New IUPUI Title VI Grant Internationalizes Professional Curriculum

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) at IUPUI has been awarded a U.S. Department of Education Title VI Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program grant for academic years 2005–2007. The principal investigator is Susan Sutton, anthropology professor, associate dean for international programs, and director of OIA. Co-principal investigators are David Jones, director of IU’s Center on Southeast Asia and adjunct faculty in political science, and Hilary Kahn, OIA’s director of international communications and adjunct faculty in anthropology.

While most Title VI grants have a traditional focus on the liberal arts and social sciences, IUPUI's three-year grant will cater to the curricular needs of the professions. It will strengthen international studies and language education for IUPUI’s professional and preprofessional undergraduate students through a comprehensive curricular exchange program with Gadjah Mada University (GMU) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Much of the communication between IUPUI and GMU will be mediated through the videoconferencing facilities available at IUPUI’s Global Crossroads Center.

The project's goal is to internationalize professional undergraduate education at IUPUI by providing students with a deeper understanding of and focus on a major though understudied nation, Indonesia, with which the campus already has several links. The three IUPUI schools involved are the School of Engineering and Technology, the School of Education, and the School of Social Work.

The three principal investigators, together with faculty drawn from the three IUPUI schools, will work closely with their Indonesian professional counterparts at GMU. They will design curricular materials ranging from individual lectures to modules to whole courses that incorporate cross-cultural elements and perspectives on Indonesia within the standard professional school curriculum.

A series of summer curriculum workshops are planned that will send IUPUI faculty teams to work with their Indonesian colleagues and bring GMU teams to Indiana. In addition, a set of “language for specific purposes” materials focusing on professional concerns in engineering, education, and social work will be developed for Bahasa Indonesia, the national language of Indonesia, to prepare professionals for work in that country.

The ultimate outcome of the project will equip professional and preprofessional undergraduates with a depth of understanding of another society so as to advance their international thinking and improve their professional practice in coping with an increasingly interdependent world.

Sutton hopes that the model developed through this grant can ultimately serve as an archetype for future internationalizing programs focusing on other nations and professional schools.

—RMN

OIP Grants Brochure Now Available

The Office of International Programs has just published a revised version its systemwide reference guide, “OIP Grant Opportunities for IU Faculty and Librarians.” Copies may be ordered by e-mail at intprog@indiana.edu or by telephone at (812) 855-8669.