IU Kokomo Forum Examines Impact of German Reunification

"The Global Impact of the Reunification of Germany" was the special topic of the October 6 presentation of IU Kokomo's Lounge Lecture series. The public forum was offered in conjunction with a two-day workshop for Delco Electronics Corporation employees titled, "The World's Choice for Automotive Electronics: Doing Business in Germany."

The workshop, planned by Delco and IU's Division of Continuing Studies in cooperation with various departments at IU Bloomington, considered such topics as Germany's business environment, business communications, the political environment, and cultural factors.

Delco Electronics, Indiana's largest employer, with headquarters in Kokomo, is an international manufacturing and development firm with a worldwide employment of 28,000. Its European headquarters are in Wiesbaden and its Asia/Pacific headquarters in Singapore. The two-day workshop was the first in what may be a series of seminars on learning how to effectively conduct business in other nations.

Soros Foundation Provides Aid to IPFW Burmese Students

Fort Wayne's Burmese refugee community is one of the largest in the United States, according to Phillip Kennell, Director of International Services at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. Among those in the group who are considered political refugees of the 1988 populist revolution are sixteen students who have received scholarships from the Open Society Institute's Burma Project, an arm of the Soros Foundation in New York. These yearly-renewable scholarships enable the students to devote themselves to full-time study to obtain their degrees, with the hope that they will some day return to Burma to start meaningful careers in their fields and thus contribute to their country's transition to democracy.

Eleven of the sixteen are enrolled at IPFW: Chan Ayc, Tin Maung Maung Htway, Chit Kyi, Thiri Ba Kyi, Than Lwin, Ye Tun Lynn, Tha Kyaw Maung, Kyaw Moe, Pon Nya, Sein Tun, and Mee Mee Yi-yin Nwe. Moe Zoe Aung attends IU Bloomington. Three are at Fort Wayne's Indiana Vocational Technical College, and one at South Side High School.

The photo shows the students meeting with Maureen Aung-Thwin, Burma Project director, on her Fall visit to the Fort Wayne campus. The student leaders recently expressed their profound gratitude in a letter to philanthropist George Soros: "We feel that your philanthropic motives have turned into a parent-like affection to us who have been in exile at a great distance from our families for several years".

Panelists shown in the photo were (left to right) Hellmut Wollmann, chair of politics and business at Berlin's Humboldt Universität; E.W. 'Woody' Kelley, professor of political science at Cornell University; Herbert Miller, professor emeritus of international business at IU Kokomo, Caterina Gregor-Blitzer, president of the International Objectives Company, Indianapolis-based consultants in international trade; and Peter Cramer, adjunct instructor of IU's Center for English Language Training. Allen Maxwell, chair of Social and Behavioral Sciences at IU Kokomo, served as moderator. Other workshop participants included Gary Dickinson, president and CEO of Delco Electronics; Emita B. Hill, chancellor of IU Kokomo; Jimmy Johnston, Human Resources director for Delco Electronics Europe; and Alex Radetich, of the Global Business Information Network in Indianapolis. Presenters from IU Bloomington included Larry Davidson, director of the Indiana Center for Global Business, and David Lyman, assistant director of the Office of International Services.