



 HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

REGIONAL OFFICE



**DRCLAS REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT
2010 - 2011**

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Annual Report 2010-2011

The Regional Office was host to a historic event this past March. Three Presidents closely tied to Harvard were in Chile at the same time: Harvard University President Drew Faust; Chile's President Sebastian Piñera (PhD'76); and United States President Barak Obama (JD'91). The face-to-face meeting of these three leaders on the night of March 21, 2011, was a powerful symbol of the connection between the best that Harvard can offer and the hopes and dreams of people across many boundaries, a fundamental principle guiding the David Rockefeller Center's Regional Office, whose mission is being accomplished through diverse student exchange programs, support of collaborative research efforts in the region and outreach activities to alumni and friends.

In 2010-11, there were 31 faculty members involved in programs in the five countries represented by the Regional Office. In addition to collaborative research projects, faculty members were engaged in symposia and conferences. For example, Balkanski Professor of Physics and Applied Physics, Eric Mazur, gave conferences in the region to over 1000 university faculty on his revolutionary methods for teaching science. Immediately following Peru's presidential elections, Professor of Government Steve Levitsky, who spent the year as a Fulbright Scholar in Peru, was hosted by Chile's Universidad Diego Portales and Universidad Católica to speak to faculty and students on comparative politics.

Eight distinct student programs continued to attract record numbers of applicants. Programs in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Uruguay attracted more than 250 applications for 125 spaces. Within the University's new academic calendar, the Regional Office pioneered an innovative

January program for Harvard students led by Professor Brad Epps that combined Spanish language classes with earthquake reconstruction activities along with Chilean contemporaries.

The Regional Office continues to work to increase the number of students from the region studying at Harvard through collaborations with alumni clubs and with the support of endowment funds, such as the Andrónico Luksic Fellowship and the Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat Endowment Funds. To address Chile's efforts to improve the quality and capacity of universities and research centers, Vice Provost for International Affairs Jorge I. Domínguez and Minister of Education, Joaquín Lavín, reached agreement in principle to ensure greater numbers of Chilean students at Harvard through the Becas Chile program. Harvard Kennedy School Dean David Ellwood formally launched the Andrónico Luksic Fellowships to be awarded to future Chilean leaders for studies at that School.

Un Buen Comienzo, the groundbreaking early childhood education and health program supported by Advisory Committee member Andrónico Luksic, celebrated its fifth year in March 2011. Over 3,800 at-risk children in 31 schools in six vulnerable school districts in Santiago have benefited from the program. In April, HGSE Dean Kathleen McCartney joined Professor Catherine Snow to keynote an international seminar, hosted by Fundación Educacional Oportunidad, on preschool education based on the experience to date in the program. In May, the program expanded to Chile's VI Region.

During their visit in March, President Drew Faust and HKS Dean David Ellwood

hosted a meeting in Chile to determine Harvard's long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts one year after Chile's massive earthquake in February 2010. The day-long seminar, funded by the University's Provost Office and local organizations, has resulted in commitments to work in reconstruction, long-term planning and public health. A Harvard team, made up of students, members of the faculty and alumni, will work in a selected community combining expertise from various disciplines. The team will also work with municipal leaders on disaster preparedness.