

An IU Banner for the Olympics

by *Andrew Sample*

Every year in early February, the IU Chinese Student and Scholar Association celebrates the Chinese New Year with a huge event involving food, performances, and a gathering of hundreds of IU students and employees at the IU Auditorium. This year, upon entering the auditorium I immediately saw the usual crowds milling about, the volunteers dressed in traditional Chinese garb and of course, the lines of free Chinese food provided by local restaurants. What captured my attention most, however, was a long cloth sitting on a table near the entrance.

The cloth was a banner for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Those who came to the Chinese New Year celebrations were invited to sign it. The banner was set up by the Beijing Olympics Overseas Volunteer organization, an international volunteer group of overseas Chinese students seeking to create awareness of the international event. The group hopes that the banner will be hung with others

from around the world at Beijing Olympic Stadium for the Olympics opening ceremony. By organizing events such as this, they hope to support the Olympic ideals of cooperation and cultural understanding.



Of Note

Chinese Ambassador Speaks in Indianapolis



Kelley School of Business Dean Dan Smith with Chinese Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong at the University Conference Center in Indianapolis.

The encounter of the East and the West may have begun half a millennium ago, but the goal of mutual understanding is a process with no foreseeable end. In February, Zhou Wenzhong, China's ambassador to the U.S. spoke at the University Conference Center in Indianapolis. The event was sponsored by the Center for International Business Education and Research in the Kelley School of Business.

The dean, Dan Smith, saw the event as yet another opportunity to improve mutual understanding, especially important as the U.S. and China partner in global business. "I am confident that those who attend the ambassador's talk will come away with a richer understanding of the important nuances of working with Chinese managers and government leaders."

In his speech Ambassador Zhou noted that China needs a minimum 10 percent growth every year if it is to fulfill the needs of its labor force. In the name of "transparency," he addressed issues of "peaceful development" and "active bilateralism." He outlined China's goals of "balanced growth" with its trading partners so to maintain the status of good neighbor with Russia and to uphold peace without suppressing economic development in Africa.

For Elizabeth Dilts, the *Indiana Daily Student* reporter at the event, the high point came when the ambassador entertained questions from 11- and 12-year old Mandarin students from a middle school in Indianapolis. One of those students got at the heart of the matter when he asked if Zhou liked being an ambassador. Zhou responded that he liked the diplomacy but was frustrated at times because it was so easy to be misunderstood.