



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

Center for Latin American Studies



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Photo: David Lafavor

New Study Abroad Program to Cuba Coming Fall 2016

CASA's proposed new academic year study abroad program to Cuba will begin in fall 2016. As part of this process, Vanderbilt has agreed to join the new Consortium of Advanced Studies Abroad (CASA), composed of eight universities, to develop study abroad programs that are nonprofit, academically rigorous, and that connect to faculty strengths. Vanderbilt will be a founding member of the Cuba program, CASA's first permanent site.

Located in Havana, the Vanderbilt/CASA Cuba program will offer courses in conjunction with the Universidad de Habana that will count for direct credit in LAS, anthropology, history, Spanish, and MHS. The program will be physically located at the Casa de las Américas, a renowned humanities and social science research institute, and students may also enroll in regular courses at the Universidad de Habana. Students' residences are next to the Casa de las Américas in Havana's Vedado district. In addition to formal coursework, students will make academic field visits across the island, passing through Guantánamo, Baracoa, Camagüey, Santa Clara, en route to Santiago, which is rich in Caribbean and Afro-Cuban musical, architectural, and religious traditions. All courses are taught in Spanish, which will provide Vanderbilt students with a fully immersive study abroad experience that ties into on-campus expertise. Students can link their study abroad experience to Vanderbilt's deep faculty strength in Cuba, including William Luis (Spanish and Portuguese), Jane Landers (History), Paul Miller (French and LAS), and Frank Robinson (History and LAS), as well as to special initiatives on Cuba such as the Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources from Slave Societies digitization project and the Circum-Atlantic Studies Seminar.

In addition to Vanderbilt, CASA members include Brown University, Cornell University, Columbia University, Dartmouth College, Johns Hopkins University, Northwestern University, and University of Pennsylvania. The Cuba program is CASA's first site, but additional sites are slated to open in Latin America and beyond in the next few years. Vanderbilt delegates will attend the inauguration of the CASA Cuba program in March 2016.

Vanderbilt's Global Education Office will oversee student recruitment and program admissions. Requirements include the completion of SPAN 3303 (or demonstration of intermediate level Spanish), a 2.75 cumulative GPA, the completion of at least two semesters at Vanderbilt, and good academic standing.

Historical Conflicts and the Prospects for Peace in Colombia Conference

In collaboration with CLAS, Jane Landers (History), Lesley Gill (Anthropology), and Paula Covington (LAS) are organizing a one-day conference—Historical Conflicts and the Prospects for Peace in Colombia—on Friday, March 25. The conference examines the roots and current expressions of conflict in Colombia and the country's prospects for a peaceful future, and it will highlight the important research being conducted by Vanderbilt faculty and students. Speakers include notable Colombian scholars and scholars of Colombia from around the country.

The timing of the conference aligns with the anticipated signing of a historic peace accord by the government of President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC rebel forces, ending over five decades of armed conflict. The difficult negotiations and frequent roadblocks leading to this moment underscore how historic and endemic problems of social and economic inequality, political exclusion, and powerlessness have plagued Colombia. These topics will be explored at the conference, with a focus on the historical roots of the contemporary crisis during morning sessions and the present-day impact of these historical legacies in the afternoon sessions.

The conference will end with a reception in Special Collections to showcase Vanderbilt's rich Colombian resources, the J. León Helguera and Manuel Zapata Olivella collections.



Center for Latin American Studies

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER: EDWARD F. FISCHER

We at CLAS are always looking for ways to connect people from different parts of campus who are working on broadly similar projects. It is something we do well, as recognized by the Board of Trust's November meeting that focused on One Vanderbilt in Latin America. As Provost Wenthe stated, "CLAS was the first trans-institutional center on campus and has set an example for other areas of campus."

In this vein, we have begun a new First Tuesdays Lunch series to highlight the work of diverse faculty members across campus. In January, we featured William Luis (Spanish), Steve Wernke (Anthropology), and Ashley Carse (HOD, Peabody); our February session included Lesley

Gill (Anthropology), Celso Castilho (History) and Oscar Gómez (Pediatric Infectious Disease, Medical School). Panels last exactly an hour, lunch is served, and the discussion is lively. Join us! See the back page of the newsletter for dates and participants.

In addition, throughout this academic year we have been inviting faculty to small lunches to make more cross-campus connections and to elicit ideas on how we can better serve you. These lunches will culminate in a town hall meeting on April 12 for all LAS faculty at which we will present an overview of what we have heard from students and faculty and how we can address those issues going forward.

Over 300 Vanderbilt Students Travel to Latin America for Spring Break

Over 300 undergraduate, professional, and graduate students traveled to Latin America during spring break in 2016.

Approximately 275 undergraduate students traveled to 9 Latin American countries through service organizations overseen by the Vanderbilt Office of Active Citizenship and Service (OACS), including:

- Alternative Spring Break: 30 students to Nicaragua, Jamaica, and Panama
- Manna Project International: 120 to Ecuador, Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala
- MEDLIFE: 10 to Peru
- Global Brigades: 81 to Honduras and Nicaragua
- Alpha Epsilon Delta: 24 to Honduras
- AMIGOS: 10 to Honduras

CLAS, VIGH, and OACS provided a regional overview with travel and safety information for these students on February 10.

Professional and graduate students worked as

volunteer consultants for partner organizations in Latin America through Project Pyramid, a student-led organization at the Owen Graduate School of Management. In Guatemala, students worked on business strategy with Maya Health Alliance Wuqu' Kawoq, while another team worked with the ManiPlus to assist with sourcing of peanuts and supply chain from Nicaragua to Guatemala. Another group helped develop a low-cost, gastric cancer-screening tool with collaborators in Honduras. The interdisciplinary teams include students from business, education, nursing, and medicine. Additional groups are partnering with Un Mundo in Honduras to support its educational programs in Peru and Mexico.

Professor Cynthia Paschal led 11 biomedical engineering students to Guatemala through her service-learning course, which has been in place since 2008. Students tested and repaired medical instruments, such as ventilators, sensors, and regulators alongside Universidad del Valle students led by Professor Carlos Esquit. "The thing that is new this year," explains Paschal, "is that we will be making videos in Spanish to help others do what we do when we troubleshoot medical equipment. We have a lot to learn about how to do this effectively, yet it is so important for sustainability and empowerment of people in the hospitals and clinics where we work." Paschal was awarded the Ellen Gregg Ingalls Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching for the course last year. To see what Professor Paschal and her students are up to in Guatemala, you can see their blog at vubme-guatemala.blogspot.com/2012_03_01_archive.html



Photo: Joseph A. Hodge

Brazil Initiatives

In October 2015, CLAS and USP faculty organized a workshop, “Experiências e Oportunidades de Colaboração USP-Vanderbilt” to connect Vanderbilt faculty expertise with that of colleagues at USP with the goal of encouraging more collaboration where mutually beneficial. The workshop was followed by our annual alumni reception in São Paulo.

As part of the TIPs group, “Building a Multidisciplinary Approach to Assess the Quality of Health Care in Brazil,” Marshall Eakin and Fred Pereira are leading an undergraduate course in spring 2016, “Health and Poverty in Brazil” (LAS 3891). The course introduces students to the history and current state of the Brazilian health care system, and delves into topics such as *favela* culture, health care services, political environment, and socioeconomic disparities. Several guest speakers will visit campus this semester to speak on a variety of topics relating to poverty and health in Brazil as part of the course: Jorge Neves, sociologist and visiting scholar this semester at UT-Austin, will be on campus February 18–19, and James Macinko (UCLA) will visit Vanderbilt March 22–23.

