

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

IN THE NEWS

IAF Fellowship Program Reactivated

On March 17 at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Congress held in San Juan, the IAF announced the reactivation of its Fellowship Program supporting doctoral research on grassroots development topics in Latin America and the Caribbean by students enrolled in U.S. universities. Jonathan Fox, a professor of Latin American and Latino Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz and a former IAF fellow, Mitch Seligson a centennial professor of Political Science and a fellow of the Center for the Americas at Vanderbilt University and a former IAF academic selection committee member, IAF vice president for External Affairs Patrick Breslin and IAF editor Paula Durbin discussed the program intended to increase awareness of grassroots development efforts and strengthen the community of scholars knowledgeable in the subject. Fellowship awards will cover round-trip international transportation to the research site and a \$2,000 monthly stipend for up to 12 months. Visit www.iaf.gov/fellowships/about_program_en.asp for more information.



IAF Partnering for Power: Perspectives from Community-based Recycling panel at LASA.

The LASA Congress, held every 18 months, brings together more than 5,000 researchers and academics from throughout the hemisphere to discuss topics related to Latin America and Caribbean. The IAF sponsored a panel on grassroots recycling projects drawn from its portfolio. Adriana Mota of Nova Pesquisa e Assessoria em Educação (NOVA) in Brazil, Nohra Padilla of Asociación Cooperativa de Recicladores de Bogotá (ARB) Colombia, Beatriz Febres-Cordero of Fundación Papyrus in Venezuela, a graduate student at Georgetown University Meredith Sanderson, and Gabriela Boyer IAF representative for Argentina, photographed above, presented. For information on the Congress, visit <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu>.

Opportunity Zones

In February, senior staff and IAF representatives for Guatemala and Nicaragua explored with government officials in those countries interest in Opportunity Zones, an IAF initiative included in the Summit of the Americas agenda which would target five microregions for economic development. The concept draws from 20 years of U.S. experience with incentives to encourage business ownership, local investment and civic partnerships as ways to help people bring themselves out of poverty. IAF's president Larry Palmer and vice-president for programs Ramon Daubon also met with interested representatives from NGOs, local government and the private sector. Guatemalan and Nicaraguan officials are now reviewing their regulatory frameworks and are organizing delegations to visit selected U.S. zones. IAF's staff is coordinating with staff of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which has been the coordinating center for Opportunity Zones in the U.S. since the 1980s.

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Grantee News

Travel Grants

U.S. State Dept



In January, the IAF sponsored Afro-Nicaraguan youths in *Viajes Personales*, a photography and oral history youth workshop organized in Bluefields, Nicaragua, by the State Department's Office of Public Diplomacy. IAF-sponsored grantees Ayana Jackson and Marco Villalobos (left) highlighted the work of

10 Afro-Caribbean students from Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast at an event with U.S. Ambassador Trivelli. Approximately 100 residents of Bluefields attended the opening, and the event made front page news in *La Prensa*, a Nicaraguan daily.

Recognition

In December, the Puno Chamber of Commerce awarded Centro Para el Desarrollo Sostenible (CEDESOS) its 2005 *Chuspa de Plata* for the IAF grantee's work in rural eco-tourism in the district of Capachica along the northern shore of Lake Titicaca. CEDESOS received its IAF grant in 2004 and offers training, technical assistance, credit and promotional services to 50 families operating hostels and craft workshops.

In December, UNESCO recognized Museo Rabinal Achi, an IAF grantee in Guatemala, for its revival of traditional Rabinal dance. The Museo was among 43 organizations selected for this international distinction intended to raise public awareness of the value of cultural heritage. On Feb. 2, *El Periódico*, a Guatemalan daily, highlighted the Museo's display of traditional dance in Plaza de España, a central venue in Guatemala City. For UNESCO's press release, click here: <http://portal.unesco.org>. To read the news article, click here www.elperiodico.com.gt/.

Where are they now?

Sal LaSpada, a former IAF Fellow specialized in Brazil and former Rockefeller Foundation employee, was appointed to the Institute for Philanthropy in London. For more information, visit www.instituteforphilanthropy.org.uk.

