



¡Bienvenidos! Bienvenus! Bem Vindos! Welcome!

The new board of Latin American Matters (LAM) would like to welcome you to the Harris School. If you are unfamiliar with our organization, allow us to tell you a little bit about us and how we started.

On November 2004, a group of highly motivated Harris School students decided to organize around the following premise: *“To create the most active and influential student-led public policy organization focused on Latin America in the Midwest, generating a sense of compromise from all our members and contributors to work with honesty and dedication towards the resolution of the outstanding problems of the region.”*

Our founding colleagues decided to constitute LAM with the intention of generating a continuous channel for the exchange of ideas, information and experiences of the region. Our objective, though ambitious, is straightforward. We aim to increase awareness and improve understanding of Latin America, amplifying the sources of information to the academic community at the University of Chicago.

After six years of operation, LAM has become an important catalyst for the interaction between public policy academics and practitioners, providing exposure to both theoretical and practical components of public policy. Through our meetings, Brown Bag Lunches and Quarterly Conference Series we aim to stimulate the discussion and better understanding of the most pressing issues in the region. Previous guests have included prominent leaders and academics such as Mexico Central Bank’s Deputy Governor, Dr. Manuel Sánchez, Venezuela’s Miranda State governor, Mr. Henrique Capriles Radonski, Dr. William Maloney, chief economist for Latin America at the World Bank, and Mexican presidential candidate Mr. Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas. Along with our other guest speakers, they have honored us with their perspectives and findings in a setting where LAM members, Harris students and faculty join and contribute to the discussion.

We also pride ourselves on actively fomenting the interest in our shared heritage. We firmly believe our countries have a great amount of exemplar characteristics to be proud of and we work hard for these to be appreciated and recognized.

Our hope is that through LAM we will improve the understanding of the region and influence both our members and our guests into contributing towards the region personally and professionally. Thank you for your interest in us, we hope you find in LAM the possibility of learning of Latin America’s enormous potential, its beauty and complexity and above all the enormous desire of its people to share these with you.

Again, welcome!

LAM Board for the 2010-2011 academic cycle.