

598-4530-15-1

CLASSIFICATION

PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) - PART I

7179 Report Symbol U-447

1. PROJECT TITLE
 LATIN AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIPS
 PROGRAM OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

2. PROJECT NUMBER
 598-13-690-453

3. MISSION/AID/W OFFICE
 LAC/DR/HR

5980453 (4)
 PD-AAA-281
 11/1

4. EVALUATION NUMBER (Enter the number maintained by the reporting unit e.g., Country or AID/W Administrative Code, Fiscal Year, Serial No. beginning with No. 1 each FY)

REGULAR EVALUATION SPECIAL EVALUATION

6. KEY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DATES

A. First PRO-AG or Equivalent FY 5/3/73 B. Final Obligation Expected FY 1978 C. Final Input Delivery FY 1978

G. ESTIMATED PROJECT FUNDING (since 1973)
 A. Total \$ _____
 B. U.S. \$ 10,411,350

7. PERIOD COVERED BY EVALUATION
 From (month/yr.) 6/77
 To (month/yr.) 6/79
 Date of Evaluation Review _____

B. ACTION DECISIONS APPROVED BY MISSION OR AID/W OFFICE DIRECTOR

A. List decisions and/or unresolved items; cite those items needing further study. (NOTE: Mission decisions which anticipate AID/W or regional office action should specify type of document, e.g., airgram, SPAR, PIO, which will present detailed request.)

B. NAME OF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION

C. DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED

1. Tracer Study of Alumni	LASPAU	12/80
2. LASPAU should continue to increase support from a variety of resources.	LASPAU	
3. Redefine scope of AID assistance to LASPAU according to new project No. 598-0588.	AID/LASPAU	9/30/79
4. Re-examine selection criteria to be sure of a lesser number of dropouts.	LASPAU	9/30/80
5. Re-examine LASPAU's task of organizing national alumnae associations.	AID/LASPAU	7/9/79

9. INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVISED PER ABOVE DECISIONS

Project Paper Implementation Plan e.g., CPI Network Other (Specify) _____

Financial Plan PIO/T _____

Logical Framework PIO/C Other (Specify) _____

Project Agreement PIO/P _____

10. ALTERNATIVE DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF PROJECT

A. Continue Project Without Change

B. Change Project Design and/or Change Implementation Plan

C. Discontinue Project

11. PROJECT OFFICER AND HOST COUNTRY OR OTHER RANKING PARTICIPANTS AS APPROPRIATE (Names and Titles)

Kenneth L. Martin
 LAC/DR/HR Acting Chief

12. Mission/AID/W Office Director approval

Signature 

Typed Name
 Marshall D. Brown

Date _____

13. SUMMARY

PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING PURPOSE:

This project continues to achieve its purpose which is to train Latin American university faculty. Eighty-seven AID-funded scholars were selected in FY 1977 for the last Wave (14) under the FY 1973-77 contract. From FY 1966-73, 1,601 of the 2,050 graduated, 122 are currently funded and in training, one is in English language training, and 24 are currently non-AID-funded. Three-hundred two scholars of a total of 2,050 did not complete their programs due to: withdrawals for medical reasons (20); academic reasons (109); personal reasons (131); leaves of absence (33); and death (9). A significantly higher number of scholars dropped out during the 1966-72 contract, however, the dropout rate for Waves 8-12 has averaged seven scholars per year for personal reasons and 7 per year for academic reasons. The percentage of those who dropped out (302) from those originally selected (2,050) is 14.7%, and 78.1% of those selected, graduated. The number of graduates, to date, exceeds the project goal of 1,550. Ninety-eight percent of the scholars have returned to Latin America. In 1977, of those surveyed (694 out of a possible 1,110, Waves 1-9), 86.6% returned to higher education immediately after graduation and 81.4% were currently employed in higher education. Subsequent surveys indicate that the retention rate for Wave 10 was 85% and for Wave 11 was 86%. LASPAU's emphasis on faculty upgrading in the scholar selection process and the emphasis on institutional reincorporation is credited with such improvement as indicated above.

PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING TARGETS:

LASPAU Goals

According to the target projections, LASPAU, in cooperation with the sending institutions was to:

1. Move toward a graduate program rather than undergraduate. This has been successfully achieved during the FY 1973-77 contract. (See Cross Tabulation Summary from DATASET AID June 5, 1979.)
2. Increase the ratio of women scholars and the ratio of scholars selected from the Caribbean. Neither of these have been increased. Traditionally, women have not entered priority-area fields and, therefore, have not been nominated. In Waves 1-9 the ratio of women scholars was slightly higher than 16%; in Waves 10-14 the ratio was 15.5% of the total. Approximately 3.1% of the scholars selected in Waves 1-7 and 3% in Waves 8-14 were chosen from the Caribbean. In addition, Caribbean scholars (LASPAU/AID) were selected only from the Dominican Republic, as nothing was specifically communicated about improved island coverage.
3. Stimulate alumni groups. LASPAU has published an Alumni Survey booklet and has written two "preliminary" reports on LASPAU alumni as academic decision-makers, but does not consider the formal organization of the alumni in each cooperating country a LASPAU responsibility.

4. Secure other external sources of financial support for LASPAU scholars. Progress has been made in finding other sources. Of the 208 scholars selected in 1977 for Wave 14, 118 were funded by other donors such as OAS, Fulbright, and Banco de Mexico. 1/
5. Identify and take steps to develop regional "centers of excellence." LASPAU has identified seven university-developed centers. (See Section 18-2)

Sponsoring University Goals

Latin American and Caribbean institutional objectives include:

1. An assessment of the faculty training needs based on institutional and national development plans.
2. The improvement of long-range staff planning.
3. More effective utilization of the graduate LASPAU scholars. According to LASPAU computer records, the project target of training faculty from rural areas in priority fields has been successful. Information concerning the sending universities' long-range staff planning and scholar utilization is available, however, it is not systematically recorded.

Host University Goals

The U.S. host universities objectives include institutional support of the LASPAU scholar and cooperation in reducing the length of time a student stays in the U.S. Both of these goals have been met through tuition waivers and condensed degree programs, respectively.

1/ See page 7.

14. EVALUATION

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The reason for this regular evaluation of the LASPAU project is to measure project progress in relation to project design. LASPAU computer records were used to update the statistics reported in the 1977 PES, and special reports were written by the LASPAU staff on specific topics, e.g., "Centers of Excellence." AID and LASPAU representatives have met to discuss the evaluation and to compile a current file of LASPAU procedures, publications, and activities.

The project paper only specifies an annual review to determine funding requirements. Funds were last obligated under the contract in 1977, however, pipeline money has continued to fund scholars in FY 1978 and part of FY 1979. A final evaluation of the project will be required upon the graduation of the last wave of scholars (Wave 14) scheduled to graduate in FY 1980.

The project paper #598-0453 does not need to be redesigned or changed since the obligations have been expended and the new scholars are being trained under the new project #598-0588-Training for Development. Specified changes include more attention to AID-mandated areas of development, clearance of nominations by USAIDs, and some training of ministry personnel. LASPAU will be required, however, to redefine its scope in accordance with that which is specified in the new project.

15. EXTERNAL FACTORS

Goal and purpose assumptions have remained valid throughout the life of the project, however, external factors such as change in AID policy have affected the LASPAU Program, e.g., the change to "Graduate" status of Latin American countries; the emphasis on the Caribbean region; and the "New Directions" policy of training in the priority areas that reach the poorest of the poor.

LASPAU, therefore, has had to find other program support for the graduate countries and has been successful in soliciting funding, although AID did provide a one-year administrative cost coverage during the transition time to other funding sources. The second change on emphasis concerning the Caribbean region was not sufficiently communicated to the LASPAU staff. Therefore, LASPAU did not actively pursue contacts with a wide range of universities and colleges in this region, with the exception of the Dominican Republic. Third, the "New Directions" policy required selection of scholars in priority areas of development, and recruitment from more rural institutions was emphasized.

Additionally, economic and political stability in the sponsoring countries has caused unexpected changes in the LASPAU Program. The political situation in Chile resulted in the termination of AID-funded scholarships for that country after Wave 13. Likewise, the economic situation of dollar scarcity in Peru has required LASPAU staff to search for alternative means to pay for the Peruvian scholars' English-training tuition.

