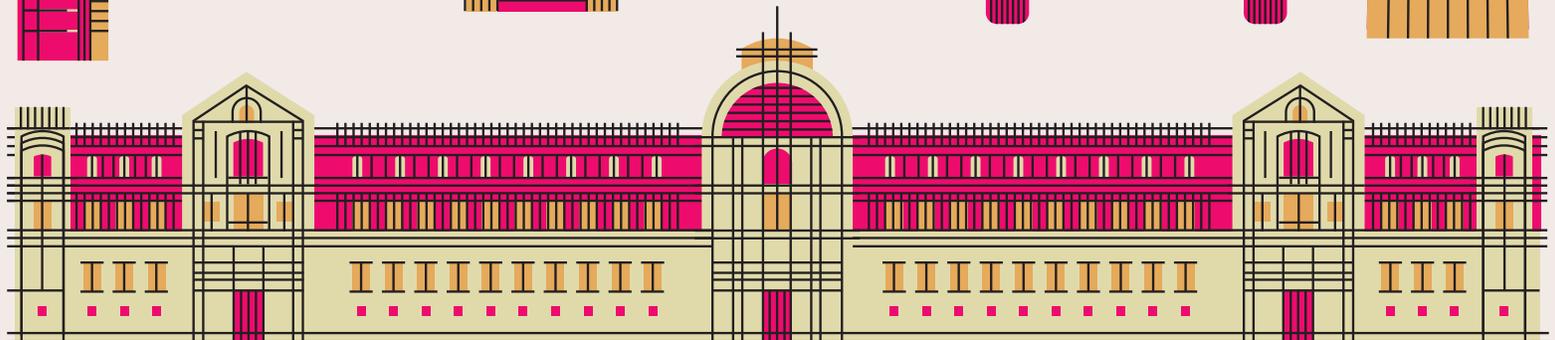
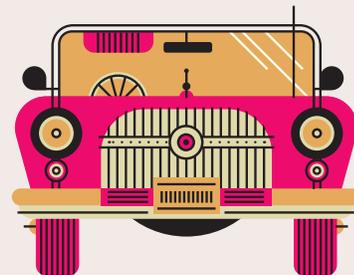
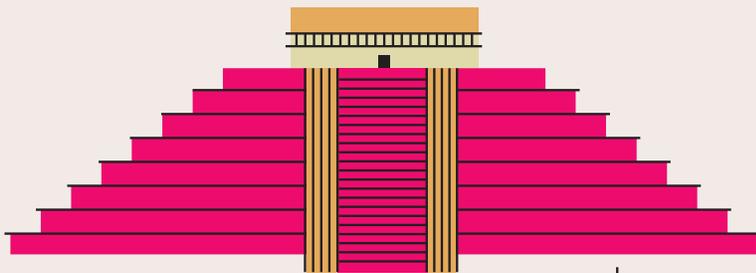
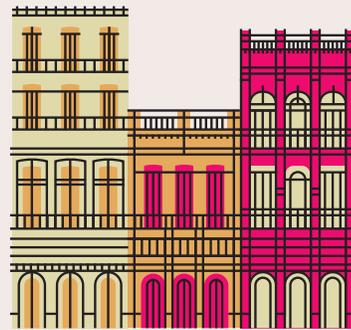
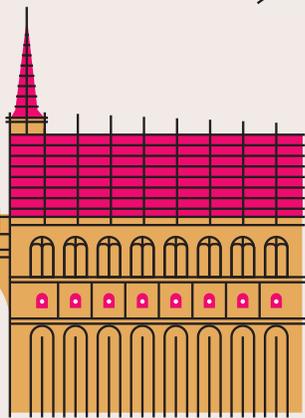
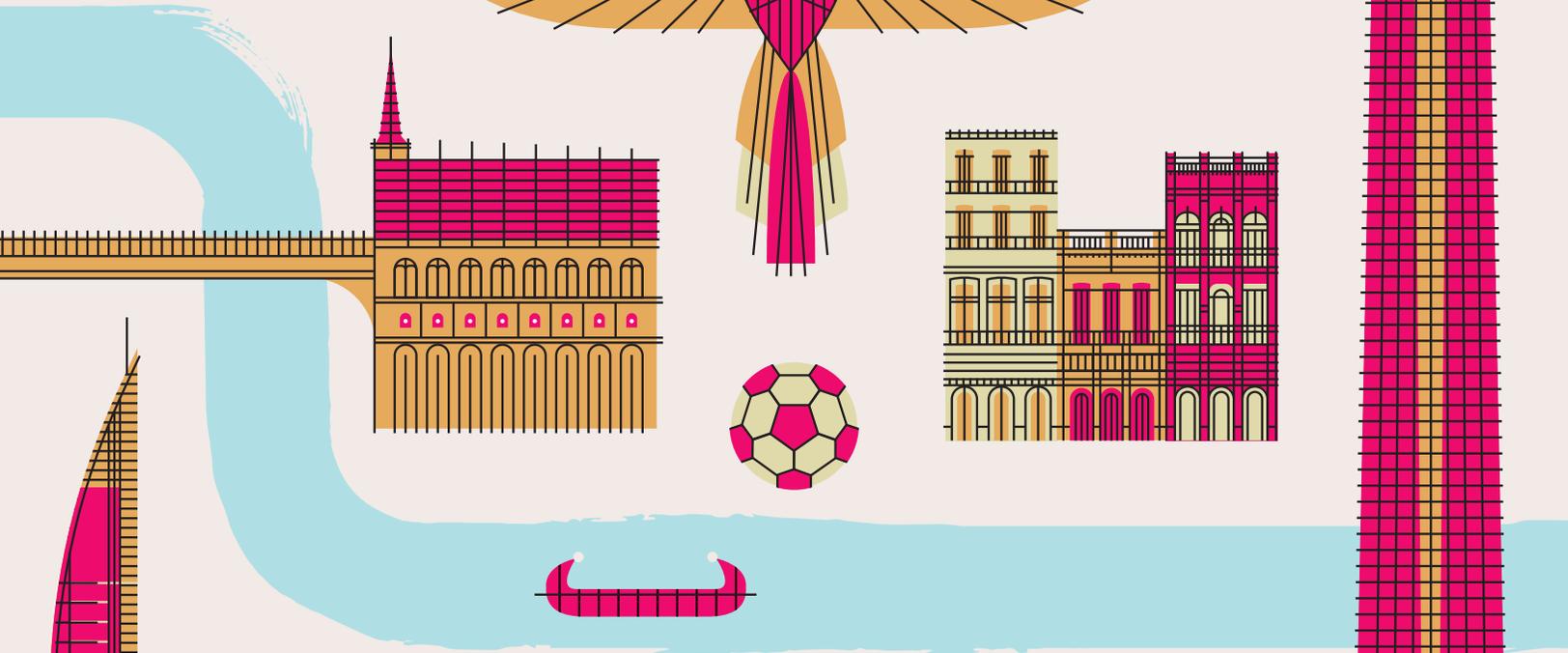
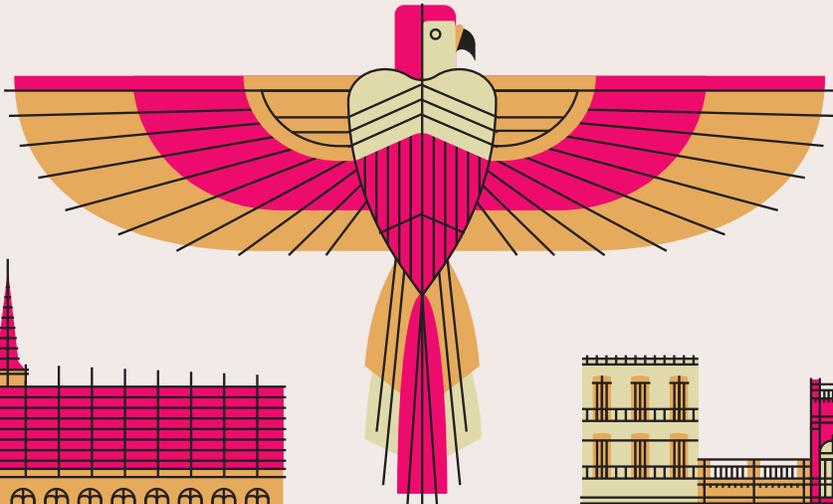
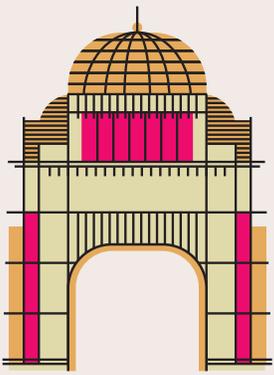


BRIDGES

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



Letter from the Director



My heart will always belong to Latin America. I experienced beautiful sunsets on the pampas of Argentina as a missionary in the early 1980s and found it easy to fall in love with the generosity and happiness of the people. Later I did my dissertation work on maternal and child health in Bolivia and continued to visit the majestic highlands of La Paz as a new faculty member at BYU. Over the years, my colleague Tim Heaton and I took students to Bolivia to conduct interviews and study the health and well-being of families in La Paz and Cochabamba. These were life-changing opportunities for students to develop research and language skills as well as to see how culture influences family well-being. Then in 1998, I began my career at the Kennedy Center as coordinator of Latin American studies, and I continue to lecture in the introduction to Latin America course.

Although my research and travel have expanded to other parts of the world, there will always be a part of me that is connected to Latin America. I have been so impressed and humbled by the resilience and happiness of the people I have known there. It is not surprising that the Gallup 2016 Global Emotions poll, which measured people's positive and negative daily experiences in 140 countries, found that of the top ten most emotionally positive countries, eight were in Latin America!

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Bridges* on Latin America. We will continue to build bridges of understanding with that area of the world at the Kennedy Center. This semester our lecture series "Borders and Migration" will include a panel of students from the BYU Law School who spent time in Texas providing legal services to those who cross the U.S.–Mexico border in search of refuge. It will also include a photo series on the Bracero Program, which began in the 1940s.

We so greatly appreciate our alumni and love staying connected. As we can learn from our Latin brothers and sisters, relationships in life are what matter most.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Forste". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Renata Forste

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and interests for the internationally involved.*

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Promising Partnerships

BYU as a Latin American Studies Powerhouse

By **J. Lee Simons**
Illustrations by **Alexei Vella**

FROM COLLABORATING WITH the next county over to building relationships below the equator, BYU enjoys many partnerships that have greatly benefited the Latin American studies program. These relations have allowed for more conviviality through conferences and workshops, more funding through grants and scholarships, and more hands-on interaction through internships and study abroad experiences. Following are four examples of how BYU stands out in Latin American studies.

Working with the U

Thanks to the success of the Intermountain Consortium for Asian and Pacific Studies (IMCAPS), which is funded by a Title VI grant as a National Resource Center (NRC) run by BYU and the University of Utah, these two institutions of higher learning once again joined forces to apply for an NRC grant to be used for Latin American studies. The Intermountain Consortium for Latin American Studies became a reality in 2014 after receiving the coveted \$6.6 million NRC grant.

Working together, Jeffrey M. Shumway, current Latin American studies coordinator at BYU, and his counterpart, Claudio A. Holzner, director of the Center for Latin American Studies at the U of U, have created a synergy of opportunities based primarily on less-commonly taught languages (LCTLs). These opportunities are enhanced by the

faculty, who use their strengths and research across many disciplines to broaden students' experiences with LCTLs.

In addition to providing scholarships, the grant allows BYU to fortify the Latin American studies program, add to the Harold B. Lee Library's resources, and provide outreach to primary- and secondary-education students. "One of the big pushes is to get Latin American studies material into classrooms from kindergarten through twelfth grade and also into community colleges," Shumway noted. "Last April we hosted a conference in Salt Lake City, inviting high school world history teachers to a session on game-based learning. About twenty teachers from across the state came to hear from experts, and they received materials to begin implementing this into their curriculum." BYU has also helped develop the Latin American curriculum at Salt Lake Community College.

Conferences and faculty research support are other ways the NRC grant is adding value to the BYU experience. The NRC partners also share speakers. For example, "two Argentine scholars are scheduled for

About 65 percent of BYU students speak a second language, classes are consistently offered for fifty-eight languages—thirty-two more with sufficient interest—and 126 languages are spoken on campus.



January,” said Shumway, “and they will give lectures at BYU and at the University of Utah. They will do outreach to community colleges and work with students.”

The Language Connection

Universities across the nation look with longing at BYU’s language resources. About 65 percent of BYU students speak a second language, classes are consistently offered for fifty-eight languages—thirty-two more with sufficient interest—and 126 languages are spoken on campus. It is common to hear several languages spoken in the short walk from one building to another. In that regard, BYU is truly an international campus.

