

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

# Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies

**2022-23 YEAR IN REVIEW**





**Center for Latin American,  
Caribbean, and Latinx Studies**

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## Director's Corner



Colegas,

It is with immense pride that we present the 2022-23 Year-in-Review, a collaborative effort of the CLACX team, driven and produced by Dr. Avery Dickins de Girón. The Review contains summaries and photos of CLACX-sponsored events at Vanderbilt, in greater Nashville, nationally, and internationally. Our reach is wide, and illustrative of the programs we supported in the name of connecting Latinx, Caribbean, and Latin American studies. We are again grateful for the unflinching support from the Dean's Office in Arts and Science, Provost Raver, and Chancellor Diermeier. The university leadership made it possible this year for CLACX to welcome a Mellon Assistant Professor in Latinx Studies, an ACLS Emerging Voices Fellow, and 5 NEH Collaborative Humanities Postdoctoral Fellows to expand our endeavors. In Spring '23, the center also hired a new Program Coordinator in Luisa Mattos da Costa, who comes to Vanderbilt with a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Brasilia and a second in Business Administration from Middle Tennessee State University.

CLACX took decisive steps this year to examine and elevate our intellectual project. It has been a priority from day one to think through the implications of connecting the fields as an intellectual project; to revisit what it means to study Latin America, the Caribbean, and their diasporas, in light of the broad, geopolitical shifts happening across the hemisphere and globally. We have learned, for one, that the scale and multi-directional nature of migrations across the continent are not only changing the face of the Americas, but also bringing to bear new political, economic, cultural, and environmental connections. Recognizing that fields of study are historical, that is, of feeding and reflecting contemporary questions and concerns, we are also asking new questions about the state of the fields from the perspective of the 2020s.

We organized seminars on campus and panels at conferences to engage colleagues embarking on similar initiatives. If one takeaway is that centers, programs, and departments are increasingly embracing a broader framework for studying Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinx studies together, it is also clear that more attention needs to be paid to the research and curricular dimensions of this shift. We asked questions, such as, how are new "Introductory" courses being designed; how do language requirements fit in the new course of studies; how do these units foster dialogue between international and American studies, or between area and ethnic studies; and, crucially, how are Latin American studies programs also changing in Latin America as part of larger changes? To be sure, these questions only prompted more questions, and leave us with more to reckon with. Nonetheless, it was satisfying to have taken a leading role in fostering these conversations, and we are excited about the new institutional relationships we are building, especially in the US South.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

# InDigital IV: The Americas, Indigenous Peoples' Engagement with Electronic Media

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# Latinx Studies in the Global South: Critical Field Reflections in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies

In order to advance the center's focus on cross-field conversations, CLACX hosted three symposia in 2022-2023 that brought together leaders from Latin America and the US to prompt discussion on the intersections between Latin American and Latinx Studies. This shift in the field began at Vanderbilt with the restructuring of the center in 2021, and is a movement taking place at other leading institutions across the country that factors into hiring practices, curriculum, and the development of new research agendas. Notable shifts in higher education include the growth of Latinx students, now representing almost 20% of the college-student population, and the recent boom of Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the country, which increased to over 550 compared to 300 a decade ago.

The first symposium, "Institutional Projects in the US and Mexico" took place in September and featured prominent scholars experienced in building institutions: **Leisy Abrego**, Professor and Chair of the César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o and

Central American Studies at University of California, Los Angeles; **Dalia Caraballo Muller**, Associate Professor of Latin American and Caribbean History, University of Buffalo; **Margarita Vargas Canales**, Director of Centro de Investigaciones sobre América Latina y el Caribe, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; and **Chuck Walker**, Professor of History and former Director of the Hemispheric Institute on the Americas at the University of California, Davis. The symposium started on September 22 with a talk by Walker on his new graphic history book, "Witness to the Age of Revolution: The Odyssey of Juan Bautista Tupac Amaru." Later that day, Vargas Canales spoke about her work on Haiti, "Fronteras y Migración," at the Vanderbilt Center for Languages. The following day, Caraballo Muller presented "Critical Pedagogies and the Impossible Project." The symposium concluded with a roundtable discussion on institution building featuring Leisy Abrego, Vargas Canales, and Walker, which was attended by over 20 Vanderbilt faculty.





The second symposium, “On Research and Research Centers across Historiographical Fields: A Roundtable on Latin American and Latinx Studies” was organized as a double panel session at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, which took place in November in Baltimore. Panelists included **María Esther Hammack** (University of Pennsylvania), **Annie Gibson** (Tulane University), **E. Gabrielle Kuenzil** (University of South Carolina), **Yami Rodríguez** (Emory University), and **Cecilia Márquez** (Duke University). The second panel featured **Camilo Trumper** (University at Buffalo, SUNY), **Jorell A. Melendez-Badillo** (Dartmouth College), **Celso Castilho** (Vanderbilt) and **Lori Flores** (Stony Brook University). **Gretchen Selcke** and **Avery Dickins de Girón** moderated the panels.

The last symposium took place at Vanderbilt in January and included the CLACX Consortium for Latin American Studies in the South (CCLASS). Vanderbilt’s **Rebeca Gamez** (Anthropology) provided the opening keynote, “The ‘New Latinx South,’ Educational Spaces, and the (Un/Re)Knotting of Latinidad.” A roundtable discussion on the state of the field followed, featuring **Alicia Muñoz** (Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Macalester College), **Ayendy Bonifacio** (Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Toledo), **Nicole Guidotti-Hernández** (Inaugural Director of the Mills Institute, Northeastern University), and **Sarah Moody** (Director of Latin



American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies at the University of Alabama).

Throughout the year, **Sara Kozameh**, CLACX ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow, and CLACX Director **Celso Castilho** worked to synthesize these conversations and their own research into a ‘state of the field’ report on the implications of bridging Latin American, Latinx, and Caribbean Studies. The report will be published on the CLACX website in Fall 2023.

## CLACX Welcomes Luisa Mattos da Costa as Program Coordinator



CLACX is pleased to introduce **Luisa Mattos da Costa** as the newest member of our team. Luisa began working as CLACX Program Coordinator in Summer 2023. Originally from Brazil, Luisa recently graduated from Middle Tennessee State University.

She holds a B.S. in Education

from the Universidade de Brasília, with a specialization in Advanced Multicultural Studies, focused on racial relations in education and anti-discriminatory public policies in Brazil. She continued to pursue these interests at MTSU, where she worked as a Program Assistant in the Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Office and served as a Counselor for international students. Luisa is a recent recipient of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission’s 2023 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award for her involvement in the local community while pursuing a degree. She is bilingual in Portuguese and English and has translated academic and other publications.

In her role at CLACX, Luisa will oversee our programs with K-16 educators, coordinate events and activities on and off campus, lead our communications, and serve as a liaison between CLACX and our affiliated student organizations and alumni.

# Sesquicentennial Grant Awarded to CLACX

In recognition of Vanderbilt's 150th anniversary, the Office of the Chancellor created a Sesquicentennial Grant program to support activities and projects that engage with the university's history, look ahead to its future, and explore what makes Vanderbilt distinctive and unique. Two competitions were held, and CLACX entered a proposal for the second competition in Spring 2023. Of 65 proposals, 15 were selected for funding, including the CLACX project, **"Somos VU: Bringing Together Student Organizations, Alumni, and the Institutional History of CLACX"** for \$29,850. Funds will support the creation of a digital photo archive and a narrative timeline documenting the history of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies at Vanderbilt. The project received input from CLACX alumni and Vanderbilt student organizations affiliated with CLACX, and they will collaborate with CLACX to realize these initiatives during the upcoming year. The proposal was authored by **Avery Dickins de Girón**, with support from **Celso Castilho** and **Marshall Eakin**.



Once again, CLACX packed up our offices in anticipation of Garland Hall's renovations. CLACX will be housed in the Bryan Building through Spring 2025. Please come by and visit us in Suites 106 and 112!



CLACX Assistant Director **Gretchen Selcke** was awarded as a Dean's Distinguished Teaching Fellow for 2023-2024. This recognition is given to commend excellence in

teaching effectiveness, imaginative and innovative teaching practices inside and outside the classroom, and extraordinary contributions in designing and advising undergraduate immersion experiences.



# CLACX Consortium for Latinx Studies in the South

As part of our 2022-2026 National Resource Center grant, the center founded the CLACX Consortium for Latinx Studies in the South (CCLASS) in 2022. The MSI-centered consortium serves as a hub to discuss and reimagine the nature and future of Latin American Studies in the South. It includes Tuskegee University, University of Texas-Arlington, Tennessee State University (TSU), Jacksonville State University (JSU), and the University of Alabama. CCLASS held its first annual meeting in January 2023, in conjunction with our third symposium in our conversation series addressing the state of the field of Latin American Studies (see page 2).

Several new initiatives emerged from the meeting:

- We will expand our online Portuguese instruction at Tuskegee to include JSU in Fall 2023, which will support their new minor in Latin American Studies offered through the History and Foreign Languages department.
- CLACX will target consortium institutions for Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships, beginning in Summer 2023, with fellowships supporting two students at the University of Alabama to study Portuguese and K'iche' Mayan.
- Consortium members will partner on hosting visiting speakers and educational programming. The first such collaboration was realized in March



at Tuskegee University, where Jane Landers (Vanderbilt) presented her work on the Slave Societies Digital Archive and David La Fevor (UT-Arlington) led a discussion on preserving endangered archives (see page 9).

Representative members of CCLASS are: **Rhonda Collier**, Director of Tuskegee University Global Office and Associate Professor of English and Modern Language; **Xavier Medina Vidal**, Director of the UT-Arlington Center for Mexican American Studies and Associate Professor of Political Science; **Vladimir Betancur**, Coordinator of the Intensive English Center at TSU; **Sarah Moody**, Director of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies at the University of Alabama and Associate Professor of Spanish; **Lance Ingwersen**, Associate Professor of History at JSU and **Eduardo Pacheco**, Associate Professor of Spanish at JSU. The consortium is led by Executive Director **Avery Dickins de Girón** and CLACX Director **Celso Castilho**. UT-Arlington will host the annual CCLASS meeting in 2023-24.

# INDIGITAL IV

## *The Americas, Indigenous Peoples' Engagement with Electronic Media*

C LACX collaborated with the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian Institution and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to host *InDigital IV: The Americas, Indigenous Peoples' Engagement with Electronic Media*. The conference took place at New York University's Washington, DC campus from February 23-24, 2023 and was organized by Richard Pace (MTSU) and Amalia Córdova (Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian Institution).

The *InDigital* conference series presents research that documents and analyzes Indigenous peoples' engagement with digital and electronic media, including digital cameras, cell phones, Facebook, and YouTube. The 2023 conference covered an array of media technologies and platforms, such as production, distribution, and engagement of Indigenous and collaborative video/film, radio, and television; the use of cell phones, the Internet,

social media, and VR/AR; and the utilization of these technologies in struggles over land, natural resources, intellectual property, political self-determination, cultural and linguistic autonomy, representations of indigeneity, and cultural exchange and survival.

This was the first time *InDigital* was held in Washington, DC, which brought the conference greater exposure and facilitated attendance of students, faculty, and community members from local universities and community organizations from across the mid-Atlantic region. The conference dates overlapped with the first two days of the Smithsonian Institution's annual "Mother Tongue Film Festival," offering an opportunity for conference participants to view new Indigenous films in venues around the city.







The 2023 conference covered an array of media technologies and platforms... and their utilization in struggles over land, natural resources, intellectual property, political self-determination, cultural and linguistic autonomy, representations of indigeneity, and cultural exchange and survival.

Prior to the conference, CLACX hosted a group of filmmakers from the Mêbêngôkre-Kayapó community in Middle Tennessee. While here, they met with MTSU students in Film Studies and visited Vanderbilt, where Chief Kaket Bepuneiti presented some of his artwork as a gift to CLACX. The group took part in a panel discussion, “In Defense of Biocultural Conservation in Amazônia: Poetics and Politics of Collaborative Media-Making in the Mêbêngôkre-Kayapó community of A’Ukre” for Vanderbilt students and faculty. They discussed the collaborative process of filmmaking, the importance of water to

their community, and the different fruits from which they obtain pigments for body paint. The roundtable featured **Laura Zanotti** (Purdue University), **Paul Chilsen** (MTSU), **Brkwyipoi Kayapó** (Filmmaker), **Andre Demarchi** (Universidade Federal do Tocantins), **Kaket Bepuneiti** (Chief of the A’Ukre Community), **Richard Pace** (MTSU), **Mizael Lima da Silva** (Associação Pykôre), and **Ana Luiza Morais Soares** (Vanderbilt); in photo above.

The InDigital conference series, imagined by Richard Pace, Professor of Anthropology at MTSU, has evolved over the years. The first conference,



*InDigital Latin America*, was held in 2015, organized by Pace and the Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt. It took place at Vanderbilt and was attended by Terrence Turner and Faye Ginsburg, the two scholars who are credited by many for establishing the field of Indigenous media studies. A second conference was held in 2017, again at Vanderbilt. Papers from these two conferences were published in a volume, *From Filmmaker Warriors to Flash Drive Shamans: Indigenous Media Production and Engagement in Latin America*, edited by Richard Pace. *InDigital III: Americas* took place at Vanderbilt and featured a film festival held at the Tennessee State Museum. This conference expanded its scope to encompass the Americas, fostering a South-North exchange for both scholars and practitioners. No other scholarly conference in the US has sustained a focus on Indigenous media and facilitated such interactions.

A full report on InDigital IV is available here:  
[folklife-media.si.edu/docs/folklife/mother-tongue/InDigital-2023-Report.pdf](https://folklife-media.si.edu/docs/folklife/mother-tongue/InDigital-2023-Report.pdf)

*-Thanks to Amalia Córdova and  
Richard Pace for content*





# Tuskegee University and CLACX Expand Portuguese Instruction and Host Workshop on Slave Societies Digital Archive

CLACX continued its partnership with Tuskegee University to provide Portuguese instruction for Tuskegee students. PORT 101 had a record enrollment of 14 students, with three students continuing in PORT 102 in Spring 2023. **Dr. Selma Vital** taught the online courses in 2022-2023, which are overseen by **Dr. Rhonda Collier**, Director of the Tuskegee University Global Office and incoming Chair of the Department of Modern Languages, Communication, and Philosophy.

In Fall 2023, we will expand Portuguese instruction to include Jacksonville State University, which is one of the partner institutions in the CLACX Consortium for Latin American Studies in the South. PORT 101 will enroll students from both universities and be taught simultaneously by **Dr. Jared Hendrickson**. We are also developing the curriculum for PORT 102 and PORT 202 for students at these institutions who want to continue to advance their proficiency in Portuguese.

In March, CLACX and Tuskegee partnered to acquaint Tuskegee faculty and students with the Slave Societies



Digital Archive (SSDA). **Jane Landers**, founder of the SSDA and Gertrude Conaway Professor of History, gave an overview of the archive to over 50 Tuskegee students. **David LaFavor**, Associate Professor of Latin American History and Digital Humanities at the University of Texas – Arlington presented his research on working with endangered archives in Cuba to faculty in the Tuskegee University Archives. Dr. Collier welcomed Landers, LaFavor, and CLACX Executive Director **Avery Dickins de Girón** to campus, and expressed gratitude for our multiple collaborations.

In September 2023, CLACX and Tuskegee will host Afro-Brazilian scholar and author of children's books, **Dr. Alexandra Lima da Silva**. She will present an educator workshop at Tuskegee on teaching diversity in children's literature and serve as a guest speaker for the CLACX Educator Book Club while she is in Nashville.



