world “South of the Border.” That exposure, he wrote, has ranged from a second honeymoon in Mexico in 1946 to high-level work as a banker and policymaker promoting economic development and cultural interchanges as Latin America experienced decades of political turmoil and debt-fueled growth and financial upheaval, followed by democratization and private-sector expansion, and today’s uncertain prospects. He also examined the region through the lens of brother Nelson’s “Good Neighbor” programs (at the behest of President Franklin D. Roosevelt) and fellow Overseer John F. Kennedy’s Alliance for Progress. His own work with intermediary institutions has extended from recommending new economic strategies that local governments might adopt, to helping introduce Americans to “the diversity, beauty, and sophistication of Latin American artists, musicians, and writers” (for example, subsidizing the English translation of Gabriel García Márquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude*).

So it was that Rockefeller found himself agreeing with Rudenstine in 1991 that “the vast majority of Americans knew little about their closest neighbors, and relatively few American universities provided their students with much more than a superficial introduction to Latin American history and culture.” From that meeting came the idea for a focused University-wide center. Rockefeller provided both initial funding and models for engaging regional leaders to invest their own time, energies, and resources—and at Rudenstine’s suggestion, the center bears his name. Among the many institutions he has created or led, Rockefeller has since cited it as the one whose progress he has found most satisfying.

In the April 25 news release, Rudenstine said of this first University-wide center of its kind, “The goal was to involve Harvard faculty and students from all the professional schools—as well as the Faculty of Arts and Sciences[FAS]—to collaborate with colleagues and students throughout Latin America on a wide range of new initiatives...in research and education, as well as a full program of lectures, conferences, cultural events, and other activities.” (A University source said DRCLAS had catalyzed other donors’ large gifts to centers focused on Europe, Asia, and elsewhere.)

The center has also fostered the growth of experiences abroad, particularly among College students—a priority since the beginning of this decade, when FAS began actively encouraging some sort of international experience as a universal goal for undergraduates. During the 2006-2007 academic year, for example, about 1,500 undergraduates pursued internships, re-