



VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY

# Center for Latin American Studies



FALL 2012



## *La Camioneta: The Journey of One American School Bus*

Every day, dozens of decommissioned school buses leave the United States on a south-bound migration to Guatemala, where they are repaired, repainted, and resurrected as the brightly colored *camionetas*, which carry the majority of Guatemalans to work each day. Yet since 2006, nearly one thousand camioneta drivers have been killed for either refusing or being unable to pay extortion money demanded by local gangs.

*La Camioneta: The Journey of One American School Bus* goes beyond the violent headlines of the news in Guatemala to track the migration of one school bus and understand the aspirations of five men as they struggle to understand the insecurity that surrounds them. The journey of the bus reveals the beauty and violence of everyday life in Guatemala and highlights the social and economic interconnectedness between the U.S and Latin America.

Mark Kendall (M.A. LAS 2009) is director, producer, and cinematographer of *La Camioneta*. Kendall, a Student Academy Award-nominated filmmaker based in Brooklyn, studied anthropology and Latin American studies at Vanderbilt and then obtained an MFA in social documentary film from the School of Visual Arts in New York. His first short film, *The Time Machine*, was a National Finalist at the 2011 Student Academy Awards and was selected to participate in the Short Film Corner at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival.

*La Camioneta*, Kendall's first feature-length film, had its world premiere at the 2012 SXSW Film Festival and won the NAHCC (Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce) Award for Best Hispanic Filmmaker at the 2012 Nashville Film Festival. Recently, the film was screened in the Summer Showcase at the 2012 Los Angeles Film Festival. The film will screen in the documentary competition at the Festival Internacional de Cine en Centroamerica (ICARO) in November. In spring 2013, CLAS will host Mark Kendall and offer screenings of *La Camioneta* for campus and community. Additionally, teacher workshops, panels, and screenings at area high schools are being planned as part of the center's outreach programs. Find out more about the film online at [lacamionetafilm.com](http://lacamionetafilm.com).

### New CLAS Affiliated Faculty Michael LaRosa (Rhodes College)

Michael J. LaRosa is associate professor of history at Rhodes College. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Miami where he studied with Peruvianist Steve Stein and late Brazilianist Robert M. Levine. LaRosa focuses on the history of contemporary Colombia; he has worked as visiting professor at several universities in Bogotá, twice under the auspices of the J. William Fulbright program. His most recent publication, a co-authored text with the Colombian historian German R. Mejía, is titled *Colombia: A Concise Contemporary History* (2012).



Michael LaRosa

### Fulbright Recipient Richard Pace (MTSU) Conducts Research in Amazonia

CLAS affiliate faculty Richard Pace (Middle Tennessee State University) spent the 2011–2012 academic year on a Fulbright research and teaching grant at the Federal University of Pará in Belém, Brazil. In addition to teaching a class on the anthropology of media in the Programa de Pós-Graduação de Ciências Sociais (Graduate Program for the Social Sciences), he conducted research on the Belo Monte Dam and the emergent socioeconomic and environmental

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER: EDWARD F. FISCHER

It is a pleasure to be back at CLAS and Vanderbilt after a productive year of sabbatical leave. We were extremely fortunate to have the leadership of Jane Landers in the center during my absence, and I am grateful for all that she did last year. Behind the scenes, more work goes on here than you can probably imagine, and that is largely carried out by our Executive Director Avery Dickins de Girón, our Outreach Coordinator Claire González, our Administrative Assistant Alma Paz-Sanmiguel, and our Associate Directors Helena Simonett and Frank Robinson. Without their hard work and dedication, none of what we do would be possible.

Beyond our able staff, we are blessed with an exceptional faculty. I have always felt that Latin American studies tends to attract especially dedicated professors and students—committed to their fields of study, socially and politically committed to the

region, and committed to teaching others about this important part of the world. Your energy and enthusiasm motivates us to keep doing what we are doing and to spread our reach every wider.

Chancellor Zeppos has a vision of creating "one university" at Vanderbilt, integrating in meaningful ways the many varied colleges, schools, and programs. We at CLAS are committed to that vision, and indeed we are one of the very few, if not the only, program on campus that has active and ongoing projects with every school and college, from our home base in A&S to Peabody and engineering, nursing and medicine, business and law. Our goal is to help spread Latin American studies and international engagement across campus, and we ask for your continued support in these efforts.

Edward F. Fischer

## University of São Paulo Visit Highlights Brazil Week 2012

From September 4–7, 2012, Vanderbilt welcomed faculty members from the Universidade de São Paulo (USP), the top-ranked university in Brazil and Latin America, to showcase the numerous research and other exchanges between the two institutions. The visit was organized by Provost McNamara and the Vanderbilt International Office (VIO) and included faculty from USP in chemistry, art, history, and education. USP representatives presented lectures, seminars, and workshops for Vanderbilt students and faculty gathered on several occasions with

USP partners to exchange information on opportunities for exchange available at both universities. USP and Vanderbilt colleagues enjoyed a photography exhibit, studio art visits, and history seminars, given in Portuguese and English. These events provided Vanderbilt faculty and students with a greater breadth of knowledge on Brazil. Since the week coincided with Brazilian Independence Day on September 7, it was declared Brazil Week, and many in the university community came together for cultural activities organized by CLAS, including a night of poetry, a capoeira demonstration, and a futebol tournament. On Friday, September 7, Serenatta performed an evening of music at Scarritt Bennett in celebration of Brazilian independence. After the meetings, many of the visitors traveled to Champaign-Urbana to attend the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) XI Conference (September 6–8).



## 2012 Elections in Latin America

**O**n July 1, 2012, over 49 million Mexicans (an overall 62% voter turnout) went to the polls to elect a president, 128 senators, 500 deputies, six governors, and the mayor of Mexico City.

The former governor of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto from the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), was the clear leader in the presidential race, and he won the election with roughly 38% of the vote. Runner-up Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) received 31% of the vote, while Josefina Vázquez Mota of the Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) came in third place with 23% of the vote.

Peña Nieto's victory is particularly significant as it marks the PRI's return to power after a 12-year hiatus in its historic 70-year control of the country. Peña Nieto insists that the party has changed its ways and promises a new approach in the drug war, though there are doubts as to whether the PRI has reformed since pressures from entrenched state-level PRI machines will be hard to resist. However, much has changed in Mexico within the last twelve years: there is a more active press, the legislature has become more powerful, and there is a greater emphasis on government transparency, especially regarding social spending and public services.

Professor Jonathan Hiskey, associate professor of political science at Vanderbilt, views the PRI's victory as a rejection of the PAN's leadership rather than an indication of Peña Nieto's strength. For Hiskey, the fact that Peña Nieto won by a small margin suggests that there remains a lot of skepticism regarding the PRI's return to power, and that the PRI's main objective will be to avoiding repeating the mistakes of the PAN. However, the PRD and the PAN will remain important forces in the legislature and will be waiting for the PRI to make mistakes in the next six years in order to better position their national candidates for the next election cycle. Many feel that the only way to oust the PRI from power is when the PRD and the PAN work together. If the PRI remains as the new and improved Democratic Party, then they are more likely to win in a three-way race.

In the background of all of these political happenings is the ongoing drug war. Many think that Peña Nieto may take a less confrontational approach with the drug side of drug trafficking but perhaps exert a more concerted effort to reduce the kidnapping, extortion, and other 'side businesses' of some of the cartels.

The election was also important because it marked the first time that a female candidate from a national party ran for president in Mexico. Vázquez Mota, 51, is an economist who also most recently served as secretary of education under President Felipe Calderón. She got her start in politics in Ciudad Juárez as federal representative for a cluster of northern Mexican states. Despite her poor showing in this election, Hiskey thinks that another woman running for office at the national level is likely. The legislature is 25% women and 40% of a party's candidates must be women. There are, however, few female mayors in Mexico, which might belie some remaining political and cultural issues in Mexico. Despite this dearth of leadership at the local level, there are opportunities at significant levels for women to gain leadership experience to position themselves for higher office.