## CLACX Conversations: New Faculty Series



**CLACX**  
CONVERSATIONS  
*New Faculty Series*

12:10 PM | 209 GARLAND HALL | LUNCH PROVIDED

**SEPTEMBER 12**

**HILARIO LOMELI**  
MELLON ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
**SARA KOZAMEH**  
ACLS EMERGING VOICES FELLOW

**OCTOBER 3**

**ANA LUISA MORAIS SOARES**  
CHPP FELLOW  
**JESÚS RUIZ**  
CHPP FELLOW  
**ANNA TYBINKO**  
CHPP FELLOW

**OCTOBER 24**

**LIDIANA DE MORAES DOS SANTOS**  
CHPP FELLOW  
**ELVIRA ABALLI MORRELL**  
CHPP FELLOW  
**MATTHEW PLISHKA**  
CHPP FELLOW

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND LATINX STUDIES

#SOMOS  
VU

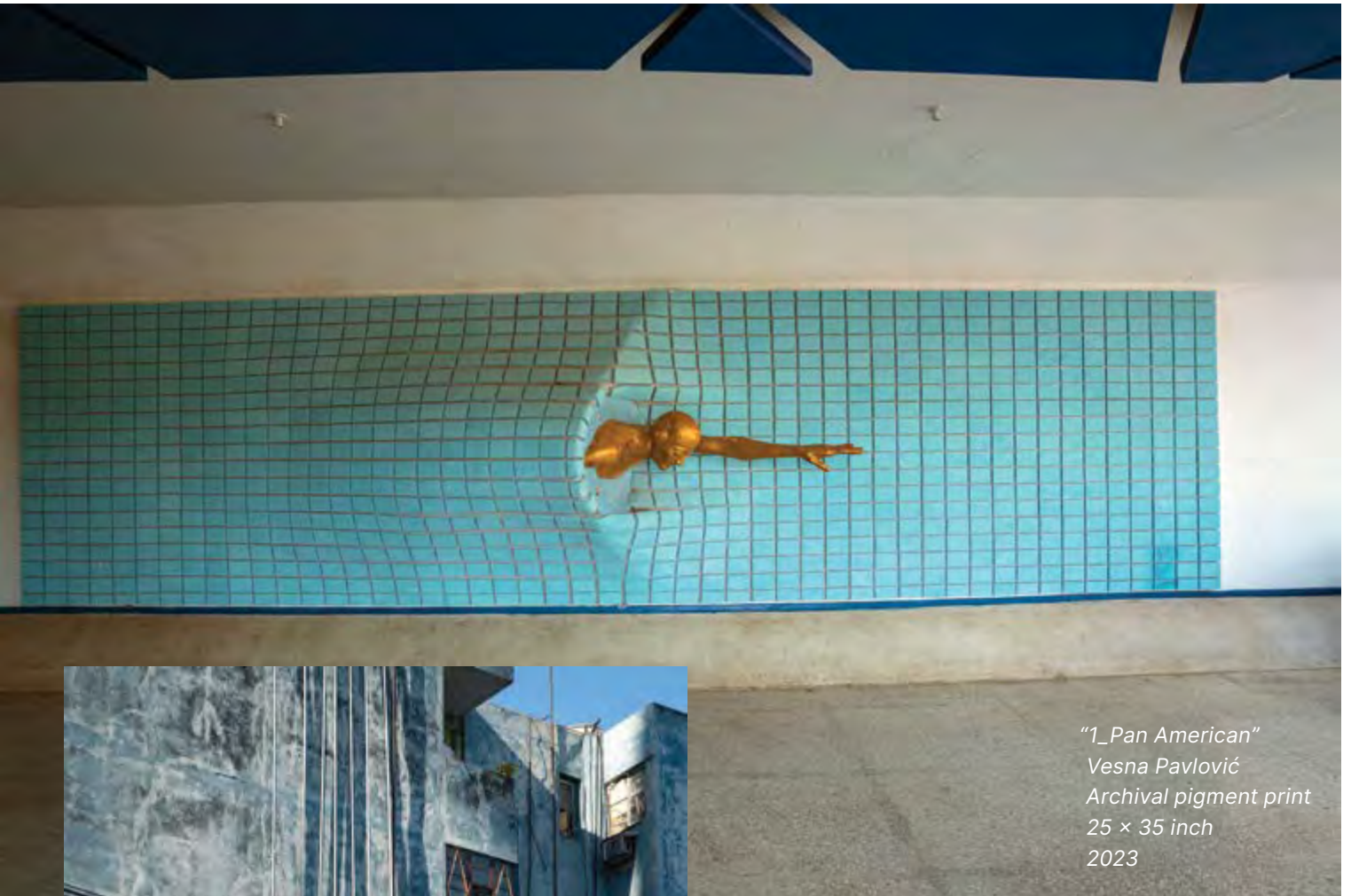
CLACX hosted a series of lunch conversations throughout the year to introduce our new faculty and members of the College's first cohort of the NEH-funded Collaborative Humanities Postdoctoral Program (CHPP). Postdoctoral fellows in the CHPP are supported to teach and conduct research on interdisciplinary topics in the collaborative humanities.

The first event in September featured **Sara Kozameh**, American Council of Learned Societies Emerging Voices Fellow, and **Hilario Lomelí**, Mellon Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies. Kozameh spoke about her research on Cuba's agrarian history within the context of the Cuban Revolution, and Lomelí presented his ethnographic research with Latinx youth in Texas that explores the ways in which the educational system structurally abandons racialized youth. October featured several CHPP fellows over two dates. **Elvira Aballí Morrell** shared her research on the Afro-Cuban religious male confraternity of the Abakuá Society, **Lidiana de Moraes** spoke about her research on contemporary African and Afro-Brazilian female writers and how they construct a collective, feminist perspective of the Black Atlantic, and **Matt Plishka** presented research from his book project on how Afro-Jamaican smallholders navigated the banana-crop killing fungus, Panama Disease, among other crises. Later that month, **Ana Luiza Morais Soares** spoke about her ethnographic research on Indigenous peoples in the Brazilian Amazon, **Anna Tybinko** presented her research on race, racialization, and urban borderlands in contemporary Spain, and **Jesús Ruiz** shared his work, which puts Haiti at the heart of a transimperial tradition in the Atlantic world in which royalism and monarchical thought were at the center of Black politics.

CLACX collaborated with members of the NEH-funded Collaborative Humanities Global Cluster, Elvira Aballí Morrell, Lidiana de Moraes, and Jesús Ruiz to host a Global Humanities Symposium over three days in April. The symposium featured a private screening of *Lazaro & the Sharks*; followed by Q&A with Director William Sabourin O'Reilly, a screening of *Bongó Itá* that documents the Abakuá Afro-Cuban secret society, and the Brazilian short film *Kbela*.







*"1\_Pan American"*  
 Vesna Pavlović  
 Archival pigment print  
 25 × 35 inch  
 2023



## VESNA PAVLOVIĆ OPENS *PERFECT MEMORY*

**Vesna Pavlović** (Art) opened her fourth solo show, *Perfect Memory*, in March 2023 at Zeitgeist. The exhibit integrates three bodies of photographs shot recently in former Yugoslavia, Cuba, and the US. These works, "Sites of Memory," "Jardines de Hershey," and "Searching for the Perfect Sunset" are connected by questions of memory and politics of place, with a focus on photographic representation of political and cultural histories of the Cold War era. The photographs taken in Cuba are the most recent photographs in the show, taken during a research trip supported by CLACX in early 2023. Images of an abandoned amusement park, once a property of Milton Hershey's sugar mill factor, and Yugoslav prefabricated construction systems adopted widely in the 1970s in Cuba, illustrate the island nations' economic struggles and unrealized promises.

*"Socialist City"*  
 Vesna Pavlović  
 Archival pigment print  
 20 × 30 inch  
 2023





## Students in Vanderbilt School for Science and Math Visit the Latin American Garden

**N**inth grade high school students participating in the School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt (SSMV) visited the Latin American Garden in October, just beating an early freeze.

**Avery Dickins de Girón** gave the students a tour focused on biodiversity, medicinal plants, and global staple crops. The group included 20 students from several different high schools in MNPS. This year the students enjoyed learning about medicinal plants, tasting granadillas, and smelling epazote, lemon verbena, and papalo.

SSMV provides high school students in MNPS with the opportunity to participate in a four-year interdisciplinary research experience at Vanderbilt. Students spend half a day each week on campus during the academic year and participate in a 3-week summer program. **Angela Eeds**, Director of SSMV, along with SSMV Instructors **Deweese Menton** and **Rebekah Stanton**, have been partnering with Dickins de Girón on projects in the Latin American Garden for several years now.



The Latin American Garden was featured on WPLN's *This is Nashville* on July 19, 2022 and rebroadcast on May 8, 2023 as part of an episode on community gardens in Nashville. You can listen here: [wpln.org/post/episodes/nashville-community-gardens](https://wpln.org/post/episodes/nashville-community-gardens)

“I really enjoyed going to Vanderbilt’s Latin-American garden and learning about all the medicinal advantages of biodiversity. It was interesting to see how so many plants can be used in medicine even in simple home recipes.”

“Dr. Dickins de Girón spoke to us about the diverse plants of the Latin American Ethnobotanical Garden. You could tell her love and knowledge of the plants when she spoke to us, and her tour was very informative. I knew that plants could be used for medicinal purposes, but I never really realized how much.”



CLACX installed a new irrigation system in the Latin American Garden in June 2023. Many thanks to **James Moore**, Vanderbilt’s Landscape Architect, and **Laura Barker** (pictured above), Vanderbilt Assistant Grounds Manager and Horticultural Specialist, for their ongoing support of the Latin American Garden.

“The Latin American Ethnobotanical Garden was very cool and I definitely learned a lot. I also enjoyed the fruit that came with the learning! I think that we should definitely go back during my spring because I’m excited to see what the banana tree would look like, and what the blooming flowers would look like.”

“Learning about the plants of Latin America in a garden was familiar to me since lots of the plants I’ve seen in my grandparent’s garden we eat very often in foods from Nigeria. For example, the cassava leaves and the banana tree, which we use as a serving mat to eat rice and other foods. The flowers and different plants that are made as medication or teas in Latin America were interesting.”



# Latin American Images Photo Competition

**C**LACX hosted its annual Latin American Images Photo Competition in Spring 2023, inviting Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and visiting scholars to submit original photos taken from their travels in Latin America and the Caribbean. This year, CLACX received 34 photos representing 16 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nassau, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, and Sint Eustatius. Ten entries were chosen for display on the second floor of Garland during the

month of January.

First place was awarded to **Eli Crenshaw-Smith** (undergraduate) for “CircaHabana Cirkus” (above) Second place went to **Lori Catanzaro** (Principal Senior Lecturer, Spanish and Portuguese) for “Endangered” (opposite page, top left), and Third place to **Allie Reichert** (graduate student in Anthropology) for “Canoeing down the Curaray” (opposite page, top right). The People’s Choice Award, based on the number of “likes” on social media, went to undergraduate **William Wu** for “On





Top of the Peñol” (opposite page, below), which received 236 likes.

CLACX donated photographs submitted in previous competitions to the newly created Vanderbilt Center for Languages to adorn a wall of their new space.

CLACX thanks our 2023 judges **Julie Gamble** (Assistant Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies) and **Jesús Ruiz** (Collaborative Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow) for selecting the winning photographs; we appreciate their time and effort! Thanks to CLACX Administrator **Alma Paz-Sanmiguel** for leading and organizing the competition for the past nine years.



# Vanderbilt Hosts 16th Annual Conference of the Impact Evaluation Network of the Latin American and the Caribbean Economic Association

**Felipe Barrera-Osorio** (Education) hosted the 16th annual conference of the Impact Evaluation Network (IEN) over two days in April, with CLACX providing support. The IEN is one of the most important networks of researchers in the Latin American and Caribbean region and brings together scholars working on the effectiveness of policies in several social areas, including education, health, labor, and more. **Eric Verhoogen** (Columbia University) delivered the keynote address, “Barriers to Upgrading in Developing Countries.” Speakers represented universities in Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, and the United States, as well as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. CLACX Director **Celso Castillo** gave opening remarks and welcomed participants to Vanderbilt. Panels were moderated by CLACX Assistant Director **Gretchen Selcke** and **Andrew Dustan** (Economics) as well as visiting scholars.

Barrera-Osorio co-leads the IEN, which is affiliated with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA). Additional support for the conference came from Vanderbilt’s Peabody Research Office and Public Policy Studies, and the Inter-American Development Bank.





# CLACX Collaborates with the International Studies Consortium of Georgia to Present Webinar on Chile

CLACX collaborated with the International Studies Consortium of Georgia (ISCOG), led by **Raj Shasti**, to organize an interactive webinar, “Let’s Talk Chile,” with **Dr. Fernando Garcia Nadaff**, Cultural Attaché of the Chilean Embassy of the United States. Hosted on June 8, 2023, the program introduced the social, cultural, and economic footprint of Chile in the US, with a focus on the Southeastern US, which was most relevant to the students and educators attending the talk.

The webinar was attended by 55 students and faculty from the consortium and other institutions with large representation from Tallahassee Community College, Dalton State College, and Jacksonville State University. Post-program comments from participants indicated the program was a success:

- *“This was great! I learned a lot. Thank you.”*
- *“Very Informative about Chilean history, culture and business environment!”*
- *“Very informing on the economic state of Chile—especially intriguing!”*

The International Studies Consortium of Georgia consists of 17 institutions of higher education, representing nearly 80,000 students. Based at Reinhardt University, the consortium was founded in 1993, and is dedicated to developing, coordinating, and implementing international education and foreign language projects on behalf of the participating institutions. ISCOG includes five MSIs: Albany State University, Clayton State University, Dalton State College, Fort Valley State University, and Tennessee State University. CLACX partners annually on a workshop with ISCOG.

## Consortium for Less Commonly Taught Languages Celebrates Ten Years



This year marked the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Consortium for Less Commonly Taught Languages. Established in 2013, the partnership between Vanderbilt, Duke University, and the University of Virginia allows students at the three universities to enroll in distance language courses in K’iche’ Mayan, Haitian Kreyol, Swahili, or Turkish. **Mareike Sattler** (Anthropology) is based at Vanderbilt and teaches K’iche’ Mayan to consortium students. Over the past 10 years, CLACX has supported several students at the University of Virginia with FLAS fellowships to immerse themselves in the study of K’iche’ in Guatemala through the Mayan Language Institute.

In honor of the milestone, the University of Virginia hosted faculty from the three institutions in March to meet face-to-face with each other and students, share best practices, and discuss the history and future directions of the consortium. CLACX supported Sattler and **Chalene Helmuth**, Director of Vanderbilt’s Center for Languages, to attend the events.



## CLACX FACULTY AND STUDENTS GATHER TO WATCH 2022 WORLD CUP

Argentina's victory in December 2022 ended over twenty years since a Latin American team had won the FIFA Men's World Cup championship. This win earned Argentina their third World Cup trophy and the first win since 1986. CLACX invited students, faculty and staff to join several watch parties in our suite for matches in which any of the six Latin American teams (Brazil, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador) or the the US played. We are also grateful to the Vanderbilt Center for Languages for hosting several watch parties. The 2022 FIFA World Cup series took place in Qatar and ran from November 21 to December 18.



## Haiti Week 2023

CLACX invited Haitian author **Ketty Mars** and scholar **Nathan Dize** (Oberlin College) for our annual Haiti Week in February 2023. Dize, who graduated with his PhD in French Studies from Vanderbilt in 2021 is the translator of Mars'



latest book, *I Am Alive (Je suis vivant)*. Each chapter of the choral novel presents one of ten first-person narratives that comprise the book, which relates stories of mental illness, unconventional sexuality, and the lasting impacts of the 2010 earthquake from the perspective of a bourgeois Haitian family. The event at Vanderbilt marked the first time Mars and Dize had met in person. In their presentation, the author and translator engaged with each other and the audience of faculty and students to discuss the themes of the book, the process of translation, and current challenges in Haiti.

Also as part of Haiti Week, CLACX collaborated with the Curb Center to bring **Yve-Car Momperousse**, founder of **Kreyol Essence**, to speak with students about her business, which creates natural and ethical personal care products from Haiti such as Haitian Black Castor oil and Haitian Moringa Oil. The business has created jobs for over 300 farmers and women and was selected by Sephora as a "Next Generation Beauty Industry Leader."

On March 30, CLACX partnered with the Vanderbilt Project on Unity and American democracy to host Brazilian historian and journalist **Dr. Thiago Krause** (Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro) and former US Ambassador to Brazil, **Michael McKinley**, to discuss similarities between the January insurrections in Brazil (2023) and the US (2021). CLACX Director **Celso Castilho** moderated the conversation. The March 30 event was held in person at the Scarritt Bennett Center to encourage community participation, and has been posted on YouTube with translations in Portuguese: [youtube.com/watch?v=aCevhxFY3ro](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCevhxFY3ro)





**Geer** provided opening remarks and congratulated CLACX for receiving the 2022-2026 National Resource Center and Foreign Area Studies Fellowships grants from the US Department of Education.

**Ryan C. Berg** (Center for Strategic and International Studies) gave a talk titled “The Intersection of Pandemics and Politics in Latin America,” moderated by **Noam Lupu** (LAPOP-Lab) and **Elizabeth Rose** (VIGH).

Mexican American poet, novelist, and essayist **Erika Sánchez** gave a virtual presentation on October 3, with an introduction by CLACX Assistant Director **Gretchen Selcke**. The event was attended by 55 and hosted in collaboration with the Association of Latin American Students and the Student Center for Social Justice and Inclusion.



