

Opening Minds to the World Serving the Educational Community



With more than eighty years experience in promoting international study, IIE is uniquely qualified to serve as a resource for those seeking information on international education. IIE offices around the world provide the guidance of professionals who are intimately knowledgeable about U.S. higher education. The Institute's website (www.iie.org) offers online program applications as well as data about international student mobility compiled by IIE's Higher Education Resources group. That data, compiled in this year's annual edition of *Open Doors 1999/2000* is available on the web at www.opendoorsweb.org. Information included in *Academic Year Abroad* and *Vacation Study Abroad*, the Institute's comprehensive directories of overseas study opportunities, is now available online as "IIE Passport."

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IIE's Office of Professional Exchange Programs, in partnership with Tennessee Technological College and Dili-based NGO, Timor Aid, is working to re-build the primary education system of newly independent **East Timor**. This project to train K-12 teachers and school administrators is being funded through a grant from the U.S. State Department's Office of Citizen Exchanges. The first phase of the program took two Tennessee Tech rural education experts to five provincial areas of East Timor to evaluate the current state of the local education system, to conduct one-on-one training sessions designed to address major issues of concern, and to identify appropriate Timorese teachers and administrators to participate in training focussing on the importance of rural education in serving the needs of the entire community, establishing civic participation and responsibility, and curriculum development. IIE envisions this project as the beginning of a long-term commitment to building an independent and enduring educational system for all Timorese citizens.

Recognizing the increasing importance of Asia, a part of the world comprising a vast land mass and a population of billions, the Freeman Foundation supported IIE in developing **The Freeman Asia Scholarships**, which will enable U.S. students with a demonstrable financial need to study in Asia and to encourage study abroad by their peers upon their return home. This program was announced at a ceremony at IIE headquarters in New York City on November 14 as a part of the first ever Presidentially-proclaimed International Education Week.

Founded in 1975 in Florence, Italy to provide a complete study experience for students seeking excellence in studio art and liberal arts instruction at the U.S.-university level, **Studio Art Centers International** (SACI) has



become recognized as one of the leading overseas institutions offering undergraduate and graduate education in studio art, art history, art conservation and Italian language and culture. The Institute serves as SACI's American office.

Recently, SACI was awarded permission by the Ministry of Cultural and Artistic Heritage to restore six paintings in the Church of the Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angioli, founded almost 500 years ago. On November 21st, the chapel housing these paintings re-opened. Further recognizing its expertise in the area of art conservation, in April, two SACI faculty and five students journeyed to Cuba to join a Cuban team in restoring a 17th Century painting.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the 80th anniversary of IIE, and the close collaboration between our two organizations over many years, we convened an **International Symposium on the Future of Sponsored Educational Exchanges**. Held at IIE's New York headquarters, and covered by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the meeting brought together 50 leading academics and exchange agency heads from Europe, North and South America, and Asia. Results of the proceedings are posted on each organization's website.

IN EAST TIMOR, YOUNG STUDENTS SUCH AS THESE WILL BENEFIT FROM IIE'S OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS EFFORTS, SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF CITIZEN EXCHANGES, TO TRAIN THE TEACHERS NEEDED TO REESTABLISH THE RAVAGED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