“Some of the language courses taught on campus are fully or partially funded by the NRC grant,” said Shumway. “That is a direct benefit to our students.”

From the NRC monies, about \$4.6 million funds Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) scholarships. Awards are given for the academic year and for summer. Academic-year recipients must add one advanced-level language course and one area studies course each semester to their curriculum. In return, undergraduates receive full tuition and a \$5,000 stipend, and graduate students receive full tuition and a \$15,000 stipend. Summer FLAS grants are for language immersion programs abroad.

Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros

BYU is fortunate to partner with the archive of the Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros (IEB)—Brazilian Studies Institute—at the University of São Paulo. “BYU is the only North American institution that has a partnership with the archive, and when friends of ours at other universities find out about it, they are all amazed,” said Rex P. Nielson, a BYU assistant professor of Portuguese and Brazilian studies.

Over the past four years, Nielson and his colleagues Scott M. Alvord, an associate professor of Hispanic linguistics, and James R. Krause, an assistant research professor of Portuguese, have partnered with the IEB to send seventeen BYU students from diverse majors to serve primarily archival and curatorial studies internships. The IEB archive provides a unique opportunity.

“They have personal papers for writers, artists and paintings, musicians and instruments—basically everything related to culture IEB archives,” Nielson explained. “But most of it hasn’t been catalogued. This is a tremendous opportunity to handle rare materials.”

Working alongside Brazilian students under the direction of IEB head archivist Elisabete Marin Ribas, BYU students “craft a project that is mutually beneficial to both the institute and the students’ academic and professional goals,” said Krause. Several of the past students have moved on to graduate school, due in part to their experience at the IEB. Eager to leverage the students’ skills, Ribas asked studio arts student Megan Mitchell Arné (’18) to paint a mural at the IEB.

Romancing Language and Culture

“I was born and raised in Hawaii,” began Jeffrey M. Shumway, assistant professor of history and faculty coordinator for the Latin American studies major at BYU. Although Hawaii and Spanish do not seem compatible, Shumway’s life says otherwise. After taking Spanish in high school, he served in the Puerto Rico San Juan Mission (1987–89), which, according to him, “solidified the attraction to the Spanish language and a deep love for the Puerto Rican people.”

Following his mission experience, Shumway attended BYU–Hawaii as an undergraduate history major that he described as a hybrid of history and political science. He then received an MA in history at BYU, this time a hybrid of U.S. history and Latin American history. For his PhD, Shumway chose the University of Arizona in Tucson, where “they have one of the top Latin American history programs in the country,” he stated. “The highlight of my experience was working with Professor Donna Guy, an Argentine specialist, and thus I became an Argentineanist.”

Shumway’s research focuses on the social and cultural history of Argentina in its independence era. “Argentina became independent from Spain in 1810, and I am interested in the transition from colony to nation,” Shumway explained. “My first book, *The Case of the Ugly Suitor and Other Histories of Love, Gender, and Nation in Buenos Aires, 1776–1870*, grew out of my master’s thesis and my dissertation.” The working title for his current book project is *A Woman, A Man, A Nation: Mari de la Sanchez, Juan Manuel de Rosas, and the Beginnings of Argentina*. “It’s the same time period. Rosas is one of the most famous Latin American dictators and Sanchez was a good friend with him growing up,” Shumway pointed out. “Their families were on friendly terms, but when Rosas became governor of the province of Buenos Aires, Sanchez became disillusioned with him and with the society he was promoting, so she went into exile.”

Having worked at BYU since 1999, he claims it has “only been good.” Many of his students have assisted with research, and many more stay in contact. “The great thing about BYU is the great students,” he said. “Some of my students now work on Capitol Hill, are business executives, are in the Foreign Service, or went to the best law schools and are now practicing law. We do our part to help them along their way, but we are dealing with a pretty good product from the get-go.”



As early as 4,000 BC, ancient American civilizations are known to have grown and harvested quinoa, kaniwa, and amaranth.

Arné's piece depicts the various collections housed at the IEB while evoking the styles of Brazilian modernists Anita Malfatti and Tarsila do Amaral. This year's batch of interns also included Maeser Allen (political science, '18), Louis Arné (graphic design, '18), Marisa Hart (Portuguese, '18), Sydney Jorgensen (communications, '17), and Andrew Schwartz (information systems, '18). Their projects included translation, website building and design, and curation of archives related to Brazilian society and politics.

Although separate from this program, the prestigious FLAS summer fellowship has been awarded to eight of the seventeen IEB interns over the past four years. "FLAS fellows attended advanced language training at the Fast Forward Language Institute in the morning and participated in their IEB internship in the afternoon," Krause explained. "These fellowships assist meritorious students who study specific underrepresented languages and plan to use the language in their future career."

Plans are underway to add a full São Paulo study abroad program in 2019. BYU faculty will teach courses on Brazilian culture and history, according to Nielson, and the program will include visits to museums and historical sites. In addition, BYU is setting up an internship agreement with the Fundação Casa de Rui Barbosa, which oversees the museu Casa de Rui Barbosa in Rio de Janeiro. The combined archive and museum is in the former house of Rui Barbosa de Oliveira, a Brazilian writer, diplomat, and politician. Nielson said, "BYU faculty and students interested in Brazilian culture and literature will benefit from this new partnership."

It's in the Genes

As early as 4,000 BC, ancient American civilizations are known to have grown and harvested quinoa, kaniwa, and amaranth. These crops provide proteins of both quality and quantity, and they are resistant to drought and salinity. Though typically used like grains, they are seeds. "They are called pseudocereals because they're consumed primarily in the Andean region as a staple food, but they come from broadleaf plants and grasses," explained Eric "Rick" Jellen, a professor of plant and wildlife sciences and associate dean for research in the BYU College of Life Sciences.

Jellen got involved in plant genetics during graduate school at the University of Minnesota and then worked for the USDA for four years. “At that time I was working on true cereals,” he said. “When I came to BYU in 1996, a student approached me, saying, ‘I would like to work in your lab on plant genetics, but I want to work on quinoa. The Benson Institute said if I can convince you to work on quinoa, they will fund part of my research for my master’s degree.’”

From that query, a faculty team was formed consisting of Jellen, Craig Coleman, Mikel Stevens, and Dan Fairbanks. “We applied for an external competitive grant through the McKnight Foundation’s Collaborative Crop Research Program; they had over 100 applications, and we were funded,” Jellen said. “We received four-year extensions twice, so for twelve years we were funded by McKnight. It was fantastic.”

The McKnight grant involves a collaboration between a U.S. partner and a developing world partner. For BYU, the partner was Bolivia. “Most of the direct practical impact that was done through this grant was done by our partners in Bolivia,” explained Jellen. “We supported them by providing guidance, direction, and free consultations as they set up a modern plant breeding program. We would go down once or twice a year and walk through the fields, take a look at the selections, and train Bolivian scientists.”

Then quinoa hit the health-food industry. “I remember when it started to be a catchphrase because of the protein and health benefits, maybe five or six years after we started the project,” Jellen recalled. “It exploded on the international market and had nothing to do with what we were doing. It was serendipity.”

One issue these crops have is no tolerance for heat. “The Humboldt Current sweeps up the west coast of Chile and keeps it very cool. Even when it’s 100 degrees in the central valley, along the coast it’s in the 60s,” said Jellen. “Kaniwa was selected for thousands of years by farmers in the high Andes elevations higher than 12,000 feet. (Mount Timpanogos is just a shade under 12,000 feet.) The main quinoa-growing region in Bolivia is 12,500–12,700 feet. At that elevation, quinoa, even on the hottest days, never sees temperatures above 75 degrees. In order to grow quinoa successfully, you have to genetically diversify, because genetic diversity includes resistance to bugs and diseases that attack this crop that has been growing in these very isolated and pristine environments in South America without bugs and disease.”

Most of BYU’s seeds grow in the greenhouse and in the fields behind the greenhouse park. “I have collaborators in Oregon, southern Idaho, and southern Utah, where I’ve had experimental plots,” Jellen said. In addition to Latin America, they have projects in Morocco and Guyana.



National Peers

Consortium partnerships between universities are a trend. There are four other U.S. Department of Education Latin American National Resource Centers across the United States:

- Columbia University with New York University
- Duke University with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with the University of Chicago
- The University of Wisconsin-Madison with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

“In order to grow quinoa successfully, you have to genetically diversify, because genetic diversity includes resistance to bugs and diseases that attack this crop that has been growing in these very isolated and pristine environments in South America without bugs and disease.” —Rick Jellen

BYU’s main partner in South America is Luz Gomez, a professor at the Universidad Nacional Agraria-La Molina in Lima, Peru. She is the research director for the cereal and Andean grains program. “For the past ten years we’ve had a tripartite agreement between BYU, the Universidad Nacional Agraria-La Molina, and the Peruvian Agriculture Ministry,” Jellen said. “Luz is working with our seeds directly with small farmers, making selections that hopefully are higher yielding and more disease and insect resistant. As the climate warms, bugs and diseases are moving up the mountainside to attack these higher-altitude crops.”

Jellen said that thirty-five years ago, people in Peruvian cities did not know what quinoa was. “There was a stigma that mountain food was poor food,” he explained. “Now you go to the rich part of Lima and there’s quinoa all over the place, and they’re proud of that. Quinoa is among a number of indigenous foods they now embrace.” ■



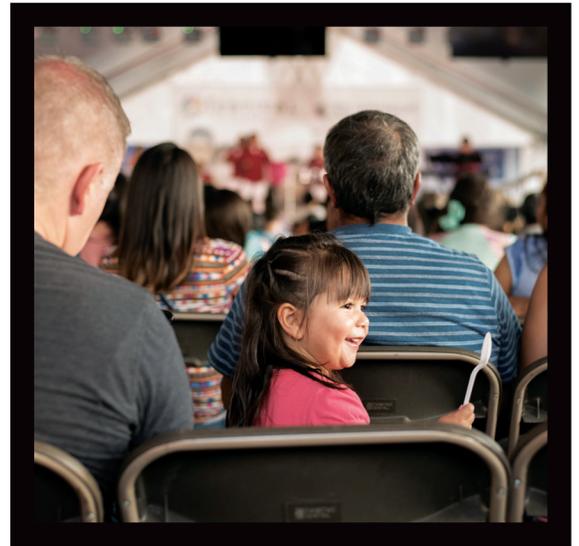
An ample slice of Latin American cultural riches are found not far from campus.

La Vida Es un



Carnaval

Story and photography by
Alexis Hullinger, Kennedy Center
photo editor (photography, '18)



On Friday night,

on a corner just off Provo's Center Street, you can hear the familiar Latin beat coming from a small restaurant that serves Dominican cuisine. El Tropical is a gathering place for great food, dancing, and karaoke, and at the end of each week, a crowd gathers to push the tables back and have a bit of fun. Provo may seem like a quiet town, but if you know where to look, there is a vibrant culture waiting to be explored.

The Festival Latino Americano is a big four-day party at the end of August and the first part of September. Center Street closes down for dancing, cultural celebrations, fundraisers, lucha libre wrestling, and, of course, amazing food from all over Central and South America. The event is sponsored by the Centro Hispano, a group that has been in Utah County since 2003. Centro Hispano's staff and volunteers work year-round to provide Hispanic immigrants with the information and resources they need to succeed in the area. This year was the fifteenth year of the festival, which was attended in mass by people from all over Utah County. The atmosphere of this Latin getaway in the heart of Provo is intoxicating. And everyone is welcome.

Latin food differs depending on the country and region it originates from. In Provo there are

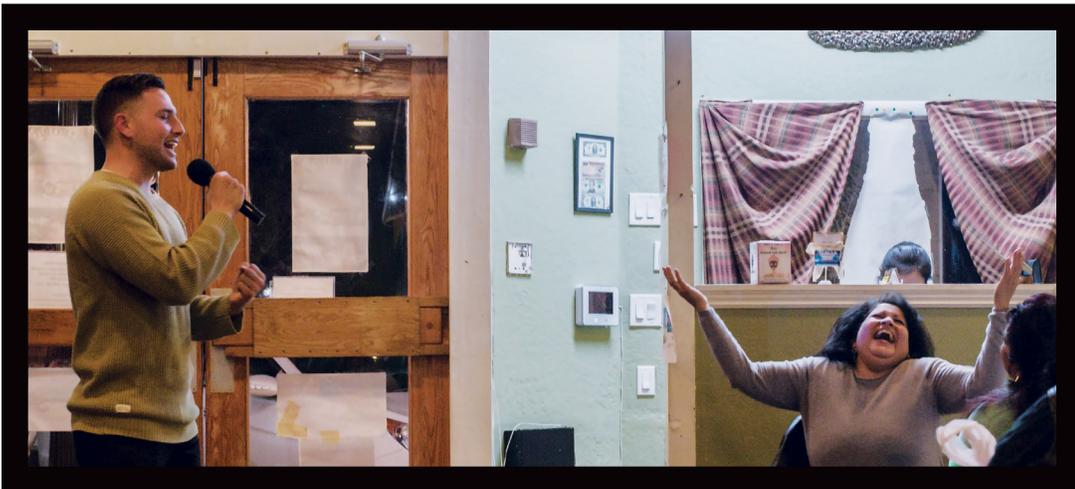
*Who doesn't like a food truck?
Activities abound for all ages.*





Dancing, music, and everyone's favorite luchadores add to the festival scene.





