



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ELEVEN AWARDED GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS

**ARLINGTON, Va.** – Eleven Ph.D. candidates from universities in the United States will conduct dissertation research in Latin America supported by Grassroots Development Fellowships from the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) during the coming year. The Fellows were selected on the strength of their academic record, their proposals and their potential contribution to grassroots development. All U.S. citizens except as noted, they will research the following topics:

- Fatimah Elizabeth Castro, Rutgers University, Afro-Colombian organization;
- María Agustina Giraudy, Argentine citizen, University of North Carolina, local government in Argentina and Mexico;
- Christine Marie Lucas, University of Florida, management of resources on the Brazilian Amazon;
- Mason Clay Mathews, University of Florida, social networks in Amazonia, Brazil;
- Doris Graziela Navarro, Brazilian citizen, Indiana University, farmer cooperation in Brazil's Amazon region;
- Susan Emily Qashu, University of Arizona, Chilean fishing communities;
- Diana Santillán, George Washington University, the use of the radio to

**promote beneficial health practices in Peru;**

- **Lynn Marie Selby, from the University of Texas-Austin, the impact of a community health center on women in Haiti;**
- **Marissa L. Smith, Arizona State University, land use in Oaxaca, Mexico;**
- **Teresa Angélica Velásquez, University of Texas-Austin, attitudes toward mining in Ecuadorian communities;**
- **Marygold Walsh-Dilley, Cornell University, social responses to technological change in Bolivia.**

**The awards signal the reactivation of the IAF's Fellowship Program, which, before its suspension in 1999, had supported nearly 1,000 fellows from the United States and 28 other countries in the Americas.**

**This fall the IAF will accept applications for its 2008-2009 awards from students in the social sciences, physical sciences, technical fields and the professions as they relate to grassroots development issues. IAF fellowships provide international transportation to the field research site, a monthly stipend for a maximum period of 12 months and a research allowance. Fellows must have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy by the date they begin their IAF-sponsored research. For complete information, visit [www.iie.org/iaf](http://www.iie.org/iaf).**

**The IAF was created in 1969 by the United States Congress to fund the self-help initiatives of the organized poor in Latin America and the Caribbean and the groups that support them. To date, it has awarded more than 4,600 grants for grassroots development, worth more than \$600 million. Together the IAF and its grantees have improved conditions for hundreds of thousands of poor families in communities throughout the hemisphere. For more on the IAF, log on to [www.iaf.gov](http://www.iaf.gov).**

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