

The Bernard and Audre
RAPOPORT CENTER
For Human Rights and Justice
The University of Texas at Austin
School of Law

Annual Review
2006-2007

www.rapoportcenter.org

From the Director



PHOTO COURTESY WYATT MCSADDEN

Eight UT graduate and professional students, Rapoport Center administrator Sarah Cline and I visited Soacha, Colombia on March 14, 2006 as part of the Center's first annual spring break human rights delegation. Soacha is a recently built municipality on the southern outskirts of Bogotá, which houses displaced victims of Colombia's civil war. The residents we visited were Afro-descendants from the Pacific department of the Chocó in Colombia's tropical lowlands. This barren, mountainous land of Soacha was as strange to their way of life as it was to our own.

We ate lunch in the home of Ramona, a community leader who described many of the ongoing hardships and violence that displaced community members face in Soacha. She also discussed how women's cooperatives and cultural education programs had developed to respond to their economic and personal needs. We then went to Soacha's community center for a performance by La Palma Negra, a dance company of displaced Afro-descendant and mestizo youth. La Palma Negra is directed by a young dynamic Chococan dancer, Daisy. After the performance, we joined Daisy and the performers in a moving discussion about their lives and dreams.

Our experience in Soacha taught us not only about the lives of extraordinary people working both to survive and flourish in conditions of poverty and displacement; it taught us about how, as U.S. citizens, we are implicated in their lives. Ramona told us of the meeting she had participated in just three days earlier with President Bush in Bogotá, as part of a discussion about the effects and future of Plan Colombia and a free trade agreement between the two countries. Even the plaque at the entrance to the community center informed us that it was built as a result of a collaborative project largely funded by the United States Government (USAID) and the Organization of American States (OAS). We were apparently not as foreign to these internal refugees in Colombia as they were to us.

With the advantage of hindsight, I now see that day in Soacha as a microcosm of the Center's work over this past year. United States foreign policy in Latin America was the theme of many of our activities, from our annual conference, which launched the website using the papers of diplomat George Lister to discuss the history and development of human rights in U.S. foreign policy (p. 2), to the report we eventually wrote for the OAS and members of U.S. congress on Colombia (p. 5). The Immigration Clinic and the National Security and Human Rights Clinic spearheaded and participated in significant challenges to U.S. policies of detention in Guantánamo Bay and in Taylor, Texas, working with populations who—whether or not technically refugees—are living far

from their homes against their will. Each of these cases illustrates the multiple ways in which we are linked economically and politically to the rest of the world. It was only fitting that we partnered with the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law and the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LLILAS) in much of this work.

The dance performance by La Palma Negra and our subsequent conversations with the dancers made clear the power of the performing arts—as a vehicle for raising human rights issues, sharing different cultural experiences and transforming the lives of the people involved in the performances. Here at home, our partnerships with the Performing Arts Center (PAC) and the Humanities Institute permitted ongoing exciting work in this area last year as high school students throughout the region created their own Living Newspaper performances (p. 7) and the Center welcomed the participation of musicians and artists in its Human Rights Happy Hour series (p. 8).

We move into our fourth year, 2007–08, full of plans to continue to build on UT's many strengths and on our multidisciplinary base. Our fourth annual conference, for example, will use a collection of photographs from El Salvador recently acquired by the Harry Ransom Center as a springboard to explore the effects of photojournalism on human rights policy and reconsider the history and legacy of U.S. involvement in El Salvador (p. 10).

Thanks to increased support from the School of Law and LLILAS, we enter the new year with a strong, dedicated and enlarged staff. Sarah Cline begins her second year as administrator, a job title that does not begin to describe her invaluable intellectual and organizational contributions to the Center. Ariel Dulitzky, our new Associate Director, promises to bring transformative energy and many exciting projects to the Center. Ariel is one of the best-known experts on human rights and Latin America and brings a wealth of experience in human rights litigation, policy-making and teaching to the Law School (p. 5). The Law School's work on human rights will also be enhanced by two new clinical instructors, Denise Gilman (p. 4) and Kristine Huskey (p. 3).

All upcoming events will be posted on our website. We hope to see you in the coming months!

Sincerely,

Karen Engle

Who We Are 2006–2007 Affiliated Faculty * Steering Committee

Itty Abraham, Government			Jack Ratliff, Law
Kamran Ali, Anthropology	* Karen Engle, Law	* Neville Hoad, English	Gretchen Ritter, Government
Jafari Allen, Anthropology	Neil Foley, History	Juliet Hooker, Government	Bryan Roberts, Sociology
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Ariel Dulitzky, Law	* Barbara Hines, Law	Jonathan Pratter, Law Library	Ernest Young, Law

Conference Examines Role of Human Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy Through Lens of Diplomat George Lister

U.S. diplomat George Lister, a passionate champion for human rights within the State Department, was a maverick whose unorthodox style might well have prevented him from ever assuming a top diplomatic post. Lister nevertheless managed to advance the cause of human rights by building a broad network of people who cared about the issue, including members of Congress and activists from around the world.

The Rapoport Center's third annual conference, **"The Life and Legacy of George Lister: Reconsidering Human Rights, Democracy and U.S. Foreign Policy,"** held December 1–2, 2006 at the UT School of Law, was a unique

mixture of academic inquiry and warm remembrances, as many of Lister's friends in the human rights community joined with other experts and activists to reflect on the role of human rights in U.S. foreign policy. A highlight of the conference was a Friday evening dinner discussion including U.S. Senator **Tom Harkin** and former Representative **Donald Fraser**, who played seminal roles

in early Congressional action on human rights. The discussion was moderated by **Steve Inskip**, host of National Public Radio's "Morning Edition."

Lister, who passed away in 2004, worked at the State Department for six tumultuous decades, from 1941 until 2003. Lister remained a mid-level bureaucrat throughout his career but, through tenacity and skillful maneuvering in Washington, he succeeded in increasing the status of human rights in U.S. policy circles. He was even dubbed "Mr. Human Rights" by historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. His papers—boxes and boxes of memos, cables, newspaper clippings and other collected materials on human rights—were donated to the Benson Latin American Collection at UT in July 2005. Selected papers from the archive were provided to conference panelists prior to the conference and served as a launching point for the discussions.

