



Commemorative Naming in Honor of Walter T. K. Nugent

The Office of Overseas Study was relocated in August, 2012 to the Leo R. Dowling International Center at 111 S. Jordan Avenue from Franklin Hall, where it was housed since the office was established in the fall of 1972. To celebrate its 40th anniversary in conjunction with the new location, the main room of the Center was formally named the Walter T. K. Nugent Room on December 7, 2012, after the founding director of the Office of Overseas Study.

Walter Nugent began his career at Indiana University in the Department of History in 1963 and from 1967-1972 was associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences with responsibility for the College's year-long overseas programs abroad. In 1972 he became director of the newly created Office of Overseas Study. It became a system-wide position in 1974 with the establishment of the Office of International Programs for which he also served as associate dean until 1976.

To launch the new office he acquired renovated space in the remodeled former library, the Student Services Building, which was eventually renamed Franklin Hall. During his time managing IU's year-long overseas study programs in Peru, Spain, Italy, France and Germany he traveled widely to manage these institutional partnerships in conjunction with a number of consortium partners. The late 1960s were a tumultuous time in universities in Europe so his challenges were considerable. He also expanded IU opportunities to include programs in Austria, Brazil, Israel and Britain while adopting co-sponsored semester programs in Russia, France and Spain through CIEE as well as supporting high school and college level summer programs in a variety of locations. During his tenure as director he also worked out the financing system for IU programs abroad that exists to this day. He chaired the University Overseas Study Committee (today known as the Overseas Study Advisory Council) which established approval processes and policies across all the campuses related to IU activities abroad. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Polish Studies Center. For two years Nugent juggled the Overseas Study position while also chairing the Department of History but in 1976 it was determined that Overseas Study needed a full-time director.

Walter Nugent remained at IU until 1984 when he became the Andrew V. Tackes Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame where he retired in 2000. He has published many books on American history and is a highly respected historian. He has kept in close touch with Indiana University colleagues and is currently organizing the recollections of all subsequent directors of Overseas Study to assemble a history of study abroad at Indiana University. In his own memoir of his years in the office he wrote:

"In looking back at my forty years as an academic historian and administrator I have no doubt that my involvement with overseas study programs at Indiana University brought me my greatest satisfactions as an educator other than my own research and publications. Teaching a class has its rewards, but the effect on a student whom one sees two or three times a week for a semester is not obvious...But time and time and again, when I would sit in on the selection process for an academic year program, and six or eight months later see the same students in situ on their program, and finally debrief them when they returned, I would be looking at persons changed in a great many vital ways, and for the better. That was the greatest satisfaction. I will always be grateful to Indiana University, its faculty, students and administrators, for granting me a truly special opportunity."

Today, Indiana University is ranked #8 among U.S. colleges and universities for the number of its students who study abroad each year. This reality would not have been possible without the groundwork laid by Walter Nugent in the 1960s and 1970s. Renaming the large gathering room in the Dowling International Center the **Walter T. K. Nugent Room** means that students who research study abroad options and receive orientation and debriefings will do so as part of his legacy.