

N c S e (B.S., LAS Major, 2003) writes from Terebovlya, Ukraine. The warmest saludos to one and all. Some of you may remember me, I graduated from Vanderbilt in 2003 with a degree in LAS and had all of you at least once senior year. After leaving Nashville I signed up with the United States Peace Corps and last October they shipped me over to Ukraine, where I've been teaching English in a small village in the western, Ukrainian-speaking part of the country. As I'm sure you're all aware, this hitherto-mistaken-as-still-a-part-of-Russia country has become somewhat of a world political focus, and I have been fortunate enough to enjoy a front row seat to all of the action. To go into the specifics of everything would be to rehash lots of information that you've probably read several times over in any major newspaper in the past couple of weeks. I just thought I'd offer a little insider view for those interested. After the second round of elections, during which some 3 million mystery ballots were cast in the eastern part of the country, Viktor Yanukovich (pro-Moscow candidate, twice convicted felon and then-prime minister--last week the Parliament stripped him of his title and president Kuchma signed his release from duty yesterday) won the election by a count of 49% to 46% over Viktor Yushchenko, former PM and opposition candidate. The country's response was breath taking.

Within hours of the final count, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians in cities all over

the country took to the streets in peaceful protest, led by Yushchenko at Maidan Nezalezhnosti (or independence square) in Kyiv.

I live deep in the heart of nationalist western Ukraine, Ternopil Oblast, and my oblast, along with many neighboring oblasts as well as the city of Kyiv itself proclaimed nation-wide strikes. During the official meeting at the school where I teach, my best friend's father (the local history teacher) gave a stirring speech of patriotism and civic duty that brought adults to tears. Adorned in orange, the color of Yushchenko's campaign, busloads of people headed to Kyiv to meet with the hundreds of thousands of people already camping in the snow at Maidan and Khreshchatyk, Kyiv's main street. Those who did not make the journey set up camp in the oblast capital or right at home. No one seemed to be left out.

I was lucky enough to be present in Kyiv last Friday when the supreme court, after a week of deliberation, declared the results to be incredibly fraudulent, throwing them out completely and setting a new election date for Dec 26. That night, in the midst of an endless sea of orange, I saw Yushchenko address the masses that had slept in sub-zero temperatures for nearly two weeks and it was an overwhelming moment. He thanked them for their support for democracy. "Glory be to each of you, and glory be to Ukraine," he ended. It's not over yet, but it's a start.

Being here is simply amazing. I'm very proud to be serving in Ukraine, and proud to see my neighbors taking up the reigns of their future. In America, we often take democracy completely for granted. Few of us have the opportunity to watch it be born, and for that opportunity I am very thankful. I hope this finds you all well. Merry Christmas and happy new year.

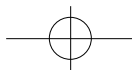
Ka r Ta a Sac ar de, Arts and Science Sophomore, received a letter from the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship committee with her country assignment. She will be spending 2005 at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. This was her top choice, so she says she is ecstatic. She is grateful to professor Ted Fischer for helping her in the application process for this scholarship. We wish her well and look forward to her coming back to Vanderbilt in a year.

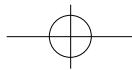
Car Z, (M.A. 1997) sent this update for the newsletter: "I have moved from Connecticut to Hong Kong to be with my wife. I am now working out of Accenture's Hong Kong office doing management consulting for banks. It feels strange to be so close to my motherland but so far away from my home in CT. I surely miss my time in Nashville and would love to hear from my classmates. My e-mail address is: carloszhou@yahoo.com



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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



00



Director's Corner

I write this column in the aftermath of the 52nd annual meeting of the South Eastern Council on Latin America Studies (SECOLAS), a meeting that attracted more than 140 participants to the Vanderbilt campus. Co-sponsored with Tennessee State University, the Center hosted some 33 panels, an opening reception, and a banquet featuring a keynote address by our own Tom Dillehay, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology. Faculty and students from some 70 universities and colleges attended. This conference was something of a practice run for the much larger Eighth Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association to be held at Vanderbilt in October 2006. We expect to attract more than 500 participants to BRASA VIII from all over the Americas and Europe. The Executive Committee of BRASA met at Vanderbilt on March 5 to begin planning BRASA VIII.

The spring semester has been busy with the SECOLAS conference, a very successful film series organized by Frank Robinson, the associate director of the Center, a number of guest speakers, and an external review of the Center and its programs. Jonathan Hartlyn, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill spent two days on campus in early February speaking with

administrators, faculty and students. He produced an excellent evaluation of our strengths and weaknesses that will help guide us in our plans for growth over the next few years.

New hires continue to strengthen the program. The Department of Political Science has just received a commitment from Jonathan Hiskey (University of California, Riverside) to join us as an associate professor in the fall. He will join Mitch Seligson, Centennial Professor of Political Science, who is finishing his first year with us. The Department of Sociology has recently announced the hiring of Katherine Donato as a full professor. A specialist in Mexican immigration to the U.S., Donato will come to us from Rice University.