16. INPUTS

Traditionally, the financial foundation of LASPAU has been a tripartite arrangement: US/AID, the L.A. sponsoring universities, and the U.S. host universities. In recent years, however, other donors have assumed from AID some of the funding responsibilities for new scholars. The financial contributions made to LASPAU by AID for the fiscal years 1973-77, Contract No. AID/CM/LA-c-73-22, dated May 31, 1973 are:

Total estimated contract cost		\$10,411,350.00
Total expenditures to December 31, 1978	\$9,422,472.22	
Projected budget for period 1/1/79 - 12/31/79	813,097.00	
Projected budget for period 1/1/80 - 9/30/80	<u>133,650.00</u>	
Total estimated expenditures		<u>10,369,219.22</u>
Projected balance of funds available		<u>\$ 42,130.78</u>

Note: We anticipate that the projected balance of funds available will be absorbed by increases in direct scholar support costs over the 1979-1980 contract period.

As was stated in the summary, the pipeline funds have been used to support scholars chosen in 1978 and 1979. The balance of the pipeline will compensate for the rising inflation rate. LASPAU submits quarterly financial statements to AID, and hired Coopers & Lybrand, certified public accountants, to audit the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1978. In the opinion of the accountants, "the aforementioned financial statements present fairly the financial position of LASPAU."

Through LASPAU, AID provides the scholar with funds for a basic living allowance, book fees, insurance, up to \$40 for calculators, thesis reimbursement, enrichment activities such as professional conferences (maximum \$300), a settling-in allowance, and non-waiverable university fees. Some administrative funding for program operations is also AID-funded. U.S. host universities provide tuition waivers and/or assistantships to each scholar; Latin American sponsoring institutions assist the scholar with costs for English language tuition, international travel, and costs for dependents. AID support is approximately 49% of the total scholar cost, U.S. university support 21%, and sponsoring institution/scholar costs 30%. These percentages may vary according to sponsoring university's level of support. AID funded all or part of new scholar costs for 43% of the last Wave (14) under this contract.

The number of LASPAU's senior and support staff has remained in accord with the original project log-frame estimates. Administrative, managerial, and technical services are provided by the LASPAU staff.

17. PURPOSE

- (a) To provide advanced training for young Latin American graduate students and faculty members in the areas of training required to upgrade and expand university curricula that are essential to overall national development.
- (b) To assist in the reintegration of returned scholars into the faculties of their host colleges and universities to assure the effective usage of their professional competencies.

PROGRESS TOWARD THE END OF PROJECT STATUS

1. LASPAU will have produced a minimum of 1,550 scholars:

B.A.	160	
M.A.	1,350	
Ph.D.	<u>40</u> *	
Total		1,550

CURRENT STATUS AS OF JUNE, 1979

	<u>A.I.D.</u>	<u>Other Support</u>		<u>Total</u>
B.A.	20	1)	120
B.S.	99)	
M.A.	429	54)	1,491
M.S.	1,001	7)	
* Ph.D.	<u>52</u>			<u>52</u>
Total	1,601	62	=	1,663
Currently Enrolled	123	24	=	147

* Current AID funding arrangements preclude the direct support of scholars in PhD programs. AID funds are being utilized to cover only administrative costs of PhD scholars while the bulk of their support is from other sources.

LASPAU has exceeded the projected total of 1,350 Master-level graduates and 40 Ph.D.-level graduates, however, it has not been successful in meeting the projected 160 bachelor degrees due to the shift from an undergraduate program to a graduate program. Participating universities include 262 U.S. host universities and 216 Latin American and Caribbean universities.

2. Eighty percent of the returned scholars will be assigned to university teaching and research positions.

CURRENT STATUS

The Alumni Survey (1977) with a statistically significant (694) sample of the total (1,110) population shows that 98% returned to Latin America and 86.6% of those surveyed returned to higher education. There is a direct relationship between age and return rate. Rates of return are higher for older scholars (35+) and for university faculty members (90.3%). Approximately ninety percent of those returning to higher education were reincorporated into their sponsoring university staffs and over 50% have risen to senior level positions.

