Hungarian Scholar in Residence on IU-B Campus for 1993-94 Academic Year

Ignac Romsics, professor of Modern Hungarian History at the University of Budapest, is currently serving as Indiana University’s 1993-94 Hungarian Chair Professor. Professor Romsics, a native of Hungary, possesses a doctor’s degree in history from the University of Budapest, as well as a more advanced post-graduate degree from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 1993, he was awarded that university’s Doctor Scientarium degree.

Dr. Romsics worked for the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1977-1985, where he examined the home and foreign policy of Hungary from 1918 to 1945. In 1986, Dr. Romsics was appointed deputy director of the Institute of Hungarian Studies, where he extended his research to an examination of the ethnic conflicts of the Danube basin and the Great Powers’ policy toward the Danubian basin in the 20th century. Since 1991, he has been professor of Modern Hungarian History at the University of Budapest. Dr. Romsics has authored and edited several books, including a biography on Istvan Bethlen, Hungarian Prime Minister from 1921-31, and a documentation of the 1942-45 American Wartime Plans concerning a new Hungary.

During his tenure as IU’s 1993-94 Hungarian Chair Professor, Dr. Romsics is teaching two courses, Modern Hungarian History 1890-1990 (I-II) and The National Groups and Conflicts of the Danubian Basin in the 19th-20th Centuries (I-II). Dr. Romsics is also organizing an international conference to be held on the Bloomington campus in March 1994. The two and a half-day conference, “Twentieth Century Hungary and the Great Powers,” will feature presentations from approximately twenty distinguished scholars from the U.S., Western Europe, and Hungary.

"Get Internationalized!" is the Motto at IU’s Indiana Center for Global Business

The Indiana Center for Global Business (ICGB), located at Indiana University’s Bloomington campus, was founded in 1988 to lead the way in internationalizing IU’s School of Business by encouraging greater interaction with IU’s renowned area studies resource centers and building crucial links to surrounding business communities with interests in international trade and business. The ICGB provides a wide variety of programs for faculty and students to increase their international exposure and knowledge.

To stimulate student interest in international business are such innovative activities as the Global Biz Quiz, conducted entirely via the e-mail system; the Global Biz Bowl, a grand finale competition of the Biz Quiz in which a winner may receive a free trip abroad; and the Snyder Global Entrepreneur Program, which provides gifted MBA students with an intensive, two-year learning experience as summer interns at international companies in Indiana. The Center also sponsors forums and lectures each year, and maintains a resource center which makes available current and specialized international business and research publications and holds a Discussion Paper Series with universities and institutes around the world.

A major event sponsored by the ICGB this year took place on September 23, featuring an invited lecture on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) given by Oliver A. Farrés, Consul-General of Mexico in the Midwest, headquartered in Chicago and responsible for the area comprising Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. An audience of over 100 heard Mr. Farrés present the Mexican government’s view of NAFTA which, as he put it, “is about two neighbors learning to put aside fears in order to construct the future together.” His presentation was followed by a lively question-and-answer period.

During the current academic year, an important project which the ICGB hopes to implement is the Global Business Information Network, which will serve as an important resource exchange for faculty and members of the business community wishing information on doing research or starting projects overseas. As Larry Davidson, ICGB Director points out, “Our research at the Global Center has corroborated what others have found—that information necessary to make global business decisions remains as a considerable obstacle to the international competitiveness of firms in the U.S.”

Because of these findings, the Global Business Network is being designed to provide firms with several productive avenues to overcome these information obstacles. The heart of the Global Business Network, the Global Information Service, will provide personalized information brokerage service to member firms and represents a "no-run-around" approach to a wide array of international information and data. The network will also provide members with a better means of meeting and communicating with others who share expertise in global business.