The conference panels addressed the role of human rights in U.S. foreign policy both before and after the creation of the State Department's human rights bureau in the mid-1970s. For instance, historian **Elizabeth Borgwardt** gave a presentation on the place of human rights in the

Atlantic Charter while **Mortin S. Halperin**, Director of U.S. Advocacy for the Open Society Institute, spoke about U.S. human rights policy in the present era.

The conference also explored the significance of making human rights an institutionalized factor in the foreign policy-making process. Panelists drew attention to the political and institutional dynamics underlying the development of U.S. human rights policy, discussing the relationships between Congress and the State Department, NGOs and the federal government, and Republicans and Democrats. One panel debated the uses of the language of human rights deployed by the United States in various countries, focusing especially on Latin America, where Lister was a specialist.



(L to R) David Kennedy, Manley O. Hudson Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, listens as Arvonne Fraser, Senior Fellow Emerita at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, discusses the legacy of George Lister.

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A principal goal of the conference was to honor and celebrate Lister's life and career. Participants watched video clips of interviews with Lister's friends and colleagues that were conducted in the summer of 2006 by National Public Radio producer and Lister family friend **Tracy Wahl** and Rapoport Center Director **Karen Engle**. Conference participants were also offered a first look at a new website devoted to Lister's career.

Those attendees who knew Lister joined together to toast him on Friday evening, recalling lessons he

Remembering Lister

Congratulations to former Human Rights Scholar, **Gregory Krauss**, whose thesis on Lister's career received a Redford honorable mention from the LBJ School in May 2007. The thesis is also available on the Lister website.

Harkin added: "What [King] didn't say was that it doesn't bend by itself. It bends because there are many people who devote themselves towards bending that arc."

had taught them and his personal quirks. **Peter Kornbluh**, now at the National Security Archive in Washington, D.C., recalled an insight Lister shared with him during the 1970s that he will never forget. Lister told Kornbluh: "Peter, I know you're a young radical and I know you think the U.S. government is imperialist, but I'm here to tell you that in reality the U.S. government is just mediocre." Kornbluh added that Lister, of course, "rose well above the mediocrity of those he worked with."

For her part, **Diane La Voy**, a founder of the NGO Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), asked participants to join together in



(L to R) Margaret Eubank, retired foreign service officer and Diane La Voy toast to their friend, George Lister.

toasting Lister with his favorite catch phrase—"To Our Hopeless Cause!"—through which Lister humorously expressed the difficulty of making progress on human rights while affirming a shared commitment to keep on trying.

New Website Launched: "The Papers of George Lister" www.rapoportcenter.org/listner

A persistent theme during the conference was that determined individuals do a great deal to improve the world around them. In his toast to Lister, Harkin

quoted Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., who observed that "the arc of history is long but it bends towards justice."

Harkin added: "What [King] didn't say was that it doesn't bend by itself. It bends because there are many people who devote themselves towards bending that arc."

PHOTO COURTESY TRACY WAHL

PHOTO COURTESY TRACY WAHL



(L to R) Bernard Rapoport introduces Steve Inskip, Don Fraser and Tom Harkin during the keynote dinner discussion.

PHOTOS COURTESY TRACY WAHL

Students and Faculty Challenge Guantánamo Detentions



Department of Defense photo of prisoners held at Guantánamo Bay.

While many Americans remain mere spectators of the ongoing and controversial “War on Terror,” thirty-two UT law students have directly contributed to significant legal challenges against the detention of presumed “enemy combatants” at the U.S. military base in Guantánamo Bay.

Under the direction of Professors **Derek Jinks**, **Jack Ratliff** and **Scott Sullivan**, the Rule of Law in Wartime seminar allowed these students to engage in the direct representation of Guantánamo detainees, the preparation of appellate briefs challenging the legality of the Military Commissions Act (MCA) and amicus curiae briefs in “War on Terror”-related cases. Beyond providing students with exceptional practical experience in human rights and international law, the clinic gave them a way to contribute to some of the most crucial and pressing issues of our day. “It’s exciting to know that UT is on the cutting edge of developing the best litigation strategies in these matters,” noted former Human Rights Scholar and current clinic fellow **Elizabeth Hardy**.

The students’ initial client during the Fall 2006 semester was Anwar Khan, an Afghan citizen being held in Guantánamo under suspicion of ties to the Taliban. When Khan was unexpectedly released from detention just two months later, the students quickly turned to the work of battling legislation aimed at stripping the courts of jurisdiction to hear the habeas claims of every Guantánamo detainee. In concert with law firms and constitutional lawyers from across the country, students worked both to combat the MCA

and advocate for the application of the Geneva Conventions in relation to detainees. Additionally, they prepared habeas claims for three detainees and drafted an amicus brief for the *Arar* case, involving a Canadian-Syrian dual citizen detained by U.S. authorities and deported to Syria where he was then tortured for nearly a year.



Gift that attorney Sarah Havens chose for detainee Abdulaziz’ Al Swidi’s mother. Note translates: “Don’t despair, someone in the sky is taking care.” Photograph from Margot Herster’s project, *GUANTÁNAMO: Pictures from Home* (2007).

“This has been the highlight of my year. The students are extremely committed, talented and hard-working.”

—Professor Derek Jinks

The most significant efforts by the students were those related to the ongoing *Al Odab* litigation, which Professor Jinks considers the single most important “War on Terror”-related case before the Supreme Court. *Al Odab* addresses the core issue of whether U.S. Courts lack jurisdiction to consider challenges to the legality of the detention of foreign nationals in Guantánamo. The clinic assisted in the drafting of a brief to the D.C. Circuit Court and a petition to the Supreme Court. To ensure the continuation of this work, the Law School has recently hired UT alumna **Kristine Huskey** to direct the newly

named National Security and Human Rights Clinic.

