



LES HAINES

Vanderbilt Portal Connects Students and Faculty to Mexico City and Honduras

In fall 2015, Vanderbilt students and the larger Nashville community have had the opportunity to have face-to-face conversations with individuals in Mexico City and Honduras through the Vanderbilt Portal. “Portals” is a public art initiative created by artist Amar C. Bakshi and his art collective, Shared_Studios. The project uses custom-designed gold shipping containers outfitted with immersive audio and video technology. Bakshi explains that the goal of the project is to revitalize public spaces and break down barriers between people in distant locations. Both portals in Mexico City and Honduras are permanent installations: in Mexico City the portal is located near a public fountain in the Colonia Roma Norte; in Honduras, the portal is located in El Progreso on the outskirts of San Pedro Sula, and affiliated with OYE, the Organization for Youth Empowerment in La Perla.

At Vanderbilt, the portal was located on The Commons South Lawn and open from September 18 to October 16. During its run, over 200 students, faculty, and others had the opportunity to have a conversation with a stranger in Mexico and Honduras. First-year student Stefano Scotti described his conversation with a Honduran high school student as “fascinating.” Scotti continued, “He talked about a music festival that was coming to his community for the weekend, and I was struck by how similar it sounded to the music scene in Nashville. The coolest thing about the experience was the empathy building; he was just as similar to me as he was different.”

CLAS helped to organize volunteers to assist with the portal and provide Spanish language



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CLAS and Tennessee State University Collaborate on “Cuba: Histories of the Present” Photography Exhibit

CLAS collaborated with Tennessee State University to bring “Cuba: Histories of the Present” to Nashville in September. The exhibit featured photographs by of the daily routines, racial identity, and cultural practices of Cubans from 2006–2014. The photographer, David LaFevor, received his Ph.D. in history from Vanderbilt and is now professor of digital humanities and Latin American history at the University of Texas at Arlington. His research traces the racial, national, and gendered contours of the introduction and popularization of boxing in Cuba and Mexico from the 1890s to the 1930s.

Housed at the Hiram van Gordon Gallery at TSU, the exhibit opened on September 11 with a reception and gallery talk by LaFevor. CLAS Outreach Coordinator Jamie Lee Marks organized a professional development workshop on the exhibit attended by 26 educators. Participants heard presentations from David LaFevor on

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Center for Latin American Studies

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These are turbulent times across Latin America, as corruption scandals are producing both newfound optimism and stoking deep-seated fears.

Over the last few months, the Guatemalan president, vice-president, the entire board of the Social Security Administration, a Supreme Court judge, and numerous others have been jailed on charges of corruption. Data from LAPOP's *AmericasBarometer* reveal high levels of graft and widespread distrust of political organizations in the country, but many believe these unprecedented arrests may be a turning point.

At the other end of the continent, Brazil has arrested the heads of the country's largest construction companies on corruption charges. The scale of the kickbacks is staggering; more than a \$1 billion from Petrobras alone. CLAS Visiting Resource Professor Luis Paulo Rosenberg

sees this as a watershed moment—it is hurting Brazilian markets in the short run, but will produce a more vibrant and transparent system in the long run. He also notes that the Brazilian judiciary has switched tactics from going after corrupt politicians first, to initially targeting (and even jailing) their private sector co-conspirators.

These events take place in such complicated circumstances, resulting from such convoluted histories, that it takes the work of our political science, economics, and other social sciences colleagues to understand them. We are fortunate to have over 140 faculty at Vanderbilt focusing a significant part of their work on Latin America, and it is this concentration of expertise across schools and colleges that makes possible our One Vanderbilt in Latin America initiative. I am constantly awed by the amazing work our faculty and students produce.

Ernesto Cardenal Visits Vanderbilt

CLAS welcomed Nicaraguan poet and priest Ernesto Cardenal back to Vanderbilt in October. To mark his 90th birthday this year, Cardenal recently released a new anthology of his poems, *Noventa en los noventa*. The highlight of Cardenal's visit to Nashville was a public talk at the First Amendment Center, "Poetry, Politics, and the First Latin American Pope." During his visit to Vanderbilt, Cardenal gave a reading from the new book and met with faculty and students in divinity, Spanish and Portuguese, and other departments.

Cardenal was a key figure in the liberation theology movement in the 1970s and became a revolutionary leader in Nicaragua. He was an important participant in the Sandinista revolution in 1979 that overthrew Somoza, and he later served as minister of culture after the Sandinistas took power. Recently, Cardenal has been an outspoken critic of the Chinese-backed interoceanic canal through Lake Nicaragua, the largest freshwater lake in Central America. Cardenal has denounced the project,

claiming that it would split the lake in two and endanger the Solentiname Islands, where he founded a communal society for artists.

Cardenal spoke at the Vanderbilt Divinity School in 2011 as part of our year-long celebration of liberation theology's 40th anniversary. Given his very fond memories of that trip, he chose Vanderbilt as the one university he wanted to revisit on what he describes as his last trip to the US.



Vanderbilt Portal

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translation. The project also offered a space for cross-cultural research and artistic collaboration. The Curb Center coordinated exchanges between local Nashville artists, student groups such as the Kefi Project, and the Nashville Public Library with artists and others in these Latin American locations. Liz Zechmeister (Political Science) had the chance to visit the portal in Mexico City.

Baskhi worked with a team of artists, designers, engineers, technologists, and digital explorers at Shared_Studios to launch the portals project in December 2014. Previous linkages have included New York, Tehran, Herat, Havana, and San Francisco. Vanderbilt is only the third higher education institution to have a Shared_Studios portal on its campus.



The Vanderbilt Portal was sponsored by The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons; CLAS; Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy; Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery; Blair School of Music; International Legal Studies Program at Vanderbilt Law School; Department of Art; Department of History of Art; and the Department of Political Science.

Year of Brazil

CLAS began in 1947 as the world's first Institute of Brazilian Studies, and we have maintained our prominence in both Brazilian Portuguese and Brazilian studies more broadly.

As part of our One Vanderbilt in Latin America program, we are focusing this academic year on Brazil. Marshall Eakin (History) has agreed to lead our Brazilian initiatives. Key parts of this effort involve our VRP Luis Paulo Rosenberg, a Brazil TIPS project, and Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Diogo Oliveira who is leading Portuguese instruction for students at Fisk and for faculty in Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine.



We will host a joint workshop at Universidade de São Paulo in October. Workshop participants include Marshall Eakin (History), Fred Batista Pereira (LAPOP), Malu Jorge (Biology and EES), Tara McKay (MHS), Troy Moon (IGH), and Vice Provost Tim McNamara. Following the workshop, participants will attend our fourth annual reception for Brazilian alumni. Students in Vanderbilt's Americas MBA program will be in São Paulo and will also attend the reception.

Students and faculty have the chance to practice their Portuguese every Friday afternoon through the ever-popular bate-papo.

Faculty involved in the Brazil TIPS project, "Building a Multidisciplinary Approach to Assess the Quality of Health Care in Brazil" will present three workshops during fall 2015:

- "Cultural Contexts of Doing Research in Brazil" on September 21
- "Social Science Research in Brazil" featuring LAPOP on October 12
- "Health Care Issues in Brazil with Solange Cavalcante and Betina Durovni" on November 13



Cuba Exhibit cont.

Afro-Cuban culture, Frank Robinson on the history of U.S.-Cuban relations, and Rob Nasatir on the Cuban New Song movement, and also explored ideas for incorporating music into the language and social studies classrooms. TSU faculty in the Departments of Art and English plan to incorporate the exhibit into classroom assignments. The photographs were on display through October 9.



CLAS Launches First Tuesday Lunch Series

This year, CLAS is hosting a new lunch series featuring invited speakers or Vanderbilt faculty. Lunch is provided, and the series is open to all faculty, students, and staff. Talks begin at 12:15 p.m. and end promptly at 1:00 p.m. The fall 2015 schedule is:

- September 1: CLAS Visiting Resource Professor Luis Paulo Rosenberg
- October 6: Una Conversación con Ernesto Cardenal
- November 3: Faculty Roundtable with Dominique Behague, Alicia Monroe, and Candice Amich
- December 1: Faculty Roundtable on Deforestation in Latin America with Malu Jorge, Arthur Demarest, and John Carter



CLAS Executive Director **Avery Dickins de Girón** was appointed senior lecturer in Latin American Studies. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology in 2008.

CLAS External Evaluation Program

In accordance with our designation as a National Resource Center, CLAS maintains an extensive evaluation program that provides ongoing feedback on the center's impact and programming. Our external evaluation program has now been in place for five years and is led by Dr. Xiu Cravens, a higher education monitoring and evaluation expert at Peabody College. Cravens works closely with CLAS staff and a graduate student intern to create, implement, and improve evaluation protocols. These protocols consist of evaluations of CLAS events, pre- and post-surveys of our professional development workshops, focus groups with K-12 educators and with LAS faculty, and a library survey.

The library survey is conducted in the spring semester of every other year; in spring 2015, 101 students and faculty completed the survey. Highlights of the survey results include: 79% of the respondents reported that the LAS collection serves their research needs well or very well, and 82% reported that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the library service provided by LAS Librarian Paula Covington. Surveys

of teacher workshops demonstrated that they effectively enhanced teachers' self-confidence in teaching workshop-related content areas.

