



## Edwidge Danticat Celebrates Haiti Week

CLAS hosted renowned Haitian-American author Edwidge Danticat February 7–9. Danticat has been widely recognized for her writing since a young age. Most recently she was named the twenty-fifth laureate of the Neustadt International Prize for Literature, and previously she was awarded the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and was selected as a MacArthur Fellow, also known as the “genius grant.”

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Danticat immigrated to a Haitian-American neighborhood in Brooklyn at age 12. Her disorientation in her new surroundings drew her to literature as an emotional outlet, and two years later she published her first writing in English in a citywide magazine. Her debut novel, *Breath, Eyes, Memory* was an Oprah’s Book Club Selection, and her second book, the story collection *Krik? Krak!* made her the youngest-ever National Book Award nominee.

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## Anthropologist and Physician Paul Farmer Visits Vanderbilt

On February 19, distinguished global health leader Paul Farmer engaged Vanderbilt students and staff through a series of events in which he emphasized the importance of using medical knowledge to improve health care systems in impoverished populations. Farmer delivered the Philip W. Felts Lecture in Humanities, in which he detailed how universities can engage in global health in an



ethically sound and meaningful manner. Later that same day, he spoke about his work in Haiti to an audience of over 500 in Langford Hall. CLAS Director Ted Fischer moderated the afternoon talk and underlined the impact of Farmer’s

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## Center for Latin American Studies Hosts SECOLAS Conference March 8–11

Vanderbilt’s Center for Latin American Studies hosted the sixty-fifth annual Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies conference from March 8 to March 11.

“SECOLAS is delighted to have our annual meeting hosted by Vanderbilt” said Secretary-Treasurer Steven Hyland. “With nearly 200 people on the program, we were thrilled by the opportunity for intellectual exchange and social interaction, and the team at CLAS were vital to this successful and productive encounter.”

“SECOLAS and Vanderbilt have a long history together. Many of its faculty have served in leadership positions and on prize committees,” Hyland said. “We have always been proud of providing a forum for graduate students too, many of whom consistently are from Vanderbilt.”

SECOLAS is a nonpolitical and nonprofit association of individuals interested in Latin America, with the objectives of promoting interest in Latin America, scholarly research pertaining to Latin America in all fields, and the increase of friendly contacts among the peoples of the Americas.

“SECOLAS is a premier venue for research on Latin America,” said Center of Latin American Studies Director and Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Anthropology Ted Fischer. “We are proud to host this organization with such an illustrious history here on campus, connecting what we do at Vanderbilt



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# Center for Latin American Studies

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Edited by Avery Dickins de Girón

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER: EDWARD F. FISCHER

Avery Dickins de Girón has been teaching a course in the Nursing School on essential skills for students studying global health in the Guatemalan context. She is also teaching a Commons seminar around the ethno-botanical garden we inaugurated last year. This sort of commitment reflects the best of what we do: exposing our students and faculty to Latin America, unencumbered by disciplinary and institutional boundaries, touching graduate and professional school students as well as first years. I bring up Avery's example to both let you see a bit of what she does outside of her Buttrick Hall office and to illustrate how area studies are a natural trans-institutional nexus.

Chancellor Zeppos and Provost Wentz are committed to making Vanderbilt a more global campus, and we can already see a number of

results. In the new residential college being constructed on at the corner of West End and 25th Avenue, the Provost has set aside the tower for visiting scholars. The upper floors will have 20 apartments as well as reception and meeting spaces all with and sweeping views of the campus and Nashville.

Vice Chancellor Steve Ertel is spearheading efforts to increase international press coverage, and results are already evident in recent coverage of LAPOP in *The Economist*. Our faculty produce so much great research that merits this kind of press attention, and we are fortunate to have Steve and his team on our side in these efforts.

These are but two of several new initiatives being planned to increase the impact and prominence of Vanderbilt research around the world, and our CLAS faculty are central to these efforts.

## Edwidge Danticat (Continued from page 1)

Danticat is considered a voice of both Haiti and the United States on topics of immigration and citizenship, and she is a strong advocate for issues affecting Haitians abroad and at home. Her writings reflect a wide range of styles, including fiction, nonfiction, and journalism, and they have been translated into several different languages.

While in Nashville, Danticat gave two public talks. The first, in collaboration with the Nashville Public Library, took place in the Civil Rights Room of the Downtown Public Library and featured readings from several of her books. Following the readings, NPL's Andrea Blackman moderated a Q&A with the audience. Later that day, over 100 people attended Danticat's talk, "This Side of the Water: Haiti and Life in the United States" at the John Seigenthaler Center at the First Amendment Center; Celso Castilho (History) provided an introduction to Danticat's work and moderated a discussion following the

talk. The talk was preceded by a reception and featured a book signing afterwards.

CLAS planned our second annual Haiti Week to coincide with her visit. Other Haiti Week events included the 2018 Black Atlantic Lecture "White Southern Identity and the Haitian Revolution" featuring Madison Smartt Bell and a discussion panel, "Ki kote n ale? (Where do we go from here?): Haitian Immigration and the End of TPS," moderated by Tiffany Patterson (African American and Diaspora Studies) with Colin Dayan (English), Brandon Byrd (History), and Nathan Dize (French). CLAS also hosted a professional development workshop for K–16 educators and teachers in training: "Exploring Haiti through the Works of Edwidge Danticat." Haiti Week recognizes Vanderbilt's commitment to Haiti and our breadth of scholars working in there, as well as Vanderbilt's new Haitian Creole course.

## SECOLAS (Continued from page 1)

to wider networks." Several Vanderbilt faculty and students presented papers and served on panels at the conference. Departments represented included History, Spanish and Portuguese, Political Science, Latin American Studies, and Anthropology.

Other presenters came from Metro Nashville Public Schools as well as higher education

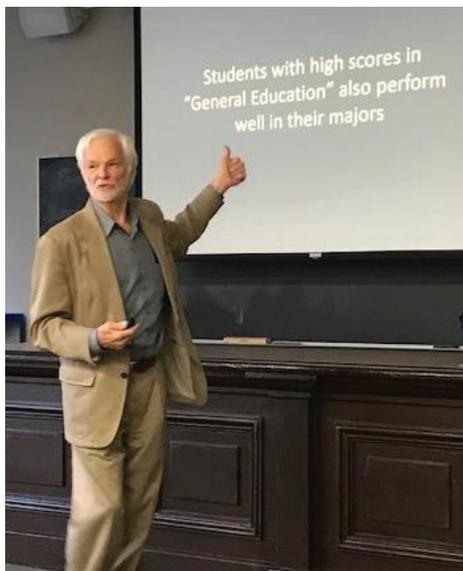
institutions across the United States and abroad. Countries represented include Germany, Argentina, Jerusalem, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, and Mexico.

Support for the conference also was provided by the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs and the Dean's Office of Vanderbilt College of Arts and Science.

## Brazil Initiatives

CLAS welcomed special guest and VU alumnus **Claudio de Moura Castro** (Economics, Ph.D. 1970) for ten days in February. Castro is an internationally recognized expert on the economics of education in Brazil and was instrumental in shaping economic policy in Latin America through his tenure at the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. During Castro's stay in Nashville he met with Brazilianist faculty and students on campus and was the guest speaker at several events. His first talk was for students in the Graduate Program in Economic Development and asked, "Does the profit motive hurt the quality of higher education?" The following day, Castro presented, "Brazil Gets Bad Grades in Education. Why?" as part of the Peabody International Lecture Series. His final talk was a Leadership Policy and Organization Colloquium event that took place on Feb. 19 and centered on the topic of "Evaluation in Brazilian Education." Castro also spoke at a meeting of the Brazilian Studies Reading Group, discussing the connections between Vanderbilt and Brazil that were established in the 1960s and have had long-term impacts, particularly in regard to economic policies in Brazil.

The Brazilian Studies Reading Group also hosted historian **Jeffrey Lesser** (Emory University) for a talk, "Bad Health in a Good Retreat: Life and Death in the 'Worst' Neighborhood of São Paulo, Brazil" in



*Claudio de Moura Castro*

February and **Joel Wolfe** (University of Massachusetts Amherst) who presented his paper, "Order Before Progress: Getúlio Vargas and the Transformation of Modern Brazil." This year, the BSRG is organized by doctoral candidates Jacob Brown, Kellie Samiotou, and Tiago Maranhão.

Accompanied by **Richard Pace** (Anthropology) from MTSU, CLAS hosted two visitors from the Kayapó nation during the week of February 26. Filmmakers **Bepunu** and **Pat-i Kayapó** were guest speakers in **Ben Legg's** (Portuguese) "Brazilian Cinema"

course and were special guests at the weekly bate-papo.

CLAS recently submitted a letter of support to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) on behalf of the Tennessee National Guard and their efforts to establish a State Partnership Program (SPP) with Brazil. SPPs offer a unique connection between the DoD and each state's National Guard—with the armed forces of a partner country operating in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship. Beyond a military-to-military relationship, SPPs strive to transform Tennesseans into "citizen diplomats" and support universal security cooperation goals that synergize to promote a more peaceful globe. The Tennessee National Guard established its first and only SPP with Bulgaria in 1993. The decision to form a partnership with Brazil was borne out of the significant historic ties that the state holds with its neighbor in the distant south. Ties that, thanks in large part to Vanderbilt, have remained constant since the late 1940s. The Tennessee National Guard will likely receive a response to their SPP petition by the end of the year.

The Brazil Chapter of the VU Alumni Association continues to gain momentum. Chapter President Luis Paulo Rosenberg is planning a May event that will feature a debate, and planning has already begun for the October 2018 reunion meeting.

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## Paul Farmer (Continued from page 1)

work: "Paul Farmer has changed the way we approach global health, and, in doing so, has improved the lives of countless people in Haiti and around the world. Recognizing that AIDS is about more than just the HIV virus, but also about race and sexuality, political policies and discrimination, he has forced us to look at the structures that lead to infection and illness. He continues to inspire."

