

A Moment with **Rigoberta Menchú** by Lori Catanzaro



Rigoberta Menchú, Indian rights advocate, Nobel Peace Prize winner and recent presidential candidate for Guatemala, spoke at Vanderbilt February 7.

Over a few moments after lunch at the University Club, Rigoberta Menchú reflected upon the work of her foundation, highlighting not only its efforts to seek justice in the struggle for human rights for all citizens of her country but also its campaign to have members of the Guatemalan political and military leaders of the Guatemalan Civil War tried for genocide and prosecuted in Spain. Emphasizing the Foundation's main focuses including the recognition and defense of rights for the indigenous people on the local, regional, and global levels through education, dialogue, negotiations, peace accords, and sustainable development through conservation of natural resources, harmonious, holistic and spiritual respect for the environment, Ms. Menchú also underscored the importance of its judicial fight for impunity.

Ms. Menchú is very proud of the international support the Foundation had gained, citing the example of Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti's solidarity with the organization and his efforts to raise funds for the indigenous children affected by the armed internal conflict and also generous donations from local and provincial governments in Cataluña, País Vasco and The Netherlands.

Underscoring education for not only students but all citizens as the key to reaching the values of democracy, multiculturalism, conflict resolution, and community development as an instrument of peace and struggle against discrimination, Ms. Menchú presides over the committee for the creation of the Mayan University.

Promoting concern for the environment is an essential activity of the organization as well. Seeking to create a fair market, the organization supports the production of organic products including coffee through its credit and co-op program "Café Para la Paz", forest preservation, and institutional support of equal participation for both men and women in small business projects.

Rigoberta Menchú also spoke of the importance of cooperation and mutual respect under the conditions of dignity and freedom regarding all national and international institutions such as church mission groups and others offering support to developing nations.



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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Center for Latin American
and Iberian Studies

Spring 2008



**Nobel Peace Prize Recipient
Rigoberta Menchú**

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Director's Corner

Rigoberta Menchú's recent visit to campus reminds us of the real stakes of our research. We often talk about the "real world" as opposed to the ivory towers of academia, but in fact much of our lofty theorizations are intimately concerned with better representing the world around us, which always has real world implications. Indeed, the leitmotif of the Center's activities this semester has emerged as human rights: the tortured work of Oswaldo Guayasamín as seen in the landmark exhibition "Of Rage and Redemption: The Art of Oswaldo Guayasamín," the director's showing of *Puedo Hablar?*, our upcoming conference on Central American gangs, and our teacher workshop on emigration. It is through such scholarly endeavors and outreach activities that we can and do make a difference in the world.

Along these same lines, we are involved in a number of projects on campus that combine research, service, and learning. Marshall Eakin is running a community building service-learning course this semester that will continue over the summer in Nicaragua (and then for another semester on campus in the Fall). We are currently working with the Institute for Global Health and the Owen School to formulate a development program with the management school of the Universidade de São Paulo to be carried out around Vanderbilt-run HIV/AIDS clinics in Mozambique. And the list goes on. These innovative programs show just how our concerns with research, teaching, and service can be combined in new ways.

CLAIS is fortunate to find support and encouragement for our work at Vanderbilt. To further our engagement with Latin America, the Provost's office has agreed to fund our new program for Latin American Visiting Resource Professors. It is our hope that this program will enrich the cultural and intellectual diversity on campus, enhance our graduate students' understanding of the region's scholarly traditions, and increase Vanderbilt's international prominence.

The College is also building up our institutional capacity for the Center through new faculty appointments and staff positions. Helena Simonett will be joining us in the Fall as Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies; Helena has long been an integral part of the Center and it will be nice to formalize our close ties. Dean McCarty has also authorized us to hire a new staff Assistant Director who can handle much of our rapidly growing administrative burden.

We are fortunate to have such institutional support for our endeavors, and the freedom to carry out our research while also maintaining our commitment to making the world a better place.

—Ted Fischer



From left: Joseph Mella, curator, Fine Arts Gallery; Ted Fischer, director of CLAIS; Rigoberta Menchú; and Carlos Jáuregui, associate professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Organizing Committee chair.

Rigoberta Menchú and Ecuadorian Ambassador Inaugurate Exhibition



Rigoberta Menchú, internationally recognized for her work for social justice and cultural reconciliation for indigenous people, spoke at Vanderbilt University on February 7 at Benton Chapel in an event sponsored by CLAIS and the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities.

Menchú, the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992, is a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador and ran for president of Guatemala in September 2007, the first indigenous candidate in the country's history. Her 1983 autobiography, *I, Rigoberta Menchú*, chronicles the oppression suffered by the indigenous people in Guatemala by the right-wing military regime. Her book drew international attention to the atrocities of the Guatemalan military and led to Menchú winning the Nobel.

However, in 1998, the veracity of *I, Rigoberta Menchú*, came under attack by anthropologist David Stoll. CLAIS and the Warren Center brought Stoll to campus to discuss the debate in the spring of 1999. Menchú has since acknowledged that some of the accusations are true, but stated that she intended her book to represent not just her life, but the collective experience of her people. In the late 1970s and early '80s, several of Menchú's family members were tortured and killed, and she herself was forced into hiding, after they stood up for the rights of their fellow Mayan peasants in Guatemala's highlands. Today, she is a widely read author and a celebrated activist who travels the world on behalf of her foundation.

