Continued from page 4

prepare for this new world? In looking back over the past 50 years, Prewitt said the challenges in the new millennium are totally different from the post-war years of the 1940s. Successful components of international education from the past, e.g., area-focused research, study and travel abroad, foreign language training, foreign students on U.S. campuses, don’t quite measure up to what is needed in the new world order, in which societal transformations are occurring on a global scale in economies, population movements, public health, the environment, information technologies, security arrangements, etc., which transcend nation-state boundaries. The real intellectual challenge, he said, is to somehow forge area studies and transnational/global studies into an integral whole, and to infuse the whole notion of “internationalization” into the very fabric of intellectual life so that the word itself no longer exists as a separate entity but comes to characterize everything that is done within the university.

The working sessions got underway when Bloomington Chancellor and Vice President for Academic Affairs Kenneth R. R. Gros Louis welcomed participants to the first plenary session, which dealt with “Changing Environments: New Challenges, New Opportunities, and New Partnerships.” Patrick O’Meara (dean, International Programs, Indiana) moderated the discussions, which featured panelists Lou Anna K. Simon (provost, Michigan State), Richard Sisson (provost, Ohio State), Michael McNulty (associate provost, International Programs, Iowa), Thomas Mengler (dean, College of Law, Illinois), and Donald Nichols (director, World Affairs and the Global Economy Initiative, Wisconsin). Over the next day and a half, conference participants divided into working groups charged with identifying high priority areas where CIC consortial activity might be mutually beneficial.

A set of salient international issues, broadly categorized in terms of changing intellectual environments, international curriculum, new partnerships, human and financial resources, and organizational structures, provided the initial foci for discussion. Participants then broke up into smaller working groups from which emerged a set of recommendations for collaborative action by CIC universities. These were: agreeing on broad strategic issues (redefining missions and the intellectual agenda for the future, benchmarking, sharing best practices); creating information clearinghouses and databases on CIC international activities; building networks of educational partnerships, including overseas partners; encouraging increased internationalization of the professional schools; collaborating more closely on study abroad and internship programs; developing innovative courses/workshops using learning technologies, especially in foreign language instruction; and investing greater efforts in K-12 outreach and the education profession regarding international studies.

—RMN

Bulgaria’s Ambassador Visits SPEA

The ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria, Dr. Snezhana Botousharova, took time out from a busy tour of the United States for a visit to IU Bloomington’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She was here at the invitation of Randall Baker, head of SPEA’s International Programs Office, who played a key role in establishing New Bulgarian University in 1992. She hoped to continue the dialogue with IU about the processes of democracy that could be of benefit to her country, and gave a brief presentation of the current conditions in her country.

“The transition is difficult, especially economically. But I think the process is irreversible. There are no other opportunities in Bulgaria,” she said.

In spite of the difficulties currently facing the country, with banks in trouble and runaway inflation, she expressed optimism because of the upcoming presidential elections. Bulgaria was the sole country in the former Soviet Union that voted down a communist government in its first elections.