Farmer is both a physician and an anthropologist, and his approach to global health is informed by both disciplines, as well as liberation theology. He co-founded and now serves as the chief strategist of Partners In Health, a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide a preferential option for the poor in health care. The organization works

among the most marginalized populations in Latin America, Africa, Russia, and the Navajo Nation, aiming to improve the health of individuals while strengthening health care through local ministries of health. Farmer teaches at Harvard Medical School, where he is the Kolokotronis University Professor and chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine. He also serves as chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and is U.N. special adviser to the secretary-general on community-based medicine.

Farmer has written extensively on health, the universal right to health care as a human right, and the consequences of social inequality. His most recent books are *In the Company of*

*the Poor: Conversations with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez*; *Reimagining Global Health: An Introduction*; and *To Repair the World: Paul Farmer Speaks to the Next Generation*.

Fifty faculty from across the university attended a reception for Farmer at City Winery on Sunday evening, and a group of MPH, MHS, and VUSN students were invited to an intimate reception with Farmer following the Monday afternoon talk. His visit was hosted by Vanderbilt University's Office of Health Sciences Education in the School of Medicine, along with the Center for Medicine, Health, and Society, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, and the Center for Latin American Studies.

## Medical Students Spend Month in Latin America Learning about Health Systems and Disparities

Five medical students experienced firsthand the health systems and disparities in Guatemala and Nicaragua as part of the Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine's Integrated Science Course (ISC) in Global Health. During their monthlong rotations in Central America, students' clinical work was augmented by didactic global health modules online and distance mentoring provided by the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health. Students returned from this immersion experience with greater insights into health conditions and issues of social justice in the region as well as a renewed passion for medical work.

Medical students **Katy Anthony** and **Julia Pitkin** traveled to Guatemala to work with Vanderbilt's longtime partner, *Primeros Pasos*. As part of their rotation, they worked alongside physicians, nurses, and clinical officers to learn about the disease burden, disparities, and health systems particular to the rural region of Quetzaltenango and to Latin America as a whole. Between rounding in the clinic, they conducted community needs assessments to learn more about conditions impacting health. For Julia, this experience was "exciting, eye-opening, and incredibly humbling."



Medical students rotating at the Hospital Escuela Oscar Danilo Rosales Arguello (HEODRA) felt similarly: "Working at HEODRA, the academic hospital in León, Nicaragua was such an interesting experience! I was in awe of how they take care of patients with more reliance on history and physical in

light of fewer resources. This experience really made me appreciate the differences (good and bad) between healthcare in our country and Nicaragua. The people of Nicaragua are amazing, and I will always miss the community there!"

## Annual Global Health Case Competition Focuses on Emergency Response System in Guyana

The annual Vanderbilt Global Health Case Competition took place on February 17, 2018, in Featheringill Hall Auditorium and Atrium. This year's case topic was "Improving Health Outcomes through Expanding Access to Emergency Medical Service in Rural Guyana," which was announced at the case reveal on February 7. Zulfilkar Bux, M.D. (Medical Director of Guyana Emergency Medical Service, Head of Emergency Department, Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Guyana), and Marlon Gentle (Chief Fire Officer, Guyana Fire Service) served as keynote speakers at the reveal. Between the case reveal and competition day, teams of undergraduate

and graduate students were given ten days to develop a proposal for this global health topic.

On the day of the competition, teams of students had ten minutes to present their proposals to a panel of judges. In addition to team presentations, the day included a Global VU panel, which gave competitors and attendees the opportunity to ask questions of Vanderbilt faculty members working in global health. After the panel, three teams were chosen as finalists. First place was awarded the team that presented, "Rural Emergency Access Channels to the Hinterland (REACH)." The winning team was composed of Jamal Merritt, Alexandra

Bronson, Lin Fei, Victoria Shi, John Lee, and Jessica Howard. As the winning team, they represented Vanderbilt at the 2018 Global Health Case Competition held at Emory University in March.

**Olivia Harris**, Vanderbilt undergraduate, and **Miller Morris**, M.A., M.P.H. candidate, served as the co-chairs for the event. The competition was organized by the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health Student Advisory Council and was sponsored by many organizations across campus including the Center for Latin American Studies.

—Contributed by Elizabeth Rose

## Vanderbilt Medical Student Establishes Rayos Contra Cancer Project

**R**ayos Contra Cancer was conceived in spring 2017 by fourth-year medical student Benjamin Li as an innovative approach to help address the rising global burden of cancer. The goal of Rayos Contra Cancer is to develop a network of collaboration between radiation oncology in Latin America and Vanderbilt.

Today, seven out of ten cancer cases occur in low-resource settings, where up to 90% of the population lack access to radiotherapy. However, radiotherapy is an essential component of over 50% of cancer treatments. In low-resource countries, where populations lack screening and health education, patients present with much later-stage disease that is even more difficult to treat, and the need for radiotherapy is estimated to be greater than 70%. Unfortunately, this gap in radiotherapy is projected to become worse as noncommunicable diseases surge globally.

Li identified Latin America as an ideal site to develop a model that requires minimum capital and leverages the strengths of existing resources as well. Compared to other developing parts of the world, Latin America has a relatively strong infrastructure

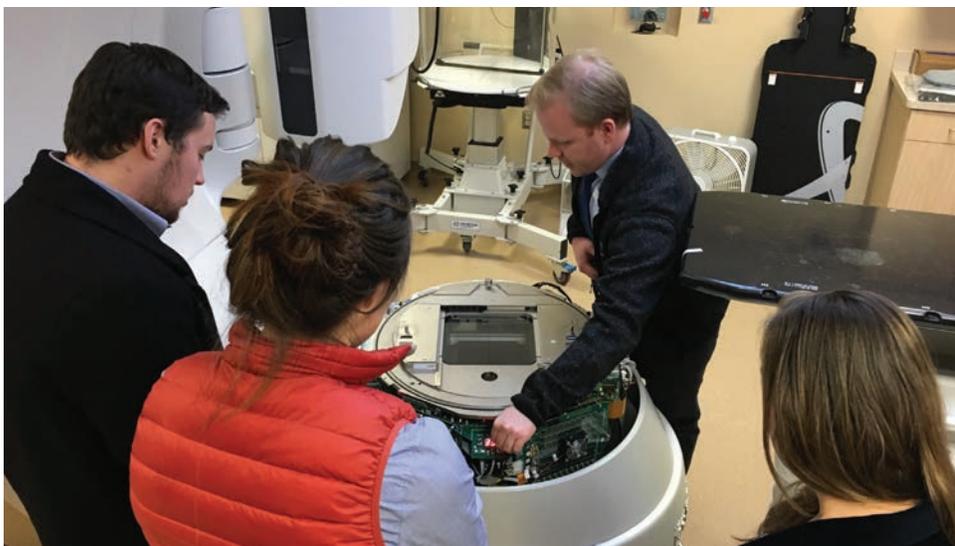


for supporting the treatment of cancer, including stable electricity, robust radiology and pathology services, and well-established pathways for cancer care. However, many Latin American countries struggle to keep pace with the ballooning demands for cancer care and the high costs associated with treatments.

In December, Li traveled to Guatemala to visit the National Cancer Institute, INCAN, as well as private clinics, all of which are limited to the capital city. While there, he met with

leading Latin American surgical, medical, and radiation oncologists and performed a basic assessment of facilities, including the technical and human resources available and the current workflow. He found clear disparities in access to care, including clinics that ranged from poor, government-subsidized facilities to well-off, corporate-owned clinics. He also encountered great differences in clients. Many patients from rural areas of the country are in need of care but cannot afford it, yet at the same time, wealthy individuals travel from other countries to receive care that exceeds U.S. standards.

In spring 2018, a Project Pyramid team of business school and nursing school students took the next steps to establish the Rayos Contra Cancer project in Guatemala City. The team has been working closely with the Vanderbilt Department of Radiation Oncology as well as industry experts in the community, including Radiation Business Solutions. They are using this information to develop a budget, proposal, and plan for project scaling, with the goal of developing a model for social enterprise in Global Health Radiation Oncology. The team traveled to Guatemala City during spring break to study economic factors impacting cancer care and barriers that local providers face given resource limitations. This Spring, they will



*Project Pyramid Team tours Vanderbilt Radiation Oncology Department.*

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## Nursing Students Travel to Guatemala for Quality Improvement Project

In fall 2017, CLAS and the School of Nursing collaborated to offer a new section of the Community Health Course (NURS 5105) focused on Central America. Coordinated by Natasha McClure (DNP, RN, CPNP) and Carrie Plummer (Ph.D., ANP-BC), the course is the first in a series of three required courses for all pre-licensure nursing students. In spring 2018, the students in the Central America section worked on a quality improvement project for the Primeros Pasos clinic in Guatemala. The QI project was led by Shelza Rivas (DNP, WHNP-BC, AGPCNP-BC) in consultation with Primeros Pasos founder and Vanderbilt radiologist Brent Savoie, M.D. The students traveled to Guatemala during spring break, accompanied by McClure, Rivas, Savoie, and Elizabeth Rose (M.P.H., M.Ed.), who serves as the training and development coordinator at the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health. CLAS coordinated the trip, described by the students below:

*During spring break, we worked with Primeros Pasos, a nonprofit clinic that provides medical and dental care, as well as nutrition services, to underserved communities in the Palajunoj Valley outside of Quetzaltenango. As pre-specialty nursing students, our group included three future family nurse practitioners*

*and three future nurse-midwives. We were beyond excited to get to Guatemala and work directly with Primeros Pasos staff and the communities it serves.*

*We were tasked with developing a mobile clinic model that would provide medical, dental, and nutrition services to the four most underserved communities in the valley. We first met with Primeros Pasos staff and Dr. Brent Savoie, who founded the clinic in 2002. We spent the following day at the clinic and learned about the communities targeted for the new mobile clinic model. The next day we traveled to one community, Las Majadas, to perform a needs assessment, meet community members, and experience the strenuous trek they had to take to visit the clinic.*

*We worked with the clinic staff and members of the community to develop a delivery model that would allow a slow roll-out of mobile clinic services beginning with the communities in most need. We felt a sense of pride and gratitude to have been able to travel and work directly with an organization that has such a presence in Quetzaltenango.*

—Contributed by Todd Baer, Samantha Bellamy, Caroline Booth, Abby Jones, Mariah Ramirez, and Aline Studstill

## Rayos Contra Cancer

(Continued from page 5)

finish outlining recommendations for Rayos Contra Cancer to engage with Guatemala's national cancer center, INCAN.