The Rapoport Center would like to welcome UT Law grad **Kristine Huskey** as the new instructor of the National Security and Human Rights Clinic. Huskey has successfully represented Guantánamo detainees since 2002. Welcome back!

Center Brings Performing Arts Perspective to National Guantánamo Teach-In

“It gave me an opportunity to see how art can connect deeply and relevantly with current political issues.”



Attorney Sarah Havens holding pictures of detainee Abdulaziz Al Swidi and his sister’s newborn daughter. Photograph from Margot Herster’s project, *GUANTÁNAMO: Pictures from Home* (2007).

UT students from a broad cross-section of academic departments then presented a staged dramatic reading of excerpts from Victoria Brittain and Gillian Slovo’s play “Guantánamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom.” Human Rights Scholar **Annelies Lottmann** produced the reading, and several participating actors were UT law students, many of whom were enrolled in the new Rule of Law in Wartime course. The performance was followed by a conversation with the performers and **Judith Rhedin**, member of the Center’s Steering Committee and Assistant Director of the Performing Arts Center, on human rights and the arts. **Sydney Katz**, one of the student performers, said he felt “honored” to be part of the teach-in: “As a theatre and dance student, it gave me the opportunity to see how art can connect deeply and relevantly with current political issues.”

On October 5, 2006 the Rapoport Center joined 200 other schools in 44 states in a nationwide, day-long teach-in on the detentions in Guantánamo. Inspired by the techniques of teach-ins in the 1960s but incorporating current technology, the day’s events included a real-time webcast of panel discussions followed by a live photo presentation, play reading and discussion of the role of the arts in human rights advocacy.

The sessions formed part of an established program entitled “Guantánamo: How Should We Respond?” Following the nation-wide program, the Rapoport Center added a presentation by **Margot Herster** of a series of photos entitled *GUANTÁNAMO: Pictures from Home*. The images “hint at the detainees’ personal and cultural lives, and reveal the burden carried by their families,” Herster reflected. “Againstst the U.S. strategy to obscure transparency of Guantánamo, this series provides the public with an intimate look into the lives of those detained there.”



UT students, including Human Rights Scholar Rachel Lopez (L), participate in a play reading at the Guantánamo teach-in.

PHOTO COURTESY ANNELIES LOTTMANN

Immigration Clinic Leads Opposition to Texas Detention Center

This year the Immigration Clinic featured prominently in the debate surrounding the expanded detention of children at the T. Don Hutto detention center—a former medium security prison in Taylor, Texas, now run by the Corrections Corporation of America, a for-profit company that manages adult prisons. As part of increased detention of immigrants, up to 500 families can be housed at this widely criticized facility. When the clinic first began to speak out against the conditions at Hutto, children and their parents were detained under prison-like conditions, required to spend long hours in their cells, dressed in prison garb and provided only a few hours of education and recreation per day.



The entrance to the Hutto detention facility.

fruits of their labor in the courtroom. In addition, the case attracted a great deal of media attention to the clinic's work in prominent news outlets including *Newsweek* and the *New York Times*, finally drawing much-needed public scrutiny to the detention of innocent children at Hutto.

As a result of the litigation, in August 2007 a landmark settlement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was announced. The settlement, approved by Judge Sam Sparks of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, marks a tremendous victory and greatly improves conditions for the children and their families inside Hutto.

Clinic students successfully obtained the release of numerous children and their families through immigration court proceedings and as a result of the federal lawsuit. In addition, students also won asylum cases in immigration court and on appeal for clients from Pakistan, Colombia, Eritrea and Iraq. The Iraqi family were Chaldean Christians who suffered severe persecution in Iraq and were detained at Hutto with their infant daughter for over five months. Student advocacy on these cases was a matter of life and death for the clients.

Added to these efforts, students in the Transnational Workers Rights Clinic taught by **Bill Beardall** recovered tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid wages for immigrants working in Central Texas. In cases such as *Itzep v. Target Corp.*, involving a federal court lawsuit against the Target Corporation for failing to pay overtime wages to night janitors, clinic students worked to devise new legal rules and techniques to ensure that access to the justice system is not contingent upon immigration status.



Professor Barbara Hines is director of the Immigration Clinic and a member of the Rapoport Center Steering Committee.

“I was shocked... I had never seen children in a prison before.”

“I’ve been working in the area of immigrants’ rights for thirty years, but I was shocked,” said Professor **Barbara Hines** after her first visit to the facility in Central Texas. “I had never seen children in a

prison before.” Hines, who directs UT’s Immigration Clinic, was so troubled by the conditions she witnessed that she, fellow Immigration Clinic professor **Frances Valdez** and clinic students have since been at the forefront of a campaign to end the detention of families at the Hutto detention facility.

The Immigration Clinic collaborated with national organizations in exposing conditions at Hutto. In spring 2007, the clinic, along with the American Civil Liberties Union and the law firm of LeBocuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae LLP, filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the detention of children at Hutto. Students participated in many aspects of the lawsuit and later observed the

Congratulations! Professor Barbara Hines, director of the Immigration Clinic, received the Elmer Fried Excellence in Teaching Award from the American Immigration Lawyers Association in 2007. The award recognizes outstanding professors of immigration law. Professor Hines was also honored by the Political Asylum Project of Austin for her achievement as an immigrant rights champion at its 20th anniversary luncheon.

The Rapoport Center congratulates Professor Hines for these recognitions of her outstanding work in immigration, teaching and advocacy.

The Rapoport Center extends a warm welcome to new Immigration Clinic Professor, **Denise Gilman**. Professor Gilman received her law degree from Columbia University and an LLM from Georgetown University where she recently completed a two year clinical teaching fellowship. “I am thrilled to join the Immigration Clinic where I hope to encourage students to explore the connections between international human rights work and domestic immigrants’ rights advocacy,” shares Gilman.

New Summer Fellows Defend Human Rights



(L to R) Robertson, Kaufman, Rogers, Erickson, Turner and Garza (Not pictured: Belkin, Clark, Romo and Shapere).

