Latin American diplomats speak to ASU community

Town Hall connects students, global decision makers

More than 80 students, faculty, staff and community members engaged ambassadors and diplomats from the United Nations (U.N.) during “Latin American Perspectives of the United Nations,” a town hall discussion at Arizona State University (ASU) on Nov. 18.

The event was part of International Education Week 2005, nationally designated by the U.S. Departments of State and Education to celebrate the value of international exchange in higher education. The town hall discussion was part of a visit to Arizona coordinated by the U.S. Mission to the U.N. and the Humpty Dumpty Institute (HDI), a nonprofit organization based in New York that fosters public-private partnerships to assist the U.N. in decision making.

U.N. ambassadors and diplomats from Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Suriname participated.

Attendees asked the diplomats about the role and direction of the U.N. after the commitments made in the 2005 World Summit in September.

The discussion was moderated by Orde Kittrie, an ASU associate professor of law who was a natural choice with 11 years of experience in the U.S. Department of State. He is also a member of the Council on International Relations in Washington, D.C.

Members of the panel included: Ambassador Ernesto Aranibar Quiroga, the permanent representative of Bolivia; Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klee, permanent representative of Guatemala; Ambassador Eduardo J. Sevilla Somoza, permanent representative of Nicaragua; Ambassador Ewald Wensley Limon, the permanent representative of Suriname; and Mr. Ignacio Llanos, first secretary of the permanent mission of Chile. The town hall was sponsored by the ASU Center for Latin American Studies and ASU Pan American Initiatives.

International Education Week 2005

Celebrates global partnerships

Events stress importance of international exchange

Beyond colorful dancers and the shrill trumpeting of a mariachi band, International Education Week (IEW) provided ASU with an opportunity to showcase the benefits of international collaboration.

Held from Nov. 14 through 19, IEW was designated in 2000 as part of a national effort by the U.S. Departments of State and Education to support the internationalization of education in the United States.

To partake in this celebration, dozens of people attended each of the events throughout the week, which showcased the value of global partnerships in education. “Mexico es un Mosaico: A Cultural Immersion Workshop,” coordinated by the International Students Office (ISO), educated the university community on the history and culture of Mexico, as well as the Mexican students’ experiences at ASU.

The workshops, which ISO has coordinated for the past five years, are designed to enhance the experiences of international students by increasing understanding about a different country every year. said Carol Takao, director of educational development for Student Affairs, who oversees ISO.

The value of IEW is its schedule of multiple internationally oriented activities in a “concentrated period of time,” said William Davey, director of ASU’s International Programs Office (IPO), which worked with several academic units to coordinate the overall event schedule. The IPO administers study abroad and exchange programs at ASU.
Music is a language shared by people worldwide. Caio Pagano, a classical pianist from Brazil and an ASU Regents’ Professor, said the universal nature of music frees performers to explore the cultural spirit of humanity.

"Music is much more abstract than math, actually," Pagano said. "Notes mean nothing and you have to give them meaning."

Pagano has worked to understand how one can best pour knowledge of the human condition into a piano in order to touch audiences. The world is a living, organic being, and individuals connect with it through music, he said. By working with budding musicians at ASU and abroad, he helps others to see how music can express the most abstract notions of the human mind and how it can both preserve and unify entire cultures.

A Brazilian citizen by birth and an Italian citizen by choice, Pagano teaches piano courses and performs concerts every year at ASU and around the world. He has attracted international students to ASU from countries including Italy, Brazil and China, while other ASU students have gone abroad as a result of his efforts. He also performs and lectures four times per year with his art-enthusiast friend, Anne Connor, during events titled “Evenings with Art and Music.” The events, held in Connor’s home, raise funds for Pagano’s students’ scholarships and other activities. Pagano has brought his university colleagues to festivals abroad, and his research has been published in Europe, Brazil and the U.S.

In 2000, he joined with Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires to develop the Belgas Centre for the Study of the Arts. House in Portugal at Pires’ home, the center was created to provide musical education for talented international students. Pagano has been a musician ever since he was a young child. He began to reveal his gift for music while growing up on a small farm in Brazil. When he moved with his father to the metropolitan city of São Paulo, Brazil, he started to perform for audiences.

“I would win little competitions,” Pagano said. “Soon, there were people interested in this little boy in short pants.”

He continued to play music and, despite his heavy performance schedule, earned a law degree from the University of São Paulo in 1965. Pagano’s love of music pushed him to obtain a doctorate degree in music from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He then became a professor of music at the University of São Paulo in 1970 and later served as a visiting professor at Texas Christian University before coming to ASU in 1986. Pagano was named a Regents’ Professor in 1998 for his excellence in teaching, research and other creative activities, as well as his national and international distinction.

Pagano’s next performance at ASU will be on Jan. 25 as part of the School of Music’s Mozart 250 @ ASU, a year-long series of events commemorating the 250th anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s birth in Salzburg, Austria. He plans to record a new CD in January and perform in Costa Rica and Japan in March.

The unspoken language of music

**Feature Persona: Caio Pagano**

Caio Pagano, an ASU Regents’ Professor and Brazilian classical pianist

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**Dual MBA students’ visit builds global business vision**

Partnership connects executives from Mexico, U.S.

**ASU-ITAM executive MBA students gather before a reception**

During a week-long visit to ASU, 25 Mexican senior executives representing multiple industries expanded their Arizona relationships and put their global business education into practice.

These executives are students in a dual executive master of business administration (MBA) program between the ASU W. P. Carey School of Business and Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) in Mexico City.

The students visited Phoenix from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4 to participate in a week of intensive coursework and industrial site visits required as part of the curriculum. The visit is an integral part of the program, which operates in Mexico City.

Those who complete the program will receive a MBA from the ASU W. P. Carey School of Business and a Maestría en Dirección de Empresas from ITAM.

The dual degree is targeted at high-level business executives with a focus on strengthening managerial abilities while developing a globally aware business vision, said Jose Mendez, director of the program and a professor of economics at ASU.

Professionals also develop key international relationships with other professionals, Mendez explained, adding that bringing the executives to ASU is part of the university’s efforts to increase its international focus.

“We’re educating and building ties with people who will be, and undoubtedly are, Mexico’s future leaders,” Mendez said. “There’s no doubt about it.”

During the three industry site visits, the students gained an in-depth view of the management strategies that have made firms in Phoenix successful.

They toured the global headquarters of Avnet, Inc., a worldwide distributor of computer products and other electronic components based in Phoenix; Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, an upscale resort in Phoenix; and Bashas’ Supermarkets, the Chandler-based parent company of a statewide grocery chain that includes Food City and AJ’s Fine Foods.

After the site visits, they met with MBA students at ASU to collaborate on analyzing a case study for CEMEX, a global cement producer headquartered in Monterrey, Mexico. They presented their findings to Javier Treviño, CEMEX vice president for corporate communications, who flew in from Monterrey to listen to their ideas and opinions about business management.

The dual degree program is made more accessible to executives through its weekend course format, which allows the executives to earn the degrees without needing to take time away from their daily activities and responsibilities.

Courses are taught by ASU professors in English and by ITAM professors in Spanish, maximizing the flexibility of the program for professors and students.

The end result is students who have the benefit of a binational education that does not cause them to compromise their existing professional positions.

New connections being made between the different executives is the ultimate benefit of these students’ efforts, Mendez said. “They’ll come away with an executive MBA and relationships built among the classmates,” Mendez added. “They’ll also have built some ties to American executives. The main thing is relationships.”

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