Scholars at Vanderbilt have been looking at the 2012 elections for quite some time. On March 27, 2012, CLAS hosted a "Vote 2012" panel on the Mexican elections along with LAPOP, the Department of Political Science, and Women's and Gender Studies at Vanderbilt. Sergio Sanmiguel-Gastelum, a private consultant and former official in Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), was invited to participate in the discussion with Prof. Eddie Wright-Rios of the Department of History and Prof. Liz Zechmeister of the Department of Political Science. The discussions focused on the strengths and weaknesses of the three frontrunners.

This year has been an active one for elections in Latin America. Voters went to the polls in May in the Dominican Republic and elected Danilo Medina as president. In October, voters will go to the polls in Venezuela to decide whether Hugo Chávez will continue as in office or if the challenger, Henrique Capriles, will assume the presidency.

*(continued from page 1)*

impacts upon downstream communities, as well as documenting the aesthetics of Kayapó filmmaking (in conjunction with Glenn Shepard of the Goeldi Museum). For spring 2013, he has been awarded an \$104,000 NSF grant (with co-PI Conrad Kottak) to return to Brazil to study the evolving influence of media (television, Internet, cell phones, DVDs) upon five rural communities (Turedjam of the Kayapó Indigenous Lands, Gurupá in the Amazon, Arembepe on the coast of Bahia, Cunha in the interior of São Paulo, and Ibirama in the southern state of Santa Catarina). Vanderbilt anthropology doctoral candidate Monte Hendrickson will participate in this research, studying the impact of media in Gurupá.

### Primeros Pasos

In March 2012, Vanderbilt's Manna student chapter sent a team to Primeros Pasos, a nonprofit, independent organization with a comprehensive outlook on health care, which offers quality and affordable care as well as health education to the rural, underserved communities of the Palajunoy Valley of Quetzaltenango. Eight students who all spoke intermediate-advanced Spanish came to give reproductive health classes in the secondary school in Llano del Pinal. They taught Monday–Thursday to all four sections of Primero Básico. This group made a \$1,000 donation to the clinic.

## Faculty News

**Beth Conklin** (Department of Anthropology) is president of SALSA, the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America. SALSA's next international conference will meet at Vanderbilt March 7–10, 2013.

**Paula Covington** (Latin American Studies) attended the annual conference of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials hosted by the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago in June and presented a paper entitled "Afro-Caribbean Voices: Oral History Projects at Vanderbilt." The talk discussed two digital collections at Vanderbilt, "Who Speaks for the Negro?" and "Voices from Our America," and the Colombian oral history project that is part of the Manuel Zapata Olivella Collection. Covington also made a trip to the Yucatan and Oaxaca in April to collect Maya resources published in these regions.

**Elizabeth Heitman** (Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society) was keynote speaker in an August 1 symposium in Costa Rica entitled "Developing a Culture of Responsible Conduct in Research." The symposium was supported by the Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social, Centro de Desarrollo Estrategico e Informacion en Salud y Seguridad (CENDISSS) and was sponsored by an NIH grant to University of Miami Fogarty International Center which is intended to support ethics programs.

**Earl Fitz** (Department of Spanish and Portuguese) was recently named to the Distinguished Alumni Board of the University of Iowa Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Professor Fitz also delivered a series of invited lectures on inter-American literature, and on comparative approaches to Latin American and Iberian literature, at Stanford University, Northwestern University, the University of Alberta, the University of Mary Washington, and the Americas Society in New York City.

**Cathy L. Jrade** (Department of Spanish and Portuguese) recently published the book, *Delmira Agustini, Sexual Seduction, and Vampiric Conquest* (Yale University Press). Delmira Agustini (1886–1914) has been acclaimed as one of the foremost modernistas and the first



## MANI+

Last summer, Vanderbilt students combined their research and desire to serve by being part of the MANI+ project in Guatemala. The project, which seeks to combat severe malnutrition in Guatemala and aid small farmers, was founded in 2008 by CLAS Director Ted Fischer. Several teams of Project Pyramid students from Vanderbilt's Owen School of Business Management, led by Bart Victor, helped develop the business plan, Sarah Roper (A&S 2012) and other MHS VISAGE students have helped develop implementation plans. Hudson Baird (A&S 2010), Thomas Davis (Engineering 2010), Jillian Currie (Peabody 2012), and Robert Tauscher (currently a senior in A&S), and the Institute of Global Health have worked on a nutritional formulation and educational plan.

Tauscher says that "spending this summer working with Mani+ in Guatemala, I had the chance to work on issues of health, development, and economics with a dedicated team of nutritionists and social entrepreneurs. We researched the formula, made trial batches, presented to potential investors, and worked with local farmers. I hope to return to Guatemala soon to continue helping the Mani+ project."



Mani+ targets children from 6 to 24 months; it is a paste that is taken once a day for 18 months. Mani+ also works with peanut farmers to improve the quality of their crop, which increases the crop's market value. Furthermore, Mani+ adds an educational component to its outreach by providing workshops for mothers that emphasizes proper nutrition. For the future, Mani+ hopes to research and develop new products that will fit into local contexts and tastes, such as a nutritional bar and a cookie aimed at pregnant and lactating mothers.

Over 49% of Guatemalan children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition—the worst rate in Latin America and the fourth worst rate in the world. Chronic malnutrition has devastating effects on these children, resulting in stunted growth, cognitive impairment, and reduced earnings and productivity in adulthood.

# *Vanderbilt Receives Three Brazilian University Students through Brazil's New Science Without Borders Program, Humphrey and Fulbright Scholars to Peabody*

**T**he Brazilian government's new Science Without Borders Program will provide scholarships to undergraduate students from Brazil for one year of study at colleges and universities in the United States. Scholarships will be given primarily to students in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Students in the program will return to Brazil to complete their degrees. This program, administered by the Institute for International Education, is part of the Brazilian government's larger initiative to grant 100,000 scholarships for the best students from Brazil to study abroad at the world's best universities. This year, Vanderbilt will host three students in the new program: Elomar de Franca Costa e Souza (Engineering), Clarissa Borges (A&S), and Ramon Dias Ferreira (A&S).

With agreement from several departments on campus, Vanderbilt agreed to participate as a host institution for three scholarship recipients for the 2012–13 school year. Like exchange students, the scholarship recipients from the program will receive support from the Global Education Office upon arrival, and will live in the dorms among other Vanderbilt students. Participation in the Science Without Borders undergraduate program is an excellent addition to our other activities with Brazil, including our ongoing relationship with CAPES exchange programs for graduate students—now more than 10 years old—as well as hosting visiting scholars from Brazil, also supported by CNPq.

Candidates must first be nominated by their Brazilian university and approved by CAPES (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior) and CNPq (Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico) to participate in the Brazil Science Without Borders Program. CAPES is the department within the Brazilian Ministry of Education devoted to the evaluation and expansion of higher education in Brazil. Many of the projects financed by CAPES provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to gain hands-on experience. Their programs range from studies in the Amazon to nanotechnology development. CNPq is the department within the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology devoted to the advancement of scientific research and technology and to the development of scientific research-related human resources. CNPq operates many programs that focus on national environmental issues as well as transnational research projects in the genetics and biotechnology fields.

Vanderbilt has an ongoing relationship with CAPES, which is now more than 10 years old. CAPES is a governmental foundation affiliated to the Ministry of Education in Brazil, that supports and sponsors research initiatives and the scientific development of Brazilian researchers and professors. Vanderbilt has hosted several scholars from Brazil supported by CNPq.

CAPES Students at Vanderbilt this fall are Emerson Lua (Universidade Federal da Bahia), Larissa Cykman (Universidade Federal de Rio Grande do Sul), and Sandro Freitas (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco).

Guilherme Bueno de Camargo, of Brazil, is a Humphrey Fellow at Peabody this year. While at Vanderbilt, he plans to investigate charter school structures and public-private partnerships in the United States in order to apply a similar framework when he returns to Brazil. Bueno de Camargo is a public attorney for the City Hall of São Paulo and former deputy secretary of education of the State of São Paulo. His focus is on public education management in Brazil, specifically utilizing decentralization to improve academic outcomes and tertiary access for all students.

