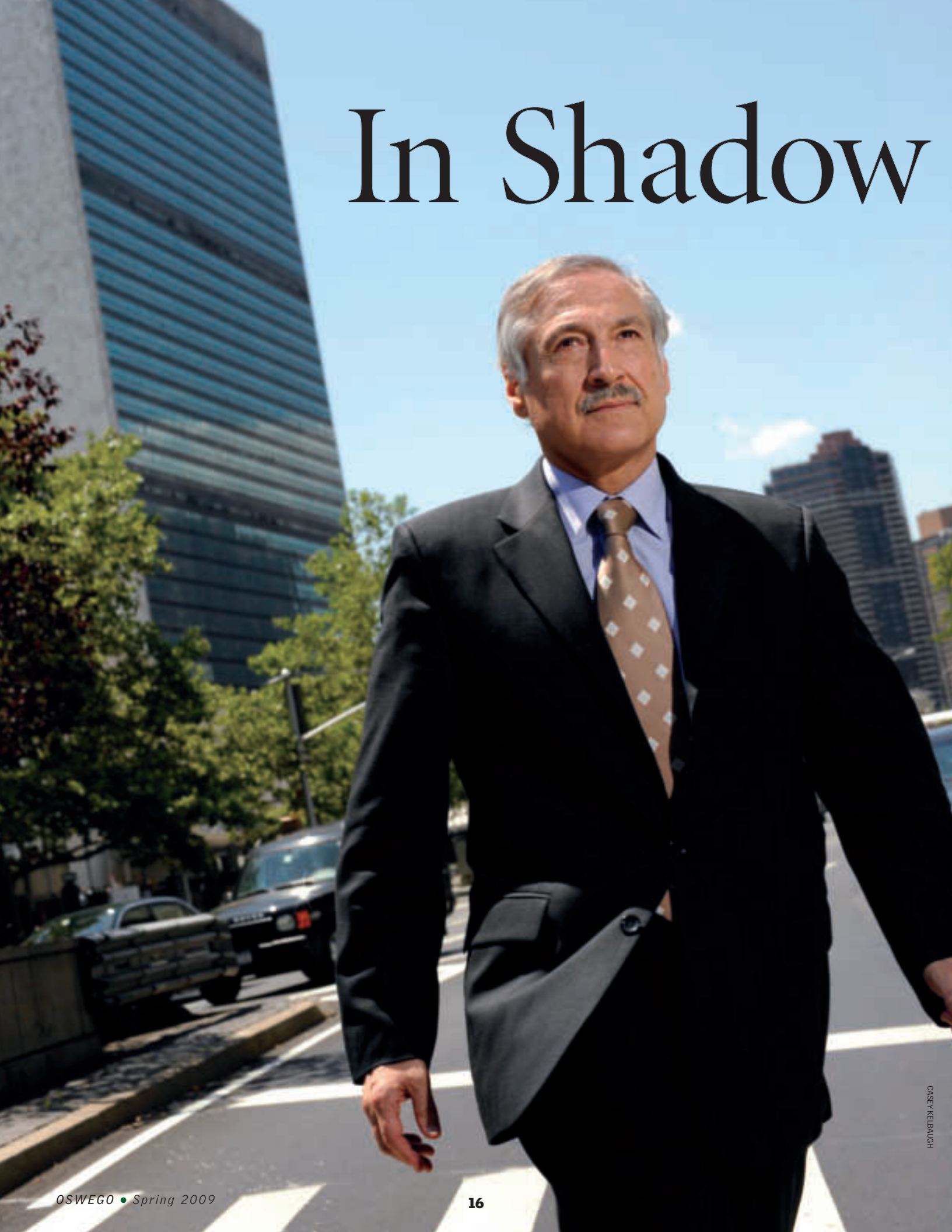


In Shadow



No More

By Michele Reed

From his office on the 40th floor of 1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, **Heraldo Muñoz '72** looks out over the United Nations building and the sun glinting on New York's East River.

As the Ambassador of Chile to the United Nations, Muñoz has vision and influence that reach even farther. He presided over the U.N. Security Council in early 2004 and chaired the Security Council's Al Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee in 2003, touring danger zones in Iran and Afghanistan. In 2007, he accompanied U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to the Antarctic polar ice caps to see global warming firsthand. This February, Ban appointed him to head the U.N.'s special investigation into the assassination of Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto.

In November 2008 the *New York Times* dedicated its half-page Saturday profile to Muñoz's life and work.

Muñoz is the first to tell you that as an Oswego student, he never imagined he would be such a prominent player on the world stage. Like his classmates, he was busy going to lectures and concerts (like The Doors), driving a delivery truck for a local business and meeting (at Buckland's, of course) the beautiful girl who would become his bride.

