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.

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STUDENT FULBRIGHT HONOREES AT VANDERBILT

Seven Vanderbilt University students were offered scholarships through Fulbright-sponsored programs for 2015-16. All seven honorees were selected for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship program. Teaching assistants support English language instruction abroad. In years past, Vanderbilt has also had students 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’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. For more information, 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.
The Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health (VIGH) facilitates international partnerships involving Vanderbilt faculty, centers and institutes, and affiliated institutions. The VIGH mission is to provide leadership in interdisciplinary education, research, service, and advocacy for health and development in resource-limited settings around the world. Below are examples of VIGH programs. For more information, please visit globalhealth.vanderbilt.edu.

3D-printing to enhance sensitivity of malaria diagnostics in Zambia

Supported by the Fogarty International Center (FIC) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Vanderbilt-Zambia Network for Innovation in Global Health Technologies program is using 3-D printers to improve the sensitivity of malaria rapid diagnostic tests. Teams of scientists, clinicians, and engineers work with partner institutions in Zambia to design and test technologies to identify individuals with very low levels of malaria infection, a goal of Zambia’s malaria elimination program.

Where global health research training meets the world

The Global Health Fellowship Program is a one-year clinical research training program for pre- and postdoctoral candidates from the U.S. and low- and middle-income countries funded by the FIC. There are five national consortia, and VIGH serves as the support center for one consortium—VECD (Vanderbilt, Emory, Cornell, and Duke Universities)—placing trainees with research institutions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

HIV care and treatment in Mozambique

Friends in Global Health (FGH) is a Vanderbilt affiliate created to strengthen the capacity of health systems to deliver high quality HIV care and treatment in countries supported by the President’s Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Operating in Mozambique, FGH’s largest source of support is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant. FGH works with local government and civil society to implement health development programs. Working with the Ministry of Health, FGH has supported the provision of HIV-related care to more than 140,000 individuals.

Stroke prevention among children with sickle cell disease in Nigeria

Vanderbilt researchers and Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital in Nigeria are conducting a research trial sponsored by NIH to study the effectiveness of the drug hydroxyurea (HU) for prevention of strokes among children with sickle cell disease. Approximately one in three newborns with sickle cell disease in the world live in Nigeria. HU may be an alternative to regular blood transfusion for prevention of strokes in high-risk children.