The TIPs working group is developing a preliminary survey instrument for assessing access to health care and satisfaction with health services in one of the largest neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro. Fred Pereira and the LAPOP team will take the lead role in the survey work. During spring break, they will lead focus groups, in-depth interviews, and survey field testing in Rocinha. The pilot survey will then be adjusted accordingly and put into use this summer.

Diogo Oliveira do Espirito Santo is working with CLAS this year as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant. In the fall semester, Diogo provided Portuguese language instruction for a Fisk student as part of our MSI outreach program. This spring, he is developing instructional modules in Portuguese for medical professionals as part of the Brazil TIPs project. The modules are designed to provide an introduction to the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture for Vanderbilt faculty and professionals in the health sciences conducting work in Brazil.

CLAS celebrated our annual Brazil Week September 21–25. This year’s events included a screening of *Hoje eu Quero Voltar Sozinho*, a Brazilian game night, an evening of *sarau*, a talk by Paula

Pastore (Universidade do Estado de São Paulo) on American and Brazilian idioms, and a roundtable discussion led by Brazil TIPs group: “Cultural Contexts of Doing Research in Brazil.” Students and faculty enjoyed a lunch discussion in which Marcio Bahia interviewed professors Earl Fitz, Celso Castilho, and Gilman Whiting on their personal and professional connections and experiences in Brazil. This year also included a couple of events targeting business students

and Nashville’s business community. CLAS Visiting Resource Professor Luis Paulo Rosenberg provided insights for local businesspeople on the current economic climate in Brazil for doing business in a downtown breakfast discussion panel hosted by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce. Later in the week, he engaged Owen students in a roundtable discussion on Brazil. Despite a very rainy afternoon, over 100 people turned out for the annual *futebol* tournament and *churrasco* to end the week with a great celebration.

LAS Trivia Night is organized by M.A. and M.P.H. student Grace Fletcher and takes place each semester at the Overcup Oak Pub. It continues to be a popular and fun activity, if you missed the one in February, be sure to join us for the next one.



CLAS invited **T.S. Harvey** (UC-Riverside) to Vanderbilt in early February. Harvey is a linguistic anthropologist who works in the field of K’iche’ Maya medical linguistics. His talk, “Maya Medicine, Health, and Biomedical Categories ‘Patient’” drew interest from faculty and students in anthropology and the health sciences. Harvey also took part in the Eos-project’s Ecocktails and shared his recent work on how people talk about and conceptualize ecological disaster, both in Guatemala and around the Great Lakes water supply.



In October, the Director of Wuqu’ Kawoq’ Maya Health Alliance **Peter Rohloff** visited Vanderbilt for a series of strategic planning meetings focused on involving Vanderbilt students in Wuqu’ Kawoq’s clinical and research programs in Guatemala. Rohloff also engaged in several presentations and discussions for nursing, medical, and public health students and faculty focused on ways to build sustainable partnerships in Guatemala.

CLAS recently published the latest addition to our **Occasional Papers** series: a biographical interview of J. León Helguera by CLAS Faculty Affiliate Michael LaRosa (Rhodes College). The paper was translated by Gloria Pérez (Anthropology) and is available at as.vanderbilt.edu/cclas/publications-and-resources/occasional-papers/.



Capoeira demonstration on campus

Latin America Focus of Board of Trust Meeting and One Vanderbilt in Guatemala

In November 2015, the Vanderbilt Board of Trust met with several LAS faculty and students to hear about their research and experiences in Latin America. A video that illustrates the impact our LAS faculty are having on students and in the world was produced for the meeting and featured the work of Jane Landers, Tiffany Tung, Mitch Seligson, Liz Zechmeister, Doug Morgan, and Ted Fischer. The following week, CLAS took Provost Wenthe and an interdisciplinary group of faculty to Guatemala to demonstrate how research projects and student programs come together on the ground.

The group included Mario Avila (Director of the Turner Family Center for Social Ventures), Arthur Demarest (Anthropology), Natasha McClure (Nursing), Doug Morgan (Medicine), Liz Zechmeister (Political Science), and Vanderbilt alumnus Brent Savoie. Provost Wenthe has praised CLAS as “Vanderbilt’s oldest trans-institutional program dating back to its start in 1947. Through its commitment to interdisciplinary teaching and research, Latin American Studies reaches all corners of campus.”

Among other activities, the group visited the



Primeros Pasos clinic, toured the new Mani+ production facilities, discussed collaborations with the vice-rector and faculty at the Universidad del Valle, and met with U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala Todd Robinson.



Nahualá, site of K'iche' Mayan summer field school.



Alumni Dinner



Tour of Iximché with Iyaxel Cojti Ren (doctoral student, Anthropology)

Digital Humanities and the History of Slavery: A Workshop to Enhance Research, Collaboration, and Graduate Training

Scholars of slavery face many challenges in locating, sharing, interrogating, and interpreting their source materials. Jane Landers, Gertrude Conaway Professor of History and founder of the database for Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources for Slave Societies (ESSSS) is well-versed in these challenges, having directed preservation projects in Latin America for more than twenty years. In October, Landers hosted a three-day workshop on Digital Humanities and the History of Slavery at Vanderbilt's Jean and Alexander Heard Library for an international group of scholars involved in similar efforts. The workshop brought together historians, archaeologists, librarians, museum curators, archivists, students, and a variety of IT professionals who showcased the wide range of potential for digital humanities projects to enhance slavery studies

Chancellor Nick Zeppos, Vice Provost John Geer, Arts and Science Dean Laurie Benton, and Interim Dean of Libraries Jody Combs spoke about their enthusiasm for this digital initiative and the ways in which it could further the university's goals for digital innovation. Represented were projects in preservation, databasing, visualization, mapping, GIS, as well as global initiatives for collaboration, such as Patrick Manning's NEH-funded World-Historical Gazetteer project.

The community of scholars working in the digital humanities built the intellectual infrastructure necessary for veterans of the field, like Martin Halbert, Paul Lovejoy, Walter Hawthorn, and Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, to collaborate with graduate students and emerging scholars. Together with invaluable input from Vanderbilt's

own digital experts, they discussed solutions and possibilities for aggregating datasets and widening access to further the study of enslavement on a global scale.

Laurie Taylor of the Digital Library of the Caribbean has put together a Storify of the live tweets generated throughout the workshop. Those who would like to be included in this digital community may email Angela Sutton at Angela.C.Sutton@Vanderbilt.edu or tweet @DrAngelaSutton to join the listserv.

This workshop was made possible by the generosity of the Vanderbilt University Central Discovery Grant Award, with additional support from the Robert Penn Warren Center and the History Department.

Contributed by Angela Sutton, History Department, Vanderbilt University

International Symposium: Rethinking Forced Resettlement in the Colonial Andes

In November 2015, Vanderbilt hosted the first event in a five-year project entitled "Colonial Modernity in the Andes: A Comprehensive Study of Viceroy Toledo's General Resettlement" that explores a colonial mass resettlement program in the Viceroyalty of Peru. "Rethinking Forced Resettlement in the Colonial Andes" was coordinated by Steve Wernke (Anthropology), and Akira Saito (Advanced Studies in Anthropology at the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan). Held from November 6–8, the symposium brought together faculty from Tulane University, Brown University, Fordham University, University of California Los Angeles, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas in Argentina, the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature in Japan, Osaka University, and the National Museum of Ethnology in Japan. Funding for the event was provided by the College of Arts and Science and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

The Reducción General de Indios was one of the largest forced resettlement programs ever undertaken by a colonial power. In the 1570s, some 1.5 million native Andeans were forcibly resettled in just one decade into over a thousand compact, gridded towns

(*reducciones*). Its effects were vast and varied, impacting all aspects of community life from health and demography, subsistence and agropastoral systems, to ritual and daily life. These effects continue to the present, as many rural communities in the Andean republics continue to reside in towns originally established as *reducciones*. Relatively little is known about how the general resettlement was actually carried out and how its impact compares across different historical and geographic contexts. The symposium explored several dimensions

of the resettlement program and established a long-term agenda for a collaborative research project. Wernke and Jeremy Mumford (Brown University) are developing online collaborative tools to enable "scholarly crowdsourcing" of an analytically rich map of the general resettlement. Funding from an NEH Digital Humanities Grant supports the creation of these tools, LOGAR (Linked Online Gazetteer of the Andean Region) and GeoPACHA (Geospatial Platform for Andean Culture, History, and Archaeology).