Grantee Resources

Courses

DelNet, the International Labor Organization's training center, is offering online courses in Spanish and Portuguese on local development and gender perspectives. Classes start May 9. Visit www.itcilo.org/delnet or email delnet@itcilo.org for more information.

The Iberia-American Union of Municipalities (UIM), a non-governmental international organization based in Spain, is offering online course in public administration and local development. Classes start in April. Log on to www.uimunicipalistas.org for more information.

Organización para el Desarrollo de América Latina y Caribe (ONWARD) is offering fellowships for local development courses in various countries throughout the hemisphere. Visit www.onward.org.br or email onward@onward.org.br for a complete schedule of listing.

Fellowships

The University of Pittsburgh is receiving applications for the J. Heinz Company Foundation Fellowship program which awards two one-year fellowships to emerging leaders in developing countries to study sustainable development, governance, public health or conflict resolution. For more information visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/heinzfellowship or email heinz@ucis.pitt.edu.

The Nonprofit Academic Centers Council is accepting applications for the 2006 David Stevenson and William Diaz Faculty Fellowships. These fellowships are awarded to faculty members of color teaching and conducting research in the field of philanthropic and nonprofit sector studies. Visit www.naccouncil.org/fellowships.asp for a copy of the application.

The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), based in San Francisco, wants to publish stories from the African Diaspora on its Web site. MoAD helps bring Africa, the African Diaspora and the world community closer together through innovative communications systems. Visit www.moadsf.org for more information.

RedEAmérica Update

A team representing RedEAmérica members attended the European Foundation Centre (EFC) Latin America/Caribbean Funders Network meeting held Jan. 18-19 in Madrid. Raul Gauto (Avina, Paraguay), Guillermo Carvajalino (Empresarios por la Educación, Colombia) Alejandro Martínez (Fundación Merced, México), Andrea Tapia (CEMEFI, México) and Graciela Pantín (Fundación Polar, Venezuela) introduced the RedEAmérica model to the group of international funders. The event was a preparatory meeting for a larger international gathering that EFC is planning for May 26-28 in Brussels, in which RedEAmérica will be involved. RedEAmérica is an IAF-supported initiative to engage companies and corporate foundations in grassroots development. Founded in 2002, it now has 55 members in 12 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. For more information, visit <www.redeamerica.org>. For a summary of the Madrid meeting in English, visit <<http://www.efc.be/agenda/event.asp?EventID=3147>>.

Guests @ the IAF

On Nov. 17, Gracia Maria Rusconi from CARECEN spoke to the IAF about her work linking local development projects in El Salvador with U.S.- based hometown associations. CARECEN and another IAF grantee, Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE), are training 20 communities in three municipalities in participatory processes.

Michael Fernández, executive director of CARAS, a student-created, led and operated initiative, spoke to the IAF on Dec. 8 about its community work in Latin America and the Caribbean. CARAS has organized more than seven trips for 200 students to communities in Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico and Honduras. For students to assist your community development programs, contact Michael at: mfernandez@cara-dc.org.

On Feb. 9, Amb. Raul Gangotena, president of Enlace Andino LLC and former U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador, spoke on land trusts in Ecuador similar to those developed in Alaska in the 1970s. Chuck Kleymeyer, senior fellow at the Center for Native Lands and former IAF representative for Ecuador, commented on the initiative.

On Feb. 8, Dan Martin, senior managing director of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Japanese government, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank, spoke to IAF staff. The Fund is designed to protect natural hotspots around the world through programs in conservation and community management of endangered areas. In Latin America, it has programs in the Atlantic Forest, mostly in Brazil; Meso-America, in Central America and southern and coastal Mexico; the tropical Andes of Argentina, Bolivia and Peru; and in the Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalená extending from coastal Peru and Ecuador to the Colombian Caribbean.



The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) is an independent agency of the United States government that provides grants to non-governmental and community-based organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean for innovative, sustainable and participatory self-help programs. The IAF primarily funds partnerships among grassroots and nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments, directed at improving the quality of life of poor people and strengthening participation, accountability and democratic practices. To contribute to a better understanding of the development process, the IAF also shares its experiences and the lessons it has learned.