Camila Lawson Scheifer, a doctoral student in applied linguistics from Campinas State University (UNICAMP) is visiting Peabody College in 2012–13 as a Fulbright Scholar. Her research focuses on studying the literacy practices of fifth grade students in transit through digital and physical environments. She is especially interested in mapping the circulation of texts, bodies, and discourses across different spaces in order to understand meaning-making processes and identify in-between zones that are potentially meaningful for education. At Vanderbilt, she is studying with Dr. Kevin Leander and his research group to learn more about the spatial perspectives for studying literacy. Brazilian applied linguistics has just very recently started to problematize space-time relations as a legitimate category of analysis for understanding social practices.

## **CH'ORTI' LANGUAGE GROUP**

Graduate students and faculty from the Department of Anthropology organized a semi-weekly interest group to learn the Mayan language Ch'orti' under the instruction of Dr. Danny Law, post-doctoral scholar in anthropology. Participants in the study group met informally on a semi-weekly basis during fall 2011 and spring 2012. The Ch'orti' language, spoken by around 10,000 people in the eastern Guatemalan towns of Jocotan and Camotan, is believed by many to be directly descended from the language recorded in thousands of ancient hieroglyphic inscriptions from the first millennium A.D. The group will resume meetings in fall 2012. Anyone interested in learning more about Ch'orti' Mayan or participating in the interest group, please contact Danny Law at [danny.law@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:danny.law@vanderbilt.edu)

## Faculty News cont.

major woman poet of twentieth-century Spanish America. In addition, Dr. Jrade also co-hosted the Association of Departments of English and the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages meetings here in Nashville with Marc Schoenfield. Dr. Jrade's entry on "Modernismo" in the *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, 4th edition, just appeared.

**Jane Landers** (Department of History) presented at the National Underground Railroad Conference, held in St. Augustine, Florida, from June 20–24, 2012. Landers has also been appointed vice president/president elect for the Council on Latin American History (CLAH) for 2013–2015. She assumes the office at the CLAH conference in New Orleans in January 2013.

**William Luis** (Department of Spanish) is one of the 181 recipients in the United States and Canada of a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He will use his Guggenheim funding to write the definitive book on the life and works of the Cuban slave poet Juan Francisco Manzano, who was the only slave in Latin America to author his autobiography at a time when slaves were not allowed a formal education.

**Paul B. Miller** (Department of French and Italian) has recently published his article titled "'Bendito sea A. que no me hizo indio ni negro': Ethnic Paradigms in Menasseh Ben Israel's *Esperança de Israel*" in *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*—Journal Issue Volume 89, Number 5 / 2012.

**Frank Robinson** (Department of History, Latin American Studies) has been elected president of SECOLAS (Southeastern Conference on Latin American Studies).

**Tiffany Tung** (Department of Anthropology) had her book, *Violence, Ritual, and the Wari Empire: A Social Bioarchaeology of Imperialism in the Ancient Andes*, published in February of 2012 by the University Press of Florida.

## CLAS Summer Awards Programs

CLAS administers several summer awards available to both graduate and undergraduate students pursuing research projects in Latin America. The call for applications is posted on the CLAS website ([vanderbilt.edu/clas](http://vanderbilt.edu/clas)) each December and applications are due in early February.

### Latin American Studies Field Research Grants

Awards are for approximately \$2,000 each and are intended primarily to support travel expenses related to field research for individuals conducting pre-dissertation research in Latin America during the summer of 2013. Any Vanderbilt graduate student in the College of Arts and Science with Latin American-related interests is eligible to apply, although preference will be given to doctoral students. The award is NOT intended for advanced dissertation research, but rather to support initial hands-on field research and the development of independent research projects.

**Carmelina Espantazay Serech**, a second-year Ph.D. student in anthropology, completed research on female Mayan candidates in the Guatemalan elections of 2011. Her work focused on the emergence of ethnic diversity in the political realm and its relation to gender.

**Felipe A. Girón P.**, a third-year Ph.D. student in cultural anthropology, continued his field research on political violence in Guatemala in the 1960s. Felipe spent a summer in Zapaca, Guatemala, conducting archive and ethnographic research to better understand daily life during that time period.

**Carla Cecilia Hernández Garavito**, a second-year Ph.D. student in anthropology, traveled to Huarochiri, Peru, to research Inka and Spanish colonial processes from the perspective of a small highland Andean community. Carla cross-referenced archaeological data and early Spanish documents with current cultural aspects of the community to support her work.

**Lillian Tatiana Paz Lemus**, a third-year Ph.D. student in anthropology, spent the summer of 2012 conducting in-depth field work in Tactic, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. Her work centered around the Guatemalan school systems and how the official educational policies affect the resources available on a local level.

**Daniel Zizumbo Colunga**, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in political science, traveled to Cherán, Mexico, for a month of exploratory research to find out why citizens sometimes take the law into their own hands. Daniel conducted interviews with locals as well as outside researchers to gain more in-depth knowledge of vigilante justice in the region.

### Simon Collier Travel Awards

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

**Santiago Quintero**, a former Ph.D. student in Spanish and Portuguese, visited Buenos Aires, Argentina, and consulted materials in the Biblioteca Nacional de Buenos Aires. His research centered around the 1950s Argentine publications of *Más Allá* and *Hora Cero* and the theme of science fiction as related to the United States and the political, ideological, and cultural tensions of the Cold War.

**Benjamin McCormick**, a medical student, received Simon Collier support for Argentine-based research on the relationship between interferon levels and severity of respiratory disease. During his time abroad, he was able to collect medical samples directly from pediatric patients in hospitals throughout Buenos Aires and use this data as the basis for his theoretical work.

### Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)

The Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University has been awarded funding from the Department of Education to support FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) Awards for intensive studies of Portuguese or Latin American indigenous languages in the summer of 2013. Any graduate or undergraduate student with Luso-Brazilian or indigenous language-related interests and who is a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident is eligible to apply.

This past summer seven highly qualified individuals were given the opportunity to improve their language skills through six-week intensive language programs. Through the FLAS awards, students were able to study K'iche' Maya in Guatemala and Portuguese in Brazil, with one program in Rio de Janeiro and another in Sao Paulo. The K'iche' Maya course was based in Nahualá, Guatemala, a city in the Western highlands of the country.

**Sarah Foss** traveled to Nahualá, Guatemala to participate in the K'iche' Maya course. Her use of the language in local contexts allowed her to internalize the grammar she learned in class. Through independent excursions into the Guatemalan Highlands, she explored the various regional dialects and expanded her knowledge of the area's geographical features.

**Katie Angell**, a Latin American studies student here at Vanderbilt, furthered her understanding of K'iche' Maya through educational and cultural exchanges in the summer program in Nahualá. Katie credits her homestay and daily interactions with her "family" for the impressive gains in her language skills.

**Ana Hildalgo** (need affiliation) participated in the Yucatec Maya Language Summer Program in Xocen, Mexico. Ana made substantial gains in both her grammatical and conversational abilities. She plans to use her newly developed skills as she researches midwives in the Yucatec area.

**Christine Vidmar**, of Georgetown University, was the recipient of a FLAS fellowship that sent her to study Portuguese and Brazilian culture in Rio de Janeiro. The daily intensive coursework in language and culture provided her with the tools needed to engage in practical research on Brazil's

environmental policy by attending of the Rio+20 conference.

**Micah Oelze**, a Ph.D. candidate in history at Florida International University, attended the summer intensive in São Paulo. Micah used his time in Brazil to explore the archives of Rio, Sao Paulo, and Salvador, laying the groundwork for his dissertation. Highlights of the program include reading Brazilian works of literature in class with Professor Christopher Dunn of Tulane and having discussions with his host family on a daily basis.