Retention rates for Waves 10 and 11 are:

<u>Wave</u>	<u>Total Alumni</u>	<u>Full Time Employment</u>	<u>Part Time Employment</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Rate</u>
10	218	180	5	33	85%
11	142	121	2	19	86%

Therefore, the overall retention rate for those immediately returning after graduation is 86%. (This percentage assumes that the Alumni Survey is representative of the total population.) More information is needed to understand the effect of the LASPAU training on faculty careers and progressions.

3. A minimum of six "Centers of Excellence" will have been established in Latin American universities and will be offering graduate and undergraduate degrees and concomitant programs in study areas of priority.

CURRENT STATUS

LASPAU has identified seven "Centers of Excellence." (See Section 18-2.)

4. New and important sources of funding for the program will have been secured.

CURRENT STATUS

LASPAU has made progress in obtaining non-AID funding. The percentage of AID's contribution to the funding of new scholars indicates the new level of other donor contributions:

Wave 14

Fulbright	37	
OAS	11	
Latin American Universities	11	
Banco de Mexico	27	
Latin American Government Agencies	32	
AID/Panama	3	- Not AID/W
AID	47	*
AID/Administrative(Only)	40	*

* AID/W/Contract 208

LASPAU, however, may continue to be funded under a new project, No. 598-0588, Training for Development for the period FY 1979-1983.

18. GOAL/SUBGOAL

The following are the goals of the Latin American Scholarships Program of American Universities Project:

- (a) To assist in staffing Latin American colleges and universities with U.S.-trained Latin American teachers and research personnel qualified to train nationals in priority fields of learning deemed necessary for national, social, and economic development.
- (b) To establish within selected institutions a limited number of "Centers of Excellence" through the concentration of U.S.-trained scholars in priority training programs, thus lessening the need for nationals to study abroad.

1. This project has achieved the goal of selecting and providing for the training of Latin American graduate students at participating U.S. universities and colleges. The measurement of goal achievement was to be determined by a minimum of 1,550 graduate scholars. A total of 2,050 scholars (Waves 1-14) have participated in the LASPAU program. Out of this, 1,601 have graduated, another 146 are expected to graduate at the end of Wave 14 training in 1980, and 302 have dropped out. (See Cross Tabulation Summary, Section 19.) To date the total of 1,601 exceeds the minimum project total by 51. The last class of AID-funded scholars under this 1973-77 contract will graduate in 1980. At that time, it will be necessary to do a final project evaluation. According to LASPAU computer records, the majority of scholars (Waves 10-14) have been selected from provincial institutions and have been enrolled in technical fields such as agriculture (5.7%), biology (6.0%), business (5.7%), civil (5.8%) and electrical engineering (7.7%), economics (4.9%), mathematics (6.5%), and education (11.1%) programs. Therefore, the project target of training faculty from rural areas in priority fields has been successful. (See LASPAU Statistical Tabulations: Sponsoring Institution and Field.) However, the linkage between this project's goal statement and the purpose statement of upgrading and expanding university curricula essential to overall national development is a topic for further research. Both a qualitative and a quantitative study of reincorporation are necessary to adequately assess the impact of U.S. training on national development goals.

2. LASPAU has identified "university-developed" centers of excellence:

- a) Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL), Guayaquil, Ecuador
- b) Universidad Nacional Técnica del Altiplano, Puno, Peru
- c) Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica
- d) Instituto Superior de Agricultura, Dominican Republic
- e) Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia
- f) Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia
- g) Universidad Nacional de Colombia/Medellín, Medellín, Colombia

The LASPAU philosophy has been to allow universities to set their own goals in terms of developing departments offering graduate and undergraduate degrees in priority study areas. As a result of the universities' decision, LASPAU will readily support the goal of institutional development and, on the basis of their own priorities, has evaluated "the seriousness of each university's commitment and predisposition to accommodate LASPAU processes into their own."

Absolute numbers of scholarships is not the only basis for the selection of an institution as a center of excellence. LASPAU has attempted to improve the quality of an institution's program which is another factor taken into consideration in identifying the centers. (See "LASPAU Centers of Excellence" for the descriptions of the centers.) More information is necessary to determine whether the "centers of excellence" have, in fact, lessened the need for scholars to study abroad.