Nursing

CLAS continues to support global health initiatives in Vanderbilt's School of Nursing. Professor **Maria Paz Pintane** (Spanish and Portuguese) leads weekly language classes for ten nursing students, using innovative teaching methods that target the development of effective, culturally sensitive communication strategies to enhance VUSN's global health immersion programming. This spring, six of these students are utilizing those skills in Project Pyramid, an interprofessional immersion course offered in Owen. Two nursing students will travel with a team to Honduras to test low-cost gastric cancer screening for a high-risk population. Another pair of students will work with a team to expand production of ManiPlus, a supplemental food (RUSF) targeting children with malnutrition in Central America. The third pair of students will work with Maya Health Alliance/Wuqu' Kawoq to advance their mission as a leading health care organization providing culturally competent health care services to patients in their native Mayan languages. These language training and immersion experiences develop nursing students into future leaders in global health, and they ensure the students' success in clinical practice with foreign-born populations whether abroad or locally.

Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health

In February 2016, four medical students participated in the School of Medicine's Global Health Integrated Science Course (ISC). The course includes a monthlong clinical rotation supplemented by



didactic global health modules and distance mentoring provided by VIGH. **Kelly Pekala** and **Ben Li** worked at Primeros Pasos, a clinic in rural Guatemala, where they shadowed primary care physicians and led community health outreach programs for elementary school students on dental health and personal hygiene. **Perrin Considine** and **Kate Callaghan** spent their month at a rural district hospital in western Honduras, Hospital de Occidente, where they gained experience in emergency medicine, maternal and child health, neglected tropical diseases, pediatrics, primary care, public health, and surgery. Students also had the opportunity to work with the nonprofit Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO) in Santa Rosa de Copán, where they had the opportunity to work with a nonprofit organization in Copan that is partnering with Vanderbilt's cancer epidemiology research program.

One student's summary of the rotation:

"I don't think I can explain enough how amazing this experience is. At the hospital, there is such great opportunity to see interesting pathology, practice Spanish, and bond with physicians from another country. And through CAMO, you can really see how international community outreach should be run along with really getting an understanding for the community health as a whole. Everyone involved is very willing to help setup anything that you feel would enrich your experience, so take advantage." —ISC student

Vivian Ortiz (Meharry Medical College student) will also spend a month at Hospital de Occidente in Honduras. She is a recipient of the prestigious "2015 Investing in the Future Student Research Fellowship." Through this fellowship, she has been researching *H. pylori* antibiotic resistance and gastric cancer in Honduras with **Doug Morgan** (Medicine). This research will help inform antibiotic stewardship programs, which are an emerging global health priority.

Dago Estevez Ordóñez is a Fogarty Global Health Fellow and Vanderbilt Medical Scholar. As part of this award, he has been working with Doug Morgan and living in Honduras researching gastric cancer epidemiology in the country's highlands. Throughout this year, he has collaborated with Honduran colleagues to conduct a cancer survival study and to develop a population-based cancer registry.

In March, two Vanderbilt medical residents will travel to the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua-León and its affiliated teaching hospital, Hospital Escuela Oscar Danilo Rosales Arguello, for a rotation.

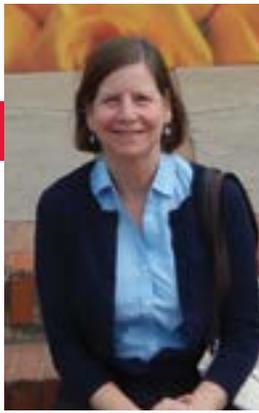
Latin American and Caribbean Student Association (LACS)

January 2016 marked the first anniversary of the Latin American and Caribbean Vanderbilt Student Association. LACS kicked off last spring with two social events and hosted three cooking classes and a vivacious dance party with live music in fall 2015. The organization now has almost 100 members. If you are not part of LACS, please join through AnchorLink, keep an eye out for upcoming events, and consider becoming part of the board. LACS fills a gap in the student

life at Vanderbilt and wants to be a visible and active organization that continues to grow. This semester, LACS is organizing a half-day event, Latin America and The Caribbean: Panel and Reception, on March 18 beginning at 4 p.m., as well as cooking classes on February 18 and March 17 (5:30–7:30 p.m.), and a BBQ on Saturday, April 16 (3–7 p.m.). More information is available on the CLAS calendar.

LIBRARY NEWS

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



This is the digital era, and the Latin American library activities have been increasingly focused on making our special collections known globally! This is evident both through new digital projects and the number of visiting researchers who have become aware of these unique collections at Vanderbilt through our websites.

The recent focus has been on making portions of our rarer Colombian materials digitally accessible to scholars worldwide. Two new Dean's Fellows, Tiago Albuquerque Maranhão and Brad Wright, both doctoral candidates in history, have been selected to work with the Manuel Zapata Olivella Collection this spring. The collection consists of a rich range of materials on the history and culture of Afro-Colombians and indigenous of Colombia as well as his novels relating to those themes. This project will involve digitizing and creating metadata of Zapata

Olivella's 500+ ethnographic interviews and creating an online exhibit of essays and images relating to key themes from the

interviews (e.g., traditional medicine, food ways, and mortuary customs) while highlighting regional and ethnic differences. Zapata Olivella and his team interviewed individuals from all regions of Colombia—from the indigenous Wayuu in the Guajira peninsula (in the Wayuu language, fortunately, with Spanish translations!) to Afro-Colombians in the Chocó region. Mentors to the project are Lesley Gill (Anthropology), Kathy Smith (Special Collections), and Paula Covington (Latin American Collections).

With the support of CLAS, we are increasing access to the Zapata Olivella Voz de los Abuelos digital project, interviews of unlettered elderly (abuelos analfabetos) regarding their

traditions, folkways, and beliefs. We are happy to have Abraham Liddell, a doctoral candidate in history, who will work on transcriptions from the tapes and the metadata and organize and select photographs for the site.

Viviana Quintero, a doctoral candidate from the University of Wisconsin, will return in May to continue work on the Zapata Olivella collection, making transcriptions and creating metadata and assisting with the audio portions of the site.

A number of visiting scholars have come to use the Colombian collections as a result of their discovery of these strengths via our digital websites. This month, we welcome José Polo Acuña, a visiting scholar and professor of History at the Universidad de Cartagena. He will be spending several months using the Helguera Collection of Colombiana. He has already found Dean's Fellow Gloria Perez's essays and digitized documents from the collection helpful for his research, testimony to the value of these digital efforts.

