



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Center for Latin American Studies

Fall 2008

“Of Rage and Redemption: The Art of Oswaldo Guayasamín” A National Traveling Exhibition

Joseph Mella, along with Vanderbilt professors Ted Fischer and Carlos Jáuregui, sought to introduce Oswaldo Guayasamín's vision to a geographically and culturally diverse audience with the national exhibit, “Of Rage and Redemption: The Art of Oswaldo Guayasamín.”



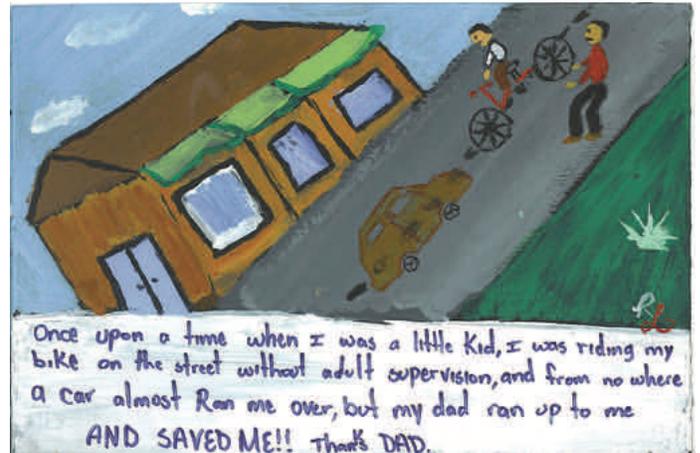
Photo by Gabriel Gross

As curator of this remarkable exhibition, Mella has overseen each installation as it traverses North America on its six-venue tour. After closing at Vanderbilt, the exhibit traveled to the Museum of the Americas, Organization of American States, in cooperation with Georgetown University. The opening event was a huge success, attended by over 1,000 people, including numerous dignitaries from Ecuador and the Americas. 3,739 visitors made trips to see the exhibit here, either individually or as a part of one of the many school groups.

The exhibition traveled next to the Museo Alameda in San Antonio for the months of June, July and August, and is currently at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton until December 6. Held in conjunction with the Southeast Conference on Andean and Amazonian Studies, the FAU opening included a lecture by Galo Mora, the Republic of Ecuador's Minister of Culture. As an important part of the Gallery's outreach efforts, numerous school groups in the South Florida area are scheduled to participate in tours and workshops led by student docents. The next installation will be at the Samek Art Gallery at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania (January 23–March 27, 2009), where it will be included in a three-part exhibition series titled “Peace & Resistance.” The tour concludes with an exciting presentation at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California (April 12–August 16, 2009) before returning to the Fundación Guayasamín in Quito, Ecuador.

Retablos: Miracles on the Border

On September 11, Jorge Durand, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Guadalajara, México and scholar of Mexican migration, gave a lecture on the retablo art form and the retablos in the exhibit, “Retablos: Miracles on the Border.” Jorge Durand has co-directed the Mexican Migration Project at Princeton University since



1982, and is the co-author of *Crossing the Border: Research from the Mexican Migration Project* and *Miracles on the Border: Retablos of Mexican Migrants to the United States*, among other works. Retablos venerate Catholic saints, Christ, or the Virgin Mary and represent the heart and soul of religious beliefs in traditional Mexican culture. Painted on tin, canvas, wood or masonite, these small colorful offerings are created as thanks for fulfilling a wish or need and represent one of the few means by which common people can give public expression to their anxieties, needs, fears, and sufferings. The exhibit at Sarratt featured contemporary retablos that depict stories of dangerous or threatening events from which migrants across the Mexican-U.S. border have been “miraculously” delivered through the intervention of a holy image. Each retablo is accompanied by a text that gives a brief explanation for the reason a migrant prayed to a particular saint. In his lecture, Durand discussed how the Mexican retablos capture not only the physical but also the cultural, emotional, and religious aspects of Mexican migration. Durand also led a teachers' workshop, where ideas for incorporating retablos and the themes they represent into the classroom curriculum were discussed. As a related project, students at Nashville's Glenciff and Hillsboro High Schools and the University School of Nashville created their own version of the retablo art form, painting visual expressions of gratitude to an image for meeting a wish or need. These paintings were on public display in area libraries, art galleries, and community centers (see Outreach section).



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Center for Latin
American Studies

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Director's Corner

Pierre Colas lived his life passionately. He was devoted to his family, friends, and students, and he was enthusiastically committed to his research. His time with us was tragically short, but we can take some comfort in knowing how fulfilled he was as part of our community.

The outpouring of support that followed Pierre's murder reminds us of the strength of community among our faculty. Our commitment and passion for what we do is evident all around us: Elena Olazagasti-Segovia's pioneering work in service learning, for which she receives the 2008 Orgullo Hispano award from Conexión Américas; LAPOP's key role in evaluating democracy-building efforts which informs foreign policy; Marshall Eakin's new service-learning course in Nicaragua; the many medical missions our doctor's make to Guatemala, Haiti, and other countries; and the Center's vital work with public schools.

Sarah Birdwell does a tremendous job organizing our outreach efforts, and the fruits of her labors are abundant. Teacher evaluations of our workshops are filled with superlative ("the best workshop I have ever attended," "changes my view of Vanderbilt," "I use the materials all the time"), and the impact reaches far and wide in classrooms. For example, the exhibitions of Mexican-style retablos made by students at Glenclyff and Hillsboro High Schools and at USN shows how these students really got the meaning and intent of the art form and thereby a greater human understanding of Mexican culture and Mexican peoples as individuals.

Community requires affirmation and active support. We ask not for money but something far more valuable—your time and commitment. We have an incredible line-up for speakers and events this year, and we hope that you will show your support by attending. The rewards are great.

—Ted Fischer

As you may have noticed, we have shortened our name from the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies to the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS). We define Latin America expansively to include mainland Central and South America as well as the Caribbean. Linguistically, this covers areas that speak not only Spanish, Portuguese, and indigenous languages, but also English, French, and Creole. We also recognize the important historical ties of the region to Spain and Portugal as well as the transatlantic linkages to west Africa.

CLAS Welcomes Assistant Director

The Center welcomes Dr. Avery Dickins de Girón as our new Assistant Director. After conducting an exhaustive national search, with well over 50 qualified applicants, we found the best candidate here in our backyard. Avery is a recent graduate of Vanderbilt's anthropology program, an alumna of our Graduate Certificate Program, and attended Vanderbilt as an undergraduate. After graduating with a major in General Biology, Avery lived in San Francisco for several years where she worked as a molecular biology laboratory technician and explored the coastal outdoors. After a trip to Peru sparked her interest in Latin America, she spent several months in Guatemala and southern Mexico taking immersion Spanish classes and teaching English, an experience which eventually led her to pursue a doctorate in Anthropology. Avery's dissertation research was situated in the Chisec region of Guatemala, where she examined the interaction of social and cultural capital in development projects in two small Q'eqchi' Maya communities. Avery has also researched the security guard industry in Guatemala as a form of internal labor migration, and has worked with the Center for the Americas on a project to establish social indicators for sustainable forestry certification programs. This summer, she taught two courses to gifted high school students at the Vanderbilt Summer Academy, and plans to do so again next year. Her duties at the Center will include grant writing, reporting, budget oversight, and faculty relations.



In Memoriam: Pierre Robert Colas

(13 January 1976 – 26 August 2008)

Anthropologist Pierre Robert Colas, 32, was shot and killed in his home by assailants on 26 August 2008; his sister Marie, 27, died on 31 August of injuries sustained in the same attack. Robbery was the apparent motive. All murders are tragic, but it is especially poignant when a life on the cusp of a stellar career is taken.

Pierre, also known as Robbie, was a scholar of tremendous range. His groundbreaking work on Maya epigraphy built on deep linguistic and iconographic understandings to examine Classic Maya identities and ideologies. His ethnographic work focused on the effects of Pentecostal theologies and local community norms in a Yucatec Maya town in Belize.



Pierre was a beloved colleague and mentor in Vanderbilt's Department of Anthropology. He cared deeply for both graduate and undergraduate students. His office was always open to students needing help with assignments, advice regarding their research, or simply a sympathetic ear in times of stress. With an infectious sense of humor, Pierre was as friendly and generous of a colleague as one could wish for. His office became a social hub for anthropology faculty, a place where people would gather informally in the afternoon to talk over espresso and M&M's.

