



 HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

REGIONAL OFFICE



DRCLAS REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT
2013 - 2014

To view the full Center-wide 2013-2014 annual report, please visit
http://drclas.harvard.edu/files/drclas/files/ar_2013-14.pdf

Annual Report 2013-2014

Harvard's greatest strength is its ability to bring together the best minds around the most challenging issues facing the world. The Regional Office reinforces this effort in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Uruguay. Harvard faculty led efforts improved education, addressed the health and wellbeing, discovered new methods to address disasters, focused on climate change, channeled big data, made sense of historical precedents and promoted new understanding through art and design. Students immersed themselves in the cultures of the region, collaborated on local projects, honed language skills and gained practical experience that prepare them for their future.

The number of faculty members engaged in this year's programs totaled a record 31. Several examples demonstrate the range of programs. HKS professor Doug Ahlers led the Recupera Chile program, now in its third year. Three teams of seven graduate students worked in three communities, provided \$60,000 in small grants to stimulate local economic recovery. HMS professor Judy Palfrey led efforts to fortify early education contributing libraries to nine schools and treat hundreds of children to improve their health and wellbeing. Recupera Chile was recognized through an on-site visit by US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan.

The Harvard Graduate School of Education continues its collaborative efforts to improve preschool education in Chile. A comprehensive five-year study, completed last year, was made public in 2014 and has resulted in significant findings that inform future work of the program. These data have informed work in the Rancagua region where a new model of continuous

improvement has already led to improved child development.

The Harvard-Chile Innovation Initiative (HCII) approved start-up funds for 12 new faculty-led initiatives. The program, financed through Chile's National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) and the Ministry of the Economy, will provide \$1.0 million over three years.

New efforts in Peru have added new facets to the Regional Office portfolio. In addition to work in HIV-AIDS prevention by Partners in Health, the Regional Office is coordinating an expanded program involving student and faculty collaborations between Peru's Universidad Tecnológica (UTECH) and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The effort will establish research collaborations, student exchanges, and innovations in teaching and learning.

In Argentina, the Regional Office and Mundo Sano, the non-profit subsidiary of the international pharmacological company, INSUD, are developing a program to address the growing problem of parasitic diseases in the region. Argentina's Fundación RAP (Red de Acción Política) fosters political dialogue across public and private sectors. A major symposium at Harvard in March included over 50 business and political leaders. Harvard faculty members led discussion sessions among participants on economic development and the current and future state of political institutions in Argentina.

Student programs in Argentina, Peru and Chile, especially those taking place in January, added 246 participants in internships, specialized graduate courses and semester-long studies, including 72

students from the region going to Harvard through Regional Office programs. Programs offered opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students for research and internships in health policy, big data analysis, finance, journalism, medicine, Peruvian cuisine and culture, and public service.

For the first time in history, the Regional Office hosted admissions directors from seven Harvard graduate schools who presented opportunities to 200 prospective applicants in Chile. Harvard continues to be the top choice for talented graduates from the region for degree programs. In 2014 a total of 155 students and scholars from the region are studying at Harvard.

Please visit drclas.harvard.edu/regional_office for detailed information on the activities of the Regional Office.

OUR THANKS: DRCLAS is deeply grateful to Andrónico Luksic for his renewed commitment to support the Regional Office. We are also grateful to Doug Ahlers for his support of the Recupera Chile project, as well as to Judith and Sean Palfrey, Martin Zilic, Mario Valdivia, Ivan Cartes and Miho Mazereeuw who have given so much of their time and resources. We would also like to thank León Larrain; the Harvard Clubs of the region; the Regional Office Consultative Group; the Chilean Ministry of the Economy and the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología for their generous support of many of our programs and operations.