In the 2014–15 academic year, Ke Wang, a master's student in the international education policy and management program at Peabody College, designed the instruments, collected the data, and completed CLAS evaluation reports. As Ke reflected on her experience, she commented, "The external evaluation project with CLAS opened up a lot of career-related opportunities for me. I was able to add 'higher education monitoring and evaluation' to my skill set; I found my summer internship in D.C. because I had accumulated experience in several areas through working with CLAS." Amanda Ketner, a first-year IEPM student, will be working on CLAS evaluation for 2015–16. This CLAS internship also satisfies the requirement for IEPM students to complete a 135-hour practicum.

CLAS thanks you for your participation in our surveys and other evaluation protocols.



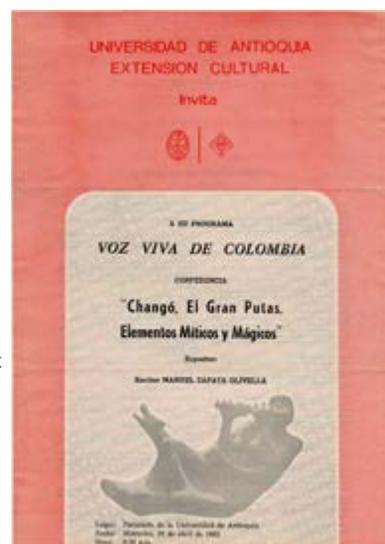
Library News

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

The word is out about our wonderful Colombian collections! Thanks to our recent Library Dean's Fellows, the library's enhanced web presence and growing digital collections have attracted a number of inquiries and visitors from Paris to Colorado. Over the summer four Ph.D. students and graduates came from Harvard, Alabama, Wisconsin, and Colorado, all writing about Manuel Zapata Olivella. Topics range from his connections with US black activists during the civil rights era to the relationship of his novels to the history of New World slavery. One could sense the energy emanating from these young scholars as they used this collection over the summer; there was a constant buzz about potential collaborations, panels, and programs.

One visitor, Viviana Quintero, says she actually feels Zapata Olivella's spirit while working here. A graduate student from Wisconsin and a Colombian, Viviana donated countless hours of her time over the summer to help organize and preserve the collections; she is passionate about making his legacy more widely known and his papers available to Colombians. She has preserved many of his cassette recordings using free software called Audacity, and they are ready for the next step, which is creating DVDs and linking to the interviews online. This fall, the *Voz de los Abuelos* transcripts of the interviews should be fully linked. In the spring, Library Dean's Fellows Gretchen Selcke and Fernanda Bretones-Lane completed the Manuel Zapata Olivella correspondence project and online exhibits, which is now available here: mzo.library.vanderbilt.edu/correspondence/. Over the summer, Dean's Fellow Emma Banks completed a digital project and online exhibit with accompanying essays relating to the 19th-century Colombian broadsides: exhibits.library.vanderbilt.edu/colombiabroadsides/

Please take a look at the projects of our talented and energetic recent Dean's Fellows. These primary sources may inspire you to work on 19th–20th century Colombia!





JOE HOWELL

CLAS Welcomes Visiting Resource Professor Luis Paulo Rosenberg for Fall 2015

CLAS welcomed Brazilian economist Luis Paulo Rosenberg back to Vanderbilt as our Visiting Resource Professor from mid-August to mid-October. Rosenberg received his doctorate from Vanderbilt’s Graduate Program in Economics, and then returned to Brazil to serve as the chief economic advisor to president José Sarney. He now runs a private consulting agency, Rosenberg and Associates, in São Paulo. However, Rosenberg is best known to Paulistas as the vice-president of the Corinthians Soccer Club. Following the humiliating demotion of the club to Brazil’s B league in 2007, Rosenberg began a marketing campaign that reintroduced the team as the “People’s Republic of Corinthians” and worked with the team’s president Andrés Sanchez to bring Ronaldo back to Brazil to play for the Corinthians. The club now has fans numbering over 30 million and is noted as the first ten-figure Brazilian team.

During his residency at Vanderbilt, Rosenberg led a graduate seminar with Professor Kamal Saggi, Special Topics in Development Policies, for GPED students. He also offered his insights on the future of the Brazilian economy in our First Tuesday Lunch Series, was the

featured speaker at a breakfast for local business leaders hosted by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce’s International Business Council, and spoke at dinner event for Owen students. This was Rosenberg’s second recent visit to Vanderbilt; in 2014, CLAS invited him to participate in a discussion panel on “Brazil and the World Cup” hosted with Owen.

During spring 2015, we hosted two Visiting Resource Professors: Kees Koonings (University of Utrecht) and Puerto Rican author and poet David Caleb Acevedo. In March, Koonings gave talks on Colombia and Brazil, and he worked closely with faculty and graduate students engaged in projects in Colombia. Department Chair of Spanish and Portuguese Benigno Trigo hosted Acevedo in April. During his visit, he energized a public audience with a reading from his book *El Oneronauta*, led a workshop on science fiction writing, and participated in classes.

Through the VRP program, CLAS funds residencies for distinguished scholars, politicians, writers, or artists from Latin America. During their month-long stay, VRPs participate in a graduate research seminar, offer public talks, and interact with graduate students and the CLAS community at large.



Vanderbilt School of Nursing Expands Its Global Health Initiative in Latin America



The Vanderbilt School of Nursing is working with CLAS and Owen to focus on key global health initiatives related to Latin America and provide nursing students with valuable leadership skills. In a pilot program this year, six VUSN students were selected to complete a portion of their community health clinical hours working with refugee and immigrant populations in

Nashville and to receive Spanish language instruction. During the spring semester, the students will work within interprofessional teams through Project Pyramid to develop projects in collaboration with hospitals, clinics, and community organizations in Latin America. The student teams will travel to project sites during spring break to implement the projects.

VUSN clinical instructor Natasha McClure is leading these initiatives through the community health course she co-teaches. McClure has experience volunteering with vulnerable Latino refugees and looks forward to collaborating with CLAS and Owen to provide an opportunity for nursing students to engage with Latin American populations. CLAS Executive Director Avery Dickins de Girón worked with VUSN and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese to coordinate Spanish language instruction for these nursing students to strengthen their field experience and enhance the students' skill set. Maria Paz Pintane (Spanish) will lead the Spanish language courses for VUSN.

Master of Public Health

The M.P.H. practicum provides students the opportunity to engage in global health work in an international low-resource setting while building upon the skills and knowledge learned in their coursework. Students arrange their practicums in tandem with their global health interests and career goals, and this past summer four students completed their practicums in Latin America:

Mary Bayham spent her summer working at Primeros Pasos clinic in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala during which she created surveys to help monitor and evaluate their Healthy Schools Program.

Grace Fletcher is pursuing dual degrees in M.P.H. and an M.A. in Latin American Studies. Her practicum combined global health with Latin American Studies, and she had the opportunity to study K'iche' while she worked with pregnant women and children at Wuqu' Kawoq in Tecpán, Guatemala. Grace helped promote and implement a variety of nutrition initiatives aimed at reducing malnutrition in children. She published an article about her experience in the Global Health Hub:

globalhealthhub.org/2015/09/21/luck-and-public-health-programming-in-guatemala/ and was interviewed by NPR this Fall.



Erin Hamilton worked at the Institute for Food Technology & Nutrition at Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile. In addition to developing and implementing a nutrition curriculum at local schools, Erin collected data that she will use for her M.P.H. thesis.

Jessica Hinshaw completed her practicum in Nicaragua and Guatemala. In Nicaragua, she was stationed in Cedro Galán, a rural community just outside of Managua, where she worked with Manna Project International. She



conducted a baseline nutrition assessment of 175 households using the Food and Agriculture Organization's Women's Dietary Diversity Score guidelines and USAID's Household Food Insecurity and Access Scale. She also created a Promotoras de Salud (Promoting Health) Training Guide for a health promotion program that will start in the coming year. In Guatemala, Jessica worked with Primeros Pasos clinic where she assisted in grant writing and on a monitoring and evaluation project for their Healthy Schools Program.

Family Nurse Practitioner Yvonne Carter Chosen 2015 Frist Global Health Leader

As part of her fellowship, Yvonne will work in San Eduardo, Ecuador, with local clinics and continue a longitudinal community-based study, focusing on non-communicable diseases in San Eduardo and surrounding communities. Over the past two years, she visited San Eduardo annually, spending the majority of her time in a preventative health clinic geared towards community health and education efforts.

Vanderbilt Medical Student Shaun Mansour Studies Outcomes of Short-Term Medical Missions in Guatemala

Vanderbilt medical student Shaun Mansour traveled to Guatemala in March 2015 to conduct research on the outcome of short-term medical brigades at the Moore Pediatric Surgical Center in Guatemala.