"Menchú was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1992, on the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America," said Ted Fischer. "Since then, there has been a sea shift in indigenous rights across Latin America. People are rising up and exerting their rights across the continent."

Now living in Guatemala City, Menchú was invited to speak at Vanderbilt in conjunction with an exhibit opening devoted to the late Ecuadorian artist Oswaldo Guayasamín. Like Menchú, Guayasamín was an outspoken champion of social justice, and the two became friends before he died in 1999. She remains committed to keeping his legacy alive.

"This is the first time Guayasamín has had a major exhibit in the United States in more than 50 years," Fischer said. "The fact that Menchú was willing to travel to Nashville specially for this occasion speaks to the importance of his work."

For Nashville's Latino community, Menchú's appearance is of special significance, said Renata Soto, executive director of the local nonprofit agency Conexión Américas.

"It's very timely that she comes to Nashville as someone who has been speaking on behalf of the voiceless. We could benefit from that message here, because it's a difficult time for the Latino community in Nashville and in our country. ...

"Menchú's message is clear about the consequences of racism and injustice, and it brings attention to the fact that right here in our own community, we have a ways to go to achieve some of those ideals."



Top photo: Rigoberta Menchú. Bottom photo, from left: Pablo Guayasamín Monteverde, Rigoberta Menchú, Ambassador Luis Gallegos, and Anita Menchú tour the exhibit.

From The Tennessean arts writer Jonathan Marx, jamarx@tennessean.com; (615) 259-8038.

CLAIS 60th Anniversary Reception

Friday, January 11, 2008, a wine and tapas reception was held in the Buttrick lobby to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Center. Over 150 people attended including students, faculty, and former directors. Jane Landers, Jim Lang, and Marshall Eakin, all past directors of the Center reflected upon their tenures, underscoring the global collaborative and interdisciplinary vision and accomplishments of the Center, long before those buzzwords were trendy in academic institutions. Jim Lang recalled the support of former Arts and Science Dean Jacques Voegeli, who had been very supportive of the Center's activities in the 70s and 80s. Marshall Eakin and Jane Landers also thanked both the long standing faculty members and newer members of the Center involved in its activities throughout the years and underscoring its far reaching accomplishments in support of both faculty and student area studies and research. Enrique Pupo-Walker, director of the Center for 11 years, unfortunately was not able to attend, but was certainly missed.



A Conversation with Norma Antillón

Where were you born?

I was born in Guatemala City—1/2/1935. I'm old but young at heart!!!

What are your earliest memories?

I can remember I was only 3 years old when I was flower girl at my aunt's wedding. People were commenting how well I had behaved. I was a somewhat quiet child, the middle one of three girls in the family. We lived in a very friendly neighborhood. All were couples with children more or less the same age so it was like having a huge happy family. The parents had parties, they enjoyed whatever they did. I was ten when my brother was born and he brought a lot of joy to my life, I took care of him as if he were one of my dolls except this was for real.

What was your childhood like?

My childhood was simply wonderful. My memories are all positive. On my mother's side there was a terrific set of grandparents (us being the first grandchildren, so we were loved much). We had many family reunions with all the aunts, uncles, cousins. One of my aunts made us act sometimes to entertain the adults, I was shy but I learned to do it. I can say we represented a Latin American family, close, tight, looking out for each other. Lots of food and of course, jokes. My dad's family was also a wonderful family although I didn't see them that much.

Who was your hero when you were a child?

My dad was my hero when I was a child (and still is). He was a man who knew so much about Guatemala and he told us so many stories of experiences he had at different stages of his life. He came to the U.S. when he was a young man after a horrible earthquake in Guatemala. Being the oldest son in the family (father had died), and a mom on a wheel chair because of arthritis, he made the decision to explore possibilities in this country. He traveled a lot while here, he studied some, worked in many places, learned English, and was extremely impressed by democracy and the system here. He was a Yankee fan (I used to watch the world series



with him when they showed it in Guatemala). When he went back to Guatemala he worked and studied.

My dad taught us to be honest, to respect other people, to be happy. He read a lot and had very interesting friends who used to come to our home. I could say many more things, but this can't be too long, I've said enough.

What was your favorite subject in school?

My dad wanted us to learn English, so I started school at the Lehnsen School (run by a German family who had fled Germany and landed in Guatemala and open this school. It offered English, French, and Hebrew for many Jewish children in that school. One of my aunts was secretary at that school and another one taught math.

English was introduced to us right from the beginning, and the only one who could help me and my sisters to do homework was my dad. We had to wait for him to come home and help us with homework in English. My mom never learned English. In spite of all the struggles, I liked English very much (teachers were very good and loving), it took me years of struggling in order to speak it. I also enjoyed Geography, math at the beginning, and Spanish language

with its verbs and grammar. In later years the Lehnsen School joined the American School of Guatemala run by Americans and Guatemalans, and I graduated from high school from that school.

