Arun Gandhi Speaks

Dean William B. Plater of the Dean of the Faculties Office at IUPUI and Dean Patrick O'Meara of the Office of International Programs are sponsors of a new annual lecture series called the Deans' Annual International Lecture. On November 17, the series was inaugurated at IUPUI by Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi, executive director of The M.I. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, addressed a large audience at the University Library Auditorium on “Nonviolence or Nonexistence: Options for the Twenty-First Century.”

Gandhi spoke of lessons he had learned from his father and grandfather, regarding several issues pertinent to and supportive of Mahatma Gandhi’s simple philosophy of nonviolence. Much attention was placed on proper child-rearing cushioned in unconditional love, the significance of telling the truth in all situations, and the problematical concern of racism in America today. Emphasis was placed on the four ingredients of a good relationship, these being respect, understanding, acceptance, and appreciation. These ingredients, coupled with unconditional love, are the roots of a potentially nonviolent world.

Prior to his lecture, Gandhi spoke to the class of Religious Studies professor William Jackson, answering questions on the philosophy of nonviolence and its social applications. In the evening, Mr. Gandhi was the guest of honor at a dinner hosted by Giles Hoyt, Associate Dean for International Programs, and his wife, Delores Hoyt of the University Library’s Senior Management Team. He met prominent community members Swadesh Kalsi and Jai Pal Singh, as well as Patricia Biddinger, associate director of the Center on Southeast Asia. Joining them from Bloomington were Patrick O’Meara, David Haberman of Religious Studies, Rebecca Manring of India Studies, and Brian Winchester of the Center for the Study of Global Change.

IUPUI faculty, staff, and students alike felt honored to be in Gandhi’s gentle presence, seeing in him a truly living example of the philosophy of nonviolence and of Mahatma Gandhi’s singular faith.

Bloomington Hosts Indiana Chapter of Fulbright Assoc.

Prior to 1996, faculty working in Indiana institutions who had won Fulbright Scholar Awards were not formally organized as a group, nor were they represented at national Fulbright (Alumni) Association meetings. Ball State University political scientist Teh-Kuang Chang, a Fulbrighter in the People’s Republic of China in 1994-95, was determined to change that. Two years of work and effort on his part finally resulted in establishing a formal Indiana Chapter of the Fulbright Association, which joins 28 other U.S. affiliates.

This year, the first major event of the chapter was a half-day regional conference held on the Bloomington campus in October. Chapter board member Norman Overly (emeritus, Education, IUB) organized the meeting, attended by some 50 Fulbrighters from all over the state. Guest speaker Patrick O’Meara spoke on “Changing Directions in International Research Programs,” outlining how the twin forces of globalization and technology are challenging the older paradigms of area studies expertise.

In the afternoon, participants heard short social and political perspectives on specific countries by recently returned IUB Fulbrighters. Kathryn Firmin-Sellers (Political Science) spoke on democratic change in Ghana, Christine Ogan (Journalism) on the secular future of the Turkish Republic, Roy Shin (SPEA) on stability in Korea, and Stephen Wailes (Germanic Studies) on divisions in a unified Germany. The event was sponsored by the offices of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and International Programs.