Outstanding Placement Year for Political Science/African Studies

Congratulations to five recent IU-B doctoral graduates in Political Science on their recent placement with academic institutions in the U.S. — Yolanda Comedy, a consultant with the Ohio Board of Regents, has received a Science, Engineering, and Diplomacy Fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and will begin working with USAID’s Washington offices in September. Daniel Green, 1993 recipient of the American Political Science Association’s award for the best dissertation in comparative politics, has been working in Cameroun for the past year and will return to assume a tenure-track position at the University of Delaware. Paul Kaiser, whose dissertation examines “Culture and Civil Society in an International Context: The Case of Aga Khan Health-Care and Education Initiatives in Tanzania,” has accepted a tenure-track position with Mississippi State University. John Lucas, recipient of this year’s Greenough Prize for the best dissertation in the Department of Political Science, assumed a position at St. Lawrence University in January. Stephen Ndegwa, Assistant Director of IU’s African Studies Program, has accepted a tenure-track position at the College of William and Mary.

Walker, O’Meara Represent IU at Barcelona Awards Ceremony

Pictured at the 12th annual “la Caixa” Graduate Fellowship Awards ceremony in Barcelona are (left to right) “la Caixa” President and CEO Sr. José Vilarasau, International Programs Dean Patrick O’Meara, and Graduate School Dean and Vice-President for Research George E. Walker with Queen Sofia of Spain, who presided over the ceremony and personally presented awards to each member of the 1994-95 class of “la Caixa” Fellows.

SPEA to Administer USAID Grant for Ukrainian Parliamentary Development

The IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs, through a cooperative agreement with the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, will administer and direct a major USAID program to assist Ukrainian policy makers in parliamentary development. The three-year project is funded through a $3,452,100 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Program for the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union.

The goal of the program is to assist in the national government reorganization efforts of the Supreme Rada, Ukraine’s parliamentary body. Advisory panels composed of U.S. government officials and experts are being formed to provide direct, longterm assistance to Ukrainian parliamentarians in formulating a government built on democratic institutions, a market economy, and the rule of law. Principal program staff members will be traveling to Ukraine in order to develop a plan of action with parliamentary leaders and members of the Supreme Rada’s task force on parliamentary reform. According to Program Director Charles Wise, SPEA professor and Associate Dean, “We will have opportunities to interact with policy makers at the highest levels of government as they develop their parliament and their constitution.” Initial advisory assistance will focus on the priority issues of legislative and executive relations, committee structure and operations, staffing, budget and appropriations activities, and citizen relations.

SPEA’s administration of the new program is informed by the School’s close involvement with Ukrainian governmental reform. Since 1991, Indiana University, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, and the U.S. Information Agency have sponsored three conferences at IU for Ukrainian parliamentary delegations [see January/February 1994 issue of the International Programs Newsletter]. “The series of conferences we held at the parliament’s request revealed to them and to us that they need more in-depth research, technical assistance, and information support in areas they consider the highest priorities for developing their parliamentary institutions,” Wise said. During the November 1993 conference, “The Role of the Legislative Branch in American Rule of Law,” participants spent two weeks discussing specific issues arising from rebuilding government institutions, inter-governmental relations, and developing a new constitution in Ukraine. In order to provide the Ukrainian parliamentarians with as many examples as possible of American legal mechanisms and the procedure of government at work, the delegation was taken on a tour of Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, Bloomington, Detroit, and Washington, D.C., where they met with government officials and representatives.