19. OUTPUTS

Project outputs, such as the number of graduates and degrees earned, have been discussed in other sections. Absolute numbers of graduate scholars (1,601) verify the fact that this project has successfully met and exceeded the original projections. Whether or not these scholars are "full-time faculty members for Latin American universities qualified to assume teaching and research responsibilities directly related to national economic and social development" cannot be easily verified.

The following table is a current summary of scholar status:

A = Withdrawal-Academic reasons
D = Deceased
E = Enrolled at English Language Training

F = Funded
G = Graduated
L = Leave of Absence

H = Withdrawal-Medical reasons
N = Nonfunded
P = Withdrawal-Personal reasons

CROSS TABULATION SUMMARY FROM DATASET AID ON 5 JUN 1979

WAVE	STATUS										TOTAL	PCT
	A	D	E	F	G	L	H	N	P			
01	9	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	4	39	1.9	
02	21	1	0	0	103	1	4	0	19	149	7.3	
03	14	3	0	0	142	3	4	0	21	187	9.1	
04	13	2	0	1	124	0	1	0	16	157	7.7	
05	7	0	0	0	147	2	4	0	16	176	8.6	
06	2	0	0	0	134	1	1	0	10	148	7.2	
07	6	1	0	0	162	2	0	0	0	180	8.8	
08	6	1	0	0	158	4	2	0	11	182	8.9	
09	5	1	0	0	127	0	2	2	5	148	7.2	
10	8	0	0	0	190	3	0	2	11	220	10.7	
11	8	0	0	0	126	4	0	3	4	145	7.1	
12	7	0	0	3	110	4	1	9	3	143	7.0	
13	3	0	0	43	39	2	1	6	1	95	4.6	
14	0	0	1	75	1	1	0	2	1	81	4.0	
TOTAL	109	9	1	122	1601	33	20	24	131	2050	100.0	
PCT	5.3	0.4	0.0	6.0	78.1	1.6	1.0	1.2	6.4	100.0		

* A definitional question is raised: When does one become a LASPAU scholar? The above statistics include all scholars who have received an acceptance letter. Column P includes those who have dropped out prior to leaving the home country for English or Academic Training. Thus, the 78 percent graduation rate would be higher if the statistics included only those matriculating in U.S. universities.

20. BENEFICIARIES

The direct beneficiaries are the LASPAU scholars trained in the U.S. universities in priority development fields. Latin American and Caribbean university students are secondary beneficiaries by way of improved institutional capabilities. LASPAU is an efficient instrument in providing Latin American institutions of higher education with well-trained teachers, and in some cases, providing a core group which may qualify the institutions as a "center of excellence." ("Centers of Excellence" are defined as departments offering graduate and undergraduate degrees in priority study areas which lessen the need for nationals to seek training abroad.")

Other LDCs may use the results of this project in developing a similar regional project. Two important aspects are the organizational efficiency of the LASPAU Program and multiplier effect of training. One of LASPAU's major strengths is the efficiency of organization in terms of management and procedures. It has six specific operations in the area of scholar services: selection of scholars; placement in U.S. university programs; English language training and orientation; scholar advisor monitoring; and evaluation. These stages, from scholar recruitment to graduation, are very well defined and organized by the LASPAU staff. Each stage has published materials with complete information and instructions. LASPAU headquarters staff act as an efficient functional unit because all scholar stages are accomplished in one central office.

Due to the high rate of reincorporation of LASPAU scholars (94%), the multiplier effect may provide more educational opportunities for students in Latin American institutions. In addition, the impact may increase as the returning scholars move from junior to senior faculty positions. (See 'LASPAU in Colombia, A Summary of LASPAU Alumni Activities.')

21. UNPLANNED EFFECTS

There are no unplanned effects.

22. LESSONS LEARNED

Regional training projects of this magnitude are difficult to monitor from Washington. A closer relationship between the organization's directors (LASPAU) and US/AID Mission Officers is necessary in order to coordinate AID policy and priority areas with in-country priority goals. Therefore, the Missions should play a major role in linking the U.S. training with the country's specific institutional and national development plans.