with the variety of institutional arrangements that influence land use in a particular site. In the Amazon region, for example, research will be conducted at sites in Peru and Bolivia as well as Brazil, which will offer a wide array of institutional arrangements for comparative purposes. “That gives us three countries, so we have three macro-political regimes plus differences within micro settings,” Ostrom notes.

Although CIPEC’s research will rely heavily on physical and biological measures, Ostrom emphasizes the overall social science approach to the research. “This is one of the few really big projects that focuses primarily on the human dimensions,” she says. “We are genuine social scientists pursuing this, but we are using remote sensing; we’ll be taking soil samples; we’ll be drawing on the physical and biological sciences extensively, but our main goal is to understand the human side.”

In addition to research, education and training will be important components of CIPEC’s mission. Part of the grant is earmarked to fund five post-doctoral visiting scholars, as well as four doctoral students in the first year and eight in each subsequent year.

A graduate minor in the Human Dimensions of Environmental Change, consisting of four core seminar courses, is being designed. In addition, each post-doctoral scholar will offer at least one course per year, thereby expanding the academic offerings at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Students will also have the opportunity to do field research. Already this past summer there were students in Brazil and Mexico. There will be a summer institute, month-long seminars and training courses to teach advanced skills, visiting lecturers, and a colloquium series.

CIPEC will coordinate related activities of Ostrom’s workshop and Moran’s center, plus two other researcher centers on the Bloomington campus: the Midwestern Regional Center of the National Institute for Global Environmental Change, directed by J. C. Randolph; and the Population Institute for Research and Training, directed by George Alter.

Ostrom emphasizes that CIPEC is not an amalgamation of these four centers. All four centers will continue their own missions, but the centers will collaborate on those aspects of their missions that are tied most closely to questions of global change. CIPEC offers the opportunity for productive interdisciplinary collaboration without disciplinary confines and the restrictions of administrative boundaries. “The boundaries are going to be blurred, and they should be,” Ostrom says. If there’s an intellectual core that’s driving you, you shouldn’t have administrative boundaries really tight.”

Ostrom believes that the presence on the IUB campus of the four centers—all of which were already bridging the gap between the physical and social sciences in their research on global change—convinced the NSF to give IU the nod.

“We hadn’t done prior research as a team,” Ostrom notes. “But we knew one another and we had begun to overlap, so that some of what is necessary to put together a large multidisciplinary team had already happened naturally.”

Ostrom also feels that the NSF was impressed by the excitement conveyed in the proposal. “We have a genuine enthusiasm for what we’re proposing to do, and not just because somebody’s dangling money,” she says. “My life is too short to respond simply to money.” —Brian Donahoe for OIP

ICIP Conference on Latin America

On November 1, the Indiana Consortium for International Programs (ICIP) held its annual fall conference. This year’s event focused on “Teaching about Latin America in the 21st Century.”

Tom Wolf (IU Southeast), Executive Director of ICIP, welcomed the participants and opened the first panel discussion on the current status and future of Latin American Studies in the United States.

Three of the papers were given by IU faculty. Jeffrey Gould, director of IUB’s Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, spoke of his research concerning mestizaje and ethnic relations in Central America and the importance in teaching about contemporary culture and politics.

Raoul Contreras (IU Northwest) led a discussion of the U.S. movie, “Mi Familia,” and how best to teach about that experience to students.

In the panel, “Making the Connection with Today’s Students,” Stephanie Bower (IU Southeast) presented her ideas on using literature to teach about Latin American history and revolutions.

Peter Guardino (IU Bloomington) gave a presentation on “Weaving Women and Gender into the Undergraduate Survey.”

—RMN