New Latin American Studies Titles from Vanderbilt University Press



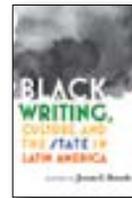
Creating Carmen Miranda: Race, Camp, and Transnational Stardom

Kathryn Bishop-Sanchez
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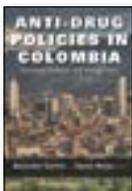
Practically Invisible: Coastal Ecuador, Tourism, and the Politics of Authenticity

Kimbra Smith
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Black Writing, Culture, and the State in Latin America

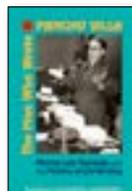
Edited by Jerome C. Branche
paperback \$24.95 •
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Anti-Drug Policies in Colombia: Successes, Failures, and Wrong Turns

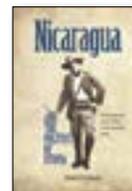
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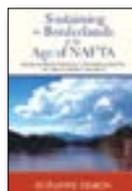
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Faculty News

Arthur Demarest (Anthropology) and the Vanderbilt Institute of Mesoamerican Archaeology and Development were awarded a \$280,500 Alphawood Foundation grant for archaeological investigations of ancient Maya cities in Guatemala, as well as a National Geographic Society Research and Exploration grant, and grants from the Mac Family Foundation and Meng Trust. These grants will support investigations of the ancient city of Cancún and Raxruja Viejo, as well as exploration of one of the very earliest highland Maya centers at the site of San Andres Semetabaj near Lake Atitlan.

Katharine Donato (Sociology) accepted a sabbatical appointment for the 2016–17 academic year as a visiting scholar with the prestigious Russell Sage Foundation. Every year, the foundation awards up to 17 residential fellowships to scholars in the social, economic, and behavioral sciences who perform research relevant to the foundation's mission to analyze social and economic conditions in the United States. While in residence, Donato will analyze how race and gender affect the ways immigrants find their place in the United States. She will investigate how marital status and education affect female immigrants' labor force participation and employment, as well as how immigrants construct or reconstruct their identities in order to assimilate into this country's existing racial hierarchy.

Markus Eberl (Anthropology) received a \$17,500 grant from the Gerda Henkel Foundation to study how the Q'eqchi' Maya's cultural identity has changed since moving from their ancient homelands in the mountains to the tropical lowlands. "The lowlands offer a human-made alternative in the pyramids of archaeological sites like Tamarindito, which the ancient Maya revered as artificial mountains."

Earl Fitz (Spanish and Portuguese) presented "An Arc of Brilliance: Innovation and Tradition in the Narratives of Machado de Assis and Eca de Queiros" at the International Symposium on Transatlantic Dialogues at Indiana University in October 2015.

Jon Hiskey (Political Science) contested the Department of Homeland Security's use of his work to unjustly

FACULTY PROFILE

Ashley Carse

Ashley Carse joined the Department of Human and Organization Development in the Peabody College of Education as assistant professor in January 2016. An anthropologist by training, Carse's research is interdisciplinary, bridging anthropology, development studies, geography, environmental history, and science and technology studies. He uses qualitative and historical methods



to study environmental management, international development, global transportation networks, and the social dimensions of infrastructure. A focus on water—in its everyday use, politics, and materiality—unites these areas.

Carse's 2014 book, *Beyond the*

Big Ditch: Politics, Ecology, and Infrastructure at the Panama Canal, examines the flow of water through the canal to explain how global shipping is entangled with the local landscapes. He has published in a number of edited volumes and journals including *American Anthropologist*, *Harvard Design Magazine*, *Social Studies of Science*. In 2013, Carse was awarded the Joel Tarr Prize for the best article on environment and technology in history "Nature as

infrastructure: Making and managing the Panama Canal watershed" in *Social Studies of Science*.

In addition to long-term field research in Panama, Carse has worked in the Ecuadorian Andes and rural North Carolina. In Cotacachi, Ecuador, Carse studied Quichua understandings of environmental change and worked with community organizations on natural resource management. In Warren County, North Carolina, he worked on a project called "Buying Local, Growing Local" where he collaborated with a research team on initiatives to reimagine the local economy.

Growing up, Carse's family moved regularly due to his father's job with Hormel Foods. By the time he was twelve, he had lived in seven states. He identifies most strongly with Atlanta, where his family settled while he was in middle school and he remained through college. His parents and brothers still live there. He and his wife, Sara Safransky, and their two-year-old son moved to Nashville from Charlottesville, Virginia, last summer after they both accepted faculty positions in the Department of Human and Organizational Development. Carse loves live music, so he feels fortunate to be living in Nashville. He also looks forward to spending more time outside in eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina.

SUMMER 2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CLAS awards nearly \$100,000 for summer research and language study in Latin America each year. For 2016, CLAS awarded funding to 21 students from a variety of disciplines:

Foreign Language and Area Studies

(FLAS) Fellowships are for \$7,500 each and support the study of less and least commonly taught Latin American languages:

Jasmine Williams

(Undergraduate): K'iche' Mayan

Caleb Hayes (LAS): K'iche' Mayan

Lynsey Sharp (LAS): K'iche' Mayan

Mary Catherine Driese

(Arizona State University): K'iche' Mayan

Emily Ellis (University of Arizona): K'iche' Mayan

Garrett Richards (Undergraduate): Portuguese

Jasmin Chaparro (Undergraduate): Portuguese

Alexis McBride (Spanish and Portuguese): Portuguese

Heather Ewing (LAS): Portuguese

Chris Valesy (Penn State): Nahuatl

Simon Collier Travel Award fund Vanderbilt graduate and undergraduate students to conduct research preferentially in Chile and Argentina:

David Cory Weaver (LAS): Argentina, \$2,000

Tinker Field Research Grants are jointly funded by the Tinker Foundation and the College of Arts and Science, and they are available to Vanderbilt graduate students conducting initial field research projects:

Fernanda Bretones (History): Cuba, \$2,000

Jorge Delgadillo (History): Mexico, \$2,000

Chelsea Dyer (Anthropology): Colombia, \$2,000

Melanie Forehand (Spanish and Portuguese): Mexico, \$2,000

Amanda Ketner (Peabody): Honduras, \$2,000

Rosemary Lieske (Anthropology): El Salvador, \$2,000

Caroline Martin (Peabody): Nicaragua, \$1,350

Elsa Mercado (Spanish and Portuguese): Mexico, \$2,000

Kadiri Vaquer (Spanish and Portuguese): Cuba, \$2,000

Antonio Villaseñor-Marchal (Anthropology): Peru, \$2,000

AREA STUDIES GROUPS

Mexican Studies Group presents “Reefer Madness Past and Present: Marijuana, Psychosis, and the War on Drugs in Mexico and the United States” with Isaac Campos (University of Cincinnati), March 22, 4:10 p.m. in Buttrick 123.

Circum-Atlantic Studies Seminar invited Emma Christopher (University of Sydney) to discuss her documentary, *They Are We*, the story of a remarkable reunion of members a small Afro-Cuban ethnic group—the Gangá-Longobá—with relatives in Sierra Leone 170 or so years after the family was driven apart by the transatlantic slave trade. Christopher led a discussion in conjunction with the film screening on February 8, and she engaged K–16 teachers on the same day through our annual Black History Month professional development workshop. CASS is co-sponsoring the conference on “Historical Conflicts and the Prospects for Peace in Colombia” on March 25 (see page 2).



The Brazilian Studies Reading Group had a full schedule of presentations in fall 2015 related to their topic “Diversity and

Development.” The speakers came from a variety of disciplines including history, anthropology, political science, and Portuguese and spoke about topics related to translation, gender in politics, soccer and beauty pageants, coffee, Brazilian identity, and the effects of the Belo Monte Dam on the Amazon. The presenters represented a wide range of institutions including the Universidade do Estado de São Paulo, the Universidade de São Paulo, Tougaloo College, the University of South Florida, and Vanderbilt University.

