

YOUR EUROPEAN CAREER

On March 28, 2019, Florida International University and the Miami-Florida Jean Monet Center of Excellence hosted the International Expo - *Your European Career Starts Here*. This one day event connected students, FIU alumni, and young professionals with European companies and organizations residing in South Florida. The auditorium with over 100 students listened to the speakers and asked pertinent questions.

After official welcomes, the presentations started with a Consular panel who discussed *International Careers in Diplomacy: European Perspectives*. The panel included diplomatic corp members such as Volker Anding, (Ret.) former Ambassador of Germany, Montevideo/Uruguay and the Republic of Panama; Beata Paszyc, the Honorary Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland; Monique Quesada, Diplomat in Residence of South Florida and Puerto Rico; and Vanessa Selk, Cultural and Education Attaché, Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

Panelists gave a short overview of their career history and illustrated how their own education came into play when choosing the diplomatic career track. They all highlighted how extensive training helped them be prepared and what to do to move ahead. Each also gave personal advice of what worked and what did not work in their professional life, and each reflected upon what the future might hold for newcomers entering the diplomacy fields.

Hon. Vice Consul Paszyc opened her presentation by asking general questions about Poland and she was happy to see many

students knew major dates in Polish history and about famous Poles. She then made a special Powerpoint presentation that focused on helping students to find the purpose in what they wanted to do in the future. Consul Paszyc stated that first asking oneself *Why?* is the most important step in defining the desired career and then the path will begin to take shape. Finding one's real inspiration and motivation was the key. She encouraged students to stop waiting for things to happen to them, but to grab opportunities, create their own path and to keep on going despite possible downfalls.

The next panel discussion, *International Careers in Business: European Perspectives*, was moderated by Dr. Anna Pietraszek of FIU, who focused on businesses in Germany, Spain, and France, and the goal of professional international cooperation.

After the formal panels, each represented country, including Poland, had a booth with promotional materials, books, tourist, educational and business information. Poland offered delicious Polish sweets courtesy of Lowell Foods as well; many students and faculty members dropped by to engage in conversation. A few students offered to volunteer at AIPC, including Pablo Menendez who subsequently became the Institute's summer intern.

Such networking events not only deepen the awareness and understanding of Poland's history and presence, but also promote the Institute and the Honorary Consulate in Miami.



Panelists



Ms. Vanessa Selk, Mrs. Beata Paszyc, Amb. (Ret.) Volker Anding, Mrs. Christine Caly-Sanchez, Ms. Monique Quesada



Dr. Anna Pietraszek, Ms. Vanja Hajdukovic, Mr. Michael Bartelt, Ms. Arantxa Jordan, Ms. Pascale Villet