BUILDING VILLA
Victoria Institute for Links with Latin America

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Director
OUTLINE

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1. FOUNDATIONS

• VILLA is.....

an institute which formalises, fosters and further encourages Victoria’s expanding links with academia, diplomacy, polity and business in Latin America, acting as a node for interactions across all faculties and disciplines at the University with counterparts in Latin America and relevant institutions in NZ. This goes beyond a pure ‘area studies’ approach involving studies of, studies with, and studies in Latin America.
FOUNDDATIONS CONTINUED...

• Geopolitical need - *New Zealand looks east*

• Turned into policy - *Latin America Strategy*

• Victoria globalises – *east to an extent*

• Diplomatic request – *five ambassadors request an entity in Wellington 2006*

• PM launches first international seminar – *September 2007*

• Victoria establishes ‘virtual’ institute - *2008*
2. ARCHITECTURE

- Advisory board + Chair
- Director (0.15)
- VILLA research associates (15+)
- VILLA graduate associates (25+)
- Public stakeholders – embassies, government, NGOs, business
3. PLANS & VISION

‘To facilitate the study and realisation of political, economic, cultural and educational relations between VUW and Latin America’

a) To facilitate research and other activities concerning interaction between New Zealand and Latin American countries, in such areas as scientific and technological collaboration, economic and trade links, public policy and foreign policy dialogues, and comparative indigenous studies;

b) To promote the exchange of information and persons with respect to those interactions and comparisons;

c) To stimulate postgraduate research concerning these interactions and other Latin American-related subjects;
d) To act as a natural port of call for contact between the Wellington embassies, NGOs and academics

e) To encourage wider academic and student interaction with business interests in and of Latin America;

f) To promote academic linkages and other partnerships between New Zealand and Latin America, including joint research projects with Latin American partners;

g) To build upon, illustrate the success of, and extend the New Zealand Government’s Latin American Strategy.
4. NOTABLE FEATURES

VICTORIA’S LATIN AMERICAN CONNECTIONS...

a) Studies of Latin America

• 14 Masters theses and 2 Hons since 2003 – Brazil, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala
• 6 Masters and 2 PhD on Latin America ongoing
• ‘The Chile Connection’ - 3 books, 12 articles, 7 chapters since 2003
• Work on Cuban and Argentinean literature in SAELC
• Taught courses on Latin America, Hispanic Studies, Brazil
VICTORIA’S LATIN AMERICAN CONNECTIONS...

b) Studies with Latin America

Meteorology
Architecture
Marine Biology
Earth Sciences

c) Studies in Latin America

Exchange agreements and student exchange through Vic International
Latin Americans studying at Vic
VILLA HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE...

- International seminar
- Latin America Today book
- CONICYT PhDs
- Working Holiday Function
- President of Uruguay visit participation
- Chile business roundtable, Iquique
- Marsden fund application
5. DOING BUSINESS

- Port of call for contact - venue
- To encourage wider academic and student interaction with business – tapping into student knowledge
- To promote linkages - including joint research projects with Latin American partners, consultancy
6. THE VIEW