In the next few weeks we will graduate a half dozen majors in Latin American and Iberian Studies, and another half dozen graduate students with M.A.s in Latin American Studies. We have had great success recruiting new graduate students this spring with four new students funded with fellowships from the Department of Education or the College of Arts and Science.

By the time you receive our fall newsletter we will be installed in new quarters in the fully renovated and expanded Buttrick Hall at the center of campus. We will be leaving our offices in 006 Calhoun, where we have been located for some 12 years. Joining us in Buttrick will be European and

German Studies, East Asian Studies, American and Southern Studies, African American and Diaspora Studies, and the Center for the Americas. For the first time ever, all of these interdisciplinary programs will be gathered together in adjacent offices, an arrangement we hope will produce even more intense collaboration and cooperation.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Sue Cross, the oldest sister of the late Simon Collier, has generously endowed a fellowship to fund student travel and research in Latin America. The Simon Collier Traveling Fellowships will be awarded for the first time next year and the grant competition will be open to graduate and undergraduate students in Latin American Studies.



SC

M C E

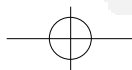
FACULTY PROFILE

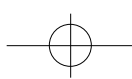
M A

Mitchell A. Seligson joined the Vanderbilt faculty this past fall as Centennial Professor of Political Science and Fellow of the Center for the Americas. Prior to coming to Vanderbilt, for many years he held an endowed chair in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was also a Research Professor at the University Center for International Studies and, in addition, held the position of Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Seligson had been recruited to Pittsburgh from his prior positions at the University of Arizona and the University of Illinois at Chicago to become Director of the University of Pittsburgh Center for Latin American Studies, a federally funded Title VI Comprehensive National Resource Center.



Felix Bex H





The move to Vanderbilt has enabled him to expand and enhance the Latin American Public Opinion Project, known as "LAPOP". The work on that project dates back to the 1970s when Mitch first began to carry out public opinion surveys in Latin America. At that time, most of the countries in the region were run by dictators, and so surveys could only be carried out with great risk to interviewers and respondents alike. Costa Rica, however, was an important exception, a country without an army and with an untarnished record of human rights protection. So, in collaboration with colleagues at the Universidad de Costa Rica, especially Miguel Gómez B., he began to probe the thoughts of Costa Ricans on democracy. At around that time Edward N. Muller joined the University of Arizona faculty, and Seligson and Muller began a long-time collaboration, comparing Muller's data on Germany and the U.S. to Seligson's data in Costa Rica. The collaboration lasted until Muller's untimely death in a riding accident near his home in Tucson. An even longer collaboration has involved John Booth. Booth and Seligson were in Costa Rica at the same time in the 1970s working on their doctoral dissertations, and they began a series of co-authorships that has produced scores of publications. At the moment they are working on a study of the impact of political legitimacy on participation in eight Latin American nations.

At Vanderbilt, with the generous support of the United States Agency for International Development, Mitch has been able to expand the LAPOP program so that it now includes the training of Latin American graduate students through the Ph.D. level. Four students are working with Seligson now, with the overall project being coordinated by Professor Dinorah Azpuru, Research Coordinator of LAPOP. Dr. Azpuru, a former Fulbright Fellow, did her Ph.D. under Professor Seligson at the University of Pittsburgh, after they had collaborated in several studies of democratic values in Guatemala that were carried out by Dr. Azpuru's home institution, ASIES, based in Guatemala City. Together, this group of scholars and students are engaged in several studies of democracy. At the moment, for example, the team is analyzing the results of a 2004 survey carried out in Bolivia of some 3,000 respondents. Seligson and LAPOP graduate student Daniel Moreno Morales will be traveling to Bolivia this spring to present the results at

public fora sponsored by the Universidad Católica Boliviana. The team is also involved in a study of corruption supported by the UNDP, the World Bank and USAID Madagascar. Professor Azpuru will be traveling to Madagascar to pre-test the questionnaire. Since Bolivian LAPOP graduate student Vivian Schwarz-Bloom and Dr. Azpuru both know French, LAPOP took on the challenge of exporting to Africa the methods of measuring corruption that it had developed in Latin America. Another project, in which Seligson serves as the principle investigator and Vanderbilt the lead institution, is a study of the impact of foreign assistance on democracy. In that project his collaborators include Professor Steve Finkel of the University of Virginia and Professor Anibal Pérez-Liñán of the University of Pittsburgh. The project is highlighted by a series of workshops involving the research team and an expert review panel, as well as a final public presentation to the international donor community, to occur this fall in



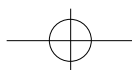
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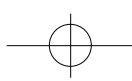
Washington, D. C. The web expert on the LAPOP team, Ecuadorian graduate student María Clara Bertini, designed the LAPOP logo you see in this article and has also helped make information about the project available on its various web sites. Juan Carlos Donoso, also from Ecuador, is helping to organize the data for the web. The current sites are:
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/americas/English/LAPOP.php>
<http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/psci/seligson>
<http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/psci/seligson>
<http://www.millennium-int.com/newdsd/>

The team is gearing up for its next big study, involving a survey of Ecuador in 2006, by having all four of the graduate students attend the University of Michigan Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques.

