

# IAF

## CONNECTIONS

*The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation*

## IN THE NEWS

### Former President of Peru Visits the IAF

On Aug. 17, Alejandro Toledo, former president of Peru, along with Ana Maria Romero, former secretary of women and social issues, and Guillermo Gonzalez Arica, former chief of staff, visited the IAF staff. Photographed to the right with Amb. Larry Palmer.



Heidi Smith

### Presidential Visit

On May 21, IAF grantee Corporación Ser Paz, a grassroots organization working with former gang members in Guayaquil, welcomed President Rafael Correa of Ecuador with an impressive musical production orchestrated by some of the youths. Correa also visited Big Pizza, a micro-enterprise managed by rehabilitated young people. He told the group that the government would always support their initiatives because they represent Ecuador's future.

According to Ecuador's National Institute for Statistics, 46 percent of Guayaquil's young people live in poverty and only 41 percent have any formal education. Many turn to gangs for the emotional support that normally a family would offer. Ser Paz, founded in 1999, received an IAF grant in 2006 to work toward reducing gang participation and violence in Guayaquil through education in conflict resolution and civic participation. For more information, visit [www.serpaz.org.ec](http://www.serpaz.org.ec).

### Grantees Represented at Conference on the Americas

Eight individuals representing IAF grantee organizations were among those joining President George W. Bush and Laura Bush at their Conference on the Americas held July 9 in Arlington, Va. Participants in the conference, whose theme was advancing social justice in the Americas, discussed education, healthcare, economic opportunity and building public-private partnerships. Among those sponsored by the IAF was Inola Mapp, IAF's local liaison in Panama and director of former grantee Centro de Estudios para la Promoción del Desarrollo (PRODES), who was interviewed on several radio programs on her experience at the conference. For more information, visit <http://panama.usembassy.gov/panama-esp/Americas.html> and <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ConferenceAmericas/>.

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## Grantee Up-dates

### Awards

Colombian grantee Empresa Cooperativa del Sur del Cauca (COSURCA) won the gold medal for its coffee at an international competition in Paris in July, an achievement highlighted in the July 20 *El Liberal*, a newspaper published in Popayán. COSURCA, a Fair-Trade-certified producer, received an IAF grant in 2005 to provide technical and financial services to 1,530 coffee farmers. Its coffee is described as a medium, full-bodied roast with mild acidity. It is sold in Scotland and can be purchased at

COSURCA

[fairusa.org/content/certification/producer.php?floid=911](http://www.fairusa.org/content/certification/producer.php?floid=911). (photo available)

“Evaluating Public Health Insurance: The Case of Buenos Aires,” a research proposal submitted by IAF Argentine grantee Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC) to a worldwide competition organized by the Global Development Network (GDN) and sponsored by the Japanese government, was judged among the three best proposals out of the 700 received. CIPPEC works to reform health policy in Tucumán. For more on the GDN, visit [www.gdnet.org/](http://www.gdnet.org/).

### Resources

#### Courses

The International Labor Organization (ILO) Training Centre's Delnet is offering a course online on sustainable tourism and local development for practitioners representing local government, NGOs and businesses. Classes begin Sept. 7. To apply, visit [www.itcilo.it/delnet](http://www.itcilo.it/delnet).

#### Fellowships

In June, the IAF awarded 11 Grassroots Development Fellowships to Ph.D. candidates from universities in the United States to conduct dissertation research in Latin America during the coming year. The Fellows were selected on the strength of their academic record, their proposals and their potential contribution to grassroots development. This fall the IAF will accept applications for its 2008-2009 awards from students in the social sciences, physical sciences, technical fields and the professions as they relate to grassroots development issues. IAF fellowships provide international transportation to the field research site, a monthly stipend for a maximum period of 12 months and a research allowance. For complete information, visit [www.iie.org/iaf](http://www.iie.org/iaf).

