



INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
Public Administration for the 21st Century

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

**Florida’s Conference on Good Governance and Democracy in the Hemisphere
Montevideo, Uruguay, Regional Meetings, July 29, 2008**

In preparation for Florida’s First Conference on Good Governance and Democracy in the Hemisphere planned for Oct 2-3, 2008 at the Biltmore Hotel, the Institute for Public Management & Community Service (IPMCS) of FIU co-hosted a seminar with Uruguayan House of Representatives at the National Legislative Palace in Montevideo, Uruguay on July 29.



Former president Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera concluded the seminar.

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 also included Asuncion Paraguay, San Jose Costa Rica and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—that the Institute has carried out. An important part of these visits involves interacting with prominent Latin American political figures, academics, business and civil society representatives to explore areas of mutual concern.

The seminar “Political Parties Confront Today’s Challenges: Institutional Changes and New Development Models” brought more than 250 local political figures, journalists, civil society representatives, and students to the National Legislative Palace for a half day seminar. Participants listened to international experts and local representatives present new ideas regarding democratic governance and political parties.



Acting President of the Congress of Uruguay Rep. Uberfil Hernandez with IPMCS Director Dr. Allan Rosenbaum.

The seminar was jointly sponsored by the Congress of Uruguay, the State of Florida and Florida International University. Views from academic political scientists, the press, and political leaders were presented during the event. The Institute team—including IPMCS Director Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, and Vice Director Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta, Dr. Victor Flecha, Dr. Meredith Newman, Dr. Natalya Kolisnichenko and Heidi Jane Smith—were involved in both speaking at and organizing the meeting.

Uruguayan National Representative and Acting President of the Congress, Uberfil Hernandez, opened the day's session with Dr. Allan Rosenbaum and Representative Jaime Mario Trobo, President of the International Relations Committee, who was instrumental in organizing the event. Both Dr. Rosenbaum and Rep. Trobo stressed the importance of political parties in the building of strong democracies and the need for parties to be engaged in a constant process of renewal. Rosenbaum further commented on the need for political parties to take into account the poorest and the most vulnerable in society.



Journalist table present their views at the conference.

Political Scientist Dr. Jorge Lanzaro and Dr. Romeo Pérez joined Dr. Meredith Newman and Dr. Natalya Kolisnichenko to provide a comparative perspective on the intersection of political parties with the legislative and the executive branches of government. In addition, the discussion focused upon the impact political parties on the provision of good public service—using examples from Uruguay, Ukraine and the United States.

The session with the national and international journalists provided a wide-ranging discussion of the interaction between the media, government and political parties in a democratic system. The final panel—which included three of the four presumptive presidential candidates in the next election (planned for October 25, 2009)—addressed a wide array of agenda items for the countries next administration. It concluded with a very lively address by former president Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera. The seminar was attended and covered by representatives by all the national news media in Uruguay.





Seminar
**“Political Parties Confront Today’s Challenges:
Institutional Changes and New Development Models”**
Tuesday, July 29, 2008
Legislative Palace, Montevideo, Uruguay

14:00 Opening

Hon. Jaime Mario Tobo, National Representative. President of the International Relations Committee, House of Representatives. 10’

Hon. Uberfil Hernandez, National Representative and Acting President, House of Representatives. 10’

Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, Director of the Institute of Public Management and Community Service, Florida International University, Miami, Fl. 10’

14:15 “Political Scientist Perspective”

Dr. Jorge Lanzaro. Political Science Institute, University of the Republic. 15’

Dr. Romeo Pérez. Rector of Latin American Center for Human Economics (CLAEH) 15’

Dr. Meredith Newman, Director of School of Public Administration, School of Arts and Sciences, Florida International University, Miami, Fl. 15’

Dr. Natalya Kolisnichenko, Professor, Institute of Ukrainian Public Administration, Odessa, Ukraine. 15’

15:30 “Journalist Perspective”

Alfonso Lessa. Director of TV Information, Columnist, University Professor 15’

Gerardo Sotelo. TV and Radio Journalist and Columnist. 15’

Claudio Paolillo. Member of the SIP Directive, Editor, Journalist, Writer and Columnist. 15’

Dr. Victor Jacinto Flecha, Political Scientist and Columnist, Executive Director of COPLANEA, Asunción, Paraguay 15’

16:30 Coffee Break

16:45 “Political Leaders Perspective”

Dr. Pablo Mieres. President of the Independent Party, Former Legislator. 15’

Prof. Enrique Rubio. Director of the Planning and Public Office for the National Government. Member of the Political Table for the Frente Amplio Party. 15’

Sr. Luis Hierro Lopez Ex Vice President de la Republic. 15’

Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera. National Party and Ex-President de la Republic. 15’