Meanwhile, Li has used the momentum to further connections in South America. As a Turner Family Center Fellow, Li visited Medellín, Bogotá, and Barranquilla. There he connected with private, semi-private, and public hospitals, including Colombia's Instituto Nacional de Cancerología, INC, where he established further support for the Rayos Contra Cancer project. He also met the National Cancer Director of Peru while he was there. "I'm thrilled by the enthusiastic responses we've seen so far in Guatemala, Colombia, and Peru and inspired to see what we will achieve together moving forward."

—Contributed by Benjamin Li

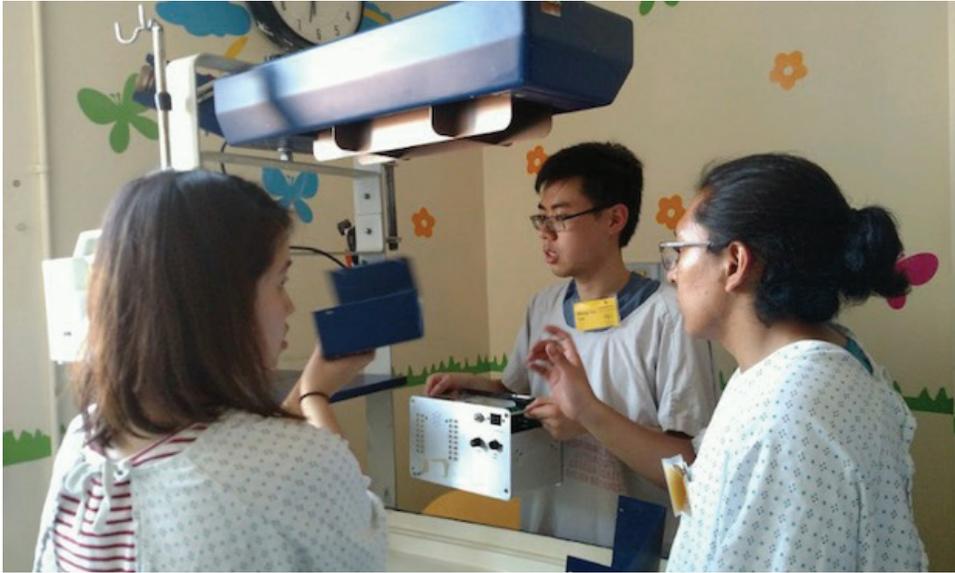
## Akshay Soni Honored with First Outstanding Undergraduate Award

For the first time, CLAS recognized undergraduate **Akshay Soni** for his commitment to Latin American Studies and engagement in the centers' programs. This is the first time CLAS has bestowed this honor on an undergraduate student, but we wanted to recognize his history of service and involvement in both academic and cultural programming. Soni graduated in May 2018 with a B.A. in Anthropology, and will spend the next year in Brazil as a recipient of a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for 2018-2019.



Akshay Soni

## Biomedical Engineering Students Travel to Guatemala to Repair Medical Equipment



**A**dozen Vanderbilt biomedical engineering undergraduates spent their 2018 break week in Guatemala, working alongside 30 engineering students and their professors from the Universidad del Valle (UVG) repairing medical equipment in hospitals in Guatemala City and Antigua.

It was the sixth trip with BME students since Associate Dean Cynthia Paschal began offering the service learning course, BME 3890, in 2008. CLAS helps fund Paschal's travel and provides an overview of Guatemala for students prior to their trip.

The students worked at four hospitals: Hospital Infantil de Juan Pablo II and INCAN, a cancer specialty hospital, both in Guatemala

City, and Hospital Nacional Pedro de Bethancourt and Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, in Antigua.

The Vanderbilt and UVG students complemented each other well, with the Vanderbilt students bringing expertise in biomedical engineering and devices; and the students at UVG contributing their knowledge and skills of electronics and mechatronics. "They are extremely skilled engineers and often knew things we didn't, so we made a good team" said **Austin Hardcastle**, a senior BME student.

Prior to the trip, students were assigned to find manuals for equipment they knew they would work on and assemble parts. While in Guatemala, the students categorized and, in most cases, tested 250 pieces of equipment, coding them by color for condition: green (working); yellow (needs repairs); red (trash); or blue (use for parts). They also repaired equipment and helped the hospitals develop inventory systems of their equipment.

**Tori Qualls, Chad Keller, and María Belén Hernández** repaired one of several broken infant incubators. In this case, broken fan mounts caused an awful noise and inability to distribute heat evenly. They proposed a way to fix it and went shopping for parts—a rubber tie, a bit of glue, a few screws, and duct tape—that night, and it worked.

**Leah Fassinger and Darwin Rivas** worked on a noninvasive blood pressure monitor that

had been out of service for years. By hooking it up to a DC power supply and running a variety of tests, they determined that with the right replacement battery the unit would function accurately in measuring blood pressure.

**Seiver Jorgensen and Anna Word**, both BME students, devised a tracking and inventory system for the stored equipment at Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro. The hospital had a list of equipment but didn't know what worked and what didn't or what some of it was used for. "OSHP was nothing short of a dream for biomedical engineers. We entered a room filled with hundreds of medical devices needing our attention," Paschal wrote in a blog update about the trip.

"Most importantly, Professor Paschal was forming connections between del Valle's engineering program and each of the hospitals that we visited, trying to set it up so that their engineering students could continue doing the work we started year-round," said Hardcastle. "If those connections continue to work out, I think that will be the best service we provided, because we helped set up a sustainable partnership that gives the hospital consistent help on their equipment and gives the engineering school consistent education opportunities," he said.

"We are starting to achieve our goal," Paschal said, "which is to work ourselves out of a job."

CLAS helped support the course through a curriculum development grant and provided an overview of Guatemala's history and culture prior to the trip.



## Engineers Without Borders Work to Improve Schools in Guatemala

During summer 2017, Vanderbilt's Engineers Without Borders (EWB) student chapter took on a project in the western highlands of Guatemala to make improvements to two elementary schools in adjoining Mam Mayan communities, Paxoj and Txemuj. Over the fall semester, extensive planning and discussions took place in preparation for an assessment trip to the communities to understand their needs and collect field data.

Led by **Janey Camp** (Research Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), the trip included three undergraduate engineering students, **Hunter Conti** (Civil and Environmental Engineering), **Noah Gertler** (Mechanical Engineering), and **Jared Rothstein** (Computer Science), as well as **Aidan Hoyal** (Assistant Director for Production & Instructional Design, Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning). The team embarked on their journey to Guatemala's western highlands on January 1. They arrived in Quetzaltenango amid a flurry of excitement as a New Year's procession with fireworks, live music, and floats made its way around the downtown area. The next morning, the team met Jeanny

Rios, the local EWB contact, along with their translator, Lucky, and cook, Catta, and then set off on the trek to Paxoj. This community served as their home for the next four days, where they slept on the floor of a classroom and ate from the school's kitchen. Community members welcomed the team with a traditional celebratory meal of free-range rooster soup and tamales. They spent the following days learning about community needs, the importance of the schools for community functions, and collecting data.

While only there for a few days, the team learned a great deal about the communities and the people. The area has frequent, minor earthquakes and is prone to mudslides due to steep slopes and clay soils with a rainy season that runs from about March to October. Among the projects that the EWB student chapter will be working to design solutions for are bathrooms and a septic system for Paxoj, numerous retaining walls and drainage solutions at both community schools, fencing to protect students from falling where there are steep slopes, and protection for the windows of the schools to reduce theft of school supplies. Vanderbilt's EWB chapter is currently working to raise funds for these

projects and on the design solutions with hopes of returning later this calendar year to begin implementation of solutions to improve student safety and community wellbeing.

The experience was amazing for both students and faculty due to the warm welcome from members of Paxoj and Txemuj, but also thanks to logistical and other support from EWB headquarters and CLAS at Vanderbilt.

*The first thing we noticed was just how rugged the country was. The sun glared through the cabin of the plane as we descended toward the runway, waking the passengers, as if to remind us to look outside. Guatemala City sprawled, but it was clear that nature still dominated mankind in the landscape. The mountains surrounded the city, rising far above buildings as you looked further away. And the further you looked, the taller the mountains grew, and we were awestruck to see massive volcanoes in the distance. As far as the eye could see, the hills rolled up and down, dense with tall trees and rich vegetation. In populated areas we're used to, the land feels somehow domesticated by people. But here the land was still very much alive and made its presence known. The distinction in this relationship between humans and their environment is a pattern we would feel throughout the rest of the trip.*

*It was a long night of traveling the night before to land there in the morning. The rest of the day was a bit blurry, each of us nodding off from time to time as we climbed out of the city, winding our way through the hills. As the western slopes gradually took the sun back down, we found ourselves entering an old mountain town. Xela was loud and cheerful. The slanted cobble streets were jammed with parked cars, people walking to the center square, and a parade. We soon found ourselves a part of the crowd as well, enchanted by the traditional clothing, music, and dancing.*

*We met the rest of our team from Guatemala early the next morning, gathered our supplies, and made it up to our host village, Paxoj, for a lunch prepared by the community. That was the start of a slew of increasingly delicious homemade meals and welcoming hosts. Over the next few days we got a lay of the land and figured out how to*





we just met, who had so little to give to begin with. They took us into their homes, fed us their best meals, introduced us to their families, and showed us a beautiful land with beautiful people. Leaving our friends in the village and descending out of the mountains back to the airport, the last step before returning to our normal lives, was actually quite an emotional experience.

