



 HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

REGIONAL OFFICE



**DRCLAS REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT
2009 - 2010**

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Annual Report 2009-2010

The past academic year was one of profound changes for the Regional Office (RO) and for Chile. In September 2009, Harvard University and the Government of Chile celebrated the signing of the new Becas Chile agreement, which promotes opportunities for Chilean students who wish to pursue graduate studies at Harvard University.

In early 2010, the Center bid farewell to Steve Reifenberg, Program Director of the RO since its founding in 2002. After a lengthy and comprehensive search, the Center welcomed Ned Strong as the new Program Director of the Regional Office. A longtime friend and colleague of the Center, Mr. Strong brings a wealth of experience in the region and at Harvard. Previously, he was the Executive Director of LASPAU: Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas, a nonprofit organization affiliated with Harvard, where he directed the organization's efforts on behalf of over 30 sponsoring organizations benefiting 1,500 faculty, professionals and students annually. Prior to joining LASPAU, Mr. Strong worked for the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C., and served as a volunteer in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School and a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Amidst this great news, an earthquake struck Chile, affecting six of the country's 15 regions and leaving behind much damage and destruction, both human and material. This catastrophe signified a challenge for the Center and at the University at large; our engagement with Chile became immediately more relevant and important.

With support from DRCLAS, Chilean students at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) created the 2010 Chile Earthquake Relief Effort to help send contributions to Chile immediately after the earthquake. Merilee Grindle traveled to Chile a few weeks after and hosted an event at which she shared her reflections on the Hurricane Katrina disaster in the United States and possible lessons for Chile in light of the disaster. The Harvard Club of Chile raised funds for the Hogar de Cristo Foundation reconstruction relief efforts and sent two airplane loads of medicine to the stricken areas. In partnership with the Andrónico Luksic Abaroa Foundation, the Club is collecting tents and bicycles as well. Harvard study abroad students worked with the organization "Un Techo para Chile," building emergency houses in Píntuéc. Currently, the Center is collaborating with Harvard and MIT graduate students and faculty engaged in a dialogue with experts, to offer concrete ideas on the reconstruction process in Chile.

Enlace 2702, an initiative led by Professor Daniel Hojman (HKS), aims to involve the academic community of the Boston area in Chile's recovery efforts by producing a series of applied research briefs, while facilitating the involvement of students and scholars in projects related to the reconstruction, fostering collaboration with Chilean academics, as well as with public and private institutions. Other programmatic and research activities involving faculty and students were further developed during 2009-10. These included the continuation of the successful collaborative and interdisciplinary early education initiative, Un Buen Comienzo, as well as the Summer Internship Programs in Argentina, Chile, Peru, and a new one in

Uruguay; the Study Abroad Programs in Argentina and Chile; the Spanish and the Community Program in Peru; and the Health and Spanish Immersion Program and the Medical School Exchange Clerkship in Chile. Detailed descriptions of these activities and accomplishments can be found online at <http://drclas.harvard.edu/annual-reports>