Eight UT law and two LILAS students fanned out to non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations across the globe as Rapoport Summer Fellows in 2007. In destinations as diverse as Costa Rica, Cambodia, Washington D.C. and London, the fellows’ work furthered the Center’s mission of promoting the economic and political enfranchisement of marginalized

individuals and groups. Their projects included advocacy for immigrants’ rights, the drafting of anti-discrimination legislation and the promotion of community legal education. The students received funds to cover their travel costs and living expenses, provided by the Rapoport Center and supplemented by grants from the Cain Foundation, a longtime supporter of international legal placements at the law school.

The fellowships were awarded to **Rachel Belkin** (World Organization for Human Rights USA in D.C.), to prepare asylum petitions for refugee women fleeing gender-based violence; **Michelle Garza** (Universidad de los Andes in Colombia), to assist in drafting anti-discrimination proposals on behalf of Afro-Colombians for Colombian Congress; **Kari Erickson** (Kurdish Human Rights

Project in London), to help in the prosecution of human rights violations against Kurds; **Brett Kaufman** (Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica), to research and analyze human rights issues before the court; **Hannah Robertson** (American Civil Liberties Union of Texas), to investigate and challenge the conditions of confinement of detained immigrants and children; **Raegen Rogers** (Legislative Assembly in Costa Rica), to assess the effects of the Central American Free Trade Agreement on the poorest sector of the economy; **Anne Shapere** (Bridges Across Borders in Cambodia), to contribute to community legal education efforts and child labor law; **Christie Turner** (UN High Commissioner for Refugees in D.C.), to monitor U.S. implementation of international protocols related to the protection of immigrants and refugees; **Sylvia Romo** and **Josh Clark** (Rapoport Center), to assist in planning the IV Annual Conference on El Salvador, strengthen the new LILAS human rights concentration and prepare the Annual Review.

“Working in Colombia was truly an eye-opening experience. I worked on issues ranging from discrimination to deforestation and even contributed to the development of an amicus curiae to the Colombian Constitutional Court!”

—Michelle Garza

Rapoport Center Conducts Fact-finding Mission to Colombia

Over seventy-five students from across campus applied to spend their spring break investigating the human rights of Colombians of African descent. With the generous support of the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law, the UT School of Law, the Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies and a number of private donors, an interdisciplinary group of eight was chosen for this initiative, unprecedented in UT history. They were accompanied in Colombia by Rapoport Center Director **Karen Engle** and Center administrator **Sarah Cline**.

In 1993, Colombia passed some of the most progressive legislation in the world for guaranteeing the collective rights of an Afro-descendant minority population. Law 70 of 1993 grants communal land rights and guarantees development assistance, educational reforms and protections against discrimination to Afro-Colombians. These promised rights, however, are far from realized, as years of armed conflict, the expansion of agriculture and tourist projects and narco-trafficking have all impeded the realization of the legislation's objectives. Law 70 served as the point of departure for the fact-finding mission and delegates quickly became aware of the controversy surrounding its effective implementation.

Students met several times before the trip to study the history of the Afro-Colombians, their diverse

modes of self-identification, their cultural contributions to Colombian society and the country's legal protections targeted at the population. They also studied the various international legal tools governing property and cultural rights that might be of use to Afro-Colombians, with an eye toward how the delegation would ultimately formulate its findings in a report to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH CLINE

Performers from La Palma Negra, a youth dance group of displaced Afro-descendant and mestizo youth in Soacha. The group offers neighborhood youth a chance to recapture aspects of Afro-Colombian culture through dance, music, and education. They also openly advocate that non-Afro-Colombians join the group so that they too can learn aspects of the culture.

expense of local populations whose subsistence is dependent on the land. This sentiment would echo throughout the course of the delegates' interactions with various activists with whom they met.

During what proved to be a very full week, the student delegation (comprised of law students and graduate students of LLILAS, the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the department of anthropology) met with members of Afro-

Colombian communities, non-governmental organizations and government representatives in order to gain a comprehensive perspective on the status of Afro-Colombians' human rights.

"The trip helped to solidify my interest in human rights law."

Delegates were particularly moved by the first-hand accounts they heard from representatives of communities that had

secured collective land titles only to be forcibly displaced from these traditionally-occupied lands. The delegation made an afternoon site visit to Soacha, a sprawling settlement inhabited by survivors of displacement, located just a short distance from the capital. These information gathering efforts culminated in a report and a short documentary on the obstacles faced by Afro-Colombians in the realization of their rights.

A part of the delegation also traveled to Cartagena during the week following spring break to meet with Afro-Colombian community leaders and residents in the Caribbean/Atlantic region. There, people of African descent are struggling to reclaim "blackness" after generations of pervasive racism, while also facing new threats to their



PHOTO COURTESY ROB DAVENPORT

Delegates meet with a government agency representative (L to R): Alysia Childs, Sylvia Romo, Josh Clark, Silvio Garcés and Karen Engle.

Center Welcomes New Associate Director

"I believe that the Rapoport Center, in collaboration with LLILAS, has the potential to become the premier institution in the world for the study of human rights in Latin America, a place where the next generation of effective human rights advocates will learn and grow."



The Rapoport Center is proud to welcome **Ariel Dulitzky** as Associate Director of the Center and Tinker Visiting Professor, beginning Fall 2007. Professor Dulitzky will coordinate and develop programs related to human rights with a particular focus on Latin America, including the new Human Rights Concentration in Latin American Studies. He will also teach a course on Human Rights in Latin America and supervise and coordinate human rights projects. Dulitzky brings a wealth of experience in this field to the law school. He has taught human rights at American University, Washington College of Law and at the University of Buenos Aires. He was also a Human Rights Senior Specialist and Deputy Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, where he helped to create a Special Rapporteurship on Afro-Descendants and played a crucial role in the adoption by the Commission of many decisions dealing with indigenous peoples.