## Upcoming Conferences

### September

Latin American Studies Association (LASA) 26th International Congress, Montreal, Sept. 5-8. The IAF has scheduled a panel on Bolivia's indigenous producer associations and will sponsor travel for panelists and others speaking on agrarian and rural issues, cross-border studies, and migration and economic, development. The IAF, the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Institute and Harvard University cofunded research undertaken through LASA's *Otros Saberes* project bringing together Latin American and U.S. researchers studying indigenous networks and the political participation of African descendants. The research teams will share their findings at the Congress and meet to discuss methodology for two days following it.

### October

The OAS Decentralization Policy Dialogue, Washington, D.C., Oct 4. The IAF, the OAS Office of State Modernization, the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Open Society Institute are cofunding a workshop to review draft policy papers for a seminar scheduled for Feb. 28.

The Civil Society Policy Forum, Washington, D.C., Oct 19-Oct 21. During annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the IAF will sponsor a workshop on the Bank's policies on racism and social exclusion in the hemisphere.

### November

The Sixth Regional Conference of ISTR for Latin America and the Caribbean, Salvador, Brazil, Nov. 8-11. This conference organized by Instituto de Comunicacion y Desarrollo (ICD) and the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) will take place at the Center for Inter-disciplinary Social Management at the Federal University of Bahia. Travel grantees will be selected on the strength of their papers on the identity of civil society, transparency, legitimacy and accountability, and sectoral and intersectoral relationships of civil society. E-mail inquiries to ICD ([info@lasociedadcivil.org](mailto:info@lasociedadcivil.org)).

The DANR 10th Annual National Conference, Miami, Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Representatives of Dominican producer associations will participate in this conference organized by the Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR).

V Encuentro de Salvadoreños en el Mundo, San Salvador, El Salvador, Nov. 17-19. Past Encuentros have attracted participants from around the world.

### December

V Inter-American Conference on CSR, Guatemala City, Dec. 9-11. The IAF will highlight its RedEAmérica program and offer a seminar on grassroots development for corporate foundations as part of RedEAmérica's outreach in Central America.

## Opportunity Zones Update

In a letter sent April 24 to the OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza, President Guatemalan vice president Eduardo Stein endorsed the Opportunity Zones initiative introduced by President Bush at the 2005 Summit of the Americas and adopted as a Summit mandate. The concept is based on a model for "Renewal Communities" applied in the U.S. by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Heidi Smith



On April 13, Vice President Stein and other Guatemalan officials met with participants in a week-long IAF-sponsored workshop in Panajachel that included HUD, IAF U.S. Renewal Community staff and several Guatemalan mayors as well as members of the Presidential Advisory Commission for Local Development. The purpose of the workshop was to explore a potential Opportunity Zone that would include the area around Lake Atilán. It followed up on a 2006 visit to U.S. Renewal Communities by some of the Guatemalans present.

Since then, the IAF has sponsored similar visits by two other delegations. In March, five Hondurans visited Louisiana, Florida and Texas and met with officials of the U.S. Department of State, HUD and the IAF. In April, six Argentine mayors and three federal officials met with elected officials, NGO staff, and representatives of businesses and community development corporations in Santa Ana, Orange Grove and Parlier, Calif., and with officials from HUD, the Department of State and the IAF as well as Ambassador Jose Bordón of Argentina.

The IAF is tasked with reaching out to five countries in Latin America before the 2009 summit in Trinidad and Tobago. To date, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Argentina are engaged in the initiative. The OAS Office for Modernization of the State and the Social Development Unit will propose a broader adoption of the Opportunity Zones initiative to the hemisphere's social development ministers.

## RedEAmérica Update

RedEAmérica celebrated its fifth anniversary at its general assembly meeting Aug. 1–3 in Bahia, Brazil. Brazilian business leaders Renata Camargo and Marcos Flávio Azzi opened the event by confirming the commitment to RedEAmérica and pledging to increase membership two-fold. Members elected officers as follows: president, Claudio Giomi of Fundación Arcor in Argentina; vice-president, Silvia Moraes of Instituto Hedging-Griffo in Brazil; secretary, Flavio Flores of Asociación Andes de Cajamarca in Peru; and treasurer, Emilia Ruiz of Fundación Corona in Colombia. IAF's Ramon Daubon and Juanita Roca attended. For information, visit [www.redeamerica.org](http://www.redeamerica.org).