Global Health Integrated Science Courses Offer Medical Students Clinical Rotations in Latin America



In the last year, ten Vanderbilt medical students have received clinical training in Latin America through the Global Health Integrated Science Courses (ISCs) immersion program. The Institute for Global Health and the School of Medicine developed ISCs in response to a growing need in U.S. academia for health care professionals equipped with global expertise in local and international settings. CLAS collaborated with IGH to create ISC immersion courses at several partner sites in Central America to provide third and fourth-year medical students the opportunity to gain medical training abroad, and particularly in low resource settings. The courses integrate clinical rotations with an introduction to key topics and concepts in global health, highlighting health and developmental issues across nations and cultures that require partnership-based action. While in Latin America, students receive on-the-ground training from local staff, which is complemented by regular meetings with Vanderbilt faculty through Skype. Four ISC locations are at Vanderbilt partner sites in Latin America, including Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras; León, Nicaragua; and Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

The following students participated in ISC courses in Latin America in the last year:

- Argentina (INFANT), October 2014: Ashley Morgan, Emily Zern, Richard Latuska
- Honduras (Hospital de Occidente), October 2014: Nkiruka Arinze, Lu Wang
- Guatemala (Primeros Pasos), February 2015: Gretchen Edwards, Irene Mathieu
- Nicaragua (UNAN-Managua), October 2015: Kristina Jacomino, Maria de Lourdes Ladino, Trumbo (Pierce) Silas

As a result of the ISC partnership with Hospital de Occidente in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduran medical student Eleazar Montalvan was invited for a clinical rotation at Vanderbilt this fall. We hope this exchange is the beginning of many more mutual exchanges.

Dagoberto Estevez Ordonez, a second-year medical student at Vanderbilt, was named a VECD Fogarty Global Health Scholar for 2015–2016. As part of this prestigious award, he will spend his fellowship year at Western Honduras Gastric Cancer Initiative, Universidad del Valle in Copán under the mentorship of Vanderbilt faculty **Doug Morgan**. His research will focus on technology-based interventions to improve medication adherence in rural Honduras in the context of a cancer chemo prevention trial.

Faculty News

Carwil Bjork-James (Anthropology) was awarded an Engaged Anthropology Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research for his work with indigenous people in Bolivia. The grant will allow him to share his research with community members by hosting two seminars in Cochabamba and producing a small-format publication in Spanish highlighting segments of his oral history interviews.

Tom Dillehay (Anthropology) received an honorary doctorate in September from the Universidad Católica de Chile.

Katharine Donato (Sociology) received the IPUMS Research Award from the Minnesota Population Center for outstanding work using IPUMS data in the following referred publication: Katharine M. Donato, Bhumika Piya and Anna Jacobs. 2014. "The Double Disadvantage Reconsidered: Gender, Immigration, Marital Status, and Global Labor Force Participation in the 21st Century." *International Migration Review* 48: 335-376.

Earl Fitz (Spanish and Portuguese) was a Hoover Institution Visiting Fellow at Stanford University, where he conducted research on Latin American and inter-American studies. He delivered a distinguished lecture at Temple University on the topic of new frontiers in Brazilian studies. At the Third International Translation Conference, he spoke on "Gregory Rabassa and Translation as Creative Writing"; and at the University of Chicago, he lectured on the Brazilian author Clarice Lispector.

Jane Landers (History) guest-edited a special issue of *Slavery and Abolition* of essays on Cuba, Colombia, and Brazil with members of her ESSSS teams, Renee Soulodre-LaFrance, Mariza Soares, Kara Schultz, and Courtney Campbell: *Slavery and Abolition*, 36: 3, 2015. Landers was invited to speak in the Nathan I. Huggins Lecture Series at Harvard University in March 2015, on "A View from the Other Side: Spanish Sources on the Slave Revolt in Saint Domingue." Landers also received a Discovery Grant to do a workshop in fall 2015 on the Digital Humanities and the History of Slavery: A

Faculty News cont.

Workshop to Enhance Research, Collaboration, and Graduate Training." Landers organized an invited panel "Slavery, Emancipation, and Freedom" for the Comité International des Sciences Historiques Conference, in Jinan, China, and gave several invited talks on her research at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Pittsburgh, and Florida Southern College.

Doug Morgan (Medicine) received NIH grant awards to study gastric cancer epidemiology and prevention in Hispanic-Latino populations in Latin America. The burden of disease in this region is significant, particularly along the Pacific coast in Central America, where cancer mortality rates are some of the highest in the world. Dr. Morgan and his team, which includes Vanderbilt and Latin American colleagues, will explore how *H.pylori* bacteria infections in the stomach, along with the dynamic interaction between the stomach microbiome and host DNA, modulate gastric cancer risk.

Cynthia Paschal (Biomedical Engineering) won the Ellen Gregg Ingalls Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching, which is funded by the Ingalls Foundation. She received an engraved pewter cup and \$2,500. Chancellor Nick Zeppos said, "When asked to create a distinctive, engaging experience that could be an exemplar for undergraduate education at Vanderbilt, Cynthia responded by developing a service learning course and corresponding trip to Guatemala with students devoting their spring break to work alongside faculty to improve medical instrumentation. Students commented that they learned more about circuits and devices in Guatemala than they ever would in a classroom, and they praised the experience for giving them a sense of gratitude and an increased philanthropic vision."

Frank Robinson (History) gave a public talk, "Restoration of Relations between Cuba and the United States: A Historical Perspective" at the Williamson County Public Library on Sept. 25.

Helena Simonett (Blair) was featured in the "Spotlight on Vanderbilt Research" at the Music & Mind

FACULTY PROFILE

Candice Amich

Candice Amich is assistant professor in the Department of English.

Her research focuses on the intersection of politics, poetics, and performance in Latino/a and Latin American cultural production. Before joining the English faculty at Vanderbilt, Amich was an A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at Carnegie Mellon University, where she taught courses in transnational American studies.

Amich's current book project, *Precarious Poetics: Performing Politics in the Neoliberal Americas*, uncovers a genealogy of experimental Latin American and Latino poetry and performance that anticipates, by decades, more recent theorizations of precarious movements and art in the Euro-American academy. *Precarious Poetics* tracks the emergence of a transnational feminist aesthetic which counters the erasure of cultural memory, disruption of local environments, and the omnipresent spectacle of commodity fetishism that characterize the neoliberal sensorium. Individual chapters examine the poetic and performative works of Cecilia Vicuña (Chilean), Ana Mendieta (Cuban American), Coco Fusco (Cuban American), Ricardo Dominguez (Mexican American), Raúl Zurita (Chilean), and Regina José Galindo (Guatemalan), among others.



This December, Professor Amich will be traveling to Cuba as part of an eco-humanities delegation. She is in the preliminary stages of a second book-length project that examines the rise of a feminist and queer performance culture in Cuba since the 1980s that has posed planetary—that is, simultaneously site-specific and global—alternatives to the island nation's neoliberal transformation.

Amich is the co-editor, with theatre scholars Elin Diamond and Denise Varney, of an international anthology on *Performance, Feminism and Affect in Neoliberal Times* (forthcoming from Palgrave). She also serves as a contributing editor for the literary journal *Waxwing*.

Candice Amich was born in Chicago, where her parents, from Cuba and Puerto Rico, migrated as children. She received her B.A. in English and creative writing from Carnegie Mellon University, holds an M.F.A. in poetry from New York University, and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Rutgers University.

CLAS has collaborated with Amich and Latino and Latina Studies to bring cutting edge Latin American performance artists to Vanderbilt. Cuban performance artist Coco Fusco spoke on campus in September.

CLAS Welcomes New Humphrey Fellow Gabriela Zazpe to Vanderbilt



CLAS welcomes Gabriela Zazpe from Uruguay to Vanderbilt for the 2015–2016 year. Ms. Zazpe is an ESL supervisor for Uruguay's Secondary Education Board and manages the supervision of teacher performance nationwide. During her Humphrey year, she looks forward to gaining both theoretical knowledge about assessment practices and practical insight through work in high schools. She hopes to develop a system of ongoing mentoring and professional development in Uruguay, and her ultimate goal is to implement creative and fair ways of evaluating and certifying teachers, in order to empower them to become researchers of their own praxis and better educators.

Rhonda Collier Appointed as Affiliated Faculty

Professor Rhonda Collier (Tuskegee University) was appointed as CLAS affiliated faculty in 2015. Collier is associate professor of English at Tuskegee University, and she was recently appointed as the interim director of the Tuskegee University Global Office. After studying industrial and health care engineering as an undergraduate and master's student, she pursued a career in the health care industry. Collier returned to school to study comparative literature at Vanderbilt, receiving her doctorate in Spanish and Portuguese in 2002.

Her research interests include Cuban



literature, Brazilian literature, global hip-hop, and public theology. Collier has studied at the Universidade de São Paulo as a U.S. Fulbright scholar and has also served as director of the Abilene Christian University's Latin American Study Abroad Program in Montevideo. Collier collaborates closely with CLAS on our outreach programming with Tuskegee.

The CLAS Regional Affiliated Faculty program creates substantive ties to faculty at surrounding institutions. We currently have 10 affiliated faculty representing TSU, MTSU, UT-Knoxville, and Rhodes.

Area Studies Groups

In collaboration with the Robert Penn Warren Center, CLAS supports several interdisciplinary regional working groups.