Pick a food—any food. The festival offers a slice of Latino life for everyone.



Finding Latin America in and Around Provo

Provo and Orem are home to many small Latin American restaurants with authentic food usually cooked by natives. Here are a few places to try.

Cultura Bakery and Cafe
Guatemalan
151 University Ave.
Provo

El Mexsal
Mexican and Salvadorian
325 S. 200 W.
Provo

El Salvador
Salvadorian
332 Center St.
Provo

El Tropical
Dominican
54 N. 400 W.
Provo

Lomito's
Chilean
180 Center St.
Orem

Lucy's Brazilian Kitchen
Brazilian
155 N. University Ave.
Provo

Panpaya Latin Grill
Venezuelan and Colombian
1200 Towne Center Blvd.
Provo

Rincón Peruano
Peruvian
355 State St.
Orem

Se Llama Peru
Peruvian
368 Center St.
Provo

a variety of restaurants to choose from for a taste south of the border. The owners of Panpaya, a Venezuelan and Colombian blend, are kind and hope to educate their diners as well as feed them a hearty meal. Stop in for an *arepa* or *pollo romano* with a savory blend of rice, beans, and bacon. If you've never had a *pupusa*, you're missing out. Head to El Salvador restaurant to grab a few—and say yes to the *ensalada* and sauces. You won't be disappointed. If sandwiches are more your style, Cultura Bakery and Cafe offers sweet breads, *chili relleno*, and a cold *borchata*. For fried plantain or yucca or a piña colada smoothie, visit Lucy's Brazilian Kitchen. If you go on the right night, there could be dancing or even a soccer game. Make sure to wear the right jersey! And if *alfajores* and *chorizo* are more your speed, don't miss a trip to Lomito's. Though it is in Orem, the small restaurant is worth a visit.

Whatever type of Latin American food you might be looking for, there is somewhere in Provo to satisfy. ■



Part and Parcel of the **Neeleman Legacy** A Love for Latin America

What is the Neeleman family legacy with regard to Brazil and Latin America?

GARY NEELEMAN

I went to Brazil on an LDS mission when I was twenty years old. When I got the call to go to Brazil, I was flabbergasted. Rose was my girlfriend at the time. We both had to look Brazil up in the encyclopedia.

It took me twenty-three days to get there, because in those days no airplane traveled to Brazil. I went to New York and traveled down by boat. I stayed there two years and nine months. There was one mission and nineteen hundred members of the Church in all of Brazil.

When I stepped off the plane almost three years later in Los Angeles, Rose claims I said to her, “Will you go back to Brazil with me?”

She said, “You just got home.”

I said, “I’m not finished there.”

After I had been home for sixteen months, working for KSL and the *Deseret News* while I finished school in journalism at the University of Utah, I got a call from United Press International (UPI). They said, “We had a guy in Brazil who met you and said you were interested in going back to Brazil. We have no Portuguese-speaking correspondents.” UPI had ten thousand international correspondents, and none of them spoke Portuguese.

They flew out their vice president from Argentina, and he met me at the Hotel Utah. He asked me all kinds of questions and then said, “Now I want to talk to [your wife,] Rose,” and he asked her all kinds of questions.

Finally he stood up and said, “As far as I’m concerned, I’ll see you in São Paulo, Brazil, in October.”

Rose looked at me like she’d just been shot. Our baby, John, was only two months old. We went to Brazil.

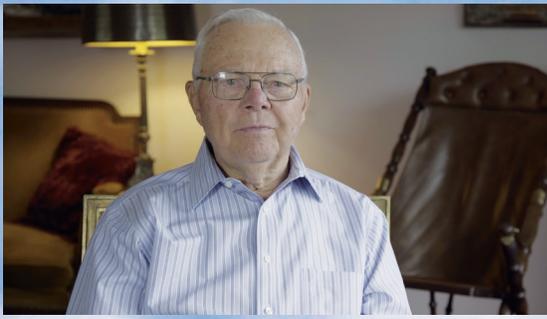
I was the writer—the correspondent—for UPI in São Paulo. A month later, after they found a discrepancy in the books, I also became the bureau chief. I was twenty-three years old. There were twenty-five people in the bureau, because we didn’t only cover the news but translated the entire UPI news report. They all thought, “Who is this crazy gringo that’s coming in here to take over?” Most of them had been with UPI longer than I was alive. Gradually I gained their confidence, and they all became dear friends.

We had three more kids while we were there: David, Julie, and Pamela. After seven years, we decided our kids were speaking better Portuguese than English. We finally made the decision to return to the States when we came home on vacation in 1964 and John said, “Mom, when are we coming back here? The United States is one of my favorite countries.”

I continued with UPI in the States for another twenty years. In 1985 I was hired by the *Los Angeles Times* to be the Latin American director for their syndicate, and then I became their vice president, covering the whole world.

INTERVIEWS BY
CORY LEONARD
BRIDGES
MAGAZINE





**INTERVIEWS WITH
THREE GENERATIONS
OF NEELEMANS**





We traveled to 120 countries and opened up syndicate services in every major newspaper center. When I finally retired from the *LA Times* in 2002, I joined the *Washington Post* and was the Latin American or Brazilian contact for the *Post's* writer's group for ten years.

While working for UPI, the *LA Times*, and the *Washington Post*, I traveled to Brazil every year, and I had amazing experiences. I was in a room with Haile Selassie of Ethiopia when his government toppled in Addis Ababa. I was probably the last person to interview Fidel Castro in 1960 when he came through Brazil as a triumphant dictator after toppling Fulgencio Batista. I traveled with Charles de Gaulle when he visited Brazil trying to organize his *force de frappe*. I interviewed Yuri Gagarin, the first Russian astronaut, when he came to Brazil. I traveled with Che Guevara when he received the Southern Cross—a Brazilian medal. I covered the Brazilian military upheaval in 1964 and was in house arrest for a while. I traveled with Juscelino Kubitschek, the famous Brazilian president who built Brasilia.

We believe the Brazilians are fabulous. Of the fifteen missionaries we've had in our family, nine of them have gone to Brazil. We have had seventy-five Brazilian exchange students over many, many years, and all of our kids—and now our grandkids—have known them. Our kids love Brazil and Brazilian history; they have become attached to Brazil through us. And now we're in the third generation. They speak the language; we all joke in Portuguese; we tell stories in Portuguese. They all love Latin America.

My grandson said yesterday, "They're so easy to love, Grandpa. It doesn't take much to love them." And it doesn't take much for them to love you. The Brazilian friends we have have been enduring friends. Rose and I send three hundred Christmas cards every year. The majority of them go to Brazil and some to other Latin countries.

When I got back here in 1966, I was asked to be part of the Partners of the Americas group, which was an organization formed by President Kennedy in 1963 in which countries were matched up with states in the United States as volunteer partners. Even though Utah was a partner for Bolivia, I could always stop off in Brazil, going and coming.

Then in 2002, the ambassador for Brazil to the United States, Rubens Barbosa, called me and said, "I would like you to be the honorary consul of Brazil."

I said, "What does that entail?"

He said, "There's no money in it, but we give you stuff."

I said, "What do you give me?"

"We'll give you a Brazilian flag, a Brazilian coat of arms, and ten thousand headaches."

I said, "I'll take it."

"Do you have to sleep on it?"

"No. As long as it has to do with Brazilians, I'll take it."

Later I discovered that we have 20,000 Brazilians in this area—in Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and western Colorado.

For sixteen years now I've been the honorary consul of Brazil. I couldn't do it without Rose. She's been right there by my side. We hire interns, most of them from BYU, but for the most part it's a free job. But we deal with these amazing people whom we have learned to love over all these years.

That's part of the structure that we've created with our family. They accept it, and they love it. Brazil is part and parcel of the Neeleman family existence in every way you can imagine.

**As long as it
has to do with
Brazilians, I'll
take it.**

GARY NEELEMAN



What is the Neeleman legacy in Latin America?

DAVID NEELEMAN

(son of Gary)

BRIDGES

My dad was not that active in the Church, and then he met my mom and started going back to church and decided to serve a mission. After he returned, we lived in Brazil for seven years, and I was born there. I'm a dual national—I have a Brazilian passport—which has allowed me to do a lot of things. First off, I served a mission in northern Brazil. Then I went back and started a business in Brazil. The airline business there is one that you have to be from Brazil to own, so because I had a Brazilian passport I could start Azul. It's a company that has really transformed air travel in Brazil. My kids also all have Brazilian passports, so we've got Latin America running in our blood.

You have built an airline in Brazil that now has 10,000 employees. What have you learned in the process of creating this new airline?

DAVID: One of the things I noticed as a missionary that made me a little bit upset is that Brazil's economy was made for what they call the A and B classes, which would be the upper and upper-middle classes. It's a group of about 30 million people who participate in about 85 percent of the economic activity of the country. There are all these people on the outside looking in. I always knew I wanted to try and break that barrier.

About eight years ago, Brazil was going through this resurgence and was doing well, and it had just been announced that they were going to have the World Cup and the Olympics. I thought it was important to get the lower-middle class flying. I was chairman at JetBlue and a little bit bored, and I noticed the fares were twice as high as they should be, and there were only two carriers. So we built an airline that serves 105 cities today in Brazil. The number of people traveling went from 50 million a year to 100 million. We took half of that traffic, and the other half was generated because we lowered fares and stimulated traffic among our competitors. We actually think the market can go up another 50 million people, and we want to take most of that business going forward, because we're well positioned for it. I always tell everybody, "This is the land of milk and honey. The challenges are big, but the opportunity is bigger."

What experiences have you had or insights have you gained regarding doing ethical business in Brazil?

DAVID: I was on this program when I first got down there—and I don't even know why I accepted to do this—where I was in this pit and journalists were all around me. They would spin my chair around as they fired questions at me left and right. I could hardly understand what they were saying at the time.

One guy used the word *propina*, which means "bribe." He said, "How are you going to keep from giving people bribes?"

I didn't really understand the question until they explained it, and then I answered that we wouldn't pay or accept bribes. If you start out saying to everybody, "We don't pay bribes," that's it. They don't ask. They know we would never do that.

We have never done any of that stuff for the sake of doing right, but functionally it works great for your business too. And fortunately for us, we were doing so much good for Brazil.

What advice would you give to students, particularly those who learned Spanish or Portuguese on a mission?

DAVID: Don't shoot too low if you have the opportunity to work for a multinational company and be in Brazil. I think that's one of the great things our family experienced—and my mom and dad have always advocated this. When you're newly married and you've got young kids, go off and be in a foreign country. It really solidifies your family and brings you together. Don't be afraid to go live in a foreign country and to let your light shine in those areas. Use the talents you learned on your mission with your language skills. You can always come back here, and you'll have better opportunities here if you go out and see the world.

Life in Latin America is a little different than in the States, and there's a perception that everything's corrupt. How do you deal with that?

DAVID: Latin America has its challenges, obviously, but the greatest thing that took my mom and dad back to Brazil and took me back there certainly wasn't the government or those difficulties; it was the people. The Brazilian people are the most amazingly warm-hearted people I know, and I would do anything to help them. It's a Latin trait. That's one of the greatest things about going to Latin America. My kids just loved being among those humble people, so it's really the human part of the experience that is the most amazing.



What is the Neeleman family legacy in Latin America, and how do you fit into it?

HILARY ROSE NEELEMAN MCFARLAND

(daughter of David and granddaughter of Gary; Latin American studies, '12)

The legacy started out with my grandpa when he served a mission in Brazil. I think everything in our family points back to him and that good decision he made. Our lives have been greatly enriched and have become more colorful and more fun. I've come to know new people and new cultures and new ways of life.

My first recollection of being in Latin America was when we went with our family to Cancún when I was ten. I remember thinking that these people are wonderful—they're so kind and they're so outgoing. I saw my grandparents speaking to the waiters and to everybody around them—anybody they came across. It was amazing to me how my grandpa could relate to people he had never met before.

