In 1990, the U.S. Department of State, which sponsors all the exchange programs collectively known as the Fulbright Program, suspended their Fulbright exchanges in Iraq during the Gulf War—programs that had been there since 1951. In 2003, the Fulbright program was resumed and selection of fellows began in October. In early February, 25 Iraqi Fulbright fellows arrived in the United States and spent a few days in Washington, D.C., where they were welcomed by Secretary of State Colin Powell. In his address to the group, he called the resumption a “historic renewal of exchanges,” part of a broader international effort to reconnect Iraqi people with the world, and he urged them to meet the “unprecedented challenges that confront our countries and our international community.”

The 25 fellows visited four universities for orientation and pre-academic training before proceeding on to master’s level training programs at various institutions nationwide. One of those four is Indiana University, which is hosting eight Iraqis: six Fulbright students, and two Visiting Fulbright Scholars. The scholars stayed for the initial two-week orientation period in February before heading off to their host institutions. Salih Hameed, a professor of English literature at the University of Babylon, is spending his fellowship at the Ohio State University doing research on a comparative literature theme. Abbas Raheem, whose Ph.D. is in linguistics, is head of the English department at the University of Mosul and will be affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin to work on an English-Arabic phonetics project.

The six Fulbright students are on the Bloomington campus for a six-month preacademic training program designed to enhance their English language and computer skills and acquaint them with the basics in their fields of graduate study, which include applied linguistics, public health, public policy, and telecommunications. They are currently enrolled in the Center for English Language Training’s (CELT) Intensive English Program to improve their English language skills and will get additional computer training through IU’s Step Program of workshops, as well as training in the use of library resources.

David Lyman, CELT’s director of special programs, has been impressed with the level of spoken and written English that the Iraqi students already have. In the Iraqi educational system, English is a required subject from the fifth grade on. However, Lyman says that they also have gaps in English knowledge that need to be filled in due to their isolation for so many years. He feels that they can move quickly beyond the core courses to taking more electives taught in the program, which range from TOEFL and GRE test preparation and advanced academic writing and conversation courses to others that deal with business English, communication, literature, and films. By summer, the students will be able to enroll in regular IU courses that can be taken for credit. During their stay, CELT staff will help the Iraqis adjust to American life and university culture and try to get them involved in the community life of Bloomington and Indianapolis, for example, having them meet with such civic groups as Rotary Club and the Press Club.

In turn, the Iraqis have been pleased at the hospitable reception they have received so far.

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“Most of the Americans that we have met were friendly and helpful to us, helping us form a new point of view about America and the people here,” said Zeyad Tariq Jassim, a graduate of the University of Mosul, who hopes to continue his studies in applied linguistics and translation studies. Rawand Darwesh, head of the English news department for Kurdistan Television, was particularly pleased to be present in the United States during a presidential election year and to witness the democratic process firsthand. Dalia Kaikhasraw, who hopes to get a master’s degree in public health, was sure that under the “old” system, she would have never been chosen to come to the United States. As for Shaheen Jihad from Baghdad, getting used to the small town life of Bloomington was proving to be a big adjustment.

IU has a long tradition of welcoming international Fulbright students and visiting Fulbright scholars and of developing orientation and academic training programs for the Fulbright student program, which is administered by the International Institute of Education (IIE). Every year, CELT receives a number of Fulbright students to train before they are eventually placed by IIE into graduate programs nationwide, including IU. This year, in addition to the Iraqis, there are two Fulbright students from Africa and two from Latin America.

—RMN

**Namibia continued from page 6**

As part of the exchange activities last fall was a shipment of more than 400 books on nursing, engineering, and children’s literature sent by IUE’s Teaching and Learning Center to the brand-new library of the Northern Campus in Oshakati.

Other UNAM/NC administrators to IU in fall were Erika Maass, coordinator for Student Learning and Development; Charlotte Keyter, deputy head of the Department of Math, Science, and Sports Education; and Joseph Ndinoshiho, NC administrator and librarian.

IU’s Jeremy Dunning of the School of Continuing Studies has gone on the exchange to talk about developing CD-ROMs for distance education and administrative purposes, Dwight Burlingame of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University to lead a workshop on fundraising, and Karen Hallett of the School of Education’s Office of Instructional Consulting to speak of the appropriate use of technology in teaching. Scheduled from UNAM for summer 2004 are Matthew Ngihangwa, NC campus administrator, and Noel Mouton of the bursar’s office, both concerned with budgeting and financial matters.

UNAM’s Northern Campus is now poised to develop and expand its academic offerings and consider more traditional degree-granting programs. “The next step in the relationship,” says Reynolds, “is to find a way to improve academic programs at the Northern Campus. A new grant might even look at new uses of technology and adapting content from IU courses to Namibia’s unique environment.”

As for IUE, the benefit of the partnership has been a unique opportunity to internationalize its administrators by giving them hands-on experience in a developing country. Says IUE Chancellor Fulton, “This is a wonderful opportunity for IU East to address issues of diversity and internationalism from a unique perspective.”

—RMN