

5-10-2004

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Chapman University Media Relations, "Students to Present Original Research to Former *President of Spain" (2004). *Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. Paper 423.

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Students to Present Original Research to Former *President of Spain

A rare opportunity awaits five Chapman undergraduates at a symposium that's part of Chapman's Global Citizen program.

Research papers explore Spanish history, economics and politics, including Aznar's influence on the nation.

Media and public welcome; news conference with students and Aznar follow seminar.

If you're from the media and have questions about this event [click here](#)

*In Spain, president and prime minister are interchangeable titles.

ORANGE, California, May 10, 2004 Five Chapman University students will come face-to-face with former Spanish President Jose Maria Aznar, who stepped down from the office last month.

The meeting comes during a symposium that's part of Chapman's Global Citizen program, which honors a world leader. The students, representing the disciplines of business and economics, history and political science, chose a particular aspect about Spain and Aznar's presidency to study and analyze. Then they wrote their papers, with the mentoring of Chapman professors in their respective disciplines and under the general guidance of Chapman's director of international studies, James J. Coyle, Ph.D.

They will present their research live, in-person to Aznar on Saturday, May 15 (3:45 p.m.; Bush Conference Center, Beckman Hall on the Chapman campus in Orange). To open the event, U.S. Ambassador to Spain George L. Argyros will formally welcome and introduce President Aznar.

It's extremely rare that students, especially undergraduates, get opportunities like this to meet and have academic dialogue with world leaders, said Coyle. The students will remember this for a lifetime, and it's something that Chapman can point to when we talk about personalized education.

Professor Don Booth, Ph.D. (business and economics), Bill Cumiford, Ph.D. (history) and Gordon Babst, Ph.D. (political science) have been mentoring the five students through their research. Coyle will moderate the symposium, during which the students will read a synopsis of their research to Aznar, who will respond to their comments and questions.

Three business and economics students teamed up on one paper; the other two did individual research. The participants are:

Business and economics Spain Under the Influence of Aznar by Carmen Perez (age 21, senior economics major from Mt. Vernon, Wash.), Amy Tracey and Melissa Gross (age 21, senior economics major from Las Vegas)

Political science The US, EU, and Spain by Ian Peckham (senior political science major).
History Spanish Separation Movements by Kellen Brenner, (age 21, junior double major in history and business from San Diego).

The student forum is free and open to the public. For more information, contact James Coyle at 714-628-7074.