Our time there truly changed our perspective on the project as a whole. We got a small taste for what life was like there, and on this trip alone we felt that we'd taken a lot more from the community than what we gave. We were there to help them improve basic necessities for health and education, but in return, they broadened our perspectives and showed us a deeper part of humanity that we don't often see in our modern society. Finding joy in small things, fulfillment in the care of loved ones, faithful generosity and kindness towards strangers. Our hearts were heavy as the plane lifted us away from those majestic volcanoes, but full of newfound passion for our project, to give back to our new, true friends.

—Contributed by Noah Gertler

perform our assessment piece by piece. We quickly began to enjoy the work, and our relationships with the community members flourished. The assessment tasks were completed faster than we imagined, and soon it was our last day in the village.

Life in Paxoj and Txemuuj was lived much closer to nature, and we saw the challenge to provide the basic necessities for the community every day. We had enjoyed such generosity and love from these people

Vanderbilt has renewed its agreement with the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá and is working with the Universidad del Valle in Guatemala to establish a new biomedical engineering program for students there.

## New Latin American & Caribbean Studies Titles from

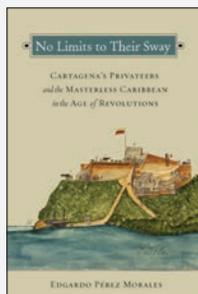


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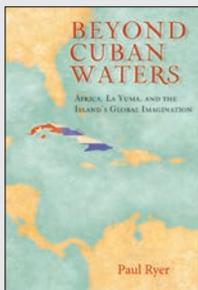
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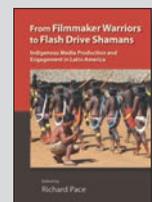
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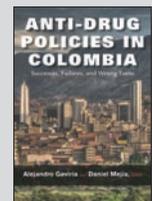
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## ¡BLAIR! Vanderbilt Wind Symphony Travels to Colombia

With the support of the U.S. Embassy, the Vanderbilt Wind Symphony visited Colombia during the week of March 4–11. Led by **Thomas Verrier**, the ensemble was composed of twenty-eight undergraduate students from the Blair School of Music. During their spring break trip, they performed concerts in four different communities in Colombia and taught lessons and master classes, all the while sharing cultures and making new friends along the way.

The Wind Symphony first visited the community of Santa Rosa de Osos in the department of Antioquia. The Symphonic Band of Santa Rosa de Osos welcomed the group, and the two bands played arrangements of Colombian and American popular and folk music together around a campfire. Each day, the musicians from Vanderbilt gave lessons and master classes to musicians from Santa Rosa de Osos, as well as offering one daylong conducting workshop for local conductors. The visit culminated with a shared concert by the two bands at the Basilica of Santa Rosa de Osos, which was attended by hundreds of people and broadcast live on the local television station and Facebook Live.



From there, the group traveled to Medellín to visit La Red de Escuelas de Música de Medellín. The musicians provided two hours of group lessons and then performed for students, professors, and directors from the 27 schools of La Red. Their performances were received with a standing ovation and encores.



From Medellín, the group made an eleven-hour trip south to Tocancipá, stopping to experience the varied vistas and climates along the way. They spent the following day at the Casa de la Cultura de Chía, again providing lessons and master classes as well as musical exchanges with the Symphonic Band of Chia, which is renowned as one of the finest in Colombia. After a lunch of comidas típicas, the Vanderbilt musicians were honored to play a joint concert with the band to a packed audience in the new 750-seat auditorium in Chia.

The week ended with more lessons for students in the Symphonic Band program of Tocancipá and a workshop by Prof. Verrier for directors.

A model band program, the Tocancipá program includes seven bands of varying levels, as well as twenty-five professors (one to two for each instrument) and six

directors. Our Vanderbilt students were rightly impressed, and all felt that this was the highlight of their trip. The Tocancipá visit culminated in a joint performance by the Wind Symphony with musicians from the Symphonic Band at the Casa de la Cultura sharing the concert with the Tocancipá musicians. The Wind Symphony members were each given a sash in the city colors, and the concert ended with an encore of “Uptown Funk” that got the entire audience up and dancing.

¡BLAIR! ...Blair’s Latin American Initiatives & Resources serves as an umbrella label that encompasses the variety of Latin American activities happening in the School of Music — specifically those of Ryan Middagh, Robert Fry, Jose Sibaja, and Thomas Verrier.



When we rode the bus into Santa Rosa de Osos, the three hours of mountain roads somehow felt longer than the eight-hour plane ride into the country. It was nightfall by the time we arrived, bone-tired, at the little university-church that was to be our home. Gathered around a bonfire in the campus' central pavilion, a good 50 Colombian schoolchildren waited for us, their shadows flitting across the cement floor. We filed in, bemused, and the band greeted us with a stomping merengue. We forgot ourselves, joining them in the wood smoke and the floodlights, to make music together. The sound we made was earth-shattering, and if our lips weren't falling off with exhaustion, we would have played all night.

We were musical ambassadors, charged with making the world a smaller place. We were bridging continental boundaries through music education, but, beyond that, learning that music-making transcends a simple rubric. Once, in a team-teaching session, one of our clarinetists suggested that a Colombian clarinet section make a

simple technical change, "All of you, raise your tongue in your mouth when you play." And we were blown backward by a sound suddenly and unaccountably expansive, rich, vibrant. It hit us then: "This is an actual difference we're making!" What we were offering them was the technique that would make their instruments an extension of their bodies. What they offered us, in return, was a rhythmic groove so deep it seemed to emanate from their bones. We played "Colombia Tierra Querida" ("Colombia, Land I Love") four times that week. Each time, the crowd rose to its feet, clapping and stomping in recognition. Here were a people that feel the music before they ever hear it. We have a great deal to learn from them.

How lucky we were to realize that music was just the medium—as musical ambassadors, we were bringing PEOPLE together. Nowhere was this more apparent than in Chía and Santa Rosa, the cities where our work drew the attention of politicians, community activists, and a crowd of bystanders and family members. And the

more we noticed that our work was bringing people together, the more we paid attention to the quality of our own interactions. We came together as an ensemble over una *trabaja que importa*—a work that matters.

As the bus pulled away from the brilliant white-arched cathedral of Santa Rosa, our poncho-clad bodies brimmed with both excitement and melancholy after our debut concert. Some of the band members had tears in their eyes as a crowd of grade-schoolers gathered by the bus windows to wave, dance, and cheer their goodbyes. Even in spite of the phone numbers and Facebook friend requests we exchanged, our sense of loss was pervasive. Our first experience with Colombia was inextricably tied with this group of students, a group with whom we had spent the past few days exploring the town, making music, and forging friendships. Both ensembles had left an indelible mark on the other—a new view of music and the world.

—Contributed by Blair students  
Ramakrishnan Kumaran and Patrick Mills



## Socrates Garcia brings “Latin Jazz with Dominican Tinge” to Vanderbilt

In collaboration with the Blair School of Music, CLAS hosted composer, producer, and musician Socrates Garcia for a public talk on February 15. Garcia, who is the Director of Music Technology at the University of Northern Colorado, spoke to students, faculty, and staff on the history and development of Latin Jazz. That night, he joined Director of Jazz Studies, **Ryan Middagh**, as guest composer and conductor for the Blair Big Band concert “Latin Jazz with a Dominican Tinge.”

## Distance Language Partnership for K’iche’ and Haitian Creole Renewed

Duke University, the University of Virginia, and Vanderbilt have renewed the Partnership for Less Commonly Taught Languages for another three years, extending it through May 2021. Through a synchronous virtual interface, Vanderbilt offers instruction to the partner universities in K’iche’ Mayan, and in return Vanderbilt students may take classes in Haitian Creole (provided by Duke) or Tibetan (provided by UVa).



"Mamá Coco and the Warrior"

## Latin American Images Competition Winners Announced

The annual Latin American Images Competition brought together another group of diverse photographs from across Latin America. Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff were invited to submit one original photo taken in Latin America. The group of submissions represented 14 different countries and a wide range of subjects. Judges **Dr. Chalene Helmuth** (Spanish and Portuguese) and **Jeana Poindexter** (English) reviewed the submissions and selected the top 20 photos to be printed and displayed in the Buttrick Hall atrium.

A reception in January featured the top 20 photos and announced the winners of the competition. First place was awarded to **Sahai Couso Diaz**, doctoral student in Spanish and Portuguese, for *Mamá Coco and the Warrior* taken in Mexico. Diaz also won the People's Choice Award among all submissions, with 109 social media "likes" given to her image. Second place was awarded to **Fernanda Bretones Lane**, doctoral student in History, for *Moko jumbie*, taken in Cuba, and third place to senior undergraduate **Akshay Soni** for *A Paixão de Cristo*, taken in Brazil. Administrative Manager **Alma Paz-Sanmiguel** organized both the competition and the reception.



## Festa Junina

CLAS hosted our annual Festa Junina celebration on March 14 in The Commons Center. This year we welcomed students from Fisk University and Knowledge Academy, as well as the members of the Nashville Brazilian community and Vanderbilt students, faculty, and staff.

Festa Junina is a traditional Brazilian harvest festival that commemorates several Catholic saints and honors rain, the harvest season, and marital union. Fifty people attended the event, which included a *quadrilha* dance lesson, traditional Brazilian sweets and dinner, a Brazil-themed trivia game, and a photo booth. **Celia M. Martins**, a member of the Nashville Brazilian community,

led participants in the *quadrilha* lesson in Portuguese, while **Ben Legg** (Spanish & Portuguese) translated instructions into English and served as master of ceremonies. **Christelle Abes**, Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Fisk, worked with Legg to organize practice sessions for Fisk and Vanderbilt students. Before joining the celebration, ten high school students from Knowledge Academy took a campus tour with Vanderbilt undergraduate student **Akshay Soni**, where they learned about the diverse, international opportunities for Vanderbilt students. Thanks go to Ben Legg, Colleen McCoy, and Nicolette Kostiw for organizing the event.