Now in its third year, the **Brazilian Studies Reading Group** will focus on two inter-related topics for 2015–16: "Diversity and Development." The group's bi-weekly or monthly meetings consist of discussions among attendees and invited speakers based upon pre-circulated papers that reflect current research related to the topic. Guests come from a variety of disciplines, including—but not limited to—history, anthropology, political science, literature, Latin American studies, international education policy and management, and African Diaspora studies. Invited speakers for fall 2015 include:

- **Paula Pastore** (Universidade do Estado de São Paulo); Monday, September 21 at noon in the Warren Center
- **Fred Batista** (Ph.D. candidate, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt), Thursday, October 8 at 3 p.m. in the Warren Center
- **Courtney Campbell** (Tougaloo College), Monday, October 19 at noon in the Warren Center
- **Rafael Marquese** (History, Universidade de São Paulo); Wednesday, November 4 with a seminar at noon and public talk at 4 p.m.; both events in Buttrick 123

- **Marshall Eakin** (History, Vanderbilt); Monday, November 16 at noon in the Warren Center

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

The **Circum-Atlantic Studies Seminar** reads and treats scholarship that is interdisciplinary in nature, focuses on at least two of the following regions—Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America—and treats some aspect of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonialism, and/or postcolonialism. Guest speakers for the fall include **Selena Sanderfer** (History, Western Kentucky University) on Tuesday, September 22 at 4:10 p.m. in Buttrick 123, and **Kristin Mann** (History, Emory University) on October 15 at noon at the Warren Center. Seminar coordinators are Celso Castilho and Jane Landers.

The **Mexican Studies Group** brings together faculty and graduate students from history, political science, literature, sociology, art, anthropology, music, pedagogy, and Latin American studies and organizes interdisciplinary seminars and colloquia on matters related to Mexico and the border with the U.S. MSG is co-organized by Helena Simonett (Latin American Studies) and Edward Wright-Rios (History). This fall, MSG will host Eric Van Young (History, UC San Diego) at noon on November 5 in the Warren Center.

Faculty News cont.

Kickoff, organized by the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, where she also presented the results of a neuroscientific study, in collaboration with Sohee Park (Psychology) and team. Simonett also published several papers recently, among them "Al compás de la banda: la tecnobanda y el pasito duranguense en el mundo globalizado," in *Las bandas de viento en México* (INAH Mexico); "Música vernácula del siglo XIX hasta los setenta del siglo XX," in *Historia temática de Sinaloa* (Andraval Ediciones, Culiacán); "Of Human and Non-human Birds: Indigenous Music Making and Sentient Ecology in Northwestern Mexico," in *Current Directions in Ecomusicology* (Routledge).

Steve Wernke (Anthropology) received an NEH grant for the prototyping of two new electronic resources for collecting and analyzing geospatial data related to the colonization of Peru.

Faculty Publications

Robert F. Barsky: *Undocumented Immigrants in an Era of Arbitrary Law: The Flight and the Plight of People Deemed 'Illegal.'* Routledge, 2016.

Katharine M. Donato and Donna Gabbacia: *Gender and International Migration: From the Slavery Era to the Global Age.* Russel Sage Foundation, 2015.

Maria Helena P.T. Machado and **Celso Thomas Castilho**, eds., *Tornando-se Livre: agentes históricos e lutas sociais no processo de abolição.* São Paulo: EDUSP, 2015.

Earl Fitz: *Machado de Assis and Female Characterization: The Novels.* Bucknell University Press, 2015. He also published a translation with Gregory Rabassa: *Saint Christopher: A Novella.* Dartmouth: Tagus Press at UMass, 2015.

Jane Landers: "Researching the History of Slavery in Colombia and Brazil through Ecclesiastical and Notarial Archives," (with co-authors Pablo Gómez, José Polo Acuña, and Courtney J. Campbell), In: *Dust to Digital: Ten Years of the Endangered Archives Programme*, London: Open Book Publishers, 2015.

Faculty Publications cont.

Paul Miller: “‘Tous les hommes sont l’homme’: Anténor Firmin, Toussaint Louverture, la igualdad racial y el hecho de la negrez.” Toussaint Louverture: repensar un icono. Eds. Mariana Past and Natalie M. Léger. Santiago, Cuba: Casa del Caribe, 2015. 52-79. “‘Il acceptait son nouvel état avec philosophie’: Depestre, Cuba, and Popular Expression.” *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies*. 19:3 (2015). Special Issue: Haiti in a Globalized Frame. 249-260.

Carlin, Ryan E., Matthew M. Singer, and **Elizabeth J. Zechmeister**, Eds. *The Latin American Voter: Pursuing Representation and Accountability in Challenging Contexts*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2015.

Alumni News

CLAS will host its annual LAS Reunion Weekend Reception on Friday, October 23, at 4:30 p.m. in our office suite. All LAS alumni are cordially invited to attend and enjoy wine and light refreshments. CLAS will also host its annual Alumni Reception in São Paulo on October 22.

Elizabeth Eiland (M.A., LAS 2012) returned to Vanderbilt to talk to current students about her career path. She described her M.A. as one of her “most valuable possessions” and explained how it has served her well in her current job in the federal government.

Marvin (Warner) Figueroa (B.A. 2007) embarked in a career in public policy informed by his time at Vanderbilt. He is now health care and education senior policy advisor in the United States Senate.

Jennifer Vogt (Ph.D., Anthropology 2013) was selected as an American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellow for 2015. Her fellowship placement is innovation manager at Ashoka.



Mayan Language Institute

Contributed by Tara Kingsley

Vanderbilt partners with Tulane, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Texas to offer the Mayan Language Institute each summer in Guatemala. The six-week program immerses students in Kaqchikel and K’iche’ Mayan language and culture through beginner and intermediate level instruction. In 2015, CLAS awarded FLAS fellowships to four students to attend the institute and study K’iche’: Stephanie Brandão-Carvalho (LAS), Tara Kingsley (LAS), Elizabeth López (LAS), and Alida Perrine (U. Texas). In total, there were seven students enrolled in the K’iche’ program. They spent the first week studying at Casa Herrera in Antigua with the Kaqchikel students to receive an orientation on the shared history and culture of the two ethnic groups. For the rest of the program, K’iche’ students lived and attended classes in Nahualá.

The K’iche’ program combined lessons on language and culture. In the morning, the beginner and intermediate classes covered grammar and vocabulary topics with local teachers and with Mareike Sattler, Vanderbilt’s K’iche’ instructor and director of the K’iche’ program in Nahualá. Afternoon lessons and excursions integrated language and culture. Guest speakers demonstrated backstrap- and foot-loom weaving, described the *aldeas* within the expansive territory of Nahualá, and they shared the foundation story of the town. During afternoon excursions, basketweavers



explained their craft in K’iche’ and a *milpa* owner described the farming process from planting to harvest of the *milpa*, or crop patch, an essential part of life in Nahualá.

The K’iche’ program offered numerous exceptional opportunities. From July 9–11, students in the Mayan Language Institute attended the Guatemalan Scholars Network conference in Antigua, where scholars presented their work on topics ranging from the

cultural and linguistic diversity of Guatemala City, to emerging health programs in indigenous communities, and the Renuncia Ya/Justicia Ya movement. Another singular experience was a visit from Telma Can, who joined the program in Nahualá for the last two weeks of classes. Can imparted her knowledge of ceremonial K’iche’, not only broadening students’ linguistic understanding of K’iche’ but introducing another role of the language in daily life.

However, most remarkable was the experience of living with a host family in Nahualá. Beyond practicing K’iche’ and explaining aspects of life in Nahualá—some enduring, like the *temascal*, and some fleeting, like the political rallying in anticipation of September elections—families shared their work, their stories, and their town. Through our host families, we experienced a bit of life in Nahualá and found encouragement for our language study. This experience will certainly sustain us in our future study of the K’iche’ language and Maya culture.

Portuguese Language And Brazilian Culture Summer Program

Each summer Tulane and CLAS collaborate to offer the Portuguese Language and Brazilian Culture Program in São Paulo. This six-week program gives students an intensive immersion in the Portuguese language through homestays, cultural excursions, and language instruction provided by the Pontificia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. In 2015, CLAS awarded FLAS fellowships to four students to attend the program: Haleema Cheek (LAS), Charles Geyer (Spanish and Portuguese), Gabriella Newell (undergraduate), Alexandra Rodríguez (Spanish and Portuguese). This year's program was attended by a total of 20 students from across the country, and led by Tulane assistant professor of Portuguese, Becky Atencio.

Gabriela Newell described her experience:

"The program not only allowed me to achieve my goal of improving my Portuguese, but also gave me the opportunity to build great relationships and to learn more about Brazilian culture. My living situation was great because I had a host mother. Therefore, when I returned home after class I was still practicing Portuguese. I really enjoyed language classes because everyone was at a different speaking level, so we were able to encourage and help each other to learn. The PUC professors are also very stringent about pronunciations of words and are not shy to correct you when you speak. Although it may have been intimidating at first, their help allowed me to perfect my accent and made me more confident in speaking with Brazilians in everyday situations. The most unique part of the program was spending time with students pursuing different degrees (from bachelor's to doctorates), because it led to stimulating discussions in and out of the classroom about topics in Brazilian culture. The culture class gave us the opportunity to explore sights and museums we may not have thought to visit on our own. This program was by no means conventional, but that was what I enjoyed most about it. The way it was structured allowed me to become completely comfortable in a different culture and put me in situations in which I could achieve the ultimate goal of perfecting my Portuguese."



