



INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE  
*Public Administration for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

School of International and Public Affairs, College of Arts and Sciences

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**Florida's Conference on Good Governance and Democracy in the Hemisphere  
Paraguay Visit Report, May 27-29, 2008**



IPMCS Director Allan Rosenbaum with Paraguay's President-elect Fernando Lugo and Fla. State Legislator Rep. David Rivera

In preparation for Florida's First Conference on Good Governance and Democracy in the Hemisphere planned for August 6-8, 2008 at the Biltmore Hotel, the Institute for Public Management & Community Service (IPMCS) of FIU organized a series of meetings in Asuncion Paraguay, May 27-29.

The goal of the visit was to gain a better understanding of the key issues of good governance and democracy facing the hemisphere. This was one of a series of such visits which the Institute is carrying out. An important part of these visits involves the opportunity for an important Florida public official, State Legislator Rep. David Rivera to interact with prominent Latin American political figures and explore areas of mutual concern.

Highlights of the trip included meetings with the President-elect of Paraguay, Fernando Lugo, and his transition team. The Institute team—including Rep. David Rivera, IPMCS Director Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta, Dr. Victor Flecha and Heidi Jane Smith—attended meetings with various political officials, including future ministers and elected senators and congress people, the Ambassador of the United States to Paraguay, James Cason, and President-Elect Lugo.

While the principal purpose of the meeting with President-elect Lugo was to invite him to participate in the Conference on Good Governance and Democracy, Rep. Rivera and Director Rosenbaum were able to engage in discussions of various issues relevant to



Dr. Victor Flecha, Rep. Sebastian Acha, Rep. David Rivera and Director Rosenbaum

Paraguay and the US with the President-elect and his chief of staff. One result of these discussions has been an invitation for a team of top-level Paraguayan leaders who are being brought to the United States by the US State Department to visit Miami.

The delegation met with numerous legislators, including the current President of the Congress and a candidate being considered for the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss the historical presidential transition in which the Colorado Party lost the presidency of Paraguay for the first time in over half a century. The former Mayor of Asuncion, Senator Carlos Filizzola, was instrumental in organizing several meetings, including the time with the future president.

Three national newspapers *La Nacion*, *ABC* and *Ultima Hora*, as well as Paraguayan radio and television stations ran stories about the visit.



Top: FIU team with President of the Senate Dr. Miguel Abdon Saguier.  
Bottom: FIU team with President-elect Fernando Lugo and Senator Carlos Filizzola.

## **Official Agenda**

### ***Tuesday May 27, 2008***

- 10.30 Arrive in Asuncion
- 13.00 Meeting at the Hotel Cecilia with Senator Carlos Filizzola, former Senate President and Mayor of Asuncion
- 16.00 Visit with Senator Carlos Mateo Baldemelli, close advisor to President-elect Fernando Lugo, leader of the Liberal party, considered for Minister of Foreign Affair
- 18.30 Visit with newspaper *Ultima Hora*. Interview with Rep. David Rivera and FIU team
- 19:00 Meeting at the Hotel Cecilia with  
Luis Alberto Wagner, leader of the Liberal Party (PLRA), former Governor of the Central Region, former Representative (1989-2003), Former Minister of Agriculture, Senator from 2003-2008 and reelected 2008-2013

Alejandra de Wagner, National Treasury

Silvio Ovelar, (ANR. Colorado Party), former Governor of the Caaguazú region, Senator from 2003-2008, reelected 2008-2013.

Hugo Estigarribia, (ANR, Colorado party leader) elected to the Senate from 2008-2013.

### ***Wednesday May 28, 2008***

- 7.15 Meeting with Efraín Alegre, PLRA, former Representative, elected to the Senate, 2008-2013
- 9.00 Visit with Fernando Lugo, President-elect
- 10.00 Press Conference
- 11.00 Visit with President of the Senate, Dr. Miguel Abdón Saguier.
- 11.45 Sebastian Acha, Partido Patria Querida, Representative 2003-2008, and reelected for 2008-2013
- 12.30 Tour of the Paraguayan House of Representatives for Rep. David Rivera
- 15.30 Visit with the Ambassador of the United States to Paraguay, James Cason