At 17 I was awarded a fellowship to go to Briarcliff Jr. College (only girls) at one hour away from New York City, and that was a life-changing event. In order to survive, my shyness was a thing of the past. Great experience and met international students from many areas of the world (except blacks) and very rich American girls. I had a great experience.

How did you find your way to Nashville?

My way to Nashville came out of need for a husband to get his Ph.D. in biochemistry. Both he and I were working at the Instituto de Nutrición de Centro América y Panamá (INCAP), a very prestigious institution. Vanderbilt sent two of his biochemists on a yearly basis as members of

(continued on page 4)

Major New Exhibit by Oswaldo Guayasamín

Of Rage and Redemption



Of Rage and Redemption, which features eighty works completed over the span of more than 50 years, is a powerful and moving presentation of the work of Guayasamín, the Ecuadorian painter who spent his life calling attention to the causes of human rights and social justice in Latin America. Featured in two exhibits at Vanderbilt University's Fine Arts Gallery and Sarratt Gallery, the artist's work is dramatic and stunning in its portrayals of pain and suffering. The exhibit will travel to five other venues across the country after it closes in Nashville.

Fine Arts Gallery director Joseph Mella, who collaborated on the project with Vanderbilt associate professor Carlos Jáuregui and with Ted Fischer of Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies — testified to the astounding force of Guayasamín's art. He and his colleagues traveled to Quito, Ecuador, to visit the foundation that maintains the artist's work and legacy.

"When I walked into the main gallery, the first thing I saw was Guayasamín's triptych *Los torturados* (The Tortured), and it took my breath away, literally," said Mella. "I've seen a great deal of art in the course of my career, and it's rare to have a physical reaction to something like that."

At 6 feet tall and spanning 10 feet across, *Los torturados* is an iconic, and representative, work by Guayasamín. The artist painted this oil on canvas in response to the 1973 torture and murder of Chilean folksinger Victor Jara in the days following the U.S.-backed overthrow of Chilean President Salvador Allende. Along with pieces such as *Reunión en el Pentágono* (Meeting at the Pentagon) and *El grito* (The Cry), this painting embodies the artist's commitment to speaking out against the forces of oppression.

"His work may be specific to Latin America," Mella observes,

"but he was commenting on universal concerns. He really transcends the moment, because the issues of war and oppression are going to be with us a long time. That's why Guayasamín is head and shoulders above so many artists. He speaks to the local, but also to the universal, and he does it in a very powerful way."

Mella notes that the influence of Picasso looms large in Guayasamín's paintings, particularly in the Cubist style that marks many of his figures.

"Picasso has left his imprint on the 20th century; you can't escape that. *El grito*, for instance, references Picasso's mural *Guernica*; you can see a formal linkage there.

"Guayasamín took this moment that Picasso had with *Guernica*, and it really became a driving force in his life. He made hundreds and hundreds of paintings that reflect his lifelong commitment to peace and social justice."

"Of Rage and Redemption" is on view from February 7 until March 20, 2008 in the Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery and Sarratt Gallery at Vanderbilt. A small selection of drawings is also on display, accompanied by books on the

artist, in Vanderbilt's Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

"Of Rage and Redemption: The Art of Oswaldo Guayasamín" is supported, in part, by a generous gift from Susan and Ruff Fant. Additional support has been provided by the Louise Bullard Wallace Foundation, Nashville; the College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University; the Departments of History of Art, and Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University; the Sarratt Center Gallery at Vanderbilt; the Fundación Guayasamín; The Hermitage Hotel, Nashville; and American Airlines.



Reunión en el Pentágono

A Conversation with Norma Antillón *continued from page 4*

a consulting team and they went to Guatemala. One of the doctors heard of Oscar's desire to come to the US to pursue a Ph.D., and he helped us (not financially), but he was admitted at the program of unclassified studies while his English could improve, and then he entered the Dept. of biochemistry for the Ph.D. We were in Nashville 6 years at that time, and I worked at the Medical School, Dept. of Preventive Medicine. During those 6 years three children were born. We went back to Guatemala and he return to INCAP. I took care of the children and enjoyed the family again.

After 22 years in Guatemala, there was a bad divorce and I decided that Nashville, but mainly Vanderbilt would be the place for me again because I had worked here before. It was very scary, my parents were both dead, and I had been out of the work force for many years. I did work at International Conferences in Guatemala, the pay was very good and I enjoyed it but the husband complained a lot.

When all this turmoil was happening in my life, I found JESUS as my Lord and Savior, I open a Bible for the first time in my life, and I have read it every day ever since. It gave me a sense of security, and I knew I could do it if I had faith in what the Word of God says.

Since my children were born here, they were US citizens and I had passports for them. My daughter claimed me as a mother of a US citizen, I sent her to Nashville and I came back as soon as I received my resident visa. Immediately I applied to Vanderbilt and I told them I wanted to work where I could use my Spanish. It took them some time to connect me to International Programs (Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies, European Studies, and East Asian Studies). Meanwhile I took a course at the YMCA especially for women who have been out of the work force, and with God and that training I was prepared to face whatever came across.

