



## Summer 2010 Newsletter

### Spotlight on 2010-11 Fellows

We are pleased to introduce you to the 2010-11 PiLA fellows. They are a tremendous group of young people, deeply committed to public sector work in Latin America and they are excited to embark upon this new chapter of their lives. The fellowships could not happen without your support and we are deeply grateful to all of you for making this year's program larger than ever.

#### **Jonathan Solarte, Princeton '10, Sustainable Markets Intelligence Center, Escazu, Costa Rica**

Jonathan was born in Bogotá, Colombia and raised on Long Island, New York. He majored in



French and Italian at Princeton University with a certificate in Translation and Intercultural Communication. Having been raised bilingual, Jonathan has loved languages all his life and is currently proficient in seven languages. His fellowship will lead him to the renowned INCAE business school in Costa Rica to work with an organization called CIMS - el Centro de Inteligencia sobre Mercados Sostenibles (the Sustainable Markets Intelligence Center). As a market analyst, he will be focusing on sustainability and fair trade with a particular focus on Latin American commerce and agriculture. He will put his passion for languages and education in translation to use in his research and in his translation of publications from Spanish to several other languages, in addition to offering English and French classes to his

colleagues at CIMS. Jonathan is looking forward to contributing to the advancement of his fellowship organization's goals all the while enjoying his experience in Costa Rica and being close enough to visit his loved ones in Colombia.

#### **Veronica Bustabad, Duke '10, Alternativas y Capacidades, Mexico City, Mexico**



Originally from Maracaibo, Venezuela, Veronica moved to Miami, Florida at a very young age. At Duke University, Veronica majored in Political Science and worked with the organization Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) to improve conditions for farmworkers. Veronica studied abroad in Geneva through the SIT International Studies, Organizations and Social Justice Program and studied French and Portuguese Language and Culture in Paris and Rio de Janeiro two summers. While in Brazil, Veronica worked with the organization Instituto TerrAzul on environmental education and conservation of the National Tijuca Forest. Veronica is very interested in the connections

between poverty, environment and policy and is very excited to be working on non-profit development with Alternativas y Capacidades in Mexico City this year.

**Gabriela Jara, Columbia '10, Arias Foundation, San José, Costa Rica**



Gabriela Jara attended Columbia University where she majored in Political Science with an International Relations focus and completed a special concentration in Human Rights. Her junior year was spent abroad in the United Kingdom, reading Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) at Oxford University. Gabriela previously interned for the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF/FIMI), an NGO that works internationally to address the status of native populations and the need for political and social equality. In the past, Gabriela worked as a research assistant for a professor at Columbia's History Department and has volunteered as an SAT math tutor for high school juniors in Harlem. Additionally, she held the post of co-editor for the Columbia Daily Spectator's Spanish supplement, La Página, a Spanish newspaper for residents of the Morningside Heights-

Harlem neighborhood. After completing a senior thesis on the ICC Rome Statute treaty and country compliance, Gabriela is very excited to work with the Arias Foundation, a major advocate for peace and demilitarization whose ongoing projects include an Arms Trade Treaty Ban. After her year with Arias, Gabriela hopes to pursue a career in international law and human rights.

**Sara Holloway, Princeton '06, Endeavor Mexico, Mexico City**



A New Jersey native, Sara majored in Sociology at Princeton and cofounded Pa'Delante, an ESL program designed for eating club employees. Sara was also an active member of the Princeton Justice Project. During college, Sara studied abroad in Havana, Cuba, interned with a think tank in Quito, Ecuador, and conducted independent research on deported immigrants throughout Guatemala. For the past two years, Sara was employed with ShoreBank, a Chicago-based community development and environmental bank, where she worked with national socially responsible depositors. Sara is excited about her PiLA position with Endeavor in Mexico City and eager to continue exploring how the private sector can contribute to the public good.

**Kim Beers, Georgetown '09, IMIFAP, Mexico City, Mexico**



Originally from Florida, Kim is a 2009 graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington D.C. She majored in Science, Technology and International Affairs with a concentration in Global Health, and also earned a Certificate in Latin American Studies. During college, Kim spent a semester studying at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, a summer teaching English in Sinaloa, Mexico, and many a Saturday morning playing rugby at Georgetown. After graduation, Kim remained in D.C. to work for Freedom House, an organization that promotes human rights and democracy worldwide, where her focus was human rights in Latin America. Kim is excited to move to Mexico City where she will be writing grants for the *Instituto Mexicano de Investigación de Familia y Población*, a public health organization that works with impoverished

communities in Mexico and throughout Latin America.

