IU Trustee Appointed to Direct UN Food Program

In February, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Food and Agricultural Organization Director General Jacques Diouf announced their appointment of Indiana University Board of Trustees President James T. Morris as executive director of the World Food Program (WFP).

Four months previously, Morris had been nominated by President George W. Bush to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations’ Agencies on Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. While awaiting confirmation as ambassador, he was chosen by UN officials as executive director of the WFP.

“I am genuinely overwhelmed by the opportunity to spend the next several years of my life working on this most important world issue. Every day there are more than 800 million hungry people in the world, mostly children, thousands of whom are dying each day. This is a great and a humbling challenge,” Morris said. “I am very grateful for the encouragement and support I have received from the Indiana University family,” he added.

“Jim Morris has been an outstanding leader for Indiana University and the state of Indiana over the years. I am certain those same leadership skills will make a difference for this vital program as well,” said IU President Myles Brand.

Morris’ term as a trustee runs through June 30. He says he intends to complete that term and will manage his calendar to the best of his abilities to participate in board meetings through June. He has served as an alumni-elected trustee since 1996.

Morris is chair and chief executive officer of IWC Resources Co. and its principal subsidiary, the Indianapolis Water Co. From 1984 to 1989, he was president of the Lilly Endowment. He was chief of staff to current Indiana Senator Richard Lugar from 1967 to 1973 when Lugar was mayor of Indianapolis. He earned his undergraduate degree from IU and an M.B.A. degree from Butler University. He has been active in a wide variety of local, state, and national organizations, including the U.S. Olympic Committee, United Way of Central Indiana, and American Red Cross.

Established in 1963, WFP is an autonomous joint subsidiary program of the United Nations and its Food and Agriculture Organization for emergency food assistance. In 2000, the program fed 83 million people in 83 countries, including most of the world’s internally displaced people, delivering 3.7 million tons of food aid.

—IU Office of Communications and Marketing

Visiting Zimbabwean Economist at IUB

Indiana University’s Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) and the African Studies Program are sponsoring a visiting scholar from Zimbabwe from March 1 to April 30, 2002. Jean-Gilbert Ilunga (Ph.D., Economics, Southern Illinois University) is a senior lecturer and chair of the Department of Economics, Faculty of Management and Administration at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe and visiting professor of Public Health Economics, UNILU (UNESCO), DRC. His specializations include international trade and finance, resource and environmental economics, and econometrics and forecasting. He has served as the acting dean of the Faculty of Management and Administration at Africa University and as a consultant to the Office of the President and Cabinet of the Zimbabwe government, the Export Processing Zone, and the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce in Mutare.

Before its break-up in 1996, Ilunga served as senior associate manager for market analysis and forecasting at AT&T Consumers Communications Finance and Services Division headquarters in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. He has also held positions as program coordinator for Beverly Enterprises in Danville, Illinois, and at Southern Illinois University and St. Louis Community College at Meramec.

For further information, contact Paula Scherschel, associate director at CIBER; telephone: (812) 855-1716; fax: (812) 855-9006; e-mail: pschersc@indiana.edu.