CLACX started the academic year with a virtual “Welcome” for incoming Latinx transfer and first year students at the university on August 10. Over 40 students joined the one-hour meeting, where they were greeted by CLACX Director **Celso Castillo** and the rest of the CLACX staff. Leaders of student organizations shared the many ways to get involved in Vanderbilt and met with the students in smaller breakout rooms to address questions.

CLACX hosted our annual **Bienvenida** in the Commons. The event featured paletas from local Latinx business Las Paletas. The following week, faculty, staff, and graduate students came together for our Welcome Back Party at the Woodlea Rooftop of the Aertson Hotel. **Dean John**

Also in October, **Adriana Chira** (Emory College) presented a lecture for the Vanderbilt Legal History Colloquium, “Rights by Possession: Post-Emancipation Land Politics in Cuba, 1880s–1930s.”

**Devi Mays** (University of Michigan) presented “Forging Ties, Forging Passports: Migration and the Modern Sephardi Diaspora” for the Jewish Studies Lunchtime Lecture on October 21. Her research on early 20th-century Sephardic migrants shows how commercial and familial networks between former Ottoman lands, France, the US, Cuba, and Mexico ensured them geographic and social mobility.

CLACX hosted a faculty roundtable in early November to provide a space for discussion on the outcome of the October 2022 elections in Brazil. **Marshall Eakin** (History), **Ana Luiza Morais Soares** (CHPP), **Jeferson Tenório** (2021 Prêmio Jabuti), and **Guilherme Fasolin** (graduate student in Political Science) participated in “Beyond the Elections: What to Expect in Brazil.”

Brazilian author and scholar **Jeferson Tenório** led a reading and conversation about his novel, *O avesso da pele*, which won Brazil’s most prestigious book award, the Prêmio Jabuti, in 2021.

CLACX collaborated with Vanderbilt University Press to launch *Journey Without End* on November 15th. The book follows African and South Asian migrants as they move through Latin America toward the United States. The presentation featured the book’s authors, journalist **Rob Curran** and anthropologist **Andrew Nelson** (University of North Texas), who spoke about the collaborative writing project in discussion with Vanderbilt faculty **Jon Hiskey** (Political Science) and postdoctoral fellows **Anna Tybinko** and **Jesús Ruiz**.

CLACX partnered with Jewish Studies to host a lecture by **Dr. Laura Leibman**, “Beyond Binaries: Jewish Suriname through the Photographer’s Lens” in January. Leibman used a 1930s photograph of Phillip Samson, the “Hulpchazan” (Assistant Hazzan) at the Ashkenazi Neve Shalom Synagogue on Keizerstraat, to start a conversation about how photographs are used in Jewish studies in the Caribbean and elsewhere, arguing that Jews were a

crucial part of the early Surinamese photography industry, which has largely been unacknowledged.

**Nathalie Bouzaglo** (Northwestern University) gave a virtual talk in January, “La invasión marimacha. Deporte, feminidad masculina y moda en México y Argentina del fin de siècle.”

**Ana V. Diez Roux** (Dana and David Dornsife Dean and Distinguished University Professor of Epidemiology at the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health) gave the 2023 Satcher Lecture, “Improving Health in Cities: A Challenge and Opportunity for Public Health Research and Action” at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

**Anna Castillo** (Spanish and Portuguese) presented “Cinematic Runoff: Haptic Perception of Agrochemical Catastrophe in Claudia Llosa’s *Distancia de rescate*” with **Margaret Kelly** (Spanish and Portuguese) as respondent in February.

**Edward Wright-Rios** (History) gave a virtual talk, “Posting the Journey to

Juquila: Pilgrimage, Digital Devotion, and Social Media in Mexico.”

**John Murillo** (Wesleyan University) presented a reading as part of the Gertrude C. and Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series.

CLACX, the Robert Penn Warren Center, and the NEH-Urban Humanities Seminar presented “A Conversation with Mexican Novelist Yuri Herrera-Gutiérrez” (Tulane University) about his novel, *Senales que precederan al fin del mundo* (*Signs preceding the end of the world*) and writing narratives of migration.

CLACX hosted **William Mina** (Universidad del Cauca, Colombia) as one of our Visiting Research Fellows in March; while on campus he gave a talk in the Vanderbilt Center for Languages: “Un diálogo intelectual y cultural entre Juan y Manuel Zapata Olivella.”

**Mariano Sana** (Sociology) and **Fernando Segovia** (Divinity) participated in a panel discussion addressing the cultural and political landscape of family separation,





migration, and the history of public opinion on the topic at the Belcourt Theatre. The panel was featured following the screening of the short film *When Pedro Pan Came to Nashville*.

**Angela Garcia** (Stanford University) gave a virtual talk, "The Hole: An Ethnographic Descent into Mexico City's Anexos" in March about informal addiction treatment centers that have proliferated throughout Mexico.

**Kimberly McKinson** (Anthropology) gave a talk for the Black World Seminar in March, "In/secure Matter: Metallurgy, Memory, and the Forging of a Black Atlantic Securityscape."

**Jefferson Belarmino de Freitas** (GEMAA, Grupo de Estudos Multidisciplinares da Ação Afirmativa) presented a talk, "Brazilians and Race in Chicago" in April for the Brazilian Studies group.

CLACX hosted **Peter Rondón Vélez** as one of our Visiting Research Fellows in March; while on campus he presented



a screening and discussion of his documentary, *Sinú: Afromemorias de la Muerte*, about the theme of death in Manuel Zapata Olivella's novels.

In partnership with LAPOP Lab, CLACX hosted **Abby Córdova** (Notre Dame) in April to present a lecture, "Reducing Citizen Support for State Violence against Undocumented Immigrants through Victims' Testimonies and Information Campaigns."

CLACX also partnered with LAPOP Lab to host **Dr. Polibio Córdova**, president of one of the oldest public opinion research companies in the Andes, CEDATOS, founded in 1974. Córdova presented the second edition of his book *La fuerza de la opinión pública. Ecuador en perspectiva*.

CLACX invited alumna **Sarah Foss** (Oklahoma State University) to discuss her new book, *On Our Own Terms: Development and Indigeneity in Cold War Guatemala* in April. Students in GuateLab had the opportunity to meet with Foss while she was on campus.

**Alexandre Pelegrino** (Vanderbilt History) presented a public lecture, "Indigenous and African Enslavement in Eighteenth-Century Amazonia (c. 1740s-1770s)."

**Sahai Couso Díaz** (Spanish and Portuguese) gave a talk at the Robert Penn Warren Center, "Collecting the Unfree from Havana to Philadelphia:

Science, Literature, and Race as Artifact."

In partnership with Vanderbilt's Government and Community Relations, **Gretchen Selcke** attended the Catholic Charities Festival of Hope in April and **Hilario Lomelí** attended Conexión Américas' Cafécito in May.



Throughout the academic year, **Bate-Papo Portuguese Conversation** continued to meet weekly on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Vanderbilt Center for Languages (Furman 001). Até já!

# Vanderbilt's Jazz Program and Blair Big Band Win Awards

The 2022-2023 school year was a momentous one for the Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music jazz studies program and its director **Ryan Middagh**. The school's Blair Big Band and Latin Jazz Ensembles were both invited to perform at elite Jazz Education Network Conferences, and the Big Band made its debut appearance in January at the prestigious Jack Rudin Jazz Championship, held at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York and hosted by jazz icon Wynton Marsalis.

The Blair Big Band was named a top four Jack Rudin finalist, receiving honors for Outstanding Trombone Section, Outstanding Trumpet Section, with an individual honor for Outstanding Trombone solo going to student **Jonathan Salcedo**. Vanderbilt's Blair Big Band members participating in the competition included **Olivia Achcet, Gabe Barnard, Liam Barron, Ian Boggs, Benjamin Black, Miles Buchmann, Seth Hahn, Patrick Kenny, Nathan King, Ian Nussdorfer, Myles Robinson, Jonathan Salcedo, Charlie Schmitt, Kevin Shinskie, Samuel Taylor, Jacob Welch, and Zachary Williams**.



In May, the Blair jazz program received three DownBeat Student Music Awards, including honors for Undergraduate Large Ensemble and two individual awards going to Blair senior **Kevin Shinskie**, for Undergraduate Outstanding Composition ("Endeavors") and Outstanding Soloist in a Jazz Combo. Founded in 1976 by the music industry's preeminent jazz publication, the Student Music Awards are considered among the most prestigious honors in jazz. Winners were officially shared in the publication of *DownBeat's* June jazz education issue.

In addition to these awards, senior trombonist **Jonathan Salcedo** was recently named a 2023 winner in Yamaha's Young Performing Artists Program. He received an all-expense-paid trip to the YYPA Celebration held June 24-27, 2023, on the campus of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where he joined 11 other national winners in a weekend of performances, recording opportunities, and workshops.

"I am incredibly proud of these students and all they have accomplished over the past several years," said Blair Assistant Professor of Jazz, Ryan Middagh, who chairs the jazz and global music department. "Together with our world-renowned Blair faculty, jazz at Vanderbilt has developed an international reputation for excellence in the field. Our students and faculty continue to encapsulate our institution's core values of discovery, creativity, and the pursuit of our highest human potential. We are very unique among our peer jazz programs as we are academically inclusive. Within our jazz ensembles, we have students from all four Vanderbilt undergraduate colleges represented, providing the opportunity for any Vanderbilt student to have the study of music be a meaningful part of their undergraduate experience."

—Contributed by Jim Alderdice



*CLACX supported Blair faculty members Ryan Middagh, José Sibaja, and Marc Widenhofer to attend the Jazz Education Network's annual conference in Orlando. Students in the Vanderbilt Latin Jazz Ensemble performed at the conference, with faculty joining in.*



# Zohn Collective Residency

**C**LACX collaborated with Blair Associate Professor of Flute, **Molly Barth**, to bring the Zohn Collective to Vanderbilt in January 2023. The contemporary ensemble includes performers, composers, and a conductor who generate collaborative projects embedded in their communities. Originally planned for 2020, their 6-day residency had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but was worth the wait.

Between rehearsals, members of the ensemble participated in the Spanish Language Table in Zeppos Hall and led master classes in piano, saxophone, clarinet, violin, cello, guitar, percussion, voice, and composition for Blair students. In addition to campus events, **Ricardo Zohn Muldoon** and **Dieter Hennings** engaged students at Hillwood High School in an interactive performance featuring songs from across Latin America, including a tribute to indigenous groups around Rio, pieces by renowned 20th-century Brazilian composer, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Venezuelan waltzes, and the *Bach Chaconne*, a dance written in the 1730s. Muldoon described the music as violent and exciting, and Hennings explained to students that the guitar brings Latin American musical cultures together.

The collective's visit culminated with a performance of *Songtree* at Ingram Hall on January 14. The featured work of the program, titled *Songtree*, was composed by Zohn Muldoon. *Songtree* is an extended song cycle that sets poetry by Raúl Aceves, a contemporary author living in Guadalajara, and sonnets by William Shakespeare to song. The remainder of the performance included works created by composers from México: *El Jardín de los delicados destellos* (flute and guitar) written by Hebert Vázquez, *Candelabra* (cello and piano) written by Ricardo Zohn Muldoon, *Sonatina for Violin and Piano* written by Carlos Chávez and *Destiladera/Papalotes* written by Ricardo Zohn Muldoon.



Molly Barth, Dieter Hennings, and Sammy Lesnick



Members of the Zohn Collective include **Paul Vaillancourt**, conductor; **Tony Arnold**, soprano; **Molly Barth**, flute; **Sammy Lesnick**, clarinet; **Noah Getz**, saxophone; **Hanna Hurwitz**, violin; **Colin Stokes**, cello; **Dieter Hennings**, guitar; **Tiffany Freeman**, bass; **Conor Stevens**, percussion; **Brant Blackard**, percussion; **Daniel Pesca**, piano; and **Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon**, composer.

## Verrier Receives State Department Grant to Bring Together Musicians from Cuba and the United States

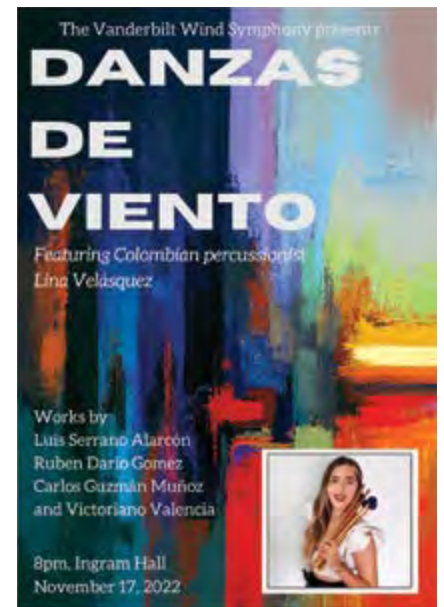
**Thomas Verrier**, Senior Band Conductor and Director of Wind Ensembles in the Blair School of Music received a US State Department Educational and Cultural Grant from the Embassy in Cuba. Funds, totaling \$32,500, supported travel and logistical expenses for his initiative, the “Orquesta Cubano-Americana de Vientos” in July 2023. This musical and social initiative assembled a forty-person concert band comprised of Cuban musicians from the Centro Nacional de la Música de Concierto along with musicians from Vanderbilt University. A weeklong event of rehearsals, workshops, and concerts were held in and around Havana. The Orquesta Cubano-Americana de Vientos offered opportunities for cultural exchanges and provided the means for better understanding through first-hand interactions.

Prior to his trip to Cuba, Verrier toured Argentina, conducting professional concert bands in Buenos Aires, Mar del Plata, and Córdoba in June, and returned to Colombia with students from Blair to again lead the Banda Sinfónica Integrada de las Américas. Spring 2023 marked the third year of Verrier’s online certification course for directors in Latin America. To date, more than 50 directors from 13 different countries have enrolled in his “Curso Virtual de Dirección de Banda.”



## COLOMBIAN PERCUSSIONIST LINA VELÁSQUEZ ENGAGES STUDENTS IN FALL 2022 RESIDENCY

With support from CLACX, **Thomas Verrier** hosted Colombian percussionist Lina Velásquez for a 10-day residency in Nashville in November 2022. While on campus, she taught Latin percussion lessons, worked with the entire Wind Symphony on performing a program of Colombian music, and performed as a soloist. She also gave a workshop to the band students at Antioch High School and taught a percussion masterclass for their percussionists. The highlight of her visit was a performance with the Vanderbilt Wind Symphony in Ingram Hall, “Danzas de Viento,” featuring works by Luisa Serrano Alarcón, Rubén Darío Gómez, Carlos Guzmán Muñoz, and Victoriano Valencia. While in Nashville, she performed with local band Serenatta at Plaza Mariachi, playing for an audience of more than 200.



Internationally acclaimed clarinetist and Blair faculty member, **Mariam Adam**, performed at Turner Recital Hall in October, featuring a piece by Paquito D’Rivera and a dedication to the “Ladies in White” in Cuba. Vanderbilt’s steel band group, The Steel ‘Dores, led by **Mat Britain**, performed a concert on campus on April 16.



# Public Health and Medical Students Learn Research, Clinical, and Practice Skills in Latin America

The Vanderbilt University School of Medicine's Integrated Science Course in Global Health, led by **Drs. Eiman Jahangir, Elizabeth Rose and Marie Martin**, provides medical students an opportunity for a month-long clinical rotation at partner sites in resource-constrained settings around the world, including in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the course, students work in a clinic or hospital during the day and complete online modules on global health topics in the evenings. Over the past year, five medical students completed this course in Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru. Their experiences and reflections are highlighted below.

**Andres Frias** (MD, 2023) traveled to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala for a month-long clinical rotation with Vanderbilt's long-time partner, Primeros Pasos Clinic. As part of this rotation, he worked alongside physicians, nurses, medical students, and other team members to learn about health conditions, health systems, and health disparities particular to the rural region.



**Samuel Massion** (MD, 2023) completed two month-long clinical rotations. He first rotated in Trujillo, Peru with the organization Medical Electives. Inspired by that experience, he pursued a second rotation in Oaxaca, Mexico with Child Family Health International. In Peru, Samuel's experience focused on internal medicine outpatient visits at the Florencia de Mora hospital, with additional time in the emergency department and operating room for general and

ophthalmic surgery. Reflecting on his "incredible experience" in Peru, he further wrote, "I would like to first acknowledge this country's history and the indigenous culture, whose customs continue to be upheld in various parts of the country and has a respectful relationship with contemporary medicine." In Mexico, he had the opportunity to learn from health providers at several clinics and hospitals as well as have individual sessions with a *curadora*.