Pierre earned his M.A. in 1999 in *Mesoamerikanistik* (Mesoamerican Languages and Cultures) from the University of Hamburg. In 2004 he completed his doctorate, working under Nikolai Grube at the University of Bonn. His dissertation work on Classic Maya personal names was published in 2004 as *Sinn und Bedeutung klassischer Maya Eigennamen* ("The Meaning of Classic Maya Personal Names").

During his studies, Pierre was a fellow of the *Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes*. For his postdoctoral research, he was awarded the prestigious Emmy Nöther fellowship from the *Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft*. In 2006 Pierre was appointed Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee where he worked until his death.

A prolific scholar, Pierre published 3 books and dozens of articles. At his untimely death, he was completing two more books. For the first, he had compiled a database of over 6000 glyphic metaphorical representations. That manuscript (which was to be published by the University of Colorado Press) focuses on several competing conceptual models of personhood in the Classic Maya world as expressed in constellations of metaphors concerning



accession, warfare, and rituals.

He was also working on a monograph based on his ethnographic field work among the Yucatec Maya of Belize. This work looked at the rise of Pentecostalism, its effects on the Yucatec language, and the implications of its unique brand of individualism on community solidarity. In San Antonio (in the district of Cayo), where he did his fieldwork, Pierre was almost a legendary figure: the only white man with an impeccable command of Yucatec Maya. He was very well liked by everyone in town and succeeded in not only meeting but interviewing almost everyone in the village by the end of his two-year stint there.

Pierre was a passionate scholar; a stalwart friend; and an exceptional human being. His death is a huge loss for his family, friends, and students as well as for the field of anthropology.

A blog has been set up in his memory: <http://rememberingpierre.wordpress.com>.

New Faculty Fall 2008

Omar H. Ali is a Visiting Assistant Professor in African American and Diaspora Studies. Ali received his Ph.D. from Columbia University and holds a B.Sc. from the London School of Economics. His interests include independent black politics, Black Populism in the New South, abolitionism in the Americas, and the history of Muslim Africans in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds. He is the author of *In the Balance of*



Omar Ali

Power: Independent Black Politics and Third Party Movements in the United States, "Islam, Trade, and Empire" in Africa and the Wider World, and has served as an editor for Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society. He is a former Fulbright Scholar in the Departments of History and Anthropology at Universidad Nacional de Colombia and Library Scholar at Harvard University's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.

Celso Castilho is a Research Assistant Professor in History. Born in São Paulo and raised in Los Angeles, California, he received his B.A. in History from UC Berkeley, an M.A. in Latin American Studies from UCLA, and completed his Ph.D. in History at UC Berkeley this year. Castilho is a historian of modern Latin America, with research interests focused on politics and antislavery in nineteenth-century Brazil. He is currently on leave for the 2008-2009 academic year to work on a book manuscript about abolitionism in northeastern Brazil, but will teach survey courses on modern Latin America and Brazil, and offer more specialized courses on Comparative Slavery and Atlantic Port Cities.



Celso Castilho



Jim Fraser

Jim Fraser is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human and Organizational Development (Community Research and Action doctoral program). His research in urban studies focuses on community organizing and social justice, human dimensions of environmental change, and modes of conducting research. In particular, Dr. Fraser studies the role of citizens in urban redevelopment. He is currently working on creating a study abroad program focusing on issues of urban and regional development in Oaxaca, and the roles that different NGOs and community organizations play in these processes. The program will be housed based at the Centro de Encuentros y Diálogos Interculturales (CEDI) located in the City of Oaxaca.

Lesley Gill joins us from American University as Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the department. A cultural anthropologist, Gill's work has ranged from Aymara domestic workers to an ethnography of the School of the Americas, and she is now working with unionists in Colombia. Her research interests include political violence, human rights, global economic restructuring, the state, transformations in class, gender, and ethnic relations in Latin



Lesley Gill

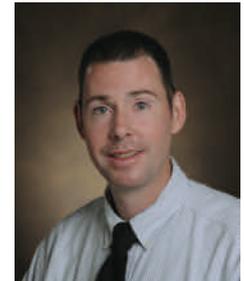
America, and how free-market reforms and political violence have generated new, and aggravated old forms of inequality and reshaped the nature of collective action. Her books include: *Precarious Dependencies: Gender, Class and Domestic Service, Teetering on the Rim: Global Restructuring, Daily Life and the Armed Retreat of the Bolivian State, and The School of the Americas: Military Training and Political Violence* (Duke University Press, 2004).

Mario Higa joins us as Senior Lecturer in Portuguese. Originally from Brazil, Mario received a Master's degree in Portuguese literature from the Universidade de São Paulo in 2001, but his career in education began long before. He taught Portuguese and Brazilian literature in schools and universities in Brazil from 1990 to 2004. A doctoral student at the University of Texas, Mario is currently completing his dissertation while he teaches at Vanderbilt. His dissertation focuses on 20th century Latin American poetry, and it comparatively examines works of Carlos Drummond de Andrade, João Cabral de Melo Neto, Pablo Neruda, and Octavio Paz.



Mario Higa

Thomas Morgan is a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. Morgan's primary interest is in the genetics of complex diseases, including birth defects, childhood neurodevelopmental disorders, and cardiovascular diseases. His current research focuses on the use of DNA microarray technology to detect minute chromosomal structural variations causing congenital heart disease, the leading cause of infant deaths. He has deep ties to Brazil, and accompanying him at Vanderbilt is post-doctoral fellow Guilherme Orabona from the Universidade de São Paulo.



Thomas Morgan

Miriam Shakow is an Assistant Professor in the department of Anthropology after completing her Ph.D. at Harvard this year. A sociocultural anthropologist, Shakow's research addresses how people in Bolivia experience state transformations, and specifically how Bolivians engage the principles and rhetoric of free market policies, state decentralization reforms, and new leftist parties. She is particularly interested in connecting personal experience, such as indigenous middle class identities, with large-scale political change. Her new research focuses on the ways in which teenagers and young adults have become the objects of fear in Bolivia and throughout Latin America in the context of rising unemployment and rising crime. She is the author of *Andean 'Civil Society' and Political Imaginaries in Central Bolivia* (in review).



Miriam Shakow

(continued on page 5)

CLAS Congratulates Elena Olazagasti-Segovia, Winner of the Orgullo Hispano Award

We are proud to report that Elena Olazagasti-Segovia of the Spanish and Portuguese Department has been chosen as the winner of the Orgullo Hispano award given by Conexión Américas as part of their celebrations during Hispanic Heritage Month. Elena is recognized for her contributions to Overton High School, where she has developed a tutoring program with Gini Pupo-Walker, a teacher at Overton (and the daughter of Emeriti Professor Enrique Pupo-Walker). Through this project, 45 Vanderbilt students tutored at-risk Hispanic students each week in the homes of the Hispanic students during the 2007-8 school year. Elena set high standards for her Vanderbilt student-tutors, preparing them for the realities of



the lives of the high school students and ensuring that the Hispanic students' needs were met, and she attended Hispanic parent meetings at the school. Gini Pupo-Walker credits the success of Overton's Hispanic students on this year's No Child Left Behind mandated tests to this project and Elena's tireless dedication. Elena knows each of the Hispanic students and their families intimately, and her caring attitude towards Vanderbilt students is clear from the admiration and fondness they express towards her, greeting her on campus and keeping in touch with her once class has ended. Amigos, a student organization at Vanderbilt, was founded by students who had taken one of the three service learning courses she teaches, and who wanted to continue their volunteer activities in the Nashville community. The students participate in Conversemos, a language interchange program coordinated by Conexión Américas, tutor and mentor Hispanic kids at Metro schools through Project S.H.A.R.E. (Supporting Healthy Attitudes Regarding Education), and teach ELL classes through the program Estoy Aprendiendo. Elena has now started a new partnership with Books from Birth, based in the Vanderbilt's Children Hospital, and Metro Social Services. Elena will receive the Orgullo Hispano Award from Conexión Américas at an awards ceremony on October 15. Please join us in congratulating her!