Invited speakers for spring 2016 include:

- **Earl Fitz** (Portuguese, Spanish, and Comparative Literature, Vanderbilt); Wednesday, January 13, at 3 p.m. in the Warren Center
- **Daniel Reichman** (Anthropology, University of Rochester); Friday, February 12, at noon in the Warren Center
- **Alicia Monroe** (African American and Diaspora Studies, Vanderbilt); Friday, February 19, at noon in the Warren Center
- **Nara Pavão** (postdoctoral fellow, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt); Friday, April 1, at 2 p.m. in the Warren Center

The co-coordinators of the BSRG for 2015–16 are Fernanda Bretones, Laura Sellers, and Steve Wenz.

Faculty News cont.

lock up mothers and their children in detention centers to deter other undocumented immigrants from coming to the U.S. In an affidavit to the ACLU, Hiskey stated that Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials cited his research to justify continued detention of Central American women and children seeking asylum and reached conclusions that are “not supported by my report and its underlying research.” (www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/insights/IO901en.pdf)

Cathy Jade (Spanish and Portuguese) gave a talk at the Museo Nacional Casa de Ricardo-Rojas in Buenos Aires in October 2015 entitled, “La Modernidad del Modernismo: Aspectos clave de la poesía de Darío y Agustini.”

Jane Landers (History) was appointed the U.S. representative to the UNESCO Slave Route Project and attended her first meeting in October. The U.S. embassy supported her visit, and she gave a presentation at the University of Cabo Verde on “Preserving the Endangered Historical Record of African Slavery in the Americas.”

Elizabeth Zechmeister (Political Science) was honored with Vanderbilt’s Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching at the College of Arts and Science’s December faculty meeting.

Faculty Publications

Earl Fitz (Spanish and Portuguese) provided the lead essay, “Goethe’s ‘Weltliteratur’ and the World of Lusophone Letters: The Case of Brazil” for a commemorative 50th issue of *Brasil/Brazil*, 2014.

Lesley Gill (Anthropology) *A Century of Violence in a Red City: Popular Struggles, Counterinsurgency, and Human Rights in Colombia* (Duke University Press, 2016).

Jane Landers (History) “Introduction” and “Catholic Conspirators? Religious Rebels in Nineteenth-Century Cuba,” and guest edited a Special Issue, New Sources and New Findings: Slavery and Abolition in the Atlantic World, *Slavery and Abolition*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (September 2015): 421–423 and 495–520.

“Researching the History of Slavery in Colombia and Brazil through Ecclesiastical and Notarial Archives,” (with co-authors Pablo Gómez, José Polo

Vanderbilt Argentine Tango Club

The Vanderbilt Tango Club is a close community of social dancers who take pride in their passion and love of the dance and bonds that are made along the way. The club has regularly scheduled classes and *prácticas* every Wednesday starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Vanderbilt Student Life Center, as well as *milongas* (social dance parties) to dance to your heart’s content. All students regardless of school affiliation, Vanderbilt faculty and staff members, as well as interested members of the public are welcome to join campus events. The club focuses on Social Argentine Tango dancing (not ballroom) to traditional Argentine tango music and strives to create a friendly and comfortable atmosphere for dancing. We encourage you to come out, make some friends, learn an art, and experience the beautiful gift of dance through connection and community. No partner or Argentine tango dance experience is required. For more information, please go to studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/tango/ and [facebook.com/VanderbiltTangoClub](https://www.facebook.com/VanderbiltTangoClub)



Faculty Publications cont.

Acuña and Courtney J. Campbell), *Dust to Digital: Ten Years of the Endangered Archives Programme*, ed. Maja Kominko (London: Open Book Publishers, 2015): 259-292.

Helena Simonett and César J. Burgos Dávila's article, "Mexican Pointy Boots and the Tribal Scene: Global Appropriations of Local Cultural Practices in the Virtual Age," is available online at transatlantica.revues.org/7596. Simonett also coedited a book with Javier F. León entitled *A Latin American Music Reader: Views from the South* (University of Illinois Press, published in collaboration with the Society for Ethnomusicology, 2016).

Graduate Student News

Grace Fletcher (M.P.H. in Global Health and M.A. in Latin American Studies, 2016) was featured in the NPR article, "What's Luck Got to Do with Health Care? A Heck of a Lot," in which she describes her experiences working with NGO Wuqu' Kawoq in Guatemala last summer. In the article, Fletcher recounts the central role that luck and serendipity play in achieving positive health outcomes.

Tara Kingsley (Area Studies Fellow and M.A. in Latin American Studies, 2016) was invited to participate and present at the annual International Creole Day event at Duke University in October. While speaking in Creole, she discussed her experiences studying K'iche' Mayan and participating in Vanderbilt's summer program in Guatemala. Kingsley studies both Creole and K'iche' Mayan at Vanderbilt.

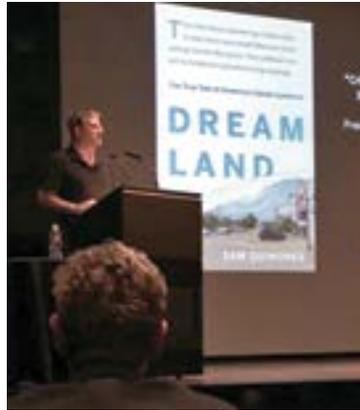
LAS graduate students **Grace Fletcher** and **Heather Ewing** have organized a monthly professional development series for students enrolled in the M.A. program. The February workshop titled "Framing the LAS Degree" featured recent program alumni, Laura Delgado (M.A., 2010) and Rebecca West (M.A., 2015). Upcoming topics for the series include résumé preparation and interviewing.



Sam Quinones Returns and "Phantom Bodies" Exhibit Opens

In November 2015, CLAS welcomed Sam Quinones back to Vanderbilt. Quinones is an internationally renowned journalist, former *Los Angeles Times* reporter, and author of three nonfiction narrative books. During his visit to Nashville, he gave a talk at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, "Stories from Mexico's Druglands," in which he discussed the effects of drug distribution in small towns in Mexico, and the consequences the drug trade has in small communities across the United States. The presentation kicked off the "Phantom Bodies, The Human Aura in Art"

exhibit at the Frist. Organized by Chief Curator Mark Scala, the exhibit ran from October 30, 2015, through February 14, 2016, and included provocative artworks that addressed the themes of trauma, loss, and transformation, while considering the possibility of an animating spirit that can exist independently of the body. Quinones also gave a lunch discussion on campus, "How Heroin Makes its Way from Xalisco to Nashville," and did a reading and signing from his recent book, *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic* at Parnassus Books.



Certificate in Latin American Studies

The Center for Latin American Studies 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 and 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 about requirements and to enroll, please visit as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/graduate-programs/click-her/

SUMMER LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

The Intensive Summer Language and Culture Program in K'iche' and Kaqchikel Oxlajuj Iq' Mayan Language Institute is an FLAS-eligible, six-week program in Guatemala for the study of K'iche' and Kaqchikel Mayan languages and culture. Students study with U.S. faculty and native speakers while participating in cultural activities, lectures, discussions, and excursions. With more than 1.5 million K'iche' and Kaqchikel speakers in Guatemala, the goal of the institute is to help students develop and attain proficiency in their chosen language and to gain a better understanding of the cultural and political contexts that have affected the historical development and preservation of the language. Efforts to protect these languages are playing a pivotal role in the Maya struggle to regain control over their political and cultural destiny.