At UT, Dulitzky plans to have students engage in a broad set of human rights issues, particularly those related to indigenous and Afro-Descendant peoples, in collaboration with NGOs, academic centers and international organizations such as the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights.

security and livelihoods. The greatest of these threats comes from tourism developers, who push communities further and further “down the beach,” replacing their modest homes with multi-million dollar hotels. In the process, the displaced Afro-Colombians lose access to waters that they have traditionally fished for both subsistence and commercial purposes.

Delegates made a point to travel to Cartagena in the belief that Caribbean Afro-Colombian communities have been, in many senses, forgotten. LLILAS student **Josh Clark** noted that “most of the work on the impact of legislative measures targeted at Afro-

“This experience was an amazing opportunity. It brought all of us face to face with the issues, building a context for advocacy.”

—Rob Davenport, LLILAS student

Colombians has focused on the Pacific.” He believed that the site visit that Professor Engle, fellow LLILAS student **Sylvia Romo** and he made was important because “the land tenure system on the

Atlantic coast is extremely precarious, and local Afro-Colombians have very limited options for protecting their territories.” Such concerns were addressed in a special section of the report focusing specifically on the Atlantic Coast.

Results, Pedagogical and Practical

The trip to Colombia was of immense educational importance to its student participants. Second-year law student **Amber VanSchuyver** commented that she “gained a wealth of knowledge about the struggles that the Afro-Colombian community is facing. The trip helped to solidify my interest in human rights law. It was extremely beneficial to

learn about human rights in a real life setting and meet people whose lives have been directly affected by the issues that we are studying.”



PHOTO COURTESY SYLVIA ROMO

Karen Engle discusses land tenure with Afro-Colombian community leader “Cuco” in Isla del Rosario (below).

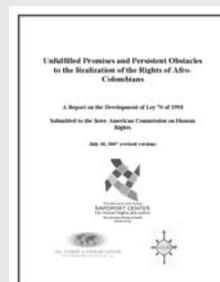


PHOTO COURTESY SYLVIA ROMO

The struggles to which VanSchuyver referred were many and are detailed in the delegation’s report titled “Unfulfilled Promises and Persistent Obstacles to the Realization of the Rights of Afro-Colombians.” In addition to the lack of realization of their property rights, Afro-Colombians also continue to suffer disproportionately from poverty, hunger, poor health and environmental conditions, social and political exclusion and the country’s 40-plus year armed conflict. The

delegation’s report, which can be accessed from the Center’s website, was completed in early May and has proven instrumental in the Commission’s continuing investigation of rights violations against Afro-Colombians.

Since May, the Rapoport Center has worked to put its report in the hands and minds of United States Congressional Representatives in the hope that it might have a palpable effect on U.S. foreign policy. Professor Engle and the Center’s summer interns (Clark, Romo and **Matthew Dunlap**) revised the report and created a cover letter spelling out the delegation’s concerns and recommendations about the prospective expansion of trade relations between the U.S. and Colombia in light of the delegation’s findings. These documents have been received by several members of the U.S. Congress, including key figures in the House Ways and Means Committee, the Subcommittee on Western Hemispheric Affairs and the Congressional Black Caucus. As the Annual Review goes to press, a U.S. House Resolution (618) concerning Afro-Colombians’ situation and bearing the undeniable influence of the Center’s work is being discussed in Congress.



The delegation’s report, “Unfulfilled Promises and Persistent Obstacles to the Realization of the Rights of Afro-Colombians,” received by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and United States Congressional Representatives, is now available on the Center’s website.

New Human Rights Concentration in Latin American Studies

The spring break 2007 human rights delegation to Colombia is part of a developing partnership between the Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies and the Rapoport Center. Collaborative work between the two institutes began last year with the establishment of the Human Rights Concentration in Latin American Studies. Beginning this fall, new Center Associate Director **Ariel Dulitzky** will serve as a Consultant for students in the concentration (see p. 5).

This initiative promotes a multidisciplinary curriculum within the M.A. program that considers the history, theory, rhetoric and practice of human rights.

Efforts are made to connect human rights concentration students with relevant research projects and opportunities during and after their tenure in the M.A. program.

The Colombia delegation (see these pages) is only an early example of the enriching and productive possibilities for students in this exciting new concentration.

“The Colombia spring break project was an exemplary effort. The students shared a commitment to research and scholarship that can make a difference. Their work is a model for future UT collaborations.”

—James Lindsay, Director, Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law

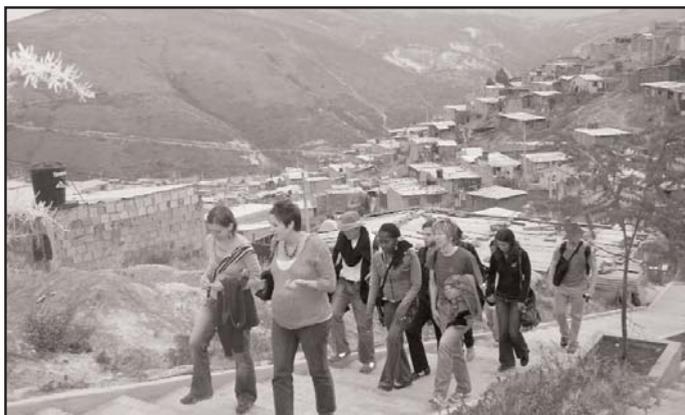


PHOTO COURTESY NICKI ALAM

The UT Rapoport Center human rights delegation explores Soacha, a displaced community south of Bogotá, Colombia.

Area High Schoolers Present First Products of “Living Newspaper” Project



PHOTO COURTESY HOLLY REED PHOTOGRAPHY

Their props may have included hacky sacks and iPods, but when students from St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin were performing their show “Got Rights?” they were channeling the 1930s.

“Got Rights?” brought to life the resolutions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), depicting more than 20 individuals facing issues like child labor, the AIDS epidemic in Africa and the juvenile justice system in the United States. In its dramatization of current events, it was a Living Newspaper, much like the Living Newspapers created as part of the Federal Theater Project more than 70 years ago.