Costa Rica Summer Program

For the second year, Vanderbilt and Tulane offered a six-week Spanish-language immersion summer program in San José. The program is co-directed by Jimmy Huck (Political Science, Tulane) and Chalene Helmuth (Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt). Six Vanderbilt students attended the program this summer; in total the program enrolled 14 students. Students choose from service-learning courses in Latin American culture, Spanish language, social-justice, and literature and have the opportunity to participate in a LAS internship course in San José. The program also includes excursions to various areas of Costa Rica in which students explore course themes through travel and service. Look for news regarding the summer 2016 program soon.





New Digital Learning Initiative for Least Commonly Taught Languages

Using a new specially outfitted classroom (Calhoun 335), we have entered into a partnership with Duke, the University of North Carolina, and University of Virginia to pool resources in teaching least commonly taught languages. We offer K'iche' Mayan, and the introductory course now

has students from Vanderbilt (7), UVa (7), Duke (2), and UNC (1) who simultaneously take the course in virtual classrooms on their campuses.

This is Vanderbilt's first year in the partnership, and we are very pleased with the enrollments. Marieke Sattler teaches the

K'iche' courses and has worked to adapt her teaching to encourage seamless interaction with both Vanderbilt and distance students. We hope the initiative will serve as a model for other institutions struggling to maintain enrollments in Latin American LCTLs.

New Latin American Studies titles from Vanderbilt UP

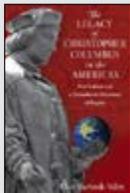


Alva Ixtlilxochitl's Native Archive and the Circulation of Knowledge in Colonial Mexico
Amber E. Brian
hardcover \$55.00

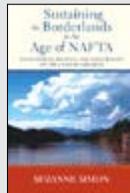


Engaging the Emotions in Spanish Culture and History
Edited by Luisa Elena Delgado, Pura Fernández, and Jo Labanyi
paperback \$34.95 • hardcover \$79.95

Now available in paperback from Vanderbilt UP



The Legacy of Christopher Columbus in the Americas: New Nations and a Transatlantic Discourse of Empire
Elise Bartosik-Vélez
paperback \$24.95 • cloth \$59.95



Sustaining the Borderlands in the Age of NAFTA: Development, Politics, and Participation on the US-Mexico Border
Suzanne Simon
paperback \$34.95 • cloth \$69.95

Forthcoming VUP Latin American Studies titles

Creating Carmen Miranda: Sex, Camp, and Transnational Stardom
Kathryn Bishop-Sanchez • cloth \$35.00

The Merchant of Havana: The Jew in the Cuban Abolitionist Archive
Stephen Silverstein • hardcover \$55.00

Black Bride of Christ: Chicaba, an African Nun in Eighteenth-Century Spain
Edited by Sue E. Houchins and Baltasar Fra-Moliner • hardcover \$65.00

Beyond Cuban Waters: África, La Yuma, and the Island's Global Imagination
Paul Ryer • paperback \$27.95 • hardcover \$59.95

CLAS Book Series

A collaboration between Vanderbilt University Press and the Vanderbilt Center for Latin American Studies, the CLAS Book Series examines all aspects of Latin American life and culture. All inquiries about the CLAS Book Series should be directed to Ted Fischer, CLAS Director (edward.f.fischer@vanderbilt.edu) or Eli Bortz, VUP Acquisitions Editor (eli.bortz@vanderbilt.edu).

Inaugural volume in the CLAS Book Series:

Anti-Drug Policies in Colombia: Successes, Failures, and Wrong Turns
Edited by Alejandro Gaviria & Daniel Mejía
hardcover \$65.00 • Forthcoming



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Order from any bookseller or call our toll-free number at 800-627-7377. For ebook pricing and other information, visit us at www.vanderbiltuniversitypress.com.

CLAS Welcomes New M.A. Students



Heather Ewing grew up in New England. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in Latin American Studies and Spanish. During university summers, Heather worked with a nonprofit in Peru on community

health projects. After graduation she received a grant to study maternal and infant health in remote communities in the Peruvian Andes. Heather's research allowed her to explore the relationship between inadequate shelter and health issues, which inspired her to take a job with Habitat for Humanity in Guatemala. After several years in Guatemala, Heather transferred to Habitat's international headquarters in Georgia. At Vanderbilt, Heather will complete an M.A. in Latin American Studies and a master of public health. She is looking forward to growing her health-specific knowledge and broadening her understanding of how to serve Latin American communities experiencing poverty.



Caleb Hayes is from Hendersonville, Tennessee, and a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University where he studied anthropology and Spanish. Caleb recently graduated from the global health track of Vanderbilt's master of

public health program. His academic pursuits have led him to study abroad in Cusco, research the folk health practices of Latinos in Murfreesboro, and conduct an analysis of data management and quality at the Primeros Pasos clinic in Guatemala. His thesis for the M.P.H. degree focused on the barriers to self-management of type 2 diabetes which Latinos face in middle Tennessee. Caleb looks forward to the opportunities provided by the M.A. program, and he hopes to achieve proficiency in the K'iche' language, develop ethnographic research skills, and apply knowledge from his public health degree.



Diogo Oliveira Do Espirito Santo is a Brazilian student from the master's program in language and culture at the Federal University of Bahia. He is also an alumnus of the Federal University of Bahia, having gradu-

ated in 2014 with a major in foreign language teaching. As an undergraduate he received a CAPES fellowship to develop intercultural teaching materials for teachers-in-training. He is part of one of the national Brazilian teams of the PPPE, an online platform that offers Portuguese as a foreign language teachers worldwide free teaching materials. As a graduate student, he has been studying the impact of intercultural teaching materials on the development of learners of critical foreign languages. Diogo is at Vanderbilt's CLAS on a nine-month Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant fellowship. The Fulbright FLTA program offers teachers the opportunity to develop not only their professional skills by practicing another language, but also their knowledge of U.S. culture. Diogo will work with CLAS and Marcio Bahia to offer Brazilian Portuguese to students at regional institutions and to engage students in learning more about Brazilian culture.



Theodora (Dora) Saclarides is a native of Illinois and a second-generation Greek immigrant. She is a 4+1 student who graduated with high honors from Vanderbilt in 2015 with majors in Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American

Studies. Dora's honors thesis focused on the definition of Argentine citizenship in Argentina's gaucho genre. As an undergraduate she spent a month working in a diabetes clinic in Quito and five months at Universidad de Buenos Aires. In Argentina, she interned with the National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Racism conducting research about the history of discrimination and political marginality of Argentina's gypsy population. Dora has served as the president of AMIGOS, a student organization that connects Vanderbilt students to volunteer opportunities with Nashville's Latino population, and as an organizer of Brazil Week. Most recently, Dora received a FIPSE/CAPES fellowship to study at Universidade Federal de Pernambuco and conducted research on

the development of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Northeast Brazil. This year, Dora will continue to study migration processes in the Western hemisphere through the lenses of anthropology and Latin American literature, as well as the development of Orthodox Christianity in the Americas.



Lynsey Sharp, a native Hoosier, graduated from Butler University with a double major in history and anthropology, along with a minor in Spanish. During her undergraduate career, she traveled to Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, and

Panama on various study abroad programs. Lynsey wrote her undergraduate honors thesis on the Cuban Revolution of 1953–1959, centering on discourses of violence surrounding the Sierra Maestra Campaign. Since graduation, she has worked at HistoryIt—a company that digitizes historical archives—as well as at the Carmel Clay Public Library in Indiana. Lynsey will be learning K'iche' as she works towards her M.A. in Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt, and she hopes to focus her academic explorations on revolutions that have occurred throughout Latin American history.



Cory Weaver is a native of Birmingham. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 2013 with a major in Spanish and a minor in international studies. He spent five months studying at Universidad de La Habana, research-

ing how the U.S. embargo against Cuba affects international diplomacy on the island. During his undergraduate career, he also worked as an ESL tutor and translator for the public school system in Tuscaloosa, AL. After graduation Cory moved to Buenos Aires. During his two years in Argentina, he collaborated with various NGOs, focusing on sustainable development projects in Buenos Aires' most impoverished neighborhoods. He also worked with an Argentine corporate mobility company, helping clients in a number of major South American cities. At Vanderbilt, Cory is studying K'iche' and hopes to improve his Portuguese. His research will focus on Latin American history and politics, with an emphasis on the Caribbean and Southern Cone regions.

