During the IU Bloomington law school’s fall break in October, Professor Joseph Hoffmann and Director of International Programs Lesley Davis traveled to South Korea to meet with alumni and visit Korean universities and other sites of importance in the Korean legal world. Hoffmann lectured on the death penalty, the jury system, and federalism at Korea University, Seoul National University, Transnational Law and Business University, the Korean Bar Association, and the Supreme Court of Korea, and he and Davis visited the law school of Ewha Womans University, where they met with Professor Un-Jong Pak, a leading scholar on bioethics and advisor to many LL.M. students who come to IUB from Ewha.

On October 19, IU hosted a reception for IUB law school alumni at a downtown Seoul restaurant attended by more than 25 J.D., LL.M. and S.J.D. alumni, one even coming from as far away as Busan in the southeast of the country. Alumni reconnected with each other and with Hoffmann, one of their favorite professors. Other highlights of the trip included a lunch with Minister of Justice Kum-Sil Kang, the first woman Minister of Justice in Korea’s history; a meeting with Seoul National University Assistant Professor Kuk Cho, a well-known Korean dissident; a visit to the Supreme Court that included seeing some high-profile trials in session at the Seoul District Court; a lively roundtable discussion at the Korean Bar Association; and a visit with the leading law firm in Korea, Kim & Chang.

The trip, which included meetings with some of the most important figures in Korean legal society, was made possible through the efforts of IU law alumni and others: Soo Hyung Lee, current LL.M. student and journalist; Jaewan Moon, S.J.D. graduate and professor of constitutional law at Dankook University; Sookun Song, chair of the IU Bloomington Law Korean Alumni Club; SangWoo Park, manager of the alumni club; and Hee-Jin Cho, senior prosecutor at the Ministry of Justice.

The law school looks forward to working closely with IUB’s Law Korean Alumni Club to help interview and share their impressions with prospective students and scholars interested in coming to the IU School of Law—Bloomington.

—Lesley Davis
Director, International Programs
IU School of Law—Bloomington

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The College of Arts and Sciences’ web page on foreign language study at IU Bloomington:
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