

**December 3 1994**

**The David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) is inaugurated**

DRCLAS works to increase knowledge of the cultures, histories, environment, and contemporary affairs of Latin America, foster cooperation and understanding among the people of the Americas, and contribute to democracy, social progress, and sustainable development throughout the hemisphere. Founded by David Rockefeller and Harvard President Neil Rudenstine, DRCLAS brings together the most qualified scholars, students, and faculty. John Coatsworth, Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs, is named Faculty Director (1994-2006).

**1995**

**Faculty working groups are created with a focus on Brazil, Mexico, and Central America**

Cross-faculty working groups receive Center support for research, workshops, and conferences. They plan major initiatives and identify topical priorities for future development. The topical priorities reflect the research interests of faculty across departments and schools and provide an intellectual meeting ground where scholars committed to basic and applied research can come together. In the first year, the Brazil Working Group, led by Professor David Maybury-Lewis, explored issues related to violence in Brazil, while the Mexican Working Group, led by Assistant Professor of Economics Aaron Tornell, organized a monthly faculty series at Harvard with policy makers, business leaders, and academics from Mexico. The Central American Working Group, explored issues of competitiveness, macro-economic reform, sustainable development, and reform of the state in Central America.

**June 1998**

**Students awarded the Certificate in Latin American Studies**

The Center awards a certificate in Latin American studies to undergraduate and graduate students. Undergraduate students who fulfilled specific course (six half courses) and presented an honors thesis on a topic relating to Latin American may apply for the award. More than 400 students have been awarded the Certificate in Latin American Studies since 1998.

**1999**

**Expanding relations between Harvard and Cuba**

The Center aimed to strengthen its scholarly relations with Cuba in ways that facilitate inter-institutional cooperation, while building capacity both at Harvard and at the collaborating institutions in Cuba. This initiative brings together scholars and scientists interested in Cuba from Harvard's rich, diverse, and often distant disciplines and professional fields for collaborative projects and activities. This includes travel by Harvard faculty and students engaged in research on Cuba, research grants, exchange programs, and courses. In 1999, the Center also organized its first conference in Havana, Cuba - La Cultura en la Historia de las Relaciones entre Cuba y Estados Unidos-hosted locally by Rafael Hernández and the Centro Juan Marinello.

## **2000**

### **DRCLAS recognized as a "National Resource Center" of Latin American Studies.**

The National Resource Center designation by the U.S. Department of Education is recognition of the high level of achievement and scholarship of faculty, the excellent library facilities of the University, and the multifaceted program of activities carried out by the Center. It provided a significant grant to build outreach and language study (the grant was subsequently renewed twice, through 2010).

## **2001**

### **The Launch of ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America magazine**

ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America, published three times yearly, focuses on different themes related to Latin America. The magazine brings together different voices on each theme, highlighting the work of Harvard faculty, students, alumni and Visiting Scholars. It was published as DRCLAS News since 1997.

## **August 2002**

### **The Regional Office opens in Santiago, Chile**

The Santiago office is the first office established outside the United States that works with the entire University. It serves Harvard faculty and students interested in the Southern Cone and Andean countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Uruguay. The purpose of the Regional Office in Santiago is to build capacity and collaborations by promoting a vibrant intellectual dialogue and synergetic initiatives between Harvard affiliates from all Schools and Centers around Harvard and Latin American partners. The Office specializes in the design, management, and co-funding of institutional projects and events that engage Harvard faculty and students in experiential learning and collaborative approaches to solve difficult problems in the Region, across many different fields.

## **Spring 2003**

### **Study Abroad Program launches in Santiago, Chile**

Elemental is a housing initiative in Chile fusing architecture, technology, urban design, and community development. This project began as an international design competition in 2003 and created an opportunity for seven architects to design and build seven communities in Chile ranging from 200 to 600 units each. An additional international competition was held in Cambridge and in 2008 housing for more than 400 families was created. The goal was to create quality communities, with low-cost housing, that are sustainable in the long-term.

## **2003**

### **The Elemental project, an innovative housing initiative in Chile, was launched**

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than 400 families was created. The goal was to create quality communities, with low-cost housing, that are sustainable in the long-term.

## **2005**

### **Puerto Rico Winter Institute in San Juan commences**

Jointly with the University of Puerto Rico, this Institute sponsors a 10-day experience in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The objective of the Institute is to stimulate research, collaboration, and intellectual exchange between Harvard and key institutions of higher learning in Puerto Rico.

