for Ballet Folklórico de México

February 3: Performance—Ballet Folklórico de México

February 25: Teacher Workshop on AfroReggae-Anderson Sa with Global Education Center

March: Latin America 101 with Frank Robinson

June: Summer Institute K-12 Teachers-Mexico

Dichos

CLAS and Cheekwood are pleased to offer Dichos, an art exhibit which will go from Oct. 22- January 17 at Cheekwood Museum and Botanical Garden. This exhibit features sayings or amusing expressions, which are hand-painted on trucks and buses across Latin America. Hand painted in an endless variety of graphic styles and colors, "dichos" address subjects ranging from religion and love to puns and earthy humor. Unfortunately, with the emergence of corporate trucking and government push for standardized public transportation, this vibrant folk art may gradually disappear. CLAS and Cheekwood will collaborate to offer two teacher workshops in November.

CLAS, Sister Cities of Nashville, and Midtown Wine and Spirits Hosted "Wines of Argentina"

On February 6, 2009, CLAS and Midtown Wine and Spirits hosted a wine tasting, attended by over 200 people. Remarks were given by Dr. H.T. Montgomery (President, Bodegas de Mendoza/Crux Imports Inc.), Philip Rasico (Professor of Spanish and Catalán), Paul Patel (Owner, Midtown Wine and Spirits), and Dr. Eduardo Cassone (Director, Bodega Familia Cassone, Mendoza, Argentina). In March 2009, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and Mendoza Mayor Victor Fayad signed documents establishing the two cities as Sister Cities. Shortly thereafter, a delegation representing Sister Cities, including Mayor Karl Dean, travelled to Mendoza to make the partnership official and to attend the Vendimia Festival as Mayor Fayad's guests. "Through our partnership, we hope to establish annual cultural, educational and business exchanges," said Rasico. "Mendoza is a beautiful, vibrant area, and we are excited about introducing it to more Nashvillians."



Latin American Public Opinion Project News

L APOP's string of major grants continues with its recent \$3.44 million award from USAID. The funds will be used to support the 2010 AmericasBarometer as well as LAPOP's new research in the area of program evaluation. LAPOP is working with USAID to help design and implement a study to assess anti-violence programs in Central America.

Over the summer, LAPOP and its affiliated researchers engaged in rigorous pre-testing throughout Latin America of survey items to be included in the 2010 AmericasBarometer. In April, LAPOP oversaw the implementation of a national survey of Guyana. The survey included new experimental modules and the core AmericasBarometer questions. LAPOP worked with its partners in Guyana over the summer to draft a country report based on these new survey data. During September, LAPOP oversaw the implementation of a national survey of Colombia.

In April, Liz Zechmeister travelled to Jamaica to present the comparative findings from the 2008 AmericasBarometer study to the U.S. Embassy, USAID, and the media. In early May, Mitch Seligson, Liz Zechmeister, and Abby Córdova traveled to Washington, D.C. to present their research on the relationship between economic decline and democratic attitudes in a series of six events at the State Department, the Organization of American States, the World Bank, the Inter-American Dialogue, the Inter-American Development Bank, and USAID.

Mitch Seligson and Abby Córdova also presented their work on the relationship between the economy and political attitudes at conferences at Texas A&M and Duke University. In July, Mitch Seligson, along with his co-authors Jeffery J. Mondak, Damarys

Canache, and Matthew V. Hibbing, had their paper using LAPOP data, "The Participatory Personality: Evidence from Latin America," accepted at the British Journal of Political Science.

Also over the summer, LAPOP announced the creation of an International Advisory Board. The Board, made up of distinguished academics and policy-makers, will provide input to the AmericasBarometer survey, the bi-annual survey of the Americas conducted by LAPOP. Board members are Manuel Alcántara Sáez (Spain), Christopher Anderson (USA), Ulises Beltrán Ugarte (Mexico), Michael Bratton (USA), James L. Gibson (USA), Luis I. González (Uruguay), Sören Holmberg (Sweden), Deborah Kennedy-Iranheta (USA), Luis F. López-Calva (Mexico), Eduardo Lora (Colombia), Scott Mainwaring (USA), Rachel Meneguello (Brazil), Timothy J. Power (Great Britain), Karen Remmer (USA), Nat Stone (Canada), Edelberto Torres-Rivas (Guatemala), and Miguel Urrutia Montoya (Colombia).

Elizabeth Zechmeister and her co-author Dr. Jennifer Merolla have just published a new book, *Democracy at Risk: How Terrorist Threats Affect the Public* (University of Chicago Press, 2009). The book examines reactions to the threats of terrorism among citizens in Mexico and the United States.

For more information visit:
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop>

Alumni News

Andrew Larason (M.A. 2009) spent his summer working to augment and accumulate the skills necessary to improve his creative film. He spent the early part of summer attending and leading workshops in visual and digital art at the University of Delaware and working on a 25th anniversary video for the Children's Theatre Workshop where he presented his senior thesis two years ago. He then traveled to Venezuela, to the Island of Margarita. He crossed paths with alum Mariela Cedeño (M.A. 2008) who was visiting family. He has been working on his Spanish and painting skills, as well as continuing to develop a short K'iche' film.

Héctor Escobedo (Ph.D. Anthropology 2006) was recently promoted to Vice-Minister of Culture in Guatemala. He had previously been working as Director of the Patrimonio Cultural of Guatemala in the Ministry of Culture, which included supervision of all archaeology in the Republic.

David Wheat (Ph.D. History) has started a position as Assistant Professor of Caribbean and Atlantic World History at Michigan State University.

Brazilian Images

Photography Exhibit and Competition

V anderbilt University students, staff, faculty and visiting scholars are invited to submit photos to the 2010 Brazilian Images Photography Exhibit and Competition. A committee of professional artists will select first, second, and third place winners. These and other selected photos will be displayed in an exhibit in February 2010. Deadline for submission is February 1, 2010. More information at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/clas/home> or contact Isleide Zissimos at isleide.zissimos@vanderbilt.edu.

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The LAS Certificate program requires 15 hours of formal course work in Latin American Studies. Course work must be spread over at least two disciplines, no more than 9 hours coming from any one discipline. The Certificate also requires demonstrated conversational or reading proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, or an indigenous Latin American language.

For more information, visit www.vanderbilt.edu/clas or contact CLAS @ clas@vanderbilt.edu.

Helena Simonett, Associate Director CLAS

Norma Antillón, Program Manager CLAS



The Center for Latin American Studies
VU Station B #351806
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37235-1806