We've since traveled to the Caribbean a few times on a cruise and to Brazil. That was an incredible experience I will never forget. We went to Rio and São Paulo, and I felt like Brazil was an incredible place. The culture was so rich, and I loved it, and I loved the people. They were so good to our family. We didn't know them, and they didn't know us, but they were welcoming and warm. I felt like these people lived with their hearts on their sleeves; they welcomed anyone and everyone.

Later I served my mission in San José, Costa Rica.

How did Costa Rica affect you?

HILARY: Going to Costa Rica was an extension of this love I had started to gain for the Latin people. Going there was eye-opening, and I saw diverse ways of living—people living on dirt floors, living in cement houses, having bars on their windows. I loved how they painted their houses different colors. And they were very good to me.

After my mission I majored in Latin American studies. I originally wanted to go into business, but I felt this draw to study the Latin American culture, people, and language. My desire just grew to learn more about Latin America, and that helped me to learn the language. I loved majoring in Latin America studies.

You did a study abroad while at BYU. What was the program, and what was it like?

HILARY: I did my study abroad in the Dominican Republic in Puerto Plata. It was a dream project. We had a summer camp for underprivileged children where they could have more opportunities to learn science, math, English, and art instead of just being on the streets. I really didn't speak that much Spanish—hardly anything at the time—but I was made the art teacher. I taught seven classes a day, twenty to thirty kids at a time. I wasn't prepared for that, but it was a really good turning point for me to learn the language, because I was forced to speak.

For lunch we would make sandwiches with ham and cheese and put them in garbage bags, and we'd pass around these garbage bags of food. It was kind of funny, but we worked our guts out at these camps with these kids. It made me really sad to see these poor kids who were working at such a young age—just six or seven years old. We told these kids that this is why they needed their education. Don't stop learning; keep going. We were there to encourage them to progress in their education and to try to change this cycle of poverty.

My DR experience solidified my love for the Latin people, because it showed me it didn't matter who I was; these people sacrificed for me. They loved me, and they had hard lives, but despite that they were still happy. That gave me a desire to learn more about them and to be a good friend to them, like they were to me.

We're always encouraging students to get out of Provo and go abroad. What would be your pitch to go to Latin America and study?

HILARY: There is so much opportunity in Latin America that the surface has just been scratched. When you go there to be with these people, you see how many needs there are. You see that maybe the infrastructure isn't as good as it could be in certain areas, and you can help with that, and you can be a part of that.

They're the warmest people. They're some of my closest friends, and I haven't gotten close to people that fast before in my life, except for with my Latino friends. There's this barrier that's just not there, and I don't have to climb through differences. There's this connection you can have with these people that will bless you the rest of your life. It will bring you opportunities that are unimaginable. There's so much down there that's just waiting for people to go do or see. It's so rich that you won't regret it, and you'll just be reaping the benefits for the rest of your life. ■

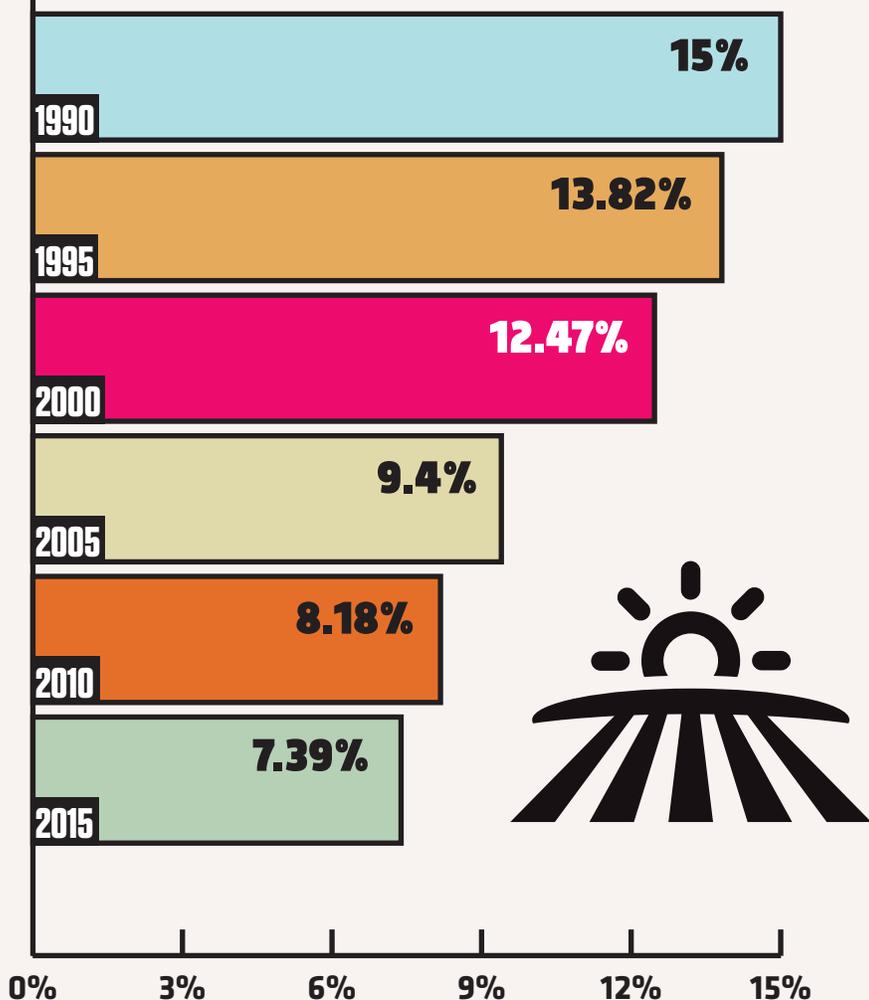
Learn more about the Neeleman legacy in Latin America, read more from the interviews, see favorite recipes from their Brazil family cookbook, and watch a film short featuring Gary, David, and Hilary at kenedy.byu.edu/neeleman.

The Numbers in Latin America Are Better Than You Think

Inspired by Steven Pinker's book *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, we reached out to Darren Hawkins, professor of political science and affiliated faculty for international relations, to guide us through the state of Latin America. How does the region stack up? Across seven indicators, six demonstrate major gains—possibly forcing us to reconsider what we know about this diverse area.

HUNGER

Latin America has lower rates of malnutrition and hunger than Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Bars indicate the percent malnourished in Latin America over time.



MATERNAL MORTALITY

Maternal mortality rates decreased 52% between 1990 and 2015.

Trends in MMR (maternal mortality ratio—maternal deaths per 100,000 births):

1990: 145
1995: 125
2000: 105
2005: 92
2010: 84

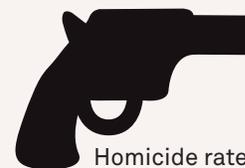
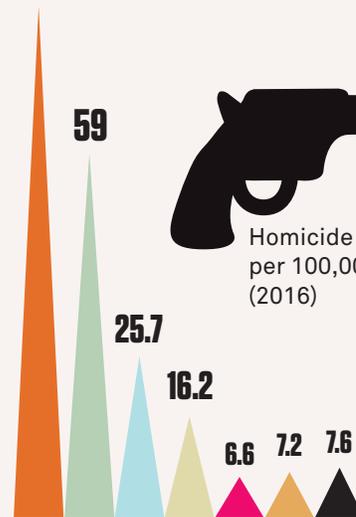
2015:
69

Latin America now has a lower MMR than Africa and Asia.



HOMICIDES

81.2

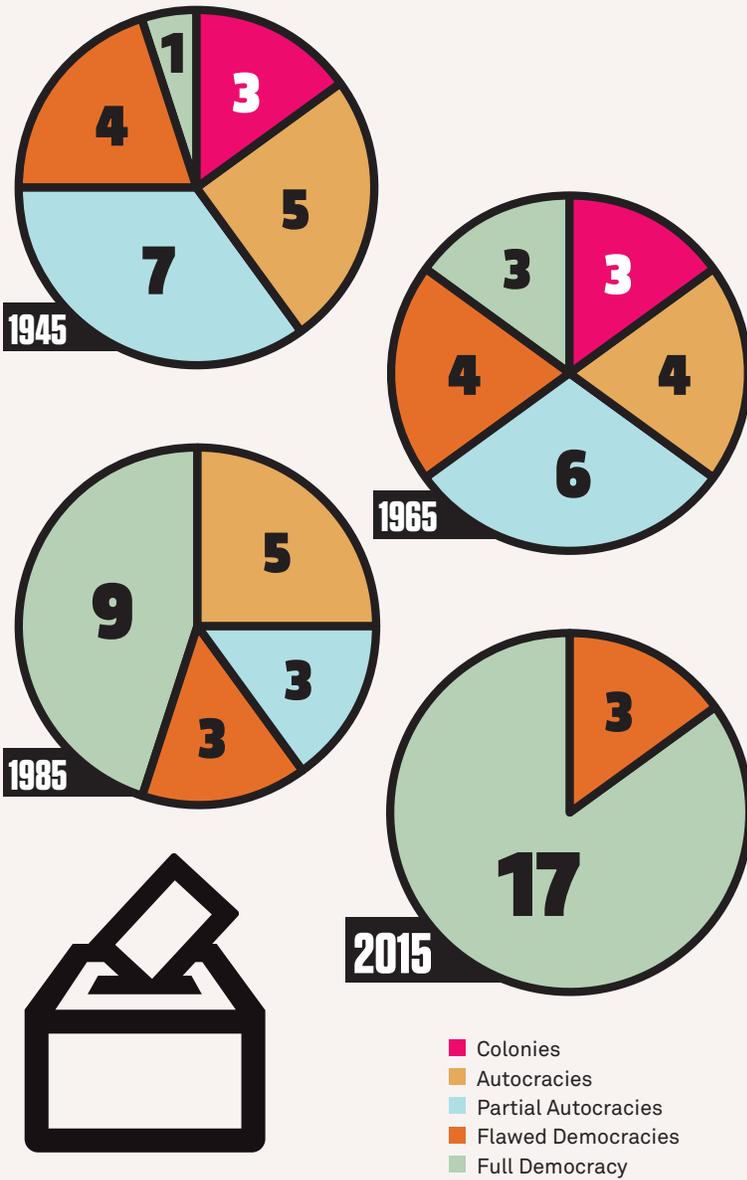


Homicide rate—per 100,000 (2016)

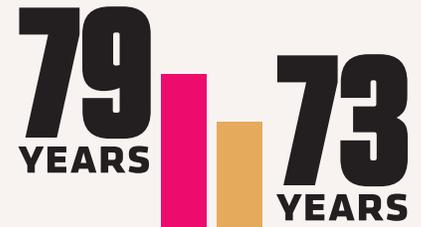
El Salvador
Venezuela
Brazil
Mexico
Argentina
Peru
Barbados

Most countries are well above the global average rate of 6.2. Only two countries (Chile and Ecuador) are below global average.

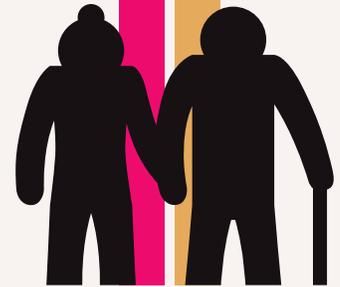
DEMOCRACY



LIFE EXPECTANCY



Latin American life expectancy is now 73 years for males and 79 years for females.



Life expectancy has increased more than **20 years** since the 1960s.

Latin American life expectancy is only **1.2 years below** the European average.

EDUCATION

96.6%

Universal primary education is now available to **96.6%** of students.



Gross enrollment was below **42%** in half the countries in 1990; it rose to **63%** by 2000.

Secondary school enrollment rose from **53%** in 1990 to almost **81%** in 2000.

22 out of 29 countries (with data) have achieved gender parity in primary education.

Travel

5 Must-Sees in Latin America

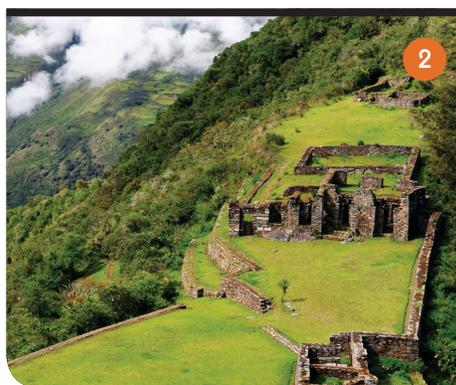
Compiled by Sara Jarman and Alexis Hullinger

Spanning twenty countries and millions of square miles, Latin America has many wonders to offer any traveler—so many, in fact, that it would be impossible to see them all. So the next time you're planning a trip into Latin culture, here are five destinations you'll want to put on your list.



