



 HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER  
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

REGIONAL OFFICE



**DRCLAS REGIONAL OFFICE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2005 - 2006**

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## Annual Report 2005-2006

Since its opening in August 2002, the DRCLAS Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, has worked closely with Harvard departments, schools, administrative units and the Center's Cambridge office to strengthen existing projects and develop a wide range of new programs and activities to support Harvard faculty, staff, students and alumni. The Regional Office, which serves Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru and Uruguay, is the first-ever Harvard University international office serving the entire University.

This academic year, faculty projects have included work on Culture and the Markets in Argentina; a major international seminar in Chile, *Culturas en el Aire*, which focused on the uses of the media, especially radio, to promote the languages and cultures of indigenous communities across the Americas; Health Reform and Community Medicine in Chile; and the seminar *Expanding Opportunities on Early Education for Children in Chile*. The analysis on the quality of educational programs in the public sector had such an impact that it evolved into an upcoming international conference, *Enhancing Quality of Early Education Opportunities for Children in Chile*, with the participation of experts from both the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Harvard Medical School. This initiative is a collaboration between Andrónico Luksic's new educational foundation, *Fundación Educación Oportunidad*, and Chile's Ministry of Education.

Another highlight was the presence of Harvard in Argentina. Through *Linking Culture, Experience & Education: An Honor to Mrs. Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat*, the Center honored its Argentine Advisory Committee member and donor, Mrs.

Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat, at the Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA) for her contributions to the scholarship program that has enabled more than 50 Argentines to attend Harvard over the past 8 years. Mrs. de Fortabat celebrated with close friends, including fellow DRCLAS Advisory Committee member Eduardo Costantini and other University alumni. The event included a panel presentation by Harvard faculty, staff and alumni, and a serenade by the prestigious undergraduate acapella group, the Harvard Krokodiloes.

During 2005-06, a series of special events with Harvard faculty and alumni were developed in Chile for DRCLAS Corporate Partners, special guests and Harvard alumni. Presentations included a breakfast discussion on Japan-Chile Relations by Susan Pharr, Edwin O. Reischauer Professor of Japanese Politics; a working luncheon on Globalization by David Kennedy of the Harvard Law School and the launch of the book *Teoría Impura del Derecho* by Colombian lawyer, Diego López Medina; the presentation of the bestselling book *The Dante Club* by Harvard alumnus author Matthew Pearl; and a presentation on the *ELEMENTAL* Social Housing project development by HGSE lecturer Alejandro Aravena, and Harvard alumni Pablo Allard and Andrés Iacobelli.

The Center's Regional Office has been particularly successful in expanding study abroad and internship opportunities for Harvard students, not only in Santiago but also in the region. Working closely with Harvard's Office of International Programs, the Regional Office pioneered in Santiago, in 2003, the first Harvard-administered term-time study abroad program for

Harvard College undergraduates and Harvard Law School students. In March 2006, building on a similar model to Chile's, the Office expanded the academic program offerings to Buenos Aires, where students have the opportunity to enroll for one semester, or one year, in any of three outstanding local universities. This past year, 16 students studied in Santiago and Buenos Aires.

In the summer of 2005, the Regional Office also began a new Summer Internship Program in Chile, which places students in internship sites around Santiago with families for the purpose of providing the former with meaningful experiences abroad. The program, co-sponsored by DRCLAS and the Office of Career Services, expanded in the summer 2006 to Bolivia, Argentina and Peru. A total of 48 students traveled to Santiago (30), Buenos Aires (9), Lima (5) and La Paz (4) for a two-month internship experience including home stay, a week orientation program, organized seminars and activities, and ongoing support during the internship.

#### **Robert F. Kennedy Professorship**

The Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Visiting Professorship in Latin American Studies was created at Harvard University in 1986 through a generous gift from the late Edmond Safra and the Republic of New York Corporation. DRCLAS administers the RFK Professorship, which enables Harvard to regularly invite eminent Latin Americans from any field – a composer one year, an historian the next, an architect, physiologist, legal scholar, banker, novelist, poet, economist, sociologist, anthropologist – to teach at the University for one semester.

Each year, the Center invites faculty members to nominate scholars or practitioners for the Professorship. RFK

Professors may be appointed in any department or school of the University, but must be currently residing in Latin America. In 2005–06, the Center hosted two distinguished Robert F. Kennedy Visiting Professors of Latin American Studies: Ernesto Schiefelbein, former Chilean Minister of Education, and Alejandro Poiré, professor and department chair at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and a leading scholar on the Mexican electoral process.

**Ernesto Schiefelbein** served as Chilean Minister of Education and Rector of the Universidad Santo Tomás. Previously he was Director of the UNESCO Regional Office of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean and worked as Educational Economist at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. A distinguished scholar, Schiefelbein is the author of more than ten books and is a former visiting professor at Harvard. Most recently he was appointed Visiting Professor at the Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education in Hiroshima University. During the spring 2005 term, Schiefelbein taught two courses at Harvard's Graduate School of Education: *Rethinking the Purposes of Education in Developing Countries* and *Foundations of Systemic Educational Change in Developing Countries*.