SOUTH KOREA

Thirty-six IU Jacobs School of Music students gave up their spring break to represent the university as part of a chamber concert tour in South Korea. The student musicians, under the direction of IU Professors Jorja Fleezanis and Stephen Wyrczynski, performed concerts at two universities, Sookmyung Women’s University and Seoul National University; at the U.S. Army garrison in Yongsan; and for a sold-out audience at Seoul Arts Center, Seoul’s premier venue for classical music. IU President Michael A. McRobbie and a delegation of senior officials joined audiences that included 170 alumni of the Jacobs School, as well as the families and friends of seven members of the orchestra for whom this trip was a homecoming.
“I am not one who believes in change for its own sake. But universities do have an obligation to change in response to society’s changing needs and to the changing needs of their students.”

—President Michael A. McRobbie

During the visit, IU Jacobs School Dean Gwyn Richards signed a partnership accord with the Seoul National University School of Music. Hwang Woo-yea, Korea’s minister of education, requested a meeting with the IU delegation to praise IU’s efforts in Seoul. At an alumni dinner, with members of one of IU’s most loyal alumni chapters, President McRobbie presented the Thomas Hart Benton Medallion to Se-Ung Lee, businessman and philanthropist who provided initial funding for a nursing exchange program with the IU School of Nursing in which dozens of nursing faculty and students from both countries have participated over the last 15 years.

Korea returned the musical favor this fall as students from Sookmyung Women’s University performed at Auer Hall.
President McRobbie speaks with distinguished guest Martha Tilaar, founder of the foremost beauty products and services industry in Indonesia. Also, Professor Emeritus Alex Tilaar of the State University of Jakarta (M.S. ’66, Ed.D. ’69), prolific writer and education specialist for the Indonesian National Planning Office for 23 years.

Vice President David Zaret (left) talking with IU alumni.
in Bloomington in a concert that included a piano duo, vocal duo, piano trio, and wind quintet. Korean alumni of the Jacobs School returned to campus in September for a recital that combined the West and the East with music of major Western composers intermingled with performances of Korean traditional music on traditional instruments.

CHINA

In a brief 24-hour visit to Beijing, President McRobbie met at the IU China Gateway Office with IU students of the Chinese Flagship Program; delivered opening remarks at a two-day conference, “China in the Middle East” (hosted jointly by IU and Peking University); explored new initiatives in arts administration, music, international studies, and mass media with Peking University; and met with IU alumni in China.

INDONESIA

An IU presidential delegation traveled to Bali last spring for the IU Asian-Pacific Alumni Conference. For three days in May, IU deans, faculty, and alumni discussed IU activities and aspirations and participated in panels on global leadership in entrepreneurship, women’s empowerment, education, liberal arts, philanthropy, business, and governance and public policy. The Thomas Hart Benton Medallion was presented to Asma
IU First Lady Laurie Burns McRobbie moderated a panel on Global Leadership through Women’s Empowerment. The panel included Ibu Nurhaida, of the Indonesian Ministry of Finance expert staff; Pusadee Tamthai, deputy mayor of Bangkok; and Martha Tilaar, cosmetics industry leader.
Ismail and Ibu Nurhaida, two IU alumnae with exemplary records of public service in male-oriented societies. Asma Ismail, master’s degree in microbiology, is Malaysia director general of higher education. Ibu Nurhaida, master’s degree in business administration, has chaired the agency in the Indonesian Ministry of Finance overseeing capital markets and financial institutions.

From Bali, McRobbie traveled to Bogor to deliver the keynote address on “Leading for Change—Innovation and Research” at a conference of the presidents of public universities throughout Indonesia. He also met separately with the leaders of the institutions that are working with IU to improve their administrative processes, a project with USAID funding. From there, he traveled to Jakarta where he opened the day’s trading on the Indonesian Stock Exchange and met with officials of the Ministry of Education and with U.S. ambassador to Indonesia Robert Blake.
The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México hosted IU Vice Presidents David Zaret and Jorge José on their visit to Mexico City to discuss increased student and faculty exchanges with Latin American universities.

VIETNAM

While the president traveled to Jakarta, IU Provost and Executive Vice President Lauren Robel met with education and government leaders in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. With officials from the Vietnam National University of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Vietnam National University of Science, Robel discussed IU initiatives in Southeast Asian Studies and possible exchanges. She also launched a collaborative government program that brings U.S. scholars and practitioners to Vietnam for monthly talks.

Meeting IU alumni is a priority of these visits, and Robel attended the launch of the IU alumni chapter in Vietnam. IU has more than 300 living alumni in Vietnam. Nearly 40 Vietnamese students are enrolled at IU campuses.

MEXICO

Last spring, Vice President for International Affairs David Zaret and Vice President for Research Jorge José traveled to Mexico City to expand linkages with institutions in Latin America. The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México hosted the visit and explored the expansion of exchanges and research partnerships begun by the Ostrom Workshop. They met with officers of Mexico’s national science foundation (CONACYT) and with government leaders to discuss increasing academic collaboration, including a bilateral government program to increase the number of United States and Mexico student exchanges.

SEE BLOGS:

IU Goes to Asia: http://global.iu.edu/blog/china-korea-2015/

IU Jacobs School of Music Chamber Orchestra Goes to Korea: http://blogs.music.indiana.edu/south-korea-trip-2015/
Last June, more than 50 heads of leading U.S. and Chinese universities met in Houston to discuss global education, research collaboration, and cultural exchanges.

Liu Yandong, vice premier of the People’s Republic of China, gave the keynote address. President McRobbie spoke to the group on the subject of liberal education and digital education. Here are excerpts from his remarks:

Today, we hear extravagant claims as to how a “digital education” can be a substitute for a formal university liberal education. I could not disagree more. Digital education is a complement, a means to help achieve what have been the enduring purposes of the great universities since their origins 25 centuries ago: the creation, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge.

And whether a student is on our campus or on the other side of the globe, it can also be a tool for liberal education.

Universities can shape digital education to expand our reach, to connect between our institutions, and most importantly, to enable students to access the education they seek. It allows for unprecedented flexibility in location, time, and format. It gives institutions of higher education access to a broader cross-section of individuals.

But the work of shaping the tools of digital education falls to us if universities are to be its masters rather than its servant. We must not cede control of the intellectual property of our courses or fail to capture for ourselves the big data that enlighten better paths to effective instruction. ...

At Indiana University, we also believe that distance education cannot easily replace the guidance and mentorship that take place in a true liberal education through both formal and informal interactions. Nor do we believe it can substitute for the peer learning and motivation generated by the members of a cohort of learners working together on a campus.

Digital education and student mobility are, however, two important pathways for globalizing, enhancing, and enriching a liberal education, but neither can fully substitute for one.