Rusty Barrett (University of Kentucky) will direct this year's program for K'iche' Mayan, which will take place June 19–July 29. K'iche' students will spend one week in Antigua followed by five weeks in Nahualá, where they will live with local families. The summer institute is a partnership with Vanderbilt's CLAS, Tulane University, University of New Mexico, University of Texas, and the University of Chicago.

The Portuguese Language and Brazilian Culture summer program is now in its sixth year and will take place from June 11–July 23. This intensive, six-week academic program for the study of the Portuguese language is organized through a partnership with Tulane University, Vanderbilt University, and CET Academic Programs. Students have the opportunity to earn 6–7 credits, including a Portuguese language course (beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels) and a course on social and cultural issues in Brazil. Students live in São Paulo with Brazilian host families or in apartments with Brazilian roommates for a total Portuguese immersion experience. Excursions and activities in and around São Paulo will introduce students to all sides of Brazilian society.

Research Inspires Custom Beer

Contributed by Liz Entman

Work by **Tiffany Tung** (Anthropology) has inspired Wari Ale, a light, delicate beer with a rosy tint derived from bright pink *molle* berries and purple corn. The beer, crafted by Chicago's Off Color Brewing, is based on a recipe treasured by an ancient Peruvian empire called the Wari. The new ale will soon be available to connoisseurs over 21 at Chicago's Field Museum and select Chicago retailers and links to the museum's permanent Ancient Americas exhibit.

"Archaeologists have known for a really long time that corn beer, or *chicha*, was socially important in the Andes," said Tung. The Incas used it as a kind of political or social currency to build and solidify relationships with nearby lords. But, while excavating a site

called Beringa associated with the pre-Inca Wari culture, Tung found evidence that the Wari brewed their own version of *chicha* using the *molle* berry, the fruit of a local pepper plant. Tung's discovery was important, because 117 miles away at a site called Cerro Baúl, Ryan Williams, associate curator of anthropology at The Field Museum and a lead researcher of that excavation, had come upon the remains of a *chicha de molle* brewery, which he believes would have been able to produce 1,500–2,000 liters of beer in a single batch. Like Tung, Williams found evidence that, as corn beer did for the Incas, *chicha de molle* played a significant relationship-building role to the Wari.

"Tiffany's excavation at Beringa was key to

understanding that Wari *chicha de molle* was a brewing phenomenon that went beyond our work at Cerro Baúl and was part of the larger Wari imperial project," said Williams. "It's also really delicious," said Tung.



COURTESY OF THE FIELD MUSEUM

CLAS Participates in the National Council for Social Studies

This year's National Council for Social Studies Annual Conference was held November 13–15 in New Orleans and promoted the theme of "Celebrating Social Responsibility." Along with other members of the Consortium for Latin American Studies (CLASP), Vanderbilt exhibited at the conference, offering educators an overview of CLASP

and our center's resources for teaching Latin America in the social studies classroom.

Prior to the start of the conference, Tulane University's Latin American Resource Center hosted a pre-conference workshop, "Area Studies and Outreach in Social Studies." The pre-conference brought together outreach professionals representing various institutions and

who work with diverse regions of the world to share ideas and best practices. Former CLAS Outreach Coordinator Jamie Lee Marks gave a presentation titled "Twitter Outreach and K–12 Social Studies: A Practical Overview," where she discussed research on how social studies educators use Twitter and how to best connect with them using the social media platform.

Celebrate Nashville

Celebrate Nashville, one of the city's most vibrant festivals, took place on October 3 in Centennial Park. Thousands of people came to partake in the festival that featured food, music, and dancing from cultures around the world. Each year, CLAS hosts a booth featuring a different country in hopes of highlighting its unique characteristics and qualities. For 2015, CLAS

hosted a booth in the Global Village featuring Colombia. Visitors tasted Colombian coffee, learned facts about Colombia and its regions, and received a Colombia lanyard souvenir. CLAS students, staff, and faculty, in collaboration with Vanderbilt Colombians Alejandra Arango, Gloria Pérez, Alejandra Rodriguez and Raquel Rincon, contributed to make the booth a success.



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES 4 + 1 M.A. PROGRAM

The Center for Latin American Studies offers a 4+1 program that allows exceptional undergraduate Latin American Studies majors to quickly complete their M.A. degree through taking an additional year of coursework and completing a master's thesis. Students considering the 4 + 1 program should consult with the LAS adviser as early as possible and make formal application to the program by the end of their junior year. An application consists of a letter of intent, a copy of college transcripts, and the names of two Vanderbilt faculty who could be consulted as references. The Center's Executive Committee makes admissions decisions. For a list of requirements, please visit as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/undergraduate-program/ma-program.

Black History Month Workshop Series

In February, CLAS welcomed Emma Christopher, filmmaker and senior research fellow in history at the University of Sydney, to Vanderbilt to lead our Black History Month teacher workshop that featured her documentary *They Are We*. The film highlights the proud members of a small Afro-Cuban ethnic group in Central Cuba, the Gangá-Longobá, and how they reconnected with their distant relatives and ancestors in Sierra Leone. CLAS organized a Black History Month workshop for K–16 teachers on using the film to discuss Afro-Cuban history, culture, and identity in the classroom. Teachers attended a screening of *They Are We*, followed by a dynamic presentation from the filmmaker about Afro-Cuban Identity and experience. Jane Landers, Vanderbilt historian and director of the Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources for Slave Societies Digital Archive, presented

on the African slave trade and ethnicity in Cuba. Language Technology Specialist from the University of Oregon and CLAS Advisory Board Teacher Stephanie Knight shared free, interactive resources for use in the classroom.

Educators left the workshop with the CLAS *They Are We* Film Discussion Guide, which was developed to support classroom use of the film. This comprehensive resource includes an exclusive director's note and film overview, as well as background information, film discussion questions, and lesson plans intended for interdisciplinary classroom applications. Through a new curriculum development initiative, CLAS selected and funded four educators to contribute to the guide, which is now featured on the Icarus Films website and is also available through CLAS online curriculum resources.



“Cuba: Histories of the Present” Exhibit in Nashville

In September, CLAS and Tennessee State University welcomed Vanderbilt alumnus David LaFevor, assistant professor of Latin American history and digital humanities at University of Texas-Arlington, to present his photographic exhibit “Cuba: Histories of the Present.” The exhibit was on display in TSU’s Hiram Van Gordon Memorial Gallery from

September 10–October 9 and featured thirty large format prints taken 2001–2015. The images focus on everyday life, racial identity, urban landscapes, and material culture in Cuba. Art and writing classes at Tennessee State University visited the gallery to complete reflection assignments about the gallery and the depiction of Cuban culture.

CLAS organized a number of activities around LaFevor’s visit to Vanderbilt. In a public lecture at TSU’s Space for New Media, LaFevor spoke about his experiences photographing individuals’ daily routines and cultural practices in Cuba. CLAS also organized a K–16 teacher workshop focused on integrating photography, Cuban history, culture, and music into cross-disciplinary curricula. CLAS Associate Director and Assistant Professor of History Frank Robinson gave an overview of U.S.-Cuba relations. Rob Nasatir, an AP Spanish teacher at Father Ryan High School and vice president of the Tennessee Foreign Language Association, delivered a presentation on Cuban music and culture focusing specifically on his research about the Cuban New Song movement and how to incorporate music into the language or social studies classroom. David LaFevor discussed his photography and Afro-Cuban culture and daily life, past in present. Educators had a chance to explore his exhibit and left the workshop with a CLAS curriculum guide: “Images of Cuba: Bringing Cuba to Life in Your Classroom with Photographs.” The lesson plan and accompanying resources are available online through CLAS curriculum resources.