2015 Summer Awards For Research And Language Study

Tinker Field Research Grants

Funding from the Tinker Foundation and the College of Arts and Science supports graduate summer research projects. Awards are for up to \$2,000 each and support travel expenses related to field research for graduate students conducting pre-dissertation research in Latin America. This award is NOT intended for advanced dissertation research, but rather to support initial hands-on field research and the development of independent research projects. CLAS awarded 10 Tinker Field Research Grants to the following students for summer 2015:

Emma Banks, a second-year Ph.D. student in anthropology, spent her summer in La Guajira, Colombia, conducting field research on how indigenous and afro-descendent communities contest their displacement and resettlement at the hands of the Cerrejón open pit coal mine. This summer research is part of her dissertation project that explores how communities claim rights to land and resources against a myriad of state, corporate, guerilla, and paramilitary actors who make up local, regional, and national authority structures. Based on this initial research, she will conduct a comparative study with communities who have different experiences of displacement and resettlement.

Oscar Castorena, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in political science, spent his summer conducting preliminary field research on independent candidates in Mexico. Seeking to understand why citizens support these candidates, what motivates politicians to pursue this path to elected office, and ultimately what are the implications for representation, he engaged in an effort to collect a diverse range of data in Mexico City in the period surrounding the June 7 federal and local elections. For his project, he also collaborated with some of the leading scholars of Mexican political elites.

Iyaxel Cojti Ren, una estudiante en antropología, visitó *Archivo General de Centroamérica y el Archivo Arquiidiocesano* con la finalidad ubicar y consultar títulos indígenas y documentos eclesiásticos escritos durante el período colonial (siglos XVI y XVII). Los temas de interés en los documentos son con respecto a la cultura e historia de la población K'iche' y de su administración temprana bajo la autoridad española. En la investigación del *Archivo General de Centroamérica* se recolectó un total de 13 títulos indígenas de carácter histórico y varios folios relativos a litigios de

tierras de la población K'iche' y de otros grupos étnicos vecinos. En el *Archivo Arquiidiocesano* se recolectó varios documentos eclesiásticos escritos a finales del siglo XVI por la orden religiosa de los Dominicos que tratan sobre la administración de la población K'iche' inmediatamente después de la venida de los españoles a Guatemala. Se aprovechó el viaje al departamento El Quiché para realizar un reconocimiento arqueológico de un sitio llamado Chuwila que se menciona repetidas veces en los textos indígenas y que valdría la pena investigarlo arqueológicamente.

Grace Fletcher, a first-year master's student pursuing a joint degree in public health and Latin American Studies, worked with a local non-governmental organization, Wuqu' Kawoq, to develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the nutrition education program it runs in rural indigenous communities. This field experience integrated her academic engagement with medical anthropology in indigenous Guatemala with her interest in further developing skills in public health research, monitoring and evaluation, and program improvement.

Lydia Harmon, a second-year master's student in earth and environmental sciences, conducted field research in southern Brazil on the supereruption-sized volcanic deposits associated with the South Atlantic rifting 128 to 135 million years ago. She collected rock samples that were later brought back to Vanderbilt to determine pre-eruptive magma body conditions and to explore local topographic features to determine the orientation and configuration of magma domes and volcanic deposits. She and the other three geologists that she collaborated with are planning to return to Brazil to teach a Maymester in 2016.

Kyle L. Harper, a second-year master's student in Latin American Studies, conducted preliminary archaeological field research at two sites in Gurupá, Brazil. The focus of his research was to understand the ways in which Fort Santo Antonio played a role in the formation of *ribeirinho* culture. By undertaking an archaeological investigation into the root of *ribeirinho* cultural formation, he hopes to better understand the ways in which large processes, such as colonialism, capitalism, and racialization, came to shape not only the cultural identity of modern day *ribeirinhos*, but also the inequalities faced by these communities both past and present.

Rosemary Lieske, a third-year Ph.D. student in anthropology, traveled to El Salvador to conduct a series of field tests at Ciudad Vieja, a sixteenth-century Spanish *villa*. Her research focuses on the production, exchange, and consumption practices of the villa inhabitants. The acquired preliminary data and the identified household areas will help her design a fundable, long-term research project and construct future proposals.

Gabriela Oré Menéndez, a third-year Ph.D. student in anthropology, conducted preliminary field research in Peru on the local effects of the mass resettlement project undertaken during the colonial period. Based on the findings through this field experience, her research will investigate relationships between *reducciones* and local systems of agricultural and pastoral production, their encompassing agro-pastoral landscapes, and the legacy effects of the *reducción* on those landscapes. She is also planning to use satellite imagery for analyzing the *reducciones* productive landscape on a regional scale.

Gloria Clemencia Pérez-Rivera, a third-year Ph.D. student in anthropology, traveled to Cartagena, Colombia, to do preliminary research working with internally displaced people (IDPs) who have relocated to this city, as well as the institutions (state and NGO organizations) that offer services to them. She focused on exploring the possibility of using the lenses of mental health to understand how the services (health, housing, food subsidies, job programs, and education) and material compensation (monetary compensation for property lost, death of family members, and sexual violence) play roles in improving or restoring certain states of "psychosocial stability" that IDPs loosely perceive as an acceptable state of mental health.

Terren Proctor, a second-year Ph.D. student in anthropology, engaged in archaeological fieldwork in Peru. In the Lurín valley, he surveyed seven archaeological sites, identifying tombs, or *chullpas*, containing human remains that will allow him to identify changes in health and general lifeways. In Huancavelica, he analyzed a collection of skeletal remains from the mining encampment of Santa-Bárbara, which yielded new data on the lifeways of indentured indigenous laborers in the Spanish colonies and the effects of high-level mercury exposure. In Ayacucho, he collected new data for a

Simon Collier Travel Awards

A historian of Chile with an expertise in Argentine tango, Simon Collier served as a former director of Vanderbilt CLAS and was chair of the Department of History. Simon Collier Travel Awards fund student research in Chile and Argentina, as well as other projects on cultural arts elsewhere in Latin America. Ranging from \$500 to \$2,000, these awards are available to both undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at Vanderbilt. CLAS awarded three Simon Collier Awards for summer 2015.

Claire Evans, a second-year Ph.D. student in political science, traveled throughout Bolivia to conduct in-depth interviews on environmental attitudes. Specifically, she focused on determining how to better measure attitudes towards the environment and understanding

when individuals are more likely to prioritize environmental protection over other issues, like economic growth.

Erin Hamilton, a second year global health M.P.H. student, completed a research internship at the Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology in Santiago, Chile. She worked with the project, Colación BKN ("Cool Snack"), a school-based intervention designed to improve the nutritional health of students attending 12 public schools in low-income communes in the metropolitan region of Santiago. She created, translated, and distributed materials to assist in the evaluation of year three of the program.

Ngairé Honey, a Ph.D. student in education, also received a Simon Collier award for summer 2015.

Summer Awards cont.

project on cranial vault modification techniques in Andean populations in the Late Intermediate Period.

Laura Sellers, a third-year Ph.D. student in political science, conducted preliminary field research in Argentina for her doctoral thesis on the use of the external vote by other Latin Americans living in Buenos Aires. She conducted five focus groups with a variety of Latin American expatriates living in Buenos Aires, did several interviews with consular officials, networked with organizations of different expatriate communities, and made connections with other scholars for future research. Through these engagements, she learned more about the political life of expatriates and about what influences their vote when they vote in their home country elections from abroad.



Latin American and Caribbean Vanderbilt Student Association

Now in its second year, LACS is a university-wide organization that aims to bring together people from the geographical and historical areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, and those interested or passionate about it. The goal of LACS is to serve as a gathering point for our members, to support international students from the region, and to make ourselves present on the Vanderbilt campus and in Nashville. We welcome all students, postdocs and visiting scholars who identify as Latin American and Caribbean, regardless of citizenship, and those who are interested or passionate about the region. CLAS works with LACS to support its events; activities for the 2015–2016 year include:

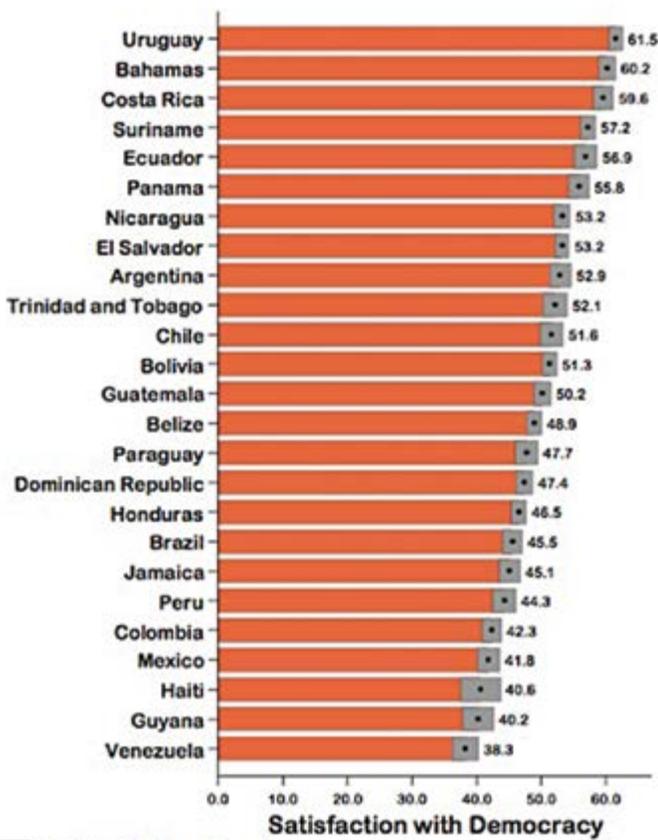
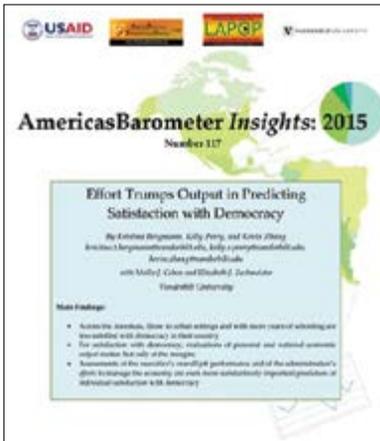
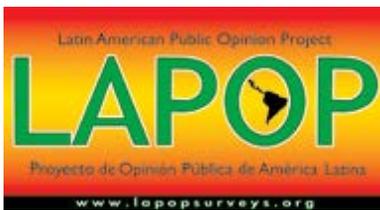
- Music and Dancing Night with live music by Revolfusion (September 11)
- Fall Social Gathering (November)
- New student conference on Latin America and the Caribbean (February)
- Annual Spring LACS BBQ (April)