We wondered how it was that Professor Seligson became interested in Latin America, and he tells us that it all began with the visit of an exchange student from Mexico who showed up one day in Seligson's high school geometry class. That was followed by college summer study in Mexico, and then a stint as a volunteer in a Mexican ejido with the American Friends Service Committee. By that time he had met his future wife, Professor Susan Berk-Seligson, who was studying Spanish at the time to be better able to communicate with her Chilean cousins. They both joined the Peace Corps together and served for two years, living in a tiny village of no more than 300 people on the Costa Rica/Panama border. Mitch's job in the Peace Corps involved working with small farmers to improve their productivity and also working with village community development associations to help establish a potable water supply. It was that experience that got Mitch interested in the problem of land tenure, and sparked the first stage of his research career. His dissertation, for which he received grants from the Social Science Research Council and the Danforth Foundation, and declined grants from Fulbright, Princeton and the Organization of American States, focused on the peasantry and its struggles over land, and that research led to a series of studies on peasants and land tenure. The early work was supported by grants from the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, but later he received funding from National Science Foundation, the Mellon and Heinz Foundation, and the European Commission. That research led to a number of publications, including one outside of his own field, published in the *Hispanic American Historical Review* and that won the James A. Robertson Memorial Prize in Latin American history.

Professor Seligson in his short time at Vanderbilt is already very much at home here. He tells us that he finds the students "amazingly sharp and hard working." This fall he taught two undergraduate courses, one on revolution and another on development. This term he is teaching a graduate seminar in the Political Science Department. Seligson says that his greatest pleasure is working with students. While at Pittsburgh he chaired or co-chaired more than 25 doctoral dissertations, and was deeply engaged in promoting undergraduate research. He tells us that his philosophy of undergraduate teaching is to try to "show students how social science works, how it sets up problems, develops theories and then tests and retests those theories until it figures out the solution to the problem."





SPRING FILM SERIES

Monday, February 14 - *P*
(I, the Worst of All, Argentina, 1995)

Monday, February 28 - *B* (Brazil, 1984)

Monday, March 14 - *B* (New York, 1991)

Monday, March 28 - *L H O*
(Argentina, 1986)

ALUMNI MAILBAG

Jeff Lee (M.A. 1992) and **Mar Lee** (M.A. 1991) keep us informed of their activities every Christmas. Marilyn says their biggest adventure occurred March 1, 2004 when Jeff retired from the Army. He now wears very spiffy suits which she really appreciates. Jeff still works at the Defense Intelligence Agency, in the same office, but as a contractor.

Jeff, Marilyn, Joshua and Matthew have traveled visiting family and friends.

Kevin McDonald (B.A. LAS 1978) is a founding Partner in the firm of McDonald Lehner, an investment bank based in Boston that serves companies in Latin America.



(www.mcdonald-lehner.com). All the firm's clients are privately owned companies from México to Argentina, whose owners want to sell their companies. McDonald and his partner, Michael Lehner, have completed approximately 25 such transactions in the past seven years. Most of the clients are in Brazil and Mexico, but the firm has also sold companies in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Panamá, and El Salvador. The buyers are usually US companies with publicly listed shares. The most recent was the sale of Dulces Lorena, a leading candy-maker in Mexico, to Hershey Foods.

McDonald, who speaks Spanish and Portuguese, travels to the region on business usually a week per month. He reads at least a dozen novels per year in Spanish and Portuguese and frequently travels to the region on vacation too, with his wife who teaches Pre-Columbian art history at Boston College, and his two children, who are studying Spanish. "The kids are proud to have visited every major archaeological site and museum in Latin America," he says.

Kevin notes that his degree in Latin

American Studies has been crucial to his success. "It was essential to take a wide range of courses, including language, history, culture, and politics," he says. "Fortunately, Vanderbilt is outstanding in each of these areas."

Kevin S (M.A., 2002) I hope this e-mail finds you well. I find it hard to believe that it has been over 2 years since we left Nashville. Our time here at West Point is coming to a close, so I thought I would give you a quick update.

