COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MEETING

The latest gathering of Columbia University alumni in Chile took place last November at the Taringa restaurant in Santiago. The meeting was organized by the Columbia Global Centers | Latin America and the New York-based Columbia Alumni Associates (CAA), in collaboration with the University of Santiago and the Universidad de Chile.

Participants included Hwang Yoon (SIPA) and Alexander Hazbun (LAW), Columbia University alumni meeting with the support of Columbia Global Centers | Latin America. Graciela Ibáñez (Journalism School) and María del Pilar Duarte (LAW). The event was attended by alumni from different programs and across different generations. At the meeting, distinguished alumni spoke on issues that matter and the event allowed participants to network among Columbia University graduates and students.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR JACOB LESHNO

On December 22, Professor Jacob D. Leshno from Columbia University’s School of Engineering and Applied Science delivered a lecture titled “Market Design: Lessons from School Choice Systems” at the Instituto de Ingeniería of the Universidad de Chile. The lecture was supported by the Columbia Global Centers | Latin America.

Professor Leshno talked about successful applications, ranging from the allocation of students to schools to the matching of donors and participants. He also discussed the advances in the theory and practice of market design, in which he discussed recent research on incentive compatibility.

Professor Leshno also visited the Institute for Energy Research Center (IERC), Chile, founded by his host institution and the Chilean government, to discuss the research that his team is working on.

SYMPOSIUM & WORKSHOP ON MECHANOBIOLOGY

On December 11-12, Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago), hosted a unique symposium and workshop on mechanobiology that was part of the Columbia-Chile Fund, created by Columbia and Chile’s National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT). The symposium was organized by Professor Jacob D. Leshno, Dean of Columbia’s Institute of Industrial Engineering. The workshop on mechanobiology took place following the symposium.

During the meeting, Professor Leshno gave a talk titled “Market Design: Lessons from School Choice Systems” at the Instituto de Ingeniería of the Universidad de Chile.

During her visit, Professor Staudinger was also invited to address the Chilean-Pension Reform Law, which is currently under discussion.

In addition, she spoke at the seminar “When Does Old Age Matter?” at the University of Santiago. During her visit, she also visited the Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center, which is the world’s first center dedicated to aging research.

The event was attended by a diverse audience of scientists, including Dr. Ursula Staudinger, Professor of the Columbia-Chile Fund, and Dr. Rodrigo Pérez Mackenna, President of the Association of Pension Fund Administrators (APP).

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**LOCAL PROSPECTS FOR SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

In January, Professor Yaelle M. Fthenakis, Professor of Electrical Engineering at Columbia University’s Center for Undergraduate Civilization and Globalization (CUCC), and Director of the Center for Renewable Energy Research and Policy (CERRP), and Department of Energy and Environmental Development (DDEED), held a workshop on the future of Brazil’s solar energy development. The event, which was co-sponsored by the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI), was held at the Rio de Janeiro State University (UERJ) and was attended by over 100 participants, including government officials, energy experts, and renewable energy companies.

The workshop was organized by the Center for Renewable Energy Research and Policy (CERRP) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Development (DDEED) at the University of Chile. It was open to the public and was attended by over 100 participants, including government officials, energy experts, and renewable energy companies.

During the workshop, Fthenakis presented an overview of Brazil’s solar energy potential and prospects, focusing on the country’s large solar resource and the potential for solar energy applications in the region. She highlighted the importance of renewable energy in Brazil’s energy mix and the potential for solar energy to contribute to the country’s energy security and economic development.

Fthenakis emphasized the need for a coordinated approach to solar energy development in Brazil, including the development of supportive policies and the promotion of international cooperation. She also discussed the challenges facing solar energy development in Brazil, including the lack of a coherent national policy framework, the need for increased investment in research and development, and the importance of building partnerships with international organizations.

In the closing remarks, Fthenakis underscored the significant opportunities for solar energy development in Brazil and the importance of leveraging these opportunities to support the country’s economic growth and sustainability goals. She encouraged participants to remain engaged in the ongoing efforts to promote renewable energy in Brazil and to contribute to the success of the country’s solar energy development efforts.
On December 11-12, Columbia Global Centers | Latin America hosted the Symposium & Workshop on Mechanobiology in Santiago, Chile. The event, which brought together experts who have pioneered this new science at both the cellular and single-molecule levels, was the first of its kind in Chile.