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Upcoming Conferences

“African Beat, Caribbean Echoes: Blackness in the Formation of Dominican Identity” Washington, D.C., May 11

The Dominican Republic is a pluralistic society with African, Hispanic and other influences. The IAF, the National Council of La Raza and the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race will co-sponsor a panel of Dominican and Dominican-American academics, activists and practitioners who will speak on racism: How race affects the ability to get a job or an education. How it affects the country's development. How individual panelists have worked to combat racism. How Dominicans perceive their cultural identity. Family relations and domestic violence will be also examined.

“Santiago +5” Latin American Regional Conference against Racism, Brasilia, March 31

Following up on the Durban conference of 2001, Latin American and Caribbean representatives of communities of African descent will verify goals met and set a new agenda for inclusion and poverty alleviation. The IAF will fund 10 travel grants for participants from Latin America and the Caribbean. Visit <www.santiago-mascincio.cl> for more information on the pre-conference held in Santiago, Aug. 10-12, 2005.

Twelfth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities, Miami, June 5 - 8

The IAF will coordinate with Miami-Dade County and Florida International University for the twelfth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities, a forum where participants representing government, NGOs, donor organizations and others interested in strengthening local government share experiences, information and practices, and discuss common goals for the promotion of local democracy throughout the hemisphere.

The IAF is sponsoring training workshops that will analyze specific Latin America and U.S. partnerships for local development among mayors and civil society and business groups. This year the conference will focus on the Summit of the Americas' Opportunity Zones proposal, in particular on the U.S. experience, on implementing the policy in Latin America and on soliciting proposals from the mayors at the conference.

For more information on the conference, contact Cristina A. Rodriguez-Acosta at the Florida International's Institute for Public Management and Community Service: Tel 305.348-1271; fax 305.348-1273; <lagierc@fiu.edu>.

CIVICUS World Assembly, Glasgow, Scotland June 21 – 25

Participants will learn some successful strategies for inclusive community development. IAF's panel of grantee representatives will discuss the challenges of social exclusion and how they have successfully fought social, political and economic discrimination. The panel, in Spanish, will share development lessons from IAF-funded projects. For more information on the conference, visit <www.civicassembly.org>.

National Council of La Raza (NCLR) Conference, Los Angeles, July 8-11

The IAF is planning panels of current or former grantees on Afro-Latino issues and transnational communities. *Afro-Latina Women Speak Up: A Discussion on Gender, Ethnicity and Community* addresses a broad array of social issues that impact Afro-Latinos in the U.S. and in Latin America. Panelist will share their experience with community engagement, grassroots development and the emergence of a stronger role for *Afro-Latinas*. *Communities across Borders: Latin American Immigrants and their Homelands* compare Mexican, Salvadoran, Dominican and Guatemalan experiences with community development at home and the U.S.

Workshops and Meetings

A Race Agenda for Latin America

The IAF co-sponsored a one-day conference at the World Bank on Feb. 28 with the Inter-American Dialogue, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), the Pan American Health Organization and the Organization of American States. The goal is an agenda to advance racial equality in Latin America. More than 40 prominent political, business, academic and NGO leaders discussed the impact of race-based discrimination against Latin Americans of African descent. The IAF sponsored the travel of 22 participants from Latin America. Representatives Charles Rangel (D-NY), Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and Donald Payne (D-NJ) joined guests at the reception on Capitol Hill. For more information visit <www.iadialog.org/iac/eng/index.html>.

The Politics of Social Policy: Inequality and Citizenship

Twenty-five researchers and practitioners met in Olinda, Brazil, March 10-12 to discuss inequality and citizenship in Latin America. The conference was organized by the Center for Latin American Social Policy at the University of Texas at Austin. IAF's representative for Brazil, Miriam Brandao, and local services contractor Juliana Menucci as well as representatives from IAF grantees Centro Diocesano de Apoio ao Pequeno Produtor (CEDAPP) and Fundo Rotativo da Ação da Cidadania (CRED CIDADANIA) attended.

