



# "Friends of the University of Chile"

Quarterly Newsletter of the U.S. Office of the University of Chile  
International University Exchange, Inc.  
Volume I, No. 1, 1995

## Welcome!

*By Dr. Jorge Litvak, President  
International University Exchange, Inc.*

**I**nternational University Exchange, Inc. (IUE) is a non-profit corporation under the laws of the District of Columbia. It seeks to stimulate international interest in the programs and projects of the University of Chile, and to mobilize foreign resources through collaborative activities with academic and scientific institutions, foundations, corporations and international organizations in the United States.

Incorporated in 1991, IUE established its offices on May 15, 1992 and was recognized as a tax exempt corporation in August 1992. The governing body of IUE is the Board of Directors. Dr. Jaime Lavados, Rector of the University of Chile, serves as the Chairman of the Board.

Soon after taking over his mandate in 1990, Dr. Lavados launched a strategic plan aimed at attaining a new period of recovery, modernization and growth. The mission of IUE was defined along these strategic guidelines that have served as the basis for the contacts established in the United States in seeking institutional collaboration and mobilization of resources. IUE has identified and selected several working strategies that have proven efficient and effective in these first years and plans to explore other promising areas in the years to come.

One effective working strategy has been to monitor relevant interests of specific funding agencies concerning upcoming program requirements and requests for proposals. This approach has provided successful achievements with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) and other U.S. government agencies like the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

The establishment of linkages with universities and research institutions has been especially rewarding. Particular mention should be made of the A.I.D. linkages project with the University of Arizona on a cooperative arid lands agriculture

research project and the successful cooperation in several disciplines with Washington State University.

Several other new research alliances have been established. Some examples are: a project on seismology with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the collaboration on sustainable development with Tufts University and a consortium of private universities from Puerto Rico.

In order to achieve further goals, new avenues of cooperation have been sought in areas of management and policies. Global awareness must place institutions of higher education at the center of policy decision making. The recent decision to extend Chile an invitation to join NAFTA and the incorporation of Chile as a member of APEC, have led IUE to stimulate activities in support of the participation of the University of Chile within these economic and trade agreements.

A detailed presentation of IUE activities is available to our members in the Annual Reports, as well as in the semi-annual Progress Reports.

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, IUE initiated a campaign to obtain the support of individuals and corporations. Sixty-five individuals and five corporations are already IUE members, also known as "Friends of the University of Chile."

To all our members, "Welcome!" Please send us letters or any information that you may wish to have included in upcoming newsletters. We would like to particularly encourage you to give us indications of activities or projects that you think could collaborate with the development programs of the University of Chile.

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## *Modernization of the University of Chile for the XXI Century*

*By Dr. Jaime Lavados, Rector  
University of Chile\**

The development of the country and its growing international involvement present important challenges to the national university system, especially to the University of Chile. The training of the professionals that Chile will need for the future, as well as the scientific and technological research, each necessary to back national development, require organic and specific effort.

Within this framework, four years ago, the University of Chile initiated activities designed to respond to the demands of progress; a responsibility that is inherent in its history and its importance in the national system of higher education. In effect, the Corporation has formulated its strategic focus for the following years, which signal an institutional course characterized by the search for excellence, the deepening of knowledge and the training of professionals in areas of particular relevance both for the present and the future.

In accordance with these policies, the University has been able to recover its traditional position as the first institution for higher education and scientific research in the country. As such, the University of Chile's leadership in scientific and technological research is undeniable. The achievements obtained in basic applied research and in the renovation of its infrastructure and equipment stand out and this has permitted the

University to maintain and grow its national and international prestige.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to facing growing competition at a national level, the University has had to adapt to the financing scheme of higher education. Therefore, it has been able to generate more than 60% of its operating budget and practically all of the additional resources for its development.

The University is committed to an intense process of modernization, both in the academic and cultural plane as well as in management.