**Daniel Genkins** saw incredible improvement in his Portuguese language skills over the six weeks he spent in São Paulo. Daniel notes that the cultural component of the program truly allowed for an easy and flexible learning experience. As a history student at Vanderbilt, Daniel was able to more fully explore his discipline through the program's collaboration with American historian Jeffrey Lesser.

**Laura Brown's** time in São Paulo proved an excellent opportunity for preliminary research on her paper relating to the spatialization and racialization of the Brazilian version of Sesame Street, Vila Sésamo. She also found some stellar resources for a future project on the Brazilian circus that is part of her work, "The Farce of Foundation and the Foundational Farce." For her, the Portuguese program and the skills she gained will prove invaluable components of her future language studies and research.

**Rebecca Keng** found the São Paulo program to be a wonderful vehicle not only for improving Portuguese language skills, but also for understanding immigrant populations and culture in Brazil. The city, which can be intimidating, proved itself a dynamic host, offering countless opportunities for cultural immersion and practical language studies.

## New Faculty

**Jose Cárdenas-Bunsen** (Department of Spanish and Portuguese) received his Ph.D. from Yale University and specializes in teaching Spanish American literature with special emphasis on the colonial period. His research focuses on the legal thinking of Bartolomé de las Casas in relation to the historical and ethnographic writings of Indian and mestizo authors.



**Ruth Hill** (Department of Spanish and Portuguese) received her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and comes to Vanderbilt from the University of Virginia. Her research interests include colonial and nineteenth century Latin American history and literature, critical race studies (caste systems, folk biology and human diversity, eugenics), early modern Brazil and Portugal, Hemispheric American studies, Atlantic studies, baroque and neobaroque, enlightenments and modernities, rhetoric and poetics, and early modern science and philosophy (in Italy, Spain, Portugal, England, France, and Spanish America).



**Dominique Béhague** (Medicine, Health and Society) joins MHS after teaching at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and in the Anthropology Department at Brunel University. Professor Béhague received her M.A. in social anthropology from Bryn Mawr College and her Ph.D. in anthropology and the social studies of medicine from McGill University. Specializing in the ethnography of Brazil and the anthropology of health and biomedicine, Professor Béhague's current research interests include critical global health; the anthropology of mental health and psychiatry; science, society and the life-cycle; and methodological and epistemological ventures in interdisciplinarity.



## COMING UP AT CLAS SPRING 2013

### January 30–February 1

Screening and Teacher Workshop on *La Camioneta: The Journey of One American School Bus* • VU Campus

### February 18–21

Screening and Teacher Workshop on *La Maestra*, a documentary about women and the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign

### Tuesday, February 19

International Lens presents *La Maestra*, followed by a discussion with activist Norma Guillard and producer Catherine Murphy • 7:30 p.m., Sarratt Cinema

### March

ENGOV Conference: Environmental Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean: Developing Frameworks for Sustainable and Equitable Natural Resource Use • [www.engov.eu/en](http://www.engov.eu/en)

### March 1–June 23

Exploring the Ancient Art of the Americas: The John Bourne Collection • Frist Center for the Visual Arts

### June

CLAS Teacher Institute: Portuguese for Spanish Teachers at University of Georgia-Athens

## New Faculty cont.

**Amy Non** (Department of Anthropology/Medicine Health and Society) is a molecular anthropologist. Her work addresses the relative contributions of genetic ancestry and sociocultural factors to explain racial disparities in hypertension in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. Professor Non's research focuses on epigenetic modifications that may occur as a result of early life exposures to stressors which may ultimately be linked to the development of chronic diseases. Professor Non holds a master's of public health, a Ph.D. in anthropology (University of Florida, 2010), and is currently completing a Robert Wood Johnson HSS fellowship.



### **Dr. Lindy Fenalson**

(School of Medicine) graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine in 2005 and completed pediatric residency training at Vanderbilt in 2008. She has served as a pediatric AIDS corp physician with the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative in Lesotho for two years, and went on to enroll as an MPH candidate at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and to complete a pediatric nutrition fellowship at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Since her time in residency at Vanderbilt, she has had the privilege to serve as a medical provider, educator, and consultant in several countries within Africa and Latin America. Included in these efforts are the Vanderbilt Maní+ project in Guatemala and the Nicaragua Global Health Elective for nursing and medical students. She is thrilled about returning to Vanderbilt to join colleagues in nutrition efforts here in Middle Tennessee and abroad.



## CLAS Summer Language Programs

### **My Summer in Brazil: Vanderbilt and Tulane's Portuguese Language and Brazilian Culture**

**Rebecca Keng, LAS Graduate Student**

If I could sum up my experience in one word, it would be *saudades*. The first day I arrived in Brazil, my host mother took my neighbor and I out to a neighborhood bar for some *cervejinhas* and told me about that untranslatable word. Before this summer, I had never been to South America. I was scared and very homesick, and didn't know what to expect. São Paulo is an interesting place to live. It is loud and slightly intimidating, scattered with steep hills and poorly paved sidewalks. I soon realized that real São Paulo was much better than I could have imagined. It is a dynamic city, with too many events to attend and great restaurants on every street corner. As the financial capital of Brazil, not everyone walks around in Havaianas flip-flops, but Paulistanos still display the warmth and kindness Brazilians are known for.

The Vanderbilt-Tulane program had much to offer both in and outside the classroom. The Portuguese classes at Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo were good, and we had a lot of fun learning about different regional accents and talking about Avenida Brasil. I enjoyed the "Brazilian Cultural Imaginaries" class taught by Chris Dunn from Tulane University. We met singer Tom Zé and went on a tour of immigrant neighborhoods with Professor

Jeffery Lesser. I loved going to evening book launches, eating at botecos with friends, and going on nighttime bike rides on Avenida Paulista. I loved our weekend trip to Paraty, a beautiful colonial town in the state of Rio de Janeiro. I loved exploring the different *feiras* and markets throughout the city: from the art and crafts at Feira da Republica to the antique knick-knacks at the Feira do Bixiga to the fresh fruits and pasteis at the weekly *feira* right outside PUC.

I enjoyed observing the unique culture that emerged out of São Paulo's immigrant history. We would go to the Mercado to eat Italian mortadella sandwiches, and wash it down with sugarcane juice. We would go to the neighborhood of Liberdade to take pictures under the Japanese torii arch and then buy DVDs of Brazilian movies. São Paulo is the best example of a cosmopolitan Latin American city. I loved the city so much I decided to stay for two more weeks after the program had ended, but I couldn't even scratch the surface of all the city had to offer. My summer in São Paulo was an unforgettable experience that I would repeat in a heartbeat. It was a summer of adventure, learning, and great company. After this summer, I understand what it means to feel *saudade*. I feel it whenever I think of my friends, of my Brazilian family, and of the city of São Paulo.

For more information on the Vanderbilt/Tulane program, see [vanderbilt.edu/clas/brazilian-studies-and-portuguese/sao-paulo-summer-2013](http://vanderbilt.edu/clas/brazilian-studies-and-portuguese/sao-paulo-summer-2013)

## Intensive Summer K'iche' Maya Institute 2012

*Katie Angell, LAS Graduate Student*

Having traveled extensively throughout Guatemala the past few years, I have been fortunate enough to meet some amazing people and to gain a deeper understanding of Guatemalan culture and life. This past summer, I explored for the first time a part of Guatemala that I had never traveled to and which easily became one of the most significant places to me. Thanks to the support of the Center of Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University and the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) offered by the U.S. Department of Education, I was invited to participate in the 2012 Summer K'iche' Maya Institute in Nahualá, Guatemala.

The intensive, six-week Summer K'iche' Maya Institute facilitated a genuine immersion experience into the culture and customs of an intimate Mayan community in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. Not only did the program help me to build a stronger foundation and understanding of the K'iche' language, but I had the unique opportunity to interact within the community on a daily basis and to take part in their traditions and



lifestyle. While in Nahualá, students are placed with different host-families and are able to learn about each of their individual family's interests. This was the best part of my experience with the program, as it gave me an opportunity to make my studies of the Maya culture more personable.