Faculty Profile: Helena Simonett

This fall, Helena Simonett begins an appointment as an Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies, which she holds jointly with an appointment in the Blair School of Music where she has taught for several years. Originally from Switzerland, Helena completed her M.A. at the University of Zurich and then came to the United States with her husband Gieri to pursue a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology at U.C.L.A. As a doctoral student, she conducted extensive research on Mexican popular music and its



transnational diffusion which resulted in the publication of a number of articles and two books: *Banda: Mexican Musical Life across Borders* and *En Sinaloa nació: Historia de la música de banda*.

Helena's ethnographic inquiry into banda's contemporary musical practices north and south of the U.S.-Mexico border sheds new light on how expressive culture generates and reflects intersecting social identities, and provides evidence about urban society and the role of commodities in everyday life. At first interested in Los Angeles' technobanda music-and-dance phenomenon in relation with the politics of mexicano identity at a time of relentless anti-immigrant rhetoric, she found herself dancing more frequently with both wannabe narcos and real ones. As a result, the economic and cultural ties between L.A.'s nightclubs and the vicious underworld of the narcotraficantes became another focal point of Helena's study – one she pursued out of curiosity, and necessity, in Sinaloa.

While doing research about the music's roots and its development among the Sinaloan rural and urban working classes, she came upon an indigenous community in the northern part of the state whose ceremonial music making and dancing immediately captured her attention and became a new focus. She is currently interested in the role of religious ceremonies and music to defy the ongoing mestizoization of the indigenous way of life. Helena says that her now 7-year old twin daughters, Oriana and Lara, have been terrific fieldwork assistants, her "keys to the hearts of the Yoreme communities." This relationship has translated into an ongoing applied project in which Helena and a Yoreme musician are collaborating to illustrate a children's book.

New Faculty Fall 2008 *(continued from page 4)*

Elizabeth Zechmeister comes to Vanderbilt as Assistant Professor of Political Science and the Assistant Director of LAPOP. Liz obtained her doctorate from Duke University in 2003, and she has conducted research in Mexico, Peru, and Argentina. Her interests include comparative political



Elizabeth
Zechmeister

participation, voting behavior in Mexico, Latin American party systems, the significance of "left" and "right" in Latin America, and the use of experiments in political science research. Her current research focuses on issues of threat and democracy. In a book manuscript forthcoming at the University of Chicago Press, she and her co-author argue that terrorist threat places democracy under stress, as individuals come to support leaders, practices, and legislation with enduring effects on democratic quality.

Isleide Zissimos joins us as a lecturer in Latin American Studies and in Economics. With her Ph.D. in Economics from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Isleide joined the Vanderbilt faculty in Spring 2008. The focus of her research is on economic development and institutions with special interest in Latin America. Having studied productive synergies of small lingerie firms around Rio as a student, her current research projects include the investigation of innovation diffusion among firms of industrial clusters in Brazil, and the analysis of Latin American regional trade agreements.



Isleide Zissimos

Recent Faculty Publications



Jason Borge (Spanish and Portuguese). *Latin American Writers and the Rise of Hollywood Cinema*. Routledge 2008.

Elizabeth Lowe and Earl Fitz (Spanish and Portuguese). *Translation and the Rise of Inter-American Literature*. University Press of Florida 2007.

Coloniality at Large: Latin America and the Postcolonial Debate, edited by Mabel Moraña, Enrique Dussel, and Carlos Jáuregui (Spanish and Portuguese). Duke University Press 2008.

Christina Karageorgou-Bastea (Spanish and Portuguese). *Arquitectónica de voces: Federico García Lorca y el Cante jondo*. El Colegio de México 2008.

Lorraine Lopez (English). *The Gifted Gabaldon Sisters*. Grand Central Publications 2008.



William Luis (Spanish and Portuguese). Juan Francisco Manzano. *Autobiografía del esclavo poeta y otros escritos*. Iberoamericana – Vervuert 2007.

Emanuelle Oliveira (Spanish and Portuguese). *Writing Identity: The Politics of Contemporary Afro-Brazilian Literature*. Purdue University Press 2007.

John A. Booth and Mitchell A. Seligson (Political Science). *The Legitimacy Puzzle: Democracy and Political Support in Eight Latin American Nations*. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Global Inequality, edited by Mitchell A. Seligson (Political Science) and John T. Passé-Smith. Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Faculty News

Roseanne Adderley received an award from the American Historical Association for her book, *New Negroes from Africa: Slave Trade Abolition and Free African Settlement in the Nineteenth-Century Caribbean*.

Tom Dillehay (Anthropology) received the 2008 Society of American Archaeology Book Award for *Monuments, Empires, and Resistance: The Araucanian Polity and Ritual Narratives* (2007, Cambridge University Press).

Leonard Folgarait (History of Art) received a Getty Research Institute Scholar award to conduct research on a project about Pablo Picasso during the 2007-2008 academic year. While on leave, Leonard gave lectures on Mexican photography at J. Paul Getty Museum, University of Southern California, University of California at Los Angeles, and a lecture on Salvador Dali at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

In the spring, **James Foster** (Economics) gave invited lectures in Mexico and Brazil on his ongoing work on inequality in Latin America, and worked as a special consultant to the Government of Mexico for the purpose of creating an official multidimensional poverty standard. James continues his consulting for the United Nations Human Development Programme, which incorporates his research on measuring inequality.

Under the auspices of a Fogarty grant, **Liz Heitman** (Medicine) co-directed a conference on research ethics in San José, Costa Rica in March 2008, which resulted in a series of articles in the monthly publication of the Costa Rican College of Physicians and Surgeons. The articles are available online at http://www.medicos.sa.cr/web/images/revista/med_37_mayo.pdf.

Lawrence Helfer (Law) received a grant from the Center for the Americas at Vanderbilt to conduct field research in Lima and Bogotá on the Andean legal system, with a focus on intellectual property rights.

With support of a five-year NIH grant, **Daniel Masys** (Medicine) is working to pool HIV epidemiology data from seven countries in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America (see <http://ccasnet.vanderbilt.edu>). His team of researchers received \$400,000 this year from the National Cancer Institute to undertake a study of incidence, prevalence, and outcomes of cancer occurring in the setting of HIV in the region, which will build a registry of

cancer cases among the more than 13,000 persons under treatment for HIV at the seven sites.

In May, **Mitchell Seligson** (Political Science) spoke at the National Academy of Sciences on his ongoing work documenting the impact of democracy building programs.

Tiffany Tung (Anthropology) was appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Archaeology at the Universidad Nacional de San Cristóbal de Huamanga, Ayacucho, Perú.

2008 Faculty Curriculum Development Award Recipient Chalene Helmuth Develops New VISAGE Course in Costa Rica

Chalene Helmuth, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, received a CLAS Faculty Curriculum Development Award last spring, which she used to develop a Vanderbilt Initiatives in Scholarship and Global Education (VISAGE) course in Costa Rica. Entitled "Tourism, Civic Engagement, and Social Corporate Responsibility," this new course becomes the second VISAGE program to be located in Latin America. This past summer, Helmuth traveled to Costa Rica to survey potential sites for the community service portion of this new course. She visited the programs and facilities of public schools, artist cooperatives, social service agencies, and several of the conservation centers and tropical studies organizations, and was able to make contacts in San José, with educational agencies that will eventually serve as Vanderbilt's community partners in Costa Rica.

Slated to begin in the Spring 2009 semester, VISAGE Costa Rica requires applicants to have completed Spanish 201W in order to fully capitalize on the service component of the course. As part of a three-semester sequence that is standard among VISAGE courses, the middle module provides a unique focus to service-learning that takes place in an international context. The course will explore the economic and cultural impact of ecotourism in Costa Rica. Specifically, we will assess the social, environmental, and economic costs to the community of Santa Elena, located on the outskirts of one of the world's most visited cloud forests. Students in the course will take note of the transformations that have taken place in this microcosm of ecotourism in Latin America, as they work and observe alongside those who are already engaged in making a positive impact in their communities.