## **2005**

### **First DRCLAS Summer Internship Program in Santiago, Chile**

In June 2005, the regional office initiated a Santiago Summer Internship Program that matches Harvard College student volunteers with non-governmental, cultural, public, and private sector organizations for a two-month internship. The program offers students a one-week orientation, placement in internship sites, local home stay, continued Spanish language training as well as weekly seminars and local excursions. Past students' experiences include internships in the areas of economic development, education, human rights, and research. Over 140 students have participated in this program.

## **2006**

### **Merilee Grindle is named Faculty Director**

Merilee S. Grindle is the Edward S. Mason Professor of International Development, Emerita at the Kennedy School of Government. She is a specialist on the comparative analysis of policy making, implementation, and public management in developing countries, with particular reference to Latin America. She is the author of a number of books, including *Jobs for the Boys: Patronage and the State in Comparative Perspective*; *Bureaucrats, Politicians, and Peasants in Mexico*; *State and Countryside*; *Searching for Rural Development*, *Challenging the State*; *Audacious Reforms*; *Despite the Odds*; and *Going Local*. In addition, she has written numerous articles about policy management and the political economy of reform. She also is the editor of *Politics and Policy Implementation in the Third World*; *Getting Good Government*; and *Proclaiming Revolution*. She is co-author, with John Thomas, of *Public Choices and Policy Change*, which won an award as the best book in public policy in 1991. A political scientist with a PhD from MIT, Grindle is engaged in research on the political economy of public sector reform.

## **Spring 2006**

### **DRCLAS launches Study Abroad Program in Buenos Aires, Argentina**

In partnership with Universidad de Buenos Aires, Universidad Torcuato di Tella, Universidad San Andrés, and Instituto Universitario del Arte, DRCLAS Study Abroad Program in Argentina provides Harvard College students with the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Argentinean culture. Students spend a period of five months strengthening their Spanish language skills, while receiving transfer credit to apply towards their Harvard degree.

## **June 2006**

### **DRCLAS Brazil Office opens in São Paulo**

DRCLAS celebrated the opening of a Brazil Office at an event hosted at the Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo. The office aimed to strengthen ties between Harvard and Brazilian academic and research institutions; increase opportunities for Brazilians to study at Harvard; and facilitate the research and learning activities of Harvard faculty and students in Brazil.

## **Summer 2006**

### **Summer Internship Program expanded to Argentina and Peru**

Harvard students participate in an 8-week Summer Internship Program (SIP). The program is intended for Harvard undergraduate students interested in gaining professional work experience abroad, improving their Spanish language skills, and immersing themselves in a new culture. Over 230 students have participated in these programs.

## **2008**

### **DRCLAS launches first collaborative public health field course in Brazil**

Run in collaboration with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, a Brazilian host university and additional local partners, there have been eleven editions of the public Health Collaborative Field Course in five Brazilian cities. The January course combines lectures, discussions, and site visits to hospitals, health facilities, NGOs, and community-based programs.

## **2010**

### **DRCLAS launches Arts, Film, & Culture program**

This program, formerly known as the ARTS @ DRCLAS program, seeks to foster and develop the scope of Latin American visual, verbal, and performing arts at Harvard University through exhibitions, conferences and performances.

## **2011**

### **Early Childhood Development Program in Brazil**

DRCLAS plays core role in establishing ongoing Early Childhood Development collaboration (NCPI) with Harvard's Center on the Developing Child and Brazil's Fundação Maria Cecília Souto Vidigal, Insper and USP Medical School.

## **January 2012**

### **The first Mentoring and Language Acquisition in Brazil Program**

The Mentoring and Language Acquisition in Brazil Program offers one-to-one mentorships that help high need Brazilian youth develop confidence, critical thinking, and English language skills. Combining quality mentorships with engaging content, MLAB provides positive, life-enriching experiences for youth to learn

from older peers and explore common interests. There have been eight editions of MLAB, with a total of 212 participants. Victor Domene, who participated in the first ever edition of MLAB, was the first MLAB mentee ever to be accepted to Harvard College, Class of 2018. Camilo Vasconcelos, who participated in MLAB 2017-2018 was the second MLAB mentee to be accepted to Harvard College, Class of 2023.

