Since mid-1999, Indiana University has been assisting Baku State University (BSU) in Baku, Azerbaijan, to establish an American Studies Program, funded by a three-year USIA–Department of State exchange agreement grant. One of the most recent IU Bloomington faculty members to travel to Baku State was Thomas Walsh, assistant professor of saxophone, who directs the saxophone studio in the School of Music. In May, Walsh spent three weeks at BSU and at the Baku Music Academy. His visit was coordinated by Gulheiran Ragimova, BSU program coordinator, and his host at the music academy was Aida Husseinova, assistant professor of music, who is currently spending the academic year at IUB on a Junior Faculty Development grant.

Walsh, who teaches both classical and jazz saxophone and is a popular performer in the Bloomington jazz scene, gave lectures and performances during his stay there. He lectured on the history of jazz at the American Studies Center and gave two performances at the music academy, one a recital of classical music by U.S. composers and the other a jazz recital that was especially well attended and videotaped by a local TV channel. He also worked with students in a jazz improvisation clinic at the academy. Elsewhere in Baku, Walsh was invited to perform in a concert organized by James Seward, public affairs officer of the U.S. Embassy, to open a fundraising campaign to help renovate the music academy. He also was able to drop by Baku’s Jazz Club, where he was warmly welcomed.

Other IUB faculty who have gone on the IU–Baku State exchange program have been

Robert Campbell, distinguished professor emeritus of economics; Shabayar Daneshgar, research associate of the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center; Mary Goetze, professor of music education; Kathy Nyikos, doctoral candidate in applied linguistics (Georgetown University); Martha Nyikos, professor of language education; Pekin Ogan, emeritus professor of accounting and information systems; and Donald Warren, former dean of the School of Education.

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