**Kelsey Barter** (MD, 2023) also rotated in Trujillo, Peru with Medical Electives. During the month, she focused on the impacts that climate change has on health outcomes and disease, particularly the rise of dengue in Peru. Dengue is transmitted by mosquitoes and due to changes in climate, mosquitoes are better able to thrive, leading to a surge of dengue in the region.

**Graham Treasure** (MD, 2023) rotated la Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU). During his clinical experience, Graham studied the structures of the health system and compared them to those in the United States, which was "immensely valuable to (his) professional development as a systems-minded clinician."



As part of the medical school curriculum, Vanderbilt medical students conduct research projects. **Stefan Koester** (MD 2024) focused his research on studying outcomes for pediatric traumatic brain injury in Brazil. Building on collaborations that began over five years ago, Stefan worked closely with physicians in São Paulo, Brazil to gain a better understanding of these injuries and outcomes. His research is ongoing, but he presented preliminary work at the Global Health Symposium in April.



# Vanderbilt Signs MOU with Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia Formalizing Years of Exchanges

**D**onald Brady, Executive Vice Dean for Academic Affairs in Vanderbilt’s School of Medicine, signed an official memorandum of understanding with the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) in December 2022. The MOU formalizes bilateral exchanges in research, training, and fieldwork between the two institutions. **Carlos G. Grijalva** (Medicine), **Leigh Howard** (Medicine), **Marie Martin** (VIGH), and **Avery Dickins de Girón** (CLACX) also traveled to Lima in December 2022 for the signing of the MOU and to meet with colleagues at UPCH, as well as colleagues at the Instituto de Investigación Nutricional (IIN) and the Instituto de Medicina Tropical Alexander von Humboldt, based at UPCH.

For over 20 years, Vanderbilt has been engaged in collaborative research and training programs with Peruvian partners. To date, more than 80 Peruvian trainees and young investigators have received



training and/or participated in collaborative research with Vanderbilt faculty in Peru through these partnerships. Ongoing research includes tackling global health issues, such as infectious disease in Peru, especially pneumonia, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS that affect children, women, and marginalized populations. Trainees have collectively been primary author or co-author of 50+ publications focused on



vaccine-preventable diseases in journals including *The Lancet Global Health*, *International Journal of Epidemiology*, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, *Influenza and other respiratory viruses*, and *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* among others, with several publications including IIN/UPCH investigators as lead authors.

These research and training collaborations will continue with the new PREVENT program, which was designed to address the need for collaborative training programs in vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases at IIN/UPCH and Vanderbilt. The program provides comprehensive instruction with specialized training and mentoring in Peru and complementary training at Vanderbilt, with an emphasis on advanced research methods, implementation science, evaluations of vaccination programs, scientific and grant writing, and hands-on advanced analytical training. The program will also engage community health workers to increase access to healthcare and improve health outcomes in underserved areas. It includes a research component directed towards better understanding the epidemiology and transmission of infectious diseases in Peru and to inform targeted interventions in Peru. The program will support ten trainees, including master's, doctoral, and faculty fellows, with a focus on core areas of significant importance to vaccine preventable diseases research. PREVENT is led by **Carlos G. Grijalva** (Vanderbilt), **Theresa Ochoa** (UPCH), and **Claudio Lanata** (IIN), with **Leigh Howard** (Vanderbilt) overseeing training.

Recent Vanderbilt projects in Peru have also involved students from disciplines beyond the health sciences. As she was completing her PhD in Anthropology, **Gabriela Oré Menéndez** created **a COVID-19 spread map together** by collecting data and reporting other variables at the beginning of the pandemic when she could not find a COVID spread map of Peru. After she manually updated the map dashboard for over a month, Peru developed a country-wide map with spatial COVID-19 data. Oré was inspired by the efforts of Natalie Robbins, a staff researcher with the Vanderbilt Initiative for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Research who developed a county-level COVID 19 tracking map.

Master of Public Health students participate in practicum projects to gain practical experience working in the field. This summer,

**Tevin Matthew** (MPH 2024) is in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala working with Primeros Pasos Clinic. As part of his community-engaged work and research, he is exploring gender dynamics in healthy decision-making by examining household socioeconomic factors that contribute to dietary practices in the Western Highlands of Guatemala.



In April, CLACX Hosted a Reception for the **Caribbean, Central and South American Network for HIV Epidemiology (CCASAnet)**, which brings together the expertise and resources of Vanderbilt University and clinical and research sites in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Peru. The goal of the CCASAnet project is to create a shared repository of HIV data from Central and South America and the Caribbean, to use the combined data to answer questions about the characteristics of the regional HIV epidemic, and to work together to improve the quality and consistency of clinical research activities at member sites. The reception, attended by 50 people, almost all of whom are based in Latin America and the Caribbean, was part of a conference hosted by CCASAnet at Vanderbilt.

## Pre-Specialty Nursing Students Collaborate with Organizations in Guatemala and Ecuador

**Chalene Helmuth** and **Avery Dickins de Girón** again taught the Medical Spanish and Central America Seminar for students pursuing master’s degrees in nursing and public health. Students learn medical vocabulary, practice intake exams and patient interviews, and examine issues of health and access to care for indigenous communities within the historical and political context of Central America. For VUSN students, the seminar is part of the mandatory Community Health course for first-year students. The Fall 2022 course included students pursuing careers in midwifery, family medicine, and pediatrics, and one public health student. Led by **Manola McCain** (Nursing), the six VUSN students met virtually with Primeros Pasos staff to develop an introductory program for mental health outreach for K’iche’ Mayan communities served by the clinic



in Guatemala’s Palajunoj Valley. Under the direction of Dr. McCain and in collaboration with Primeros Pasos staff, the students developed workshops and a training program addressing stress, mindfulness, and other mental health challenges facing these communities, where the pandemic continues to impact residents’ health in many ways. The students presented a poster on the project, “Destigmatizing mental health in the Palajunoj Valley: Workshops in emotional literacy and mindfulness” in June 2022. Dickins de Girón also presented at the Global Health Workshop in June to first year pre-specialty students.

**Susan Andrews** (Nursing) took another group of pre-specialty students to Ecuador to work on their Community Health quality improvement project. Anthropology graduate student **Allie Reichert** spoke to the students about her research on health care inequalities among indigenous women in the Ecuadorian Amazon. She also organized a virtual talk for the students with ten Kichwa midwives from AMUPAKIN, Asociación de Mujeres Parteras Kichwas de alto Napo, in which the midwives explained their practice of “parto ancestral,” or “ancestral birth” passed down over generations.





# Vanderbilt Engineering Students Travel to Guatemala to Repair Medical Equipment alongside Universidad del Valle Students

After spending the first two months of the Spring 2023 semester learning about medical equipment testing and repair, the 12 students enrolled in BME 3890-04, "Special Topics: Service Learning in Guatemala" flew with Professor **Cynthia Paschal** and Teaching Assistant **Kristopher Castillo** to Guatemala in March 2023. The Vanderbilt Biomedical engineering students spent their spring break working in close partnership with 11 Engineering students from Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG). The team repaired equipment and made improvements at three facilities: the Hospital Materna e Infantil Juan Pablo II in Mixco, a suburb of Guatemala City; Hospital Nacional Pedro de Bethancourt in Antigua; and Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro, also in Antigua. They safely tested and worked to repair equipment ranging from simple manometers to measure blood pressure to a complex laser surgical system. The students also installed a contactless handwashing station in a neonatal intensive care unit and prepared a video to help a hospital's maintenance team know how to assemble and install a donated mammography unit. In their down time, the students took a cooking class on making pepián, often referred to as the national dish of Guatemala, learned about coffee, and went ziplining.

Professor **Carlos Esquit**, Director of Electronic, Mechatronic, and Biomedical Engineering at UVG, had far more students who wanted to work with the Vanderbilt group than could be accommodated. To include them, he arranged for some UVG students to provide remote support, investigating repair issues for the on-site team. The Vanderbilt students got to meet these additional UVG students when touring the amazing new engineering building at del Valle that includes an extensive makerspace and even an art gallery.

You can learn more about the trip in the blog published by the Vanderbilt students documenting their experiences: [ubmeguatemala.wordpress.com/category/2023](http://ubmeguatemala.wordpress.com/category/2023).

Support from the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies was essential to the success of this course, including a pre-trip presentation on Guatemala by **Avery Dickins de Girón** in February. Special thanks also go to Project C.U.R.E. Nashville ([projectcure.org/location/nashville](http://projectcure.org/location/nashville)) for loaning equipment on which the students trained.



# Students Travel to Guatemala with Project Pyramid to Work Alongside Socially Conscious Organizations

Housed in the Owen School of Management and overseen by the Turner Family Center for Social Ventures, the Project Pyramid course has brought together Vanderbilt students from multiple disciplines to engage meaningfully with socially conscious organizations across the globe since 2006. The student-led program uses in-classroom and hands-on learning experiences to examine the causes and symptoms of global poverty. Students in the course work with organizations to gain knowledge about innovative and entrepreneurial ways organizations attempt to alleviate poverty, and the use of market-driven solutions that help fulfill the missions of those organizations.

In Spring 2023, students enrolled in Project Pyramid had the opportunity to work with six organizations based in Antigua, Guatemala. The students traveled there during Spring Break to meet their clients in person and develop a better understanding of the social entrepreneurship



ecosystem. Partner organizations in Guatemala included **Tierra y Lava**, a holistic skin and hair care company centered around environmental and social impact; **Education for the Children**, a foundation

Getting to see the way social enterprises operate within the legal, political, and socioeconomic structures in low/middle-income countries was really interesting to see firsthand. I gained a better understanding of the challenges they face compared to American startups, including the tradeoffs that come with making social impact (ex: balancing local employment with negative environmental impact).

—Taylor Carty, Project Pyramid participant (MPH 2023 and LAS Graduate Certificate Recipient)





based in Jocotenango that supports over 600 Guatemala students with educational scholarships; **UTZ Means Good**, a conglomerate founded and run by Guatemalans dedicated to creating innovative and sustainable solutions for problems faced by the country; **Gronn**, an e-commerce agency that helps entrepreneurs, artisans and artists sell world-wide;



**Chica Bean**, a women-run company that roasts specialty coffee at its origin; and **Stove Team International**, an organization that installs low-smoke, fuel-efficient and safe cookstoves in collaboration with communities in Guatemala. CLACX works closely with **Mario Avila**, who directs the Turner Family Center and leads the Project Pyramid course. **Avery Dickins de Girón** provided an overview of the history, culture, and political economy of Guatemala for students in the class to help inform their projects.



*Vanderbilt student athletes and staff participated in Owen's Impact Business Immersion in Guatemala, led by Mario Avila*

## VANDERBILT ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS CHAPTER AWARDED SESQUICENTENNIAL GRANT FOR PROJECT IN NICARAGUA

A group of Vanderbilt students representing the Vanderbilt Chapter of Engineers Without Borders was awarded a Vanderbilt Sesquicentennial Grant for their project, "Sabana Larga Water Supply." The goal of the project is to create a water distribution system that will provide accessible and safe drinking water to all residents in Sabana Larga, a rural farming community in Nicaragua.

# Library News

Last year we heralded the University and library's announced funding of the digitization of two significant research collections: the **Delia** and **Manuel Zapata Olivella** papers. Online access to these two much visited Afro-Colombian collections has been a goal and commitment since the university acquired Manuel's papers over ten years ago. The organization of these two large and varied collections and the creation of respective finding aids were essential projects prior to outsourcing and digitizing. It has only been possible through the support of CLACX and the many graduate students who have helped to organize Manuel's collection over the past ten years.

The collections are being made openly accessible via **JSTOR Open Community Collections**. Much of Delia's ethnographic, folk and dance archives are now available. We anticipate that all of Manuel's and Delia's collections will be available by the end of 2023. This is exciting given the number of inquiries we receive from researchers seeking funding to come to use them.

Many researchers came this past academic year to use Vanderbilt's Colombian collections. Four scholars were funded to visit the collections through Library Research Grants supported by CLACX's National Resource Center: two Colombian faculty members, a US doctoral student and one US post-doctoral fellow. All came to use both Zapata Olivella collections and the **Helguera Collection of Colombiana**. They include:

- **Laura Correa Ochoa**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Rice University; working on a book project, "Black and indigenous race and mobilization in Colombia, 1930-1922."
- **Orlando Deavila Pertuz**, Universidad de Cartagena, whose current project is "Race and the development of Cartagena in the twentieth century"



- **Olga Lucía Martán Tamayo**, Universidad del Valle and Fundación Universitaria Católica (Cali), to conduct research on her project, "Manuel Zapata Olivella, los años de formación, 1920-1940"
- **Tabithia Holman**, doctoral student, Florida International University, whose dissertation topic is "Freedom suits by Colombian enslaved litigants, 1760 until 1810"

Two additional Colombian scholars who had participated in Vanderbilt's virtual **Manuel Zapata Olivella conference** were supported to come to Vanderbilt and use the Zapata Olivella collections post-COVID: Professor **William Mina Aragón** of the Universidad del Cauca and **Peter Rondón Vélez**, a researcher from the Instituto Caro y Cuervo in Bogotá. Both also presented their work on Manuel Zapata Olivella. Rondón Vélez also shared a film he recently directed on Zapata Olivella: *Sinú: afromemorias de la muerte*.

Visitors spent up to two weeks in the archives and interacted with students and faculty through presentations hosted by CLACX and meetings with faculty and students in the departments of Spanish





and Portuguese, anthropology, and history. Other researchers had lengthier stays of a month and participated in CLACX events. All funded researchers submitted a one-page report of their research findings. It was gratifying to see how well these collections meshed with their research projects. Two comments made by e-mail about their experiences in the archives are included here. “The trip was wonderful, everyone at the archive was so kind and accommodating. And I was able to meet with a couple of postdocs. I found some gems for my book. This is definitely my favorite archive.” Another wrote: “[these] pieces are relatively unknown and would have been out of my reach had I not been able to visit the collection. Thanks to these works I have been able to capture his overall perception of Cartagena. When describing the city, he placed its African legacy at the center of it. I am positive that my findings at the Manuel and Delia Zapata Olivella Collections will be critical.”

We also had the opportunity to share information about these and other digital projects at Vanderbilt for the **4th Seminario Internacional de Historia Social-Historia Digital** in Cartagena in August 2022. Paula Covington presented a talk on “Las colecciones digitales colombianas de la Universidad de Vanderbilt” and Jane Landers spoke on the Slave Societies Digital Archive, both of us sharing ways for students and faculty to have digital access to these Afro-Colombian primary sources.

In December we added to our collections through attending the **Feria Internacional del Libro** in Guadalajara, the largest Hispanic book fair in the world. We also focused on searching for relevant material based on current student and faculty research and curricular needs.

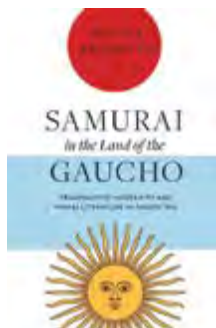
The family of **Juan Zapata Olivella**, brother to Manuel, is publishing a 5-volume biography and a documentary on his life and writings. Juan was a well-known journalist in his own right who also ran for the Colombian presidency in the sixties. We have mined the archives to find photos and writings on and by Juan. CLACX is helping to support this publication which will further add to our knowledge of life and issues of race in twentieth-century Colombia and this dynamic Afro-Colombian family. The presentation of this work took place in July at several institutes and universities in Barranquilla, Cartagena, and Bogotá. Jane Landers and Viviana Quintero Márquez attended the presentations in Cartagena to represent Vanderbilt.

We look forward to a vibrant year. We will seek new applicants in August for the Library Research Grants that will support researchers to travel to our collections. The Latin American special collections will be moved into a newly renovated building next to the library as opposed to its current offsite location, making access more immediate. We also have plans to work closely with CLACX's Vanderbilt sesquicentennial grant on the history of the Center and Hispanic American life at Vanderbilt through helping to mine the university archives. And we hope to collaborate more with the Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango by making some of our rarer materials that are not available in Colombian libraries digitally accessible.