When I received the message that 3 professors were going to interview me I was surprised and had it not been for the training I don't think I would have made it. They were very nice, they asked many questions, and when I left they said: "We'll call you next week." Years later Professor Robert A. Baldwin told me that the three of them had decided to hire me on the spot but they didn't tell me, I still suffered for a few more days. So, I have been at Vanderbilt on the second round for 22 years (total of 28 years).

When did you start working for the Center?

My first day at International Programs (Latin American Studies, European Studies and East Asian Studies), in the basement of Furman Hall was April 9, 1986. At that time I was alone in the office because the other lady working there had quit. There had been a very bad turnover of personnel, they were desperate to have stability. Two other women started and quit in a few months. Some people who saw me on campus would ask, "You're still working there?" My reply was YES, and I like it.

But finally Mrs. Ann Oslin applied and she and I have worked together for many years. She only took some years off after her daughter was born, and when we needed another person we contacted her again and we were very fortunate that she accepted, and we're still together, thank God.

Who was director? What was it like?

Most of the time I worked for Professor Enrique Pupo-Walker, a gentleman at its best, and Director of the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies, and the person who really had the vision and the dreams of having a very productive Center. He devoted his time, his expertise, his diplomacy, and his relationship with Dean Voegeli (who had minored in Latin American Studies), to make this happen. Faculty experts on Latin America were hired. We were located in a basement, and Prof. Pupo-Walker was putting the basement for the big building that the Center has grown to be.

During Mr. Pupo-Walker's directorship, the Center published "The Cambridge History of Latin American Literature" in conjunction with Prof. Roberto González-Echevarría, a three-volume History, with very prestigious writers, that was quite an undertaking. At that time the U.S. Dept. of Education awarded Vanderbilt 3 FLAS fellowships for Portuguese language, and connections with Brazil were growing.

I typed his books because he only wrote by hand, and I learned a lot about Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca and others of that time. (No computers then).

Is there something you wish you could do over again?

The only thing I regret is that I had not come to know Jesus before I did. I attend Primera Iglesia Bautista in Nashville, 285 Plus Park Boulevard, my dear Pastor is from Mexico, and has been there since I came to the church many years ago. We are a diverse group, coming from different Latin American countries, and though we all speak Spanish sometimes words have a different meaning in another country and we might get in trouble. I'm grateful to be a member of that church, I attend regularly and are involved in its activities. It's so rewarding to see how people change when they are exposed to the Bible and to Jesus.

What are you most proud of?

I'm very proud of my children, although they went through very difficult times, they are doing well and have happy, strong families. Oscar and Karla live in Guatemala, and are parents of three who are in college and doing well.

My daughter, Carmen Alicia (Sysy) lives in Baltimore; they have two good kids who are great students also.

And Carlos Ricardo (Rick) lives in Franklin, TN, 30 minutes from me. I spend time with them every Saturday and they are the joy of my life!! They have 5 boys... a lively house, lots of fun and complaints. The 4-year-old once told us: "you get what you get and you don't fuss a bit".

What do you like to do in your free time?

I don't have much of a free time, because work, church, and family are my main priorities. I do like to read, to walk and exercise, to be in touch with friends and or church members that might be in need of something. I don't care for most programs on showing on TV, I do enjoy watching Channel 8, it's my favorite. Don't have cable, so I don't watch anything in Spanish. I also do volunteer work whenever is needed in the Hispanic community.

What is your favorite food? Song?

My favorite food is something that is healthy. I was raised on lots of fresh fruits, vegetables, good meats, etc., and I still look for that. I'm health conscious. On Sundays after church I do go to Mexican, Chinese, Italian, Greek restaurants, I get out of the routine and enjoy international cuisine. Favorite songs are the oldies, not one in particular, Frank Sinatra, etc., and Christian music.

What are the goals you are still working toward?

My goals now are to serve the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies as best I can. Since CLAIS was awarded the NRC, responsibilities have increased in many ways. Our director, Professor Ted Fischer, undoubtedly has been the one to bear more responsibility than any of the others, he does it graciously, intelligently, and his capacity to lead and delegate is tremendous. As a staff person, I very much appreciate his leadership and his friendly disposition. Students very much appreciate him too.

I'm grateful to God for good health and direction; at 73 years of age I'm still working and enjoying it.

CLAIS has been celebrating its 60th Anniversary, and I have had the fortune to be part of this for 22 years (longer than 1/3 of its existence!). All the professors who have directed the Center for those 60 years have been incredible.

Muchas Gracias, Vanderbilt, for letting me stay all these years.

How do you want to be remembered?

I'd like to be remembered as a person who tried to make a difference and performed responsibly in different aspects of my life.

Vanderbilt~Siloam Health Fair

Students in Lori Catanzaro's Medical Spanish course got a chance for some hands-on experience on Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Vanderbilt-Siloam semi-annual health fair at the Claremont Apartment complex. Pre-med, nursing, and medical, health and society majors, volunteer by providing educational information regarding health issues facing the Latino community. Topics at this year's fair included prenatal care, tuberculosis, HPV, AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, mental health, heart health, dental care, cancer prevention, stress and children's vaccinations. This event, an ongoing effort to reach out to the Latino population in Nashville, involves the participation of local doctors, nurses, interpreters and student volunteers. Funding comes from local churches, the Venture Fund of the Vanderbilt University College of Arts and Sciences, private donations and Siloam.



