LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
ACADEMIC YEAR RECAP 2010-2011

A Word from the Director

As the 2010–2011 academic year draws to a close, I would like to share with you some of this year’s program highlights. Effective this year, all SAIS academic programs implemented their own capstone requirement to replace the previously required school-wide M.A. oral exam. As the LASP capstone, Latin American Studies concentrators were required to complete an academic or professional internship. To this end, LASP placed 27 interns/research fellows in the region for summer 2011. Study trips to Costa Rica and China provided additional opportunities for on-ground exposure. It is only through the combined efforts and steadfast support of numerous individuals and institutional donors that we are able to continue and extend these worthwhile activities to LASPies. Once again, the dedicated LASP team, the distinguished DC and Bologna professors and the superb Spanish and Portuguese language instructors all deserve special recognition for their continued commitment to the program. I was delighted to see so many of you at the recent alumni gatherings in New York and Miami; I welcome visits from those who may be in Madrid in June as I will be teaching a month-long course at the Instituto de Empresa. I hope the year ahead will bring more opportunities to engage and strengthen our vibrant LASP community.

With best wishes.

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1. Faculty Updates
Through research, publications and public outreach, LASP faculty has remained actively engaged beyond the classroom over the past year with the broader academic and policy communities. Examples are highlighted below.

Publications:
• The New Brazil (hardcover, July 2010; paperback forthcoming)
• Toodle-oo, Lula: Brazil Looks Forward with Dilma, “Current History, February 2011

Conferences:
• Sixth Annual Latin America Conference (University of Miami)
• Demographic Trends and the BRIICs (SAIS, Washington, DC)
• Global Risk: New Perspectives and Opportunities (Wharton Business School)
• Assessing Brazil’s Agenda at Home and Abroad (Council on Foreign Relations)
• The New Brazil book discussions (SAIS, Washington, DC; Columbia University, New York)
• Latin America 2060: Politics and Policies (Boston University)

2. Samuel Z. Stone Weekly Seminar Series
Again this year, we were pleased to welcome distinguished speakers to participate in our weekly Samuel Z. Stone Seminar Series. These lectures provide examples of real-world applications to classroom learning. Highlights of the 2010-2011 academic year seminar series include:
• H.E. Mauro Vieira, Brazilian Ambassador to the United States
• Dr. Sergio Aguayo (LASP alumnus), Professor, El Colegio de México; human rights advocate
• H.E. Gabriel Silva (LASP alumnus), Colombian Ambassador to the United States
• Dr. Augusto de la Torre, Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Bank
• Dr. Desmond Lachman, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

For a full list of this year’s seminars, visit http://www.sais-jhu.edu/academics/regional-studies/latin-america/seminars-events.html

3. This Year’s LASPies
LASP welcomed 71 students to the program for the 2010-2011 academic year:
• 36 first-year students (23 in DC; 13 in Bologna)
• 31 second-year students
• 4 Ph.D. students

Of these 71, there were 36 men and 35 women; 14 countries were represented (Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Peru, South Africa, Spain and the United States.)

In addition, there were 4 LASP joint-degree students at Wharton this academic year. In keeping with LASP tradition, Dr. Roett welcomed LASP students, faculty and staff to his home for wine and cheese receptions during the fall and spring semesters.

With best wishes.

Professor Francisco González

Publications:
• Financial Shocks, Economic Crises and Democracy: Lessons from Latin America (forthcoming 2011)
• “Drug Violence Isn’t Mexico’s Only Problem,” Current History, February 2011
• Mexico Country Report, Countries at the Crossroads 2010, Freedom House report

Outreach:
• Expert advisor on Mexico’s security situation and U.S.-Mexican relations, Departments of State, Defense and Justice event
• Invited speaker, Foreign Service Institute, June 2011
• Chair, U.S. Department of State Roundtable with Southern Cone Ambassadors
• Panelist, The Diane Rehm Show, March 3, 2011
• Interviews, CNN en Español, July 2010, November 2010, March 2011, May 2011

Professor Riordan Roett

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LASPies with Anne McKenzie and Guadalupe Paz

Professor Francisco González

Professor Risordon Roett

LASPies with Anne McKenzie and Guadalupe Paz
4. Internships

During summer 2010, LASP placed 19 students in eight countries in the region—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Peru, Mexico, and Uruguay. Newly confirmed opportunities for summer 2011 expanded the number and range of experiences available to first-year LASPies. This summer the program will send 27 students from the DC and Bologna campuses to the region. Consistent with the interests of the participating students, six internships were offered in the private sector, six in the public sector, nine with multilaterals, and four with nonprofit organizations. In addition, two LASP students will travel to the region to undertake research fellowships. These professional experiences give LASP interns an advantage in the increasingly competitive job market due to important skills learned on the job and cultural awareness gained from living in Latin America.

5. International Study Trips: Costa Rica and China

Costa Rica—March 2011

Our third graduate study trip to Costa Rica sent twelve students to examine Costa Rican “exceptionalism” in the context of increased regional integration and trade. Sponsored by the Zemurray Foundation and with support from CIPR/CIAPA, LASP students gained important exposure to key issues and players in the region through a program of meetings with representatives from the public, private and nonprofit communities. The highlight of the trip was the students’ meeting with President Laura Chinchilla. For a video recap, go to <<http://www.saiscostarica.com>> and select “Video Summary” from the “Our Trip” drop-down panel.

China—March 2011

For the fifth consecutive year, LASP sent a delegation of students to meet with representatives from the academic, diplomatic, public sector, private sector and media communities, with the goal of gaining a deeper understanding of the various forces at work in the changing dynamics of Sino-Latin American relations. Trip highlights included meetings at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the U.S. Embassy, Peking University, Vale, Baosteel, and a luncheon with Mexico’s Ambassador to China, among others. This trip, led by LASP Professorial Lecturer Jacqueline Mazza, brought together students from LASP and the American Foreign Policy program. A student from the Hopkins-Nanjing Center also accompanied the group.

6. Alumni Networking

Since summer 2010, alumni gatherings have been organized in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Miami, New York, and Peru. The network remains a valuable resource for recruiting purposes and social networking both in and outside of the United States. LASP alumni continue to be crucial partners in the success of the popular LASP Summer Internship Program, often serving as internship sponsors and mentors, and frequently providing in-country advice to current students.