–Contributed by Paula Covington, Latin American and Iberian Subject Librarian and Senior Lecturer in Latin American Studies



**Creating Worlds Otherwise**  
*Art, Collective Action, and (Post) Extractivism*  
 Paula Serafini



**Samurai in the Land of the Gaucho**  
*Transpacific Modernity and Nikkei Literature in Argentina*  
 Koichi Hagimoto



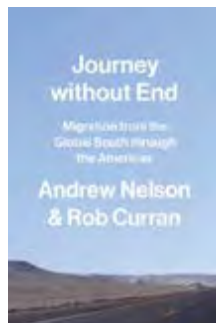
**Transforming Saints**  
*From Spain to New Spain*  
 Charlene Villaseñor Black



**Trajectories of Empire**  
*Transhispanic Reflections on the African Diaspora*  
 Edited by Jerome C. Branche



**América in Letters**  
*Literary Interventions from Mexico to the Southern Cone*  
 Edited by Jennifer Carolina Gómez Menjívar



**Journey without End**  
*Migration from the Global South through the Americas*  
 Andrew Nelson & Rob Curran



**Creating Carmen Miranda**  
*Race, Camp, and Transnational Stardom*  
 Kathryn Bishop-Sanchez



**Mexico, Interrupted**  
*Labor, Idleness, and the Economic Imaginary of Independence*  
 Sergio Gutiérrez Negrón





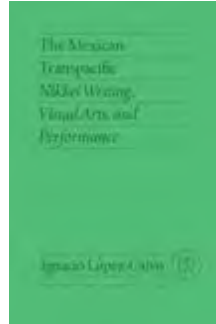
**Serial Mexico**  
*Storytelling Across Media, From Nationhood to Now*  
 Amy E. Wright



**Monstrous Politics**  
*Geography, Rights, and the Urban Revolution in Mexico City*  
 Ben Gerlofs



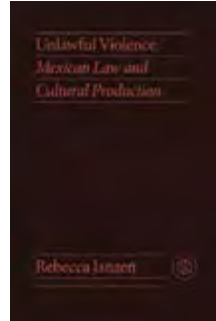
**Drug Cartels Do Not Exist**  
*Narcotrafficking in US and Mexican Culture*  
 Oswaldo Zavala  
 Translated by William Savinar



**The Mexican Transpacific**  
*Nikkei Writing, Visual Arts, and Performance*  
 Ignacio López-Calvo  
 Foreword by Emma Nakatani



**Robo Sacer**  
*Necroliberalism and Cyborg Resistance in Mexican and Chicana Dystopias*  
 David S. Dalton



**Unlawful Violence**  
*Mexican Law and Cultural Production*  
 Rebecca Janzen

## Faculty News

**Elvira Aballí Morell** (NEH Collaborative Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow in Spanish and Portuguese) received the Postdoctoral Service Award from Vanderbilt's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. The award recognizes a postdoctoral scholar who has demonstrated sustained service to Vanderbilt through service to the community at large. Aballí Morell also received Recognition for High Promise in Intellectual Endeavors and Commitment to Excellence and, with William Luis, was awarded \$5000 in funding from Vanderbilt's Rapid-Advance Micro Grant Program (RAMP).

**Mario Avila** (Management) joined the Owen School of Management as Assistant Professor of Practice. He will continue in his role as the Director of the Turner Family Center for Social Ventures for the next two years.

**Jose Benavides** (Art) was awarded a curatorial residency at Stove Works in Chattanooga to curate **Éramos Semillas**. The group exhibition opened in July and featured 15 Latinx, Caribbean and Latin American artists working in video of various racial and ethnic backgrounds opened in July. Students in Benavides' course "Digital Animation 1" **collaborated on a final project with the Blair School of Music**, culminating in a joint performance with the Vanderbilt Percussion Group in Fall 2022 with Assistant Professor and Director of Percussion Program, Ji Hye Jung. Benavides was awarded a **Curb Center Creative Catalyst grant** for an exhibition held in the Vanderbilt Art Department in Fall 2022, in collaboration with Andrew W. Mellon Assistant Professor of Digital Design, Qais Assali, and an **Ignite Grant** for his ongoing project investigating

the Amigas Latinas archives. Benavides also led a program at Harry S. Truman College, City Colleges of Chicago, around an ongoing research project, **Anisinabe Waki-Aztlán** with the support of an Innovation Grant.

**Lori Catanzaro** (Spanish and Portuguese) received a Chancellor's Sesquicentennial Grant to create a digital timeline chronicling "The History and Legacy of Study Abroad at Vanderbilt." Catanzaro also received an Arts and Science summer grant for new course development in the Spanish Minor for the Professions and will offer "Mercado de Maravillas: The Business of Foods of Spain and Hispanoamérica on the Global Marketplace" in Spring 2024. She was named a Dean's Distinguished Teaching Fellow 2023-2024.

CLACX Affiliated Faculty **Rhonda Collier** (Tuskegee University) received the 2023 Governor's Trade Excellence Award for her work as the Director Tuskegee University's Global Office. Collier was lauded by Governor Kay Ivey for the international initiatives she has developed for Tuskegee students.

**Markus Eberl** (Anthropology) received funding from National Geographic for a new project, "Guatemala's First Petrified Forest: Dead trees and the stories they tell." The two-year project is a collaboration of Guatemalan and other archaeologists, paleobotanists, geologists, educators, and storytellers to study El Salitre, the first known petrified forest in the country. Discovered in 2019 by Eberl's collaborator, local schoolteacher Oswaldo López, this ancient forest is located in Central America's dry corridor on the border between Guatemala and El Salvador.

Frozen in time and space, it offers new opportunities to visualize the past, present, and future of the region and to promote sustainable development through geoeducation and geoconservation. The project will be the baseline survey for the diversity of living species and fossil trees, preserving knowledge of the past while also promoting preservation and sustainable local development in the future.

**Earl Fitz** (Spanish and Portuguese) has a new book, *The Literatures of Spanish America and Brazil: From their Origins through the Nineteenth Century*, from the University of Virginia Press New World Studies Series (2023). By request, Fitz also published essays, interviews, and book chapters in several Brazilian publications, including *Revista Jangada*; *Glauks*; *Machado em Linha*; *Ilha do Desterro*; *Revista Brasileira de Literatura Comparada*; *Estudos linguísticos e literários em múltiplas perspectivas*; and *Brasil/Brazil*. He has additional book chapters forthcoming from *Hucitec Editora* and *Makunaimi Digital*.

**Gilbert Gonzales** (Medicine, Health & Society and Public Policy Studies) was awarded the Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Social Sciences. He published a study on health care disparities among Spanish-speaking sexual minorities in the US. "Barriers to Care by Sexual Orientation and Survey Language in the USA" is available online at the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*: [doi.org/10.1007/s11606-022-07990-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-022-07990-8)

**Carolyn Heinrich** (Leadership, Policy, and Organizations) was



awarded a \$3.26 million dollar grant from the National Institute of Mental Health described here: [news.vanderbilt.edu/2023/05/11/vanderbilt-researchers-awarded-3-2m-nih-grant-for-study-on-child-mental-health](https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2023/05/11/vanderbilt-researchers-awarded-3-2m-nih-grant-for-study-on-child-mental-health). Heinrich was the lead author on several articles published in 2022-23, including: Heinrich, C.J., Hernández, M., & Shero, M. (2023). Repercussions of a Raid: Health and Education Outcomes of Children Entangled in Immigration Enforcement. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 42(2): 350-392. [doi.org/10.1002/pam.22443](https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22443).

**David J. Hess** (Sociology) continues his series of projects on communities, conflict, and energy infrastructure with a comparative analysis of opposition to pipelines in Latin America and Africa. The project hires students to develop case studies and seeks to develop a better understanding of the pathways to outcomes deemed desirable by opposition coalitions. The study builds on a comparative analysis of opposition to US pipelines, published this year in *Energy Research and Social Science* (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102914>).

**Peter R. Martin** (Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences) published the *Historical Vocabulary of Addiction* (2022); INHN Publisher.

**Carolina Palacios** (Spanish and Portuguese) was named Dean's Distinguished Teaching Fellow for 2023-2024. She also received several grants: Immersion Mini-Grant (IMG) awarded by the College of Arts and Science for \$3000 (2022), National Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (NFMLTA)

Conference Travel Support Grant for \$1000 (2022), and a Professional Expenses Grant of \$265 awarded by The College of Arts and Science (2023).

**Tiffany Patterson** (African American and Diaspora Studies) received the Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Humanities.

**Vesna Pavlović** (Art) recently opened a collaborative exhibition, *Woven Wind*, at Hiram Van Gordon Gallery at Tennessee State University. The multi-layered research project draws from artistic translations of the Lovell-Quitman archive at the University of the South. Artists in archival research, fieldwork, and genealogical findings hope to amplify the silenced voices of the enslaved preserved in the archive. The exhibition is supported by Pavlović's limited submission opportunity Tennessee Arts Commission Arts Access Grant.

**Matt Plishka** (NEH Collaborative Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow in CLACX) received an Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowship from The British Library.

**Norbert Ross** (Anthropology) published *A World of Many: Ontology and Child Development among the Maya of Southern Mexico* (2023) from the Rutgers University Press series on Childhood Studies. In 2022, he also published "The Intersection of Violence and Early COVID-19 Policies in El Salvador." (*American Anthropologist*. 124(3):617-621. [doi.org/10.1111/aman.13756](https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13756).) Ross was invited to present at the inaugural lecture, "Abusos y costumbres: Apuntes sobre marginalización, género y violencia

en Centro America" in July at the Foro Estudiantil Latinoamericano de Antropología y Arqueología in Puebla, Mexico. He also presented "Personajes, guiones y teatro espontáneo en contextos de violencia" at the VIII Foro Latinoamericano de Teatro Espontáneo in Medellín, Colombia in August 2022.

**Michelle E. Young** (Anthropology) published her recent first-authored article, "Just scratching the surface: Post-fire engravings as semasiographic writing in the ancient Andes" in June 2023 in the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*. Her 2022 publications include "Barreras y oportunidades de una identidad interseccional en la práctica de la arqueología en el Perú." In *Mujeres del pasado y del presente: una visión desde la arqueología peruana*, edited by Tavera, C. and Santana Quispe, L. and published by the Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru. She co-authored two publications: 1) Bongers, J.L., Muros, V., O'Shea, C., Gómez Mejía, J., Cooke, C.A., Young, M.E., & Barnard, H. (2023). "Painting personhood: red pigment practices in southern Peru." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, 69 (101480):1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaa.2022.101480>; 2) Weber, S.L. & Young, M.E. (2023). Eating local, drinking imported: Chicha recipes, emulative desire, and identity formation at Atalla, Huancavelica, Peru. In MP Alfonso-Durruty and DE Blom (Eds.), *Food, Diet, and Cuisine in the Ancient Andes* (68-88). University of Arizona Press. (Invited contribution as awardees of the Society for American Archaeology Amerind prize.)

## CLACX Faculty Curriculum Development Grants

*The following faculty received curriculum development grants from CLACX to develop new courses or enhance current courses. The grants are funded through our National Resource Center award from the US Department of Education.*

**Ana Regina Andrade** (Economics) for ECON 7930 that provided 12 students with practical field experience in economic development Argentina in Spring 2023.

**Carlos Grijalva** (VUSM) and **Marie Martin** (VIGH) to develop research collaborations and student exchanges with the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia and the Instituto Internacional de Nutrición in Lima in 2022.

**Chalene Helmuth** (Spanish and Portuguese) to travel to Costa Rica to formalize the partnership between the Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED) and Vanderbilt Center for Languages, which is directed by Helmuth, with the goal of establishing a virtual language exchange between UNED and Vanderbilt students.

**Maria Luisa Jorge** (Biology and Earth and Environmental Sciences) to prepare for a Maymester course in Brazil to be offered in 2024.

**Jane Landers** (History) to travel to Santa Cruz de Mompox, Colombia to conduct archival research for digitization and inclusion in the Slave Societies Digital Archive.

**Benjamin Legg** (Spanish and Portuguese) to travel to São Paulo in July 2023 to acquire materials for PORT 2205, (Portuguese and Global Health Literatures) and PORT 2995 (Literatures and Cultures of Lusophone Africa). While in Brazil, he will consult with experts on the history of public

health in São Paulo at the Instituto Butantan, visit the Casa de Angola cultural centers in São Paulo and Salvador. He will also conduct research in Salvador on African influences in Brazilian popular culture, with a particular focus on contemporary trends in culinary arts as well as then symbolic role of Angola in the performing arts.

**Anna Marra** (Italian) to travel to Venice to attend the Cinemo Ritovato on Tour and bring three films focused on Latin America to campus. The films will be screened in collaboration with the Vanderbilt Center for Languages in the 2023-2024 year.

**Abelardo Moncayo** (Medicine) to visit the Center for Research on Health in Latin America (CISeal) in Ecuador in July 2023. He will work with CISeal faculty to develop a comprehensive global health module to incorporate into his MHS 3010 course in Spring 2024. It will cover topics such as indigenous health practices, tropical disease, healthcare infrastructure and public health challenges specific to Ecuador.

**Cynthia Paschal** (Biomedical Engineering) for BME 3890 that took 12 students to Guatemala in Spring 2023 providing undergraduates with hands-on experience in repairing medical machinery in low resource contexts

**Norbert Ross** (Anthropology) to conduct research along the US/ Mexico border from San Diego to the Gulf Coast (July 2022) and along the Chilean/Bolivian border for a new course, "Borders and Territories," he plans to teach in Spring 2024.

**Gilman Whiting** (African American and Diaspora Studies): to take ten undergraduate students in the Vanderbilt University Capoeira Immersion Program to Salvador, Bahia during Spring Break. Students experienced the sound, color, cuisine, language, dance, capoeira, and culture of the region and stayed with local families. Several of the students met their Vanderbilt Immersion requirements through the trip, and a few returned to campus with plans to study Portuguese.

### BEST WISHES TO OUR COLLEAGUES WHO ARE LEAVING VANDERBILT:

**Sara Kozameh** (CLACX) will start as Assistant Professor of Latin American and Latinx History at the University of California San Diego in Fall 2023.

**Karla McKanders** (Law) will lead the Thurgood Marshall Institute with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

**Spring Miller** (Law) has taken a position as Legal Director at the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition.

**Carlos Nugent** (English) will begin as Assistant Professor in English and Comparative Literature and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University in Fall 2023.



## FACULTY PROFILE:

# Felipe Barrera-Osorio

**F**elipe Barrera-Osorio is Associate Professor of Public Policy, Education and Economics in the department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations (LPO) in Vanderbilt's Peabody College. Barrera-Osorio's research focuses on the intersection of economics and education, and particularly how education policies and incentives impact children in primary and secondary schools in Latin America, including how to improve interventions.



research on the impact of educational programs in various countries around the world.

His most recent project examines public-private partnership schools in Bogotá, which are similar to charter schools in the United States that strive to improve the quality of education for students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Barrera-Osorio and Andrew Dustan, Assistant Professor of Economics, received National Science

He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on research design, data analysis, and educational policies in lower income and lower middle income countries.

**[Barrera-Osorio's] most recent project examines public-private partnership schools in Bogotá, which are similar to charter schools in the United States.**

Foundation grant funding to carry out this research in 2022-2023.

Since his arrival at Vanderbilt, Barrera-Osorio been an active participant

Originally from Bogotá, Barrera-Osorio studied economics at the Universidad de los Andes, where he earned a BA and MA, before completing a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2003. He came to Vanderbilt from Harvard in 2020, where he had been an Associate Professor of Education and Economics.

After completing his graduate studies, Barrera-Osorio served as deputy director of the non-profit research institute Fundación para la Educación Superior y el Desarrollo (Fedesarrollo) in Bogotá. Following that, he was Senior Economist for the World Bank's Human Development Network on Education from 2006 to 2011 where he applied his

research on the impact of educational programs in various countries around the world. In 2021, he collaborated with CLACX to host Juan Carlos Pinzon, the Ambassador of Colombia to the United States. Barrera-Osorio leads the Impact Evaluation Network of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association, and he organized its annual meeting at Vanderbilt in April 2023 (see page 16). Barrera-Osorio commented on the importance of the conference and the collaboration with CLACX: "The IEN meeting brought together researchers from the USA and Latin America at the frontier of knowledge of public policy evaluation. The help of CLACX and the active participation of several of its members was critical for the realization of the event."

## CLACX Congratulates our 2023 Graduates!



**Estelle Shaya** was awarded the Founder's Medalist for the College of Arts and Science for 2023. The Founder's Medal is awarded to the student with first honors from each of the university's 10 schools and colleges. Shaya graduated in May with majors in Latin American Studies and Earth and Environmental Sciences. Her Honors Thesis, "Rewriting Massacre: Rhetoric of the Santa Cruz Civic Committee on the 2019 Post-Election Violence in Bolivia" was awarded Highest Honors and was supervised by **Gretchen Selcke**. Shaya's volunteer work with the Andean Information Network, a human rights group in Bolivia, helped inform her thesis. Shaya was awarded a Simon Collier Travel Grant through CLACX to travel to Bolivia in Summer 2022. While there, she helped advocate for victims of the 2019 post-election violence in the region by translating the Independent Interdisciplinary Group Report on this violence and reports from the Andean Information Network on torture. Her translations helped the nonprofit group spread information and combat misinformation. During her undergraduate studies, Shaya was editor-in-chief of Vanderbilt's satirical magazine *The Slant* and a member of the College Scholars Council and the Vanderbilt Association for Women Geoscientists. Following graduation, Shaya will conduct archival research on the history of CLACX as part of a Sesquicentennial Grant project (see pg. 4). In March, she will begin a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Brazil. Shaya's five-year plans include attending law school to advance her goal of advocating for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

**Kaira Brown** graduated with a major in Latino and Latina Studies and Human and Organizational Development. Her Honors Thesis, "Education and the American Dream in Latina Testimonial Literature, and supervised by **Gretchen Selcke**, was Awarded Highest Honors.

