Macedonian University Educators Train at IU Campuses

One of Indiana University’s most significant efforts to provide assistance and training to tertiary institutions in developing countries is the IU–Macedonia Linkage Program with the South East European University (SEEU) in Tetovo. A multilingual, multicultural institution, SEEU was established in 2001 through the collaborative efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Open Society Institute, and other international donors (see International News, April 2002 and December 2003). IU’s linkage program with SEEU focuses on faculty and curriculum development, particularly in such areas as business, information technology, and education. The program is funded by USAID and administered by IU’s Center for International Education and Development Assistance (CIEDA).

From November 19 to 21, a delegation from IU attended the awarding of an honorary degree at SEEU to Ambassador Max van der Stoel, chair of SEEU’s Board of Trustees and the OSCE official most responsible for the founding of this unique university. In his acceptance speech, van der Stoel stressed the importance of promoting interethnic contacts and improving interethnic relations: “If this country succeeds in creating a multiracial society based on equal rights on the one hand and respect for each other’s identity on the other, it can enter a new era of peace and progress.”

The award ceremony also marked the graduation of SEEU’s first three students to complete their studies at the university.

Representing IU at the ceremonies were Moya Andrews, vice chancellor and dean of Faculties at IUB; Patrick O’Meara, dean for International Programs; Emita Hill, chancellor emerita of IU Kokomo; and Charles Reafsnyder, associate dean for International Programs and CIEDA director. During the visit, the IU team met with Dick Goldman, head of USAID/Macedonia; SEEU Rector Aljadin Abazi; and Secretary-General Dennis Farrington to discuss the future of IU’s relationship with the university. The visit afforded the IU team an opportunity to meet SEEU students and observe classes taught by Paul Foster, IU’s onsite partnership manager, and Dini Metro-Roland, an IU doctoral candidate in the School of Education. While SEEU is still a young institution and has many challenges to face, the IU visitors were impressed with how far the university has progressed since its founding in 2001.

Throughout 2002–2003, the linkage program brought SEEU educators to three different IU campuses, including administrators, faculty, and degree program candidates. In addition, two dozen educators came in late summer on four short-term training programs provided by a supplementary USAID–funded World Learning grant that initiated them into types of community outreach activities they could take back to SEEU.

At IUPUI, the Department of Communication Studies hosted the visit of Michel Bourse, SEEU’s dean of the Faculty of Communication Sciences and Technologies, and

continued on page 42
enrolled one of SEEU’s lecturers, Linda Ziberi, in the master’s degree program there. The Kelley School of Business Indianapolis hosted the visit of SEEU’s dean of Business Administration, Abdylmenaf Bexheti, who spent the month of August in Indianapolis consulting with the school’s associate dean, Roger Schmenner, other business faculty, and faculty at the School for Public and Environmental Affairs, IUPUI. Bexheti also visited Butler University and the University of Indianapolis.

The Department of Computer and Information Science (CSCI) at IUPUI has also forged special ties with SEEU. Chair Mathew Palakal has traveled twice to SEEU and been a consultant throughout the year, and the department hosted visiting scholar Zamir Dika, director of SEEU’s Computer Center. In addition, CSCI’s Dave McCulloch organized a two-week intensive training program for six Computer Center faculty, Arbana Kadriu, Mentor Hamiti, Bekim Fetaji, Ljejlja Abazi, Lavdrim Elmazi, and Lidija Ivanovska, to help them eventually open a community outreach computer center at SEEU. The participants had previously completed a CSCI course through distance education.

At a third IUPUI unit, the Center for Service and Learning’s director, Robert Bringle, and associate director, Julie Hatcher, provided two weeks of intensive training so that five participants could initiate service learning at SEEU. These were Aslan Bilali, dean of the Faculty of Legal Studies; Arafat Shabani, assistant in the Faculty of Teacher Training; Bljana Sazdanovska, assistant in the Faculty of Communications and Computer Sciences; Bekim Nuhija, assistant in the Faculty of Legal Studies; and Mensur Mamuti of the Office of Communications. This group also visited Butler University and the Community Outreach and Partnership in Service-Learning at IUB.

Three IU Bloomington units hosted SEEU scholars. At SPEA, Memeti Memeti is pursuing a Master’s in Public Administration through the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. At the School of Education, two SEEU faculty fellows are pursuing master’s degrees, Agim Poshka and Emilija Zlatkovska, both of whom had earned 9 credits of their program through the school’s distance education courses before arriving in August for a year in residence.

At the Center for English Language Training (CELT), six instructors from SEEU’s English Language Center underwent a two-week intensive training program: Florentina Halimi, Veronika Kareva, Gajur Luma, Brikena Xhaferi, Lulzime Kamberi, and Serdal Dzemali. Their primary trainer at CELT was Tom Gabriele. The program included visits to compare other nearby ESL programs at IUPUI and Ivy Tech Indianapolis.

continued on next page
Macedonian Educators continued from previous page

At IU Southeast, Jerry Wheat and colleague Frank Wadsworth of the School of Business and Brenda Swartz of the Regional Economic Development Resource Center also provided a two-week intensive training program for six participants from SEEU’s Faculty of Business Administration. These were Izet Zequiri, Abdylmenaf Sejdini, Luan Eshtrefi, Selajdin Abxili, Rasim Zuferi, and Dzemal Nurkovik. The goal of the program was to help them open a business research center for community outreach at SEEU. Another member, Sedat Mahmudi, enrolled for business courses starting in the spring semester 2004. Another faculty fellow, Miranda Abazi, is starting a master’s program in executive development at Ball State University.

The IU–Macedonia Linkage Program exposes SEEU educators and administrators to programs of different scope and scale at each of the Indiana campuses they visit, whether within the IU university system or at other campuses within the state. This provides them with a range of comparative perspectives to take back to Macedonia. With nearly 4,000 students enrolled, SEEU is already gaining recognition within Macedonia and other Balkan countries as a progressive, modern university with a commitment to multicultural education.

—CIEDA and RMN

Kremlin continued from page 28

so important that Russian politics must continue to be studied.

IU Bloomington has a long tradition of Russian studies with one of the oldest and largest research centers in the United States. The political science department has great strengths in the study of democracy, making it ideal for IU to have hosted a workshop on the Russian elections. The workshop also received support from the Office of International Programs, the College of Arts and Humanities Institute, and the Dean of the Faculties Multidisciplinary Ventures Fund.

—Jonathan Hudgens

Russian and East European Institute