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

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## *Recent Workshops and Meetings*

### **Youth Leaders Gather**

Nearly 40 youths met for a leadership training conference organized by IAF Ecuadorian grantee Mi Cometa in Ambato, Ecuador, July 13-17. Mi Cometa's Leadership School for a New Millennium in Guayaquil offers young people training and opportunities to debate civic responsibility, discuss problems and identify solutions. Similar events occurred in Quito, Loja, San Lorenzo, Pedro Carbo and Guayaquil. For more information, visit [www.micometa.org.ec](http://www.micometa.org.ec).

### **Social Exclusions Seminars Wrap-up**

Amb. Larry Palmer, IAF president, and Linda Kolko, vice president for operations, attended the July 26-27 seminar on the OAS and Summit of the Americas process sponsored by IAF, Global Rights and Mundo Afro in Uruguay. Representatives of civil society and government, including the U.S. Embassy, also attended. The seminar concluded a series of four workshops where more than 200 African descendants drafted an action plan and other recommendations for the OAS General Assembly in Panama in June. Earlier workshops were held in Nicaragua, Colombia and Brazil.

### **Empowering the Disabled Community**

Amb. Larry Palmer opened the regional conference of Disabled Peoples International that brought together activist from Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss human rights issues in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, July 9-16. Participants engaged Honduran government officials, including Roberto Michelletti, president of the Honduran National Congress, who declared his support for ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

IAF travel grants also enabled 20 activists to participate in Inter-American Conference for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities sponsored by the IAF and the Panamanian government in Panama June 3-5. First lady Vivian Torrijos of Panama and Lenin Moreno, vice president of Ecuador, opened the event which was also supported by Panama's Secretaría Nacional para la Integración de Personas con Discapacidad (SENADIS) and the Organization of American States (OAS). The conference was held on the eve of the 37th OAS General Assembly, launching the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016), and was followed by the Third Annual Meeting of the Red Latinoamericana de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales de Personas con Discapacidad y Sus Familias (RIDADIS).

### **Recycling Reviewed**

Representatives of former Colombian grantee Asociación Cooperativa de Recicladores de Bogotá and Brazilian grantee Nova Pesquisa e Assessoria em Educação (NOVA) and researcher Martin Medina, author of a study the IAF on recycling spoke in June to the Civil Society Task Force, at the 13th Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities and at the International Finance Corporation. The IAF also hosted the March session of the Civil Society Task Force on whether education should only be provided by the government, featuring Jeffrey Puryear of the Inter American Dialogue and Kristin Ehrgood of the Sapiensis, a nonprofit organiza-

tion working to improve the education system in Puerto Rico. The January session "Bolivia at the Crossroads: Managing Social Conflicts or Engendering Novel Ones in its New Quest for Change," featured Mark Schneider of the International Crisis Group and Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Bolivia and Colombia.

### **Hemisphere's Mayor's Learn about Competitiveness**

IAF sponsored workshops at the 13th Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities Miami June 11-14. Speakers illustrated the Summit of the Americas' Opportunity Zone mandate with the experience of Chattanooga, Tenn. The area around Lake Atitlán, Guatemala, and Parijoba, Brazil, were explored as possible sites. Workshops were offered on how to make municipalities more competitive through incentives for local investors and a democratic political culture. The IAF surveyed the more than 300 officials attending. For the results, visit [http://www.iaf.gov/news\\_events/special\\_events\\_sp.asp](http://www.iaf.gov/news_events/special_events_sp.asp).

