Every March, the Hungarian Cultural Association and the György Ránki Hungarian Chair at Indiana University Bloomington promote an awareness of Hungarian history and culture by a celebration of the March 15, 1848 Budapest uprising against the Hapsburgs, an event widely regarded as Hungary's "Independence Day." To mark this year's 150th anniversary, Mr. István Kovács, Consul-General of the Republic of Hungary, was invited to give a special commemorative speech and to take part in the festivities, which included performances of music by Hungarian composers, historical readings, and the serving of traditional Hungarian foods.

The consul general also presented Indiana University with a copy of a rare book in Hungarian [title translated], 1848: The History of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848-1849 in Pictures, published in 1898 to mark the 50th anniversary of that date. The book, reprinted in facsimile in 1991, is richly illustrated with photographs of contemporary figures, documents, proclamations, original manuscripts, relics, paintings, drawings and etchings, and other art monuments. The IU gift will become part of the Lilly Library collections.

IN MEMORIAM

Darrell P. Hammer
(1930–1998)

Darrell P. Hammer, professor emeritus of political science at Indiana University and an internationally known authority on the government and politics of the Soviet Union and Russia, died March 25 in Bloomington. He was 67. Hammer joined the faculty of the IU department of political science as a lecturer in 1961 and was promoted to professor in 1976. From the height of the Cold War to the breakup of the USSR, Hammer taught undergraduates and graduate students about the Soviet political process and Russian political ideas. He was acting director of the IU Russian and East European Institute in 1988-89. During, in his own words, "the comic opera putsch of August 1991" making Russia an independent state; and at the cannonading of the parliament building in 1993. He lectured widely at home and abroad and shared his expertise with U.S. and Russian analysts at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, and the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow. His major work, USSR: The Politics of Oligarchy (Boulder: Westview Press), has been through three editions (1974, 1986, 1990). When the book first appeared, a reviewer commented that it was "an unusual work of multiple value...a stimulating and original essay on the functioning of the Soviet political system and a useful update, even for the specialist..." (Slavic Review, Sept. 1975). At the time of his death, Hammer was under contract to produce a fourth edition. Hammer's second book, Russian Nationalism and the Legacy of Empire (1996), was published shortly after his retirement.

Former students of Hammer's have assembled a volume in his honor, which is forthcoming from ME Sharpe. The book, titled State-Building in Russia: Laying the Foundations for the Post-Yeltsin Era, is edited by Gordon B. Smith and contains contributions from graduate students whose dissertations he chaired. Hammer's colleague, Alexander Rabinowitch, paid a fitting tribute to him: "There are very few people in the United States that are as sensitive to contemporary Russian problems as he was."