Now that I have returned back to the United States and to Vanderbilt with hundreds of new K'iche' words and grammatical expressions, and have built close friendships in the Nahualá community, and contributed to constructing bridges of understanding and appreciation of two different cultures.

The institute will next be offered in summer 2014. Find more information online to [vanderbilt.edu/clas/guatemala-mayan/intensive-summer-kiche-maya-program](http://vanderbilt.edu/clas/guatemala-mayan/intensive-summer-kiche-maya-program)

## Alumni News

Since graduating from Vanderbilt University in 2008, **Lana Alman** relocated to the Washington D.C. area to work for Booz Allen Hamilton, a government consulting firm. For the past four years, Lana has worked with diverse government clients within the Department of Homeland Security. She has been fortunate to travel to Mexico for two projects where she directly applied her regional understanding and Spanish language skills. In 2011, Lana's research, titled "Capacitación y Movilidad Laboral de Trabajadoras Domésticas Peruanas en Santiago, Chile" was published by Universidad Alberto Hurtado in *Mujeres Inmigrantes en Chile: ¿Mano de obra o trabajadoras con derechos?* Lana began this research during her Fulbright in Chile in 2005–06 and continued at Vanderbilt University with the support of CLAS.

**Sarah Foss** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2012) is starting her Ph.D. in history at the University of Indiana-Bloomington. She spent part of her summer at the Intensive K'iche' Maya Institute in Nahualá, Guatemala.

**Luke Gebhard** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2000) and his wife, Beth, moved to Nashville in October 2010 after stints in New York and Los Angeles. He works in the mayor's office overseeing Nashville Energy Works, an incentive program in partnership with TVA and NES to encourage Nashville residents to make energy-saving improvements to their homes. Luke and Beth welcomed their daughter, Ava, on February 6. All are well.

**Col. Patrick Hall** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 1999) has spent the last five years working in embassies in Latin America. He was the defense attaché in Uruguay from 2007–2009 and then served as the Army attaché in Venezuela from 2009–2011. He is currently the military group commander at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he is responsible for planning and coordinating all U.S. military cooperation with the Defense and Security Forces of Argentina.

### CERTIFICATE IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

CLAS offers graduate students from different departments and schools at Vanderbilt the opportunity to complete a Certificate in Latin American Studies. The certificate allows students to document their regional specialization by earning the certificate, which is awarded in conjunction with their M.A. or Ph.D. The LAS Certificate also encourages graduate students to study outside of their disciplinary specialization. For more information on the certificate, please see "Graduate Students" on the CLAS website.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE 4+1 PROGRAM

The College of Arts and Science at Vanderbilt University offers students in most departments and programs the opportunity to earn both the bachelor's degree and the master's degree in a shorter period of time and at less cost than is normally the case. The usual period of study for both the bachelor's and the master's degree is six years. Through the 4+1 option, the student with her or his advisor plans a five-year program of study. Undergraduate completion of major in LAS (or in exceptional cases, a closely related field with sufficient LAS content), LAS 201, and LAS 290 during undergraduate years, and submission of application to 4+1 program in junior year are required. For more information, go to: [vanderbilt.edu/clas/undergraduate](http://vanderbilt.edu/clas/undergraduate)

## Alumni News cont.

**Martha Hurst Herron** (B.A. 1983) is a substitute teacher teaching Spanish at a private K–12 school in the Atlanta area. As a community volunteer, she uses her Spanish at an emergency assistance organization to help those experiencing financial crisis, especially working mothers and children who have fallen under the current level of poverty in the area. She has worked, lived, and travelled throughout Latin America, primarily spending time in the highlands of Andean Ecuador. She maintains an interest in the ancient cultures and sites of the Andean Highlands and continues to return to South America as often as she can with her family.

**Col. Lawrence W. Meder** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 1992) is currently serving as the chief of staff of the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command that mobilized and deployed in support of Operation New Dawn and Enduring Freedom. The 364th was instrumental in meeting the President's directive in bringing all U.S. troops and equipment out of Iraq and back to the United States in a historic 57-day period; the largest logistical operation since World War II.

After **Laura Morgan** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2009) graduated, she realized that her travel bug was not yet squashed. After completing her degree, she taught English in Santiago, Chile, and then in a remote, rural village in Thailand. Upon returning, she moved to Washington, D.C., where she landed the position of research support specialist/learning center administrator at the Inter-American Defense College (IADC).

**Max Pendergraph** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2012) will be staying at Vanderbilt to pursue a Ph.D. in history. He works on issues of migration between Iberia and Latin America and his adviser will be Prof. Marshall Eakin.

## M.A. LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES NEW STUDENTS 2012–13

**Angelika Albaladejo** is a Miami native and first generation American with Cuban and Puerto Rican immigrant parents. She lived in South Florida until she graduated from Everglades High School in 2008. She earned a B.A. in global affairs with a concentration in Latin America from George Mason University, as well as a double minor in communications and conflict analysis and resolution. Her research has focused heavily on social, gender, and conflict issues in Latin America. Apart from her Latin American research endeavors, Angelika has spent time traveling for competitive public speaking competitions with the GMU Forensics team, painting as part of her small business Vans-Gogh: Hand-Painted Shoes, and working exercise and healthier eating into her daily schedule.



**Ashley Larson**, originally from Fremont, Nebraska, studied at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before transferring to California State University-Fullerton where she earned her undergraduate degree in Latin American studies with minors in Spanish and Portuguese. At CSUF, she served as president of the Latin American Studies Student Association and interned at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California. Ashley also spent some time abroad studying Spanish at the Universidad Veritas in San José, Costa Rica, and volunteering at orphanages in Baja California, Mexico. Her passion lies in the cultures and languages of Latin America. At CLAS, she will focus on diaspora communities and the convergence of culture that occurred during German immigration to southern Brazil and Chinese arrival to Cuba.



**Rebecca Keng** attended Vanderbilt as an undergrad, majoring in Asian studies and Latin American studies. Rebecca is a 4+1 student and in summer 2012 received an FLAS to study Portuguese in Sao Paulo. She loves cooking, eating, and thinking about food. Rebecca is a student of both Latin America and East Asia and wishes to connect these separate areas into her research. Her research is on Asian immigrants, hyphenated identities, and issues of citizenship in Brazil.



**Jonathan Moody** grew up in Nashville, Tennessee. Throughout high school and college, Jonathan visited communities in southern Mexico several times, solidifying his interest in Latin America and its indigenous cultures. Jonathan studied for a semester at the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain. In 2011, he received his undergraduate degree at the University of the South, majoring in Spanish. After graduating, he spent a year in Nantes, France, working as a musician and English tutor. In his free time, he writes and records music with his wife. He hopes to study indigenous movements in Latin America, focusing on the role of music within these movements.



**Megan Oleson** is originally from Benicia, California. A two-month exchange in Paraguay at the age of sixteen sparked her interest in Latin America. She spent a year studying the Spanish language in Granada, Spain, and holds two bachelor's degrees: one in global studies with an emphasis in Latin America from the University of California-Santa Barbara and a second in Spanish literature from Middle Tennessee State University. Her travels to the region include Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, and Paraguay. Since 2008, Megan has been the Nashville chapter training director of the nonprofit youth leadership organization "Amigos de las Americas." She will focus on the study of Latin America through language and anthropology while at Vanderbilt University.



**Caitlin Patton** is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina. She is a recent graduate from Appalachian State University with a major in anthropology and a concentration in sustainable development with minors in Spanish and history. Her area of research interest is rural development, community responses to economic globalization, and how the local environment can shape livelihood change in Central America and Brazil.



**Daniel Rojas** is a Chilean Lawyer who spent six months working in a law firm, and then realized that he wanted something different. He quit his position and began working



at Acción Emprendedora, a nonprofit organization that fosters small business development in low-income areas of Chile. At AE, he served as the director of an entrepreneurship center, created a legal services department, and worked as the COO. After almost four years working in this NGO, he came to Nashville to improve his English. He spent last semester working for the government in Chile, as a legal advisor in the National Service for Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drugs and Alcohol Consumption.