### **Competitiveness Forum**

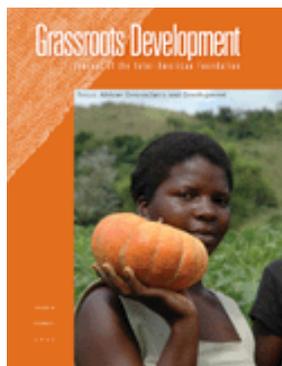
Amb. Larry Palmer encouraged participants to engage civil society and small businesses to promote growth in their respective areas at the June 11 Competitiveness Forum organized in Atlanta by the Department of Commerce. He emphasized that innovation and creativity emerge from the grassroots, where people live and face their daily problems. The audience was drawn from business and trade ministries. For more information, visit <http://www.ita.doc.gov/competitiveness/ACF/>.

### **Afro-Descendants Highlighted**

In March, the IAF, the University of California at Berkeley and the Andrew Mellon Foundation co-sponsored Beyond Visibility: Rethinking the African Diaspora in Latin America, a conference where 200 participants heard graduate students from U.S. universities present 18 research projects on the African Diaspora in Latin America chosen from more than 60 submissions. The papers will soon be available on the IAF Web site through a link to the Afro-Latino Working Group of U.C.-Berkeley.

In July, the IAF sponsored two panels of IAF grantee representatives and other African descendants at the National Council of La Raza's annual conference: "Defying the labels, Black and Latino: Ethnic and cultural identity among U.S. Afro-Latinos," and "Afro-Latinos: Emerging Leadership among Afro-descendent communities in Latin America." In August, the IAF sponsored representatives of the Red de Mujeres Afro Latinas, Caribeñas y de la Diáspora at the 10th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the United Nations in Ecuador.

## IAF publications



The 2007 *Grassroots Development* journal has been distributed to subscribers in English and Spanish, and uploaded to the IAF Web site in English, Spanish and Portuguese. To order your copy, send your complete postal address to [publications@iaf.gov](mailto:publications@iaf.gov).

### Online Resources

A recent report from the Center for Information, Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) shares how young people exposed to sports in school apply values and habits learned to become more active, engaged and civically responsible. Download the report by clicking here: [www.civicyouth.org/PopUps/FactSheets/FS\\_06\\_Sports\\_and\\_Civic\\_Engagement.pdf](http://www.civicyouth.org/PopUps/FactSheets/FS_06_Sports_and_Civic_Engagement.pdf)

For an excellent guide to NGO activities and recourses, visit the Impact Alliance's Web site at <http://www.impactalliance.org>. Text is available in Spanish, French and English.

IAF Uruguayan grantee MundoAfro published its first newsletter at <http://www.mundoafro.org/>.

### Guest Speakers

María Marta Padilla, executive director of FINCA-Costa Rica, a former IAF grantee that has served as a model for microcredit programs in Nicaragua, Honduras, Venezuela and Panama, spoke to IAF staff on Feb. 12.

Feb 15, Deborah Schimberg, founder and president of Glee Gum and Verve Inc. shared her experience as a buyer of chicle (natural gum) for her socially and environmentally responsible business. To learn more, visit [www.gleegum.com](http://www.gleegum.com).

On March 7, Bharati Chaturvedi of India spoke on her experiences with scavenger and recyclers in India.

On April 19, Melinda Crowley of the Department of State spoke on measuring and evaluating the impact of activities furthering public diplomacy.

Enrique Mendizabal and Nicola Jones of the Overseas Development Institute, a London based think-tank for aid programs, spoke to IAF staff on July 18 about a new research project on trade policy favoring the poor in Latin America.

IAF representatives for Haiti, Brazil and Guatemala and their counterparts from ActionAid Latin American exchanged information in a roundtable discussion July 25.

Javier Vargas, formerly of the Fundación Vamos, and Adriana Cortés of the Fundación Comunitaria del Bajío, in Mexico, spoke to IAF staff on July 26.

### Photo Exhibits

*Paso a Paso*, an exhibit featuring photos of IAF projects by Miguel Sayago, was displayed at the Chilean Embassy during May.