Alexandra Barker, A&S sophomore, with a friend.



Helena Simonett's presentation at the Day of the Dead celebration at Cheekwood



Jim Lang and graduate student Avery Dickins will both conduct a program for the Vanderbilt Program for Talented Youth this summer. This is an innovative program to bring in talented middle and high school students for college coursework.

SPRING 2008 WORKSHOPS



Strategies for Foreign Language Instruction • January 16

This workshop for teachers of foreign language focused on instructional strategies and methods designed to enhance students' acquisition of a foreign language. Presented by Dr. Virginia Scott and Chalene Helmuth.

The Maya, Ancient and Modern • February 4

The workshop focused on enhancing understanding of the Mayan people, as they once existed in Mesoamerica and as they are today. Vanderbilt professors shared their research on the ancient Maya, providing information on aspects ranging from archaeology to cultural and religious insight to the complex Mayan mathematical and calendrical systems and discussed the situation of the Maya as they live today in Mexico and Central America.



Of Rage and Redemption: The Art of Oswaldo Guayasamín

Exhibition: February 7 - March 20, 2008

Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery

Workshop: February 27, 2008

Oswaldo Guayasamín is one of Latin America's most celebrated and revered artists. Through his paintings and sculptures, Guayasamín denounced the political oppression, racism, poverty, and class division in his native Ecuador and throughout Latin America. Leonard Folgarait and Lori Catanzaro shared insight into Guayasamín's art emphasizing themes including the artist's reproach of the mistreatment of indigenous people, his criticism of world events and foreign policy in the twentieth



century, and human rights abuses in Latin America in the last few decades, as well as the artist's technique and noteworthy influences.

The Push for a New Life: Emigration from Latin America • April 21, 2008

Immigration is one of the hottest and most controversial issues most on the American political agenda today. The effects of massive immigration, particularly by people originally from Latin America, are increasingly visible and commonplace in our schools, businesses, and communities. The exponential increase in numbers of Latin Americans living in the United States raises the question – why have people in such large numbers chosen to leave their homes to relocate to communities in the U.S. This workshop will explore the political, social and economic factors within Latin America which motivate Latin Americans to leave their countries of origin in search of a better future elsewhere.



CONFERENCE: Street Gangs and Security in Central America and the United States

March 11, 2008 • Vanderbilt University campus

Central American maras, or youth gangs, are a serious problem throughout Central America, Mexico and the United States, threatening the public safety of the communities where they operate. The increasingly visible activities of two large gang networks in particular, the Mara Salvatrucha (MS) and the 18th Street gang (Calle 18), pose a serious threat to the security of neighborhoods, businesses and schools throughout the United States.

Susan Berk-Seligson Interviewed by Univision

Susan Berk-Seligson (Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies and Department of Spanish and Portuguese) was interviewed on the UNIVISION cable program “Aquí y Ahora” on February 19, 2008, in a feature focusing on false confessions. Berk-Seligson, a sociolinguist who has been doing research in the area of forensic linguistics for many years, is often called on to serve as an expert witness in cases involving language issues, specifically related to problems that Hispanics face in their contact with the U.S. justice system. Much of her work has dealt with capital punishment cases.



Susan Berk-Seligson (right) with Univision's Beatriz Guerra (left).

Berk-Seligson's research has been uncovering the role of language in coerced confessions. She has found that often police officers who have only a rudimentary knowledge of Spanish conduct custodial interrogations of Hispanics who have similarly limited levels of competence in English. The result of such interrogations is serious miscommunication and sometimes statements made by suspects that are taken to be confessions. In addition, police officers assigned the role of interpreter at such interrogations often shift into detective/interrogator mode, thereby introducing a measure of coercion into the questioning process. Berk-Seligson's research finds that cultural factors associated with certain Latin American social groups, namely acquiescence and gratuitously answering “yes” when questioned by persons of higher social power and authority, adversely affect Hispanics in judicial contexts.

Evidence of Peanut, Cotton, and Squash Farming Found in Peru

A peanut hull discovered in Northern Peru has been dated to 7600 B.P. According to Vanderbilt University, “Anthropologists working on the slopes of the Andes in northern Peru have discovered the earliest-known evidence of peanut, cotton and squash farming dating back 5,000 to 9,000 years. Their findings provide long-sought-after evidence that some of the early development of agriculture in the New World took place at farming settlements in the Andes. The discovery was published in Science. The research team made their discovery in the Ñanchoc Valley, which is approximately 500 meters above sea level on the lower western slopes of the Andes in northern Peru.