**Emily-Kate Hannapel, NYU '10, Funcedescrì, Guatemala**



Originally from D.C., Emily-Kate graduated from NYU's Gallatin School in May '10 with a concentration in Community Health and Gender Studies. During her junior year, Emily-Kate studied community health abroad in D.C., Tanzania, and Vietnam. These travels encouraged Emily-Kate's passion for women's health, specifically midwifery. After her PiLA fellowship with Funcedescrì in Guatemala she hopes to go to nursing school. In her free time, Emily-Kate gardens, bakes, and plays with her chickens.



**Mai Ann Healy, Middlebury '10, Endeavor, Puerta Varas, Chile**

While at Middlebury, Mai Ann majored in International Studies and minored in Political Science. Additionally, she studied abroad in Madrid, Spain and Valparaíso, Chile, interned at an economic development nonprofit in Denver, took advantage of Vermont's winters by becoming a ski instructor, and co-captained her IM wiffleball team to championship glory. Though she calls Boston her stomping grounds, Mai Ann will pursue graduate studies in International Security in Buenos Aires after her year with Endeavor Patagonia.



**Mario Moreno, Duke '10, Human Rights Watch/CELE, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

A native of Monterrey, Mexico, Mario has also spent a significant part of his life in Illinois and the US-Mexico border. His experiences in these places, particularly the border and Monterrey, helped foster in him a passion for human rights, demilitarization, and organized crime research. His studies and work while at Duke University, from which he graduates in 2010, have only served to highlight these interests. He has interned for a Chilean NGO that ran mentorship programs for underprivileged youth, as well as with the Washington Office on Latin America, where he researched the recent militarization of the Mexican border and the effect that had on the incidence of human rights abuses in the area. He has similarly written a senior thesis on police reform and organized crime in Mexico. When not working or studying, Mario competes for the varsity track and field team at Duke. He is excited to work with HRW and CELE next year.



**Jessica Sturzenegger, Bucknell '10, Mujeres Empresarias, Puerta Varas, Chile**

Originally from Switzerland, Jessica majored in Economics and International Relations at Bucknell University with minors in Arabic and Spanish. While at Bucknell, Jessica co-founded the Microfinance Initiative, participated in student government, and had the opportunity to study aboard in Egypt for a summer and Chile for a semester. Through her studies and travels, Jessica became interested in the role of entrepreneurship in economic development. She had the chance to work on an independent study her senior year on the application of entrepreneurship in emerging markets, which strengthened her interest in emerging markets and their place in the global economy. With a passion for traveling, languages, economics, and exploring new cultures, Jessica is looking forward to working with Mujeres Empresarias in Chile. After her fellowship, Jessica hopes to pursue a career that will incorporate her interests in business, international affairs, and languages.



**Adrienne Langlois, Brown '10, The Edge in College Prep, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Originally hailing from Asheville, NC, Adrienne Langlois is a 2010 graduate of Brown University with concentrations in History and Latin American Studies. While at Brown, Adrienne was an avid writer and musician and wrote for a number of campus and regional publications and played the French horn in musical groups of all sizes. In the summer of 2008, Adrienne traveled to Quito, Ecuador, where she worked in two orphanages. Since then, Adrienne has continued to be active in community outreach through her work with Street Sights, Providence, RI's newspaper of housing and homelessness issues, and the William D'Abate Community School in Olneyville, RI. She is excited to explore her interests in Brazilian culture, education and cross-cultural communication with her placement with The Edge in Rio.



**Dawn Powell, USC '10, China-Brazil Business Council, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

A San Diego native, Dawn graduated from The University of Southern California with a B.A. in International Relations and a minor in Spanish. Her passion for international development grew as she worked at educational nonprofits in Ghana, Mexico, and Los Angeles, performed microfinance impact evaluations in Ecuador, studied at the Universidade Federal da Bahia in Brazil, and back-packed throughout South America. During her senior year of college, she joined the StartingBloc Fellowship, interned at the USC Marshall Society and Business Lab, and conducted independent research on Sino-Brazilian economic ties, experiences that demonstrated the power of both social business and trade policy to alleviate poverty. Dawn is looking forward to living in Rio de Janeiro, where she will promote development in emerging economies as the inaugural PiLA fellow at the China-Brazil Business Council, as well as hone her samba skills.