Since arriving in January 2003, I have been teaching intermediate, and now basic, Spanish. But it has been so much more than that. In June 2003, I took five cadets to Ecuador for a language and cultural immersion program. We stayed at their military academy outside of Quito and toured Quito, Ibarra, and the Shell-Mera region. Before we left, we went on a four-day excursion to the Galápagos Islands. In November 2003 and January 2004, I took 24 and 20 cadets respectively, for long weekends to Puerto Rico, visiting old San Juan, el Morro, the Bacardi distillery, el Yunque, and the beaches. The trips were a first for our Spanish club, and have really gotten some cadets excited about majoring in Spanish and Latin American Studies. In 2004, I took six cadets to Miami to study Cuban and Cuban-American politics, economics, and culture. While the cadets initially were not very excited about going to Miami, instead of overseas, they came away having learned a lot and wanting to return. During a visit to Southern Command in Miami, I ran into Mike Richey, who is now working there. Also, in July 2004, we added another precious little girl to our family; Hope Isabel (pronounced in Spanish) Simpson was born July 26th and has been nothing but a pleasure since she arrived. In August 2004, I went to Honduras with the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies as an adjunct instructor to teach various aspects of peacekeeping operations based on United Nations doctrine. In September I was promoted to Major, and re-designated from Foreign Area Officer to Civil Affairs Officer. Civil Affairs is somewhat similar to FAO, but instead of dealing with strategic programs, I will be conducting more hands-on operations to improve civil-military relations and develop host nation infrastructure to improve their self sufficiency.

In May 2005, we will move back to Fort Bragg, North Carolina for me to begin training. As soon as I finish, I'll report to a

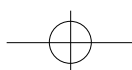
unit and begin putting my training to use, most likely in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also in Central and South America. Another chapter begins. I'll keep you posted as the story unfolds.

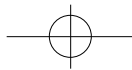
Again, best wishes from Chery, the girls and me. Please pass my "saludos" to Ted Fischer, Jane Landers, and Phillip Rasico.

Mark D. Carlson (M.A. 1989) writes us from Irak and he has this to say: "I just wanted to take a moment to say hello. I've been the world traveler the last several years and nothing seems to change except for the moment my wife and children are safe back in the United States while I'm working on this special project in northern Iraq. Yes! a Latin Americanist in Iraq. A long story but some colleagues of mine convinced me to work over here and so last fall I journeyed to Iraq after having just moved back from four years of living and working in Mexico. Anyway the reason I'm writing is that my schedule now allows me enough time to consider returning to continue my graduate studies and pursue my doctorate at Vanderbilt. I see that Marshall Eakin is now the Chairman of the Latin American Studies Center. Could I ask that you (Norma) forward the necessary information and steps for me to follow-up on my interest in returning to Vanderbilt to continue my graduate studies and pursue my interest in earning my doctorate.

e-mail: mark_carlson17@yahoo.com,
mark.carlson@pco-iraq.net

Eric Weir (M.A. 2002). "It was so good to hear from you. I have been doing fine. I returned from my year in Santiago, Chile with Rotary International in December of 2003. After my year in Chile, I joined Hilton Hotels Corporation as a Bilingual Service Administrator and enjoyed assisting both English and Spanish speaking employees with their benefits. In December of 2004, I continued in Human Resources at Hilton, but I transferred to Focused Services where I am a Bilingual HR Coordinator. Although I stay rather busy during the week, I have really enjoyed being home and being able to spend time with friends, and some of my Chilean friends have come to the US for graduate programs so it has been wonderful having them here also. I hope all of you are doing well. Thanks for sending me the newsletters. I really enjoy hearing from all of you. Please say hello to everyone for me. Have a wonderful year."





The Kennedy Center and the Woodbine Community Organization will use the grant funds to develop and distribute materials on disability issues and services through bilingual information and referral resources for Spanish-speaking Tennesseans. The partners hope that the project will serve as a model for other communities and states.

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development is designated by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development as a national center for research on developmental disabilities. The Woodbine Community Organization offers community access to job training and placement programs, a health clinic, senior citizens center and child care.

THE CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS AT VANDERBILT

The CFA has announced the creation of a new web site: <http://vanderbilt.edu/americas/> Its partners are listed as: Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA), Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies (CLAIS), American and Southern Studies, African-American Studies Program, and the East Asian Studies Program.

Fellows are the members of Vanderbilt's Faculty and graduate student community who actively participate in the Center's Work Groups and Project Groups. Appointed for terms of at least two semesters, Fellows receive stipend or research funding during their term of Fellowship.

Fellows now are:

Brooke Ackerly	Assistant Professor of Political Science
Dinorah Azpuru	Assistant Professor of Political Science
Robert Barsky	Professor of French and Italian
Ellen Clayton	Rosalind E. Franklin Chair in Genetics and Director, Center for Genetics & HealthPolicy; Professor of Pediatrics; Professor of Law; General Pediatrics
Beth Conklin	Associate Professor of Anthropology
Tom Dillehay	Distinguished Professor of Anthropology
Elizabeth Heitman	Associate Professor of Medical Ethics
Amparo McWatt	Visiting Scholar
William Partridge	Professor of Human & Organizational Development

Mitchell Seligson Centennial Professor of Political Science

Scott Williams Associate Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine

THE LATIN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION PROJECT (LAPOP)

The Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), which was previously at the University of Pittsburgh, is now fully established as a project of Vanderbilt University under the umbrella of the Center for the Americas. The LAPOP is formed by Dr. Mitchell Seligson (Director), Dr. Dinorah Azpuru (Research Coordinator) and the following research assistants (all of them Political Science graduate students): Maria Clara Bertini, Juan Carlos Donoso, Irek Kusmierczyk, Daniel Moreno and Vivian Schwarz-Blum. LAPOP has carried out numerous projects in Latin America. It has received grants for multi-year studies of public opinion on democracy in both Bolivia and Ecuador. It has also received a contract for a study of corruption in Madagascar in which the LAPOP methodology developed in Latin America is being used in Africa. Last December Professors Seligson and Azpuru, assisted by Vivian Schwarz-Blum, carried out a video conference between Nashville, the Madagascar Anti-Corruption Council in Antananarivo and the World Bank in Washington, D.C. The project is funded by the World Bank and USAID and is coordinated by Casals & Associates of Washington, D.C. www.vanderbilt.edu/americas/English/LAPOP.php <http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/psi/seligson>



ECCLESIASTICAL SOURCES IN SLAVE SOCIETIES



In 2003 the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a two year Collaborative Research Grant of \$150,000 to fund the project entitled "Ecclesiastical Sources and Historical Research on the African Diaspora in Brazil and Cuba." The project director is Jane Landers of Vanderbilt

University and her primary collaborators are Professor Mariza Carvalho de Soares, of the Universidade Federal Fluminense (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), and Professor Paul Lovejoy of the Harriet Tubman Resource Centre on the African Diaspora, York University (Canada). In July, 2005 Landers returned to Cuba for the second year with a team consisting of Vanderbilt graduate student David Wheat, Latin American bibliographer Paula Covington, graduate students Oscar Grandio and Henry Lovejoy from York University and archivist Antonio Meneses from UFF. Together the expanded team captured over 40,000 images from churches in Havana, Regla and Matanzas. These documents ranged from 16th century black marriages in Havana to burials of unbaptized "Asiaticos" in Matanzas. During this trip the Harriet Tubman Resource Centre donated a IBM Thinkpad laptop computer and digital camera to the Municipal Archives of Matanzas and to the Instituto de Historia in Havana. Team member Oscar Grandio, represented the Tubman Centre in signing convenios with these institutions by which they committed to digitizing their holdings on African and African descended people for addition to the project web page.

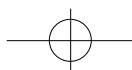
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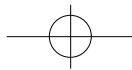
CAF CON LECHE 2005

The Stars of the Vanderbilt Association of Hispanic Students presented: "Buscando una Estrella" February 17 at the Ingram Auditorium. The program consisted of Traditional Colombian Dance, the Cumbia, performed by a group of dancers; a Poem "Canción de la verdad sencilla"; Piano pieces; presentation of Bachata music from the Dominican Republic, guitar and singing; Salsa music; Hip Hop; "The wannabe estrellas"; a Spanish Aria "Encantadora María"; a Tango performance; More Cumbia; Poem by Pablo Neruda; and, of course, the Merengue, national dance of the Dominican Republic. All spectators were much impressed by the quality of show presented. It was much fun to see so many students, male and female from different cultures bonding together to make this a special and fun occasion. Many thanks and congratulations, it took a lot of effort and rehearsals!!

DONATIONS

The Center has recently received two donations from alumni. Kevin McDonald (LAS major, 1978) and Ellen Weirich (M.A. 2002).





Seligson says that he has always had one "foot" in academia and another "foot" in the world of public policy, carrying out research and advising the international donor community of what he believes are the best ways to help consolidate democracies and to improve the life of the rural poor. He finds Vanderbilt an extremely supportive environment for continuing to do that; "the joint presence of CLAIS and the Center for the Americas, along with a very collegial department of Political Science and wonderful students have made my work here a real joy".

CENTER'S OUTSIDE REVIEW



On February 3-4 the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies underwent an outside review by Professor Jonathan Hartlyn, Chair, Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During his stay in Nashville, Dr. Hartlyn met with Richard McCarty, Dean of Arts and Science; Joel Harrington, Assistant Provost for International Affairs; Vera Kutzinski, Director of the Center for the Americas; Marshall C. Eakin, Center's interim Director; Frank Robinson, Center's Associate Director; Ted Fischer, Center's Director (on leave), with other faculty members from different disciplines, graduate students, and staff. Dr. Hartlyn was provided information pertaining to the Center's activities (including grant proposals, faculty C.Vs, graduate students information, etc.) sent to him in advance for this evaluation. Dr. Hartlyn's report concluded: "In sum, I believe that Vanderbilt has invested wisely in its Latin American studies program and CLAIS currently has extraordinary faculty strengths and excellent leadership. With the continued administrative support it has been receiving, it has a real potential to continue to gain in national and international visibility and recognition."

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

M B

Before going back to Puebla, Mexico, **A a P a r c a E c a a e** (first exchange student from Universidad de las Américas [UDLA] writes about her semester at Vanderbilt.

