Spanish Resource Center to Open at IU Bloomington

The Spanish Resource Center will be officially opened on the first of May by the Ambassador of Spain, His Excellency Don Jaime de Ojeda, and the Counselor for Education, Don Emilio García Prieto. They will be formally welcomed to the university by IU President Myles Brand at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Other scheduled events include meetings with Josep Soverer, chair of the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Donald Warren, dean of the School of Education, and Carlos Ovando, director of the Bilingual/Bicultural Program, as well as visits to the IU Art Museum, the Lilly Library, and the office of the Mayor of Bloomington, John Fernández. The Ambassador will deliver a public lecture on Spanish-U.S. relations and on the European Union.

The new center is sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education, through the offices of the Embassy of Spain, and Indiana University Bloomington. One year ago, a cooperative agreement was signed between the Ministry and IUB’s College of Arts and Sciences, through the efforts of COAS Dean Morton Lowengrub and Dean for International Programs Patrick O’Meara. The Spanish Resource Center is dedicated to promoting the Spanish language and the culture of Spain. The center will work closely with relevant units within the university and will be linked to the Indiana Department of Education and the schools of Indiana. It will be the fifth such center established in the United States by the Spanish Ministry of Education and the first to be located in a university setting.

The center facilities, located at the Tenth and the Bypass complex, will house a special library of Spanish and Spanish-American literature and criticism, books related to the teaching of Spanish as a second language, children’s books, as well as audiovisual and other educational materials in Spanish. The center will also serve as a test site for obtaining the Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera, and will regularly feature cultural events and teacher’s workshops.

During the past year, the Center’s first director, Rosa Guitart, appointed by the Spanish Ministry of Education, has worked closely with Sara Saz, director of language instruction in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, to prepare the center to become fully operational in 1996-1997.

Internationalized Teacher Education: IU Student Teachers Go Abroad to Learn

One of Indiana University’s most popular programs abroad has been the Overseas Student Teaching Project in the School of Education, which coordinates with the Wisconsin-based Foundation for International Education to place student teachers abroad for short-term teaching assignments. Begun on the Bloomington campus in the late 1970s by education professor emeritus James Mahan, and currently directed by Laura L. Stachowski, the program annually offers some 50 to 70 K-12 student teachers the option to supplement their Indiana teacher training by an additional eight weeks in one of six English-speaking countries (Australia, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, and Wales).

The program encourages a broader understanding of a pluralistic world and provides intercultural teaching experiences, and fosters professional and personal.

Map showing photos of the 1995-96 placement group of 65 students by country. Twenty-one students went abroad in Fall, and 44 students went in Spring 1996.

continued on page 6