## In the Media

The Aug. 2 *Diario el Libertador*, a newspaper in Corrientes, Argentina, described the work of IAF 2004 grantee La Choza which is drafting local development plans in partnership with five municipalities and councils in Corrientes. For the article, visit [www.diarioellibertador.com.ar/int-g.htm](http://www.diarioellibertador.com.ar/int-g.htm); to learn how La Choza is changing people's lives, visit [www.lachoza.org.ar/novedades/prensa/home\\_4.html](http://www.lachoza.org.ar/novedades/prensa/home_4.html).

On July 29, *La Razón*, Bolivia's major daily, ran an article on Irupana Andean Organic Foods, a Bolivian food-processing company, and its record sales and exports. Irupana has partnered with IAF 2004 grantee PRO RURAL which helps indigenous farmers improve their quinoa. A strong world market for good quality quinoa has meant more profits for farmers and for Irupana whose exports have increased 10-fold in the past four years. This is a promising example of a win-win situation involving a socially responsible corporation, an effective NGO and various organizations of hardworking people engaged at the grassroots.

A July 24 *New York Times* article by Thomas Friedman, author of *The World Is Flat*, praises 2003 IAF grantee Endeavor for having "the best anti-poverty program of all." Endeavor's Uruguayan affiliate used IAF funding to expand its program for entrepreneurs to include low-income and marginalized producers. An Endeavor beneficiary Francisco Gross, who received start-up capital to work with the water engineering firm the Seinco Company, participated in White House Conference of the Americas. For information, visit [www.endeavor.org/](http://www.endeavor.org/).

The IAF was mentioned as an effective conduit for foreign aid in "A White House Focus on Social Justice in Latin America?" by Nancy Birdsall and Peter Hakim. For the article, visit [http://thediologue.org/publications/oped/july07/birdsall\\_hakim.pdf](http://thediologue.org/publications/oped/july07/birdsall_hakim.pdf).

On June 16, *La Nación*, a major Buenos Aires daily, published "The Committed Neighbors," which described the "citizen auditing program" managed by Marta Oyhanarte, Argentina's undersecretary for instructional reform who visited U.S. Renewal Communities in April. IAF grantee CIPPEC was also mentioned. For the article, visit [http://www.lanacion.com.ar/Archivo/nota.asp?nota\\_id=917155](http://www.lanacion.com.ar/Archivo/nota.asp?nota_id=917155).

IAF grantee Ser Paz's effort to establish a 'peace' neighborhood in Guayaquil was the subject of a June 3 article in the Ecuadorian daily *El Comercio*. For the article, visit [http://www.elcomercio.com/solo\\_texto\\_search.asp?id\\_noticia=75005&anio=2007&mes=6&dia=3](http://www.elcomercio.com/solo_texto_search.asp?id_noticia=75005&anio=2007&mes=6&dia=3).

*El Siglo* of March 15 and *Terra* of March 8 published articles on IAF Panamanian grantee Asociación para el Fomento del Turismo (AFOTUR) which is working with indigenous Embera to preserve their culture and generate income from tourism. (photo available)

*El Tiempo*, a Colombian daily published RedEAmérica member, Fundación Corona poverty reduction plan for Colombia. For the article, visit [http://www.eltiempo.com/bogota/2007-03-16/ARTICULO-WEB-NOTA\\_INTERIOR-3478059.html](http://www.eltiempo.com/bogota/2007-03-16/ARTICULO-WEB-NOTA_INTERIOR-3478059.html).

IAF 2006 grantee ph15 hosted *Inside the Hidden City*, an exhibit of work by young photographers, at the Palais de Glace in Buenos Aires June 7-24. The grantee offers photography training in poor neighborhoods. The exhibit was mentioned of the show in the June 24 Buenos Aires Herald, an English language newspaper. Director Moira Rubio attended the July Conference on the Americas and spoke to IAF staff.

## Staff Activities

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On Feb. 25, Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Bolivia, spoke at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian on Bolivia's indigenous peoples. Healy also was featured at "Indigenous Peoples and Economic Opportunities at Georgetown University," held Feb. 9 with support from the World Bank and the IAF. Bernardo Apaza, an officer of former IAF Bolivian grantee El Ceibo, also spoke.