CLAS Calendar

Fall 2008 Events

September 3-30	Retablos Exhibit, Sarratt Center
September 11	Jorge Durand teacher workshop, lecture, and reception: "Retablos: Miracles on the Border"
September 19	Grupo Fantasma: Great Performances at Vanderbilt; Langford Auditorium
September 23	Alma Guillermoprieto speaks about "How to Be a Mexican": Wilson 103, 7:00pm; reception and book signing at 6:00pm
September 24	Teacher Workshop, "A Conversation with Alma Guillermoprieto: Chronicling Latin America's Lost Decade."
October 1	Machuca: Chilean film presented by Jason Borge, 7pm Sarratt Cinema
October 10	Lecture by John Doebley, "Maize Domestication and Improvement: A Window into the Changing Relationship Between Humans and Their Crops," 3pm Garland 101; co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and CLAS
October 11-12	Guatemalan Scholars Network Conference
October 13	Brown Bag Lunch with Duncan Earle
October 14	"The Limits of Empire: U.S. Policy and Guatemala, 1963-1974," a public lecture by Charles Brockett (Sewanee University Political Science Department), 4-5pm Buttrick 306; co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and CLAS
October 14	Four Days in September: Brazilian film presented by Mario Higa, 7pm Sarratt Cinema
October 15	Teacher Workshop, "Teaching Latin America through Literature: Poetry and the Novel"
October 17-18	"Border Crossings: Boundaries of Cultural Interpretation," a conference co-sponsored by CLAS and the Spanish and Portuguese graduate students, with Gregory Rabassa giving the keynote address
October 25	Saturday University: Marshall Eakin
October 27	"Living in Revolutionary Time: Coming to Terms with Insurgent and Counterinsurgent Violence During Latin

October 29	America's Long Cold War," a lecture by Greg Grandin (Professor History, New York University) as part of the History Department Seminar series; for more information contact heidi.welch@vanderbilt.edu
November 1	Cautiva: Argentinean film presented by Marshall Eakin, 7pm Sarratt Cinema
November 1	Ninth Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration at Cheekwood
November 1	Saturday University: Leonard Folgarait
November 8	Saturday University: René Prieto
November 13	Daniel Mato plenary lecture at the Modernist Studies Association meetings, 6:00-7:30pm in the Carmichael-McTyeire room at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel: "All Industries are Cultural: A Critique of the Idea of 'Cultural Industries' and New Possibilities for Research" with a reception following; co-sponsored by CLAS
November 14	Brown Bag Lunch with Daniel Mato
November 14-30	CLAS is co-sponsoring a production of "Evita" by the Street Theatre Company at the Gordon Jewish Community Center
November 15	Saturday University: Arthur Demarest
November 22	Saturday University: Helena Simonett

Spring 2009 Events

January 29	Tango Fire: Great Performances at Vanderbilt; Ingram Hall
February 6	Argentinean Wine tasting with Midtown Wine and Spirits
February 19	Lecture by Alejandro Portes, co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology and CLAS
February 26	Renee Soulodre-La France lecture and teacher workshop on Afro-Columbian Catholicism, sponsored by CLAS and the Department of History
March 12-13	Meeting of CLAS National Advisory Board in Nashville
March 19	Coffee Conference

Vanderbilt's Saturday University: Lectures at the Commons

CLAS is co-sponsoring the Saturday University program for the community this Fall. The Saturday University is a series of lectures designed for inquisitive adult learners to rediscover the joy of education for its own sake, without entrance exams, homework assignments, or final papers. All classes will be held at The Commons, Vanderbilt's innovative facility that is specifically designed to encourage an environment of intellectual curiosity. World-renowned Vanderbilt faculty will address aspects of their current research, including:

- Oct. 25: Prof. Marshall Eakin (History) will speak on why Brazil matters
- Nov. 1: Prof. Leonard Folgarait (History of Art) will speak on the Mexican muralist painters Rivera, Orozco, and Siqueiros
- Nov. 8: Prof. René Prieto (Spanish) will speak on Gabriel García Márquez and Latin American literature
- Nov. 15: Prof. Arthur Demarest (Anthropology) will speak on the rise and fall of ancient Maya civilization

- Nov. 22: Prof. Helena Simonett (CLAS and Blair) will speak on the music and culture of the Mexican borderlands

Each session will include lecture, plus Q&A, from 9:30 until 11:00 from October 25 through November 22. The fee for the five lectures is \$99, and the deadline for registration is October 6. For more information, contact Martin Rapisarda, Associate Dean for Arts & Science, at 615.936.5964 or martin.rapisarda@vanderbilt.edu.

Guatemala Scholars Network Conference and Donation of Archives

The Center will be hosting a conference of the Guatemala Scholars Network on October 11 and 12 to discuss the future direction of the organization and plan a conference in Guatemala for Summer 2009. In addition, CLAS will become the site of the GSN archives, donated by Marilyn Moors, the previous coordinator of the GSN, and represent materials collected between the 1970s and 2003. We expect these archives to serve as a useful resource for faculty and graduate students at Vanderbilt and other universities conducting research on Guatemala.

CLAS hosted seven K-12 teacher workshops during the 2007-2008 academic year, reaching 75 teachers and over 5000 students. The K-12 teacher workshops brought Vanderbilt faculty and outside guest speakers to work with Tennessee school teachers on a variety of topics, including Tango, Strategies for Foreign Language Instruction, Coffee and Latin America, The Maya, Ancient and Modern, the Art of Oswaldo Guayasamín, and Emigration from Latin America. The response to these workshops was overwhelming. In anonymous evaluations, 75% of the teachers rated the workshops as "Excellent" (our highest category) and 25% as "Very Good." Overall, the workshops received an evaluation of 4.75 on a 5-point scale.

Through Vanderbilt's Office of Active Citizenship and Service we have developed service-learning programs over the past four years to train dozens of instructors and hundreds of students. Hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students regularly work abroad (in Mexico, Guatemala, and Ecuador) and with the burgeoning Hispanic community through student groups and service-learning courses. We are now developing "cultural awareness" training seminars in conjunction with the medical school to train their faculty and staff who work with the Hispanic community in Nashville and on long-term projects in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Chile. Our faculty now offer a course in Spanish for the medical profession for Vanderbilt

students, and over 60 medical and business professionals attended cultural competency seminars given by CLAS faculty in preparation for business trips and medical missions to Guatemala.

In Spring 2008, we co-sponsored a performance of Ariel Dorfman's play "Death and the Maiden" with the People's Branch Theater, attended by over 300 people, and CLAS collaborated with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) to hold the conference "Las Maras: Street Gangs and Security in Central America and the United States." The conference was attended by school teachers and administrators as well as law enforcement personnel from throughout Tennessee (see related article). As part of our outreach to local colleges that have no Latin American program, five courses were taught by Vanderbilt faculty at Fisk University (an HBCU): two first-semester and two second-semester Spanish courses, and a course on "Global Health and Diversity: Health and Diversity in Brazil." In addition to these activities, historian Frank Robinson and Outreach Coordinator Sarah Birdwell gave a presentation to 100 teachers at

the Tennessee Council for History Education on incorporating Latin American content into the curriculum, and our Outreach Newsletter was distributed to 58,000 teachers.

Outreach Calendar

September 11

Teacher Workshop with Jorge Durand, "Retablos: Miracles on the Border"

September 24

Teacher Workshop with Alma Guillermoprieto, "A Conversation with Alma Guillermoprieto: Chronicling Latin America's Lost Decade"

October 15

Teacher Workshop, "Teaching Latin America through Literature: Poetry and the Novel"

La República Dominicana, el pasado y el presente Professional Development Institute June 23 - 30, 2008

During the summer, we hosted two intensive institutes for K-12 teachers. In June 2008 CLAS held its second international professional development institute, "La República Dominicana, el pasado y el presente." Through this program, ten Spanish teachers from middle and high schools throughout Tennessee visited the Dominican Republic under the leadership of Lori Catanzaro, Senior Lecturer of Spanish, and Sarah Birdwell, Outreach Coordinator. Participants studied the island's history and culture, visiting historic sites in the colonial district of Santo Domingo, viewing pre-Columbian pictographs in Taíno caves near San Cristobal, enjoying the natural beauty of the island's interior in Jarabacoa, experiencing modern day urban life in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros, and witnessing the impact of the country's vibrant tourism industry on the north coast. All teachers took advantage of their time in the Dominican Republic to practice their Spanish and think creatively about



creating curriculum materials based on their experiences. For more photos and information, see <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/clas/dominicanrepublic>.