"This exchange program was very positive to me. It made me enrich my knowledge in the area that I am studying. I met people from all over the United States and

from many parts of the world. It helped me become more independent, and gave me confidence in myself. My criteria has widened and I became more tolerant.

This experience helped me adapt to all kinds of different circumstances. It helped me face challenges and difficulties positively, and it also made me value my own culture. I will be always grateful to the Vanderbilt community for giving me this opportunity!" anap.escalantebh@udlap.mx
ana_paty@hotmail.com

The four Brazilian students on campus have gone back to their respective universities. They also wrote a short account of their experience at Vanderbilt and the United States:

"Studying at Vanderbilt University during the fall semester of 2004 was a dream come true. I had a really great time, enjoyed all my classes and I am glad that I had contact with excellent professors. Living at McTyeire Hall and learning about other cultures was also quite important. I appreciate the support that I had from Prof. Jane Landers, Prof. Marshall Eakin, Mrs. Norma Antillón and the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies. All in all, I believe that this was certainly an unique experience and in the future I would like to come back to the United States. Best wishes." **G a A d F r a**, Universidade São Paulo. Gustavo took 3 courses in Economics and one on African American Studies. gus_af@yahoo.com.br

"Living in the United States was the best experience of my life ever. Here I could improve my English in both writing and speaking skills. Also, I have learned a lot with my professors and mates. Of course there were bad things. When a person lives abroad, his/her identity suffers an impact, as long as people see him/her in a different way. However, this process is important to a person to build his/her self-identity and to perceive that the true association between men is given neither by racial nor by ethnic ties, rather by ideals that can be shared by people of any place of the world.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me here at Vanderbilt, especially my professors (Dinorah Azpuru and Clint Alexander - Political Science; Carrie Lee Smith - Sociology; Devin Fergus - History), Professor Jane Landers (Coordinator of the FIPSE Program Race, Development and Social Inequality at Vanderbilt), Professor Marshall Eakin (my advisor and Director, Center for

Latin American and Iberian Studies) and the CLAIS staff (Mrs. Norma Antillón and Ann Oslin). It would be a pleasure if one day I could study abroad again. As long as I would work with International Journalism, it is probable that I will study something related with International Politics at Graduate School". **V c G e r e R d r e V e r a**, Universidade São Paulo, majoring in Journalism. vinicius.g.vieira@vanderbilt.edu

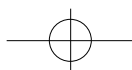
"I waited until the last day of my stay here because I think my experience here is also shaped by the values that I attribute to it. I had a wonderful stay here and basically three factors contributed to that. First, the extraordinary updated and comfortable Central Library provided me with a large bibliography in the field of race relations in Brazil. It increasingly supported my academic concerns with respect to the development of a future project of mine connected to the production of American anthropologists in Brazil. Second, it seems to me that the everyday life in McTyeire (an international housing) was more exciting than it would have been if I had stayed somewhere else. People there seemed more interested to know about other cultures and as a result, it made me interact with many of them. Another fundamental reason for the success of my stay here was the role of the

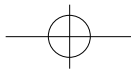


G , H E , B , D A .

Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies. I found a helpful environment which provided me with recommendations, advice, and other helpful necessities. The Center was pretty important as a resource and tool to make everything go well with my own research and my stay here in general.

In particular, I'm still grateful for three people: Norma Antillón, Jane Landers, and Marshall Eakin. I find that we established more than an institutional relationship. Beyond the relation between faculty and students, I think we established something special. Perhaps, a friendship....." **H L a G a**, Universidade Federal da Bahia. gama.hugo@uol.com.br





These three students plus **Naiana Gede Ara** participated in different activities in the Vanderbilt campus, such as World on Wednesday where Vinicius and Naiana had a power point presentation.

The evening of December 1, Naiana, Vinicius, Gustavo and Hugo had a fireside chat at McTyeire on: "All you ever wanted to know about Brazil!". Both presentations were very well attended.

FACULTY NEWS

Dra Ar (Political Science and Research Coordinator of Vanderbilt's Latin American Public Opinion Project) was a panelist at the panel "Security in the Americas", an event sponsored by the Vanderbilt Law School's Latin American Law Society and the Center for the Americas. The international panel took place on February 4 at Vanderbilt Law School. The presenters were Mauricio Herdocia Sacasa, a Nicaraguan diplomat and current President of the Inter-American Judicial Committee of the Organization of American States (OAS); Elizabeth Villalta Vizcarra (Salvadorean), Member of the Inter-American Judicial Committee of the OAS and Rapporteur for "Joint Efforts of the Americas in the Struggle against Corruption and Impurity" and Dinorah Azpuru, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Research Coordinator of the Latin America Popular Opinion Project at Vanderbilt University. The panelists discussed the importance of the new concept of democratic security in the hemisphere, which encompasses many aspects, including terrorism, human rights, corruption, narco trafficking and international organized crime.

