

## Connections between Vanderbilt's College of Arts and Science and Brazil

Vanderbilt has a long tradition of interest in Brazil's people, culture, economy and history. This interest began after World War II, when the U.S. government celebrated the Allies' victory by pumping money into the academic study of its partners in the war. Vanderbilt used that money to establish its Institute for Brazilian Studies in 1947, which was inaugurated by Brazil's President Dutra and which later became the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies. Today Vanderbilt is further broadening—yet also intensifying its focus on Brazil in its cultural and geopolitical environment through the creation of the Center for the Americas.

### **The Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies (CLAIS).**

The CLAIS arranges lectures, events, and visiting faculty related to Latin America. It also offers an undergraduate degree in Latin American and Iberian Studies, which was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation by *The Gourman Report* (1998), one of the few publications to rank specific university programs. This major requires students to be proficient in two Latin American languages, which keeps the number of majors low, but their quality extremely high (13 majors were declared as of fall 2002). CLAIS also offers an MA in Latin American Studies and, in conjunction with the Owen Graduate School of Management, a joint Master of Arts and Master of Business Administration degree and, in cooperation with the Vanderbilt School of Law, a Joint Masters of Art in Latin American Studies and a Masters in Law.

### **Brazilian Studies Association.**

In 2003-2004 the secretariat of the Brazilian Studies Association moves to Vanderbilt from the University of New Mexico. Marshall Eakin of our Department of History will become the organization's executive director.

### **The Graduate Program in Economic Development (GPED).**

Founded as a summer institute in 1954, the GPED became a comprehensive, one-year graduate program leading to the Master of Arts degree in Economics in 1956. The program trains businesspeople and government officials from all over the world, offering courses in several major areas of emphasis including Finance and Banking, International Development, Poverty and Inequality, and Development of Institutions, as well as numerous electives from across the University. **Ninety** Brazilians have graduated from the program since its initiation, and many now hold high posts in government agencies and banks across Brazil.

### **Recent Lectures, Colloquia, and Events Related to Brazil.**

- **Lecture:** "*Ethnic Politics in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Bahian Slave Society.*" April 1, 2002 by Joao Jose Reis, Professor of History, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil.
- **Brazil Week.** 5-7 November, 2002. Lectures, musical events, food, and a display on Brazil at the Central Library.
- **Colloquium:** *Black Women's Writings in Brazil.* February 12, 2002. Ms. Esmeralda Ribeiro, a renowned Afro-Brazilian writer who has published poetry, prose, and essays lectured on the role of black women in Afro-Brazilian literature and the sexism within the black movement in Brazil. Dr. Rhonda Collier, an Assistant Professor of English at Lipscomb University, discussed the poetry of black women in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States and Dr. Emanuelle Oliveira,

Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Vanderbilt University, discussed contemporary Afro-Brazilian literature and race relations in Brazil.

- **Lecture: "Modernity and Nation in the Writings of Nabuco and Sarmiento."** January 2002 by Marco Pamplona of the Pontificia Universidade Católica in Rio de Janeiro.

### **Graduate Student Exchange.**

Vanderbilt University, Howard University, and Brazil's Universidade de São Paulo and Universidade Federal da Bahia have received a four-year, \$430,000 joint grant from the departments of education in the US (FIPSE) and Brazil (CAPES) to develop a program of graduate student exchange. The universities will develop a curriculum on race, economic development and social inequality in both countries, and students will be able to earn a graduate-level certificate in this field of concentration. The curriculum's focus is based on the two nations' common history of slavery. The program will begin in 2003-04, and 10-12 students from each university will travel to the other country over the next four years. Jane Landers, Associate Professor of History and Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Science, is the director of the program at Vanderbilt.

### **Language Education.**

The CLAIS holds the prestigious certification of Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Program in the area of Portuguese language. This certification gives Vanderbilt's graduate students' access to Department of Education fellowships designed to expand the country's pool of area specialists. At present, these fellowships fund three students annually, as well as paying for an additional three students to participate in a summer intensive language training program in Brazil. CLAIS is also one of the select graduate programs approved by the U.S. Army for its Foreign Area Officer training. The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers a Master's Degree in Portuguese and a Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese. Introductory through advanced courses in Portuguese are offered to both undergraduates and graduate students.

### **Library Collections.**

The Latin American collection is one of Vanderbilt University Libraries' major strengths. The longstanding geographic focus of the Latin American collection has been on Brazil and Colombia, with a particular strength in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Brazilian history. Special collections include a collection of eighteenth and nineteenth-century accounts of travel and exploration in Latin America, with an emphasis on Brazil. The collection was built in part by decades-old programs of exchange with libraries throughout Brazil which arose from former Chancellor Branscomb's visit to Brazil with the American Library Association and the visit of Brazilian President Dutra to Vanderbilt. Mellon and Tinker grants have also allowed us to purchase many primary resources (for example, 865 volumes of 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Foreign Office correspondence with Brazil) and a number of donors have given their private libraries relating to Brazil. Last year, a donor in Brazil gave us a collection of approximately 500 Brazilian art books and exhibition catalogs, and political and artistic posters.