1
**A Book-Lover's Dream:
The Royal Portuguese
Cabinet of Reading**
Brazil

Located in Rio de Janeiro, the Royal Portuguese Cabinet of Reading was opened in 1887 as a venue for bringing Portuguese texts to Brazilian readers in the newly developing nation. The library is anything but run-of-the-mill though, with seemingly endless rows of books lining its towering walls and elaborate construction and decor inspired by the Gothic Renaissance style. The cabinet is home to nearly 400,000 titles, including rare and original manuscripts, and around 6,000 new volumes are added each year.



2
A Private Exploration: The Other Lost Inca City
Peru

Although it is three times the size of Machu Picchu, Choquequirao is one of the lesser known Inca cities—perhaps because it requires a two- to three-day hike from Cusco to get there. But many adventurers find the hike through the Peruvian Andes worth the private exploration of this wonder. The ruins are sprawled across three hill-tops and twelve sectors, and archaeologists have noted that only 30 percent of the ruins have been uncovered. The purpose of the Inca outpost is unknown, but archaeologists have recently begun to invest more effort into uncovering the ancient city's secrets.



3
A Patagonian Excursion: Penguin Colony, Anyone?
Argentina

Take a trip to Ushuaia, Argentina—Tierra del Fuego's southernmost port, known as "the city at the end of the world." From there you can journey to Martillo Island to see Magellanic penguins, participate in winter sports, catch unforgettable views of Patagonia from the Beagle Channel, and map the early treks of Darwin, Magellan, and Sir Francis Drake.



**A Taste of Adventure:
The Swing at the End of the World**
Ecuador

For thrill-seeking travelers, riding this swing out over the edge of a cliff in the Ecuadorian wilderness is a must. There are actually three swings and a zipline, all part of a park at Casa del Arbol, a seismic monitoring station built in a tree. The swings dangle from trees overlooking the mountainside and Mount Tungurahua, an active volcano. Adventurers can take a shuttle or a bus to Casa del Arbol from the town of Baños.

Confection Perfection

By Sondra Charbadze

It may be surprising to learn that Utah is known as the craft chocolate capital of the United States for its high density of talented bean-to-bar artisan chocolate makers. Because much of the world's finest cacao grows in South America, some Utah-based chocolatiers, such as Eric Durtschi of Durci Chocolate, find that their Spanish-speaking missions for the Church prepared them to develop strong relationships with their farmers. In contrast to the vast majority of grocery store chocolate companies that obtain their cacao from slave labor—mostly on the Ivory Coast—artisan chocolate makers almost always pay more than fair trade prices for the quality and discernment necessary to produce good cacao. This includes Durtschi, who has seen firsthand how the craft chocolate industry can transform the lives of poor farmers. Not only is the cacao ethically sourced, but excellent bean-to-bar chocolate is a cut above. Every bar is diverse, pulling flavor from the soil and the plants growing around the cacao trees. Durtschi's lineup of bars transport chocolate aficionados to South America, from Venezuela to Peru. You can taste for yourself at Caputo's Market in Salt Lake City or online.



A Walk in the Expanse: The Largest Salt Flat in the World
Bolivia

Located in southwest Bolivia, the Salar de Uyuni is the world's largest salt flat, measured at 10,582 square kilometers. The breathtaking landscape is composed of a thick white crust that appears to extend endlessly into the horizon. Tours originate from three main locations: Uyuni, Bolivia; San Pedro de Atacama, Chile; and Tupiza, Bolivia. During the rainy season, from December to April, the ground is wet, and the flats produce a mirror effect, reflecting the colors and shapes of the sky. During the dry season, from May to November, the ground is harder, and travelers can visit areas otherwise inaccessible.

Lecture Spotlights

Why Do So Many Ambassadors Come to BYU?

The 2002 Winter Olympics brought the world to Utah. But years before that, Erlend “Pete” Peterson began bringing the world to BYU. Former associate international vice president of the university, Peterson worked in partnership with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Utah Governor’s Office to create a pipeline of ambassadors who visit BYU, develop trade ties, and experience Utah’s environmental wonders. Peterson retired in December 2016, and Jeff Ringer, who is now a BYU associate international vice president, leads the program that brings diplomats from nearly every country to enrich student learning.

During the winter 2017 semester, three Latin American ambassadors—Excellences Germán Rojas from Paraguay, Martín Lousteau from Argentina, and Carlos Pareja from Peru—visited BYU and shared stories and insights about their countries. Rojas, in his lecture “Land of Opportunities: Paraguay,” was energetic as he related the vision that Paraguay’s president, Horacio Cartes, has for the small landlocked country and how it is increasing its global influence and opening its mindset through study abroad and other programs. Lousteau, in his lecture “Argentina–U.S. Relations Perspectives,” spoke about the hard times Argentina has been through, how they have overcome difficulties, and how they have implemented initiatives that are leading to growth. In his lecture “Peru’s Economic Outlook,” Pareja shared Peru’s success story, as it is currently one of the fastest-growing countries in Latin America. Last year BYU also hosted ambassadors from Laos, South Africa, Jordan, and Ukraine.

BYU began inviting ambassadors to speak on campus in the late 1980s. Since then the university has gained a positive reputation among foreign diplomats. One BYU graduate recalled a dinner he attended with eighteen ambassadors. When they discovered he was from Utah, nearly every ambassador commented on recent visits they’d had in the state and how pleasant it had been. After listening to the stories, the last ambassador there asked, “How do you get invited? I would like to go.”

In a similar vein, a Korean ambassador once told Peterson, “You know it’s very fashionable in ambassador gatherings to talk about going to Utah and one’s experiences in Utah. Until now I’ve just had to listen to the other ambassadors. Now that I’ve come, I can share my experiences too.”

Ambassadors are impressed by how many BYU students have traveled or lived in their countries and speak the languages. And the opportunity for students to hear firsthand about a particular country and its current challenges or successes is priceless—and available throughout every semester at the Kennedy Center.

Ask Me Anything

During the spring and summer 2017 terms, the Kennedy Center added a new lecture category called Ask Me Anything (AMA). These career-focused lectures discuss a range of professional experiences, from the Foreign Service to military contracting to law.

Kyler O. Kronmiller, an officer in the political cone, and David Holt, a special agent with the Diplomatic Security Service, represented the Foreign Service. Kronmiller works on regional security issues at the U.S. Embassy in Rabat; Holt is assigned to Denver. Both men discussed family life in the Foreign Service and issues living abroad.

K. Ryan Jenkins, a senior finance advisor for DynCorp International, works with the government of Afghanistan in the Ministry of Finance and International Engagements. Jenkins spoke about military contracting and international careers, economics and finance security clearances, the “military option,” graduate school, and adventures living and working around the world.

Jameson Fox, assistant general counsel for Middle East Broadcasting Networks—a private-sector sister entity to Voice of America—uses his Arabic language skills on a daily basis. He shared insights about law school and professional opportunities in Washington, DC.

Michael Monroe, a lead associate for Booz Allen Hamilton, provides consulting on data analysis and financial strategy to agencies across the federal government. Monroe discussed public sector counseling, skills to develop now, and opportunities that involve data visualization and visual rhetoric in the public sphere.

The AMA format provides students with a valuable opportunity to not only hear from professionals in stable careers but also ask questions that will help form a realistic view of what the various careers entail.





Fighting for the Future: Socialisms of the Late-Twentieth Century

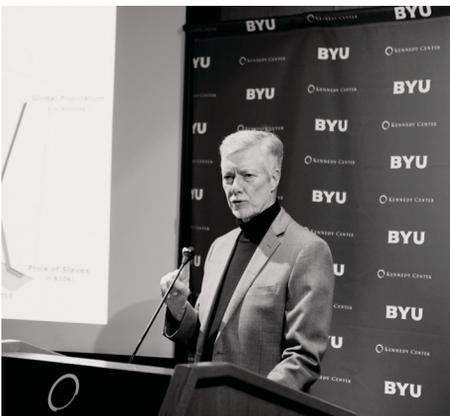
11 January 2017
 Jeremy S. Friedman, assistant professor of business administration, Harvard Business School



Painting and Not Painting

25 January 2017
 Nuala Clarke, artist

JANUARY



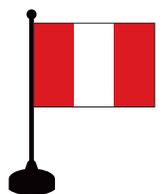
Blood and Earth: Modern Slavery, Ecocide, and the Secret to Saving the World

11 January 2017
 Kevin Bales, author and antihuman trafficking activist



Peru's Economic Outlook: Prospect and Opportunities

26 January 2017
 His Excellency Carlos Pareja Rios, Peruvian ambassador to the U.S.





A Christian Approach to Environmental Concern

27 January 2017
Norman Wirzba, professor, Duke Divinity School



Interfaith Panel: Environmental Ethics Initiative

3 February 2017
Muhammed Shoayb Mehtar, imam, Khadeejah Mosque
Reverend Jerry Hirano, priest, Salt Lake Buddhist Temple

JANUARY

FEBRUARY



**Sounds, Flavors, and Scents:
A Journey into the Arts of Siena and Italy**

15 February 2017
Luca Bonomi, president, Società Dante Alighieri
of Siena, Italy



**“Health in the Navel, Marrow in the Bones”:
Communicating to an LDS Audience About Environmental Risk**

17 February 2017
Rebekah Crawford, graduate student, The Ohio State University



The Syrian Conflict: Isis, Terrorism, and the New Regional Order

8 March 2017
 Amr Al Azm, associate professor of history and anthropology,
 Shawnee State University



Truth in the Age of Twitter

22 March 2017
 Matthew Winkler, emeritus editor in chief,
 Bloomberg News

MARCH



The Word of Wisdom, the Environment, and the Nature of Scripture

24 February 2017
 Kate Holbrook, managing historian for women's history,
 Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of
 Latter-day Saints



Learning Abroad: Italian Colleges for Foreign Students, 1500–1800

15 March 2017
 Christopher Carlsmith, professor of history, University of Massachusetts Lowell



Wandering from the Promised Land: Climate Change in Dryland Ecosystems

24 March 2017
Rick Gill, associate professor of biology, BYU



The Lost Tribes of Israel and the State of Israel: Perceptions and Policy

11 Apr 2017
Nathan P. Devir, assistant professor of Jewish studies, religious studies, and comparative literary and cultural studies; director, Middle East Center, University of Utah

MARCH

APRIL

JULY



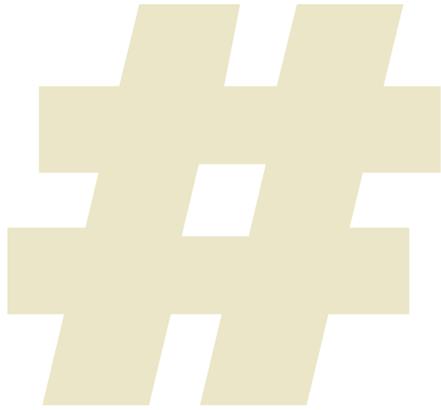
Genesis, Apocalypse, and the Maya: How the Colonial Maya Created and Destroyed the World in the Teabo Manuscript

5 April 2017
Mark Z. Christensen, associate professor of history, Assumption College



Ask Me Anything Lecture: On Public Sector Consulting

26 July 2017
Michael Monroe, lead associate, Booz Allen Hamilton



@BYUKennedyCtr “Pareja: Education is key to lowering the poverty rates in rural areas.” #kennedylive

@voler “Nuala Clarke currently discussing the importance of art in a cultural context of growing up in Ireland.”

@mcarter731 “We pretend that science should be more authoritative than religion, but they are both ways that we are grappling for light in the dark.”

@byu_spj “The most important thing in journalism is accuracy, accuracy, accuracy.”

@byu_spj “Once something is said, it’s treated as fact.” #winklerbyu #truthintheageoftwitter

@alazmamr “Speaking at BYU on Wednesday.”