**Captain William B. Scott** is currently a foreign area officer in the U.S. Army for the Latin America Region. At an early age, he traveled throughout Latin America as his father conducted Latin American education studies in Guatemala, Honduras, and Chile. He enlisted in the Army as cavalry scout in May of 1993. After attaining a bachelors' degree in mathematics sciences from New Mexico State University, he received a commission as a military intelligence officer. He has had multiple deployments to Iraq and Kosovo, was stationed in South Korea during the Yeonpyeong-do shelling in November 2010, and has lived in nine foreign countries. As an avid traveler, he loves to indulge and immerse in foreign cultures. He quickly learns new languages, speaking several languages conversationally and Spanish fluently, and is studying K'iche at Vanderbilt. He is single but has adopted one furry, four-legged child by the name of Grizzly.



**Rebecca West**, a Nashville native, worked as an editorial assistant for Alive Now and Weavings at the Upper Room after studying theology at Georgetown. Wishing to experience living abroad and improve her Spanish, she moved to Chile where she discovered Chilean *modismos* and later developed a project through Start-Up Chile, which she hopes to continue during her time at CLAS. She finds her community with the Nashville Bridge, a nonprofit in East Nashville dedicated to helping seventh- through twelfth-grade student prepare for college, where she served as a college teacher, associate director, and now as a volunteer and member of the Nashville Bridge family.



**Yvonne White** is originally from Salisbury, North Carolina. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill where she studied psychology and Hispanic studies. At UNC, she volunteered with the growing local Latino population through ESL teaching. Outside of the U.S., she studied abroad in Quito, Ecuador, and served as an intern for the State Department in Guatemala City, Guatemala. She is now interested in inequality and under-represented populations in Brazil and other Latin American countries, as well as the "war" on drugs that the U.S. is engaged in with Mexico and other Central American countries.



**Chelsea Williams** was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia. She developed a lifelong love of Latin America after a childhood exchange program to Venezuela. Throughout her education, she cultivated that interest, ultimately graduating magna cum laude from the University of Maryland with a degree in government and politics. After graduation she completed an internship with the Foundation for Sustainable Development in La Plata, Argentina, and has spent the past two years working at the Gateway Center, one of the largest homeless service providers in the Southeast. She is thrilled to return to her education and looks forward to being in the wonderful city of Nashville.



**Will Young** is from Marvin, North Carolina. As an undergraduate at Gardner-Webb University, he majored in Spanish and minored in political science. For the past year, Will has worked as an admissions counselor at Gardner-Webb. Will's interest in Latin America began on a mission trip to the region after his junior year in high school, and he has since traveled to the region a number of times. While at Vanderbilt, Will hopes to focus on political trends and democratization in Latin America, especially among the region's indigenous populations. Upon completing the program, Will plans to pursue a Ph.D. in political science.



## Alumni News cont.

**Bryan Pitts** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2006) is currently completing his Ph.D. in Latin American history at Duke, with an April 2013 defense planned for his dissertation, titled "The Inadvertent Opposition: The Paulista Political Class and the Demise of Brazil's Military Regime, 1968-1985." His first journal article, titled "The Audacity to Strong-Arm the Generals: Paulo Maluf and the 1978 São Paulo Gubernatorial Contest" will appear in the August 2012 issue of *The Hispanic American Historical Review*.

**Carlos Quintana** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2000) lives in Rome, Italy, and works as the Latin music guide for *About.com*. His second son was born in the summer of 2012.

**Becky Reuse** (M.A. 2011) has been working over the past year in Brazil marketing her English speaking skills, working at a local school and at a university and currently online at *OpenEnglish.com*. Recently she presented at a conference about education policy with respect to indigenous populations, comparing policy in the U.S. and Brazil. From her house she can see the fringe of the forest and from her side porch the river that divides the city of Rondônia. She is one block from the famous BR-364, a source of decades of conflict in Brazil. Her starfruit tree is full and every day she opens up the door to a family of parakeets flying away as she interrupts their breakfast.

**Avi Richman** (M.A. 2012) just returned to the U.S. last week after spending around three months in and around São Paulo. He had a wonderful time, learned a great deal about education policy in the country, and improved his Portuguese.

**Leslie Rodriguez** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2010) is in her third year as a doctoral student in Vanderbilt's Sociology Department. Her research focuses on international migration and race. She is also working as an editorial assistant for the *American Sociological Review*, the flagship journal for the American Sociological Association.

## Alumni News cont.

**Laura Sellers** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2012) is starting her Ph.D. in political science at Vanderbilt. Her research interests include migration in the Americas.

**Eric Sigmon** (B.A. Latin American Studies, 2004) is starting his master's degree at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. In addition, he is engaged and will be getting married in Colombia in March 2013.

**Nick Stokes** (B.S. Latin American Studies, 2004) wrapped up a two-year tour in Yerevan, Armenia, with the U.S. Agency for International Development's foreign service in July 2012 and has been transferred to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul for one year to work in USAID's Office of Democracy & Governance.

**Steven Taylor** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2011) started his new position in Metro Nashville Public Schools teaching U.S. history and Spanish at Martin Luther King Magnet School. He is honored to be part of such a fine school and is excited to share what he learned from the Latin American studies program with his students.

**Hillary Voth** (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2011) lives in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and is working for an organization called Ciudadanía. She is part of a project called "Cultura Política y Diversidad Cultural," which works to promote political participation by Quechua women in Cochabamba and has taken on the pioneer task of working with Quechua women to define political concepts in their native language and according to their worldview. Another Vanderbilt alumnus, Daniel Moreno (Ph.D. Political Science, 2008), is the coordinator of social investigation at Ciudadanía.

**David Wheat**, (M.A. Latin American Studies, 2003; Ph.D. History, 2009) is an assistant professor of Caribbean history at Michigan State University, where he teaches classes on Caribbean history, colonial Latin America, and African Diaspora studies. He is currently in Spain for a year on an NEH Fellowship (2012–13), finishing up his first book project.

## FACULTY PROFILE

### *Terry Maroney, Vanderbilt Law School*



**T**erry Maroney, professor of law and professor of medicine, health, and society, specializes in criminal law, juvenile justice, and the role of emotion in law. Her current scholarship analyzes the impact of emotion on judicial decision-making. She also has examined the use of adolescent brain science in juvenile cases. Of Cuban-American roots, Professor Maroney is the first Latino or Latina to receive tenure at Vanderbilt Law School. Her affiliation with CLAS has allowed Professor Maroney to continue to cultivate her interest in Latin America.

Professor Maroney is a faculty adviser for La Alianza at Vanderbilt Law School, the Latino/a student organization. In this capacity she works with students to create a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere within the law school, and helps law students connect with the local Latino/a community. She has a particular interest in the legal system in Cuba and its connection to the broader Cuban civic and social environment.