Retablos: Miracles on the Border Teacher Workshop

In an extension of the Retablos: Miracles on the Border exhibit, the outreach program at CLAS participated in a collaboration with students and teachers at three Nashville high schools. Art students at Glenclyff High School, Hillsboro High School, and University School of Nashville created their own versions of retablos, painting depictions of gratitude for people, places or events from their own lives. The themes of the student retablos ranged from expressions of gratitude for mundane objects and events to dramatic near death experiences and family tragedies. Without exception, each retablo displayed an intensely personal experience, as well as the students' clear grasp of the nature of the art form and its intended meaning. The Glenclyff student retablos will be on display in the Thompson Lane Library, and those from Hillsboro will be at the East Park Community Center. CLAS wishes to thank the students for their beautiful work and teachers Linda Anderson (Glenclyff High), Marti Proffitt-Streuli (Hillsboro High) and Elizabeth Mask (USN) for making this collaboration possible. The Tennessean featured an article about the student retablos the day following the workshop, available online: <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008809120319>



Photo above, retablo by a Hillsboro High student; photo far left, Hillsboro High students make retablos; photo, near left, teacher workshop at Vanderbilt.

The Crossroads of the World: The Panama Canal July 7 - 11, 2008

30 Professional Development Points

In July 2008 CLAS held its second annual summer professional development institute for K-12 teachers on the Vanderbilt campus. Directed by History Professor Frank Robinson, "The Crossroads of the World: The Panama Canal" examined the Panama Canal, providing a context and a lens through which to examine the history of Spanish America and Central America, United States-Latin American relations, maritime commerce, the engineering marvels of the canal's excavation and lock design/operation, the medical and scientific struggle against malaria and yellow fever, the migration of Afro-West Indians to Panama for the railroad and canal, life for North Americans in the Canal Zone, and, in a larger context, lessons that speak to the geopolitics between small and powerful nations. The program was attended by Spanish and Social Studies teachers at the K-12 level from throughout Tennessee. Through Robinson's expertise on this topic and the assistance of guest lecturers



from the School of Engineering, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, this group of highly engaged participants gained a tremendous amount of knowledge to share with their students, as well as free curriculum materials and professional development credit points.

VISAGE 2008: Managua, Nicaragua

The Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement (VISAGE) program in Managua took place between May 23 and June 22. The group included eight students, a faculty director (Marshall Eakin, Professor of History), a site director (Waldir Sepúlveda, Senior Lecturer in Spanish), and two local program coordinators. While in Managua we worked with Manna Project International, an organization created by former Vanderbilt undergraduates about five years ago (<http://www.mannaproject.org>).



The summer course is the second of a three-part sequence, Interdisciplinary Studies 270abc, Introduction to Global Citizenship and Service. A service-learning program, INDS 270abc includes a course in the spring (270a) to prepare the group for its work in Nicaragua; a summer program (270b) that combines community service with a one-hour academic course; and, a fall research seminar (270c) designed to produce student writing and research on a theme from the program. This sequence will be offered on an annual basis (spring, summer, fall).

During the summer program we worked at four principal service sites in Managua: 1) La Chureca is the Managua municipal garbage dump located on the edge of Lake Managua near the center of the city. Some of the group worked at Juntos Contigo, a youth center that has programs in sports, literacy, computer skills, and math for children from the neighborhood surrounding La Chureca. Others worked at the Acahualinca School helping prepare and serve food to the school children. 2) Cedro Galán is a poor neighborhood on the southwest side of Managua. Students worked at the El Farito community center in this neighborhood—one helped with a preschool program in the mornings, and others assisted with English classes and a free lunch program. 3) Chiquilistagua is another neighborhood on the southwest side of Managua. Manna Project works here with the August family (an American missionary couple from Seattle) at their facility which includes sports fields (baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball), a computer lab, and a library. In the afternoons, most of the group worked with children at this facility, in particular, running reading programs, computer literacy programs, and a dance/exercise class. 4) Tesoros de Dios (<http://tesorosdedios.org>) is a school for severely handicapped children (mainly with cerebral palsy) nearly adjacent to the August facility.

In addition to its service work, the group was able to visit a number of places in Nicaragua including León, Granada, Masaya, and Omotepe Island.

Undergraduate Engineering Student Katherine Gray Volunteers in Honduras

This summer, Katherine Gray, a senior undergraduate engineering student, traveled to Central America as a volunteer biomedical engineer for Duke University's non-profit organization, Engineering World Health. For the first month, she and 30 other undergraduate engineers attended a training program in San José, Costa Rica, that consisted of four hours of Spanish, a lecture and lab in the repair of medical instrumentation, and a seminar on problems facing healthcare in the developing world. After this training, pairs of volunteers were assigned to community hospitals in Nicaragua and Honduras that lack the financial resources and training to maintain their medical equipment. Katherine worked in a hospital in the tiny town of San Marcos Ocotepeque, Honduras. In the weeks that she was there, she and her partner were able to fix a number of instruments such as aspirators, fetal monitors, and even a clothes iron in the 67-bed hospital. When they weren't repairing equipment, they were busy teaching English classes or working with the hospital administration. Katherine describes the experience as a fulfilling and invigorating way for her to combine her skills as an engineer with her minor in Spanish, and at the same time, help a struggling but wonderful community that showed her unrivaled hospitality.

Las Maras: Street Gangs and Security in Central America and the United States

With gang activity becoming increasingly visible in the United States and Central America, Political Science student José Miguel Cruz organized the conference "Las Maras: Street Gangs and Security in Central America and the United States" with the support of CLAS in March. Cruz is the Director of the Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública at the University of Central America (UCA) in El Salvador. Attended by over 40 people, including representatives from the Metro Nashville Police Department



and Metro Schools, the conference brought together leading experts to share information about policies to reduce the incidence and influence of gangs. Presenters included Cheryl Maxson, Associate Professor and Director of Doctoral Program, Department of Criminology, Law and Society, University of California, Irvine; Geoff Thale, Program Director at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA);

Elin Ranum, Director, Central American Coalition for the Prevention of Youth Violence; and Cruz. In an interview, Cruz explained that exclusion, poverty, and a lack of education serve as the main causes of gangs, whether in Nashville or Central America, and he emphasized the important role of communities in preventing the development of gangs. A podcast of the conference is available at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/news/podcasts>.

BRASA IX

BRASA IX, the most recent international congress on Brazilian studies, was held at Tulane University from March 27-29, 2008. The ambassador of Brazil to the United States, the Honorable Antônio de Aguiar Patriota, spoke at the opening ceremony and the conference was attended by over 600 people. Earl Fitz and his son Ezra presented Gregory Rabassa, Emeritus Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at the City University of New York, the Lifetime Contribution Award for his instrumental translations of Latin American literature to English. Paula Barreto, Juri Bottura, Jane Landers, Emanuelle Oliveira, and David Wheat gave presentations, and the conference was also attended by LAS graduate students LaKisha Grant, Jim Winland, and Chaz Yingling. The next BRASA congress will occur in July 2010 in Brasília.

Vanderbilt and Other Students Attend Field School in K'iche' Mayan in Guatemala

The town of Nahualá, the site of the intensive program in the K'iche' Mayan language sponsored by the University of Chicago and Vanderbilt University, is nestled in the Sololá highlands of Guatemala, surrounded by rolling hills and lush milpas. Students came from universities all over the United States including California, New York, Florida, Tennessee, Illinois, and Michigan to take the six-week course, and represented a variety of academic disciplines such as anthropology, history and religion. Of the eleven students that attended the course, Andrew Larason (LAS), Jennifer Vogt (Anthropology), Jamie Zuehl (Anthropology), and Robyn Hyden, an undergraduate major in Anthropology, are from Vanderbilt.

School days were filled with an intense mix of grammar drills, one-on-one conversation sessions, and



Photo, above: Sergio Romero and friend at the K'iche' Mayan Field School. Photo, right: K'iche' Mayan Field School participants.

analyses of contemporary and colonial documents taught by Dr. Sergio Romero (Vanderbilt University), Dr. Rusty Barrett (University of Kentucky), and Dr. Robin Shoaps (University of Chicago). This outstanding group of teachers shared their expertise in Mayan languages and helped students gain a solid foundation in K'iche'. Students also had the opportunity to work with Tat Wel (Manuel) Tahay, who taught "Introduction to K'iche'" at Vanderbilt last spring with Dr. Romero, as well as tat Viktor, nan Xe'p, and Le'n. These native speakers of K'iche' and residents of Nahualá had much patience as students stumbled over glottal stops and anything with the letter "q."

