

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

ACADEMIC YEAR RECAP 2012–2013

A Word from the Director



Another busy academic year has concluded, and I would like to provide a few program highlights from 2012–2013. After completing her SAIS Ph.D. in 2012, LASP Associate Director Guadalupe Paz was appointed to the SAIS faculty as Assistant Research Professor. She now co-teaches an applied research course with Professorial Lecturer Dr. Jacqueline Mazza in association with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)—the course allows SAIS students to conduct semester-long research projects on development issues in Latin America and present their findings to the IDB. In November 2012, 11 LASPIes traveled to Beijing and Shanghai on our 7th consecutive LASP study trip to China; in March 2013, Dr. Paz and I led a delegation of eight students on our second-ever Brazil study trip. Also related to Brazil, Senior Associate Professor Francisco E. González hosted a Brazilian congressional and business delegation, and delivered a presentation outlining U.S. shale gas extraction and the prospects of similar endeavors in Latin America. Dr. González was invited to Brazil this August to further share his research. We remain truly grateful for your assistance and support during this past academic year. Your efforts continue to strengthen our dynamic LASP community.

With best wishes,

Rindau Roett

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1. Faculty and Staff Updates



Dr. Roett speaks to NY alumni on "U.S. Foreign Policy Challenges in the Americas"



Dr. González delivers the Fisher lecture "Hijacked Country: Mexico under Mismatched Monopolies"



Guadalupe Paz celebrates 2013 commencement with graduating LASP students



Anne McKenzie meets with first-year LASPIes at the Bologna Center



John McGeoch joins the LASP staff as the new program coordinator

Professor Riordan Roett— Publications, Speaking Engagements and Media Appearances

- "Urban Giants: South America's Megacities," *SAISPHERE*, 2012-2013
- Presentation on Brazil's Economic Future, Aspen Institute, Rome, Italy, October 2012
- "Brazil Keynote Panel," Council on Foreign Relations, November 2012
- "Brazil - Future Scenarios," Network 20/20, New York City, February 2013
- "Perspectives on Brazil," State Department Conference, Meridian House International, May 2013
- "Bumpy Road Ahead for the Bolivarian Republic," *Diplomatist* (India), May 2013
- "Update on Argentina," Wharton MBA Program for Executives, May 2013

Professor Francisco E. González— Publications, Speaking Engagements and Media Appearances

- "Mexico City: Back from the Brink?" *SAISPHERE*, 2012-2013
- "Mexico," *Countries at the Crossroads*, Freedom House, October 2012
- Interviews with *CNN en Español*, November 2012
- "Financial Stability and Energy Security in the Americas and Europe," Boston University, February 2013
- "U.S.-Mexico Security Cooperation: An Overview of the Merida Initiative 2008-Present," Congressional Hearing, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, U.S. House of Representatives, May 2013
- "The Shale Gas Revolution and Why it Happened in the U.S. First," Host and presenter to Brazilian congressional and business delegation, May 2013

2. Samuel Z. Stone Seminar Series

The Samuel Z. Stone Seminars, on average eight per semester, remain an integral part of the program. The lectures are given by prominent practitioners or policy experts on varied topics of interest. Highlights of the 2012-2013 speaker series include:

- Dr. Leonardo Martínez-Díaz, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere, U.S. Department of Treasury, "Latin American Economies: Prospects for 2013-2014"
- Dr. Clifford Young, Public Sector Sr. Vice President, IPSOS Public Affairs, "The Venezuelan Elections in Review...Were the Polls Right?"
- Dr. Cynthia Arns, M.A. '86, Ph.D. '88, Director, Latin America Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, "Democratization and Internal Armed Conflict in Latin America"
- Dr. Daniel Lederman, M.A. '91, Ph.D. '01, Lead Economist, International Trade Department, The World Bank, "Economic Slowdown in China: Challenge or Opportunity for Brazil?"
- Mr. Ricardo Zuniga, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs, National Security Council, "Key Policy Challenges for the U.S. in Dealing with Latin America in 2013"
- H.E. Carlos Urrutia, Ambassador of Colombia to the United States, "Colombia After the Peace Negotiations"
- Mr. Benjamin Sessions, M.A. '96, Managing Director, Global Environment Fund, "Challenges and Trends in Infrastructure Investing in Emerging Markets"

3. This Year's LASPIes

With a total of 68 students on the DC and Bologna campuses, Latin American Studies remained one of the largest regional programs at SAIS. This student body represented 13 different countries: Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Germany, Italy, Japan, Peru, Spain, United States, and Uruguay. In May 2013, the program graduated 30 LASPIes; Ph.D. candidate Seth Colby successfully defended his dissertation. Job placements for this year's class include the Federal Reserve and Goldman Sachs (NY), Finalta (Miami), McKinsey & Company (Minneapolis), J.P. Morgan (London), The World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and Mintz Group (Washington). We extend our congratulations to the new graduates and welcome them into our dedicated alumni network.