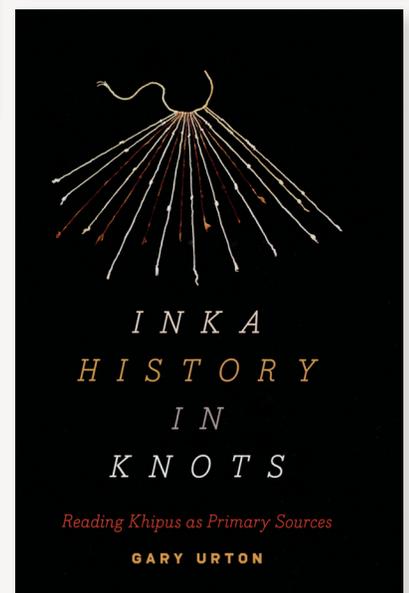
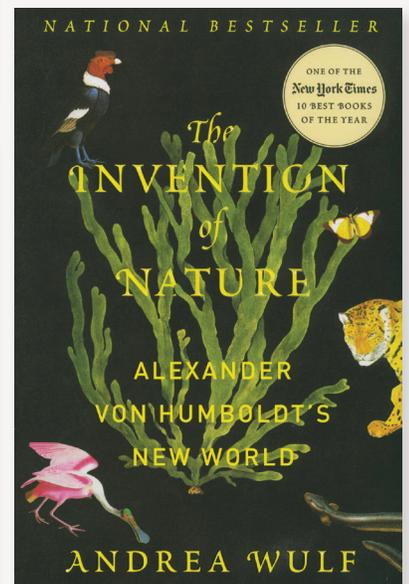
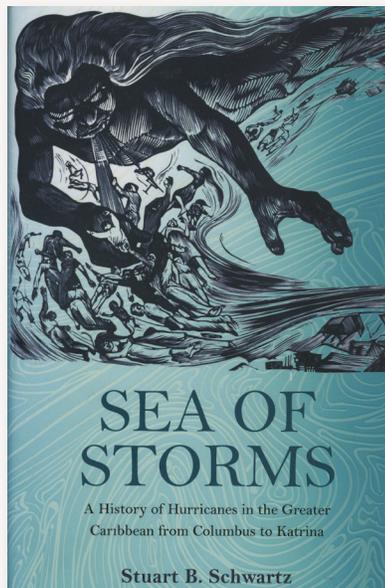
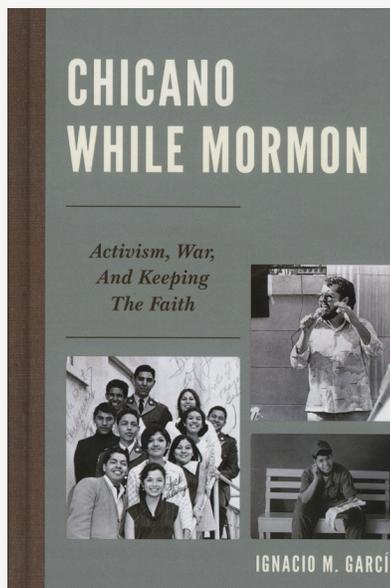
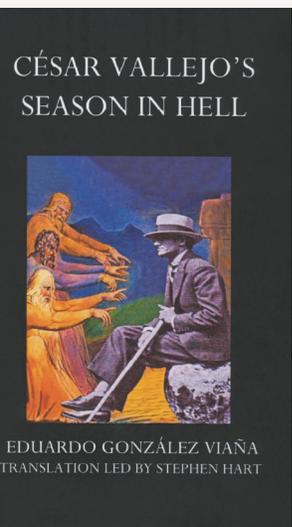
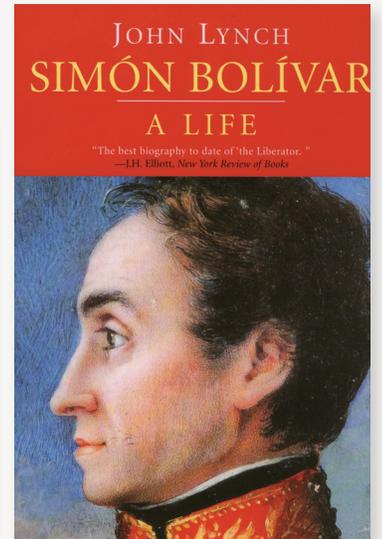
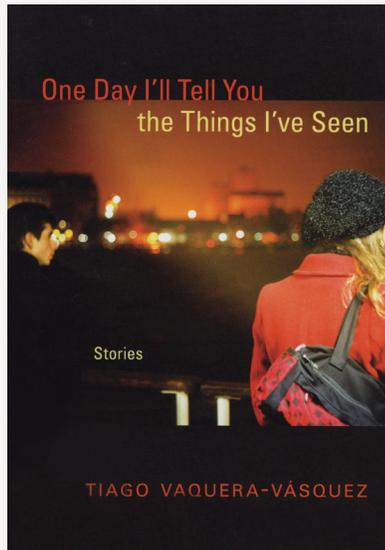
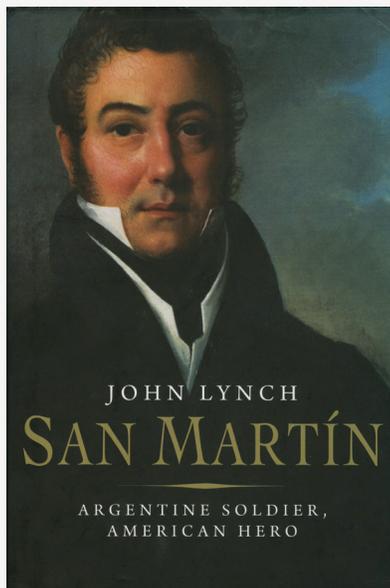
@BYUKennedyCtr
“We don’t perceive threats until we feel something that we value is at risk.”

@BYUSpecColl “Much of what we know about Mayan beliefs comes from the Teabo Manuscript which is housed in the BYU special collections.”
#kennedylive”

**@BraleyDodson
“Human beings are now disposable because they can be so inexpensive to acquire.”
#kennedylive**

Recommended Reads

from the Latin American studies faculty members



A Mother's Cry: A Memoir of Politics, Prison, and Torture Under the Brazilian Military Dictatorship

by Lina Penna Sattamini, edited by James N. Green, translated by Rex P. Nielson

When her activist son was arrested and imprisoned in São Paulo in 1970, Sattamini and her family worked tirelessly to find him and have him released. *A Mother's Cry* is the account of her son's trials as he was imprisoned and tortured and her family's experiences as they tried to free him. The stories are told through exchanged letters and Sattamini's narration. This book is her attempt to prevent her native country of Brazil from forgetting its controversial past.

Chicano While Mormon: Activism, War, and Keeping the Faith

by Ignacio M. García

García, a professor of Western and Latino history at BYU, has written a memoir of his journey of faith and activism. From his early life as an immigrant during a school boycott in Texas to his service in the Vietnam War to his involvement in the Chicano Movement, García defines his struggle as he fought for his faith and his identity in a time of social change.

Sea of Storms: A History of Hurricanes in the Greater Caribbean from Columbus to Katrina

by Stuart B. Schwartz

An excellent five-hundred-year approach to a topic that requires deep history to understand, this book informs a world facing global warming and potentially more catastrophic storms. But more than a history of storms and devastation, *Sea of Storms* provides a transnational narrative of natural disasters and the various ways societies have dealt with them, examining the religious and secular ideas that have shaped state-sponsored relief from Cuba to the United States.

San Martín: Argentine Soldier, American Hero and Simón Bolívar: A Life

by John Lynch

This pair of elegantly written books lay out the sweeping narratives of the Latin American wars of independence from the personal perspective of their chief protagonists. Simón Bolívar surged westward from Venezuela, crossed the Andes, and descended on Peru, where his efforts were met by those of the more circumspect José de San Martín, who fashioned an international army, crossed the Andes near Mendoza, Argentina, and liberated Chile before meeting Bolívar in Peru. Lynch excels in painting a highly disciplined portrait of each revolutionary—true to the documentary cache left behind by each man and his contemporaries—while also placing these men in their appropriate political and social contexts.

One Day I'll Tell You the Things I've Seen: Stories

by Santiago Vaquera-Vásquez

This collection of short stories explores the borders that divide us as a nation and as individuals. The stories speak of crossing the U.S.–Mexico border, trying to contact a sibling three thousand miles away, and remembering a past life. Each character and story helps readers work through their own complex relationships.

The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World

by Andrea Wulf

This account of the extraordinary life of the great scientist and explorer Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859) is mesmerizing. The book helps us appreciate our debt to such a great mind and recognize the important historical impact that the lands and ecosystems of Latin America opened to modern science. Wulf also examines the influence Humboldt had on historical figures such as Jefferson, Wordsworth, Goethe, and Muir.

Inka History in Knots: Reading Khipus as Primary Sources

by Gary Urton

This is the culminating study of two decades of work by preeminent researcher Urton of the knotted cords that were used in the administration of the largest indigenous empire in the history of the Americas. The insights and interpretive possibilities advanced in this landmark release are at once comprehensible, sophisticated, and astounding. Urton, a former MacArthur Fellowship recipient and Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Pre-Columbian Studies and Anthropology at Harvard University, is the founder and director of the Khipu Database Project.

César Vallejo's Season in Hell (Vallejo en los infiernos)

by Eduardo González Viaña
English version 2015, Spanish version 2010

In 1920, after torture resulted in false confessions, César Vallejo was imprisoned as a terrorist in a place meant to drive him crazy if it did not kill him first. This biographical novel of the great poet's youth and time in prison helps readers understand his poetry, written in a time and a country that feared those in power. The translation was led by Peruvianist Stephen Hart, with some work by Daryl Hague.

Alumni Update

'00

MARIA DINCHEVA PRICE is head of EU policy and public affairs for the International Union of Wagon Keepers in Belgium, which deals with transport, freight, rail, infrastructure, rolling stock, and intermodality and logistics. Price has worked in this field for seven years. She received an MA in international law and world order from the University of Reading and a PhD in transport from the University of Oxford. *BA: international studies; minor: European studies, 2000*

Help a BYU Student

If you have ever participated in a BYU study abroad through the Kennedy Center—regardless of your major—you may have received something in the mail from LDS Philanthropies. It is part of our effort to help more students go abroad through the Global Opportunity Initiative. So far 93 students have received a game-changing award of up to \$5,000.

'01

JASMINE M. TURNER, a teacher at Kimber Leadership Academy in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, has been an educator for sixteen years. *BAs: international relations, Spanish, 1998; MA: Spanish, 2001*

counsel at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, and as a JAG officer. He received a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law and a joint MA in international law from the Paris Institute of Political Sciences and the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. *BA: international studies; minors: European studies, aerospace studies, 2004*

'02

STEVEN J. STANCLIFF is the principal at Pilot Butte Middle School in Bend, Oregon. Stancliff previously served as an assistant principal and a teacher in the Redmond School District. He received an MA in secondary education and teaching from Willamette University and an MA in international and comparative education from the University of Alberta. *BA: international relations; minor: Latin American studies, 2002*

'16

NICHOLAS PERONA works in corporate sales and opportunity development at Qualtrics, bridging the gap between companies and consumers through analytical research software. He has used his fluency in Spanish to translate code for the company. *BA: Latin American studies, 2016*

BLAIR SORENSEN is a product specialist at Qualtrics, a software company that specializes in market research. *BA: international relations; minor: Asian studies, 2016*

'04

JAMIESON L. GREER is chief of staff in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, part of the Executive Office of the President in—Washington, DC. Previously, Greer worked in two law firms, as area defense

'17

RYAN NEWELL is president and cofounder of Ambrosia Labs, a company that provides infant nutrition through screened breast-milk donations. In addition, Newell conducts research on Muslim immigrants in Britain through the University of Cambridge. *BA: Latin American studies; minor: Middle Eastern studies, 2017*

CARING FOR THE UNDERSERVED

Joshua Jaramillo has shown both ambition and compassion in his work since graduating from BYU in 2009. Jaramillo majored in Latin American studies with a minor in Spanish. While at BYU, he served as the president of the Student Association of Latin American Studies, which involved him in many cultural- and service-oriented projects. He also taught at Centro Hispano and completed a study abroad in Siena, Italy, while researching Italian immigration to Latin America.

After graduating, Jaramillo worked as an elementary and middle school teacher before entering medical school at Stanford University. While there, he helped start the Hispanic Center of Pediatric Surgery at Stanford Children's Hospital, participated in global surgery research, served as a cochair of both the Latino Medical Student Association and the Surgery Interest Group, and was as a member of the Diversity Advisory Panel for the School of Medicine Admission Committee. Currently, Jaramillo is a general surgery resident at Stanford and plans to participate next year in a pediatric surgery research fellowship at Stanford Children's Hospital.

Jaramillo has clearly found the work he loves thanks to his experience with Latin American studies. He said, "Latin American studies was the perfect major for me because it allowed me to enhance my passion for the Spanish language and Latin people while also allowing me to cultivate professional skills and pursue my interests in medicine and caring for the underserved."

PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE

Thanks to her degree in Latin American studies and minor in history, 2017 grad Camille Dockery felt ready to enter the



professional sphere and be a helpful colleague and contributor in the office. "The professors prepare students well for competitive internships and future careers," said Dockery. She explained that the courses she took were intensive.