After school, each student was fortunate enough to walk home down two big hills to an adoring host family. Jamie Zuehl spent her afternoons reviewing lessons and doing homework, but like other program participants, her education in K'iche' culture went beyond language instruction. Students spent the early evening with their families making tortillas and conversing in the kitchen, playing basketball or jacks, learning the art of weaving, or accompanying their host families to the market. Many of the female students were encouraged by their host parents to wear traje, the typical dress of Maya women that consists of the woven or embroidered *huipil* (blouse), the colorful *faja* (belt), and the long *corte* (skirt). Jennifer Vogt was the first to don the traditional garb, and from then on, others followed suit. The students walked away from the program not only with greater fluency in the K'iche' language and culture, but also with the feeling that they had a mom, a dad, grandparents, and siblings in Nahualá.



CLAS Invites Nominations for 2009-2010 Visiting Resource Professors

CLAS has been awarded an Enhancing Graduate Education award to fund a three-year pilot of our Latin American Visiting Resource Professors (VRP) program. The first competition awarded Jesús Martin Barbero, a key figure in Latin American cultural studies and communication studies, the inaugural Visiting Resource Professor for Spring 2009.

The VRP program funds two distinguished Latin American scholars, politicians, or writers per year to come to Vanderbilt for approximately four weeks to participate in a graduate seminar, offer a non-credit special topic seminar, and to interact more widely with graduate students.

CLAS now welcomes expressions of interest in the VRP program for Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 professorships. Please contact Ted Fischer (edward.f.fischer@vanderbilt.edu) or Avery Dickins (avery.dickins-degiron@vanderbilt.edu) to discuss possible nominees and how they would fit into the program. Initial inquiries will be accepted through December,

with formal applications due in early Spring 2009.

Vanderbilt faculty members from any department or school may nominate candidates for the Visiting Resource Professorship. Faculty members should demonstrate how the nominated scholar will contribute to a graduate course the faculty member is teaching during the semester for which the VRP is sought. The VRP will be in charge of a designated number of seminar sessions. In departments where students have sufficient proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese, the class should be conducted in that language to promote a "languages across the curriculum" approach. We especially encourage the nomination of scholars whose work transcends several disciplines, making the proposed seminars compelling for students in related fields. The VRP would also offer a special-topics, non-credit seminar on a subject of his or her choice that would meet at least twice during his or her visit.

Competition guidelines are posted on the CLAS website.

InterAmerican Health Alliance Finds a New Home at Vanderbilt

The InterAmerican Health Alliance (IAHA) is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support Primeros Pasos, a pediatric clinic in rural Guatemala. Vanderbilt alumnus and current medical student Brent Savoie established Primeros Pasos along with Cully Wiseman in 2001 while a recipient of the Michael B. Keegan Traveling Fellowship. Located outside of Quetzaltenango, the clinic sees over 1000 patients per month for basic health care and gives educational health workshops in surrounding communities. While it is locally staffed, the clinic relies on student volunteers from Vanderbilt and other universities to provide basic treatments, vaccinations, and health care education. To generate funding and support for the clinic, Savoie and Mike Brown established IAHA, which Savoie operated from his apartment for the last several years. Through the new partnership with CLAS and the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, the organization will now have a home base at Vanderbilt University from which it can manage Primeros Pasos and coordinate IAHA chapters in other universities. A number of undergraduate and medical students have volunteered at Primeros Pasos through Alternative Spring Break and other programs, and it is currently an approved clinical rotation for medical students. We expect that this alliance will offer increased service learning opportunities in Guatemala for students, which will be further facilitated by the recent establishment of an interdisciplinary student organization under the Office of Active Citizenship and Service.



News from the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP)

In addition to existing grants from USAID for the AmericasBarometer studies of public opinion, LAPOP recently received funding from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for the incorporation of Belize into the AmericasBarometer. In all, the program will have conducted surveys in 23 countries and nearly 39,000 interviews in 2008. LAPOP's complete report on the last wave of studies, "Challenges to Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Evidence from the AmericasBarometer, 2006-2007" is now available in print. LAPOP's staff has also increased recently, with the addition of Dr. Elizabeth Zechmeister as Assistant Director and Abby Cordova in a post-doctoral research position. A central focus at LAPOP this fall is the production of numerous reports using the newly collected data from 2008. One series includes country reports written by teams of experts that (minus some exceptions) are commissioned by and distributed with the assistance of local partners and USAID mission offices. Dr. Seligson, Director of LAPOP, recently returned from a trip to Bolivia where he presented that country's report alongside LAPOP and VU alum Dr. Daniel Moreno and current graduate student Vivian Schwarz-Blum. A second series contains shorter thematic reports written by LAPOP graduate students and faculty that focus on a particular survey question from a cross-national perspective. The shorter reports will soon be made available on the LAPOP website, <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop>.

FIPSE/CAPES: "Race, Development and Social Inequality: Access and Equity in Higher Education in Brazil and the United States"

Vanderbilt University and its partners, Howard University, the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and the Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA) have been awarded a \$220,000 grant from the U.S. Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, Department of Education for a four-year student exchange program on the theme of "Race, Development and Social Inequality: Access and Equity in Higher Education in Brazil and the United States". Jane Landers (History) directs the program and Marshall Eakin (History) is co-director. Vanderbilt and Howard each will send nine students to Brazil, and the Universidade de São Paulo and the Universidade Federal da Bahia will each send nine students to the United States. The new program will also incorporate NGOs such as the Council for Opportunity in Education and the European Access Network and develop research internship opportunities for students and faculty at each of the partner institutions. Vanderbilt is also concluding a second FIPSE/CAPES consortium initiated in 2005 with Fisk University, the Universidade de Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and the Universidade da Bahia (UFBA) on the theme of "Multicultural Diversity, Social Inequalities, and the Pursuit of Health in Brazil and the United States." To date twenty Brazilian students and twelve Vanderbilt students have participated in Vanderbilt's FIPSE/CAPES student exchange programs and the directors will recruit another Vanderbilt student to send to Brazil in the spring of 2009.

New Research from ICS; Peter Martin Gives Talk at Anacafé in Guatemala

The Asociación Nacional del Café (Anacafé), in Guatemala, invited Dr. Peter Martin to speak at a conference of Guatemalan coffee producers this past summer. Martin is the Director of CLAS's Institute of Coffee Studies (ICS), which investigates the health benefits of coffee and the historical, economic, and sociological aspects of the crop.

Martin, along with Michael Reich, Ted Fischer, and other collaborator, recently conducted a study that documents the high rates of coffee consumption among Alcoholics Anonymous members and suggests that coffee may play an important role in recovery.



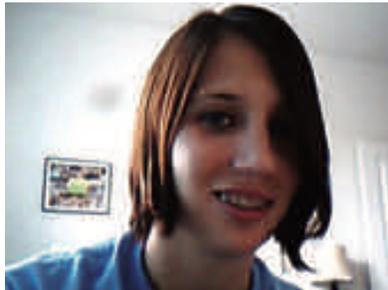
CLAS Welcomes Our New Graduate Students

Katie Chalk comes to Vanderbilt from Cincinnati, Ohio to study Latin American economic and community development. Her passion for Latin America was awakened at an early age when she traveled to Costa Rica and fell in love with the region. After pursuing Spanish in high school, she attended Miami University and completed majors in Spanish, Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, and Latin American Studies as well as a minor in Economics. Outside of the classroom, Katie has frequently worked with Latino communities in Ohio through Living Water Ministry and with Community Refugee and Immigration Services. In addition to Costa Rica, she has also traveled to many parts of Mexico and to Central America, and looks forward to studying at Vanderbilt.



Katie Chalk

Laura Delgado is from Houston, Texas, but this will be her fifth year in Nashville. She attended Vanderbilt University as an undergraduate, double majoring in Spanish and Latin American Studies, and studying K'iche' Mayan. After graduating in May of 2007, she decided to take a year off and spent the last year in a small town in the Cádiz province of Andalusia, Spain, teaching English at a bilingual elementary school. She is back at Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American Studies, where she intends to specialize in Portuguese with a minor in History. In her spare time she will be volunteering as a Spanish interpreter at the Siloam Health Clinic, a local volunteer-run free clinic supporting the immigrant community in Nashville. She hopes to study in Brazil next summer in order to practice Portuguese and do research for her thesis.