The 1930s Living Newspapers put unemployed researchers, journalists and performers to work creating theater pieces that would inform the public about events of the day. Today's Living Newspapers take place in the classroom, where teachers use them to enliven the curriculum and teach their students research, writing and civic engagement.

The curriculum was designed by the Humanities Institute, in partnership with the Rapoport Center and the Performance as Public Practice

Program in the Department of Theatre and Dance. More than 35 local teachers have been trained in how to integrate it into their classrooms, with more training to continue in the future.

The Living Newspaper program “provides an interactive human rights curriculum for high school students to enable them to connect with what’s in the news, to connect it with their lives.”

It’s a program that Humanities Institute Director Dr. **Evan Carton** calls “a perfect storm of collaborative talents. It interlocks the Humanities Institute, The Performance as Public Practice Program and the Rapoport Center. It provides hands-on intellectual consulting work for graduate students across disciplines. It provides an interactive

human rights curriculum for high school students to enable them to connect with what’s in the news, to connect it with their lives.”

This article is adapted from Vivé Griffith, “Living Newspapers: High schoolers bring current events to life in curriculum adapting 1930s theater project to the classroom,” 30 April - 7 May 2007: <http://www.utexas.edu/features/2007/newspaper/>.

A St. Stephen's student performs in “Got Rights?” at the close of the Rapoport Center's Lister conference on human rights in December 2006. Before an audience of human rights professionals from across the country, students embodied the lives of an AIDS orphan in Kenya, a Sudanese refugee and a child in foster care. The experience was moving for adults in the audience, some of whom stood up to share their own experiences with the students.

Rapoport Scholars Advance the Center's Work in Human Rights Worldwide

Much of the success of the Center's third year was propelled by the work of four Human Rights Scholars who were selected on the basis of their dedication to human rights, their academic credentials and their leadership skills. Each played an integral role in the administration of the Center.

Elise Harriger received her B.A. in Plan II Honors from UT-Austin in 2003. Upon graduation, she enrolled at The University of Oxford, Linacre College and received a Post-Graduate Diploma in theology. Her exposure to liberation theology and social justice issues led her to serve Latino immigrants at Casa Marianella, a local non-profit emergency shelter. Following her first year at UT Law, she interned as a Rapoport Summer Fellow at the Program to Abolish the Death Penalty in Amnesty International's D.C. office. As a Human Rights Scholar, Elise worked with the Law School's Career Services Office to inform students of human rights internship and career opportunities. She also helped coordinate the Center's initiative on human rights and Latin America, including the delegation to Colombia (see p. 5).

Rachel Lopez received her B.A. in Political Science, Sociology and International Studies from Northwestern University in 2003. She later worked on food stamp access in California and Washington, D.C. as a Bill Emerson Fellow with the Congressional Hunger Center. The following year Rachel was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to study human and indigenous rights in Guatemala. She held summer internships as a Rapoport Fellow at the Rapporteurship for indigenous rights at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Rachel was the coordinator for the Human Rights Law Society at UT and helped coordinate the Center's human rights delegation to Colombia (see p. 5).

Annelies Lottmann received her B.A. in Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College in 2001. She then served for three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kazakhstan. As a Rapoport Summer Fellow, Annelies spent summer 2006

working at Boston's International Consortium for Law and Development. Then, as a Human Rights Scholar, she worked with Austin-area high school teachers and students through UT's Living Newspaper Project (see this page) and helped produce a staged reading for a nationally web-cast teach-in on Guantánamo (see p. 3). She played a key role in the Center's participation in several conferences at UT, including the Lister Conference (see p. 2), the Gender and Globalization Conference (see p. 9) and the Abriendo Brecha Conference.

Radney Wood received his B.A. in Political Science from Union College in 2002. After graduation, Wood worked for a year and a half at the New York County District Attorney's office before spending five months teaching English and doing non-profit work in Beirut, Lebanon. Radney later returned to Beirut as a Rapoport Summer Fellow with the United Nations Development Program. As a Human Rights Scholar, he contributed to organizing the Center's annual conference and expanding the Center's work in and about the Middle East.



(L to R) Annelies Lottmann, Rachel Lopez, Elise Harriger and Radney Wood.

PHOTO COURTESY SARAH CLINE

Happy Hour Series Brings Diverse Voices for Human Rights to Campus

PHOTO COURTESY SARAH CLINE



Julio Solórzano shares his family's search for justice after his mother was disappeared by the military in Guatemala.

Having established itself as the campus community's most consistent and important space for discussing pressing human rights issues, the Rapoport Center's Human Rights Happy Hour series enjoyed another stimulating year in 2006–2007. Nearly twice a month, UT students and faculty, as well as members of the greater Austin com-

munity, gathered to hear activists and scholars from around the world deliver lectures on topics ranging from indigenous customary law in Mexico to minority sexualities in the Middle East. UT law students were also given the opportunity to meet directly with the human rights law practitioners in a series of "Career Services" lunches organized by the Center. And, in response to requests from outside of Austin, the Center's website now features audio recordings of most of the lectures.

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Three of the speakers from this year demonstrate the diversity of topics and approaches to human rights included in the series. The first speaker in the fall was NYU Professor **Thomas Franck**, who used a discussion of his represen-

tion of Bosnia in its genocide case against Serbia before the International Court of Justice to consider whether trying individuals for large-scale crimes of state can provide satisfactory justice and reparation for those crimes. In the spring, the series joined with the Performing Arts Center and LLILAS for two very special events. **Julio Solórzano Foppa**, a writer, director and producer welcomed from



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH CLINE

Andy Palacio strums his guitar as part of his presentation on the human right to culture.

Mexico as a LLILAS Visiting Resource Professor, spoke of the disappearance of his mother, Aida Foppa, at the hands of the Guatemalan Army in 1980. Solórzano shared the personal story of his family's ongoing legal and political efforts for justice. The series wrapped up the year with Garifuna musician and Belizean Cultural Ambassador **Andy Palacio**, who

considered the question "How Does One Assign Value to Culture?" The event also featured an acoustic performance by Palacio, whose album *Wátina* hit the top of the World Music charts just weeks later. Together, Franck, Solórzano, Palacio and the many other speakers in the series displayed a richness of engagements with human rights—intellectual, personal and artistic.