IAF Program Workshop

IAF program staff met in Panama City with local liaison contractors Jan. 30-Feb 3 to review program management structure, roles and general coordination of IAF grant functions.

Persons with Disabilities at the U.N.

The IAF sponsored 11 Latin American and Caribbean civil society representatives at the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on the Convention of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The document, now in draft, is expected to become an instrument of international law that will protect the rights of persons with disabilities. IAF-sponsored participants represented diverse nationalities, ethnicities and advocacy backgrounds but shared a commitment to making their voices heard. Eduardo Rodriguez-Frias of IAF's Office of Operations participated in drafting the convention.

IAF publications



The IAF's 2005 Year in Review appeared in English the week of March 10. The Spanish and Portuguese versions are in production.

Photos

Mark Caicedo's photo essay *On the Border* was displayed in the Cooper Queen Library of the Arizona State University in Bisbee in December and January.

Making Their Way, a collection of photographs documenting the Inter-American Foundation's portfolio of grants for grassroots development in Latin America and the Caribbean, will be on display Feb. 10 - April 4 in the central foyer of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. This exhibit was displayed earlier at the University of Texas at Austin in the Benson Library. To borrow the exhibit, please contact Mark Caicedo at <mcaicedo@iaf.gov>.

Studies

The final report on the Afro-Descendants' online forum offers recommendations to civil society organizations working on issues affecting African descendants in the Western Hemisphere. The virtual forum was hosted by Partners of Americas with support from the IAF, Centro de Mujeres Afrocostarricenses, Global Rights, the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America and the Inter-American Democracy Network. Some 200 civil society participants from 28 countries participated in the forum held between Sept. 19 and Oct. 21, 2005. For the report, visit <www.partners.net>.

Useful Links

LogoLink, a global network of civil society organizations, research institutions and governments working to deepen democracy, has launched a Spanish and Portuguese Web site. Log onto <www.logolinkla.org>, to read a quarterly newsletter, learn about regional events or browse the online library.

The Woodrow Wilson Center's Mexico Institute has launched a Web site on Mexico's upcoming presidential election. Materials for the site were developed from the IAF-cosponsored workshop on Mexican migrant civic and political participation held Nov. 4-5 at the Wilson Center. For election-related analyses, daily updates and polling information, visit <www.wilsoncenter.org/mexicoelections>. For more on the event, visit <www.wilsoncenter.org/migrantparticipation>.

In the News

Associação dos Artesãos de Imperatriz (ASSARI) published an article on Larry Palmer's November visit to Imperatriz, Maranhao, Brazil, on its Web site. The 2005 grantee works to assure artisans a fair price for their products. For the article, go to <www.aciima.com.br/default.asp?id=noticias&id2=2282>.

On Nov. 29, *El Siglo*, a Panamanian daily, mentioned Fundación para el Desarrollo Integrado Sustentable's (FUDIS) collaborative work with the national professional association (Instituto Nacional de Formación Profesional-INAFORP). A 2004 grantee, FUDIS has local development projects throughout Panama. For more information, visit <www.fudis.info>.

The Jan. 7 edition of *La Razón*, Bolivia's most important daily, highlighted IAF's work with an article in the editorial section listing all projects supported in 2005.

"Local Heroes," by Dan Gordon, in the fall 2005 Stanford University's *Social Innovation Review* describes impressive accomplishments of the Federación de Clubes Zacatecanos del Sur de California, an IAF partner, in improving living conditions back home. *Grassroots Development* will reprint the article in its 2006 issue.

On Jan. 22, Peru's most widely read newspaper, *El Comercio*, reported on the successful capital investment in bamboo by Centro de Investigación, Capacitación, Asesoría y Promoción (CICAP). The 2005 IAF grantee provides training, technical assistance and capital to 400 bamboo farmers in the Upper Zaña River Basin.

On Feb. 9, El Ceibo, an IAF recycling project in Buenos Aires, was highlighted in the Buenos Aires daily newspaper *La Nación*. The newspaper reported that a new municipal ordinance design to reduce solid waste would require residents of the Palermo neighborhood served by El Ceibo to sort their trash before disposal. For the article, visit <www.lanacion.com.ar/informaciongeneral/nota.asp?nota_id=779226&origen=premium>.