Brown was one of seven Vanderbilt student-athletes from the cross-country and track and field programs to receive academic all-district honors in 2023 and was a 2023 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar of the Year finalist. Brown earned a bronze medal in the 4x400-meter relay (3:33.23) at the SEC Championships and second-team All-SEC honors. She will attend graduate school at Georgetown University's McCourt School to pursue an MA in Public Policy.

**Alexander Fernández-Guckes** graduated with a major in Latin American Studies and plans to apply to law school.

**Michael Gallego** graduated with a major in Political Science and a minor in Latin American Studies.

**Katelyn González** graduated with a major in Medicine, Health, and Society and a minor in Latin American Studies. She will attend Columbia University's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program in New York City and plans to become a Physical Therapist working with Spanish-speaking athletes.

**Migdalia Hernández** graduated with a major in Latin American Studies.





## GRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS



**Madison Crow** and **Roxana Paola Torres García** graduated with a MA's in LAS in May 2023. Crow's thesis was titled "*En los Estados, tienen que hablar español: A Study of Indigenous Language Speaking Youth Experiences of Latinization and Resiliency in a US Public School System*," and supervised by **Avery Dickins de Girón**. This summer, Crow is the Assistant Director at the Mayan Language Institute in Guatemala. In August, Crow will take a position in Metro Nashville Public Schools as an Immigrant Youth Transition Specialist for the Office of English Learners. Torres García's thesis was titled "Contextualización histórica clásica maya y presente de la comunidad La Linterna, Alta



Verapaz: modelos económicos y sus implicaciones en la región," and was supervised by **Jacob Sauer**. Torres García is continuing her fieldwork in Guatemala.

CLACX Awarded Graduate Certificates in Latin American Studies to **Taylor Carty** (Public Health), **Alexander Korsunsky** (Anthropology), **Sofia Ludwig** (International Education Policy and Management and Public Health) in 2022-2023. Keysha Martínez Torres (Hearing and Speech Sciences) and Jess Silfa (English) earned Graduate Certificates in Latino and Latina Studies.



## "RAÍCES Y SUEÑOS" RECOGNIZES 2023 LATINX GRADUATES

The Latinx Graduates Recognition Ceremony, "Raíces y Sueños," celebrated the achievements of graduating Latinx students on May 11. The ceremony serves as a space for students to pay homenaje to family, friends, faculty, staff, and administrators who have supported their academic journeys at Vanderbilt. Graduates were celebrated with food, music, graduation stoles, guest speakers, student awards, and photo opportunities.

"Raíces y Sueños" was hosted by the Student Center for Social Justice and Identity. CLACX Assistant Director **Gretchen Selcke** provided opening remarks and welcomed keynote speaker **Martha Silva** from Nashville nonprofit Conexión Américas.



Thank you to **Vanessa Schor Guerrero** for serving as our Communications Coordinator in Spring 2023. Vanessa is a double major in Latino and Latina Studies and Child Studies, class of 2025.

# Student News



With Vanderbilt's Student Center for Social Justice and Identity (SCSJI) and Immersion Vanderbilt, CLACX celebrated undergraduate student **Pedro Rosales-Diaz** (left) for the release of his book of poems, *Dreams Through*

*Shadow and Light*. Students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Multicultural Community Center for a book signing and discussion with the author. About the book: "Through dreams and reliving his dreams, Pedro travels back in time to reminisce life through Memory Lane. Throughout his memoir, he expresses his voice from the shadows of his past, the glow of his present and the light for his future. This collection shares a story that breaks barriers, recognizes hardships and reflects on how one's identity can change to become the best person they can be. This collection will focus on the author's ties to his LatinX Identity, spectrums of being queer and mental health, all during his biggest years of his life."

**Karen de Melo**, PhD candidate in Spanish and Portuguese, organized Afrofuturism Week (Semana de Afrofuturismo) in early April. The event series featured: a panel on Brazilian Afrofuturism with authors Sandra Menezes and Waldon Souza, a movie screening of John Akomfrah's documentary *The Last Angel of History* (1996) accompanied by pizza and guarana, a conversation with local afrofuturist designer Xavier Payne who discussed his most recent



work, "Past, Present, and Afrofuturism," and a workshop on Afrofuturism and collage. De Melo has conducted research on Afrofuturism in São Paulo and her dissertation project examines the ways in which Brazilian Afrofuturism resonates with and diverges from North American Afrofuturism.



MA student **Madison Crow** (above) presented research she conducted as an undergraduate at the Conference on Revitalization of Indigenous and Minoritized Languages in Girona, Spain in September 2022. Her presentation was titled, "From Awareness Raising to Promotion: Engaged Research for the Promotion of Immigrant Indigenous Languages in the US Southeast."



CLACX Students Participated in Graduate Research Day



# Student Organizations

CLACX partners with a wide diversity of student organizations on campus to bring visiting speakers, support events, and develop networks on and off campus. Take some time to check them out!



**Latin American and Caribbean Student Organization (LACS)** brings together students from the geographical and historical areas of Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean Islands, and South America, as well as those who are interested or passionate about the region. The pluralistic and inclusive organization seeks to build community and cultural awareness among Vanderbilt graduate students and



Nashville at large.

**GuateLab (IximLab)** is a students' initiative to discuss social problems that have implications in Guatemala (Iximulew). The group meets on Fridays to discuss, propose, critique, and offer solutions to social problems such as access to education, inequalities, racism, violence, hunger, health issues, and migration. GuateLab respects and welcomes diverse points of view. It is open to Guatemalan students across the university, as well as any student interested in Guatemala and speakers of English, Spanish, and/

or Mayan languages. Throughout the year, the group hosts GuateSeminar, which allows students to engage in discussion with invited speakers. This year, speakers included Gemma Givens, founder of Next Generation Guatemala, a nonprofit organization connecting Guatemalan adoptees around the world; Guatemalan photojournalist William Gularte; Dennis Caffrey, a medical interpreter at Siloam Health; and historian Sarah Foss who presented her new book, *On Our Own Terms: Development and Indigeneity in Cold War Guatemala*.

The **Latinx Seminarians** hosted a virtual talk, "Healing Memorias Panel," featuring A. Tito Mitjans Alayón, Librada González Fernández, and Marley Pulido. The speakers represented intersections of academia, archival work, and community engagement in ways that center Queer, Trans, and Black Latinx ways of being and knowing.

**Alpha Psi Lambda**, the nation's first co-ed Latinx fraternity, founded its Vanderbilt chapter in 2022. The goal of the fraternity is to help connect members across campus and promote continued personal and collective growth of fraternity members, community service, and success and unity through education, leadership, and cultural awareness. The fraternity hosted their signature event, La Fiesta, in April, featuring loteria, a piñata, and food.

**Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Vanderbilt (BFMV)** recruited 13 new members to their dance troupe this year. They performed at the InVUsion on April 15 in the Student Life Center Ballroom and at the VPAC Fest on April 16 at Sarratt Cinema. Both performances featured "El Coyote" from Sinaloa and included their full dance troupe. BFMV also gave two smaller performances of a duo dancing "Jarabe Tapatio;" the first took place as part of "Feast Fest" on March 31 on Wilson Lawn, and the second as part of "Tap That" on April 11 at the Rothschild Theater.

Other student organizations CLACX collaborates with include Association of Latin American Students (ALAS), Indigenous Scholars Organization (ISO), Peabody Latinx Alumni and Student Association (PLASA), Mexican American Student Association (MSA), and Caribbean Students Association (CSA).

Although we were sad to bid farewell to our outstanding Outreach Coordinator (2017-2022), CLACX congratulates **Colleen McCoy** (MEd, 2017) on her new position as Communications Manager for the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education at Vanderbilt University.

# CLACX Awards Over \$90,000 to 14 Students for Research and Language Study in Summer 2023

**T**hirteen students received CLACX funding to study languages or conduct research in Latin America during Summer 2023. CLACX awarded Graduate Research Awards with funding from Vanderbilt's College of Arts and Science to support three graduate students to carry out fieldwork in Latin America.

- **Sofia Berrospi** seeks to understand how experiences of violence impact understandings of political participation with her project, "Why People Participate in Politics? Legacies of Conflict and the Meaning of Political Participation." Specifically, she will conduct research to determine whether variances in citizen experiences of indiscriminate violence, both at the hands of insurgent groups and the state during Peru's internal conflict, influence the meaning of political participation across individuals in Peru.
- **Sofia Rivera Sojo** will analyze how elected members of Chile's Constitutional Convention framed their work and proposals within particular constructions of Chile's security context. She hopes to determine how specific parties and representatives from across the political spectrum treat issues, such as crime and security, differently.

- **Martín Gou** will examine how participating in the organization of an election affects citizens' beliefs about their democratic system. His project, "Learning by Doing: The Effects of Participating in the Organization of an Election on Electoral Integrity" will investigate how the experience of being a poll officer influences people's perceptions about democracy and trust in electoral results and institutions in Mexico.

**SIMON COLLIER TRAVEL GRANTS** supported two students to conduct research in 2023. **Julia Tilton** (Spanish and Earth and Environmental Sciences major) will travel to Campeche to collaborate with the nonprofit organization Ninth Wave Global. Her project involves conducting in-situ environmental journalism to learn ethical storytelling techniques while learning from communities in Mexico's Yucatán region. **Faith Viers** (Latin American Studies and Music major) will travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to study Brazilian music and its colonial and imperial influences on Brazilian culture, as understood through the varied forms of her primary instrument, the harp.



## SUMMER FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS

Vanderbilt students **Eli Apple** (majoring in Spanish, Portuguese, and English), **Justin Jones** (doctoral student in History), **Michael Peck** (majoring in Spanish and Human and Organization Development), and **Alexander Renkis** (majoring in Spanish and Human and Organization Development) received summer FLAS funding to study Portuguese through the Summer in Brazil program in São Paulo hosted by CLACX and Tulane. MPH candidate **Tevin Mathew** was awarded funding to study K'iche' Mayan through the Mayan Language Institute in Guatemala and doctoral student in Anthropology **Alexandra Reichert** received FLAS funding to study Ecuadorian Kichwa through the Andes and Amazon Field School.

CLACX also awarded FLAS funding to three students at other universities: **Michelle Alas Molina** (majoring in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and International Public Affairs at Brown University) and **Megan Skelton** (majoring in Psychology with a minor in Global and Cultural Perspectives at the University of Alabama) will study Portuguese through the Summer in Brazil program. **Sydney Humphrey** (MA student in Spanish Linguistics at the University of Alabama) will study K'iche' through the Mayan Language Institute.

## ACADEMIC YEAR FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS

**Madison Crow** and **Justin Jones** received tuition and stipend support through FLAS fellowships for the 2022-23 academic year for the study of K'iche' Mayan and Portuguese, respectively. Congratulations to **Justin Jones** and **Tevin Mathew** for receiving FLAS fellowships for the upcoming academic year.

## Summer Funding Opportunities through CLACX

CLACX offers several sources of funding for summer language study or research: Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships, Graduate Summer Research Awards, and Simon Collier Travel Awards. CLACX issues a call for summer awards applications each December and announces award recipients by March. For more information on CLACX funding opportunities, visit [as.vanderbilt.edu/clacx/aid-and-awards](https://as.vanderbilt.edu/clacx/aid-and-awards).

### Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

**(FLAS):** CLACX receives funding from the US Department of Education to support summer FLAS awards for intensive studies of Portuguese or indigenous Latin American languages. Fellowships provide up to \$5000 for tuition expenses and a stipend of \$2500. Any graduate or undergraduate student who is a US citizen or permanent US resident with interest in these languages is eligible to apply.

### Graduate Student Summer Research Awards:

Awards support graduate students conducting pre-dissertation or master's thesis research in Latin America. Awards are for approximately \$2500 each and are intended to support travel expenses related to summer research.

**Simon Collier Travel Award:** A historian of Chile with an expertise in Argentine tango, Simon Collier was director of Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies and Chair of the Department of History. Simon Collier Travel Awards preferentially fund research in Chile and Argentina but may also be used elsewhere in Latin America. These awards are available to both graduate and undergraduate students.



# Mayan Language Institute

Administered by Tulane University and Vanderbilt University, the Mayan Language Institute took place in Guatemala from June 17–July 29. The program gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves in an intensive study for K’iche’ Mayan or Kaqchikel Mayan.

Malcolm Miguel Botto directed the K’iche’ program for the Mayan Language Institute, which ran from June 17 to July 29. Malcolm Miguel Botto, who teaches K’iche’ at Brigham Young University, directed the 2023 program. Manuela Tahay, who provides weekly conversational practice for Vanderbilt students studying K’iche’ on campus during the academic year, served as the program’s in-country lead and coordinated the team of K’iche’ instructors from Nahualá. Ten students studied K’iche’ this summer, including Vanderbilt MPH student **Tevin Mathew**. Recent LAS graduate **Madison Crow** was the Assistant Director of the program, and helped Botto and Tahay ensure that classes, programming, and logistics ran smoothly.

During the 6-week course, students lived with local families, heard from experts advocating for K’iche’ Maya Peoples in a variety of sectors, and had the opportunity to take educational excursions

to nearby K’iche’ speaking communities. One of the highlights of this year’s program was attending the Guatemala Scholars Network conference in Antigua (see 47). This is the second year the program has taken place in Quetzaltenango. The K’iche’ name for Quetzaltenango is Xe Laju’ Noj (or Xela) which means “Below the Ten Spiritual Guides, or Mountains,” and is home to both K’iche’ and Mam Mayan speakers. This is also the second year that the K’iche’ program has partnered with DESGUA (Desarrollo Sostenible para Guatemala), an organization dedicated to creating educational and job opportunities for Guatemalans. Classes took place at the café and cultural center, La Red, run by DESGUA.

Thanks to Hannah Palmer at Tulane University for overseeing all aspects of the program, and to La Red staff members **Willy Barreno**, **Rosita Rabanales**, **Mildreth Barrios**, and **Ramona Guzmán**, President of DESGUA. Thanks also to **Ambrocía “Ixnal” Cuma Chávez** for organizing all in-country planning and administration.

The Kaqchikel program hosted seven students this year in Ciudad Vieja, outside of Antigua. Once again, **Judie Maxwell** directed the program with the assistance of Ambrocía “Ixnal” Cuma Chávez.



# Guatemala Scholars Network Conference



The seventh biannual conference of the Guatemala Scholars Network (GSN) took place in Antigua, July 6-8. The conference was attended by over 150 academics and independent researchers from Guatemala, Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Due to COVID-19 imposed travel restrictions, this was the first time the conference had been held in person since 2019, and members were thrilled to interact face to face over the course of the two-and-a-half day conference.

The conference took place in the newly renovated Centro Cultural Real Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, located right off of Antigua's Parque Central. Sessions included panel discussions, documentary film excerpts, workshops, and presentations on historical memory, politics, health and impacts of COVID, and relations between indigenous communities and the state. Highlights of the conference included a reception on Thursday evening hosted by Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamerica (CIRMA) in partnership with the Maya Educational Foundation and the GSN. The reception included a memorial honoring GSN colleagues who recently passed away and were leaders in their fields: Nora England, Susanne Jonas, Diane Nelson, Carol Smith, Manual Tahay, Steve Webre, and Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr. The following evening, the Mayan Language Institute hosted a reception with the GSN featuring tostadas and chuchitos. **Manuela Tahay** and **Judie Maxwell** spoke about the long history of the Kaqchikel and K'iche' programs, which have enrolled scores of students from the United States and Guatemala over the last three decades.

