

GUILLERMO O'DONNELL DEMOCRACY AWARD

# Announcing the Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship

by GABRIELA IPPOLITO-O'DONNELL and KEVIN J. MIDDLEBROOK

Sergio Bitar accepted the inaugural Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award at LASA's congress in Lima, Peru. He is one of Chile's most distinguished public servants and public intellectuals. Over the course of his career and in many ways, he has defended and advanced democracy both in Chile and throughout Latin America.

Ing. Bitar served as Minister of Mining under President Salvador Allende in 1973. He was detained under the dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet, imprisoned for a year on Dawson Island, and then forced into exile (living in Venezuela and the United States) until 1984. Following his return to Chile, he was elected president of the Partido por la Democracia on three occasions and served as a Senator from 1994 to 2002. He also served as Minister of Education under President Ricardo Lagos and Minister of Public Works under President Michelle Bachelet. In addition, he is the author or coauthor of more than twenty books on a broad range of topics, including most recently *Democratic Transitions: Conversations with World Leaders* (2015) and *Why and How Latin America Should Think about the Future* (2016). Full biographical details are available at: [www.bitar.cl](http://www.bitar.cl). The text of Ing. Bitar's O'Donnell lecture follows this article.

We are grateful to Evelyn Huber, Cynthia McClintock, and Edelberto Torres-Rivas for their service on the selection committee. We also thank Marcelo Diego Pinillos for preparing promotional materials for Ing. Bitar's lecture.

We wish to recognize publicly the 41 individuals and institutions that have contributed to the special endowment fund supporting the O'Donnell Award. Their generosity ensures that the Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship will be a permanent feature of all future LASA congress programs. The donors are:

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Finally, we take this opportunity to encourage interested LASA members to submit nominations for the 2018 O'Donnell prize, which will awarded at the Barcelona congress. The Secretariat will circulate a formal call for nominations. ■