New this year is the LACS exciting cooking class series! These are five small classes where one or two of our members, either originally from the region or knowledgeable about it, will teach how to make one or two dishes. We have classes featuring food from Mexico and Central America (September 17), the Andes (October 15), Brazil (November 12), the Caribbean Islands (February 18), and Southern Cone (March 17). All classes will be held at the Student Recreation Center.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

CLAS receives funding from the Department of Education to support FLAS fellowships for intensive studies of Portuguese or Latin American indigenous languages abroad. Both graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to receive FLAS fellowships and must be US citizens or permanent US residents. In 2015, eight Vanderbilt students were awarded fellowships to study K'iche' Mayan, Portuguese, or Quechua. In addition, CLAS supported students at regional institutions: a fellowship was awarded to a MTSU student Samuel Hulsey to study Quechua, and University of Texas student Alida Perrine received a FLAS to study K'iche' Mayan.





95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2014; v.GM.v.2

LAPOP’s *AmericasBarometer* reveals that government efforts can be just as, if not more, important than government outcomes when predicting levels of satisfaction with democracy. This finding is among several important contributions made by a set of reports developed by Vanderbilt undergraduate students for LAPOP’s Insights series this past year.

LAPOP Undergraduate Research Fellows and students taking Professor Liz Zechmeister’s HONS 186 course learn and apply the skills required to write data-driven, policy-relevant briefs, which are distributed to thousands of scholars and policymakers across the Americas. In one report, written by Kristina Bergmann, Kelly Perry, and Kevin Zhang, the authors show that those respondents living in urban areas and those with higher levels of education are less satisfied with democracy. The students further find that evaluations “of government efforts to deliver good economic output are significant and very strong predictors of satisfaction with democracy.” The authors break down satisfaction with democracy by country as well; the figure below, which appears in the report, looks at mean degrees of satisfaction with democracy on a scale from 0–100. Uruguayans have the highest levels of satisfaction with democracy, while Venezuelans have the lowest. The conclusions drawn in this report have important implications for the democracies in the LAC region; in addition to delivering positive results, to keep citizens satisfied with democracy, governments need to be seen by their citizens as attempting to produce effective policy.

Inaugural Collaborative Brazil Summer Institute Focused on Afro-Brazilian History, Language, and Culture

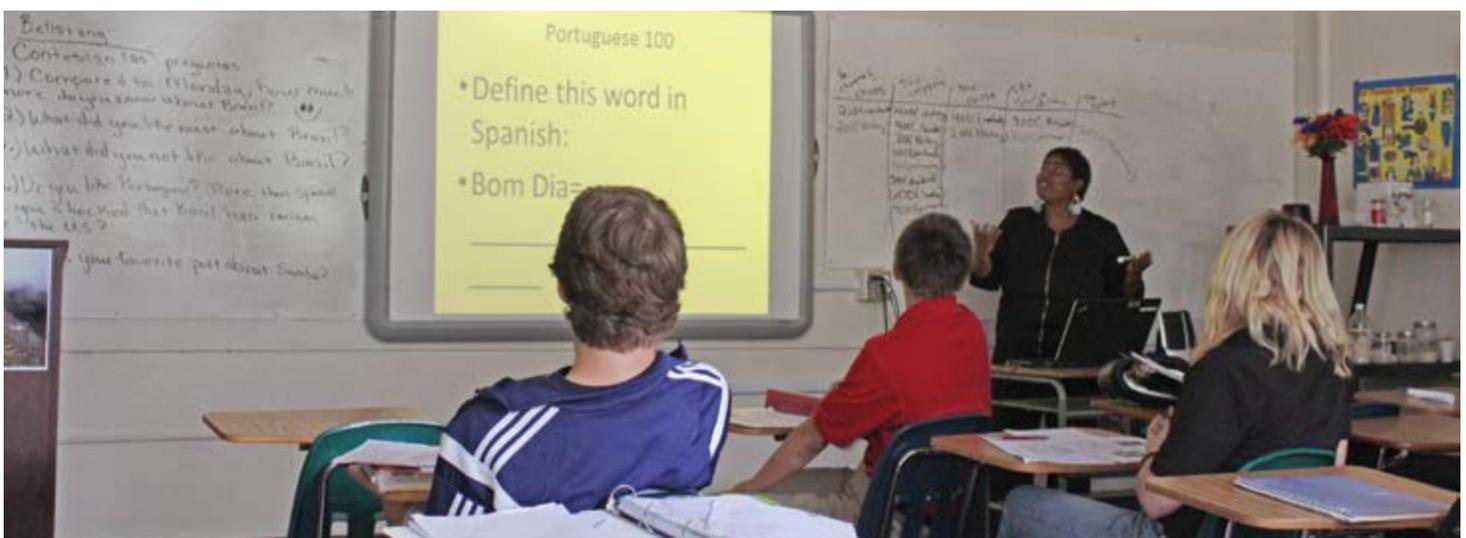
From June 14–18, Tulane University hosted the first in a four-year series of collaborative, summer K–12 institutes about Brazil organized by Vanderbilt, Tulane, and the University of Georgia. This year’s institute, entitled “Somos Nos: Teaching Afro-Brazilian Identity,” connected educators from across the southern United States with resources and information about, as well as hands-on training in, Brazilian Portuguese, Afro-Brazilian identity, Brazilian food, music, dance, popular culture, and history.

The institute featured scholars from Vanderbilt, Tulane, and the University of Georgia and included daily curriculum building sessions led by Tolosa-Casadont, clinical associate professor of language and literacy education at the UGA. Vanderbilt’s Alicia Monroe discussed Afro-Brazilian food and religious traditions, specifically candomblé. Participants learned how to integrate interactions with Portuguese speakers, community members, and others outside the school community into the classroom. Other activities included a visit to the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University where they reviewed archival resources related to the African diaspora in the Americas and a trip to the Algiers Regional Library branch of the New Orleans Public Library for a capoeira demonstration by Capoeira NOLA. The institute concluded with participants leading presentations about how they will implement workshop resources in the classroom.

Amber M. Morgan, a Spanish teacher at Madison Academic High School in Jackson, TN, immediately implemented ideas from the institute into her classroom. Her September lesson plans introduced Brazilian culture into the Spanish classroom through basic phrases in Portuguese, samba instruments songs, and discussions of the similarities and differences between racism as experienced in Brazil and the US. The unit had a special focus on orishas within Candomblé religious practices and culminated in an interactive orisha museum that showcased students’ artistic representations of orishas. All Spanish II students at the school participated in the museum and voted for their favorites. Next year’s Brazil Summer Institute will be hosted at Vanderbilt University.

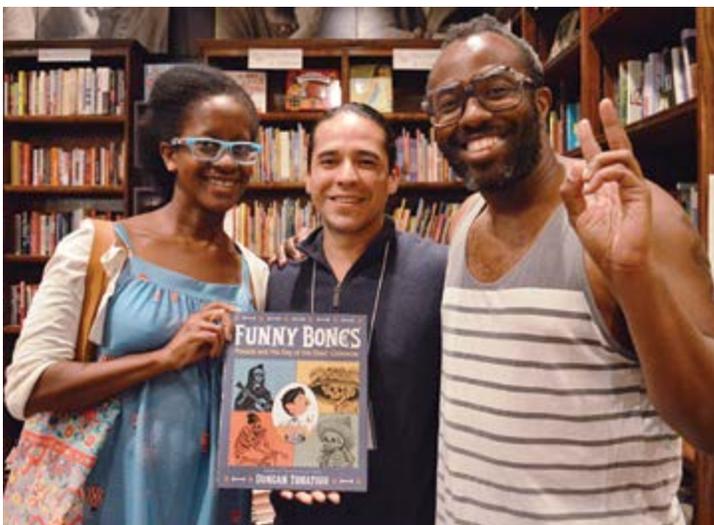


Workshop participants at the Amistad Research Center



Américas Award

The 2015 Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature went to *Silver People* by Margarita Engle (HMH Books for Young Readers) and *Separate is Never Equal* by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers). Two books were selected as honorable mention titles: *Migrant* by José Manuel Mateo and illustrated by Javier Martínez Pedro (Abrams Books for Young Readers) and *Strike!* by Larry Dane Brimner (Calkins Creek/Boyd's Mills). The awards were presented to the authors at a ceremony on September 18 at the Library of Congress. This year's ceremony featured dramatization of award-winning titles by students from the District of Columbia and Prince William County (Virginia) public schools. The previous day, CLAS and Tulane hosted a professional development workshop for educators featuring the Américas Award authors at Busboys and Poets.