Dr. Azpuru also participated as a panelist in the Conference "Fragile States in the Western Hemisphere" organized by the State Department in Washington DC last fall. Azpuru presented the topic "State Fragility from a Public Opinion Perspective", providing data on public opinion from eleven Latin American countries and relating it to the potential fragility of democracy in the region.

Paola C (Latin American Bibliographer; Senior Lecturer in Latin American Studies) attended the Feria Internacional del Libro in Havana and participated in the NEH-funded project directed by Jane Landers to digitize colonial slave records in church archives in Havana and Matanzas. The book purchase component focused on new Cuban fiction writers and

colonial history. This was coupled with a trip to Guatemala that focused on purchasing research materials related to anthropology, archaeology and history.

Ar r De are (Ingram Professor of Anthropology and Director, Vanderbilt Institute of Mesoamerican Anthropology and Indigenous Development) came from Guatemala to deliver a Transinstitutional Public Lecture on "Ancient Secrets and Modern Struggles of the Maya Peoples: Vanderbilt Archaeology Looting, the Drug Wars, and the Battle for Indigenous Rights." Demarest described the Vanderbilt University Cancuén Archaeological and Indigenous Development Project, the discoveries of a royal palace, hieroglyphic monuments, tombs, workshops, caverns rich in jade and other precious goods. But of greater significance and scale is Vanderbilt's more controversial and innovative humanitarian project: its work with indigenous legal and cultural rights, Maya archaeological and sacred site management, medical clinics, ecological conservation, and economic development. Demarest described how Vanderbilt has become directly engaged in the politics of Guatemala and the survival of the Maya communities as they confront the effects of drug-trafficking, looting, and political oppression. Vanderbilt is helping the Maya preserve their own ancient heritage through "stake holding" in small-scale economic, cultural, and ecological development. Vanderbilt seeks to draw other centers and schools into this growing opportunity for research and ethical action.

Maria C. Ea (History, CLAIS interim Director) is publishing a new book, **En el B : A G B B B B**, 1945-2008 (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2005), co-edited with Paulo Roberto de Almeida. He will be on sabbatical for 2005-2006 working on a new book project, "Becoming Brazilians: Making a State and a Nation, 1945-1992".

Maria C. Ea (History), **E e a O a a -Se a** (Spanish and Portuguese) and **W a Par r d e** (Human and Organizational Development, Peabody), were awarded certificates of recognition at the celebration of "An Evening of Achievements". The "Spanish/English Language Exchange" and the "Open Doors" home ownership programs were very successful. This event was organized by Conexión Américas, a local

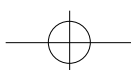
nonprofit organization that promotes the integration of Hispanic families into the community, and the Center for the Americas at Vanderbilt and co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies and Peabody College at Vanderbilt. The Language Exchange Program is possible thanks to the collaboration of volunteer Vanderbilt students majoring in Spanish, attending classes on Latin America and Latinos in the US, and participating in Service-Learning activities. Vera Kutzinski, Director of the Center for the Americas said: "Nashville today is, in many respects, a microcosm of the Americas. Local organizations such as Conexión Américas have worked hard to make Nashville a place where cultural differences do not isolate and divide people."

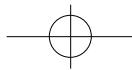
Ed ard F F c er (Anthropology) gave talks at the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation in Amsterdam, at the Universiteit Utrecht, at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, and to the Working Group on Property, Citizenship, and Social Entrepreneurism in Washington. He also received an \$80,000 grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

J Ja e 's (Anthropology) book came out in November, **I n n P n A n n A n : n n C n** (2004, Routledge Press). Drawing on fifteen years of research in the Andean highlands, it combines recent developments in social theory with the archaeological record to examine the rise, consolidation, and collapse of Tiwanaku civilization. John has also received National Geographic funding and other grants to continue large-scale archaeological research in the Lake Titicaca Basin of Bolivia.

We congratulate our colleague **Car J re** (Spanish and Portuguese) for recently winning the prestigious Premio Casa de las Américas for his book/manuscript **C n**. This is a great honor for Carlos and for Vanderbilt. Casa de las Américas was founded in 1959 in Havana, Cuba. It promotes, supports, awards and publishes the work of writers, artists, musicians and academics. The panel of judges said that **C n** is "a remarkable contribution to the field of cultural studies, able to renew several of the most crucial debates in our cultural history." Tatiana, Carlos' wife, submitted the manuscript. We thank her too and felicitaciones to both.