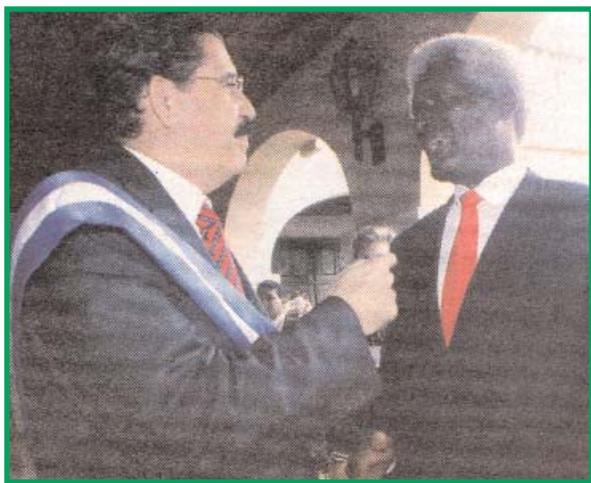
Videos

Escuela de Ciudadanía in Quito is transforming sports leagues and clubs into spaces for dialogue on community planning and civic engagement and for leadership training. In December the IAF viewed a video produced by the grantee and available for dissemination. Contact Marnie Schilken for information <mschilken@iaf.gov>.

Haiti Lumière Demain (HLD) a Haitian-American NGO based in Connecticut, produced a short video on its effort to promote education in La Gonaive, Haiti, which was viewed at the IAF in January. For more information visit <www.haitilumiere.org>.

Palmer in Honduras

IAF president Larry Palmer was a special guest at the inauguration of President Manuel Zelaya on January 27. His attendance was highlighted in Tegucigalpa's dailies *El Heraldo* and *La Tribuna*. The occasion represented Palmer's first visit to Honduras since leaving his post there as the U.S. ambassador, where he was appointed in 2002.



La Tribuna

Larry Palmer with President Zelaya.

New Staff

Jennifer Rebecca Hodges, IAF's general counsel and congressional liaison, has a J.D. from University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She worked with the White House Office of Counsel, James Lee Witt Associates, at the Department of Agriculture and at the National Transportation Safety Board of the Department of Transportation and with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Anthony Cochran, IAF's general services office assistant, worked 17 years with the District of Columbia's Housing Authority. He was also vice president and a shop steward for the American Federation of Government Employees.

Becky Verreau, legal assistant, graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School, where she specialized in human rights and international law, she is a member of New York bar. She worked at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York and taught in Toyama Prefecture, Japan.

Jenny Martinez is the IAF representative for Guatemala.

Eduardo Rodriguez-Frias was promoted to the Office of Operations' staff assistant.

Staff Activities

On Dec. 16 Jill Wheeler, IAF representative for Mexico, spoke at the Binational Forum on Productive and Social Projects in Jamay, Jalisco. The event organized by the Federación de Clubes Jaliscienses de California was attended by about 250 participants including migrant leaders from the U.S., the governor of Jalisco, and other local and state authorities.

Board of Directors

The IAF board of directors will meet at our Arlington Offices on May 22.

Foundation Evaluation

The IAF was one of more than 800 executive branch federal government programs evaluated by the Office of Management and Budget of the White House during 2005. According to OMB, the IAF demonstrated an effective approach to grassroots development and showed a commitment to funding innovative proposals submitted by grassroots groups. For more on the evaluation system and the IAF's rating, visit <www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expect-more/summary.10004613.2005.html>.

Farewell

AF program staff assistant Megan M. Moriarty left in March to become the grants manager at the Montgomery County Community Foundation in Silver Springs, MD. The MCCF is part of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region.

Interns

Brian Miller, an undergraduate at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, is working with the Office of Operations to identify common problems with grantee audits.

Jandel Reading, an undergraduate at Brigham Young University, is working with RedEAmérica projects.

Sarah Hansen, of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, is analyzing the Getulio Vargas Institute's evaluations of IAF projects.

Student volunteer forms for the 2005/06 academic school year are available upon request. For further information, e-mail info@iaf.gov.