

University campus in March 2023. Thereafter, another Wachman Fellowship in the amount of \$2500 that I was granted in Spring 2023 (in tandem with \$720 of leftover Wachman funds from Spring 2022) allowed me to pursue extensive research in Panama during Summer 2023 at locations including the Panamanian Foreign Ministry archives, the National Library of Panama, the Simon Bolivar Inter-American Library at the University of Panama, the Panamanian Center for Research and Social Action (CEASPA), and the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal by covering my accommodation, travel, and meal expenses.

Having received a further \$2100 in Wachman Fellowship funding during the Fall 2023 semester, I look forward to applying this toward supporting planned research trips in Bolivia and Peru during the upcoming summer of 2024. I thank CENFAD for the myriad ways in which their support has facilitated my research!

Elías Gonzalez, CENFAD Emerging Scholar Graduate Award Winner

Elías Gonzalez received the 2023 CENFAD Emerging Scholar Award, which provides funding for one three-credit course per semester over two years. In the following conversation, Elías describes his research interests, how he came to Temple, and how his family has inspired his work.

JJ: Tell us a bit about your research.

EG: The research I submitted for the program was generated for the application because I hadn't really worked in the field. I was politically involved, and into history, but I didn't really have any kind of formal training. It was my chance to put my ideas together and figure out what I was going to do. So, it started with the conflict between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which is something I am still interested in, but as I got into the program I think I was able to narrow down my interest. Now I am focused on the 1965 US intervention. My parents and my grandmother come from that time period, so it drew my interest.

JJ: What got you interested in Temple? Was it because of the scholarship opportunity?

EG: Actually, the scholarship had nothing to do with it. To be honest with you, I applied to Temple because I went there for undergrad. I've always just respected Temple's academic stamp. It was a familiar place, and I had a friend who was one of the people who helped me on my reading journey. She was involved at Temple with her PhD in Anthropology. I knew there were positive elements at Temple showing they were serious about scholarship and studies.

JJ: It's cool that you were able to do that, and that you got the scholarship. You went from not having written a serious history paper to getting financial support. I can only imagine how awesome that must have felt.

EG: It felt really good. My parents were very proud.

JJ: How has your first year been? Have you had any favorite classes?

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EG: I think it's going great. This is what I needed without being able to pinpoint it. I wanted to learn how to improve my writing and read with intention. I knew I needed training. From my first methods class with Rita Kreuger, I got that sense of security that this was what I wanted to do. That class helped me narrow down what I wanted to study, along with Archives and Manuscripts with Margery Sly.

JJ: What has it been like being able to attend CENFAD lectures along with those classes? Has that helped you see what it's like to be a historian in the field?

EG: Actually, yeah! I didn't know what to expect in the lectures. I like to attend the talks, the Barnes Conference, and even the Gettysburg Conference that CENFAD just hosted. I think it helps you see that the field is not dead. There's a lot of research to be had, and there are a lot of topics to discuss. Gettysburg, for example, shows that there's multiple research angles for a singular event. It was good for me because these talks have helped me see what it takes.

JJ: I'm glad that you have had this opportunity, and I hope that your experience continues to be productive and meaningful. It's rare to get an opportunity for financial support in this way.

EG: It is. I'm thankful for it. I also want to mention the support I've received from my grandma. This is where I get emotional. That's my motivation, right? Not just her, but my family. What really drew me to this topic has been my family because I'm just so interested in us, who we are, and why we are the way that we are.

JJ: I completely understand what you're voicing. We'll make sure your parents get a

digital copy of this to read so they can see how they influence you.

EG: Okay, that sounds good.

JJ: Yeah! Thanks for taking the time to speak with me.

EG: No problem. Thanks, Joseph!