NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH VANDERBILT'S LATIN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION PROJECT (LAPOP)

September 19, 2011

We are pleased to announce that a representative from the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) will be housed at the Center for Latin American Studies for the 2011-2012 academic year. This constitutes an important part of the University of Miami’s increased collaboration with LAPOP. Based at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, LAPOP began in the 1970s to study expanding democratic values in Latin America. LAPOP’s AmericasBarometer project now regularly conducts surveys on democratic public opinion and behavior. The only survey of its kind, AmericasBarometer spans 26 different countries in North, Central, South America and the Caribbean. The wealth of information gathered in these studies has been utilized by numerous academic researchers, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and by several Latin American governments.

By working at the University of Miami, LAPOP’s representative will facilitate collaborative research between LAPOP, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the Miami Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The aim is to strengthen areas of common interest such as food security, the growing involvement of China in Latin America, issues of gang related violence, and international terrorism. LAPOP’s presence on the University of Miami’s campus will help facilitate research utilizing the valuable data AmericasBarometer collects.

In addition to welcoming a LAPOP staff member, the University of Miami’s Center for Latin American Studies and the Miami Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies will be hosting the 2011 AmericasBarometer Conference on October 28th at the Newman Alumni Center. The conference will present the results of the 2010 round of surveys on the topic of marginalization in the Americas, focused on gender and race discrimination. The goal of the conference is to increase the AmericasBarometer’s visibility within Miami’s academic and policy communities and to begin a dialogue about LAPOP’s research efforts.