

student exchange programs



Left: Mary E. Kirk, Vice President for Student Exchanges, with A. Sarah Ilchman and Jermaine Jones, managers of Fulbright Student Programs with Africa. During the year, some 60 U.S. Fulbrighters in Africa undertook projects in a variety of fields, and over 200 African students pursued graduate study in the U.S.

Right: U.S. Fulbright student Virginia A. Visconti assisted farming families in Vietnam with their agricultural chores while conducting an ethnographic study on whether households promote children's, especially girls', schooling. Her Fulbright project is field research for a dual PhD in Cultural Anthropology and Education Policy Studies at Indiana University, looking at education and how it relates to rural development policies.

The Department of State's flagship program to foster mutual understanding among young leaders both here and abroad — The Fulbright Student Program — supports a diverse group of talented individuals studying in 140 countries.

In the aftermath of 9/11, the Institute worked with State Department sponsors to implement new and expanded program components in 2002 — Islamic Civilization grants for U.S. students, Foreign Language Teaching Assistant awards for foreign students from the Middle East, and focused enrichment seminars for Fulbrighters. IIE also laid the groundwork for a revived Fulbright Program with Afghanistan, slated to begin in 2003, that will place advanced undergraduates in U.S. colleges and universities.

These new programs, and the experience of almost 4,000 Fulbrighters last year, are testament to the relevance of the Program's goal to promote mutual understanding. That goal has been served for half a century by Fulbright Programs in Germany and Japan, whose 50th anniversary celebrations were assisted by IIE at special events in the United States.

In 2002 there were 5293 U.S. Fulbright applications, the highest number in 30 years. Over 1000 will be selected by IIE's National Screening Committees to represent the U.S. in a variety of settings and institutions around the world where they will live and study and help build the essential networks of mutual understanding that are so vital today. Virtually every academic discipline — from Astronomy to Zoology — is represented in the work of current Fulbrighters. Fulbright's long tradition of supporting the arts was highlighted in February at a special

auction of original pieces, most donated by former Fulbrighters. "Art Educates the World" benefited IIE's Fulbright Legacy Fund.

Some 1300 foreign students from 130 countries come to U.S. campuses with Fulbright sponsorship each year. IIE's national network — developed in over 50 years of administering the program on behalf of the Department of State — assures academic placement, negotiates financial aid, including tuition scholarships, and provides effective supervision of program participants.

The Institute provides more than a half million dollars each year from its own resources to enhance Fulbright awards, enabling students to attend the institution most appropriate to their specialization and career goals.

Through its Regional Centers, IIE also conducts a variety of activities to enhance and deepen the Fulbright experience in the U.S., to include leadership convocations, discussions, enrichment seminars and a variety of cultural activities.

IIE mounted seven three-day enrichment seminars around the U.S. for Fulbright students and recently returned U.S. alumni. The theme — "American Values and Identity in a Time of National Trial: Civil Liberties, Tolerance, Engaged Citizenship" — engaged students in conversations with a wide variety of Americans and introduced them to volunteer experiences shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. citizens. Over 900 students deepened their understanding of the U.S. through participation in the seminars.

The Institute provides guidance to U.S. undergraduates interested in studying overseas and develops public-private partnerships to enable them to participate in an educational experience in a country beyond their own.

- The **David L. Boren National Security Education Program (NSEP)**. Since 1994, NSEP, funded by the Department of Defense, has awarded approximately 1650 undergraduate scholarships. Awards are granted to students pursuing the study of countries and languages critical to U.S. national security and outside traditional areas of study. Awards require rigorous language study as part of the course of study and require graduates to work for the Federal Government in a related field after their graduation.

- With generous support from the Freeman Foundation, beginning in November 2000, the **Freeman Awards for Study In Asia (Freeman-ASIA)** became available to undergraduates to study abroad in East or Southeast Asia. With its primary goal to increase substantially the number of American undergraduates who study in Asia, the program provides students with the information and financial assistance they will need to pursue a semester, summer or yearlong program abroad. Returning awardees are expected to share their experiences with their home campuses to encourage study abroad by others, and to spread understanding of Asia in their home communities. As of November of 2002, more than 1,200 U.S. undergraduates have studied in 16 countries in Asia. Recently renewed support for the next three years will provide additional opportunities.

- Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program** supports U.S. students of limited financial means to pursue serious international study during their undergraduate college careers. The Program has supported 481 students since its inception in 2001. They have received awards of up to \$5,000 for study in 59 countries. Upon return from their programs, Gilman Scholars must complete a follow-on project promot-

ing international education and the Gilman Program at their home institution or in their community.

- Offered through the IIE Regional Center in Chicago, the **Midwest Networkers Scholarship** was created in 1994 to address the fact that U.S. students study abroad in lower percentages than students of many other nations. To date, 184 scholarships have been awarded to undergraduates at Midwestern colleges or universities which are members of the IIE's Network.

- **Studio Art Centers International (SACI)** was founded in 1975 as a program in Florence, Italy for students seeking excellence in studio art and liberal arts instruction at the U. S. university level. SACI provides a focused studio art program at every level. The studio disciplines are complemented by courses in the humanities.

- Providing opportunities for foreign undergraduates has been an IIE tradition for over 50 years. Through the **Study America Undergraduate Program**, IIE places qualified applicants from 11 countries in U.S. higher education institutions, regardless of their financial need. Receiving institutions know that IIE is a source of quality, pre-screened candidates and many reserve scholarship funding solely for this program. For the 2002-2003 academic year, 125 students were selected.

- The **Ron Brown Fellowship Program**, funded by the U.S. Department of State, brings over 50 young professionals to U.S. campuses each year for academic and practical experience in professional fields. IIE also plans seminars and alumni activities aimed at creating a new leadership cadre in the countries of Southeastern Europe.