Dockery eagerly welcomed opportunities offered at BYU, and she served as president of the Foreign Service Student Organization. She was also invited to interview for an internship with the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security and for a position in Mexico City. Dockery chose to intern with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, which turned out to be an important step in her career path. "The regional director told me he was impressed with the qualifications BYU students brought to the table," she shared. "BYU's stellar language instruction helped check another box on their list of requirements."

Dockery's experiences at BYU have affected other aspects of her life. She said, "The broad liberal arts background provided to Latin American studies majors, as well as the area-specific coursework, have been invaluable to me. I see connections to things I learned in the program constantly—in work, at church, on the Foreign Service test, and in my daily life."

In summary, she said, "I sincerely believe this major offers opportunities to learn that will help throughout your life to be more well-rounded, empathetic, and knowledgeable."

ADVOCATING WITH LOVE

Brian Scroggins said he entered BYU not knowing what he wanted to do after graduation. Regarding what changed, he explained, "Latin American studies pushed me to take a variety of courses that allowed me to see the impact of Latin America on the world."

Scroggins discovered an interest in Latin America during his mission in the Caribbean and decided to pursue that as a major, with a minor in non-profit management. Those in the department encouraged him to expand his experiences and to take an internship with the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club. "This degree truly has no limits," he affirmed.

After graduating in 2016, Scroggins is now working on a joint JD/MBA at the University of Kentucky. "Not a day goes by that I don't use some knowledge I gained at BYU," he assured. "I have the chance to provide service opportunities for the Latin American community, offer new insights to laws that are in place, and help businesses market their

Alumni Spotlights

products to Latin American communities."

Although his love for Latin America began with his mission, it was by pursuing his major that Scroggins found he could make a difference. "By majoring in Latin American studies, I can now act on that passion and stand out from the competition by advocating for the people I love," he said. "My major was the best thing I could have done to prepare for a postgraduate education and the workforce."

New Brazil Doc Released

The world premiere of *Fronteira da Grandeza*, the tenth documentary film in the Kennedy Center's partnership with Combat Films and Research, was held March 16, 2017, in Provo. The new Portuguese-language film explores the storied history of Brazil's national expansion and identity, focusing on its 10,500-mile land border and considering trafficking, indigenous persons, and good neighbor diplomacy.





#KennedyTech

EXPLORING THE KENNEDY CENTER TO TECHNOLOGY CONNECTION

An interview with Joseph Johnson (BA: international studies; minor: Latin American studies, 2005)

How did you decide to return to graduate school?

My first motivation was economic. I had a growing family and was in a business analyst role with little upward movement. Applications for better positions elsewhere were being ignored, and I realized I needed an advanced degree. When I came across information about the BYU computer science MS and PhD programs, I realized they could be a way to move from business to a military and

geopolitical domain and effectively bridge my two interests: international relations and computational models.

What interesting connections have you discovered in computer science? How were they shaped by your study of international relations?

As an intern at the Lawrence Livermore Center for Global

for several weeks. In the end, however, it came together in a very satisfying way. To make the experience even more impactful, Professor Grover called me into his office and was very complimentary—an experience I will never forget. From that moment on, projects for me were

“The liberal arts are about igniting your imagination, while STEM is about disciplining your imagination.”

—Joseph Johnson

Security Research, I was asked to explore the opportunities and limits of artificial intelligence within the global security domain. The typical thing to do is to dive into the literature and come up with a survey of what is being developed. From the survey, one can evaluate each application case-by-case to judge its viability and utility. However, I just could not bring myself to do that.

An experience I had in Professor Mark Grover’s Latin American studies senior seminar changed the way I approached projects. Our class project consisted of choosing a country—I chose Ecuador—and writing a paper based on three books Professor Grover chose that were related to the country. The catch was that the books were not necessarily interrelated. We had to find the common themes. The project was challenging, and I felt stuck

about finding relationships between seemingly unrelated phenomena.

Back to the internship, further research into the issue resulted in a melding of a well-known business model and a critical theory on artificial intelligence.

What are your thoughts on the importance of the liberal arts in the face of so much discussion about STEM?

The liberal arts are about igniting your imagination, while STEM is about disciplining your imagination. If you experience too much of the discipline up front, your imagination becomes stunted, in which case, ironically, both the liberal arts and STEM lose.

Sylvia Nasar wrote of Nobel Laureate John Nash: “Nash’s genius was of that mysterious variety more often associated with music and art than with the oldest of all sciences. It wasn’t merely that his mind worked faster, that his memory was more retentive, or that his

power of concentration was greater. The flashes of intuition were nonrational. . . . Nash saw the vision first, constructing the laborious proofs long afterward” (*A Beautiful Mind* [New York: Simon and Schuster, 1998], 12). I feel the liberal arts by nature celebrate this divergent thinking.

What academic and professional advice would you give to current students?

Do not be in too much of a hurry to be at the top of your field. Your twenties and thirties are a time to make mistakes, to let the gospel sink into your hearts and minds, and to take advantage of how your work and your Church callings allow you to naturally interact in the most diverse settings of your

adult life. As you get older, you will have a foundation upon which to make your dreams come true.

HONORED ALUMNA

The Kennedy Center welcomed Karin Hoops Berg (international relations, 1998) back to campus as our 2017 Honored Alumni on October 5, 2017. She is an award-winning partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman, a top national law firm, where she focuses on cases of “insolvency, bankruptcy, complex loan workouts and restructurings, and secured and unsecured financing.”

Berg works with clients at all stages of money-lending

“Some of the best advice I received was ‘In life you are going to have very busy and difficult times. But don’t forget to enjoy the times that are good.’”

—Karin Berg

relationships and across many industries, from health-care to manufacturing. She’s involved in the Turnaround Management Association and is chair of the Chicago Network of the International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation. She also serves on the Kennedy Center International Advisory Board and organizes Kennedy Center events in the Chicago area each year.

In a Kennedy conversation we spoke to Berg about the value of her degree, highlights and memories from her various classes and professors, and important insights from career successes and setbacks, as well as dealing with sexism in the workplace and at church. She urged Kennedy Center students to prepare for their future by staying informed, working hard, and going abroad.



Kennedy Center Alumni Award

From the Kennedy Center

A PATH TO LEARNING

In spring 2016, Elder Kim B. Clark, commissioner of the Church Educational System (CES), gave the keynote address at the twenty-eighth annual LDS International Society Conference on the theme “Learning in a World Church.” Elder Clark taught, “The most important knowledge we need to acquire is knowledge of the things of God. Putting spiritual knowledge first ensures we will rely on the Lord and the Holy Spirit in learning, we will see everything we study in the light of His gospel, and we will continue to learn deeply all through our lives.” His remarks set the tone for the conference, which included an introduction by BYU president Kevin J. Worthen.

The society’s board highlighted the recent emphasis on worldwide education within the Church, including the Perpetual Education Fund and the BYU–Idaho program PathwayConnect. The conference invited speakers to discuss the effectiveness of these programs, as well as any other programs or opportunities, in helping increase the call to “seek learning, even by study and also by faith” (D&C 88:118).

Participants included scholars, educational professionals, and missionaries. Richard Culatta, chief innovation officer for the state of Rhode Island, urged



the audience to seek ways to personalize education and to use technology to help close the education gap. Stephanie Allen Egbert, associate director for the Global Education Initiative (part of CES), provided an overview of early and current efforts in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa. Two PathwayConnect students—Lizett Cornejo, a single mother of three, and Zachary Cavanaugh, a young man who is now continuing his education at BYU–Idaho and whose excitement for the program was a true inspiration—also spoke, in addition to many others.

The conference is held each spring on the Monday after general conference and is open to the public free of charge. The conference is a great way to learn from and network with other members of the Church from around the world.

Members and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints seeking a way to learn about and serve the worldwide Church are invited to join the LDS International Society by registering for free at ldsinternationalsociety.org.

SERVICE IN LATIN AMERICA THROUGH SELF-RELIANCE

One of the blessings of being part of a worldwide church is the chance to connect with people across the globe. In an effort to reach out to members around the world, BYU offers students an opportunity to work with the Church through the self-reliance internship. This program began in 2001 when two graduate students wanted to help individual members of the Church learn to become more self-reliant.

Now, during winter semester and spring and summer terms, BYU sends qualified students to support the self-reliance programs in Latin America. Interns work with local LDS Self-Reliance and Perpetual Education Fund managers and other Self-Reliance leaders at Church Self-Reliance centers in cities such as Santiago, Chile; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Guayaquil, Ecuador. Interns learn from and serve others, enhance their foreign language skills, and gain valuable international work experience, all while receiving academic credit. Above all, they come to feel a greater connection to members of the

In the News

Church in Latin America as they help these members improve their lives and the lives of their families and communities.

Learn more about this and other programs at kennedy.byu.edu/lisp or visit the International Study Programs office in 101 HRCB.

STUDENT-TO-STUDENT SUPPORT

The Foreign Service Student Organization (FSSO) put together an event that would equip prospective interns with a better understanding of the many opportunities to work with government agencies, prepare them with strong applications, and give them a solid understanding of what to expect from their internships.

The presenters were students who had completed internships at government agencies and embassies around the world. Attendees heard firsthand experiences about the application process, security clearances, and the daily routine of working for a federal agency, as well as other insights into public and foreign service. The students each gave a ten-minute presentation about their experiences in places from Italy to Romania and for organizations such as the FBI. A question-and-answer session followed.

While the presentations were as diverse as the embassy locations represented, there was a common theme of satisfaction with the experience. Multiple interns described close ties they had formed at the office, and

others talked about how their respective experience paved the way for further internship opportunities that align directly with their professional goals.

Stefan Bendtschneider, a recent graduate who had worked with the FBI and a police department, was invited back to the event to share his experiences working with diplomatic security in Puerto Rico. “After we finished the Q&A, a student approached me and asked if I had presented the previous year,” said Bendtschneider. “I told him that I ran the booth about federal law enforcement and intelligence careers. He said I had changed his life with the advice and information I gave him. The student explained he had received an internship for two summers with the Department of Homeland Security. The feeling I got when he told me made me so incredibly happy.”

Hearing from other students provided valuable information and support, and attendees left more prepared to land and successfully complete internships.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES SUMMIT

As part of the mandate for receiving National Resource Center grant monies to do community outreach, BYU and the University of Utah held an Indigenous Languages Summit in February 2017. The summit featured three Latin American indigenous languages—K’iche’, Nahuatl, and Ecuadorian Quechua—and three languages indigenous to Utah and the sur-

Less commonly taught Latin American languages thrive at Utah universities.



rounding region—Ute, Dine, and Shoshone. Though its main focus was on language, the summit also touched on politics, history, and culture.

“This was a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with faculty and students in Utah studying indigenous languages,” said Malcolm Botto, International Study Programs coordinator at BYU. “It also presented useful information on research and funding opportunities for students.”

In addition, native speakers of the languages shared experiences and challenges they face to “maintain and strengthen their language communities,” Botto said. “Attendees had reason to consider their role in the communities where these languages are spoken, including Utah.”

This public event was held at the University of Utah campus and included panel discussions and Iron Chef-style cook-offs in the language of each group. Faculty and students from BYU were among the nearly one hundred attendees.

“This was a wonderful opportunity for students.”

—Malcolm Botto

BENEFITING FROM ADVANCED LANGUAGE STUDY

Advanced language study opens up possibilities for students whose studies focus on foreign lands. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Scholarships are granted to both undergraduate and graduate students for the study of specific underrepresented languages. The following students have received scholarships for language studies with a Latin American emphasis.

Undergraduate Students

Kevin Augustin, political science: Haitian Creole
 Nathan Hogan, political science and Portuguese studies: Brazilian Portuguese
 Michael Morris, communications: Brazilian Portuguese
 Melanie Packard, psychology and Portuguese studies: Brazilian Portuguese
 Benjamin Passey, history: Haitian Creole
 Eric Rands, political science: Brazilian Portuguese
 Alexander Wambach, sociology: Brazilian Portuguese
 Anthony Wride, biochemistry: Brazilian Portuguese
 Hannon Young, Spanish teaching and Portuguese studies: Brazilian Portuguese

Graduate Students

Faith Blackhurst, Spanish: Brazilian Portuguese
 Maria Cano, linguistics: Quechua
 Barrett Hamp, linguistics: Quechua
 Scott Raines, Spanish: Brazilian Portuguese
 Nathan Richardson, Spanish: Brazilian Portuguese
 Suzanne Shibuta, Portuguese: Brazilian Portuguese

MODEL ARAB LEAGUE WINS

For years BYU has had winning delegations at both the regional and national Model Arab League (MAL) simulations. This year's MAL team represented BYU at both the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference in Denver and the National University Conference in Washington, DC, both in March.