Ramon Daubon, IAF vice president for external affairs, discussed IAF's experience with community development at an international forum on local and regional development held in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia, in March. The conference was organized by Centro para la Participación y el Desarrollo Humano Sostenible (CEPAD) with support from the European Commission, the Bolivian Industrial, Commercial, Services and Tourism Commission of Santa Cruz (CAINCO). On March 27, Daubon and Rod MacAlister, president of the U.S. African Development Foundation, shared the U.S. government's grassroots methodology with representatives of the International Finance Corporation.

Rosemarie Moreken, IAF evaluation specialist, attended "Women of Power II: Afro-Latina Leadership and Activists," cosponsored by the IAF, the Franklin H. Williams Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI) and the Global Afro Latino and Caribbean Initiative (GALCI) March 21-23 in New York. Moreken joined Emilia Rodriguez-Stein at the Eastern Evaluation Research Society's April 22-24 meeting in New Jersey.

In March, Jill Wheeler, IAF regional director for Mexico and Central America, participated in a roundtable discussion, "Policy Research on Family Remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean," sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank. She spoke at a transnational symposium sponsored by Hispanics in Philanthropy in New York City on April 18, and she attended a workshop of the Border Philanthropy Partnership in New Mexico.

## New Faces

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Zakiya Carr Johnson, IAF representative for Venezuela, coordinated the Inter-American Development Bank's Social Inclusion Fund, and worked for Global Rights and NGOs in Brazil, Geledes and the Instituto da Mulher Negra before joining the IAF. She has an M.A. from Syracuse University and a B.A. from Howard University.

Jenny Petrow, IAF representative for the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Caribbean, worked at the World Bank and at CEDPA, an NGO which provides health care in Guatemala. She has an M.A. from George Washington University and recently co-authored a book on improving education in Latin America.

## Interns

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Karla Ramirez, an Americas Fellow from the U.S. Peace Corp in Peru, worked with the Office of Operations on an audit guide for grantees. Her six-week internship was funded by the Department of State and managed by Partners of America.

On June 11, she spoke at the Transnational Migration, Economic and Social Policy Conference co-sponsored by Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM) and the University of California.

George Rowland, IAF's grant administrator, attended the Grant Managers Network Annual Conference in San Francisco March 26-28.

Phil Walsh, IAF representative for Nicaragua, spoke on a panel on the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) at the Institute for Policy Studies in April.

Judith Morrison, regional director for South America and the Caribbean, participated in a panel discussion on Latino communities on the television program *Línea Directa*. In April, she participated in nine panels on international affairs and development at the Conference on World Affairs in Boulder and was a guest lecturer for a class on Latin American politics. As part of the March seminar Women in the Americas: Paths to Political Power, she moderated a panel at the Library of Congress with Senator Marta Lucía Ramírez, former Colombian defense minister; Representative Dayana Martínez Burke of Honduras; and Representative Olga Ferreira de López of Paraguay. IAF funded travel for the Latin American panelists.

Linda Kolko, vice president for operations, represented the IAF at the Aug. 16-18 annual meeting of the Red de Mujeres Afro Latinas, Caribeñas y de la Diaspora in Ecuador. The IAF sponsored 30 African descendants' participation .

## Board of Directors

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The board visited traveled grantees in Quito and Guayaquil and RedEAmérica beneficiaries in Bogota May 9-14. Hector Morales, U.S. executive director for the Inter-American Development Bank, was sworn in as the IAF's newest board member on July 19.

Julia Ramirez and Mara Quintero, law students at American University, worked with the general counsel.

Justine Collingwood, an undergraduate at Elmira College in New York, worked with the Office of Operations.

Payton Odom, an undergraduate at Rice University, worked with the Office of Operations.

Dorothy Boehm, an undergraduate at Alliant International University in Mexico City, worked with External Affairs Office.

Liz Yates, an undergraduate at Tufts University, worked with the Program Office.

Christine Roddy, an undergraduate at College of William and Mary, worked with the Programs Office.