Memorial Scholarship Fund Is Created for IUB Spanish Major

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Indiana University Bloomington is helping to raise funds for a scholarship to honor the memory of a junior majoring in Spanish who was tragically killed in a car accident in April 2005. The Ashley Crouse Memorial Scholarship is the result of a spontaneous outpouring of sympathy and generosity from fellow students who knew Crouse, an active and popular student and community leader, widely admired on campus for her kindness and compassion for others. Crouse was also a double major in political science and enrolled in the Liberal Arts and Management Program (LAMP).

A native of Indiana, Crouse participated as a high school student in IU’s Honors Program in Foreign Languages for High School Students and studied in Spain.

Depending on fundraising efforts, the department hopes to offer a $500 scholarship award in spring 2006 to students of Spanish, says Kimberly Geeslin, a Spanish professor who had Crouse as a student in her Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics class. “The project was created by the class . . . by students coming together. She meant a lot to a lot of people. Our hope is that it will embody the spirit of Ashley’s energy and involvement.”

Those interested in contributing to the scholarship fund should contact Jane Drake, Department of Spanish and Portuguese; e-mail: jmdrake@indiana.edu.

IUB’s Main Library Is Named for Herman B Wells

On April 1, 2005, five years to the month after his death, the Trustees of Indiana University approved the naming of the Main Library on IU’s Bloomington campus for Herman B Wells, the university’s visionary chancellor. With characteristic modesty, Wells had refused to allow any buildings to be named for him during his lifetime or until five years after his death. At the trustees’ meeting, IU President Adam W. Herbert said, “We are indebted to Herman Wells for his vision and tireless efforts that transformed Indiana University into a world-class research university. In recognition of President Wells’ distinguished institutional leadership, it is particularly fitting that the university’s central repository of knowledge—our main library—be named after him.”

The university celebrated the naming of the Herman B Wells Library with a ceremony on June 17, with speeches given by President Herbert, Bloomington Chancellor and Vice President for Academic Affairs Kenneth Gros Louis, Ruth Lilly University Dean of University Libraries Suzanne Thorin, and President and CEO of IU Foundation Curt Simic.

Wells was president of IU from 1938 to 1962 and was university chancellor from 1962 to 2000. He led the university through its post–World War II expansion and is credited with transforming IU into an internationally recognized center of research and scholarship and one of America’s great public universities. Much beloved as university chancellor, he was active up until his death at age 97 on the campus where he resided.

Collections at the IU Bloomington libraries grew by more than 640 percent during his tenure as president. Wells’ vision included the recognition that a university is defined, at least in part, by its libraries. At the dedication ceremony for the Main Library in 1969, Wells said, “There is no distinguished university without a great library.”

“Chancellor Wells valued the importance of libraries as a shared resource used by the entire Indiana University community. This equality of purpose is consistent with everything that he wanted for IU,” says Thorin.

The IU Libraries ranked in the most recent survey of the nationwide Association of Research Libraries. As the largest and most visible entry point to a system of 20 libraries on the Bloomington campus, the Main Library holds more than 4.1 million volumes, in addition to materials in other formats including journals, maps, and microforms. The Wells Library also holds extensive and exceptional research collections covering the world’s major regions.

The university is seeking $28.4 million in the first phase of renovations to create a library that honors Wells’ legacy and meets the needs of students and faculty. Plans call for transforming the south entrance to include additional services, adding an auditorium classroom, and upgrading the infrastructure. IU already has contributed more than $11.8 million from campus and private support to prepare for the renovation.

—IU Media Relations