Thirteen commended titles were selected this year by the committee:

- *A de Activista* written by Martha González, illustrated by Inno-santo Nagara, and published by Triangle Square
- *Abuelo* by Arthur Dorros, illustrated by Raúl Colón, and published by HarperCollins Publishers
- *Caminar* by Skily Brown, published by Candlewick Press
- *Dalia's Wondrous Hair/El Cabello Maravilloso de Dalia* by Laura Lacámara, published by Piñata Books
- *Frida & Diego: Art, Love, Life* by Catherine Reef, published by Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt
- *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces* by Isabel Quintero, published by Cinco Puntos Press
- *Green is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors*, by Roseanna Greenfield Thong, illustrated by John Parra, and published by Chronicle Books
- *Letters from Heaven* by Lydia Gil, published by Piñata Books
- *Low Riders in Space* written by Cathy Camper, illustrated by Raúl the Third, and published by Chronicle Books

- *Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes*, written by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Raúl Colón, and published by Penguin Group
- *The Secret Side of Empty*, by Maria E. Andreu, published by Running Press
- *Twas Nochebuena*, written by Roseanne Greenfield Thong, illustrated by Sara Palacios, and published by Penguin Group

Complete annotations of the Américas Award 2015 are posted on the CLASP website.

The Americas Award was founded in 1993 by the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) to encourage and commend authors, illustrators, and publishers who produce quality children's and young adult books that portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States, and to provide teachers with resources for classroom use.

CLAS Outreach Coordinator Jamie Lee Marks co-coordinates the award with Denise Woltering at Tulane's Stone Center for Latin American Studies. Members of the 2015 Américas Award selection committee were: Chair, Keira Philipp-Schnurer, University of New Mexico, NM; Barbara D'Ambruoso, Orange, CT; Denise Croker, Harpeth Hall, Nashville, TN; Laura Kleinmann, Oyster Adams Bilingual School, Washington, D.C.; Maria Sheldon, Ortiz Middle School, Santa Fe, NM.

In Focus: Teaching Latin America through Film 2015

In June, CLAS offered a professional development institute for educators, “In Focus: Teaching Latin America through Film.” Geared towards grades 4–12, the workshop introduced teachers to films that explore various aspects of Latin American histories and cultures and provide the basis for standards-driven classroom curricula related to Latin American themes.

This year’s film institute engaged diverse topics of interest to educators teaching about Latin America, including corrido music, politics, and identity in Mexico and the Mexican diaspora, Fidel Castro and US-Mexican relations, and urban planning in Latin American cities. Helena Simonett (LAS and Blair) led a discussion of the film *Al Otro Lado* (2006), providing a historical and cultural overview of corrido music in Mexico and the United States. Frank Robinson (LAS and

History) guided participants through the film *American Experience: Fidel Castro* (2004) that offers an in-depth look at crucial turning points in US-Cuban relations. CLAS Outreach Coordinator Jamie Lee Marks demonstrated the historical and political challenges facing urban planners in Latin America and highlighted innovative participatory housing and transportation projects that have inspired other urbanists and designers transnationally with the film *Urbanized* (2011).

Following the screenings, seminars, and discussions, the educators developed and shared curriculum plans with the support of Kaela Thomasson-Pavao, a graduate student in education. These resources include lesson plans for Spanish, social studies, and English classrooms; a guide for “Corridos and Al Otro Lado”; and activity guides for Cuba-US relations and urban planning in Latin America. All of these resources, copies of the films for check-out, and faculty and staff presentations can be found in the Curriculum Resources section of the CLAS website. Overall, the institute was a great success and will impact participants’ students and beyond.

Spring Collaboration with Tuskegee University Highlights Zora Neale Hurston’s Engagements in Latin America

Most recognize Zora Neale Hurston for her famous novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; less know that Hurston wrote the novel while doing anthropological fieldwork on spirituality, health, and healing practices in Haiti. Hurston’s work was truly transnational, following questions about the human experience and the African diaspora through New York, the US South, as well as to Jamaica, Haiti, and Honduras. This April, CLAS and Tuskegee University coordinated a two-day film and workshop series entitled “Zora Neale Hurston: Health and Spirituality in the Caribbean and U.S. South.”

The workshop featured Rhonda Collier, associate professor of English and interim director of the International Office at Tuskegee University; Zanice Bond, assistant professor of English at Tuskegee University; Ifeoma Nwankwo, associate professor of English and director of American Studies at Vanderbilt University; and Tatiana McInnis, a Ph.D. candidate in English at Vanderbilt University. Presentations offered participants

a greater understanding of Hurston’s work on gender and health in Haiti and the US, provided them with curricular resources on *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and strategies to incorporate oral history research by Hurston and by Ifeoma Nwankwo’s *Voices from Our America* project in the classroom. The previous day, a screening of *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy* (2009) was open to workshop participants, Tuskegee students and faculty, and the general public. Participants engaged in a post-screening discussion led by the workshop presenters about Haitian history and gendered access to social, economic, and political resources in contemporary Haiti.

Classroom curricula on these topics and resources, as well as volumes of Hurston’s collected works, a PowerPoint presentation detailing her fieldwork, and a copy of the film *Poto Mitan* are available on the Curriculum Resources section of the CLAS website.

FALL OUTREACH WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 10

Cuba: Histories of the Present K–16 Educator Workshop

Elliott Hall Space for New Media, Tennessee State University

SEPTEMBER 9–OCTOBER 9

Cuba: Histories of the Present Exhibit

Hiram Van Gordon Memorial Gallery, Elliott Hall, Tennessee State University

SEPTEMBER 7

Américas Award Ceremony

Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

SEPTEMBER 18

Teaching Civil Rights through the Américas Award Teacher Workshop

Busboys and Poets, Washington D.C.



SEPTEMBER 27

A Musical Taste of Coffee

Frist Center Auditorium, 2–3 p.m.

Gallery admission required. Members free.

OCTOBER 12

International Lens and CLAS present: 108 Cuchillo de Palo in honor of National Coming Out Day

7:30 p.m. at the Sarratt Cinema. Free and open to the public.

NOVEMBER 6

Beyond the Body: Exploring the Human Spirit through Art and Forensics Educator Professional Development Workshop

Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Cheekwood Botanical Gardens

CLAS EVENTS FALL 2015

August 20–October 16

CLAS Visiting Resource Professor
Luis Paulo Rosenberg in residence

September 1

CLAS First Tuesday Lunch Series:
Luis Paulo Rosenberg

September 11–October 9

Cuba: Histories of the Present
photo exhibit opens through
October 9; Hiram Van Gorden
Gallery at TSU

September 17

Talk by John Janusek, "Brewing
Empire: Politics, and Landscape
Transformation in the Ancient
Andes" at 4:30 p.m. in Buttrick
123; reception following

September 18–October 16

Vanderbilt Portal to Mexico City
and Honduras

September 17–18

Américas Award Teacher
Workshop and Ceremony
at the Library of Congress

September 21–25

Brazil Week

September 22

Afro-Cuban Multimedia Artist
Coco Fusco presents: Dangerous
Moves: Performance and Body
Politics in Cuba; 4:10 p.m. in the
Black Cultural Center

September 23

International Business Council/
Nashville Chamber of Commerce
Panel Presentation featuring Luis
Paulo Rosenberg

September 29

Lecture by Tomás Fernández
Robaina (University of Havana):
"Cuba and the Crucible of Race"

October 3

Celebrate Nashville Festival

October 6

CLAS First Tuesday Lunch Series:
"Una Conversación con Ernesto
Cardenal"

Public Lecture by Ernesto Cardenal:
"Politics, Poetry, and the First Latin
American Pope"

October 22

Workshop with USP and
Vanderbilt: Health, Inequality,



and Environment and Annual
São Paulo Alumni Reception

October 23

LAS Alumni Reception

October 24

Cheekwood Día de los
Muertos Festival

October 30

Día de los Muertos Celebration at
Vanderbilt with Sarratt Studios

October 30–February 14

"Phantom Bodies" at the Frist

November 3

CLAS First Tuesday Lunch
Series: Faculty Roundtable with
Dominique Behague, Alicia
Monroe, Candice Amich;
12:15–1:00 p.m. in Sarratt 331

November 6

Teacher Workshop, Beyond the
Body: Exploring the Human Spirit
through Art and Forensics (with
Tiffany Tung), collaboration with
CLAS, Cheekwood, and the Frist

Saturday, November 7

Sam Quinones Reading and Book
Signing, Parnassus Books at 2 p.m.



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