With regard to academic and cultural focus, new themes of knowledge and culture have been opened through the proposal and actual study and research programs. This has been in areas such as biotechnology, environmental studies, sustainable development, bioethics and others. Similarly, a policy of openness towards the national and international community has been developed. This openness is manifested in the signing of various agreements, joint programs for specialized training, applied research and linkage with the productive sector. Similarly, activities for disseminating art and culture have multiplied, thus strengthening its

organizations and the stable groups of the Corporation and projecting its agenda to the entire national community.

With regard to management, strategic plans have been formulated and mechanisms for decentralization have been designed; systems for evaluating and grading personnel have been perfected; and the modernization of administrative processes have been pushed forward. Similarly, the Corporation has reached a level of economic financial solvency and stability, particularly through an increase in its own investments and through the reconversion of assets.

The University of Chile, renewed in its spirit, with its vocation for public service, has incorporated into its duties a dynamic of openness towards the exterior world. In a globalizing society, the University has chosen a style of horizontal integration, attempting to develop joint initiatives with the public and private sector in order to address emerging needs in accordance with the rapidity of the cultural, political, economic and social processes that bring us closer to the next millennium.

<sup>1</sup> Editors note: The University of Chile obtained 43% of the funds assigned by FONDECYT in 1995, and publishes 49% of all papers generated in the country.

\*From: "Modernization of the University of Chile from the Perspective of the XXI Century," on the occasion of the inauguration of the academic year 1995. Available in English and Spanish, upon request.



## Arid Lands Bring Chile and Arizona Closer Together

IUE was invited by the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) to participate in a workshop held in Dallas, Texas in late 1992 to discuss the University Development Linkages Program (UDLP) and was encouraged to respond by linking the University of Chile with a U.S. institution. Of the 70 applications that were submitted by 27 countries, the University of Chile was one of only 12 that were awarded with a UDLP Cooperative Agreement. The total cost of the project is \$1,100,000 over a period of five years.

The University of Chile and the University of Arizona have joined together to research the sustainability of agricultural programs on arid lands. Because both the United States and Chile are facing similar problems with regards to arid lands and the environment, this joining of educational resources will prove beneficial for both countries. The research topics that the universities will address include: *increasing population pressures, increased soil erosion due to poor agricultural practices, and pollution of air, soil, and water* as a result of industry, agriculture, and basic resource exploitation.

Some project accomplishments to date have been: (1) Faculty from the University of Chile (UCH) attended a 5-day workshop at the University of Arizona (UA). (2) Five UA faculty traveled to Chile for a second workshop in March. (3) Joint development of research proposals with the goal of submitting them for funding to national and international organizations. (4) The Limari River watershed region has been designated as a focus for the Linkages Project. (5) An up to date specialized library has been established in Chile for information on arid lands information (ALIC) and (6) IBM has awarded a grant to UCH to study the sustainability of arid and semiarid ecosystems. The project, titled "Environmental Information and a Modeling System for Sustainable Development: From the Arid Subtropical to the Antarctica," will be undertaken during the first three years of this grant.

### S.A.L.S.A.

The project Scientific Alliance for South America (S.A.L.S.A.) is a direct result of a joint planning between IUE and the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The project has already received support from both sponsoring institutions, the University of Chile and the Carnegie Institution, as well as Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS). An agreement was signed in Santiago in January 1995 between Rector Lavados and Dr. Maxine Singer, President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

S.A.L.S.A is a seismographic experiment of unparalleled proportions being carried out throughout South America through the end of 1995. Currently there are an unprecedented number of portable seismic instruments in an east-west and north-south line of broadband stations from groups from the U.S., France, Germany and Chile in the area of the Altiplano, which includes Chile, Bolivia, Brazil and Peru. If properly

coordinated, this concentration of seismic instrumentation represents a unique opportunity for seismology.

The reality, however, is that there is presently little coordination among the nations. Each country has a national seismic network that independently locates seismic events and evaluates hazard. The goal of S.A.L.S.A. is to facilitate continent-wide, long-term coordination and represent a unique opportunity for seismology.

The Carnegie Institution of Washington and the University of Chile have established a data coordinating center at the University of Chile in Santiago. Data from the various countries are sent by INTERNET to Santiago, where the earthquakes are located using this combined data set. The earthquake site and coordinated data set are then sent back to all S.A.L.S.A. members by INTERNET.