## Amaranth Beer Collaboration

CLAS partnered with **VonSeitz Theoreticals** craft brewery, Tennessee State University agronomist **Matthew Blair**, and local entrepreneur **Carlos Girón** to create an amaranth-based beer over the last few months. The amaranth, donated by Blair, was cultivated in the Latin American Garden and served as the grain for the gruet-style beer produced by Alex Seitz and fermented in clay vessels commissioned for the project. In February, CLAS hosted a tasting session that featured presentations by Von Seitz Theoreticals, Girón, and **John Janusek** (Anthropology), who is teaching a university course on the history and science of brewing.



## Year of First Tuesday Lunches

CLAS continued to host our First Tuesday Lunch Series for the 2017–2018 academic year. These lunches are open to faculty, students, and staff and feature Latin American Studies faculty and invited speakers.

In September, CLAS Director Ted Fischer interviewed recently hired LAS faculty **Carolyn Heinrich** (Education) and **T.S. Harvey** (Anthropology) to highlight their research and public policy work in Latin America. In October, **Celso Castilho** (History) and **Earl Fitz** (History) discussed Fitz's new book *Machado de Assis and Female Characterization*, which examines the nature and function of the main female characters in the nine novels of Machado de Assis. The following lunch featured biographer and historian **Andrew Paxman** from the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics in Mexico City and Aguascalientes. Paxman's talk, "A Vanderbilt Man in Mexico: How a Business Tycoon Cashed in on the Mexican Revolution," explored his biographical work on William Jenkins, a former Vanderbilt student who became the richest man in Mexico through textile mills, real estate, banking, and film. In December, LAPOP Director **Liz Zechmeister** and Associate Director **Noam Lupu** shared findings from their most recent survey in their presentation, "Crime and Impunity in the Americas:

Results from the Latest Round of LAPOP's AmericasBarometer."

To kick off the spring semester, **Marshall Eakin** (History) shared his latest book, *Becoming Brazilians: Race and National Identity in Twentieth-Century Brazil*, in January, exploring the rise and decline of Gilberto Freyre's vision of racial and culture mixture as the defining feature of Brazilian culture in the twentieth century. CLAS welcomed Vanderbilt alumna **Kedron Thomas** from Washington University in February for a discussion of her book, *Regulating Style: Intellectual Property Law and the Business of Fashion in Guatemala*. Thomas explored the idea of knock-off fashion and what constitutes piracy of brands in the legal and social contexts of Guatemala.



### Summer 2018 Awards

CLAS will fund 18 students to conduct research or study language abroad during summer 2018. CLAS awards nearly \$100,000 each summer to support graduate and undergraduate student research or language study in Latin America. These include the CLAS Summer Research Award, Simon Collier Travel Awards, and Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships. The annual deadline for summer awards applications is in mid-January.

For summer 2018, CLAS awarded **Summer Research Awards** to the following students to conduct research in the following areas:

- Damien Domenack (Divinity): Peru
- Kathryn Peters (Anthropology): Paraguay
- Alexandre Pelegrino (History): Brazil
- Adam Wolsky (Political Science): Peru
- Jacob Brown (Spanish and Portuguese): Brazil

**Simon Collier Travel Awards** will fund the following students to carry out research projects:

- Paige Southworth (Latin American Studies): Argentina and Chile
- Tiago Maranhão (History): Brazil
- Abraham Liddell (History): Spain
- Alejandro Botia (Latin American Studies): Venezuela

CLAS granted **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS)** fellowships to these students to study least and less commonly taught languages abroad:

- Sagen Eatwell (Latin American Studies): K'iche' Mayan
- Amalia Merino (Spanish at UT-Austin): K'iche' Mayan
- Danielle Dorvil (Spanish and Portuguese): Portuguese
- Demetrius Murphy (Latin American Studies): Portuguese
- Ryan Grawe (Undergraduate major in Economics and Political Science): Portuguese
- Tam Wheat (Undergraduate major in Law, History and Sociology): Portuguese
- Carlos Rojas (U. of Wisconsin-Madison): Portuguese
- Colleen Maki (Divinity): Yucatec Mayan
- Guillermina Pena Sandoval (U. of Kansas): Nahautl
- Genesis Calderón (Tulane): Kaqchikel



More information about CLAS summer awards is available at: [as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/graduate-programs/financial-aid/student-summer-awards](http://as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/graduate-programs/financial-aid/student-summer-awards)

### Student Research Roundtable

CLAS held its spring semester Student Research Roundtable in January. The five featured presenters were recipients of 2017 Tinker Field Research Grants. **Kristy Barnes**, an M.S. candidate in Earth and Environmental Sciences discussed the role of ungulates like the white-lipped peccary in nutrient cycling in the Brazilian Cerrado. **Kyle Harper**, a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, uncovered processes of colonial assimilation and integration over time in the Carracedo site in the Lower Amazonian Basin of Brazil. **Miguel Cuj**, an M.A. student in Latin American Studies, discussed the health implications of armed conflict on K'iche' Maya people in Guatemala. **Facundo Salles Kobilanski**, a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science, examined the formation and persistence of bias against Chinese-Panamanians. **Gabriela Oré Menéndez**, a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, presented the process of general resettlement of indigenous communities in Lima and Huarochiri in the Peruvian highlands.

### CLAS Welcomes Paige Southworth

Paige Southworth is a 4+1 M.A. student in Latin American Studies. She received her B.A. from Vanderbilt in 2017 with a triple major in Latin American Studies, Political Science, and Spanish & Portuguese. During her undergraduate career, Paige studied

abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she worked with the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, a human rights organization dedicated to finding the estimated five hundred grandchildren appropriated during the country's military dictatorship. Paige furthered her interests in human rights while interning at the U.S. Embassy in Quito, Ecuador, where she focused on issues of human trafficking and refugees and worked on the Human Rights Report for Ecuador.

### Graduate Student News

Two doctoral students in Anthropology, **Carla Hernández** and **Scotti Norman**, received the highly competitive Harvard Dumbarton Oaks Junior Fellowship to complete their dissertation writing in Washington D.C. for the 2018–2019 academic year. Congratulations!

**Aileen Teague** (History) has accepted a two-year postdoctoral position at the Watson Institute at Brown University.

**Jorge Delgadillo** (History) received a Summer Research Award from the A&S Dean's Office to conduct research in Mexico.

Congratulations to our graduating class of Latin American Studies M.A. students! **Miguel Cuj** and **Jessica Fletcher** will continue their academic careers at Vanderbilt by pursuing doctorates in Anthropology and History, respectively. **Andrea Delgado** has taken a position as a paralegal in Atlanta, where she will focus on immigration law.

**Fernanda Bretones Lane** (PhD candidate, History Department) has received a

## STUDENT NEWS

2018 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, a program of The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The Fellowship provides a year of funding for full-time dissertation writing, which she expects to defend in 2019. Her dissertation, tentatively titled "Spain, the Caribbean, and the Making of Religious Sanctuary," examines the impact of legislation Spain enacted in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries by which runaway slaves from Protestant colonies who escaped to Spanish territories received asylum and freedom upon converting to Catholicism.

Led by Assistant Dean for Public Interest **Spring Miller**, Latin American Studies M.A. student **Andrea Delgado** traveled with a team of Vanderbilt Law students during spring break to work with Southeastern Immigrant Freedom Initiative (SIFI) attorneys representing detainees at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Stewart County, Georgia. The two cases involved recent immigrants from Guatemala and Honduras who entered the U.S. to apply for asylum because their families have been targeted by gangs. Delgado assisted with translations clients, and the team successfully won the two bond motions.

### LAS Undergraduate Students Study Abroad



**Morgan Marquez** (B.A., ECON & LAS, 2019) is enrolled in the LAS Honors program and just completed an internship at U.S. Census Bureau. In spring 2018, she is studying abroad in Argentina.

*"For six weeks I was fortunate enough to travel through South America and experience much of what I had learned in my Latin American Studies classes. I began in Cartagena, Colombia, where the old Spanish fortress juxtaposed the Miami-like skyline and then traveled to Peru, where I saw the peaks of Colca Canyon and islands entirely made of straw on Lake Titicaca. Next stop was Bolivia where I witnessed the beautiful chaos of La Paz and the endless mirror of the*

*Uyuni Salt Flats. I traveled through Chile to Patagonia, where the Towers humbled me, and made my way to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where Carnaval showed me an entire country ready to let loose.*

*This trip has shown me the great differences in cultures in Latin America from Argentinian slang to the differences between a Bolivian salteña and a Colombian empanada. It has also taught me to not generalize places or people. In countries that have reputations of violence, such as Colombia and Brazil, I met some of the nicest people I have ever known, such as the kind Brazilian women who made sure I got home safely or the sweet Colombian store owner who made sure I was well fed. The opportunity to travel and study in South America has genuinely changed how I view the world outside of the United States."*



**Pilar Puyana** is a Colombian-American student who will graduate in May with a double major in LAS and Spanish and a minor in Corporate Strategy. Last spring, Pilar spent the semester at the University of Seville, Spain, where she enrolled in Latin American literature and history courses to gain a deeper understanding of Ibero-American perspectives on Latin America. This semester in Nashville, Pilar interned with a global entertainment firm and is pursuing career opportunities in global entertainment and business with the goal of helping advance the representation of Latino and Latina artists and actors in the mainstream media.

### 275 Vanderbilt Students Spend Spring Break in Latin America

Each year, Vanderbilt students travel to Latin America as part of a course or through a student organization. This year, undergraduates, graduates, and professional students traveled to Central America, Ecuador, and Colombia.

