Archives of Traditional Music to House Major Liberian Research Collection

On March 1, Indiana University’s Archives of Traditional Music held a seminar to honor Liberian studies scholar Svend Holsoe and celebrate the donation of his research materials to the Archives. A luncheon honoring the donor was hosted by IU Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Mort Lowengrub. The Archive’s new Svend E. Holsoe Collection spans the past forty years and includes audiotapes, films, manuscripts, photos, and documents. With the acquisition of the Holsoe Collection—the largest private collection of Liberian research materials—the Archives becomes a major Liberian studies research center.

Liberian studies scholars who visited the Bloomington campus for the event included Elwood Dunn, Warren d’Azevedo, William Siegmann, Jane Martin, Lester Monts, and Cynthia Schmidt. The seminar, hosted by Archives of Traditional Music Director Ruth Stone, concluded with a lecture by Dr. Amos Sawyer, Past Interim President of Liberia.

Indiana Humanities Council Conference Advocates an Internationalized Curriculum

Representatives from several of Indiana University’s area studies programs and the Office of International Programs were participants in a December conference for pre-collegiate teachers entitled Internationalizing Curriculum: Beyond Foods, Flags, and Festivals. Sponsored by the Indiana Humanities Council, the conference presented a unique opportunity to bring together language arts, foreign language, and social studies teachers from around the state of Indiana.

The conference’s keynote speaker C.L. Salter, chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Missouri-Columbia, stressed the importance of making Indiana students aware of their connections to the rest of the world. Dr. Salter’s address set the tone for a series of workshops that included presentations on China, Germany, Russia, Africa, the Middle East, Mexico, and the former Yugoslavia. Among the conference presenters were IU faculty members Russell Salmon, of IU Bloomington, and Miroslav Ruzica, of IUPUI.

Internationalizing Curriculum was an outgrowth of the work by the Indiana International Forum, a program created by the Indiana Humanities Council to promote public awareness of Indiana’s ties to the rest of the world and to raise the level of public discussion about international issues.

Japanese Tour Promotes Collaborative Opportunities

George E. Walker, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, traveled to Tokyo, Japan, January 6-12, representing Indiana University and the Japanese American Consortium for the Exchange of Scholars (JACES) to promote visiting opportunities for researchers and students. Dr. Walker was part of a nine-member group from the United States that toured research laboratories of a number of private companies, government agencies, and universities. The visit concluded with an all-day discussion with Japanese representatives on the objectives and future directions of JACES.

JACES is seeking to promote and facilitate collaborative scientific and engineering research between Japan and the United States, with an emphasis at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels. The JACES program will also provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among Japanese and U.S. scientists. U.S.-Japan joint research proposals will be reviewed by the JACES Board of Directors (representing both countries) on the basis of substance, quality, and financial support. Successful proposals will receive funding for travel, housing, language instruction, and cultural training.

While in Japan, Dr. Walker also met with prominent IU alumni Hiroshi Watanabe, Yasuhiro Obata, and Takashi Suzuki.