## International Center for Altiplanic Studies of the University of Chile

**F**ew countries in the world feature vast flatlands at more than 4,000 meters above sea level. The Altiplano, a 4,000 meters high plateau is located in the Central Andean range, covering areas of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

The University of Chile has traditionally been involved in research in the Altiplano. In 1991, an International Workshop on Sustainable Development of the Mountainous Andean Areas was held in Santiago with the participation of

geographers, biologists, sociologists, anthropologists and both natural and human ecologists from all the Andean countries. The Center organized a national conference in January 1992, as well as an international symposium in Arica in October 1993 with a grant from the Tinker Foundation to IUE. This symposium was attended by research collaborators from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru, as well as investigators for Ecuador, the United States, Cracovia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Australia. The

proceedings of this meeting, currently in press, outline the priority research areas of the Center in the fields of biomedicine, vegetation, soil sciences, earth sciences and animal resources.

A grant of \$300,000 was recently awarded to IUE by the A.W. Mellon Foundation for the Center. This grant is for those areas of basic research that focus on the ecosystems of the Altiplano to increase understanding of population, forests, resources and their interaction, initially on earth sciences, vegetation and soil sciences.

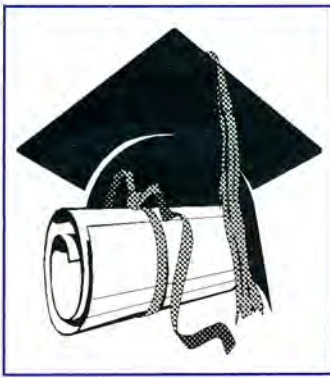
## Science and Technology Information Center: A Project of the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

**“N**ever before had Chile such a clear opportunity to achieve development, as the present one. Joining APEC and NAFTA, will accelerate the increasing internationalization of the national economy. Clearly, a number of promising external and internal circumstances have allowed the country, for the first time, to even consider taking part in the second or first world. But, how much of this is real? How much is fiction? We believe that Chile indeed has great opportunities, but also tremendous challenges ahead. Lately, a lot has been said about the former; much less about the latter. Today hardly anyone questions the urgency of modernizing the country. We have reached a national consensus that, in order to reach development, education must be priority number one. Now the problem is not what, but how. We must establish long term goals and then have the wisdom and the discipline to follow them with patience and endurance, bit by bit, day by day. Talk less and do more.

In particular, those of us who are part of the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences of University of Chile (as students, alumni, faculty, staff or friends), have a very special opportunity to “do more” just in front of us. Undoubtedly, the creation of the “Science and Technology Information Center” is a true milestone that will position our School of Engineering and Sciences as an important agent of those changes that would allow a real access to the developed world. However, this will only be possible to the extent that every single member of this community becomes involved in this adventure into the future.

Thus, we request your support and experience, and we encourage you to be a part of this great project:

In the information era, join ICT!”



## Washington State University

**F**ollowing a visit by the President of IUE to Pullman, Washington in the winter of 1993, the University of Chile (UCH) and Washington State University (WSU) have developed an innovative model of international higher education collaboration. Its purpose is defining policy issues and initiatives of joint concern, conducting relevant research, facilitating cultural and intellectual exchanges, enhancing labor mobility and fostering understanding of the diversity of their respective regions.

Initial discussions and the identification of mutual interests led to the establishment of a UCH-WSU Collaboration Committee with subcommittees located in Santiago and in Pullman, Washington. These groups identified areas of common interest that included, but were not limited to, environmental sciences and natural resources; integrated pest management; humanities and social sciences; veterinary medicine; food science, nutrition and international trade; agriculture, and pharmacy education.

WSU faculty from the Colleges of Sciences, Education, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture, Humanities and Business participated in a workshop, along with counterparts from the University of Chile, that was held in Santiago in October 1993. The workshop identified specific programs and projects for potential collaboration. Participants also used the opportunity to redefine and reinterpret their work in the context of new international dimensions. The workshop has led to continuous interaction, with individual faculty from both UCH and WSU visiting one another to develop cooperative activities. Correspondence and personal contacts, including exchange visits, as well as an interest group within INTERNET, have contributed to the success of this program.