Laura Delgado



Morgan Maxwell

Morgan Maxwell completed her B.S. in 2008 in Psychology at Howard University, where she minored in Spanish and Biology. Now a FLAS fellow in Latin American Studies, Morgan's graduate studies will focus on Afro-Latino culture, and specifically on identifying psychological aspects of racism in Latin America. Fascinated by the African diaspora cultures of South and Central America, she has studied abroad in Ecuador, where she taught Afro-Ecuadorian children and encouraged them to

respect African culture through exposure to music, writings, and achievements of people of African ancestry. Morgan has also served as a volunteer for Global Learning, a non-profit organization dedicated to education for justice, in Nicaragua, and has worked as a teacher at the Latin American Youth Center in Washington, D.C. In the future, Morgan plans to continue her education and obtain a doctorate in psychology.

Leslie McClure came to Nashville from Louisville, KY in 2004 to attend Belmont University in the Honors Program. She double majored in Spanish and History, and spent a semester abroad in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. A FLAS Fellow, Leslie plans to study the



Leslie McClure

impact of language and culture on various types of music in Latin America at Vanderbilt. Her love for languages, particularly Portuguese and Spanish, has had an enormous influence on Leslie beyond the academic realm, as she has played in a band with her father, John McClure, since she was 10 years old, and is now composing music in these languages. When she returned from her semester abroad in Spain, they released their first album, *The Santiago Set*, and have played in various Nashville venues such as Caffeine, McDougals, 12th South Taproom, and the Family Wash. Leslie and her father are currently working on another album that is an eclectic mix of English, Spanish, and Portuguese, with instruments and rhythms borrowed from Americana folk and Latino music.

Ty West is a doctoral student in Spanish and Portuguese and a FLAS Fellow. Ty was born and raised in central California where the majority of his family still resides, but his interest in foreign languages began during a two month stay at an intensive language school in central Mexico in 1996. This experience sparked an extended journey that lasted next nine years during which he lived and traveled throughout Latin America, Europe and Africa working as an English teacher, waiter, farmhand and musician to fund his travels. Having developed a love for literature and languages through his travels, Ty returned to California to pursue a degree in literary studies in 2005, and received a BA in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley in May 2008. His current interests lie in Latin American narrative, especially the Mexican short story, and he plans to further cultivate an interest in Brazilian literature and culture while at Vanderbilt.



Ty West

Graduate Student Summer Research

Doc Billingsley, a doctoral student in the Anthropology Department at Washington University, received a FLAS Award to attend the Summer K'iche' Maya Institute in Nahualá, Guatemala sponsored by the University of Chicago and Vanderbilt University. After taking six weeks of beginner-level courses in K'iche' Mayan and living with his K'iche' host family, Doc now writes and communicates verbally at a level sufficient to accomplish most basic social tasks, can read monolingual K'iche' stories, folktales, and poetry, and comprehends the grammatical structure of K'iche' beyond the basic level, including positional roots and their corresponding adjective and verb formations. Doc is interested in bilingual education and new technologies of communication, and says that his participation in the Summer K'iche' Maya Institute brought him the opportunity to develop personal and professional relationships with fellow scholars from the U.S. and Guatemala. He believes that this experience has provided him with a linguistic foundation in K'iche' that will be highly useful for his future dissertation research.

With the support of a FLAS Award, **Joanna Elrick**, a doctoral student in the History Department, accompanied a group from the University of Iowa on a six-week program in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil where she attended intensive Portuguese language classes at the Associação Cultural Brasil-Estados Unidos (ACBEU) and took additional coursework in Brazilian sociolinguistics. Through these courses, as well as the enriching experience of living with a host family, she greatly expanded her ability in conversational Portuguese. More significantly, she obtained a first-hand experience with Bahian culture via day-to-day interactions and through cultural activities which included weekend excursions to the historic city of Cachoeira and the islands of Morro de São Paulo, Itaparica and Ilha dos Frades. Joanna was also able to participate in a Candomblé ceremony, an event which held special importance for her, as she is a scholar of the history of Afro-Brazilian and Afro-Caribbean religions. Further, she met with the Director of the Centro dos Estudos Afro-Orientais and conducted preliminary archival research at the Arquivo Publico do Estado da Bahia. These experiences not only expanded Joanna's cultural, linguistic, and historical knowledge, but allowed her to solidify her dissertation topic.

With support from a CLAS-CFA Latin American Summer Travel Award, **La Kisha Grant**, a master's student in Latin American Studies, traveled to Grenada this summer to conduct research on Grenada's political history from the period from U.S. intervention to the current political atmosphere. La Kisha, a native of Grenada, is particularly interested in exploring local perceptions on democracy and whether or not democracy in Grenada is a result of U.S. intervention. Fortuitously, the incumbent government, which had held office for 13 years, announced elections during La Kisha's time in Grenada, giving her the opportunity to work as an election monitor. The elections were notable on several fronts: the return to the two-party system, the intense political tension, and the high level of voter interest and turnout (over 80%, only surpassed in the 1984 elections). Based on her research, La Kisha found that the average Grenadian disagrees with the claim that the country was headed towards socialism prior to U.S. intervention, and that a significant number of Grenadians believe that the country was more "democratic" and better off during the Bishop years than it is now. In addition to following the elections throughout the country, La Kisha spent her time doing archival research at the Marryshow House, Grenada's branch of the University of the West Indies.

Andrew Larason, a second year student in Latin American Studies, was also given the opportunity through a FLAS Award to attend the Summer K'iche' Maya Institute in Guatemala. During the seven weeks in Guatemala, Andrew utilized his developing language skills to begin work on a few independent film projects. He was able to collaborate with two Maya priests; one allowed him to film an entire Maya religious ceremony and he interviewed the other in K'iche'

about a recently proposed law which could affect the priests and sacred sites in Nahualá. With a group of local friends, Andrew hiked up a steep hill to film one of these sacred sites, but his efforts were thwarted by rain. He returned the next day to film once again, but as soon as he turned his video camera on, the rain clouds rolled up onto the hill. One of the locals told Andrew that the spirits of the site were bothered that he was filming their sacred ground. A good shot of the site was never captured. Andrew is extremely grateful for this experience and continues to work on his K'iche' inspired films, currently working on a project which deals with the folklore of Nahualá, and he looks forward to deepening his appreciation of the K'iche' language and culture in the future.

Through funding from a Simon Collier Travel Award, **Kasia Szremski**, a doctoral student in Anthropology, was able to travel to north-central Peru to gather seed data for her dissertation. Kasia's research was focused on gaining a better understanding of local landscapes in the Huaura-Huanangue Valley and the nature and scope of highland coastal interactions. Due to difficulties in getting permits, she was unable to excavate as she originally planned, but was able to survey several sites in both valleys, as well as collect archival data in Huacho, Peru. Kasia's data indicates that the upper branch of the Huaura Valley was less populated than the Huanangue Valley, which is located 50 kilometers from the coast. The latter valley is characterized by more open spaces and provides greater access to the highlands, such that it could have been used as a trade corridor. Most importantly for her project, Kasia found ceramics and marine shells that provide clear evidence that both highland and coastal cultural groups lived in the Huanangue Valley and engaged in complex interactions.

Jack Willey, doctoral student in Spanish and Portuguese, received a FLAS Award to study Portuguese and Brazilian culture in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Through the University of Florida, his studies at the Instituto Brasil-Estados Unidos consisted of 25 hours per week of classroom study in historic Copacabana and a host family stay, both of which allowed him to significantly improve his Portuguese language skills. Although the focus of the FLAS grant was to improve language competence, Jack was able to devote part of his weekends to researching the intersection of politicized hip-hop of musicians from the favelas in and around Rio and the struggles against racial and economic inequality. As well as making important contacts for future research through this experience, Jack also met other U.S. graduate students with similar interests, opening the possibility of further academic collaboration.

With the support of a Simon Collier Travel Award, **Chaz Yingling** was able to complete much of the research for his master's thesis on the contributions and activities of Don Juan Bosch and the PRD party (Partido Revolucionario Dominicano) in the Dominican Republic during the period of governmental reforms and democratic opening, from May 1961 to September 1963. Bosch, a renowned fiction writer forced to flee the Dominican Republic in 1938, became the leading Dominican intellectual of his time and the single-most important voice of opposition to the Trujillo regime. He was elected president in 1962, roughly a year and a half after Trujillo's death, in what were then the freest elections in Dominican history. During his time in Santo Domingo, Chaz conducted archival research at the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, and the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña. In addition, he spent a few days gathering data at the headquarters of the Partido de la Liberación Dominicana (PLD), the second party Bosch founded after falling out with the PRD leadership. He was able to interview Zoilo Placencia, a co-worker and personal friend of Bosch, who provided great insight into Bosch as an individual as well as video footage of interviews and speeches given by Bosch.