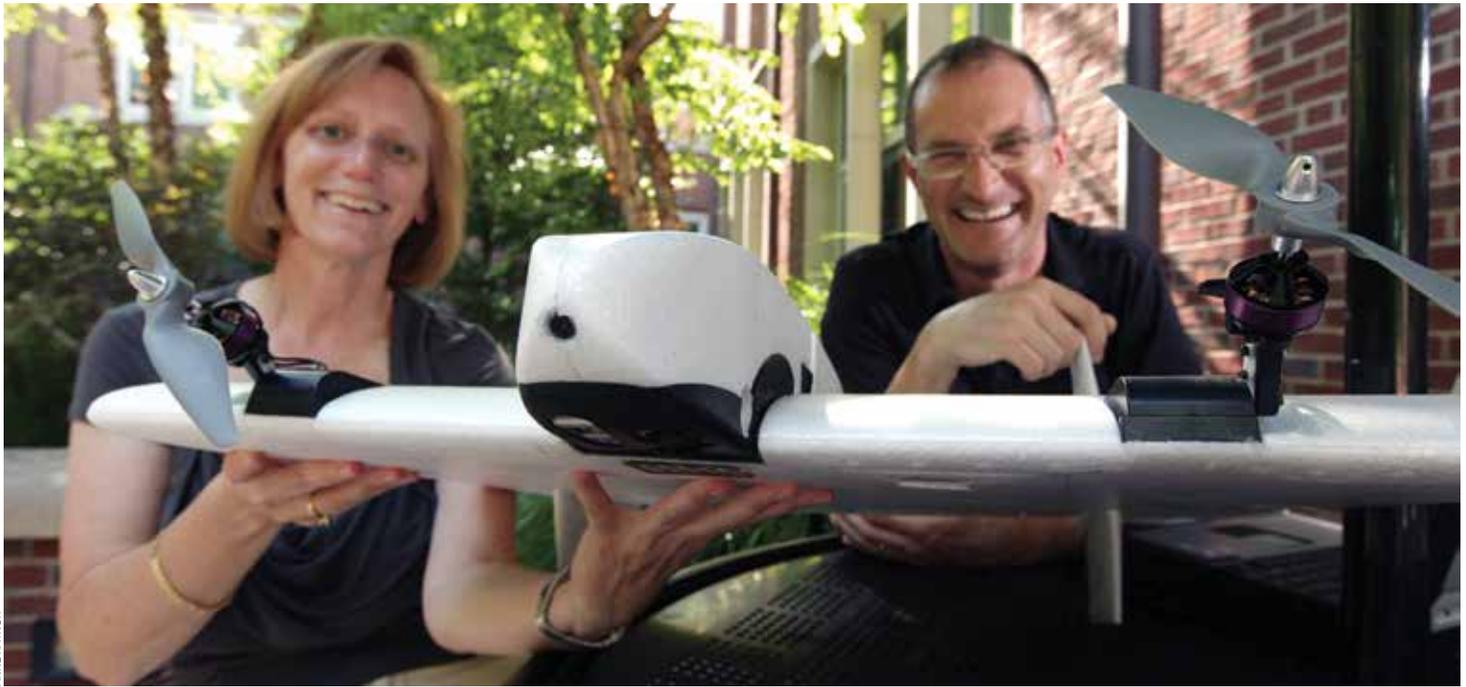
As a law student, she led an academic trip to Cuba, where she and other students observed trials and met with attorneys, law students, law professors, judges, and legal community leaders. Professor Maroney hopes to lead a similar trip this coming year for law students.

Professor Maroney also serves on the board of directors of Conexión Americas, a not-for-profit organization that promotes the social, economic, and civic integration of Latinos in Middle Tennessee. Professor Maroney was the co-chair of the organization's 2012 fundraising breakfast and is part of the advocacy committee. Working with Conexión connects her to her own Cuban-American roots, giving her a chance to welcome the newest arrivals in a way others once welcomed her family.

Professor Maroney received her B.A. from Oberlin College and earned her J.D. summa cum laude from New York University School of Law. Before going to law school,

*Professor Maroney has a particular interest in the legal system in Cuba and its connection to the broader Cuban civic and social environment.*

she worked as a rape crisis counselor, HIV educator, and advocate for crime victims. Professor Maroney joined Vanderbilt's law faculty in 2006 after serving as a law fellow at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. Before her fellowship at USC, she was a Furman Fellow at New York University School of Law, a litigation associate at WilmerHale, a Skadden Fellow at the Urban Justice Center, and a law clerk to Judge Amalya L. Kearse on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.



ANNE BASTINOR

## Peruvian Archaeology Project Soars to New Heights

**E**xciting things are happening in the worlds of archaeologist Steven Wernke and engineering professor Julie A. Adams—and if all goes well, they could have global implications. In yet another testament to Vanderbilt’s collaborative environment, the two faculty members, funded by an Interdisciplinary Discovery Grant, have been working together on a project that could revolutionize archaeological mapping. The project is a blend of the most advanced aerial technology and a timeless discipline. Wernke and Adams have combined an unmanned aerial vehicle called the Skate from Aurora Flight Sciences with an advanced software program designed to capture images of archaeological sites.

According to Wernke, using traditional mapping methods “it

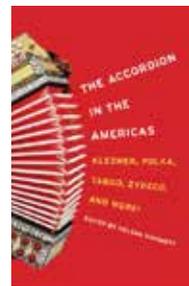
can take two or three years to map one site in two dimensions.” With use of the vehicle, aptly coined SUAVe (pronunciation like the Spanish *suave*) archaeologists will now be able to map an area in only ten minutes. In addition to the incredible increase in efficiency, SUAVe will also produce a better final product, with three-dimensional profiles of the area and outstanding imagery. The system itself is also easily portable, allowing for access to even the most remote areas.

The project is still in its developing stages, undergoing testing this past summer in Mawchu Llacta, Peru. As the research continues, SUAVe’s creators are hopeful that they have discovered a slice of modern technology that will help us delve even further into the past.

**Helena Simonett**, associate director of the Center for Latin American Studies, is the editor of the forthcoming book, *The Accordion in the Americas: Klezmer, Polka, Tango, Zydeco, and More!* (University of Illinois Press). This volume in the series, *Music in American Life*, profiles the rise and proliferation of this instrument across the Americas and in various musical genres. After its invention in the Industrial Revolution, the accordion provided the less affluent with an inexpensive, loud, portable, and durable “one-man-orchestra” capable of producing melody, harmony, and bass all at once. The contributors to the volume consider the various forms of the accordion including the concertina, button accordion, and piano accordion familiar in European and North

American music, and the more exotic sounding South American *bandoneón* and the *sanfoninha*.

The authors reflect on the accordion’s spread and adaptation to a wide array of musical traditions in North and South America, including Brazil, Argentine tango, in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, the Texas and Mexico borderlands, Cajun and Creole, Native American dance, and American avant garde. In addition, the authors illustrate how the accordion was at the center of artistic power struggles between elites and the working class, which were often part of immigrant or marginalized ethnic communities.



**Philip D. Rasico**, professor of Spanish and Catalan language and linguistics, presented an invited paper at the Medieval Studies Conference held at the Universitat de Lleida (Catalonia), Spain, on June 27, 2012, within the section “Catalonia and Portugal: the Iberian Peninsula from the Periphery.” Professor Rasico’s paper, which focused on the language of some of the

earliest documents in the Catalan language (eleventh and twelfth centuries), was titled “Consideracions històrico-lingüístiques entorn de les QUERIMONIAE catalanes de l’Edat Mitjana.”

## Vanderbilt Central Library News

In spring 2012, 318 people were invited to take a survey in order to identify who used the library resources, geographic areas of interest, library resources used, and how satisfied people are with the resources. With 75 completed surveys, we obtained a response rate of 23.6%.

Among the respondents, 44% were Ph.D. students; 38.7% were faculty members; 12% were master's students. Almost half (45.3%) of the respondents reported an academic interest in Brazil, 41.3% in Mexico, 29.3% in Andes, 26.7% in Peru, and 20% in Chile.

Library books (93.3%), e-journals (88%), and e-books (70.7%) are the most often used resources. The service provided by the librarian is also well used (66.7%). Respondents consistently reported that library collection and service well served their research needs. Your feedback is important: Please be on the lookout for our next survey in spring 2013.

The library's newest exhibit "Stage & Screen: The Star Quality of Vanderbilt's Performing Arts Collections" opened September 7 and will run until June 28, 2013. Professor Simon Collier's tango collection is one featured area of the dance collections on the gallery level and includes video and audio segments, touch screen images, and a case of memorabilia (even including a *bandoneon!*). The collection was bequeathed to Vanderbilt and includes approximately one thousand recordings, 150 boxes of written materials, correspondence, diaries, memorabilia, as well as many books and journals. Please stop in and visit this exhibit and also see the newly renovated Special Collections.

