



Ambassadorial Insights Lecture
Winter 2008

Paraguay–U.S. Relations

**His Excellency
James Spalding**

Paraguayan ambassador to the U.S.

**Thursday, 27 March
11:00 A.M.
Assembly Hall, Hinckley Alumni
and Visitors Center**



James Spalding became Paraguayan ambassador to the U.S. in 2004, having previously served as co-founder and director of the Sustainable Development Advisory Group (GADES). In 2003, Spalding formed a part of the Economic Transition Commission of President Duarte Frutos, developing the 100-Day Plan for state-owned companies. During his ten years working in the public sector, he occupied key economic policy postings, including minister of finance, vice minister of economy and integration at the Ministry of Finance, vice minister of commerce, president of Paraguayan Petroleum, and vice minister of integration. In addition, he served as governor of the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank Group, the Corporación Andina de Fomento, and the Financial Fund for the Development of the River Plate Basin. Spalding was also one of the top Paraguayan negotiators in the MERCOSUR process, representing Paraguay in MERCOSUR's negotiations with the region, in the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the European Union. He received a BS in economics from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an MS in economics from Rutgers University. Spalding and his wife, Cecilia Coello, are the parents of three daughters.