## **August 2012**

### **DRCLAS Mexico Office established in Mexico City**

The DRCLAS Mexico Office was established in Mexico City to support Harvard faculty, students, and staff from any part of the University and to strengthen ties between the University and institutions in the region.

## **2014**

### **Brian Farrell is named Faculty Director**

Brian D. Farrell is the Director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (as of July 2014), the Monique and Philip Lehner Professor for the Study of Latin America in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, and Curator in Entomology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. Professor Farrell is an authority on coevolution between insects and plants. His studies have shown that some of their associations have coevolved since before dinosaurs up to today, and produced the most diverse groups of species in modern biomes. His lab has new projects aimed at the coevolution of mosquitoes, their hosts and the pathogens that connect them. Professor Farrell is the author of many dozens of scientific papers and book chapters on the evolution of ecological interactions in the tropics and temperate zones. For over twenty years, Professor Farrell has also spearheaded initiatives to digitize scientific specimens in museums for free sharing via the internet, and is involved in educational projects that use these images. In 2011-2012, he was a Fulbright Scholar to the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. Professor Farrell received a BA degree in Zoology and Botany from the University of Vermont, and MS and PhD degrees from the University of Maryland.

## **Fall 2014**

### **The Andes Program expands**

The Andes Initiative incorporated events related to the Southern Cone countries of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay and, in the spring of 2015, was renamed the Andes & Southern Cone Program. This program aims to enhance collaborative research among Harvard faculty and their counterparts in the Andean region by encouraging faculty and student engagement, working closely with the DRCLAS regional office in Chile.

## **Fall 2016**

### **Harvard joins the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad**

CASA is a non-profit academic consortium of twelve leading comprehensive research universities formed for the purpose of organizing and delivering rigorous education abroad programs in collaboration with leading world universities. From its inception, the intention of CASA is to go beyond traditional study abroad, harnessing the combined resources of its member institutions — world-renowned faculty and

highly inquisitive students — to deliver full immersion opportunities that engage students with leading academics and thought-leaders around the world. Each Divisional Center has a fully operative physical presence in the host country, led by a permanent on-site administrative director and support staff. The centers provide a rich academic environment for CASA students and faculty from across disciplines to engage with select international partner universities. CASA's focus is to provide profound learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom, engaging students locally through carefully programmed curricular and co-curricular activities that are delivered, wherever possible, in the target language.

## **2017**

### **DRCLAS launches the Mexico Innovation Fund**

The goal of the Mexico Innovation Fund supports collaborative research between Harvard and Mexican academia in order to address some of the most important issues facing Mexico. The grant for faculty was established through the generous contributions of Harvard alumni and friends in Mexico and is designed to address three focus areas, to be chosen and changed each year. Grant recipients for Year 1 include Anita Berrizbeitia "Medium-Scale Redevelopment Districts as a Model for Sustainable Water Management in Mexico City," Daniel Nocera, "Field Test of a Living Biofertilizer for Crop Growth in Mexico," and Catherine Snow, "Improving Education Quality in Mexico by Supporting Teacher Learning."

## **October 2017**

### **The Eduardo Matos Moctezuma Lecture Series is inaugurated**

This initiative, led by David Carrasco, Rudenstine Professor for the Study of Latin America at the Harvard Divinity School, is a five-year effort to honor the excellence of Mexican archaeology and history, represented by the towering figure of archaeologist Eduardo Matos Moctezuma. It offers preeminent Mexican archaeologists and anthropologists the opportunity to present their work both in their homeland of Mexico and at Harvard University in Cambridge.

## **December 2017**

### **Harvard and Cuba's Ministry of Education sign a Memorandum of Understanding**

This agreement lays the foundation for expanded forms of mutual cooperation between Harvard and Cuban universities and opens up new opportunities for collaborative research projects and training and exchange programs. Pictured: Vice Provost for International Affairs, Mark Elliott and Vice Minister of the Cuban Ministry of Higher Education, Aurora Fernández.

## **May 2019**

### **DRCLAS hosts Amazonia and Our Planetary Futures: A Conference on Climate Change**

Climate change is one of the most important long-term threats for the future of our societies. Latin America, home to the largest rainforest areas in the world, is both at risk of environmental catastrophe and a key region in which models for thriving bio economies based on rainforests can evolve. In May 2019, DRCLAS hosted a symposium bringing together experts and leaders from the US and Latin America to discuss the past, present, and future of Amazonia.