“We believe the development of agriculture by the Ñanchoc people served as a catalyst for cultural and social changes that eventually led to intensified agriculture, institutionalized political power and new towns in the Andean highlands and along the coast 4,000 to 5,500 years ago,” Tom D. Dillehay, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at Vanderbilt University and lead author on the publication, said. “Our new findings indicate that agriculture played a broader role in these sweeping developments than was previously understood.” Dillehay and his colleagues found wild-type peanuts, squash and cotton as well as a quinoa-like grain, manioc and other tubers and fruits in the floors and hearths of buried preceramic sites, garden plots, irrigation canals,

storage structures and on hoes. Data gleaned from botanists, other archaeological findings, and a review of the current plant community in the area suggest the specific strains of the discovered plant remains did not naturally grow in the immediate area.’The plants we found in northern Peru did not typically grow in the wild in that area,’ Dillehay said. ‘We believe they must have therefore been domesticated elsewhere first and then brought to this valley by traders or mobile horticulturists.’ The use of these domesticated plants goes along with broader cultural changes we believe existed at that time in this area, such as people staying in one place, developing irrigation and other water management techniques, creating public ceremonials, building mounds and obtaining and saving exotic artifacts.’The researchers dated the squash from approximately 9,200 years ago, the peanut from 7,600 years ago, and the cotton from 5,500 years ago.”

Source: EurekAlert!

Vanderbilt's Latin American Public Opinion Project Receives Major Financial Boost

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has expanded and extended its support for the Vanderbilt University-based Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) with additional funding of up to \$9 million.

“This generous support will enable LAPOP, a consortium of universities and research institutes throughout the Americas, to continue its AmericasBarometer surveys through 2014,” said Mitchell A. Seligson, the Centennial Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt and founder and director of LAPOP.

Every two years the organization conducts interviews with random samples of some 1,500 adults in 20 countries in North and South America. As the surveys are completed, research teams write extended analyses of the data and present them to policymakers, citizen groups, scholars and students in the host countries.



Mitchell Seligson (photo by Stephen Barrett)

“These studies provide the nations an objective look at many important aspects of democracy and governance,” Seligson said. “For example, they measure the extent to which citizens are committed to democratic values, participate actively in their democracies and engage in civil society. The surveys also measure the darker side of governance through the corruption victimization index and crime victimization scale that they include.”

An important aspect of LAPOP is training the next generation of graduate students to handle the complex tasks of sample and questionnaire design and data analysis. Currently, there are 11 doctoral students in the program, and the USAID has provided fellowship support for several of the students.

Last December senior scholars in the program along with USAID Democracy and Governance officers met in San Salvador, El Salvador,

to decide upon the questions to be included in the 2008 round of surveys. Interviews are underway, with more than 30,000 expected to be conducted.

Elizabeth Zechmeister, an assistant professor of political science at the University of California, Davis, will join LAPOP in the fall as assistant director.

LAPOP also has received funding from the InterAmerican Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. At Vanderbilt, the project is supported by the Center for the Americas, the College of Arts and Science and Department of Political Science.

Source: Ann Marie Deer Owens, (615) 322-NEWS; annmarie.owens@vanderbilt.edu

David Dickinson Advises Brazilian Government on Early Education

Vanderbilt Peabody researcher David Dickinson traveled to Brazil participate in a seminar organized to inform the Education Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the National Brazilian Parliament on language development and the importance of early language.

“Education for the children aged 0 to 3 has been a marginal concern of Brazilian public policies until very recently. Most existing services are private or provided under voucher-type systems allocated to poorer families,” Dickinson said. “The new concern for education at this level is just emerging, with some recognizing that care for children at this age may have a significant impact on their future academic success. This seminar is an effort to provide Brazilian policymakers with evidence from research about what programs are most effective to help them develop a system that benefits children and makes sense financially.”

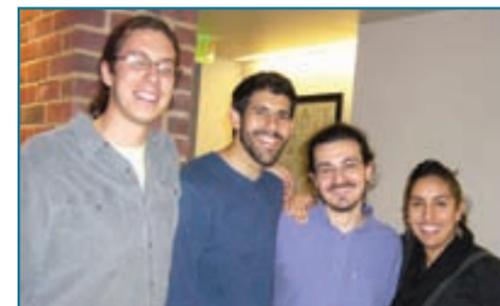
Source: Melanie Moran, melanie.moran@vanderbilt.edu.

CLAIS welcomes Helena Simonett, Blair School of Music, as assistant professor of Latin American Studies

From left: Sarah Birdwell and Lori Catanzaro at Rigoberta Menchú dinner.



At the CLAIS 60th anniversary reception: La familia Tahay-Isabel, el Profesor Manuel de Jesús Tahay Gómez, Jessenia Guadalupe, Gabby with Lidia Robinson.



From left, at the CLAIS 60th anniversary reception: Graduate students Mark Kendall, Eddie Fernández-Caliènes, Juri Bottura, Mariela Cedeño

New Visiting Resource Professors Program Announced

CLAIS is pleased to announce that Vanderbilt's Enhancing Graduate Education program run by Associate Provost Dennis Hall has agreed to fund a new program of LATIN AMERICAN VISITING RESOURCE PROFESSORS. This program will fund 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.

Candidates for the Visiting Resource Professorship (VRP) will be nominated each year by Vanderbilt faculty members from any department or school; faculty members will have to demonstrate how the nominated scholar will contribute to a graduate course the faculty member is teaching during the proposed semester. The VRP would be in charge of a designated number of seminar sessions, assigning readings for those sessions, and leading class discussion.