Latin American Leaders Come to Vanderbilt to Complete Their Graduate Studies

You might be surprised to learn that some of our graduate students are already recognized professionals in their fields. Guatemalan archaeologist **Tomás Barrientos** in the Department of Anthropology is currently writing his Ph.D. dissertation this semester on the Royal Palace of Cancuén. He started his studies in archaeology at the



Tomás Barrientos

Universidad del Valle de Guatemala in 1990, where he is now the Director of the Archaeology Department. Tomás has dedicated more than 10 years to teaching in Guatemala at the Universidad del Valle, Popol Vuh Museum, and Tourist Guide training at the Technical Institute INTECAP. He has conducted archaeological excavations at several sites in Guatemala, including Kaminal Juyú, where he studied an important hydraulic canal system, Piedras Negras and La Pasadita, and underwater investigations at Lake Atitlán. Since 1999 he has served as co-director of the Cancuén Archaeological Project, a position

in which he has conducted and supervised excavations of Cancuén, an important ancient Maya city that controlled the main trade route between the Lowland and Highland regions, and which is the subject of his dissertation.

Dr. Pablo Gómez is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History, who obtained his medical degree at the Instituto de Ciencias de la Salud in Medellín, Colombia, and his degree in Orthopedic Surgery at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia. Before coming to Vanderbilt, Dr. Gómez studied as a Postdoctoral fellow in Genetics and Oncology at the University of

Iowa in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery. His present research interests involve African and European health practices in colonial Latin America and health practices and concepts of body and race in the early modern Atlantic world. Dr. Gómez has been the recipient of awards and fellowships such as the Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr. Prize for Best Graduate Paper of the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association, a research grant from the program for Cultural Cooperation between the Spain's Ministry of Culture and the United States, and fellowships from the Center for the Americas, the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, and CLAS.

Miguel Cruz holds a B.A. in Psychology from Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in San Salvador and M.Sc. in Public Policy on Latin America at Oxford University, England, and is currently a doctoral candidate in the department of Political Science. He has been the director of the University Institute of Public Opinion (IUDOP in Spanish) at



Miguel Cruz

UCA for ten years, and member of the Editorial Board of the academic journal Estudios Centroamericanos (ECA). Miguel is an expert on Central American gangs, and was one of the key organizers and participants in the conference "Las Maras: Street Gangs and Security in Central America and the United States" held at Vanderbilt last March (see related article). He has been also a consultant for the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Program in the topic of Central American violence. Currently, Miguel works for the Latin America Public Opinion Project and is involved in research projects on Latin American political culture and violence.

Alumni News

Mark Kendall (M.A. 2008) has continued making films since he graduated this spring, and spent much of the summer attending screenings for the film, *Para la Comunidad, Desde la Comunidad* (For the People, By the People), that he shot in Bolivia during the summer of 2007 with funding provided by CLAS. This documentary about indigenous filmmakers has been screened and received awards at a several film festivals, including the Global Art Film Festival Hollywood (Best Student Film), the Washougal International Film Festival (Best Foreign Film), and Twin Rivers Media Festival (Honorable Mention). Here in Nashville, Mark has been busy as the personal videographer for Wynonna Judd, shooting and editing all the behind-the-scenes footage from her recent recording sessions, concert tour, and photo shoots. He also worked with Vanderbilt professor Kathy Konkwright on a documentary called *Southern Belle*, a feature-length documentary about a finishing school for girls in Columbia, TN that celebrates the values and virtues of the 1861 Southern Confederacy. He has also made a few experimental films, including *The Jezebel Spirit* about ritual healing and spiritual transformation and *Rhumba Feathers* that integrates archival footage from Cuba with modern music, and he is currently working on a Fulbright proposal to return to Bolivia to shoot a feature-length documentary about the indigenous filmmakers highlighted in *Para la Comunidad, Desde la Comunidad*.

Sandra Martínez (M.A. 2007) is now in Colorado, after spending two months in her hometown of Arequipa, Peru, where she and David celebrated their recent marriage with her family this summer. Sandra is working for Project YES (Youth Envisioning Social Change), where she is collaborating with the Boulder Valley YMCA and Foothills United Way to support youth and families as they make the transition from primary to secondary school.

Influenced by the Osawaldo Guayasamin exhibit, **Holly Ward** (B.A. 2008) decided to join the Manna Ecuador team where she is now the Program Director. Having graduated with a dual degree in English and Political Science, Holly looked to Manna as a way to explore her other passion, art, by leading art classes in impoverished communities around Quito. Holly and other Manna volunteers give English classes and have introduced gardening and recycling initiatives, and in general try to build on existing communal strengths to empower individuals, strengthen local institutions, and create networks. More information on the Manna Project International in Ecuador is available at www.mannaproject.org/MPiEcuador.asp.

A Conversation with Professor Fernando Segovia

on Fernando Lugo, Former Bishop and New President of Paraguay

Fernando Lugo's recent inauguration as president of Paraguay is monumental not only because it ends over 60 years of rule by the Colorado Party, but also because Lugo is a former Catholic bishop. Vanderbilt Divinity School Professor and scholar of liberation theology Fernando Segovia describes Lugo as "committed to the poor; a church man, a bishop in one of the poorest if not the poorest, diocese in Paraguay, living on the front lines." Known as the "bishop of the poor," Lugo has long been an ardent voice in fighting for rights for small landowners.

For his inauguration, Lugo donned his usual sandals and an apo'i shirt traditionally worn by Guaraní men, and greeted the crowd in Guaraní. In attendance were a wide range of supporters representing a cross-section of Paraguay's population of six million, including Asunción's small wealthy upper class and its urban poor, indigenous farmers, Hugo Chávez and other Pink Tide leaders, and liberation theologians Gustavo Gutiérrez and Leonardo Boff. Lugo, an adherent of liberation theology, has promised to continue his strident dedication to the people, but the question remains as to how he will apply his grassroots activism to Paraguayan politics in the current Latin American political context.

The Colorado Party rose to power in 1947 through a bloody civil war, and continued to dominate Paraguay through the decades of Alfredo Stroessner's right-wing dictatorship (1954-1989) until the recent and tenuous shift to democracy during which poverty, social inequality, and unemployment have risen. Lugo emerged in recent years as a leader of popular protests that coalesced into the Patriotic Alliance for Change (APC) party.

Having worked as a school teacher in Paraguay, Lugo became a priest in the late 1970s and served as a missionary in Ecuador until the early 1980s. It was during his time in Ecuador that Lugo became influenced by liberation theology and Gustavo Gutiérrez's landmark (1971) *Historia, Política y Salvación de Una Teología de Liberación*.

How exactly will Lugo apply liberation theology in his role as president of Paraguay? Vanderbilt's Fernando Segovia is unsure how much Lugo can accomplish since the Colorado party still holds significant power. In his campaign speeches, Lugo has promised to continue his role as a defender of small landowners through agrarian reform measures, a daunting task in Paraguay, which has one of the most unequal distributions of land in Latin America. Lugo has also pledged to reduce poverty through social and economic reforms, decrease rampant government corruption, and renegotiate hydroelectric dam projects with Brazil and Argentina.

What role liberation theology will play in this agenda is unclear. Segovia notes that in contrast to Jean Baptiste d'Aristide, the former Salesian priest who served as president of Haiti, Lugo "has not written anything, nor has he critically engaged with others" on the subject of liberation theology, and therefore "it is hard to say how he will try to introduce or follow liberation theology, or what kind of liberation theology."

Equally as important, Segovia explains that liberation theology developed in the context of industrial capitalism and dependency theory, and that it has not been updated to apply to global capitalism. The more important question for Segovia is whether Lugo "will go the way of the 'soft left,' the way of Chile and Brazil, or the way of the 'hard left,' that of Venezuela or Bolivia." Wanting to forge a unique path for Paraguay, Lugo describes himself as a centrist, and has promised to engage in socially responsible capitalism. Segovia notes that the direction Lugo will take is a mystery but that "it will be very interesting to see what happens." For now, Paraguayans are optimistic about the possibility of change they see in this former bishop and grassroots activist.

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