## Our Stories: Hillsboro Students Explore Diversity of Nashville's Immigrant Community

In May 2012, CLAS hosted students and community from Hillsboro High School for the presentation of "Our Stories," a student-led ethnographic study revealing the diversity of Nashville's local immigrant community. The project was part of an AP Human Geography class, taught by Hillsboro social studies teacher Adrian Bahan. Mr. Bahan developed the idea after completing an MNPS Academy externship at CLAS in summer 2011, where he worked closely with Ifeoma Nwankwo to learn about how her "Voices From Our America" project could be used as a model for high school students to conduct oral history research. VFOA collects, preserves, and disseminates forgotten, hidden, and neglected narratives of American experience. "Our Stories" was attended by CLAS faculty and staff as well as Hillsboro faculty, students, and community. 2012-13 marks the second year of a partnership between CLAS and Hillsboro High School Academy of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.



### CLAS OUTREACH



### Teachers and CLAS Present on Teaching with Latin American Film at AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese) in San Juan, Puerto Rico

In July 2012, Harpeth Hall School teachers Elizabeth Allen and Denise Croker, along with CLAS Outreach Coordinator Claire Gonzalez, led a session at the AATSP conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, entitled "Through the Lens: Teaching Latin America Through Film." Participants learned strategies for teaching with film across the curriculum, using the example of *Wetback: An Undocumented Documentary*, and received viewing guides and other ideas on how to incorporate visual learning into their classes. The

presentation was the culmination of a collaborative project Allen and Croker began in the summer of 2011 at the CLAS Summer Film Institute at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi.

### Teacher Advisory Board 2012-13

Rae Finnie, Whitsett Elementary School  
Joel Covington, Cane Ridge High School  
David Julseth, Belmont University  
Stephanie Knight, Hillsboro High School  
Rob Nasatir, Father Ryan High School  
Todd Wigginton, MNPS Social Studies Coordinator

### Outreach Facts

- CLAS is partnered with The Academy of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Hillsboro High School.
- CLAS is a community partner to the MNPS Museum Magnet Schools of John Early and Robert Churchwell.
- Last year, over 200 teachers attended CLAS workshops and institutes both on and off campus.

## CLAS 2012 SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTES



### Summer Film Institute

In July, teachers from Nashville, Warren County, Memphis, and Connecticut gathered at Vanderbilt for the CLAS Summer Film Institute. While on campus, teachers gained greater knowledge of Latin America by screening selected films and documentaries from Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic. Following each screening, faculty from Vanderbilt and Belmont gave presentations on the films. In the afternoons, teachers heard presentations from staff at Vanderbilt's Center for Teaching on using case studies, technology, and visual learning in the classroom. During the week, teachers worked collaboratively on presentations, which they presented to colleagues on the last day of the institute. Jennifer Degenardt, a high school Spanish teacher, states "...there is no doubt that my classes for years to come will benefit from my experience, but I'm also hoping that my colleague's classes will as well." This summer marked the first time the institute was held on the Vanderbilt campus. This was the third year CLAS has offered the summer film institute but the first time it has been held at Vanderbilt. In 2010, it was held at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and in 2011 at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS.

### Modern Maya And Ancient Prophecies

Maya people and culture have been featured prominently in popular culture over the last few years as the media have played up ancient Maya prophecies that supposedly predict an apocalyptic end of the world in December of this year (2012). What exactly did the ancient Maya say about this event? How do modern Maya live today? In June 2012, teachers in Middle Tennessee and beyond were introduced to these topics during a summer institute. Avery Dickins de Girón, Mareike Sattler, Catesby Yant, and Tatiana Paz shared their expertise on topics ranging from archaeology and hieroglyphic writing systems to modern Maya languages, weaving, and political economies in Guatemala. At the end of the week, teachers presented to their colleagues on how they plan on incorporating the information from the institute into their classes.



### Teacher News: In the Margin

Holly Knox, former CLAS Teacher Advisory Board member and frequent institute attendee, recently spent three weeks in Havana, Cuba, as the assistant project director with MTSU's Study Abroad Program. The group visited to the Literacy Campaign Museum, the National Ballet of Cuba, the Bio-Reserve, the self-sustainable eco-village of Las Terrazas in Pinar del Rio, the town of Matanzas (including a boat ride down the Rio Canimar), and Varadero Beach. Knox has participated previously in workshops, and was a participant in two previous teacher-focused trips (Dominican Republic and Mérida) with CLAS. Holly Knox is an adjunct instructor of Spanish at Belmont University.

### Groundbreaking Of Casa Azafran With Costa Rican Ambassador Muni Figueres

On April 21, 2012, Conexión Américas broke ground on a new community center located at 2193 Nolensville Pike. Set to open in the fall of 2012, the center will offer services for the state's growing immigrant population. Among those on hand for the ceremony were Muni Figueres, ambassador of Costa Rica and longtime associate of CLAS affiliated faculty Larry Harrington. Figueres spoke of the parallels between Costa Rica and the United States in their support of human rights for visitors and natives and applauded Conexión Américas for the work it is doing to dignify immigrants in our society. While in Nashville, Figueres met with Mitch Seligson and Susan Berk-Seligson of LAPOP, which has strong roots and presence in Costa Rica.

In spring 2012, Avery Dickins de Girón (Latin American studies) and Mareike Sattler (Department of Anthropology) taught "Apocalypse Now? Modern Maya and Ancient Prophecies" at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Topics included what the Maya are really saying about 2012, how the Maya live and thrive today, as well as a few words in K'iche e' Maya.

## LAPOP News

This summer the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) implemented its bi-annual survey of democratic public opinion in the Americas. The 2012 *AmericasBarometer* study includes nationally representative surveys from all mainland countries in the Americas as well as several in the Caribbean. In all, the round covered 26 countries with over 40,000 interviews. Important support for the 2012 *AmericasBarometer* was provided by Vanderbilt University, USAID, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Tinker Foundation, the World Bank, Princeton University, and Duke University, among other institutions. Data and documentation from all rounds of the *AmericasBarometer* study by LAPOP are available online at [vanderbilt.edu/lapop](http://vanderbilt.edu/lapop).



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## Student News

### Three Fulbright Recipients Headed to Latin America for 2012–13

**Daniel O'Maley**, a doctoral candidate in anthropology, will conduct ethnographic research on the politics of open-source software (such as Linux, Mozilla, and OpenOffice) by working with computer programmers, software activists, and government policymakers in São Paulo, Porto Alegre, and Brasília. "Brazil is unique because the federal government there has been one of the most vocal supporters of open-source software worldwide," O'Maley said. "As an increasingly important global player, the policies Brazil promotes have broader effects." This field research will be the basis for O'Maley's dissertation. O'Maley previously spent a year studying visual anthropology at the Facultad de Ciencias Sociales in Quito, Ecuador. "Dan is a very conscientious, hardworking student who is willing to write and re-write his papers," said Lesley Gill, professor of anthropology and department chair. "The result is always high quality. He is a joy to have as a graduate advisee."

**Pauline Roteta** graduated in spring 2012 from the School of Engineering with a minor in Chinese and received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. In August she will begin work at an asset management firm in New York, and the following year she will travel to Brazil,

where, in addition to teaching, she will study the correlation between national English education programs and the effectiveness of microfinance programs. On campus, she was co-president of Manna International and led Alternative Spring Break projects in Ecuador and Argentina. She also served as president of the Engineering Council and worked to create a professional community for undergraduates in engineering.

**Tiffany Tieu**, a graduate of the Blair School of Music, will teach English language courses and establish a community music school in Ecuador. "Tiffany, a senior violin performance major, was an outstanding student at the Blair School," said Carolyn Huebl, associate professor of violin. "She won the concerto competition in her sophomore year and was awarded the Heard Prize from the string department in her senior year. She has also been a scholarship recipient at the Aspen Music Festival." Huebl noted that Tieu spent several weeks working in an orphanage/school in Quito, Ecuador, the summer after her junior year and that experience inspired her to apply for a Fulbright scholarship. She has deferred graduate study in order to accept this scholarship, but plans to pursue a master's degree in violin performance upon her return.

