2002 John W. Ryan International Awards
Presented at Founders Day

Each year, two recipients are chosen for the John W. Ryan Award for Distinguished Contributions to International Programs and Studies. The award honors Indiana University faculty members or librarians from any campus who have made exceptional contributions to international education at IU. The Ryan Award was initiated in 1991 and named for the man who served as IU’s president from 1971 to 1987.

Evangelos Coufoudakis

The Cyprus problem: how to calm the struggle between that island republic’s Greek and Turkish populations and ensure a peaceful and just future for the country? This centuries-old question still troubles politicians and diplomats who, in their efforts to bring about peace in that region, have often turned to Evangelos Coufoudakis, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and professor of political science at Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne, where he has been a faculty member since 1967.

“Van is without question the most respected American specialist on the Cyprus problem and on American policy toward Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus,” says Professor John O. Iatrides of Southern Connecticut State University. “He is the most sought-after speaker on Cyprus and U.S.–Greek-Turkish relations both in this country and abroad.”

Many of Coufoudakis’ books and articles from an academic career that spans more than 30 years have focused on the Cyprus conflict, but his expertise extends far beyond the island’s shores to include the entire region. “His thoughtful, well-researched, and penetrating analyses regarding U.S. foreign policy in the Southeastern Mediterranean set the standard for the application of American values and principles, including the rule of law,” says Eugene T. Rossides, founder of the American Hellenic Institute in Washington, D.C. “He represents,” says Theodore A. Couloumbis, professor of international relations at the University of Athens, “the finest synthesis of cultures and traditions that have made America such a great country.”

“Perhaps less visible, but certainly not less important, has been his service to the Modern Greek Studies Endowment Committee, which began in 1983 and continues today,” says David A. McCants, vice chancellor for academic affairs on the Fort Wayne campus. Coufoudakis has been active in promoting greater study of Greece and Cyprus at local and national levels. He has served in many capacities in the Modern Greek Studies Association, including two terms as its president. In 1995, he established the Foundation for Hellenic Studies. In 1998 he was honored with the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix, the highest civilian medal awarded by the Greek government to noncitizens. He has also been named an honorary consul of the Republic of Cyprus.

Coufoudakis became dean of the IPFW School of Arts and Sciences in 1996, but this major administrative responsibility has not slowed his efforts on behalf of international understanding. He has been busily building international programs and links for IU, both at Fort Wayne and throughout the state. From 1981 to 1987, he was director of IU’s university-wide Center for Global Studies. From 1991 to 1995, Coufoudakis served on the Executive Committee of IUB’s West European Studies Center and still continues to mentor graduate students there. He has raised funds for teaching modern Greek at IUB, supported public discussion of international issues through the Fort

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Wayne International Forum, and worked at the national level to make connections between academic knowledge and the political arena.

At the end of June 2002, Coufoudakis will retire from IPFW to take up the rectorship of Intercollege, Cyprus' first private university and an English-language institution in Nicosia where one-third of its students are international.

John J. Patrick

Students in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania can thank Indiana University's John J. Patrick for a stronger, more democratic education system. So can educators in countries ranging from Taiwan to Turkmenistan. Through his work in civic education and democracy at the international level, Patrick has touched the lives of thousands of students and educators around the globe.

Patrick, a professor of education at IU Bloomington, appointed in 1969, is director of both the Social Studies Development Center and the ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education. He is also director of the IU component of Civitas, a worldwide consortium of civic educators that has undertaken projects including curriculum development, research, the implementation of instructional materials, and the education of teachers.

Patrick is an internationally recognized authority on American political values, political institutions, and the founders of the American republic. He has used this expertise to help educational reformers build democratic education systems in the formerly communist countries of Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. Joseph W. Davis of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation calls Patrick "one of the foremost scholars of citizenship education in the new democracies that emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union."

Latvian Minister of Education Janis Gaigals commends Patrick's work in that country: "The content of teaching has changed significantly, with greater attention to the social sciences and modern teaching methods that promote free, responsible, and creative personality development." As a result of Patrick's work in Poland, says one colleague, 2 million Polish students study civic education with a global focus, and more than 200,000 Polish teachers include civic education as a major part of their instructional responsibilities. Civic education is a core subject for the matura exams required for university entrance, and preservice teacher education in civic education has been introduced at the university level.

Others praise his approach, citing him for his sensitivity, generosity of spirit, patience, toughness, and ability to "know the soul of a teacher"—a quality, his fans say, that helps him communicate especially well with his various audiences.

A widely published author and well-traveled seminar leader and lecturer, Patrick has received numerous honors, including a gold medal from the International Film and Television Festival for a six-program video series on the U.S. Constitution. He has also been recognized by the U.S. Information Agency through grants and appointments to advisory panels and consultancies.

Colleague Davis sums up Patrick's contributions as reaching beyond the halls of academe. "Dr. Patrick," he writes, "is not only a distinguished scholar and teacher, but he is also a pioneer in the field of international democracy education and a champion for the ideals of freedom, individual rights, and democratic self-government."