The event started on the opportunity to launch the Chilean chapter of WETR, which brings together experts from different disciplines of the University’s eight Global Centers for teaching or research activities. The initiative was led by Global Centers | Latin America’s President Lee C. Bollinger, designed to provide support for students and researchers from Chilean institutions and universities and the Fundación Chile’s National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT).

The event featured lectures by leading experts in the field, including Professors Themelis, who gave a keynote address, and Rodríguez, who presented research on mechanobiology.

During her visit, Professor Staudinger also discussed the importance of healthy aging and the need for innovative solutions to address the challenges of an aging population in Chile. She met with local authorities and experts to discuss potential solutions and strategies to promote healthy aging.

In addition, she spoke at the seminar “Addressing Pension Commission,” which is currently available on the Columbia Global Centers website.
In January, Professor Vivian M. Friborg, Director and Executive Director of Columbia University’s Center for Life Electricity Distribution and Transmission Companies. Friborg’s presentation was followed by comments from Rodríguez Palma, Director of Colombia’s National Institute of Electricity Distribution and Transmission Companies.

Workshop on Film Production

In January, Michael P. Hausman, Adjunct Professor of Film at Columbia’s Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) and a Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago) visiting scholar, offered a workshop called “Promoting Film Industry Reforms: Lessons from the BRICS Bank in the International Financial Architecture.”

First, HAUSMAN; Istituto Universitario de los Deportes „Enrique Leff“ en la Feria Interna de Difusión de datos-información tools.

Drought Symposium

The International Research Institute for Climate and Society (Columbia University Earth Institute) was one of the organizers of the seminar “Managing Water in a Dry Land: Lessons from Chile’s Elqui Valley,” which took place in Santiago last November. The event was sponsored by Joseph Stiglitz, the IPD is a global policy dialogue on major international development issues.

Seminario sobre el plan de energía solar en Chile

Columbia Alumni Presents Theses on Sports and Politics

Daniel Maradona, a journalist and sports analyst at CNN Chile, presented his thesis “Power Games: How Sports in European football is used to great effect in election campaigns. He finds that — unlike soccer in Europe or Latin America which cuts across social and political lines — football in the United States can be divided into “red” and “blue.”

In his thesis, Matamala explores the relationship between sports and politics, looking at what voters’ favorite sports can tell us about their political leanings and how this is used to great effect in election campaigns. He finds that — unlike soccer in Europe or Latin America which cuts across social and political lines — football in the United States can be divided into “red” and “blue.”

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Lecture by Professor Jacob Leshno

On December 22, Professor Jacob D. Leshno from Columbia University’s School of Law delivered a lecture entitled “Market Design: Lessons from School Choice Systems.” The event was attended by over 70 participants who were interested in the theory and practice of market design and, in particular, of matching mechanisms for allocation problems in which money cannot be used to incentivize participants.

Professor Leshno talked about successful applications, ranging from the allocation of students to schools to the matching of donors to recipients. He discussed recent advances in the theory and practice of market design, and the role of market design in addressing the need for policy solutions that can improve the efficiency of resource allocation and the outcomes of social welfare.

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The symposium and workshop were designed to bring together experts from different disciplines, including biologists, physicists, engineers, and mathematicians, to discuss the latest research on mechanobiology and its applications. The event was co-sponsored by Chile’s Fundación Ciencia y Vida, and the Faculty of Engineering at the Universidad de Chile.

The workshop sought to explore the possibility of developing new insights into the role of mechanical forces in biological processes, including the development of new technologies that can be used to design new materials and devices.

Professor Themelis Speaks on Waste Management

On February 10, Professor Themelis presented a lecture on waste management at the University of Chile. The lecture was titled “When Does Retirement Optimize Health? Causal Outcomes and Healthy Behavior of Older Americans and Chileans.”

During her visit, Professor Staudinger was also invited to address the Presidential Advisory Commission on Pension Fund Administrators (APF). Professor Staudinger was also invited to address the Presidential Advisory Commission on Pension Fund Administrators and the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

In addition, she spoke at the seminar “Visualizing Experiences: Tools to Cope with Aging and Mobility,” which focused on the transformation of older adults’ experiences and the design of inclusive and assistive environments.

Profile: Professor Ursula Staudinger

Professor Ursula Staudinger is a world-renowned expert on aging and health. She is the Director of Columbia’s Aging Center in Chile, and a professor of psychology at Columbia University.

PUBLICATIONS


NEWSLETTER