"My students were very moved by the opportunity to hear Julio Solórzano's testimony and thoughts about the complex issues of justice, memory and impunity."

—Professor Donna DeCesare, UT School of Journalism

"My time at UT was not only meaningful for the work I did during that week, but for all of the valuable exchanges that I have had with Professor Engle and students affiliated with the Rapoport Center since then. From this personal experience we are trying to build institutional bonds that will contribute to further collaboration and exchange between law schools at the University of Texas and the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia."

—Liliana Obregon, Professor of International Law, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

Happy Hour Speakers

Thomas Franck

New York University
"State Responsibility in the Era of Individual Criminal Culpability"

Liliana Obregon

Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
"A Historical Look at the Inter-American System of Human Rights"
LLILAS Visiting Resource Professor

Amr Shalakany

American University in Cairo, Egypt
"Comparative Law as Archeology: On Sodomy, Islamic Law and the Human Rights Activist"
Co-sponsored by Middle Eastern Studies and the LGBTQ/Sexualities Research Cluster

Denise Gilman

Georgetown University
"Calling the United States' Bluff: How Sovereign Immunity Undermines the United States' Claim to an Effective Domestic Human Rights System"

Rosalva Aida Hernandez Castillo

Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology, Mexico
"Indigenous Peoples of Mexico and their Struggles for Rights: Gender Perspective on Cultural Citizenship"
LLILAS Visiting Resource Professor

Rachel Holmes

Author
"African Queen: The Real Life of the Hottentot Venus"
Co-sponsored by the Department of English, Ethnic and Third World Studies

Robert D. King

University of Texas at Austin
"Language Rights?"

Derek Jinks and

Scott Sullivan

University of Texas at Austin
"Rule of Law in Wartime: The Issues and the Academic Program"

Christine Kovic

University of Houston, Clear Lake
"Central American Migrants and Mexico's Southern Border: Human Rights and the Criminalization of Poor Workers"
Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology

Julio Solórzano Foppa

Writer, Director, Producer, Mexico
"Human Rights in Guatemala"
LLILAS Visiting Resource Professor Co-sponsored by the Performing Arts Center

Andy Palacio

Garifuna artist and Cultural Ambassador, Belize
"How Does One Assign Value to Culture? A Discussion about the History, Music and Cultural Survival of the Garifuna"
Co-sponsored by the Performing Arts Center

"The arts and issues of human rights are deeply meshed. This exciting collaboration between the Rapoport Center and the Performing Arts Center has the potential to influence future generations to think creatively and 'outside' the box about some of the most pressing issues of our times."

—Pebbles Wadsworth, Director, UT Performing Arts Center

Center's First Undergraduate Internship Encourages Outreach, Thinking Outside the Box

For the 2006–2007 academic year, UT Senior and Student Government Executive Director **Evan Autry** joined the Rapoport Center as its first undergraduate intern.

Rarely one to pass up the chance to experience something new and exciting, Autry seized the opportunity when he heard that the Center was exploring ways to reach out to the undergraduate community. “The experience not only exposed me to different ways of thinking; it changed my life. As an intern, I had the opportunity to explore how I

“The experience not only exposed me to different ways of thinking, it changed my life.”

wanted to make a difference. The internship allowed me to grow intellectually, experience graduate school first hand and granted me a wonderful perspective about human rights and global affairs,” says Autry.

During his tenure, Autry worked closely with Center staff and the Human Rights Scholars on a number of projects, focusing in particular on human rights curriculum development and Center-undergraduate relations. To that end, he researched and built a database on UT classes that address issues of human rights and completed a report that provided comprehensive suggestions on how the Center should pursue human rights education at the undergraduate level. In the coming year, the Center will expand its undergraduate intern program and build upon the foundation laid by Autry.

“The Center taught me to think outside of the box and to understand the amount of work and dedication that goes into advocating for human rights. It gave me the chance to expand my mind, pursue one of my passions, and to learn from some of the brightest minds at the University.”

Conference Explores Women's Rights Issues, Advocacy

The opportunities and challenges for the modern women's rights movement when adapting to rapid globalization were the focus of the **Conference on Gender, Globalization and Governance**, organized by students of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and co-sponsored by the Rapoport Center.



Ambassador Arvonne S. Fraser, Dr. Irene Tinker and The Honorable Frances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold discuss the past, present and future of women's human rights activism.

The conference, held on April 12 and 13, 2007, featured Ambassador **Arvonne S. Fraser**, former U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; Dr. **Irene Tinker**, co-founder of the International Center for Research on Women; and Texas' own **Frances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold**, former member of the Texas House of Representatives and co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus. In a provocative keynote discussion moderated by University of Toronto Professor **Brenda Cossman**, each shared her own inspiring experiences in the international women's rights movement and addressed the question “Women's Human Rights Activism: Where Did We Start, Where Should We Go?”

Additional panels at the conference engaged a range of extensive topics such as the respective roles of global governance, national governments and non-state actors in crafting gender policies, violence against women, the feminization of migration, women in the “informal” labor market and the gendered nature of the HIV/AIDS crisis. Rapoport Center affiliated faculty **Karen Engle**, **Neville Hoad** and **Philomila Tsoukala** all presented papers.

“It was very fulfilling to see how the conference brought together people from different countries, professions, and generations to discuss gender equality. If we really want to address gender equality in the global context, these types of broad, inclusive conversations are necessary.”