Students attending the 2023 Mayan Language Institute (MLI) attended the conference and had the opportunity to engage with scholars from North America and Guatemala. The conference also provided the opportunity for organizers of the MLI, including **Judie Maxwell**, **Ambrocia "Ixnal" Cuma Chávez**, **Manuela Tahay**, **Pascual Tahay**, **Valerie McGinley** and **Avery**



**Dickins de Girón** to meet to discuss reorganization and future directions of the MLI.

The Guatemala Scholars Network conference was organized by board members **Sandra Herrera Ruiz** (Universidad de San Carlos), **Miguel Cuj** (Vanderbilt University), **Tiffany Miller** (Colby University), **Lisa Maya Knauer** (University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth), **Aracely Martinez** (Universidad del Valle), **Meghan Webb** (Albion University), **Lourdes Gallardo** (Universidad de San Carlos), and **Avery Dickins de Girón** who has chaired the GSN board since 2012. Special thanks to **Alma Paz-Sanmiguel** for managing the GSN listserv, running registration, and assisting with the conference. The GSN brings together over 400 scholars from Guatemala, Mexico, North America, and Europe. The mission of the organization is to create linkages between scholars conducting research or leading educational programs in Guatemala and to elevate the voices of Guatemalan academics internationally.

# Vanderbilt Students Study Abroad in Latin America

Twenty-one Vanderbilt students studied abroad in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, and Colombia through semester or Maymester programs. Vanderbilt's Global Education Office administers the following programs, which were attended by students in the 2022-23 academic year:

- **SIT Argentina: People, Environment, and Climate Change in Patagonia (Fall 2022):** students spend a semester in the Ushuaia, the southern-most city in the world, where they learn scientific research methods to identify impacts of climate change on Patagonia and participate in a 10-day research trip to Antarctica.
- **SIT Mexico: Migration, Borders, and Transnational Communities (Spring 2023):** students learn what undocumented migrants go through on their journey to the US and the strategies used to enforce border control, as well as the effects it has on borderland, and transnational communities; students begin in Tucson, travel to Mexico City, and then to the program base in Oaxaca.
- **IHP: Cities in the 21st Century: People, Planning and Politics (Fall 2022):** through the prism of social justice, students examine how four global cities (New York, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, and Cape Town) work and operate within the global economy.
- **CASA Santiago (Fall 2022):** students are fully



immersed in Santiago, the political, cultural, and economic center of Chile, where they enroll in courses in top Chilean universities (Universidad de Chile, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and Universidad Diego Portales).

- **CET Colombia (Spring 2023):** students spend a semester in Cali studying race, identity, and ethnicity with an emphasis on Afro-Colombian culture.
- **CIEE Open Campus: Mérida, Monteverde (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023):** CIEE Open Campus allows students to design their own study abroad term by enrolling in up to three 6-week Open Campus Program Blocks.
- **ANTH 2114: Above and Below the Surface: The Caribbean Between Climate Change and Tourism:** this Maymester course takes students to the island of Utila in Honduras to learn about the ecological roles and endangerment of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, and related issues including tourism, colonialism and global warming.



## Summer in Brazil

Tulane University's Stone Center for Latin American Studies and CLACX collaborated again to host the "Summer in Brazil: Portuguese Language and Culture" program in São Paulo. The six-week intensive program is offered in partnership with CET Academic Programs. The program received a record number of applicants for 2023 and enrolled its maximum of 30 students from across the country.

Students in the program enroll in advanced or intermediate Portuguese language courses and PORT 6130 Contemporary Social Issues in Brazil. CET faculty, supervised by **Mariana Jansen** and **Giselda Pereira**, teach the courses and **Mariana Jansen**, **Vinicius Rodrigues**, and **Giselda Pereira** (Tulane University) directed the program. Vanderbilt's **Benjamin Legg** joined the program for two weeks, giving lectures and leading the students on cultural excursions in the city.



CLACX awarded FLAS fellowships to six students to attend the program: **Eli Apple**, **Justin Jones**, **Michael Peck**, **Alexander Renkis**, **Michelle Alas Molina** (Brown University) and **Megan Skelton** (University of Alabama). Students lived in housing in São Paulo's Perdizes neighborhood, with some students opting for homestays with local families and others sharing apartments with local Brazilian students.

**Hannah Palmer**, Assistant Director for Academic Projects and Programs in Tulane's Stone Center for Latin

American Studies, worked closely with **Hector Cruz-Feliciano**, Director of Latin American Programs at CET to organize the six-week program. **Súlia Folli**, Resident Director at CET Brazil organized Brazilian faculty, designed orientation, and hosted extracurricular events with help from Resident Director **Vanessa Miranda** and Resident Coordinator **Leandro Tardin**.

## Alumni News

**Sagen Eatwell** (MA LAS/MEd IEPM, 2020) is a Research Assistant 2 in Clinical and Translational Research at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

**Angelica Albaladejo** (MA LAS, 2014) was selected for Scripps Journalism Journey Initiative's inaugural class and will work at Scripps' ABC affiliate in Denver. She is an award-winning journalist who has previously reported on immigration and criminal justice for the nonprofit newsroom Capital & Main and has also served as an independent foreign correspondent in Latin America.

**Caleb Hayes** (MA LAS, 2017) is a research coordinator in the cardiovascular division at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

**Erin Straight** (MA in LAS, 2022) is pursuing an MA in Public Policy at the University of Chicago.

**Isaac Schlotterbeck**: (MPH/MA LAS, 2021) is Senior Analyst in Health Services Research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

**Genevieve Arnold** (MA LAS, 2022) is Curatorial Assistant at Vanderbilt University Libraries.

**Cory Weaver** (MA LAS, 2017) is Senior Director at KM Strategies group, an enterprise designed to enhance the social impact of organizations.

**Dan O'Maley** (PhD Anthropology, 2015) is Senior Digital Governance Specialist at the National Endowment for Democracy.

**Elizabeth Murphy** (MPH, 2012) is a Senior Healthcare Policy Analyst at the MITRE Corporation, where she implements and advocates for social programs in public health and justice reform.

CLACX hosted our annual Reunion Cocktail Reception in Buttrick Hall in October for members of the Vanderbilt Association of Hispanic and Latinx Alumni (VAHLA) and alumni of the Latin American Studies program. The event gave alumni the opportunity to reconnect with each other and to interact with current faculty, postdocs, staff, and students.



# Summer 2022 Educator Institute in Panama

**C**LACX collaborated with Tulane University's Stone Center for Latin American Studies to host a 10-day professional development institute for K-12 teachers in June 2022 in Panama, culminating a four-year series of summer institutes focused on "Central America: People and the Environment." Nineteen educators attended from 10 different US states: Illinois, Tennessee, Maine, New York, Georgia, California, Louisiana, Texas, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The cohort was selected from a competitive application process and represented a variety of grade levels and subject areas.

The program featured content from local faculty and scholars and included a variety of academic and

cultural activities to explore the historic connections between the US and Central America through the Panama Canal, as well as other local histories, cultures, and the ecological systems on which diverse Panamanian communities depend.

The educators were given a guided tour of the world-renowned Bio Museum, where they learned about Panama's unique impact on the world's biodiversity. Following the tour, the group visited two schools to engage with local teachers, students, and administrators, and participated in a teacher workshop with Fundación ProEd Panamá and Centro de Investigación Educativa de Panamá.

The program also featured presentations and

"I learned about so many aspects of Panama, and the books provided for the institute were incredibly helpful," said an educator participant. "I found the program's major themes of biodiversity, history, multiculturalism, and education very impactful for my learning."



site visits with local scholars, including **Marixa Lasso**, Executive Director of Panama’s Center for Historical, Anthropological and Cultural Research AIP, archaeologist **Tomás Mendizábal**, and Panama Canal engineer **Luis Ferreira**. While in Panama City, the educator group explored several locks of the Panama Canal, as well as the historic Panama Canal Zone, Casco Viejo, Patronato Panama Viejo, and the Causeway. The teachers also received a private tour of Panama’s presidential residence, a unique highlight of the program.

For the latter half of the trip, the group traveled to the Panamanian countryside to learn about indigenous tourism in Chagres National Park, the history and culture in Panama’s province, and the environmental, social, economic, and political intricacies of coffee farming.

The institute was developed and coordinated by **Colleen McCoy** (Vanderbilt) and **Denise Woltering-Vargas** (Tulane). Curriculum specialist **Brooke Grant** (Tulane) led participants in reflective discussions and curriculum development sessions throughout the program.

The 2022 summer institute was also supported by the University of Georgia’s Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute.



“This was one of the most well-organized institutes I have been to,” noted one participant in the post-program survey. “Top-notch speakers, everything ran smoothly, the group was cohesive, and the facilitators did a phenomenal job of educating us. I will be shouting praise for Vanderbilt and Tulane to all my colleagues.”

In December, CLACX and Tulane supported **April Tondelli** and **Brian Crouch**, two participants of the four-year institute series, to present at the **National Council for the Social Studies** conference in Philadelphia. The educators highlighted their newly developed curriculum inspired by the institute series, as well as best practices for classroom incorporation, in their session “Invigorate Your Teaching of Central America with New Interdisciplinary Connections to People and Environment.” Fifty-six people attended the session.

# CLACX Partners with Metro Nashville Public Schools on Professional Development for Educators

**M**ellon Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies **Hilario Lomelí** delivered the closing keynote for Metro Nashville Public Schools “Multilingual Learner Virtual Winter Forum” which took place virtually on Saturday, January 21. Attended by educators and administrators, the forum focused on student multilingual learners and their families. Panelists discussed the commitments that they, as MNPS educators and staff, make as key stakeholders in the educational experience of students and families. Lomelí’s presentation, “Rejecting Disposable Thinking in Education: Building Solidarities with Youth Living in Precarity” had a deep impact on participants and inspired many of them, as noted in the feedback below.

- *The closing keynote was undoubtedly the most moving (like a rallying call to action) and cohesive/coherent message from the day.*
- *Dr. Lomelí’s presentation was powerful in his description of at-risk youth and how structural inequities may need structural responses (labor organization).*
- *I would have to say Dr. Lomelí was very moving with his storytelling. It was a great way to engage the audience! It gives me the “why” we do what we do. It also assures that I continue to be brave in the work.*
- *I really enjoyed hearing from Dr. Hilario Lomeli. It was the perfect ending for the Winter Forum, for myself. There were topics I’ve wondered about as well as new insights that will help me further develop my teacher identity.*

- *The final keynote gave some great information. Our kids are not disposable, I hope that I never make a negative impact on a student that they carry into their adult life.*

In April, CLACX MA student **Madison Crow** presented her thesis research to MNPS teachers and leaders. Crow presented, ““En los Estados, tienen que hablar español”: A Study of Indigenous Language Speaking Youth Experiences of Latinization and Resiliency in a US Public School System” to teachers in the Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) program and to administrators in the Office of English Learners. Crow’s project examined the presence of indigenous language speaking students from Latin America in MNPS. Her research suggests that the SIFE program provides a unique space in MNPS that recognizes and affirms students’ indigenous identities, which are otherwise often hidden or erased in the school system.

Thanks to our partners in the Office of English Learners, **Megan Trkca** and **Molly Hegwood**, for spearheading our collaborations.



In October, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, CLACX Assistant Director **Gretchen Selcke** gave a presentation to the Nashville Predators staff, “Introduction to Latin America and Latinx Communities,” attended by 50.



## CLACX Educator Book Club

The CLACX Educator Book Club met monthly throughout the year to critically consider the depiction of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx cultures in children's literature, and discuss strategies for incorporating diverse books in the K-12 classroom. This year, eight educators representing a variety of disciplines and school districts in Middle Tennessee participated in the group.



The Educator Book Club was founded by **Colleen McCoy**, former CLACX Outreach Coordinator. **Lidiana de Moraes**, postdoctoral CHPP fellow at Vanderbilt, took over the book club in Spring 2023. Most meetings took place at the Sunflower Bakehouse, but the group also met for discussions at the Parthenon in Centennial Park and at Arrington Vineyards.

With guidance from McCoy and de Moraes, members of the club collectively choose the list of books to read. This year's books included:

*Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna* by Alda P. Dobbs

*Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario

*The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera

*Postcolonial Love Poem* by Natalie Diaz

*Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas

*Firekeepers Daughter* by Angeline Boulley

*The Door of No Return* by Kwame Alexander

*Dark and Deepest Red* by Anna-Marie McLemore

*High Spirits* by Camille Gomera-Tavarez

*Our Shadows Have Claws* by Amparo Ortiz and Yamile Saied Méndez

Luisa Mattos will lead the book club for 2023-2024.

## MELLON ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LATINX STUDIES HILARIO LOMELÍ PARTICIPATES IN TENNESSEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER'S "INSIDE OUT" SERIES

In February, Mellon Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies, **Hilario Lomelí**, took part in Tennessee Performing Arts Center's (TPAC) "Inside Out" program featuring Irma Herrera's show, *Why Would I Mispronounce My Own Name?* The one-woman show brings Herrera's personal stories to life, from growing up as a Mexican American girl in Texas to her career as a civil rights lawyer at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Herrera integrates historical lessons on US policies and international relations from the 19th century to the present day into the performance, while also making the audience laugh.



During the "Inside Out" performance, Herrera treated the audience to excerpts from her hour-long performance. Between acts she engaged in discussions with Lomelí, who shared his own stories about the mispronunciation of his name and his research on how children are racialized in the US educational system, and with **Jermaine Soto**, Director of Faculty Development in Academic Affairs at Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt has collaborated with TPAC for many years, and was a presenting partner and lead underwriter for TPAC's 2022-23 "Inside Out" programming. The series allows Nashvillians to engage in discussions with cast members and see lunchtime previews of upcoming shows.

# CLACX and ReadWorks Partner on New Initiative to Create Texts in Spanish

Since 2017, CLACX has partnered with ReadWorks, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to improving reading comprehension for K-12 students. ReadWorks hosts the largest library of curated nonfiction and literary articles in the United States and provides open access to content, curriculum, and training to educators and students. Since the establishment of the partnership between CLACX and ReadWorks, more than 210,244 unique teachers in 60,032 schools have used content produced by CLACX. Between January and April of 2023, 7735 teachers assigned CLACX content to over 102,200 students in school districts across the US.

In Spring 2023, CLACX worked with ReadWorks on their new initiative to improve reading comprehension among students in the most disadvantaged school districts across the country. Several of their target districts have a high percentage of English Language Learners, and for many of those ELL students, Spanish is their first language. ReadWorks reached out to CLACX for support to create original texts written in Spanish that would complement articles in their existing database. A series of meetings between **Manjula Raman**, ReadWorks Senior Director of Content and Curriculum, **Susanne Nobles**, ReadWorks Chief Academic Officer, **Nathalie Karimian**, ReadWorks Content and Curricular Supports Developer, **Paola Yuri**, ReadWorks Content Specialist, **Chalene Helmuth**, Associate Professor of the Practice and Director of the Vanderbilt Language Center, and **Avery Dickins de Girón**, led to a pilot project plan to include Vanderbilt students.

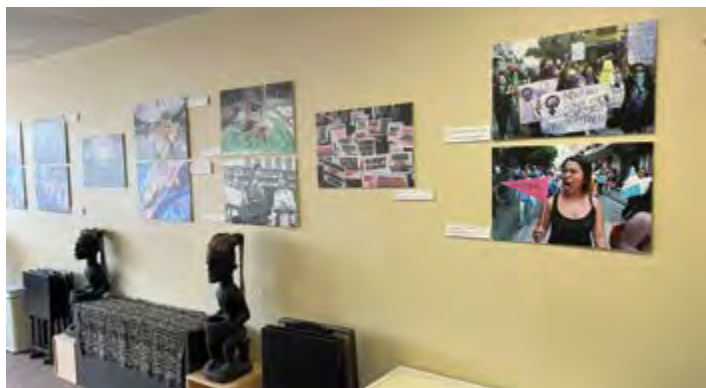
Students in Helmuth's course, SPAN 3891: "Special Topics in Hispanic Culture: Spanish Writing for Heritage Speakers." were intrigued by the project.



In preparation for writing new texts for ReadWorks, they familiarized themselves with the ReadWorks website, reviewed guidelines for content creation, and met with the ReadWorks team via Zoom. With Helmuth's guidance, each chose an article topic from a list of suggested themes appropriate for students at third to fifth grade reading levels. Helmuth reported that the project pushed the students to overcome challenges to writing in a different style, such as using appropriate vocabulary and simple sentence structures for younger readers.

Students in the course were **Danni Chacon**, **Valentina Álvarez**, **Catherine Morrison-Rodriguez**, **Carolina Alvarado**, **Ana Delgado**, **Max Paul**, and **Sebastian Vasquez**. Titles of their articles include, "La relación económica entre Cuba y los Estados Unidos," "Frida Kahlo," "El Programa Bracero," "Las abejas y polinización," and "La historia de Lionel Messi." In addition to the written content, students created audio recordings to go with each of the articles they wrote. The articles will be available on the ReadWorks website: [readworks.org](https://readworks.org)





## Photojournalist William Gularte Presents Exhibit on Women in Guatemala

In November, CLACX invited photojournalist William E. Gularte to Nashville to present his exhibit, *Luchas: Mujeres en Guatemala—Struggles: Women in Guatemala*. Based in France, Gularte grew up in Guatemala City and has worked as a photojournalist for more the 15 years for different local and international media. From the streets to the corridors of political life, his work documents daily life in Guatemala, shining light on injustices, corruption, environmental issues, and endangered cultural treasures. His photographs have been published by *Thompson Reuters*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Daily Telegraph*, *El Periódico*, *Diario de Centro América*, and *TIME LightBox*.