As the collaboration between the universities continued to evolve, a reciprocal visit by UCH faculty to WSU took place in Pullman in October 1994. The Chilean delegation was headed by the Rector of the University of Chile, Dr. Jaime Lavados, and included faculty from agriculture, environment, food technology, veterinary medicine and social sciences. This second workshop further defined the specific areas of

collaboration including a short-, medium- and long-term work plan.

Initial funding for the cooperation has been provided by both universities in the form of "seed money." Additional funding is being sought by IUE and WSU from U.S. corporations with business interests in Chile.

In 1995, a series of short courses were offered by faculty from both universities, covering the areas of veterinary medicine, environment, agriculture and food technology. Some of these courses had a regional coverage, under the sponsorship of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA).

The inclusion of Chile within the Pacific Rim nations under the Asia Pacific Economic Council (APEC) has provided additional impetus to this developing collaboration. The recent decision to extend Chile an invitation to join NAFTA, has added another dimension to this unfolding relationship. A proposal has been submitted by IUE to the Tinker Foundation for partial support of a joint conference to be held in Santiago. The conference will discuss the role of both institutions of higher education on key policy issues in the areas of environmental policy and law and international trade and marketing that can contribute to the successful implementation of NAFTA and the continued relevance of APEC.

A partnership was established between the Faculty of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences of UCH, the College of Pharmacy of WSU, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the Pan American Health Organization and IUE to improve the health of the population through the introduction and improvement of pharmaceutical care services to the public in Chile and throughout Latin America. Meetings of the interested partners were held in Santiago in May of 1995 and a strategic plan titled "Pharmacy Education for the 21st Century in Chile and Latin America" was prepared. It includes academic and student exchanges and the launching of a pharmacy education development pilot project which will serve as a point of departure for the development of programs throughout Latin America. Funding proposals have already been submitted to Pew Charitable Trusts and Glaxo, Inc.

## *Memo Board*



### A.U.R.A.

A grant was received by IUE from the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (A.U.R.A.) as initial support for the establishment of a Ph.D. program in astronomy at the University of Chile. A.U.R.A. also initiated discussions with the staff of the Department of Astronomy about sponsoring an additional faculty position in astrophysics, as well as an engineering and technological exchange between the Gemini project and the University of Chile.



### CancerFax

Following negotiations between IUE and the National Institutes of Health, the Rector of the University of Chile and the Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) signed an agreement where the Institute provided the University of Chile Hospital the use of the Spanish CancerFax Service. This service provides an easy and quick access to cancer information from the PDQ (Physician Data Query) database, which contains state-of-the-art treatment statements and patient information, and is updated monthly through INTERNET.

IBM Chile donated the hardware and the Chilean Telephone Company donated the dedicated telephone lines.

While the approximate costs of CancerFax to the NCI is approximately 5.5 million dollars per year, NCI provided Spanish Cancerfax to the University of Chile Hospital at no cost. The University of Chile Hospital is the recipient of the only installation of CancerFax outside the United States.



### PAHO

Upon the initiative of IUE, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) requested the collaboration of the University of Chile in organizing a conference to discuss the failure of most developing countries in the Region to implement effective policies and programs for the care of the elderly. The conference, financed by PAHO, was held in Santiago from May 18-20, 1995, with the participation of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Venezuela. An analysis of the current situation in each country was reviewed and planning and monitoring instruments were adopted to follow up on the progress attained in the participating countries.



### Directory of Chilean Professionals and Scientists in the U.S.

This Directory, completed by IUE in 1994, contains a list of 530 Chilean professionals and scientists working in the United States. The Embassy of Chile and the New York Office of Banco de Chile supported part of the costs of the preparation and printing of this Directory, which is available upon request.

IUE is currently collecting information for the second edition of the Directory. If you would like to be included, please contact the office to request a Directory form.

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