But even as an undergraduate, his commitment to social justice was evident. The Chilean native helped found the Latino Student Union to promote the rights and culture of his fellow Hispanics. He marched in Vietnam War protests, putting his student visa at risk. And he helped organize migrant farm workers on Oswego County's lettuce fields.

A man of culture, today Muñoz is a scholar with more than 20 books and dozens of academic essays to his credit. He earned a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Denver Josef Korbel School of International Studies, where he was a classmate of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

But Muñoz is also a man of action, who is not afraid to put his life on the line for what is important to him. And what is important to Muñoz is justice, democracy and human rights.

Activist, ambassador, author: **Heraldo Muñoz '72** fought for democracy in Chile. Now, as U.N. ambassador, he is dedicated to justice and human rights on a worldwide scale.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Ambassador **Heraldo Muñoz '72** of Chile casts his vote during a United Nations session.

A sea change

While still an Oswego student, Muñoz first heard the call to action that would change his life. Salvador Allende came to power as head of Chile's Popular Unity

government in 1970. "And that was to me, being a young man of progressive ideas, a sea change . . . All I wanted to do was go back," Muñoz says.

After graduation he would return to Chile, along with his Oswego sweetheart, Pamela Quick. They would be married in the middle of the social and political upheaval of Muñoz's homeland. On their wedding day, they would attend an Allende rally. Muñoz was chosen to head the People's Stores, a government-run program to supply food at cost to poor neighborhoods.

Shortly after that, Muñoz began his journey through one of the darkest periods in late-20th century history, an odyssey he details in his critically acclaimed new book, *The Dictator's Shadow*. One of the *Washington Post's* "Best Books of 2008," it is the oft-harrowing account of his struggle and that of his beloved Chile against notorious dictator Augusto Pinochet.

"Repression, torture, exile, people being assassinated, arrested — horrors we could never have imagined" is how Muñoz describes life under Pinochet's rule. He personally knew people who were murdered or "made to disappear," and says, "I dedicated myself to survive and reorganize with the resistance."

The book opens with Muñoz running down the streets of Santiago, with a .32-caliber revolver in his pocket and several

sticks of unstable dynamite stuffed into his shirt. It was Sept. 11, 1973, and a military junta, including Army Commander-in-Chief Pinochet, had overthrown Allende's government. It marked the beginning of 17 years of struggle for Muñoz and his fellow proponents of democracy. "That day I took up arms. I was willing to fight and die if necessary," he says. "The way the book begins marked my life forever."

Muñoz carries the emotional scars of those years deep inside, and is physically scarred as well, with a finger, broken in a beating, that never healed well. But he finds these hardships necessary and honorable, given the goals he was striving for.

Critical Acclaim for *The Dictator's Shadow*

"*The Dictator's Shadow* is one of those unexpected delights, an authoritative history that is also extremely well told. Writing with a novelist's eye for detail, Heraldo Muñoz has given us a compelling insider's account . . . I can't recommend this book highly enough."

— Jon Lee Anderson, staff writer,
The New Yorker

"An insightful and poignant new personal memoir."

— Jorge Castañeda, *Newsweek*.

"Chilean to the core — sober, self-critical, smart — the diplomat and scholar Muñoz writes with remarkable moral clarity."

— Richard Feinberg, *Foreign Affairs*

"Meticulous and vivid . . . Muñoz delivers a compelling, personal account of life in a police state and a strong reminder of how far Chile has come."

— Joshua Partlow, *Washington Post*

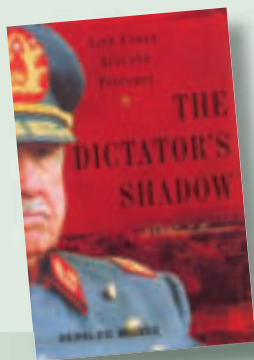
"This thoughtful retrospective . . . Muñoz's first-hand account . . . is both shrewd and inspiring."

— *Publishers Weekly*

"The narrative seethes with palpable tension . . . The author's shrewd insights into international relations, national politics and human nature make this a valuable text even for readers who have rarely thought about Chile."

— *Kirkus Reviews*

Named one of the "Best Books of 2008"
by the *Washington Post*



Join President Deborah F. Stanley and fellow alumni for a discussion and book signing with Ambassador **Heraldo Muñoz '72**

JUNE 16 IN NEW YORK CITY.

"There are moments in life when you have to make a decision that involves your own personal well-being and my choice was one I thought was ethically and morally correct, which was fight for democracy, fight for human rights," he says. "In the end it is a privilege to have been part of a moment of history where you put a little mark, a little brand on the present and future."