Ja e La der (History) received a





National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers for 2005-06 to research her new book, "Juan Bautista Witten, Formerly Known as Big Prince: An African in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions." Her recently published work includes "Maroon Women in Spanish America," in *Brazilian Studies Journal*, ed. David Barry Gaspar and Darlene C. Hine (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004) and "Southern Passage: the Forgotten Route to Freedom" in *Pittsburgh Courier*, ed. David Blight (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2004). She continues to serve on the editorial boards of *American Quarterly* and *Critique* and last fall commented on panels at "Between Race & Place: Blacks and Blackness in Central America and the Mainland Caribbean", Tulane University and "Saint Domingue on the Eve of Revolution: Free People of Color", The Haitian Revolution: Viewed 200 Years After, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

Walter D. Mignolo (Spanish and Portuguese), has brought the *Journal of Latin American Studies* to Vanderbilt University, where it will be edited and published. The *Journal* is the leading interdisciplinary journal featuring issues of race in Spanish America. (The Review's office is located in the Bishop Johnson Black Cultural Center). In June he was invited by the Cuba's Writers Union (UNEAC) to deliver the keynote address at the conference "Otra Suite Para Juan Francisco Manzano," which commemorated the 150th anniversary of the slave poet's death. Last Fall Semester, Luis was invited to speak at the University of California-Irvine, the University of Notre Dame, and New York University. In the Spring Semester, he spoke at the University of California-Santa Cruz and participated at an international conference in Bayahibe, Dominican Republic. His most recent book, *La Esfera del Poder* was published in Madrid by Verbum in 2003.

Paul M. Freston (Spanish and Portuguese), published "Reading Caribbean Music: Reflections on the Music of Leo Brouwer" in *Musical Quarterly* (Africa World Press) and a book review of Patrick Chamoiseau's *Edouard Glissant* (Volume 7, No. 1).

Walter D. Mignolo is leading the third Fieldschool in Intercultural Education in Ecuador sponsored jointly by the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies and Peabody College of Education and Human Development. In 2003 and 2004 graduate students from Vanderbilt University conducted community-level research in the vicinity of Riobamba, Chimborazo Province among Quichua-speaking people and also in San Lorenzo, Esmeraldas Province among Afro-Ecuadorian people. The research centered upon the impacts of programs aimed at building human and social capital in minority communities, through grants provided to bright but poor young people to finish high school, university or post-graduate studies. The researchers discovered that the Government of Ecuador considered the program a failure because so many young people dropped out before receiving their diplomas or degrees. Yet the communities themselves considered the program a remarkable success, for reasons investigated and documented by Vanderbilt's Fieldschool. Building upon the findings of those two research seasons, this year's Fieldschool will focus upon designing a development project that will restore the grants program, taking into account the lessons learned from the first, and incorporating certain changes implied by the findings or suggested by the Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian participants. The Fieldschool in Intercultural Education is supported by the Research Institute for the Study of Man (RISM - New York), the Global Education Partnership (GEP - Washington, DC), the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO - Quito) and the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (UASB -- Quito). For further information contact Partridge at William.l.partridge@vanderbilt.edu

Michael S. Shuman (Political Science) presented the "Distinguished Carmelo Mesa-Lago Social and Public Policy Lecture" on February 17, 2005 at the University of Pittsburgh annual Latin American conference. In February he was also the external reviewer for the University of Florida/Florida International University Latin American Title VI Consortium. On January 21 he met with USAID democracy officers in Washington, along with his research group partners, Prof. Steve Finkel and Anibal Pérez-Lizán, on the impact of foreign assistance on democracy. On January 26 he made a presentation at the United Nations Development Program in New York on challenges in collecting individual-level data on democracy in Latin America. On January 27 he gave a lecture to a group of A&S Vanderbilt alumni on the topic of "Challenges to Democracy in Latin America."

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Kevin Carreón (M.A. student) presented a paper on 'Latino Immigrant Entrepreneurs' at the ILASSA 25th Annual Student Research Conference at the University of Texas at Austin on February 10-12. The panel was titled "Transnational Migration and Remittance Flows", where he was joined by three additional panelists who presented work over community organizations in the U.S., Mexico, and El Salvador. Kevin was awarded a travel grant from the Graduate School at Vanderbilt to participate in the Conference. Besides spending the weekend with family and friends in his favorite city, he enjoyed exchanging ideas and research with students from all over the Americas who share his profound interest in Latin American Studies and Community Development.

David Wea (Ph.D. student) was awarded a travel grant from the College of Arts & Science to conduct summer research at the Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain and also a Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation Award which will support another year's research in Spain. He will present a paper at the World History Association conference in Morocco this summer.

Our graduate students in Latin American History had great success on the job market. Eugene Berger has accepted a position as visiting Assistant Professor at Southwest Missouri State University. Barry Robinson will be joining the faculty at Samford University as Assistant Professor. Emily Story will begin a visiting Lectureship at Kenyon College, and Tom Williford has accepted a job of Assistant Professor at Southwestern Minnesota State University. Congratulations!!!

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER



Nashville Hispanic families affected by disabilities will now have better access to information and services, thanks to a grant to the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

The grant will fund Project Conexión, a partnership between the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Woodbine Community Organization, to provide outreach to the under served Hispanic community of Nashville.