In departments where students have sufficient proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese, the class should be conducted in that language to promote a much-needed “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 and thus promoting the sort of interdisciplinary cross-fertilization so crucial to making our graduate students' work more competitive in the marketplace.

The VRP would also offer a special-topics, non-credit graduate seminar on a subject of his or her choice. This special seminar would meet 2-3 times during the VRP's stay at Vanderbilt. This would give graduate students who are not enrolled in the relevant class an opportunity to meet with the scholar as well; we encourage these special seminars to be as interdisciplinary as possible so that the greatest range of graduate students could reap the benefits.

Competition guidelines are posted on the CLAIS website.



Faculty Profile: Jim Lang

Jim is from a family of nine children and grew up in Buffalo, New York. His first experience in Latin America was in Ecuador in 1961 as part of a high school exchange program. He spent two months in Ecuador during the summer and recalls "It's hard to imagine a more different place from Buffalo than Quito!" During his college years, Jim spent a summer in Lima, Peru, which included trips to Cuzco and Machu Picchu. "In

those days, Study Abroad programs were few and far between. Other than a course in Spanish, there were few windows opening into the world of Latin America," said Jim.

He did graduate work in Sociology at the University of Michigan and had the good fortune to study Latin American colonial History with Charles Gibson, an expert on Colonial Mexico and also anthropologist Eric Wolf, another noted Latin Americanist. Jim published a comparative study of Spanish and English colonization in the New World, from initial settlement to independence; the book was titled *Conquest and Commerce: Spain and England in the Americas*.

Jim jokes that his first "and it looks like last" job was at Vanderbilt. He was hired specifically because of his interest in Latin America, and he came to Vanderbilt because of the strength of its Latin American Center. He received a grant from the Center to spend a summer in Brazil, to prepare his research for a book on the colonial period and to teach himself Portuguese. On the strength of his first book, he got a fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. and while there, wrote *Portuguese Brazil: The King's Plantation*, still considered a classic covering Brazil's entire colonial period. But Jim grew tired of colonial history and wanted to learn more about the contemporary world in which he lived. He received a three-year Kellogg Fellowship and visited community health and rural development projects all over Latin America—in Costa Rica, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, and Argentina. This work generated hundreds of pages of typed field notes and boxes of project pamphlets and mimeographed reports which he used to compile "Inside Development: A Report from the Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Brazil." The field notes for this project are now on deposit at the Vanderbilt Library. Peru is home to the potato and the International Potato Center (CIP). During Jim's various field trips,

he had visited CIP and other international agricultural centers. Much of their work was sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation, which ultimately supported him to write a book about agricultural research. With this support, and leave from Vanderbilt, Jim began a long project that took him to indigenous communities and agricultural sites all over Latin America, with a focus on New World crops such as beans, potatoes, corn, manioc, cacao, Andean roots and tubers, as well as rice. To complete the rice story, he went to the Philippines, headquarters of the International Rice Research Institute. The first book that came from this project was *Rice, Research, and Development in Asia and Latin America*. Jim then partnered with the Potato Center and visited potato production and research sites all over the world, writing reports for CIP's annual report and learning how small farmers worked with CIP to solve local potato production problems. With CIP's support, he did fieldwork in Latin America (Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador), Asia (Taiwan, India, Indonesia), North Africa (Egypt, Tunisia), and Sub Saharan Africa (Kenya, Uganda). His observations eventually became *Notes of a Potato Watcher*.

Jim is married to a Brazilian, Cecilia Grespan, and the couple travels to Brazil every year. His favorite cities are Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Curitiba. "Rio de Janeiro is the most culturally vibrant city in the world," says Jim. In spring 2005, Jim spent the semester teaching with Semester at Sea. Cecilia and he made the voyage together. Jim's current project is entitled "Crops That Changed the World." It brings together much of the historical work he did on the Age of Discovery and the colonial period—after all, Portugal's spice trade did change the world. And in the Americas, tobacco, sugar, and cotton became exports of worldwide significance. He is also working on early plant domestication, as agriculture is the first step into the modern world, an exchange of genes and knowledge on a global scale. Said Jim, "Having interviewed hundreds of botanists, agricultural biologists, farmers, and researchers, I have learned an enormous amount about crops. They have been my teachers. I have never stopped going to school—and never intend to."

Jim adds "I came to Vanderbilt in 1974—of course I was only 12 years old, a child prodigy. When I came, the Center for Latin American Studies was the ONLY international program at Vanderbilt. It has been a wonderful experience to see the Center thrive, enriching the lives of both students and faculty. We are all indebted to Paula Covington, who has helped maintain, enhance, and expand the library's Latin American collection, to Norma Antillon, who has kept the Center on track in good and bad times, and to Ted Fischer, who has helped transform us into a nationally recognized, federally funded program."

Recent Faculty Books

Carlos Jáuregui, Spanish and Portuguese. *The Conquest on Trial: Carvajal's Complaint of the Indians in the "Court of Death."* Pennsylvania State University Press (In press, 2008).

Canibalia. Canibalismo, calibanismo, antropofagia cultural y consumo en América Latina. Premio Casa de las Américas de Ensayo 2005. Revised, SECOND EDITION. Madrid, Spain: Vervuert, ETC: Ensayos de Teoría Cultural 1, 2008.

