Philadelphia University President Spinelli Meets with University Alumni in Latin America and the Caribbean

Philadelphia, March 4 – On a busy one-week trip to Latin America and the Caribbean, Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli Jr. met with University alumni in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Ecuador Feb. 27 to March 6.

In the Dominican Republic, President Spinelli visited the Altos de Chavon School, where students attend the University’s Short Course for design majors during winter break. Since 2001, about 15 Philadelphia University students have traveled to the Dominican Republic each winter to study graphic design, industrial design and other design disciplines. The students do extensive drawing and photographing in the Dominican Republic and then finish their coursework back on campus in Philadelphia. At Altos de Chavon, President Spinelli met with its president, Dominique Bluhdorn, and school rector Dr. Stephen Kaplan. Dennis Kuronen, interim dean of the School of Design and Media and director of the Graphic Design Communication Program, who oversees the Short Course program, visited the Altos de Chavon School with Dr. Spinelli.

A few days later on March 1, about a dozen alumni had the opportunity to meet President Spinelli Jr., at a dinner and reception in Guatemala City. At this alumni event, President Spinelli presided over a diploma ceremony for Rudy Richter ’55 and David Garcia ’04. In Guatemala, President Spinelli and his wife, Carol, also spent time with brothers Alberto Zimeri ’84 and Abraham Zimeri ’85, and their families. President and Mrs. Spinelli also visited Pralin, the Guatemala City clothing store owned by fashion designer Cecelia Prahl, who graduated from Philadelphia University in 1998.

From there, the Philadelphia University entourage, which also included Lisbeth Willis, director of Alumni Relations, traveled to Quito, Ecuador, to meet with local alumni in that South American city.

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Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,100 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs, including a doctoral degree in Textile Engineering and Science. As part of its core mission, the University focuses on professionally oriented programs that prepare students for successful careers, with a strong foundation in the liberal arts and an orientation toward interdisciplinary cooperation. Philadelphia University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.

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