This collection contains primary sources related to the training program for the United States Peace Corps-Columbia project. This seven-week training program in the summer of 1961 for the first group of Peace Corps volunteers to be sent to Colombia took place at Rutgers University in Brunswick, New Jersey. The materials include lecture notes, examinations, schedules, and lists of volunteers. In the correspondence files are many letters to Professor Helguera from the Peace Corps volunteers, including those who were selected for service in Colombia and those who were not, and his replies. Also part of this collection are materials relating to the United States Army’s Caribbean school at Fort Gulick in what was then the Canal Zone in Panama. This school’s purpose was to conduct military courses for Latin American students. Dr. Helguera visited there, courtesy of staff member Major Russell Rumsey in 1962.

The materials in this collection will be of special interest to those working in topics relating to the first Peace Corps volunteers sent to Columbia.

J. León Helguera was born in the Greenwich Village of New York City and spent part of his childhood in Mexico City. After graduating from high school and serving in the United States Army, he returned to Mexico City, earning a B.A. from Mexico City College. Returning to the United States, Helguera was briefly engaged in antiquarian book selling, and then entered the graduate history program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. After earning his M.A., he moved with his wife and children to Colombia for a year of research for his dissertation on the Colombian military figure General T.C. de Mosquera. He obtained his Ph.D from the University of North Carolina, and then taught at North Carolina State University until 1962 when he joined the faculty at Vanderbilt University. He is now Emeritus Professor of History, Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Helguera has published extensively on Latin American topics and received many academic honors. In his retirement he has continued to be active in speaking and writing on Colombia and other Latin American topics. Because of his knowledge of Colombia, he was instrumental in the preparation of the first group of Peace Corps volunteers to be sent to that country. He taught and mentored these young men in their training conducted at Rutgers University, Brunswick, New Jersey during the summer of 1961.
Box Listing

**Box 1**

1. Correspondence---Incoming---Beyer-Downing
2. Correspondence---Incoming---Greenlaw-Grubb
3. Correspondence---Incoming---Haselby-Helguera, G.
4. Correspondence---Incoming---Helguera, L.-Limantour
5. Correspondence---Incoming---McMahon-Quintana
6. Correspondence---Incoming---Radley-Torres
7. Correspondence---Incoming---Whalen-Zwerling
8. Correspondence---Outgoing---August 24, 1948-January 14, 1950
9. Correspondence---Outgoing---May 8, 1950-December 2, 1950
10. Correspondence---Outgoing---January 27, 1951-June 11, 1961
11. Correspondence---Outgoing---June 13, 1961-December 17, 1961
12. Peace Corps---Training Program-Colombia Project---Training materials (Including Lectures, Examinations, Schedules)
13. Peace Corps---Training Program-Colombia Project---Expense Accounts
14. Peace Corps---Training Program-Colombia Project---Evaluation of Program by Volunteer Bruce Lane
15. Peace Corps---Training Program-Colombia Project---Lists of Volunteers
16. Peace Crops---Training Program-Colombia Project---Follow-up Report after One Month
17. Peace Crops---Training Program-Colombia Project---Follow-up Report after Four Months

**Box 2**

1. United States Army Caribbean School---Escuela USARCARIB---Proyecto Ilustrado
2. United States Army Caribbean School---USARCARIB School---Staff and Faculty Guide
3. United States Army Caribbean School---Escuela USARCARIB---Guia para Estudiantes

4. United States Army Caribbean School---Escuela USARCARIB---Recuerdo de su Visita

5. Pamphlets---Colombia, Denmark

6. Pamphlets---Guia del Archivo Nacional de Historia del Ecuador-Epoca Colonial by Juan R. Freile-Granizo


8. Photographs---Peace Corps-Colombia Project and Unidentified

9. Academic Career---Vanderbilt University