CLAS Collaborates with the Frist Center and Cheekwood on Annual Día de los Muertos Workshop

Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, the Frist Center for Visual Arts, and CLAS partnered to offer a professional development workshop for teachers on November 6 as our annual Día de los Muertos teacher workshop. “**Beyond the Body: Exploring the Human Spirit Through Art and Forensics,**” began with a tour of the Frist Center’s exhibit “Phantom Bodies: The Human Aura in Art” led by Chief Curator Mark Scala, who introduced educators to art and cultural practices associated with loss, memory, spirituality, the body. The Frist exhibit featured a selection of paintings, photography, videos, sculpture, and installations from contemporary international



artists and various pieces by Latin American artists including Teresa Margolles (Mexico), Doris Salcedo (Colombia), and Ana Mandieta (Cuban-American). Shaun Giles, Educator for Community Engagement at the Frist Center, led educators in a hands-on cyanotype printmaking activity that connected with the techniques used by some exhibit artists.

In the afternoon, participants drove to Cheekwood, where Associate Professor of Anthropology Tiffany Tung gave teachers a presentation on Wari burial practices, ancient trauma and conflict in the Wari Empire, and her research on Wari trophy heads in Cochopata, Peru. She also discussed ways to incorporate the study of ancient violence and trauma, and models of human bones into art and social studies classrooms. Brooke Griffith, manager of School and Outreach Programs at Cheekwood, led participants in creating bleach print and transfers using skeletal shapes and bones. This workshop connected artistic representations of loss, memory, trauma, and the human spirit to scientific approaches to understanding loss and violence in ancient cultures. Educators were given a gallery guide, as well as copy of Duncan Tonatiuh’s new book *Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras* with a standards-driven curriculum guide for incorporating the book and Posada’s printmaking techniques into the classroom. The book and guide are available through the CLAS lending library.



UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS

In April, CLAS will host two artisans and educators from Guadalajara, Mexico, who will lead a rich, colorful, hands-on teacher workshop that will explore traditional weaving practices in Mexico and Guatemala, including how to dye textiles with natural materials. The workshop, “From Guadalajara to Nashville: A Hands-on Workshop in Artisanal Dyeing and Weaving,” will be held April 1 at Vanderbilt University in collaboration with Sarratt Studios.

The 2016 Summer K–16 Institute, “Somos Nós: Diverse Brazil,” is a weeklong program designed for K–16 teachers, librarians, and administrative staff. Educators will benefit from this timely, interactive program on one of the world’s strongest and most influential economies in the world. The program is the second institute of a four-year series, sponsored by Vanderbilt University, Tulane University, and the University of Georgia.

More information about upcoming outreach opportunities can be found at as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/outreach/upcoming-teacher-workshops/

CLAS Welcomes New Outreach Coordinator

CLAS is pleased to announce that Lisa Finelli will join our team. As outreach coordinator, she will lead our public engagement programs, organizing our K–16 teacher workshop series and summer institutes, strengthening our collaborations with minority-serving institutions and regional postsecondary institutions, and building partnerships with local cultural arts organizations.

Lisa holds a bachelor’s degree in Spanish literature, language, and culture

from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



Before coming to Vanderbilt, Lisa was a teacher in public schools in Colorado and Washington state. She has worked with a variety of populations and specializes in teaching students learning English as a second language. Lisa is passionate about language learning and has spent her summers living abroad as an au pair teaching English to children. She enjoys trying new restaurants and spending time outside with her husband and shepherd-hound mix dog.

Latin American Images Competition Winners Announced

CLAS hosted the annual Latin American Images Competition in early January. Vanderbilt students, faculty, and staff were invited to submit their favorite original photo taken in Latin America. Forty people entered the competition this year, with their photos representing 16 countries. The judges' panel selected the top 20 photos to be mounted and displayed in the Buttrick Hall atrium in January. First place was awarded to Nick Adams for "Face of the Quechuan Women," second place to Emma Hunnicutt for "Shadows of the Past," and third place to Hilary Vansell for "Feria de un Santo."

New this year to the competition was the People's Choice Award. All 40 photos

submitted were posted on the CLAS Facebook page, and viewers were able to indicate their favorite photo by "liking" it. The winner of the People's Choice Award was Gabriella Newell for "Train to Aguas Calientes."

Winners were announced at a reception on January 21. Thanks to our judges Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery Director Joseph Mella and Media Services Manager Jamie Adams, and to Alma Paz-Sanmiguel for organizing the competition.



Train to Aguas Calientes, Gabriella Newell, People's Choice



Face of the Quechuan Women, Nick Adams, First Place



Shadows of the Past, Emma Hunnicutt, Second Place



Feria de un Santo, Hilary Vansell, Third Place

Día de los Muertos Festival

Every year, CLAS collaborates with Cheekwood to provide educational materials and activities for its annual Día de los Muertos festival. Art activities for children and adults, musical performers, and dance troupes were part of the daylong celebration. From one end of the festival to the other, a colorful open-air market of vendors lined the road selling local art, hot chocolate, and typical food from Mexico and Latin America, while altars covered

the walls in Botanic Hall. CLAS' altar was centered on the theme of paper. It was adorned with painted papier-mâché skulls, bright papel picado banners, paper tapete, paper marigolds, and paper sugar skull boxes decorated by local elementary school students. CLAS staff and graduate students collaborated to make this year's paper theme come to fruition.

In addition to the festival, CLAS staff spent a day at Valor Collegiate Academy teaching

fifth graders about the significance and rich traditions behind Day of the Dead. Students created papel picado paper banners, decorated calavera sugar skull boxes, and created a Day of the Dead display modeled after traditional altars. This collaboration was done in conjunction with Valor's Art and Culture Expedition, in which fifth-grade students spend two weeks studying the impact of art in various cultures around the world.

Terroristic Violence and Democracy in the Americas

By Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, Jennifer L. Merolla, Daniel Montalvo, and Daniel Zizumbo-Colunga

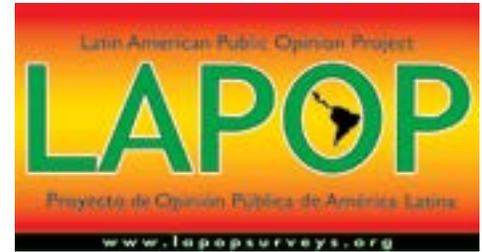
LAPOP's AmericasBarometer project provides an important foundation for research into the connections among terroristic violence, fears of attacks, and support for democracy in the Latin America and Caribbean regions. Here we provide an overview of this research, which has appeared previously in a LAPOP *Insights* report and an award-winning conference paper.

Concerns about terrorism span the world, including in Latin America and Caribbean, with narco-traffickers, gangs, anarchists, and others perpetrating terroristic violence in the Americas. In the second half of the twentieth century, terrorism played a role in fueling the degradation and dismantling of democratic governance in a number of countries. Today, flagrant fear-instilling violence—intended to accomplish any of a number of goals including pressure governments, demonstrate state weaknesses, and silence the media—continues to pose problems for democracy in the region. In recent years, violence associated with terrorism has provided justification for leaders to implement *mano dura* (iron-fist) programs that extend the state and military's domestic reach often at the expense of human rights and liberal democratic processes. Using LAPOP's AmericasBarometer, our research shows how shifts in public opinion can play a

role in fueling the decay of democracy when terrorism is salient.