Colonialidad y crítica en América Latina. Bases para un debate. Coedited with Mabel Moraña. Puebla, México: UDLA, Colección: Pensamiento Latinoamericano 2007.

Of Rage and Redemption: The Art of Oswaldo Guayasamín / Furia y redención. El arte de Oswaldo Guayasamín. [Art catalog]. Co-authored & co-edited with Joseph S. Mella and Edward F. Fischer. Nashville: The Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery (In press, 2008).

John Janusek, Anthropology. *Ancient Tiwanaku: Civilization in the High Andes.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (out 3/08).

Marshall Eakin, History. *The History of Latin America: Collision of Cultures* (New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2007).

Ted Fischer, Anthropology, edited the volume *Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society, and the Neo-liberal State in Latin America*, a special issue of *Social Analysis*, 2007.

Graduate Student Profile: Lana Alman

Lana Alman, a second year Latin American Studies graduate student, has dedicated much of her graduate and undergraduate careers to immigration issues. An immigrant herself, Lana is from the former Soviet Union and has worked with asylum law, the Immigration & Naturalization Service, and local Hispanic communities in Southwestern, Ohio and in Nashville, TN.

Prior to coming to Vanderbilt University, Lana spent a year in Chile as a Fulbright fellow researching the labor mobility of Peruvian domestic workers in Santiago. She worked with Peruvian female migrants enrolled in a Red Cross course to better understand their efforts of seeking other employment opportunities. As foreign domestic workers, Peruvian women face harsh working conditions, downward social mobility, and racial discrimination. While they are more educated than their Chilean counterparts working in the same positions, Peruvian females encounter great difficulties in finding work outside of the domestic service.

Having spent many Sunday afternoons with the Red Cross students, Lana developed close relationships with the participants of her research with whom she kept in contact after leaving Chile. Last May, Lana returned to Santiago to assess the impacts of the Red Cross course on the students' labor mobility perspectives. While small changes were present, most of the women remained in the same positions with the same families, as a means of regulating their immigration status or as a way of saving money to send back home in the form of remittances. Most of the Peruvian domestic servants live in the homes of their employers, thus allowing them to save on costs

Mark Kendall: During the Fall semester Mark submitted his film, *Para la Comunidad, Desde la Comunidad (For the People, By the People)*, to a variety of film festivals around the world. In early November, his film was screened at the Montezuma International Film Festival in Costa Rica, where it won "Best Student Film." The Graduate School funded Mark's trip to Costa Rica where he participated in a panel discussion on issues facing indigenous communities in Latin America.

Since November, Mark's film has been shown at the Victory Media Arts outdoor digital arts gallery in Dallas, the Quebec International Ethnographic Film Festival (January 2008) and at the Student Conference on Latin American Social and Public Policy at the University of Pittsburgh, the film was featured as part of a presentation and discussion about "Cultural Expressions and Social Activism in Latin America" (February 2008)

The film will also be part of the DC Independent Film Festival over the upcoming Spring Break. During the academic year, Mark has also taken the film to various middle school and high school classrooms around Nashville as part of the CLAIS Outreach program to speak with local students about what is going on right now in Bolivia. He has spoken with AP Spanish students at McGavock High School and the "Current Global Issues" class at St. Cecilia's.

Chaz Yingling recently published "El Embajador Olvidado: A Re-examination of Dr. Tomas Herran, 1902-1904," *El Norte: Finnish Journal of Latin American Studies*, University of Helsinki, December 2007.

"The Cuban Embargo," *Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, Oxford University Press, March 2008.

"Junipero Serra," *On the Move: Encyclopedia of Immigration*, Facts on File, publication pending.



Lana Alman (right) and a friend.

of transportation and rent.

This year, as Katharine Donato's research assistant, Lana has been working on research regarding the participation of immigrant parents in their children's education. During the first semester, Lana spent time in the field conducting surveys in Hispanic households in Davidson County. This semester, Lana is analyzing the collected data to understand how parental education levels and years of residence in the United States impact their involvement in children's education. She hopes to use her research to make policy recommendations to assist the currently expanding Hispanic population in Nashville.

Lana wants to thank the Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies, her professors and colleagues for an amazing experience at Vanderbilt. Lana is grateful for having been given the opportunity to research and develop her interest in immigration issues.

CLAIS CONGRATULATES M.A. GRADUATES, MAY 2008

- Lana S. Alman
- Mariela Cedeño
- Eddie Fernández Calienes
- Mark Kendall
- Pamela Newman (our first graduate in the 4 + 1 program)

SUMMER 2008 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

La República Dominicana, el pasado y el presente

June 23 - 30, 2008

Dominican Republic

Lori Catanzaro, Director

Crossroads of the World: The Panama Canal

July 7 - 11, 2008

Vanderbilt University campus

Prof. Frank Robinson (History), Director

Juri Bottura will present a paper at the BRASA conference in New Orleans, March 27-29 entitled «Ideology and Diplomacy: Fascist Italy Facing the Brazilian "Estado Novo" (1937-1942)».