Indiana University-Bloomington was honored to host Princess Irene of Greece May 13-14. Her itinerary while on campus included a concert performed in her honor and an Office of International Programs reception at the Lilly Library.

A concert pianist, the Princess studied in Paris as a young woman under the late master piano teacher Nadia Boulanger. Also studying under Boulanger at that time was child prodigy Emile Naoumoff, who recently joined the faculty at Indiana University School of Music (IUSM).

It was the personal and professional links between Princess Irene and Naoumoff that brought her to Bloomington on this rare visit to the United States to receive an honorary doctorate at Lake Forest University in Illinois.

Princess Irene visited the IU School of Music 32 years ago, during which time a concert was performed in her honor. As part of her most recent visit, Naoumoff organized another concert for the Princess, this time including an original piece of music composed for her by IUSM piano student Juvenal Correa Salas.

Princess Irene currently lives in Spain where her nonprofit foundation, World in Harmony, is based. The foundation has funded philanthropic projects in more than 20 countries in Europe, Russia, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas.

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History Department Appoints First Mendel Chair

The newly appointed Bernardo Mendel Chair of Latin American History

The Indiana University-Bloomington Department of History has named Daniel James, formerly director of the Center for Latin American Studies and professor of history at Duke University, its first Bernardo Mendel Chair of Latin American History.

James's first book, Resistance and Integration: Peronism and the Argentine Working Class, 1964-1976, is an extremely important work on modern Argentine history and 20th century Latin American social history. Labor historian Barbara Weinstein of SUNY-Stony Brook called it "the most important monograph on Latin American labor history published during the past decade." In the work, James explores the social conflicts unleashed by the rise of Juan Perón and the movement known as Peronism.

Considered one of the most influential scholars of Latin American history working in the United States today, as well as one of the best labor historians in any geographic field, James will join an already strong contingent of Latin Americanists in the IUB History department: Jeffrey Gould, whose work focuses on Central America, Peter Guardino, a Mexicanist, and Arlene Díaz, who focuses on Venezuela. James' work as a South Americanist strengthens the history department immensely as there are now scholars working on several major regions of Latin America.

James's second book is entirely devoted to the analysis of oral history; it is a transcript the oral testimony of Doña María Roldán, a meat-packing worker and union activist during the 1940s. In this unprecedented work, James interrogates theoretical concepts, leading to important new advances in the intersection of theory and methodology. James is currently completing his third book, a history of the Berisso community, which will also have resonance well beyond the borders of Argentina.

William Roseberry (History and Anthropology, NYU) stated: "It is hard to imagine a more appropriate or exciting appointment for Indiana University given the already strong contingent of Latin American social historians in place."

Originally from England, James was educated at Oxford and the University of London. Before coming to Duke, he taught at the University of Brasilia in Brazil, the University of Colorado-Boulder, and Yale University, where he was director of the Center for Latin American Studies 1988-91. James is scheduled to begin teaching at IUB in January 2000.

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Educated in Greece and Germany, Princess Irene studied archaeology, languages, art, philosophy, history, and literature, in addition to music. She is also deeply interested in Indian culture and religion, and had an opportunity to meet many prominent scholars of India and Tibet while visiting IU. Her sister is Queen Sofia of Spain, and her brother King Constantine of Greece.

Princess Irene examines a Tibetan scroll with Professor Emeritus of Central Eurasian Studies Thubten Jigme Norbu (at left), Patrick O'Meara, dean for International Programs, and Lisa Browar, director of the Lilly Library. (PHOTO BY: Kay Schurz)