**Anne Rodriguez, Stanford '09, Endeavor Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay**



**Michelle Davis, American '09, ProMujer, Lima, Peru**

**NB: missing from this newsletter are James Williams, Edward Hurme, Dobromir Parushev, Adriana Roberston, Jennifer Carvajal, and Maeve O'Neill. We hope to add their photos and profiles soon!**

## Update from Christina Lara, CEAC Fellow '08

I currently work with the Mexican Cultural Institute – the cultural bureau of the Embassy of Mexico – where the mission is to enrich the relationship between Mexico and United States by sharing Mexico’s cultural past and present with the local community.

Most recently, the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. partnered with the Embassy of Mexico and other artistic and cultural institutions to feature age-old traditions – music, food, dance, and agricultural techniques, among others – that have shaped contemporary Mexico. This two-week long festival was planned for 2010 because this year commemorates the bicentennial of Independence and the centennial of the Mexican Revolution. It was wonderful that visitors to the Mall, at peak tourist season, could connect with and learn from enduring Mexican heritage. I feel that featuring Mexico in such a significant festival was particularly important at a time when bilateral relations are vulnerable to a news cycle that is dominated by drug wars, unprecedented violence and anti-immigration sentiment.

Since my fellowship with PiLA (2007-8), I have been fortunate to build on my experiences and continue my engagement with the region first at the Inter-American Dialogue and now at the Mexican Cultural Institute, both in Washington. I have begun to learn how

organizations in this city of diplomacy and politics can effectively approach issues related to Latin America; time and time again, I see that a foundation of local knowledge is always necessary to begin collaboration from a distance.



## Letter from the Director

Dear Friends of PiLA,

We are excited to announce that PiLA has selected 21 fellows for 2010-11. This is our largest class of fellows yet and we are proud of the impressive list of these accomplished young people. To encapsulate the outstanding nature of these fellows, as well as all of our current and past fellows, I can do no better than relay to you something told to me by one of our benefactors (who said this after reading the last newsletter): "It is inspiring to read about the transformative experiences of PiLA fellows. It is reassuring, too, to see the good that one person truly can accomplish and the change that she can effect. They give me hope for the future!"

In order for PiLA to continue to offer this many placements and to support the fellows in the best way we can, I would ask you will to consider making a donation this year if you have not already added your name to our list of supporters. To our current donors, I extend a warm thank you—we could not run this thriving and growing program without you!

It occurs to me, in writing this note, that I have not shared with you this particular anecdote, passed along to me by a current Endeavor fellow. Apparently, the Endeavor staff call our fellows "PiLAs," not just PiLA fellows or fellows and often ask: "will we receive another PiLA next year?" I love the idea of this nickname—after all, as you know, "pila" means "battery" and I like to think of our fellows as being charged up and ever-ready (forgive me the pun) for their work in Latin America

Next month, the process begins again, with Career Fair and Information Sessions; an exciting time of year for me. This newsletter literally shows you our 2010-11 roster and I hope you will be eager to learn about them. I know that I have greatly enjoyed becoming acquainted with them during this placement process!

Best wishes,



Claire Brown '94  
Executive Director

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### **In Kind**

Susan Fou, webmaster  
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## Many Thanks to our first donors of 2010-11!

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George Hebard  
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### In Kind

Susan Fou, Webmaster  
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**We would also like to thank the Council of the Americas/Americas Society for generously hosting our event this summer! We could not have had such a lovely time without your kindness and your beautiful venue.**

This past June, we were fortunate to have use of a beautiful room at the Americas Society in New York City, where we held a Get to Know PiLA event. Many past fellows were in attendance, and I'd like to especially recognize Adam Abelson for his part in speaking so eloquently about his fellowship. The room was full of new and old Friends and we look forward to building PiLA into an even stronger organization with their enthusiasm and support. Below are a few photographs from the evening.



Board Member Eric Farnsworth and Eric and Monica Leeson



Tyler Lifton, Board Member Mary Connell Lifton, Executive Director Claire Brown, and Jaime El Khoury



Coral Dawson and George Hebard