Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center Receives Tinker Award

In December, Indiana University Bloomington's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) received an award of $5,000 from the Tinker Foundation that will provide travel grants to graduate students who will be pursuing summer pre-dissertation research in Latin America, Spain, or Portugal. IUB's College of Arts and Sciences has generously matched the award dollar for dollar, enabling CLACS to offer at least six Tinker Field Research Grants ranging from $1,000 to $2,000.

CLACS submitted the application in October in consortium with their Title VI National Resource Center partner, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame, which also received an equivalent amount. The awards are renewable in 2002 and 2003.

Students from all academic units are eligible to apply for the Tinker grants as long as they demonstrate a commitment to research in Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking countries of Latin America, Spain and/or Portugal. The grants will cover travel expenses for brief pre-dissertation research projects in these countries, with the actual awards varying, depending on the total amount of expected travel expenses. The intent of the Tinker grant program is to allow graduate students to develop greater familiarity with the language and culture of Latin America and/or the Iberian Peninsula, to gather initial research data, and to develop contacts with scholars and institutions in their fields of study. Their research projects must be consistent with the Tinker Foundation's areas of interest: economic policy and governance, environmental policy studies, and social science disciplines with significant implications for public policy.

Applications are accepted until March 1, 2001. The selection of the recipients will be determined four weeks later.

Spanish Professor Translates Renowned Nicaraguan Poet

In November, Russell Salmon, associate professor emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese at IU Bloomington, was an honored guest at a special event of the IV Feria Internacional del Libro (Fourth International Book Fair) held in Puerto Rico. He was there to present a special commemorative edition of the book of poetry, Gethsemani, Ky., written by renowned Nicaraguan poet, priest, sculptor, revolutionary, and former minister of culture, Ernesto Cardenal. Cardenal wrote these religious poems in 1960 after spending two years as a novice in the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani in Kentucky. Salmon translated these poems and, in collaboration with IU book conservator James Canary (Lilly Library), published a special limited edition of 200 copies of the poems, in Spanish and English, to present to the author on his 75th birthday in 2000. Of these copies, 75 are signed by the author. Their presentation was welcomed by a large and enthusiastic audience at the book fair.