

Being in the Loop: IFSA Santiago Students Participate in Chilean Bicentennial Events



Anthony Navarrete, Isel Otero-Vera,
Elizabeth Daly, and RD Isabel
Yévenes

At IFSA-Butler Santiago, in addition to planned excursions, we like students to be able to participate in one-time cultural or academic events that enhance their understanding of the current Chilean reality, while reinforcing what they learn in the classroom. These types of events are impossible to plan in advance, but we believe they are invaluable to the students' experience here in Chile. Recently, students participating in the Chilean Universities Program (CUP) were able to attend a talk that was part of the Bicentennial Dialogues, a series of talks featuring important national and international political figures in honor of Chile's bicentennial celebration.

On Friday, August 13, 2010, IFSA-Butler Santiago students had the chance to attend a dialogue between Ricardo Lagos, ex-president of Chile, and Felipe Gonzalez, ex-Prime Minister of Spain. The topic was the changing global economy in the context of the economic crisis, focusing on the perspectives of Latin America and Spain. Students were able to experience first hand the viewpoints of two important politicians concerning the future of the global economy, who will be the new players, and what needs to be done to successfully recover from the recession. Students were able to connect topics from the talk to issues being discussed in their university classes.



Felipe González
Photo by Anthony Navarrete



Ricardo Lagos (center) Felipe Gonzalez (right)
Photo by Anthony Navarrete



Isel Otero-Vera, Alex Avalone, Leah
Martinez and Abby Hall
Photo by Isabel Yévenes

On Tuesday August 24, 2010, students attended a talk entitled “The differentiation of Latin America,” featuring Felipe Larraín, the current Chilean Finance Minister, Alfonso Prat-Gay, ex-President of the Argentinean Central Bank, and Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, Peruvian economist and potential presidential candidate. It was part of a series of events focusing on regional development. The topic focused on economic growth in emerging economies, focusing on Latin America. All three speakers spoke about the importance of the Asian economies versus those of the United States and Europe, highlighting the

fact that the crisis in the economic powerhouses will become increasingly irrelevant due to the importance of emerging economies. The speakers also addressed the challenges that face the region, such as its heavy dependence on commodities, inefficiencies in the administration of utilities such as electricity and water, and the need to improve research and development through cooperation between universities and private business.