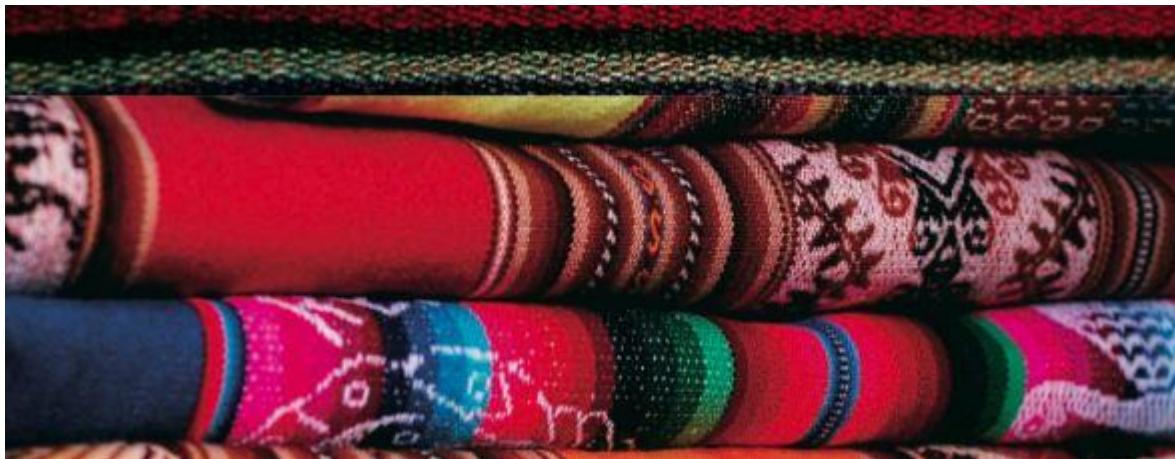




HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

REGIONAL OFFICE



**DRCLAS REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT
2007 - 2008**

To view the full Center-wide 2007-2008 annual report, please visit
<http://drclas.harvard.edu/files/drclas/files/annualreport2008.pdf>

Annual Report 2007-2008

During its sixth year of operation, the Regional Office based in Santiago, Chile continued to serve faculty, students, staff and alumni on a wide range of academic, policy and research initiatives in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

Among the initiatives undertaken by the Regional Office in 2007 - 08 bearing the greatest impact is Un Buen Comienzo (UBC), an interdisciplinary, collaborative project designed to improve the quality of early childhood programs in Chile. UBC uses a multi-faceted approach to enhance the development, education, health and growth of underserved children through teacher training and active family involvement. Through continual, generous funding and leadership from Andrónico Luksic's Fundación Educacional Oportunidad, the project seeks to place Chile at the vanguard of early childhood education, and has brought together national and international actors from the public and private sectors. Among them are Harvard's Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and Medical School (HMS), DRCLAS, Chile's Ministries of Education and Health, Fundación Educacional Oportunidad, Universidad Diego Portales, the Junta Nacional de Jardines Infantiles (JUNJI), Fundación Integra, Hogar de Cristo, Municipalidad de Peñalolén, The World Bank and UNICEF. During 2007 - 08, five faculty from HGSE and HMS visited Santiago frequently to contribute to the project's development.

During the year, the Regional Office hosted a number of events including the Chile-launch of Americas Quarterly: The Policy Journal for Our Hemisphere, a new policy journal of the Americas Society and Council of the Americas, and the first DRCLAS Corporate Partners Program held abroad,

Checking Latin America's Vital Signs. The Regional Office also co-hosted the Harvard Business School Centennial celebration as part of the HBS Global Outreach Program with the Harvard Club of Chile, during which HBS Professor Forest Reinhardt and Gustavo Herrero, director of the HBS Latin America Research Center, delivered presentations.

The Office was also host to a number of students from the College and the professional schools. The Summer Internship Program (SIP) has grown to be the University's largest of this kind, placing College students at carefully selected internship sites in Buenos Aires, La Paz, Lima and Santiago. During summer 2008, 59 students were matched with an organization and internship supervisor in a specific country of interest. Over half of the students received financial grants from DRCLAS and the Office of Career Services.

The perennially popular School of Public Health Winter Term Course on Health Reform and Community Medicine, directed by Professor Thomas Bossert, continued in January 2008. Fifteen students visited Santiago with Professor Bossert for a three-week program. They engaged in daily lectures and visited Chilean health care system representatives. A highlight was a private meeting with former President Ricardo Lagos, at his Fundación Democracia y Desarrollo.

The semester-length, for-credit Study Abroad Program in Argentina and Chile, developed in collaboration with the Office of International Programs, received 11 students during 2007 - 08. In Chile, the Program offers a public health focus for students with an academic interest in

medical and public health matters. Students also received support in identifying internship opportunities aligned with their academic areas of concentration.

In order to enhance student experiences, the Regional Office and DRCLAS created the Diálogo Latinoamericano in November 2007. This forum is organized by College students upon their return to Cambridge to reflect on and learn from their experiences studying, working and researching in Latin America. In May 2008, the first meeting of a new Faculty Committee for the Regional Office was held in Cambridge. Composed of eight faculty members from different disciplines, the Committee reviews the Regional Office activities, provides guidance and helps assess activities from the University's perspective.