Over 200 undergraduate students carried out service projects overseen by the Vanderbilt Office of Active Citizenship and Service (OACS). The OACS projects

represented a variety of focus areas, including education, public health, social enterprise, and economic development, and were led by the following organizations:

- Business Brigade and Medical Brigade (Nicaragua)
- MEDLIFE (Ecuador)
- Manna Project International (Ecuador, Guatemala, Belize, and Nicaragua)
- AED Health Professions (Honduras)
- AMIGOS (Honduras)

Professor **Cynthia Paschal** led twelve biomedical engineering students on a service learning trip to Guatemala as part of her BME 3980 course. The students spent their break repairing medical equipment at four different hospitals in Guatemala alongside 30 students from Universidad del Valle. The group detailed their trip through a blog: [vubme-guatemala.blogspot.com](http://vubme-guatemala.blogspot.com)

**Tom Verrier** took the Wind Symphony, composed of 28 Blair students, to Colombia. The ensemble traveled to four communities, where they provided classes and played joint concerts with local musicians.

In addition to these undergraduate student trips, 25 professional and graduate students spent their break in Latin America working on social enterprise projects through **Project Pyramid**, a student-led organization at the Owen Graduate School



*Project Pyramid students in Guatemala*

## STUDENT NEWS

of Management's Turner Family for Social Ventures. Eleven students traveled as three teams to Guatemala, where they worked with Pueblo a Pueblo to scale their honey brand, advised B'enam on strategies for leveraging their e-commerce plan for handmade sustainable accessories, and developed partnership opportunities for Rayos Contra Cancer. Another three Project Pyramid teams traveled to Colombia. One group worked with Colecto to quantify the financial and social impact of their mobile app for farms and pickers; another collaborated with Interactuar to develop an online solution to connect with agricultural entrepreneurs, and a third helped Portafolio Verde create a marketing strategy and business plan for a fund focused on animal conservation and eco-tourism.

Six nursing students traveled to Guatemala as part of the Community Health Course

led by **Natasha McClure** and **Shelza Rivas**. The students studied health and development in Central America in a fall 2017 seminar, and this semester they

worked on a QI project with Primeros Pasos focused on transitioning the clinic from a primarily brick-and-mortar operation to a primarily mobile care service.



*Project Pyramid students in Guatemala*

## LIBRARY NEWS

This has been a year of major progress in making our digital collections more accessible. Thanks to the dedication and efforts of four library “superheroes” our Colombian collections are getting used in Colombia, Israel, France, Brazil, New Zealand and many other places. Alejandro Botia has taken up the challenge of creating metadata for all of the Helguera pamphlets in the collection and hopes to finish the entire collection by the end of May. This has been a major undertaking! Professor Raquel Rincon, retired lecturer in Spanish and Portuguese, has been volunteering her time in Special Collections this spring creating metadata for the Helguera oversize pamphlet collection. She has completed the project this week and will now begin on the *programas*, the 19th century college and university curricula programs.

Two other dedicated graduate students have been working on the organizing, processing and creation of an online finding aid to the Manuel Zapata Olivella Papers in preparation of the digitization of these portions. Viviana Quintero Márquez, whose M.A. thesis at Wisconsin was on Manuel Zapata Olivella, has been committed to the organization of Manuel's audiocassette recordings and transcripts and has most recently created an online finding aid to all of



*Contributed by Paula Covington  
Latin American and Iberian Bibliographer and  
Senior Lecturer in Latin American Studies*

his “events,” including ponencias, seminars, World Congresses of Black Culture, and the many other professional activities he organized and participated in throughout his rich career. Andrea Delgado, though coming late to this project, has been fully dedicated to organizing and creating an online finding

aid for the miles of boxes that include his publishing output, both fiction and non-fiction. This has involved much research as to what has been published already or what is manuscript, what drafts are parts of novels, short stories, chapters and so forth.

During this Spring semester the two collections have received a lot of publicity and generated increased interest. During March, Paula Covington organized a panel for SECOLAS, the Southeastern Council of Latin Americanists, where she discussed the two collections and their Afro-Hispanic primary source research value. At another panel, Viviana presented her research on memory and Zapata Olivella in relation to colonial Bocachica in Colombia. In late April, Paula participated in a panel at the Encuentro internacional de bibliotecarios in Bogotá sharing with 125 Colombian librarians the digital access now available for portions of these two collections. And in early May, Paula and Viviana spoke on these two collections at the conference organized by Professor Jane Landers, “Digital Humanities and the History of Slavery: A Workshop to Enhance Research, Collaboration, and Graduate Training.”

Thanks to this group for their commitment to this project and for helping to make it available to Colombians and others worldwide!

# CLAS Invites Faculty, Students, and Staff to Submit Proposals for Activities with Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Latin America

In an effort to open up our programming in new ways, CLAS invited Vanderbilt faculty, students, and staff to submit proposals for events and activities to engage our university and local community in interdisciplinary perspectives on Latin America. The request for ideas went out at the beginning of the 2017 fall semester, and the following projects were proposed and funded:

**Lutz Kopenick** (Cinema and Media Arts; German) and **Jana Harper** (Art) requested support to bring artist Guillermo Galindo to Vanderbilt in fall 2018 as a Visiting Resource Professor. Galindo is a Mexican composer and installation artist whose work is concerned with borders, migration, and refugees. Most recently, he has worked with a photographer to document the U.S.-Mexican border while at the same producing curious instruments with found materials whose sounds transcend physical boundaries. Galindo will be in residence at Vanderbilt from October 1–28, 2018, and will engage with Vanderbilt undergraduates and graduate students in LAS, CMAP, and Art. He will also give a public lecture and a community performance in collaboration with Oz Arts. His visit is co-sponsored by CLAS, Comparative Media Analysis and Practice, and Art.

**Steve Wernke** (Anthropology) received CLAS funding to support travel and lodging for two Japanese scholars to attend a symposium at Vanderbilt on the theme of forced urbanism in the colonial Andes. This was the third in a series of international and interdisciplinary symposia; it focused on the General Resettlement of Indians (the *Reducción General de Indios*) and the publication of a volume on this mass resettlement program that affected over million native Andeans in the late sixteenth century. CLAS supported travel for two Japanese scholars to attend the symposium, which took place in February. The first symposium took place at Vanderbilt in 2015, followed by a second in La Paz in 2016. The project was supported primarily through a grant by the Japan Institute for the Promotion of Science, awarded to Akira Saito (Professor of the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan), with additional support from the National Museum of Ethnology and



MICHELLE WIEZLER

Artist Guillermo Galindo

Vanderbilt's College of Arts and Science, as part of a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions.

**David Vila**, doctoral candidate in Spanish and Portuguese, requested funding to support a literary contest for *Furman 217*, an online magazine organized by students and faculty in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. The magazine publishes short stories, poems, and short scholarly texts from Vanderbilt students and faculty, as well as from around the world; the most recent issue presented the work of 1,200 people, including published poets and well-established scholars. Twenty-two students submitted contributions to the Furman 217 Spanish and Portuguese Short Story Competition. Most of the participants were not native speakers of Spanish or Portuguese, but many of them study these languages at Vanderbilt. Vila remarked, "It has been very positive and encouraging to see that there is, in fact, an interest across campus in using these languages in creative ways." The jury evaluated five graduate submissions and 17 undergraduate submissions on themes including identity, family, fear, relationships, and displacement. The jury had a tough time selecting winners in both the graduate and

undergraduate categories, awarding pieces that combined wit, creativity, and accurate language usage to tell suggestive stories." Contest entries will be published in the magazine: [furman217.com](http://furman217.com)

**Ana Regina Andrade** (Economics) received CLAS funding to support her new field research seminar (Econ 7930) for graduate students in economic development in May 2018. The seminar culminates in a twelve-day trip to Paraguay, giving students the opportunity to visit local and international organizations working to combat poverty and increase agricultural productivity. Students will conduct research on beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries of the programs, and then present an analysis of their data and possible economic impact of the programs studied.

## Teacher Workshop Explores Recycled Children's Orchestra of Paraguay

In January, CLAS hosted 31 educators, including two pre-service teachers and five graduate students, from across Middle Tennessee for a teacher workshop “From Trash to Triumph: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay.” The daylong workshop at Vanderbilt introduced educators to the documentary film *Landfill Harmonic*, which follows the true story of a children’s orchestra based next to the main landfill of Asunción, Paraguay.

**Thomas Verrier** (Blair School of Music) presented the film and led the post-screening discussion. CLAS Outreach Coordinator **Colleen McCoy** introduced educators to the Américas Award for Children’s and Youth Literature, which is sponsored by the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs and co-coordinated by CLAS. She highlighted its rich curricular resources and presented *Ada’s Violin*, which was the 2017 Américas Award winner and is based on the story of the Asunción orchestra.

**Elvira Aballi Morell**, doctoral candidate in Spanish & Portuguese, shared her experience working with Fundación Nicolás Guillén, a nonprofit organization based in Havana that provides arts activities for children and youth. **Andrew Reducha**, a M.A. student in International



Education and Policy Management, presented a lesson plan and additional resources related to the work of Nicolás Guillén for high school Spanish teachers.

To conclude the workshop, teachers divided into small groups to develop and share ideas for curriculum inspired by content from the day. Participants received all curriculum resources presented in the workshop, including a *Landfill Harmonic* DVD for classroom use.



## Exploring Haiti with the Works of Edwidge Danticat

As part of Haiti Week 2018, CLAS hosted a professional development workshop, “Exploring Haiti with the Works of Edwidge Danticat,” on February 8 at the John Seigenthaler First Amendment Center. The workshop culminated in a public talk, “This Side of the Water: Haiti and Life in the United States,” featuring author Edwidge Danticat. **Frank Robinson** (History) gave workshop participants an overview of Haitian history, situating it within broader Caribbean history and providing context for the works of Danticat. **Stephanie Knight** of University of Oregon’s Center for Applied Second Language Studies shared resources and engaged educators in an activity on social justice and perspective-building. The workshop was attended by eight pre-service teachers, 14 educators, and 13 students.





