**And the Twain Shall Meet**

Paul Eisenberg (Philosophy, IUB) will be the first IU faculty member to participate in a faculty exchange established under the recently signed Agreement of Friendship and Cooperation between Indiana University and National Chung Cheng University in Taiwan. Eisenberg, a noted Nietzsche scholar, proposes to study the similarities and differences between Nietzsche's thought and certain aspects of traditional Chinese philosophy.

The agreement was initiated by Yu-Houng Houn, Director of the Philosophy Institute at NCCU, and Michael Dunn, Chair of the Philosophy Department and Oscar Ewing Professor of Philosophy at IUB. Houn obtained a double Ph.D. in Philosophy and Cognitive Science from Indiana University in 1991, and Dunn served as his dissertation director.

The agreement allows for month-long exchanges of one faculty member from each institution. Exchanges may come from any discipline, but preference will be given to philosophy and the cognitive sciences. NCCU also welcomes exchanges in fields related to Chinese or Taiwanese Studies. Travel support is to be provided by the home institution and food and lodging by the host institution. The agreement also provides for graduate student exchanges to begin at a later date.

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**Communication in the Fast Lane — In Japanese**

Interpreting for a Buddhist monk-turned-race car driver kept Stephanie Searles, a senior in Communication Studies at IUPUI, on the fast track for the month of May. Searles learned from IUPUI Director of International Affairs Pat Biddinger of the opportunity to interpret for Hideshi Matsuda, Japan's top Indy-car driver, while he was in Indianapolis for the Indy 500.

Searles' first day at the track set the pace for the rest of the month. On day one Searles did a bilingual radio interview, got acquainted with the Matsuda team, conducted mini cross-cultural classes with teammates, met the Japanese sponsors, and found innovative ways to translate such terms as rear axle, underdrive/overdrive, and ball bearing. The job was much more than simple translation, Searles says. “I was also English teacher, assistant, local informant, and international business consultant.”

Searles found Matsuda, who finished the Indy 500 in 15th place, to be open-minded and culturally adept, yet very traditional. “Honorable is the word that comes to mind,” Searles said when describing Matsuda.

Japanese photojournalist Toshi was surprised when Searles first greeted him in fluent Japanese, but he shouldn’t have been. After all, Searles had won a Japanese speech contest at IUPUI in April 1994. The surprising thing is that Searles has never been to Japan.

Searles studied Japanese for a year and a half in school, but says she learned most of her Japanese while working at Sakura, a Japanese restaurant in Indianapolis. She has also aggressively pursued any opportunity to expand her linguistic and cross-cultural experiences while at IUPUI, including maintaining a busy social calendar with Japanese classmates and friends. “A lot of people think they need to travel to Japan before they can work with the language,” she says. But Searles is living proof that one can learn a foreign language in one’s own backyard.

Serving as Matsuda’s interpreter has opened other doors for Searles as well. She plans to travel to Japan this summer for two months, where she will have another opportunity to interpret for the Matsuda team. This time, however, the tables will be turned as she interprets for two non-Japanese members of the racing team. Matsuda has also asked her to interpret for him in Florida early next year. Searles hopes eventually to parlay these experiences into a job as Matsuda’s public relations representative in the U.S.