Indiana’s international presence depends not just on making connections around the world, but on making those connections work, keeping relationships alive, and regularly looking into new ways of interacting and sharing resources and information.

Austen Parrish, on his first trip to China as dean of the Maurer School of Law, visited five universities in Beijing to assess the progress of existing programs and to talk to faculty and officials about next steps. Those visits included meetings with students. Parrish introduced IU and, to demonstrate what students would find in IU classrooms, presented a session on legal issues that go beyond one country’s jurisdiction—viewed from the perspective of North America. Students wanted to know more. What degrees could they pursue? What is the IU campus like? How safe is Indiana?

The campus meetings drew campus students. Parrish took the same presentation to the China Gateway Office, making it available far more widely. He spoke to a full house; one student traveled seven hours by
train to attend. And again, students were inquisitive and couldn’t get enough information. “We needed more maps, more photos, more information about Bloomington,” Parrish commented.

The China Gateway also supported an alumni reception. Attendees discussed careers and network building. “They talked about an effort to create a stronger network of recent graduates to support one another in their professional development. As young alumni, they are well positioned to help counsel and support recent graduates in a different way than those who graduated several decades ago.”

Parrish added, “The gateway was tremendously helpful for my visit. It will be a significant resource for connecting alumni, and we hope will be useful to foreign affiliated faculty as we grow our programs. We’ve already used the gateway for a student recruiting event, and we expect that to continue and expand in the future.”

INDIA GATEWAY: Across Disciplines and across Borders

Around 1930, the political philosopher Antonio Gramsci appropriated a military term for a junior officer as a way to define disenfranchised social groups. He used the term subaltern to describe those members of a society that the ruling powers excluded from governance and so denied services and basic human rights. Gramsci was responding to the Fascist world that Benito Mussolini was creating, but the term has become an essential, though disputed, concept of postcolonial theory and has been applied to cultures around the world.

A workshop at the IU India Gateway last December, Comparative Subalternities: Socio-Spatial Marginalization in the Global South, brought scholars from four continents together to discuss Gramsci’s concept as it applies to the Global South. Twelve experts with varied academic backgrounds from universities in the United States, South Africa, Mexico, the United
David Audretsch (left) and Erik Lehmann (right) discussed the seven secrets of Germany’s recent economic success at the IU Europe Gateway Office.

Opposite page: The workshop brought together experts in a variety of disciplines, including Spanish and Portuguese, geography, romance studies, international relations, development studies, human ecology, and the history of science and medicine.

Above: Agreement on the language for discussing postcolonial social issues was one outcome of the workshop. Others included future workshops and networking.

Kingdom, and India met for four days at the gateway in Gurgaon. They explored ways to talk across disciplines about the political and social structures of the emerging nations of Latin America, Africa, and South Asia. They found that the concepts of Gramsci and those he influenced are “enormously productive” for providing a common ground for interdisciplinary and comparative research into the societies of the Global South, said IU Assistant Professor of Geography Ishan Ashutosh, one of the workshop organizers.

Those discussions have produced a variety of new initiatives, including an annual workshop in collaboration with other Midwestern universities and plans for a special issue of a scholarly journal. The workshop established stronger ties among universities in India, Mexico, and South Africa. It also drew the attention of other universities in India who are now planning future meetings of U.S. and Indian scholars at the gateway.
EUROPE GATEWAY: The Strategic Management of Place

“I wanted to talk about my book with my coauthor, Erik. The gateway was the first to invite me.” In January, David Audretsch and Erik Lehmann presented their new book, *The Seven Secrets of Germany*, at the Europe Gateway in Berlin. It provided the first venue in Germany for the authors to discuss the factors involved in Germany’s recent economic successes (see “The Power of the Middle” in this issue). It also created new connections both at the event and later on. “When I was leaving the city,” Audretsch relates, “I ran into the dean of the Hertie School of Governance. He said he had wanted to attend the session but couldn’t make it. ‘How would you feel about doing a similar event at Hertie?’ he asked. ‘I want to bring in the president of a think tank. We can have a debate.’ Later, when I went to the University of Wuppertal, a colleague who had been at the gateway session had given copies of the book to all the members of the board.” Audretsch has since been to two more meetings in Germany—both outcomes of the gateway session—one in Augsburg and the other at Amerikahaus, an institute in Munich dedicated to transatlantic relations.

Audretsch sees “great potential” in the gateways, “but we have to be vigilant as a community if we want to take advantage of them. If the gateways can help faculty with opportunities, we will be there in a second. We will use everything possible out there to help us with our goals. So far, the gateways have made it easy to take advantage of them.” He sees the gateways as one aspect of a “massive sea change” at IU. “For years, people like me were over here doing our thing, all kinds of stuff, and kept it pretty quiet. It wasn’t anything anybody rewarded or praised. Most of us had the feeling not that it was violating university rules, but that we’re doing this work on our own time. The culture has changed. We have started to realize that this work is valued at IU.”