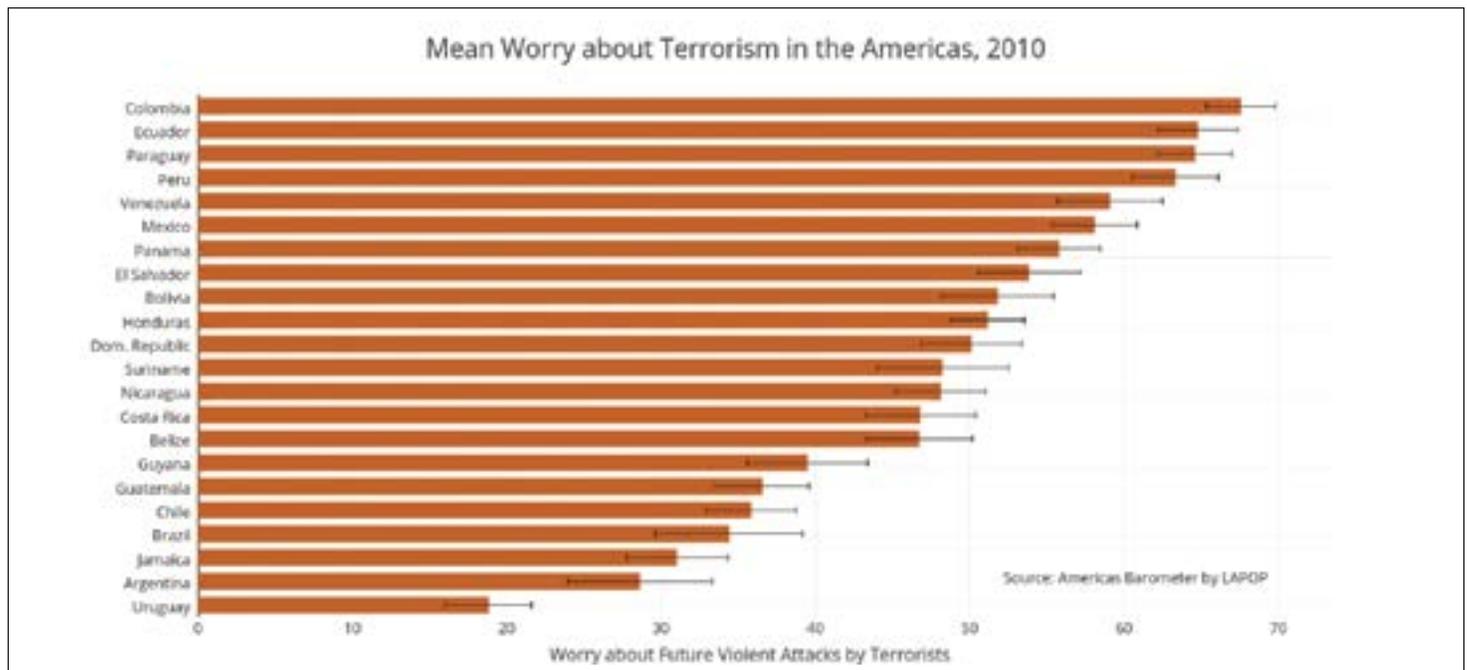
We find, first, that fears of violent attacks are widespread in the LAC region. To assess concerns about terrorist threats among the mass public, the 2010 AmericasBarometer asked individuals: "How worried are you that there will be a violent attack by terrorists in [country] in the next 12 months?" Among those who responded to the question, **Figure 1** shows mean responses by country, with those responses recoded to a 0–100 scale, where 0 means "Not at all worried" and 100 "Very worried." Worry about terrorist attacks is above the 50-unit midpoint on the scale in ten of the 22 countries included in the study. These fears are grounded in reality. Countries at the top of the list have more experience with terroristic violence stemming from groups acting within the country (e.g., Colombia, Paraguay, and Peru) and/or seeping across the border from neighboring countries (e.g., Ecuador).

Second, concerns about terroristic violence are associated with lower levels of support for democratic values and processes. In fact, concerns about terroristic violence dampen support for democracy the deleterious effects of common crime and insecurities. We find these effects present across a range of variables, measured via LAPOP's



AmericasBarometer. For example, respondents were asked, "Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?" Our analyses show that, on average and all else equal, an individual with high levels of worry about terroristic violence expresses lower support for democracy than a person with no concerns.

Terrorism presents a challenge to democracies around the world. Terroristic violence threatens physical, financial, and other deleterious outcomes. One often overlooked consequence concerns the potential for democracy to be degraded under calls for centralization of power and restrictions on liberties. Analyses of LAPOP's AmericasBarometer data on public concerns about terrorism and support for democracy demonstrate that the extent to which the public champions democracy is undermined by fears of terroristic violence.



CLAS EVENTS SPRING 2016

January 12

CLAS First Tuesday Lunch Series with Ashley Carse, William Luis, Steve Wernke

January 21

Latin American Images Photo Competition Reception and Awards Ceremony

January 29

Graduate Student Roundtable

February 2

CLAS First Tuesday Lunch Series with Celso Castilho, Lesley Gill, and Oscar Gómez

February 3

CLAS Teacher Workshop with MNPS Librarian Connie Sharp: Americas Award as a Special Collection

February 4

LAS Trivia Night

February 5

Talk by T.S. Harvey (UC-Riverside): "Maya Medicine and Biomedical Categories of 'Patient'"

February 8

CLAS Black History Month Teacher Workshop, *They Are We: Exploring Afro-Cuban Identity through Film and Archives* with Jane Landers and Emma Christopher

February 8

Emma Christopher presents the Warren Center's annual Black Atlantic History Lecture with a screening of her acclaimed film *They Are We*

February 9

World Health Week Talk by Ted Fischer: "Social Enterprise Solutions to Chronic Childhood Malnutrition: Maní+ in Guatemala"

February 10

Central America Regional Overview for Spring Break OACS Trips; Doug Morgan, Ted Fischer, and Avery Dickins de Girón

February 11

Coffee Symposium with Sarah Lyon, Daniel Reichman, Bradley Wilson, Bart Victor, and Ted Fischer at Barista Parlor Golden Sound

February 18

Educator Workshop at the Frist: Treasures from the House of Alba with Steve Wernke

February 18

LACS Cooking Class

March 1

CLAS First Tuesday Lunch Series with Andrew Dustan, Jon Hiskey, Benigno Trigo

March 14

Vanderbilt History Seminar presents Margaret Chowning (UC-Berkeley): "Catholic Ladies and Culture Wars: Gender, Politics, and the Church in 19th Century Mexico."

March 17-18

Workshop: Sustainable Partnerships for Latin American LCTLs through Distance Learning

March 17

LACS Cooking Class

March 18

LACS Discussion Panel and Reception: Latin America and the Caribbean Film Screening of *Tether*, Buttrick 103

March 25

Conference: Historical Conflicts and the Prospects for Peace in Colombia

March 31

EES and CLAS Roundtable: "Current State of Environmental Issues in Brazil"

April 1

CLAS Teacher Workshop, "From Guadalajara to Nashville: A Hands-On Workshop in Artisanal Dyeing and Weaving" with Universidad de Guadalajara, Marieke Sattler, and Carol Ventura

April 7

"The Musical Worlds of Jewish Buenos Aires" with Pablo Palomino (University of Chicago) and Rabbi Joshua Kolluck

April 8

Americas MBA Panel: Risk/Reward in Emerging Markets

April 12

CLAS Town Hall Meeting

April 14

Talk by James Wright (FIA Business School, Brazil)

April 16

LACS BBQ

June 11-July 23

Summer in Brazil: Portuguese Language and Brazilian Culture

June 12-16

Professional Development Institute for Educators, *Somos Nós: Diverse Brazil: Brazilian Culture and Language for the K-16 Classroom*

June 19-July 29

Intensive Summer Language and Culture Program in K'iche' and Kaqchikel



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