LASPIes at this year's SAIS International Dinner

LASP Academic Year 2012–2013

4. Summer Internships & Research Fellowships in Latin America



Mr. Hildreth presents gift for this year's McKenzie Interns

Twenty-five LASP students were confirmed for summer internship/research opportunities in the following countries: Argentina (1), Brazil (6), Chile (3), Colombia (3), Costa Rica (1), Mexico (7), Panama (1), and Peru (3). In addition to long-standing placements with the IDB, IFC, and Manatt-Jones Global Strategies, LASPIes are also interning at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thomson Reuters Brazil, the Colombia-Venezuela Chamber of Commerce, among others.

These LASP capstone experiences are made possible through the generous support of alumni as well as corporate and foundation sponsors. We extend special thanks to Robert Hildreth ('75), the Zemurray Foundation, ExxonMobil, D. Scott Palmer, Olivier and Jennifer Lemaigre ('91 and '83 respectively), Robert ('67) and Leslie Botjer ('68), the Crandall Family Endowed Fund, David Kyle ('79), Sophia Lynn ('91), and David Frederick for their steadfast support.

5. International Study Trips: China and Brazil

China—November 2012

During fall break, 11 LASP students traveled to Beijing and Shanghai on the program's seventh consecutive study trip to China. The delegation explored Latin America's growing economic and political ties with China while meeting with prominent academic, public, and private sector leaders. Among the highlights were meetings with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazilian iron-ore exporter Vale, SinoLatin Capital, Chinese steelmaker Baosteel, and the Consulate General & Commercial Promotion Center of Argentina. LASP students also had the opportunity to meet with journalists from the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, and Forbes Magazine.



LASP students meet with Peruvian Ambassador and SAIS MIPP Graduate, H.E. Gonzalo Gutiérrez Reinel in Beijing



The delegation visits Virtus Founding Partner and LASP alumnus Eleazar de Carvalho Filho

Brazil—March 2013

Professors Roett and Paz led eight LASP students on a one-week study trip to Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. The trip exposed students to Brazil's role as an emerging player in world affairs with the agenda covering the country's ongoing economic/financial development and its prospects for an increasing leadership role, both regionally in South America and globally within the context of the BRICS. The LASP delegation met with representatives from the private, public, academic, diplomatic, and media communities, to discuss views on the current state of affairs. Highlights included meetings with high-level officials from Brazil's state-owned oil company Petrobras; investment firm Virtus; former Brazilian and American diplomats; Boeing; Google; and correspondents from the Financial Times, Thomson Reuters, Associated Press, Dow Jones Newswires, and the Editor-in-Chief of Brazil's leading investigative newsmagazine *Veja*.

6. Alumni Networking

Once again this academic year, alumni have continued to engage in countless ways. Although it would be impossible to name each alumnus/alumna who has contributed, your assistance through mentoring, generously donating, and participating in networking activities is deeply appreciated.



Alumni return for LASP public sector career panel.



Professor Roett at Rio de Janeiro alumni gathering



Pablo González '13 meets Pablo González '09 at DC event



LASP alumni gather for Professor Roett's April lecture in NY



Professor González at Mexico City alumni reception



2013 graduates at LASP reception

Thank You to the Classes of 2012 and 2013

On behalf of the faculty and staff of LASP, we extend a sincere thank you to the class of 2012 for its generous gift to the program. As the class wished, the donation was used to give a face-lift to our LASP office space. Recent graduates will appreciate the much improved redesign, and we are grateful for this student-led initiative.

We would also like to thank the class of 2013 for its very thoughtful gift to LASP. This is especially meaningful given the financial constraints of graduate students. In the coming academic year, we will identify the most constructive use for these funds and share our plans with you.