

# Mexico Ambassador visits



**GUEST:** José Gerardo Traslosheros, Abbey Watt, Matthew Flanagan and Joe Rush take a walk.

*PHOTO: SUPPLIED*

By RENEE CLAYTON

The Ambassador of Mexico to New Zealand, José Gerardo Traslosheros, visited the Institute of the Pacific United New Zealand last week.

After receiving a warm welcome from student representatives and staff, the ambassador walked around the campus and asked many questions about IPU New Zealand, showing great interest in their academic programmes and multicultural living/learning environment.

Community Liaison Joe Rush said he was a gentleman of great warmth, vast knowledge and intelligence and was very keen to develop a future relationship with IPU New Zealand.

"The ambassador noted the great potential for educational linkages being developed between New Zealand and Latin American countries in the near future.

"We hope this is the start of a long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationship between Mexico and IPU New Zealand."

The conversation at a luncheon function with the ambassador covered a wide range of topics, including the upcoming Presidential election in the

United States, the recent referendum in the United Kingdom and the cultural and historical background of Mexico and South American countries.

They also spoke of the artist Frida Kahlo whose photographs have been on display for the first time in New Zealand at Te Manawa.

An advocate of free-trade and international co-operation, ambassador Traslosheros spoke on politics, economics, history, diplomacy and art.

His interest in the surrealist movement led by Frida Kahlo, Remedios Varo and other artists impressed students and staff at the luncheon table.

IPU student Abbey Watt said the ambassador made her want to meet and interact more with Mexican people and learn about their culture.

"Where I work and study I don't meet many Mexican people, and have had little interaction with the culture.

"He brought my attention to far larger aspects of the Mexican culture and history," she said.

"He also highly praised the current exhibit running at Te Manawa, which has left me wanting to go check it out in order to learn more about the rich history the country has to offer."



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