—Lindsey Ford, LBJ student and conference organizer

Audre Rapoport Prize Winner Examines East Timor Orphans Born of Rape

Australian **Susan Harris Rimmer** was chosen as the winner of the second annual Audre Rapoport Prize for Scholarship on the Human Rights of Women. Her winning paper, “Orphans’ or Veterans? Justice for Children Born of War in East Timor” examines the transitional justice mechanisms available to sexual violence survivors and their children in East Timor and proposes creative policy and legal options to improve the situation of these families, namely a re-characterization of the affected women and their children as “veterans” of the conflict, with the same status as the former Falintil guerrillas. As part of her award, the *Texas International Law Journal* published Ms. Harris Rimmer's paper in Issue 3 of Volume 42. One of the judges who also participated in the last two competitions, Professor **Hilary Charlesworth** of Australian National University, called Harris Rimmer's paper “a sophisticated and sustained piece about a little-publicized issue.”

Judges received a number of papers from within the United States, as well as a few from other parts of the world. The competition was graded anonymously.

Ms. Harris Rimmer grew up in the small town of Coonabarabran, in the state of New South Wales, Australia. She received her B.A. (Hons)/LLB (Hons) in International Relations and English Literature from the University of Queensland (2005) and received the University Medal. She completed her SJD candidacy in International Law at the Australian National University. She has worked for the UN refugee agency and Australian NGOs and is currently a legal adviser specializing in human rights law for the Library of the Australian Parliament in Canberra (equivalent to the Congressional Research Service).

2008 Conference to Explore Photojournalism and Human Rights

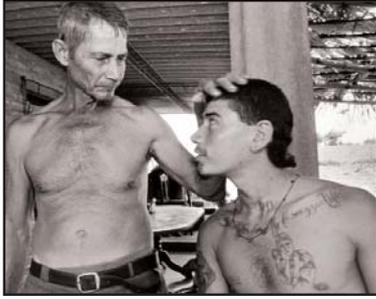


PHOTO COURTESY DONNA DECESARE

"Edgar with his Grandfather," from Donna DeCesare's photo series on El Salvador entitled, "From Civil War to Gang War."

The fourth annual conference of the Rapoport Center, to be held April 17–18, will capitalize on the recent acquisition by the Harry Ransom Humanities Resource Center of a historic collection of photojournalistic work documenting El Salvador's twelve-year civil war. The conference, proposed by Journalism Professor **Donna DeCesare** and History Professor **Virginia Burnett**, is entitled "**Image, Memory and the Paradox of Peace: Fifteen Years after the El Salvador Peace Accords.**"

The conference will incorporate the opening of the exhibition "Inside El Salvador" at the Ransom Center with some of its featured photographers in attendance, as well as a

closing session on the legacy of martyred Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero led by representatives of The Rothko Chapel in Houston. In addition, a number of panels will offer perspectives on El Salvador's civil war, focusing particularly on the ways that these images have created a narrative on violence and human rights that informs our understanding of the country's past, present and future.

In the spirit of the Rapoport Center, the conference will bring together a multidisciplinary group of academics, activists, journalists, artists and policy-makers to explore the relationship between the local and the global, as well as the economic and the political.

The Salvadoran civil war will be discussed not merely as an episode of history, but also as a legacy whose effects—both tangible and intangible—are apparent in the country to this day.

Barnes, Farenthold and Karamanian Join Center's Advisory Board

The Rapoport Center welcomes the establishment of its new Advisory Board. **Ben Barnes**, former lieutenant governor of Texas and founder of the Austin-based business consulting and lobbying firm, Ben Barnes Group; **Frances "Sissy" Tarlton Farenthold**, former member of the Texas House of Representatives, co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, founder of the Public Leadership Education Network and former chair of the board of the Rothko Chapel; and **Susan Karamanian**, Associate Dean for International and Comparative Legal Studies and Professorial Lecturer in Law at George Washington University, became the first three members of the Board this spring. All three attended the University of Texas School of Law.

"It is heart-warming to know that the University of Texas Law School has a component that is focused on human rights."

—The Honorable Frances "Sissy" Tarlton Farenthold

The Advisory Board will help to ensure the continued success and growth of the Rapoport Center's endeavors, to which so many talented individuals have already committed. Barnes, Farenthold and Karamanian now join the Center in its continued efforts to make a significant difference in the

educational experiences of students across the UT campus and in the lives of people throughout the world. In the near future, the Center will incorporate more members into the Board to represent its transnational dimension and multidisciplinary approach.

The Year to Come

The Rapoport Center is looking forward to a lively and exciting year of events in 2007–2008. Here is just a glance at what's to come:

Human Rights Happy Hour (3:30-5:30)

Sept. 24: Karen Engle & Gerald Torres

University of Texas School of Law
 "Indigenous Roads to Development" and
 "Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Indigenous Peoples and Reparations."
 Discussant: Shannon Speed, University of Texas Anthropology

October 8: Daniel Bonilla

Universidad de los Andes; Bogotá, Colombia
 "Culturally "Legal Pluralism and Extra-Legal Property: Class, Culture and Law in Bogotá."

October 22: Valentine Moghadam

Purdue University
 "Globalization, States, and Social Rights: Negotiating Women's Economic Citizenship in the Maghreb"

November 5: Vasuki Nesiah

International Center for Transitional Justice
 "Delimiting Accountability: Writing History out of Justice."

November 19: Patrick Macklem

University of Toronto
 "What is International Human Rights Law? Three Applications of Distributive Account"

The Rapoport Center's IV Annual Conference
Image, Memory and the Paradox of Peace: Fifteen Years after the El Salvador Peace Accords

April 17 and 18, 2008
 (see this page)

The Rapoport Center congratulates Administrator **Sarah Cline** for being recognized by the Law School as the April 2007 Employee of the Month! Colleagues nominated Cline for her many intellectual and administrative contributions to the Rapoport Center and the School of Law.

Congratulations!

Mission Statement of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice



The Bernard and Audre
RAPOPORT CENTER
For Human Rights and Justice

To build a multidisciplinary community engaged in the study and practice of human rights that promotes the economic and political enfranchisement of marginalized individuals and groups both locally and globally.

Join the Rapoport Center

Support our work by giving generously.

In addition to major sources of funding from the Rapoport Foundation and the School of Law, the Rapoport Center also depends on the generosity of individual donors.

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