The photos in this exhibit document the difficult conditions faced by women in Guatemala on a daily basis, including historical, social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental challenges. Many of the photographs reveal the oppressive structural inequalities women in this country face, including visible and invisible acts of racism, classism, and sexism. The photographs were taken between 2010 and 2020 in Guatemala through Gularte's journalistic work.

The exhibit was on display in the Buttrick Hall Atrium from November 7–18 and then moved to the Global Education



## LUCHAS: MUJERES EN GUATEMALA

STRUGGLES:  
WOMEN IN GUATEMALA

William E. Gularte  
Guatemalan Photojournalist

- **NOVEMBER 7–18:** EXHIBIT IN BUTTRICK HALL ATRIUM
- **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17:** LUNCH TALK BY WILLIAM E. GULARTE IN GARLAND HALL 209 AT 12:10 PM
- **NOVEMBER 19 –DECEMBER 9:** EXHIBIT IN THE GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER; 4822 CHARLOTTE AVE
- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19:** PUBLIC TALK BY WILLIAM E. GULARTE IN THE GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER AT 4:30 PM



Center where it was on display through the month of December. While on campus, Gularte gave a lunch talk to Vanderbilt students and faculty and met with members of GuateLab over coffee for more in-depth discussion of his work in Guatemala. The following day, CLACX and the GEC hosted an opening reception and talk by Gularte in their Charlotte Avenue space. Ellen Gilbert, Director of the Global Education Center, described the exhibit as a “hit.”

After ten years of coordinating the Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature with the Tulane University Stone Center for Latin American Studies, CLACX transitioned management of the award to the University of Arizona's Center for Latin American Studies, which will oversee it with Tulane. CLACX will continue to support the award through the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs.

# CLACX and Global Education Center Partner to Bring Brazilian Music to Nashville

CLACX partnered with the Global Education Center (GEC) to bring artists **Quenia Ribeiro** and **Everton Isidoro** to Nashville in March. Isidoro is an internationally respected master percussionist and teacher with a specialty in rhythms from Northeastern Brazil. Born and raised in Salvador, he began studying percussion in 1999. He has worked for many years as a percussion teacher

and musician in various groups and organizations, including the Neojibá project, Espaço Cultural Pierre Verger, Orchestra Afro-Sinfônica, the Orchestra Soteropolifônica, and the percussion group Tom de Percussão. Hailing from Rio de Janeiro, Ribeiro is a dancer, choreographer and dance instructor who has earned an international reputation as an innovative leader in Afro Brazilian dance. Her repertoire ranges from street Samba of Rio de Janeiro to Afro-Brazilian Folkloric Dance and Orixá movements rooted in Candomblé, as well as classical ballet.

The two Brazilian artists, along with percussionists from the GEC, gave an interactive performance in the Calhoun Portico on Friday, March 23. Isidoro led a drumming session, which included a



capoeira demonstration from one of the GEC's local artists. Following that, Ribeiro demonstrated several dances, including Orixá and Samba. Throughout her performance, she called over students, faculty, and staff in the audience to participate in the dances. She ended with a brief Samba lesson for onlookers, who took part in a Carnival-style dance parade around the portico.

While in Nashville, the artists led several community workshops at the GEC, each focused on a different dance or musical style, including Samba, Afro Brazilian dance, Orixás, and Maculele/Samba/Caboclo. Isidoro also led percussion workshops on Roots of Samba and an Afro Brazilian drum workshop.



## CLACX Supports Spanish Language Translation for Frist Art Museum Exhibits in 2023

CLACX was the Spanish Translation Sponsor for two exhibits at the Frist during this academic year. *Jeffrey Gibson: The Body Electric* ran from February 2 to April 23 and featured recent paintings, sculptures, videos, installations, and a large mural created by Indigenous artist Jeffrey Gibson. *Storied Strings: Guitars in American Art* was on exhibit from May 26 to August 13, and showcased over one hundred works of art and dozens of exceptional instruments exploring the guitar's symbolism in American art from the early 19th century to the present day. The Frist began presenting exhibition labels, wall texts, and gallery guides

in Spanish in response to Nashville's growing Latinx population.

We will collaborate with the Frist on several programs for their upcoming exhibit, *Art and Imagination in Spanish America 1500–1800*, which opens October 20, 2023 and runs until January 28, 2024. In addition to supporting the translation of exhibit materials into Spanish, CLACX will work with the Frist on an educator workshop and will involve faculty and graduate students in programming such as gallery talks, community events, and interpretations of specific pieces.



## CHEEKWOOD'S ANNUAL EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS FESTIVAL

The annual El Día de los Muertos celebration at Cheekwood Estate and Gardens was held over two days, October 29 and 30. The festival is attended by over 3000 people and showcases traditional music and dance, Latin American cuisine from regional vendors, a marketplace, and interactive art activities for local K-12 school groups and the public.

CLACX, local school groups, and Nashville community organizations create altars for the festival for display in Botanic Hall. This year, **Alma Paz-Sanmiguel** and **Colleen McCoy** created a traditional altar with pan de muerto and ofrendas. During the festival, several Vanderbilt graduate students explained the significance of the altar to visitors, fielded questions, and shared related resources.

CLACX has partnered with Cheekwood to provide educational content for festival attendees, including a bilingual booklet on the history and customs of the holiday and co-hosting an educator workshop on Día de Muertos celebrations in Latin America; this year's workshop took place on September 30 and was attended by 17 educators. Outreach Coordinator Colleen McCoy has represented CLACX on the festival's advisory committee for six years.



# 2023 K-12 Summer Institute “Indigenous Peoples of the Americas: Environmental Justice”

Tulane University and CLACX collaborated to host the first of a 4-year series of summer institutes for K-12 educators, “Indigenous Peoples of the Americas: Environmental Justice.” Attended by 14 educators, the professional development program took place at Tulane University from July 11–16, and was organized by **Denise Woltering Vargas**, Senior Program Manager in Tulane’s Stone Center for Latin American Studies. **Luisa Mattos da Costa**, represented CLACX and assisted with the institute.

The series focuses on indigenous peoples’ relationship with the environment, and larger environmental issues regarding health, infrastructure, and land and water rights. The 2023 institute addressed climate change and deforestation, access



to water, impacts on health, and how indigenous communities from the Gulf South to Central America advocate for a sustainable environment. Sessions introduced participants to food, literature, primary sources, film and firsthand perspectives on these issues. The program prepared educators with evidence-based approaches, techniques, and instructional strategies to create supportive, learner-centered environments directed towards enhancing their teaching.

Participants were expected to be able to achieve the following objectives upon completion of the institute: articulate the five key indigenous demands (as established during the UN Climate Conference in New York 2014); apply concepts and resources learned from the institute to their classroom teaching; create lesson plans or toolkits for teaching these concepts; design course components (e.g., reading materials, learning activities, and assessments aligned with inclusive teaching principles); provide and integrate peer feedback into their own inclusive teaching practice on indigenous rights; reflect on their learning and create an action plan for ongoing growth and assessment.

Speakers included: **Max Alarcón**, who is Chiricahua Nde and first generation Mexican-American with a background in naturalism and ecology; **Elizabeth Swanson Andi**, a Napu Kichwa visual storyteller, environmental educator, and







community organizer from the Napo River in the Ecuadorian Amazon; multimedia artist **Ida Aronson**, a citizen of the United Houma Nation (UHN) of southeastern “Louisiana” and a member of the Houma Language Project, the Okla Hina Ikhish Holo gardening network, and a founding member of the Bvlbancha Collective and Bvlbancha Public Access; **Jorge Argueta**, a Pipil Nahua Indian from El Salvador, who is the 2023 Poet Laureate of San Mateo County and author of more than twenty children’s picture books; **William Balée**, a cultural anthropologist at Tulane with a long-term focus on the peoples, societies, and landscapes of the Amazon River region; **Andy Carter**, author of *Margarito’s Forest*; **Brittney Dayeh**, a former elementary social studies teacher and current High School Librarian at The Willow School who designed the lesson plans for the institute; **John DePriest**, a linguist, musician, educator, and songwriter based out of Bvlbancha and an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma actively working to preserve Choctaw language and music; **Jeanne Gillespie**, co-director of the Center for American Indian Research and Studies (CAIRS) at the University of Southern Mississippi; **William Gillispie**, a former high school social studies teacher at Willow Charter School where he taught World History, AP Psychology and AP Economics; **Juan Pablo Gómez**, the Latin American Library’s Research and Instruction Librarian at Tulane who holds a Ph.D. in Latin American Cultural and Literary Studies from The Ohio State University; **Diego**

**Matadamas Gomora**, PhD student in Archaeology whose research focuses on the socio-political organization of the Late Postclassic community in Tlalancaleca and its interactions with the major political entities of the Puebla-Tlaxcala Valley and the Aztec Empire; **Brooke Grant**, Senior Professor of Practice in the Teacher Preparation & Certification Program at Tulane University where she prepares new teachers for the PK-12 classroom; **Tammy Greer** (United Houma Nation) is faculty member in the School of Psychology and Director of the Southern Mississippi Center for American Indian Research and Studies and a member of the WECAN group Okla Hina |khish Holo, who are building gardens and food forests along historical Southeastern trade routes to address food insecurity; **Christine Hernández**, Curator of Special Collections at The Latin American Library at Tulane and holds a PhD Anthropology with a specialization in Mesoamerican archaeology; **Hannah Palmer**, who oversees summer abroad initiatives and academic-year programming at the Stone Center and the Cuban and Caribbean Studies Institute; **Sisa P. Tixicuro Duque**, who conducts research in indigenous entrepreneurship, digital technologies, tradition, and modernity through the lenses of community-engaged research in her home community of Otavalo in northern Ecuador and holds an MA in LAS from Tulane; and **April Tondelli**, who teaches social studies at Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center in Chicago, an ethnically and economically diverse public magnet school.

# Thank You to Our CLACX Evaluation Team

CLACX thanks our Evaluation team for provide assessment and ongoing feedback on our programs. **Xiu Cravens**, Associate Dean for International Students and Affairs, and Professor of the Practice in the Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations in Vanderbilt’s Peabody College of Education, has served as the center’s Evaluator for over a decade. Cravens works with CLACX Executive Director **Avery Dickins de Girón** to develop feasible and meaningful assessment protocols to measure the impact of CLACX programs on the university, the Nashville community, the Southeast region, and the nation. She also collaborates with the CLACX Program Coordinator to provide guidance and oversight for the CLACX Evaluation Intern, which is a graduate student in the International Education Policy and Management Program. This year, **Sofia Ludwig** served as our Evaluation Intern. New this year, CLACX began working with an External Evaluator, **Amanda Wolfe**, Assistant Dean of Global Programs at University of Arizona Law. Wolfe provides feedback on our Title VI grant projects. She made a site visit to Vanderbilt to meet with Cravens and CLACX staff in April to revise our assessment protocols for the 2022-2026 period.



## CELEBRATE NASHVILLE

CLACX Administrator **Alma Paz-Sanmiguel** organized the CLACX booth for Metro Nashville Parks’ “Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival” in Centennial Park in October. This year’s booth highlighted Guatemala and was hosted by students from GuateLab. Over 100 people stopped by to learn about the country.



Thank you to our fabulous CLACX Graduate Assistant **Sofia Ludwig**. Sofia has worked with CLACX for the past three years and has been an instrumental part of many of our projects. Starting the position remotely in Fall of 2020 as a dual degree student in Public Health (MPH) and International Education Policy and Management (MEd), she contributed to much of the behind-the-scenes work of CLACX. During the past two

years, she has also had a hand in many of our public programs. Her support has ranged from leading tours for the *Hostile Terrain* exhibit, providing edits for our 2022 Title VI proposals and annual *Year in Review*, assisting with the Latin American Garden, and contributing content for articles for ReadWorks. During the most recent academic year, 2022-23, Sofia served as the CLACX Evaluation Intern. Sofia graduated in May 2023 from both programs and also received a Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies.



# LAPOP Lab Announces Key Findings from its 2022 Surveys in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras on Emigration

In partnership with USAID, LAPOP Lab conducted national survey studies in the Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Findings include insights into migration dynamics in the Northern Triangle region, in particular a portrait of shifting intentions to emigrate, factors influencing those intentions, and the profiles of expected migrants. These were the lab's key takeaways:

- Emigration intentions decreased significantly in the Northern Triangle in 2022, although they remained highest in Honduras. A majority of individuals who expressed intentions to emigrate said they would immigrate to the United States. They also stated that it was somewhat or very likely that they would emigrate in the next three years. Guatemalans and Salvadorans who intended to emigrate had generally taken one step towards leaving, while Hondurans were more likely to have taken multiple steps.
- Compared to Salvadorans, a higher percentage of Guatemalans and Hondurans who intended to emigrate mentioned they would do so without proper documents or visas. This indicates potential challenges in terms of legal migration processes and documentation.
- While there are variations in demographic factors influencing emigration intentions, men and food insecurity were consistently associated with a higher likelihood of intending to emigrate across the Northern Triangle.



- In addition to examining intentions to emigrate, the study delves into migrant profiles using cluster analysis. Different migrant profiles were identified in each country, shedding light on the characteristics and motivations of specific migrant groups. For example, in Guatemala, young, single men exhibited higher intentions to emigrate compared to other groups, while in Honduras, the “family men” cluster (males with partners and children) and rural youth showed the highest intentions to emigrate.

## LAUNCH OF THE 2023 AMERICASBAROMETER

The LAPOP Lab launched the 2023 round of the AmericasBarometer in January. This will be the 10th round of the project and it will include 26 countries of the Americas. Data collection for the project returned to face-to-face interviews in most countries. The lab expects to complete data collection of the round in the late summer and release its regional report, the *Pulse of Democracy*, in the Fall.

## LAPOP'S NEWEST DOCTOR

**Daniela Osorio Michel** – On September 23, 2023, Daniela Osorio Michel defended her dissertation on bias in perceptions of political gender leadership in Latin America. The dissertation is composed of three research papers that consider different expressions of gender bias, how women's presence in politics might transform sexist beliefs, and the consequences of a biased electorate for women looking to participate in formal politics. Together, they tell a complex story regarding gender political bias in Latin America. Using data from an original survey experiment, the first core chapter shows that citizens in Latin America evaluate women politicians as holding better qualities for political leadership than men. However, the second chapter suggests that this positive bias is the result of women's idealization. The analysis of AmericasBarometer survey data combined

with administrative data, suggests that when individuals experience women in political power, the predicted probability of thinking that women are better at running the economy, for example, decreases. The public's impressions of women candidates also reflect these relationships. The last empirical chapter, using data from pre-election interviews with women and men political candidates in Bolivian local and national elections, shows that women candidates are aware of voters' positive stereotypes. Yet, they consider that these are undermined by doubts in their actual leadership efforts and also report being victims of sexist violence. Her committee was chaired by Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, along with committee members Tiffany D. Barnes (University of Kentucky), Amanda Clayton, Noam Lupu, and Tariq Thachil (University of Pennsylvania).

### Director's Corner continued from inside front cover

CLACX also supported research focused on the question of fields, aiming to instigate a scholarly debate about the institutional shifts referred to above. With support from the Dean's Office, we were fortunate to house ACLS Emerging Voices Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dr. Sara Kozameh, a historian of Latin America and the Caribbean, who completed her doctoral studies at New York University. I had the honor of teaming with Kozameh on a study about job ads in the history field, specifically, that are increasingly calling for joint specializations in Latin American and Latino history. This is a new pairing of fields that only became prominent in academic searches as of the last few years, and as such, this is an important reference for broader reflections on the kinds of research, teaching, and advising programs such as ours provide.

Alongside these efforts, it was exciting to deepen our institutional relationships with partners in the CLACX Consortium for Latin American Studies in the South (CCLASS). Our meetings with colleagues from Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, Jacksonville State University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Texas, at Arlington, set in motion opportunities for collaborative student training. As importantly, it helped us think about what it means to expand Latin American and Caribbean studies in a region where Latinos are the fastest growing demographic.

It was satisfying to take up these fields-level questions in these different capacities this year. It is certainly pertinent in social and political terms, and important to how we can support faculty endeavors at Vanderbilt.

Hasta pronto,  
Celso Thomas Castilho, Director







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