One day, Pinochet's secret police would come looking for Muñoz, only to go to the house next door. As Muñoz put on a jacket and sat down to wait for the inevitable knock on the door that could mean disappearance or death, his neighbor refused to betray him. The soldiers milled around in the street for a few minutes, then drove away.

Decades later, Muñoz would share the story at a 2005 dinner party in his honor hosted by Barbara Walters, who challenged her guests to tell of an instance when a stroke of luck created a turning point in their lives. The assembled journalists, business leaders and diplomats, including then-U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, all agreed that Muñoz had the best life-altering tale.

A new democracy

A plebiscite was called in 1988, to determine whether Pinochet should continue as head of Chile, and Muñoz, who helped found the Party for Democracy, was a member of the executive committee of the "No" campaign to end the dictator's rule. The proponents of democracy were victorious, with a majority voting to oust Pinochet.

With the defeat of the military leader, the victors opened the way to build a new, democratic government. Muñoz was again at the forefront.

He served as ambassador to the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and later ambassador of Chile to Brazil, and was the chief negotiator in the "Santiago Commitment to Democracy," a hemispheric agreement to defend democracy by peaceful means. He was deputy foreign minister and then minister secretary-general of government under Chilean President Ricardo Lagos; and in 2003, Lagos named him ambassador and permanent representative of Chile to the United Nations.

His efforts with the United Nations, like his present chairmanship of the Peace Building Commission, are a continuation of his life's work, promoting justice, democracy and human rights.

"Always when there is war or crisis, the U.N. is on the front line, providing humanitarian help," he says. "The areas I have chosen [to be active in] are a continuation of what I am, with a much higher responsibility."

Conservative values, progressive ideas

Much of who Muñoz is was shaped or strengthened at Oswego, he says.

His core values come from his childhood and were reinforced by his Oswego professors.

Muñoz grew up in a working class neighborhood of Santiago. His father died young, and his mother, a devout Catholic, and a "woman of very conservative values, but very progressive ideas,"



Ambassador **Heraldo Muñoz '72** in his office overlooking the United Nations building and New York's East River

passed on her values: "Fight for the weak. Denounce injustices. A country should be developed but just: fair to all its citizens."

Working hard, studying diligently and respecting human rights were instilled at home. "That led me to fight for these ideals," he says.

Those same principles would be reinforced by his Oswego professors. Muñoz applied for and won a scholarship to study in America, at a state university. He pictured himself in Manhattan and so he chose SUNY. Instead of the Big Apple, he ended up in Oswego. "When you look at a map of New York state, it looks very small," he says with a chuckle. "When you look at a world map, it seems even smaller. I thought Oswego was a suburb of New York City."

When he got to Oswego, Muñoz was in for an even greater surprise. "I'd never been so cold," he says with a laugh. "I'd never seen so much snow." He relates that in the long winters he would take a shower and as soon as he stepped outside, his hair would freeze. "Some of these Oswego anecdotes are in my book," he says.

Oswego influences

While he readily admits that meeting Pamela was the most important thing that happened to him at Oswego, he can rattle off a long list of professors who made a mark on him: the late Frederick Allen of history, and Richard Funk and the late Faiz Abu-Jaber of political science. Professor William Weinstein discussed the U.N. in a class about international organizations. "I never suspected how things would turn out," Muñoz says, gesturing around his U.N. office.

Art Gittlen of the English department shared Muñoz's intellectual curiosity and the two would exchange books. Reynold (Ron) Bloom became an inspiration and a lifelong friend. A former professor of geography at Oswego, Bloom is also a former vice chancellor of SUNY for foreign studies as well as a past president of the American University in Bulgaria, who now spends part of the year in Valparaíso, Chile.

Another lifelong friend is **Monico Soto Granado '72**, a fellow international student, who also was a founding member of the Latino Student Union. Soto, now the diversity admission and retention counselor at Oswego, remembers Muñoz as "brilliant." He also remembers when he and some friends taught Muñoz — who even now, at 60, plays soccer most Saturdays with U.N. colleagues — the game of American football.

Despite the demands of a high-profile international career, Muñoz finds the time to remain connected with his alma mater. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1994 and awarded an honorary SUNY doctorate in 1996. He returned to campus again to participate in the launch of the *Inspiring Horizons* campaign in 2005, and spoke with students in political science classes. In 2007, he hosted President Deborah F. Stanley and more than 200 Oswego alumni, including some of his Phi Sigma Sigma brothers, for a tour of the United Nations.

The breathtaking profile of New York City framed by his office window reminds Muñoz he has finally landed in the Big Apple, as he dreamed when he came to Oswego 40 years ago. And while the struggle for human rights and democracy may not end in his lifetime, this man of ideas and of action will continue to strive for the ideals that have guided his life ever since. ●