



 HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

REGIONAL OFFICE



**DRCLAS REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT
2014 - 2015**

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http://drclas.harvard.edu/files/drclas/files/ar_2014-15.pdf?m=1443626238

Annual Report 2014-2015

The Regional Office changed leadership in August 2014, when Marcela Rentería assumed the executive directorship to build upon and strengthen the great legacy that previous directors Steve Reifenberg and Ned Strong developed in the region over the past 13 years. The Regional Office also renewed the membership of its Advisory Group this past year, with HMS professor Judith Palfrey as the new Faculty Chair and members representing the countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and the United States.

Throughout the academic year and during the summer and winter breaks, the Regional Office offered a total of 11 programs in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Peru and supported a diverse array of opportunities for Harvard students to pursue their academic interests, gain professional experience, improve their language proficiency, and immerse themselves in a new culture.

The number of Harvard faculty engaged in the region increased significantly as a result of the Harvard Chile Innovation Initiative (HCII), which provided start-up funds for collaborations between Harvard and Chilean colleagues for joint research and programs. This initiative, sponsored by Chile's National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) and the Ministry of the Economy, resulted in 15 collaborative faculty projects.

The Regional Office continued strengthening existing relationships and building new ones this past year. In its fourth year, Recupera Chile launched the Granjeros del Mar (Sea Farmers) initiative to help artisanal fishermen and women develop small-scale projects in aquaculture production and commercialization in zones

affected by the tsunami and earthquake in Southern Chile. In collaboration with the Harvard Club of Chile, the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and other local partners, the Regional Office organized the first annual women's conference *La Mujer en Chile: Debates Actuales* in November 2014. Working closely with the U.S. Embassy in Chile, the Regional Office also organized academic roundtable discussions and public events, featuring the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and HKS professors Sheila Jasanoff and Thomas Kane.

A myriad of new opportunities emerged this past year in Peru. As part of the DRCLAS Visiting Scholars Program and created by the Tony Custer Family Endowment, the Custer Fellowship was launched this fall to support scholars and/or leading practitioners from Peru or dedicated to the study of Peru. Since signing a historic agreement in October 2014, Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología (UTEC) and Harvard's John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) led student exchange programs on air and water quality and launched the Harvard-UTEC Faculty Grants Program, with the first grants awarded this spring to three Harvard-UTEC faculty-developed research projects. In December, DRCLAS, with support from Universidad del Pacífico, launched in Lima the fall 2014 issue of *ReVista: The Harvard Review of Latin America* dedicated exclusively to Peru. In addition, with the signing of the HarvardMundo Sano agreement, initiatives will commence in Argentina in August 2015, with an international public health forum on forgotten and neglected disease. More information at ro.drclas.harvard.edu.

OUR THANKS: DRCLAS is deeply grateful to the Luksic family for their great generosity, supporting the office's core activities and contributing to more than a decade of success. We also would like to thank Eduardo Hochschild for his commitment to the Harvard-UTEC initiatives, Drs. Hugo Sigman and Silvia Gold for advancing the Harvard-Mundo Sano partnership, and Doug Ahlers for his constant support to the Recupera Chile project.

Our deepest gratitude also goes to our outstanding Regional Office Advisory Group, which includes distinguished members of the DRCLAS Advisory Committee who have supported the Regional Office for many years. We would like to acknowledge the new members of the Advisory Group representing the countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and the United States: Fernando Campero, Hugo Carranza, Tony Custer, Ellen Guidera, Gustavo Herrero, León Larráin, Mauricio López, Paola Luksic, Victor Marroquín, Peter Morse, Judith Palfrey (Chair), Francisco Ravecca Jones, and Cynthia Sanborn.