GLOBAL VANDERBILT BY THE NUMBERS

• Over 40 percent of undergraduate students study abroad

• 1,540 international undergraduate and graduate students from 108 countries

• 375 visiting international scholars

• 45 student Fulbright honorees from Vanderbilt since 2011

• $450,000 per year in Department of Education Title VI funding

CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Founded in 1947, the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) has received Department of Education Title VI funding for Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) training since the late 1960s. In 2006, CLAS received its first funding as a Title VI National Resource Center (NRC); in 2010, CLAS was designated a Comprehensive NRC; in 2014, NRC and FLAS funding was renewed until 2018 with an award totaling $1.8 million. These funds have made a demonstrable impact in CLAS’s ability to train students and teachers to understand a strategic part of the world and to work with government and business leaders to bring benefits to the U.S. in security, diplomacy, and private enterprise.

While maintaining one of the strongest concentrations of Brazilianists of any university in the U.S., CLAS also has world-class programs on Central America, the study of democracy building and economic development, Latin American languages, and African populations of the new world.

CLAS provides educational seminars, advice, and counsel on Latin America to the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Southern Command (Southcom), and local and state governments (including the Tennessee State International Development Office). CLAS also trains military Foreign Area Officers (FAOs) in Portuguese and Spanish and in the cultures of the region where they will be posted. Through its K-12 programs, CLAS reached over 50,000 students last year in the mid-south area, promoting greater understanding of the region’s history, economy, and social organization. For more information, please visit vanderbilt.edu/clas.

VANDERBILT STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN STATE DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS OVERSEAS

Thirteen Vanderbilt University students were awarded scholarships through Fulbright-sponsored programs for 2016-17. Ten honorees were selected for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship program. Teaching assistants support English language instruction abroad. Three honorees were selected for the research program. Research grants provide funding for a year abroad to enable students to pursue projects that will assist them in completing theses and dissertations or to engage in advanced study at world-renowned universities. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Additionally, two Vanderbilt students and two recent graduates spent the summer of 2016 abroad in intensive language programs as U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship recipients. The Critical Language Scholarship Program is part of a U.S. government effort to dramatically expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages. For more information about these awards, please visit ohs.vanderbilt.edu.

LATIN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION PROJECT

The Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), based at Vanderbilt University, is a center for excellence in public opinion research. The LAPOP AmericasBarometer measures democratic attitudes, evaluations, and behaviors through nationally representative surveys of North, Central, and South America and most of the Caribbean. These data are used in research, evaluations, and programming related to policy areas that include democratic governance, security, economic development, health, and education. For example, AmericasBarometer data have been used in cooperative endeavors by the U.S. government and others to assess the peace process in Colombia, police responsiveness in Guyana, and corruption in Haiti.

LAPOP data are regularly utilized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in its efforts to promote democracy, development, and security. The project has received support from the National Science Foundation, which, for example, funded a study on natural disaster resilience. USAID has been a core sponsor of LAPOP research, including a recent multi-country, multi-year evaluation of the effectiveness of crime prevention programs in Central America. LAPOP regularly issues reports and gives briefings on key project findings to government, academic, and other audiences. For more information, please visit vanderbilt.edu/lapop.