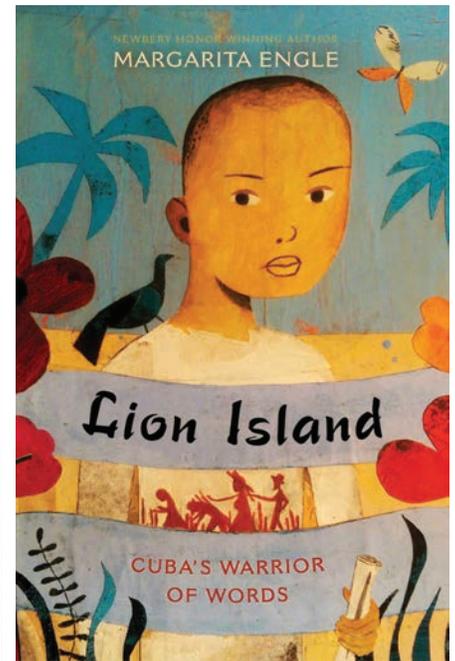
## Area Studies Book Award Webinar Series Premieres with Americas Award Author

This spring, area studies centers from various world regions collaborated to create the World Area Book Awards that feature an area award recipient through a monthly webinar series. Titled “Global Read Webinar Series: Diverse Social Justice Books for the High School Classroom,” the online series is open to educators and free of charge. Each sixty-minute webinar features a discussion with the book’s author on incorporating the book into the classroom.

Twenty-six educators tuned in to the premiere webinar of the series on February 8, hosted by the Americas Award. The webinar featured author Margarita Engle, a national Young People’s Poet Laureate. Engle’s presentation, “Lion Island: Cuba’s Warrior of Words,” focused on the story of Antonio Chuffat, a young man of African, Chinese, and

Cuban descent who becomes a champion for civil rights. The Global Read Webinar Series continued with the South Asia Book Award and author Padma Venkatraman on March 12, the Middle East Book Award and author Ibtisam Barakat on April 26, and featured an Africana Book Award winner in May.

The World Area Book Awards include the Americas Award, Africana Book Award, Middle East Outreach Book Award, and South Asia Book Award. Learn more and view the recorded webinars at [vanderbilt.edu/clas/outreach](http://vanderbilt.edu/clas/outreach)



## Sylvan Park Caribbean Night



In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria, the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) created the Puerto Rico Task Force to aid elementary and secondary schools in the island country. Vanderbilt’s CLAS responded to the call for action by

working with Sylvan Park Paideia Elementary School to adopt a school in San Juan. The Dr. Antonio S. Pedreira Elementary School sustained major damage from the hurricane, losing the roof to its library and undergoing extensive flooding.

CLAS Outreach Coordinator **Colleen McCoy** and Executive Director **Avery Dickins de Girón** collaborated with Sylvan Park’s Related Arts teachers (music, art, Spanish, and physical education) to develop a curriculum unit on the Caribbean. All students in the K–4 school read *Parrots Over Puerto Rico*, which places the story of the near extinction of the Puerto Rican parrot within the context of Caribbean history. The book was the subject of school-wide paideia seminars, interactive discussion of texts with open-ended questions. The book, authored by Cindy Trumbore and Susan L. Roth, was the winner of the 2012 Americas Award sponsored by CLASP.

In accordance with the paideia emphasis on service to one’s community, the curriculum unit culminated with a fundraiser and book drive on March 2. Students in grades 2 and 3 performed Caribbean songs and dances,

and artwork from all students was displayed. Following the performance, families enjoyed a dinner from Back to Cuba. Approximately 250 people attended the fundraiser, resulting in ticket sales that raised over \$1,200 for the Dr. Antonio S. Pedreira school. Students also donated over 300 books; 79 Spanish language books will go to the San Juan school, and another 224 books will go to a new library of English language books in the Dominican Republic.





## Pre-Service Teacher Participation Increases in CLAS Outreach Programs

CLAS continues to develop its K–16 outreach program, providing resources to educators across the country. For the past four years, we have focused on engaging pre-service teachers. In the 2017–2018 academic year, pre-service teacher participation increased significantly, with 16 pre-service teachers attending professional development workshops organized by CLAS.

**Holly Reichert**, first-year graduate student in Learning and Design at Peabody College, has attended three CLAS teacher workshops this academic year. She appreciates the breadth of the materials provided by the workshops, the expertise shared by Vanderbilt professors and educators, and free registration

for pre-service teachers. “The important information shared by Vanderbilt professors about Día de los Muertos and Haiti, for example, really helped me build a knowledge base I did not have before,” said Reichert. “I also like getting to share lesson ideas with other educators and hear their feedback.” Reichert looks forward to using CLAS teaching resources with her future classroom. “The information about the Culture Boxes blew my mind. I plan to borrow some next year!” said Reichert. “We could learn about a country that some of my students have experienced and then a new one. This would validate students’ lived experiences and introduce them to a new place in a respectful, authentic way.”

## CLAS Connects with Educators at National Council for Social Studies Conference

The National Council for Social Studies Annual Conference was held November 17–19 in San Francisco and highlighted the themes of “Expanding Visions/Bridging Traditions.” Vanderbilt, along with other members of the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP), hosted a booth at the conference, engaging with many of the 3,400 teachers who attended.

The CLASP exhibit highlighted the *Américas Award for Children’s and Youth Literature* as a resource for teachers, as well as curriculum, professional development opportunities, summer institutes, and teaching materials available through CLASP member institutions.

Prior to the conference, the University of California–Berkeley Office of Resources for International and Area Studies hosted a daylong Area Studies and Outreach Conference. This conference connected outreach professionals from institutions across the country, providing an opportunity to share diverse perspectives and best programming for engaging educators and the general public in area studies.

The coordinators of Area Studies book awards (*Américas Award*, *Africana Book Award*, *Middle East Outreach Book Award*, *South Asia Book Award*) also met to develop collaborative programming, which resulted in the *Global Read Webinar Series*.



## CLAS Collaborates with McGavock High School on Weaving and Dyeing Day

On April 27, the McGavock High School Spanish Department and CLAS held a *Weaving and Dyeing Day* at McGavock High School for more than 100 students. Inspired by the content of two previous CLAS teacher workshops at Vanderbilt, Spanish teachers **Emily Baughman** and **Dottianne Pitzer** developed the multidisciplinary, hands-on event.

Students were assigned to four teams named after Latin American countries (Mexico, Peru, Bolivia and Guatemala), and the teams rotated between four stations: a wool-dyeing demonstration by Baughman, an introduction to alpacas by Future Farmers of America students (featuring the school's six alpacas), a weaving demonstration by **Marelke Sattler** (Anthropology), and instructions and time to weave their own square with art teacher **Jerri Simon**.

Each student received a “passport” with questions related to each station, completing the passport by the end of the program. With support from CLAS, the teachers will create a related curriculum unit to be shared with other schools, and continue to broaden the scope of the program at McGavock High School.



## Teachers Incorporate Indigenous Culture into Classroom through Film

In April, CLAS welcomed educators for the two-day *Latin American Film Institute 2018: Bringing Indigenous Culture into the Classroom*. The first day of the institute featured screenings of *Even the Rain* and *Ixcanul*, reflective discussions of the films led by **Earl Fitz** (Vanderbilt History) and **Claire Gonzalez** (Harpeth Hall School), and a presentation by **Caroline Miller** (Glentcliff High School) on strategies for incorporating film into curriculum.

The second day of the institute was devoted to collaborative curriculum development focused on the two films. Educators worked



in pairs to create lesson plans and classroom activities that engaged one or both films, and they presented their ideas and new materials to the group. Each participant received a DVD of their choice of the two films for classroom use.

## FACULTY NEWS

## Two Vanderbilt Historians Receive 2018 Guggenheim Fellowships for Latin American Projects

**Eddie Wright-Rios** and **Joel Harrington** are among 175 scholars, artists, and scientists named as 2018 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellows.

Professor of History Eddie Wright-Rios specializes in modern Mexico and its cultural history; he will use his Guggenheim to complete his book, *Devotion in Motion: Pilgrimage in Modern Mexico*. He noted in his proposal that this project requires scholarly sleuthing, creativity flexibility, and sensitive exposition, as it leans heavily on his oral interviews and participation alongside a group of market vendors during six days and 120 miles of walking to Our Lady of Juquila's shrine. Wright-Rios will devote the next academic year to honing his analysis of the Juquila's growing online devotional presence, completing additional devotee interviews in Mexico and writing book chapters, as well as taking part in the pilgrimage again in November via bicycle. Part of the project entails a concerted effort to reach beyond the academy to a truly public audience through a travelling photography exhibit anchored in the project. CLAS worked with Wright-Rios to organize and host the exhibit on campus, as well as at Miami University in Ohio and



Eddie Wright-Rios



Joel Harrington

Cumberland University in Tennessee.

Joel Harrington, Professor of History and department chair, was also selected for a Guggenheim fellowship. His project, "Hans Staden and the German Counter-Narrative of New World Cannibalism," focuses on the sixteenth-century true story of a Hessian mercenary. Hans Staden was shipwrecked in southern Brazil and credited divine providence for his nine-month survival and subsequent escape from his cannibal captors, the Tupinamba Indians.

Staden's publication, *True History*, was promoted as a popular "man-eating book" about the adventure and became an instant bestseller in 1557. However, Harrington has found a disjunction between the lurid marketing of the book and the more sympathetic account Staden wrote about his "hosts," also in contrast to the denigrating portrayals by Spanish and Portuguese contemporaries. Harrington plans to travel to relevant Brazilian sites and archives and make an archival trip to Germany, where he will review printed German accounts of the New World at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel.

