

John W. Ryan Award Winners for 2008



H. Öner Yurtseven

John Ryan began his term as president of Indiana University at the height of the Vietnam War. When he retired 16 years later, the disintegration of the Soviet Union had already begun. Throughout his tenure, Ryan nurtured IU's international expertise and its role in world affairs. In honor of that enduring commitment, IU names two outstanding faculty members each year to receive the John W. Ryan Award for distinguished contributions to international programs.

A former international student himself who came to the U.S. on the Fulbright program, H. Öner Yurtseven has committed his career to assuring international access to U.S. education and expertise. In his role as dean, Yurtseven infused the School of Engineering and Technology at IUPUI with international awareness and cooperation. He has more than doubled the presence of international engineering and technology students at IUPUI. His efforts to assist Malaysia in building a new private university was recognized in 2007 when that university, Universiti Tenaga Nasional, awarded him an honorary doctorate.



Randall Baker

"Öner Yurtseven has made the school a model for the transformation of a domestic operation primarily serving commuters to a truly international center of learning, international diversity, and exchange," says Tim Diemer, clinical assistant professor of organizational leadership.

Randall Baker, in his role as director of international programs in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, took the lead in internationalizing the school's curriculum and establishing exchange and overseas study programs to assure that SPEA graduates would have a global view of their discipline and would recognize the intrinsic importance of setting their expertise into a world context.

To accomplish that, he had first to nurture that perspective among the faculty. "I have never met an individual more driven (and unselfish) to get his university colleagues to expand their horizons into international education," writes Jim Patterson, professor of operations and decision technologies in IU's Kelley School of Business.

Of Note

Partnership with Sun Yat-sen University

A delegation from Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU), led by its president Huang Daren, visited Indianapolis and Bloomington in 2008. Its mission was to build on a statement of intent between SYSU and IUPUI forged in 2007. SYSU has four campuses in South China. Founded in 1924, it brings together several institutions of higher education in a broad range of disciplines, but with specialties in business, law, and medicine. It is consistently ranked among the top 10 institutions of higher learning in China.

The new institutional affiliation encompasses several disciplines: The two universities will partner in the operation and management of the Confucius Institute in Indianapolis. Also, they will establish medical student exchanges and collaborative drug and cancer research, as well as research into the care

and diseases of the eye. SYSU has the top ophthalmology school in China.



IU Vice President for International Affairs Patrick O'Meara (left) and Sun Yat-sen University President Huang Daren sign an institutional affiliation agreement in the Federal Room of the Indiana Memorial Union.