### **Faculty Ties and Research.**

Vanderbilt is home to eight Brazil specialists in the humanities and social sciences. Below are some examples of their accomplishments.

- In September 2002, Marshall Eakin, Chair of Vanderbilt's Department of History, was awarded the Order of Rio Branco at the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, DC. The award is given to foreigners (and sometimes to Brazilians) for their contributions to Brazil's relations with the world. Dr. Eakin's research focuses on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Brazil, especially the history of industrialization and nation-building. His publications include *British Enterprise in Brazil: The St. John d'el Rey Mining Company and the Morro Velho Gold Mine, 1830-1960* (Duke, 1989),

*Brazil: The Once and Future Country* (St. Martin's, 1997) and *Tropical Capitalism: The Industrialization of Belo Horizonte, Brazil* (Palgrave, 2001).

- Don H. Doyle, Nelson Tyrone Jr. Professor of History, has just been selected as the inaugural Fulbright Chair in American history, established by the Brazil Fulbright Commission. Dr. Doyle will be hosted by Pontifícia Universidade Católica in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he will teach a seminar for post-graduate students titled “Nationalism in the Americas” with PUC-Rio Professor of History Marco Pamplona during the spring 2004 semester.
- Beth Conklin, Associate Professor of Anthropology, continues to receive international attention for her book *Consuming Grief: Compassionate Cannibalism in an Amazonian Community* (2001). Articles about her work have appeared over the past year in *Science Illustrated* (Sweden), *GEO Magazine* (Germany and Korea), *Der Spiegel* (Germany), *TV7 Magazine* (England), *The San Francisco Examiner*, *The Toronto Globe & Mail*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Earl Fitz’s recent book on Brazilian Novelist Clarice Lispector, *Sexuality and Being in the Poststructuralist Universe of Clarice Lispector: The Différance of Desire* (2001) has been widely reviewed. Dr. Fitz is a Professor of Portuguese, Spanish, and Comparative Literature at Vanderbilt. His research focuses on Brazilian narrative and poetry, comparative studies between Brazil and Spanish-America, inter-American literature; ambiguity and gender in the New Novel of Latin America, Modernism in the Americas; and colonial literature. His other works include: *Ambiguity and Gender in the New Novel of Spanish America and Brazil* (1993); *Rediscovering the New World: Inter-American Literature in a Comparative Context* (1991); *Machado de Assis* (1989); *Clarice Lispector* (1985).
- Tom Gregor, Professor of Anthropology, is currently completing a book on peaceful relations among tribes in Central Brazil and a co-edited volume comparing the cultures of Amazonia and Melanesia. Dr. Gregor is author of *Mehinaku: The Drama of Daily Life in a Brazilian Indian Village* (1977) and *Anxious Pleasures: The Sexual Lives of an Amazonian People* (1985). His edited books include *A Natural History of Peace* and *The Anthropology of Peace and Nonviolence*. He has worked as a film maker for the BBC, Grenada Television and NET in making the television films *Mehinaku*, *We are Mehinaku*, *Feathered Arrows* and *Dreams from the Forest*.

### **Visiting Scholars .**

Andre Souza, of the Department of Economics, the Universidade de Sao Paulo served as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Economics in 2002-03. He returned to São Paulo but holds an adjunct assistant professorship at Vanderbilt and is very engaged in our new FIPSE/CAPES exchange program. Our visitor this year, Mariza de Carvalho Soares, is from the Universidade Federal Fluminense in Rio. She and Jane Landers, of the Department of History, have collaborated on several research projects and publications and have submitted a major collaborative research proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities which will link Vanderbilt with the Universidade Federal Fluminense and York University in Canada. The number of visiting Brazilian scholars at Vanderbilt may be expected to rise with the initiation of the Center for the Americas and with several upcoming grants.

### **The Center for the Americas .**

The University has recently committed more than four million dollars of internal start-up funding for the creation of a Center for the Americas. The Center will create a core community of Resident Fellows drawn not only from the College of Arts and Science, but from Peabody, Engineering, Divinity, and Blair, as well as from Vanderbilt's professional schools, including Law, Nursing, the Owen School of Management, and the Medical Center, Graduate Fellows, Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows, and Visiting Scholars. Through its Development and Travel Grants, the Center will fund field work, innovative research, and special projects on the Americas.