—Contributed by Heidi Hall

## FACULTY NEWS

**Celso Castilho's** (History) book, *Slave Emancipation and Transformations in Brazilian Political Citizenship* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2016), was chosen as co-winner of the Roberto Reis Best Book Award for books published in Brazilian studies in 2016 and 2017. The work has previously been awarded the Bolton-Johnson and Warren Dean prizes from the Conference on Latin American History.

CLAS Affiliated Faculty **Rhonda Collier** has been selected as director of Tuskegee University's Office of Global Education.

**Tom Dillehay** (Anthropology) recently won three awards for his book, *Where the Land Meets the Sea: Fourteen Millennia of Human History at Huaca Prieta, Peru* (University of Texas Press, 2017): 1) the 2018 SAA Book Award; 2) a Choice Book Award; and 3) the Latin American Reviews Book award in History.

**Earl Fitz** (Portuguese) has published the essay, "Eca, Machado, and World Literature," in the University of Coimbra journal *Revista de Estudos Literários*. He contributed the book chapter "Borges, Clarice and the Development of Latin America's New Narrative" to the volume *Beyond Tordesillas: New Approaches to Comparative Luso-Hispanic Studies* published by The Ohio State University Press. He also contributed a book chapter on indigenous American literatures of South, Central, and North America to the Routledge Companion series.

**Carolyn Heinrich** (Education) published a new article on U.S. immigration enforcement and its impact on citizen children with parents of Mexican origin: Heinrich, Carolyn J. 2018. "A Thousand Petty Fortresses': Administrative Burden in U.S. Immigration Policies and its Consequences." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 37(2).

**Jon Hiskey** (Political Science) was an invited plenary speaker at plenary speaker at USAID Honduras "Migration Learning Seminar." Tegucigalpa, Honduras, February 14–15, 2018, and at "Protecting the Rights of Individuals Fleeing Conflict: The Role of Scientists, Engineers, and Health Professionals." Symposium sponsored by the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Washington, D.C., December 7–8, 2017. He also recently published two articles:

- Hiskey, Jonathan T., Abby Córdova, Mary Fran Malone, and Diana M. Orcés. Forthcoming. "Leaving the Devil You Know: Crime Victimization, U.S. Deterrence Policy, and the Emigration Decision in Central America." *Latin American Research Review*.
- Hiskey, Jonathan T. and Mason W. Moseley. 2017. "Severed Linkages: Distorted Accountability in Uneven Regimes." *Comparative Political Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414017740603>

**Jane Landers** (History) has received the 2018 Caroline P. Rosseter Award for Outstanding Woman in Florida History. She will be presented with the award during the annual banquet dinner at the Florida Historical Society Annual Meeting and Symposium on May 18 at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota. Landers was interviewed on Radio Bilingüe, Red Nacional de Radio Pública Latina, for "Secrets of Spanish Florida," in January 2018 and has received the following grants:

- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Scholarly Communications Collaborative, "Enslaved: The People of the Historic Slave Trade," \$40,000, 2018
- British Library Endangered Archives Programme, "Preserving Early Ecclesiastical Sources from the State of Rio de Janeiro," \$52,856, 2017–19
- Historic St. Augustine Research Institute, "Spain's Corsairs of 'Broken Color'" and the Maritime Career of Capitán Francisco Menéndez, \$7,000

**Emanuelle Oliveira-Monte** (Spanish and Portuguese) recently published a new book, *Barack Obama Is Brazilian: (Re)Signifying Race Relations in Contemporary Brazil*.

**Norbert Ross** (Anthropology) received a Fulbright Scholar Award for work with children and violence in El Salvador. Ross is also teaching a 2018 Maymester course that explores the intricate relationship of colonialism, global warming, and reef ecology in Utila, Honduras.

**José Cárdenas Bunsen** (Spanish) has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure.

## Sagen Eatwell Receives Norma Antillón Award

Established in 2013 by LAS faculty, the Norma Antillón Award is given at the end of the spring semester to a student completing their first year of the M.A. program in Latin American Studies. Named in honor of Norma Antillón, the much-beloved former administrative assistant at the Center for Latin American Studies, the award goes to the student who best exemplifies the traits we most admired in her: a joyous spirit, concern for others, and collegiality. Award recipients receive a cash prize and their names are engraved on a plaque housed in CLAS. In 2018, **Sagen Eatwell** was honored with this award for his energetic spirit, commitment to education on Latin America, and his socially-inclusive nature.



Sagen Eatwell and CLAS Assistant Director Nicolette Kostiw

## Master of Public Health Student Researches Gastric Cancer in Western Honduras

**Birdie Hutton**, a second-year Master of Public Health student in the Global Health track, recently presented her thesis work that evaluated the behavioral, environmental, and genetic risk factors for gastric cancer. This work was a population-based study in Western Honduras that analyzed clinic and community data from 2002 to 2017. She was mentored by Douglas Morgan, M.D., M.P.H.

**T**uberculosis (TB) is the world’s leading cause of death by infectious disease, and Brazil ranks among the 20 countries worldwide with the highest rates of TB. Using data from the 2017 AmericasBarometer study in Brazil, our *Insights* report “Blaming the Victim: Knowledge of Tuberculosis Is Associated with Greater Stigma in Brazil” shows that Brazilians are very knowledgeable of TB, and that—contrary to conventional wisdom—individuals who know more about the symptoms of TB are actually more likely to stigmatize those who are sick.

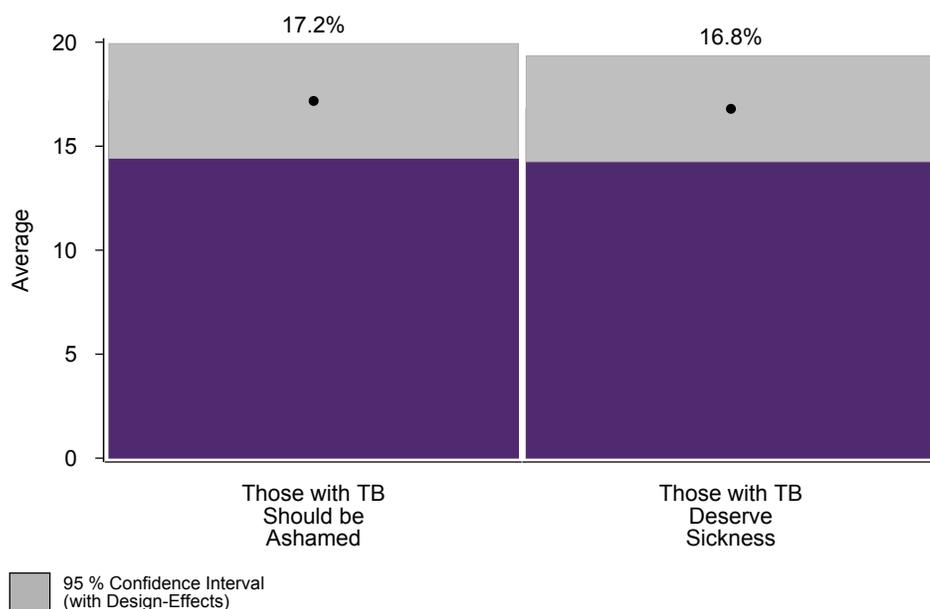
We find that more than 90% of Brazilians have heard of TB, and 61% are aware of latent TB, which occurs when infected individuals display no symptoms. About 16% of Brazilians report attitudes associated with social stigma of the sick. Specifically, 16% of Brazilians believed both that those who have TB should be ashamed of their illness and that they deserve to be sick, (see the figure on the right.)

Stigma toward the sick can result in a number of bad public health outcomes. Those with TB who feel stigmatized may

avoid seeking care or leave their courses of treatment unfinished, which can encourage the development of treatment resistant disease. Increasing public knowledge of infectious disease is often expected to decrease stigmatization of the infected.

However, we find that those with high knowledge of TB—specifically, those who know TB can be asymptomatic and who recognize night sweats as a TB symptom—are more likely to express the stigmatizing belief that individuals with TB should be ashamed of their disease. These results suggest caution in assuming that knowing more will always decrease social stigma.

The survey data for this project was collected as part of LAPOP’s AmericasBarometer, with support from the TIPS program. The Brazil survey was carried out from April 5–May 11 2017, during which time 1,532 number of adults in Brazil were interviewed in their homes to form a nationally representative sample. More information on the AmericasBarometer can be found at [vanderbilt.edu/lapop](http://vanderbilt.edu/lapop).



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17; Brazil D1.1

- **Allen Kilgore** (B.A. 1994) has recently moved to Guatemala City to manage the construction of the new U.S. Embassy project for BL Harbert International.
- **Kellie Montoya** (B.A., 2004) is President of Vanderbilt’s Alumni Chapter in Miami; she hosted Jane Landers for Commodore Classroom talk on Florida history in April 2018.
- **Bryan Pitts** (B.A., 2006) recently took the position of Associate Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Indiana University. For the past two years, he has been a postdoctoral student in the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute and Portuguese Flagship Program at the University of Georgia. Prior to that he finished his Ph.D. at Duke University in 2013, and then spent six months on a Fulbright in Brasília in 2015.
- **Jessica Moore** (B.A., 2015) is a new Program Associate at the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) in Washington, D.C.
- **Ashley Larson** (M.A., 2014) was hired as the Special Collections Public Services Librarian at The Claremont Colleges. She is thrilled to be an official librarian, and thanks Paula Covington for her mentorship and advice while she worked as her assistant at Vanderbilt.
- **Theodora Saclarides** (M.A./4+1, 2017) is a Research Intern at the Wilson Institute’s Brazil Center in Washington, D.C.
- CLAS thanks alumni **Allen Kilgore** (B.A., 1994), **Arianna Yarritu** (B.A., 2016), and **Rebecca West** (M.A., 2015) for sharing how they have used their LAS degrees in their careers with our majors and M.A. students. Each of these alumni made a presentation in our core Latin American Studies course (LAS 4901/5901).