To prepare for the conferences, students learned about the history, politics, and current issues facing the Arab League. They attended a weekly course to practice parliamentary procedures, received training on diplomatic skills, and conducted research in advance of the competition. Throughout the MAL simulations, the team honed their leadership, diplomacy, and public speaking skills.

The 2017 team members were Leesa Bingham, Andrew Bonney, Morgan Curriden, Chelsea Elliott, Nick Hainsworth, Connor Jenkins, Jonathan Lifferth, Rachel Lott, Tanner Nelson, Zach Nuttall, Ethan Pitts, Micah Russell, Tanner Sullivan, Elizabeth Walker, and Lucy Walter.

At the regional conference, BYU's team won Outstanding Overall Delegation for representing Syria and Distinguished Delegation for representing Egypt, with nearly every student receiving individual awards in their councils. At the national competition, which was hosted at Georgetown University, Micah Russell won Outstanding Delegate for representing Syria on the Special Council

on Refugees and Displaced Persons and Andrew Bonney won Distinguished Delegate for representing Syria in the Summit of Arab Heads of State.

Participating in MAL has had a positive impact on students who are in the Middle East studies/Arabic major and those who are a part of the Kennedy Center.

MODEL EU MAKES AN IMPACT ON AND OFF CAMPUS

In February 2017 six BYU students had the honor of participating in the West Coast Model European Union (MEU) competition at the University of Washington in Seattle. The students—Jordana Cashman, Fernando Mercado, Shelby Page, Hannah Pugh, Elsa Rebentisch, and Spencer Stucki—prepared intensively beginning in the last few weeks of fall semester up through the competition. Their preparation paid off, and the team won five out of eleven individual awards: two for Best Position Paper, two for Outstanding Delegate, and one for Honorable Mention Delegate. Their success, however, was by no means unexpected: since the event's founding in 2005, BYU has won awards almost every year.

This year the BYU team was assigned to represent Austria, Malta, and Slovakia. The team was accompanied by two student advisors, Lauren Vidler and McKinzie Davis, who took

The EU may be struggling, but BYU's Model EU held together for another year with top awards.



the role of the EU presidency for the Committee on the Formal Negotiations for the Brexit. They led well and were praised for their conduct in presiding. The other committee focused on EU fiscal policy reform and was presided by University of Washington students.

BYU's MEU team also prepared a standalone competition in March for local high school students. At this event, which BYU sponsors every year, an average of fifty students and six teachers from across Utah take part. The team trains the high school students prior to the competition, teaching them about the EU, preparing them for discussion topics, and encouraging their learning and future interest. This event not only prepares the next generation of MEU students but is a way for the BYU team to use what they have learned in an exciting way.

Part of the final project for MEU students is to research and write a paper that has a chance to be accepted to and presented at the Claremont Undergraduate Conference on the European Union at Scripps College in California. BYU's team sent in three papers that were accepted and published in the conference's journal. MEU students hope to continue their tradition of success with the new team in the winter 2018 competition.

IMPROVING PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS

Each year students who go abroad are encouraged to submit three entries to the annual photo competition. Winning top photos are hung in the hallway of the HRCB for the next year. In an effort to help students take even better photos during their time abroad, Alexis Hullinger—a BFA photography student and photo editor for the Kennedy Center—presented a workshop on basic photography principles for students preparing to study abroad. The event was also live streamed on the center's YouTube channel



for students who were already on their program.

“Many students had a desire to improve their photo skills, and this workshop was designed to pass on basic principles of design as well as to provide examples of documentary work,” Hullinger explained. “My goal was to help students capture in photos what their time abroad meant to them and more accurately represent what was seen through their eyes.”

Positive responses to the workshop opened the opportunity for another workshop to be held in fall 2017 for those students leaving for winter or spring/summer 2018 programs.

SONG AND DANCE FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Folk dance festivals have a long history in Europe as a way to preserve and share traditional dance forms and music. They became a tool to break social and political barriers after WWII. The BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble began participating in these festivals in 1964, and in 1986 alumni from this group worked with community leaders in Springville, Utah, to recreate a European-type folk dance festival in Utah County.

The World Folkfest is now held annually in Springville and is the oldest and largest folk dance festival in the Western United States. Thousands of performers from countries around the world have performed their traditional music and dance for Utah audiences. During the 2017 festival, performers came from Austria, Belarus, Chile, Ecuador, Georgia, Indonesia, and Romania. Local groups representing Native American cultures, Polynesia, and American

folk dance also participated.

In addition to performing on the festival stage in Springville, the groups were also involved in community events. For several years, one or two of the groups have come to campus to provide instruction to BYU dance classes. This outreach was expanded to include outdoor performances for the Kennedy Center in 2016 with groups from Korea, Colombia, and the Czech Republic. Again in 2017, with



groups from Belarus, Romania, and Ecuador, the sounds of live music and the sights of exotic instruments and colorful costumes drew enthusiastic crowds at the Kennedy Center to take a break and expand their world.

Featured Student

Teaching children something useful and important and having them understand me was a powerful experience,” said Mary Ann Richardson Pratt about her time in Nicaragua. “I also learned so much from the people I met there; everyone was open, kind, and welcoming with what little they had.” Pratt, a Latin American studies major, recently interned near the city of Granada as the first volunteer intern for Vivifica Nica, a nonprofit organization that provides service opportunities in Nicaragua for university students.

Teaching and Serving in Nicaragua

Pratt stayed with a local family in San Blas across from a plantain farm and spent her days alternating her volunteer time between a primary school in Santa Clara and a special needs school in Granada. Every day she found a worker to drive her to the schools, usually riding on a motorcycle or on the back of a truck. At the Santa Clara primary school, kindergarten through middle school children gathered in one room. “It was the poorest school I attended,” she noted. “I taught mostly basic English to kids from ages five to thirteen.”

Pratt was frank about the teaching environment. “There

were about forty kids in each classroom, and all of the children were on different levels academically. Their desks are falling apart, and the classrooms are constructed with concrete walls and tin roofs that magnify any sounds, making it loud and hard to hear,” she said. “It rains a lot in Nicaragua, and many students can’t come to school because of flooding dirt roads. If they are at school, you can’t hear anything over the din made on the tin roofs.”

Pratt’s experience wasn’t limited to school buildings. She and the high school students conducted a census in San Blas. “We gathered information about each house and their occupants and took videos of them responding to questions about their lives and giving advice that we later showed at a community party we hosted,” she explained. Pratt also taught adults in Santa Clara how to make pancakes and plantain tortillas, and she taught American dances, English lessons, and self-defense classes for the women.

Although the work was meaningful, it wasn’t easy. “Nicaragua is extremely hot and humid, and the minute you step out of the cold shower in the morning, you already start sweating,” she lamented. “No matter what time of day it is, you feel lazy, tired, and hungry. Despite this, the children at the schools made my sacrifice to drag my tired self around worth it.”

The experience was an eye-opening one. “I realized how disadvantaged the children in Nicaragua are compared to other countries,” she said.

“Young children aren’t encouraged to learn, work hard, or seek more education. Not many in the society advance, and the community stays about the same throughout the years. Some students told me that when they get bad grades the teacher will hit them, and many don’t return to school.”

Pratt did her best to show each student and community member that they are capable of learning and succeeding. “I learned to love and respect the people I lived with and helped,” she said. And the Nicaraguans served her in return. “Even in their poor state, they always did what they could to help me. The people of San Blas and Santa Clara loved me and showed me so much kindness.”



The “scholarship of last resort” is starting to get noticed across campus, and the number of benefiting students continues to grow—totaling 72 in 2017—thanks to support from alumni and friends. The Global Opportunity Initiative’s primary focus is to help students go abroad by overcoming financial obstacles. This means that a scholarship, available up to \$5,000, can ensure that no internship or study abroad program costs more than a semester in Provo.

Here are just a few students’ experiences in their own words.

DIEHL MUTAMBA

Chemical engineering, Africa Business and Technology Study Abroad

I was part of an interdisciplinary team of engineering and business majors who worked to solve an important problem in Malawi. The challenge was how to design a low-cost kiln that turns agricultural biproducts into an affordable and renewable energy source: charcoal. However, the cost to attend the study abroad was beyond my financial capability, and I could never have gone without the Global Opportunity Scholarship I received.

The stakes were high; there was an entire village depending on our work. After several attempts, our BYU team designed and built a \$50 brick kiln, and it was 200 percent more efficient [than alternatives]. That was a great day, but the experience hasn’t ended. I recently wrote an honors thesis proposal and am working with Professor Larry Baxter as we feel a different process—pyrolysis—could increase the energy yield.

I know my unique team experience will set me apart in a competitive job market. Searching for a solution to an actual world problem has been one of the most exciting things I’ve done at BYU.

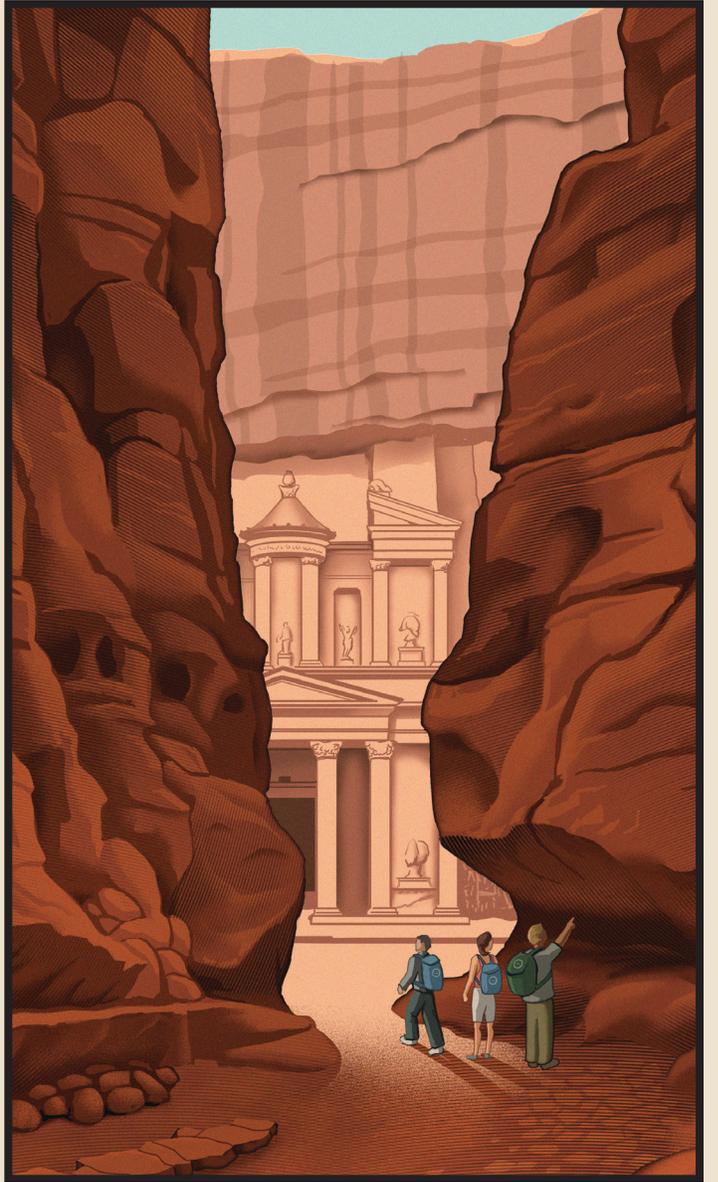
JAMES HODGSON

Political science, Impact Evidence Field Study

I remember walking between government offices in downtown Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with Professor Ty Turley and talking to him about graduate school options. Minutes later we were trying to set up an appointment with the top official in the Ministry of Health, and I found myself thinking this was the epitome of development work with a political science emphasis. There I was working with a government official to create better policy in a country beset by poverty. I was a world away from Provo and my classes, but I realized my academic training had prepared me for this real-world experience. That experience, in turn, is preparing me for the research I want to do and the future career I would like as an international development program evaluator. I truly and deeply appreciate your facilitation of this journey through your generous gift to me.



More Global More Students



GIVE.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join us in our effort to help more students fund their dreams abroad. If 1,000 alumni contributed just \$10 a month, we could help twenty students improve their Arabic language in Jordan, perform research in Tanzania, intern in Japan, or experience Italian life in Siena.

\$10/MONTH/YEAR

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FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

“The civilization blowing in from the East has shown all its faces here, all its parts. But the resolution of the great problem of man set free seems to have been something inconceivable, a mystery that would only be made clear in the New World.”

—*Simón Bolívar, “Oath Taken in Rome” (1805)*