

## CULTURAL DIPLOMACY REPORT

Following more than a year of work researching opinions and attitudes about the United States of America, Dean Emeritus Charles H. Webb, Colin Powell's ex-Chief of Staff



Charles H. Webb

F. William Smullen III, and others on the Advisory Committee on Cultural Diplomacy to the State Department recently released their report.

The seven-member committee was asked to research and prepare a report for the State Department and Congress on how to increase the presentation overseas of American creative, visual, and performing arts. The committee was also asked to

develop strategies for increasing public-private partnerships to sponsor cultural exchange programs that promote U.S. interests.

The result is a fascinating document that profiles how musicians, dancers, visual artists, theater performers, and cultural presenters can provide an alternative view of America, a view that contradicts the widely held impression of the U.S. as a militaristic and self-absorbed international superpower. The report suggests that now is the time to consider cultural diplomacy as a way to, in the words of committee member Christopher Merrill, "heal the breach with the international community."

A few of the recommendations made by the committee:

- Increase funding and staff for cultural and public diplomacy.
- Set aside funds for translation projects of the most important works from this and other countries.
- Streamline visa issues, particularly for international students.
- Revamp Al Hurra, the U.S.-funded, Arabic-speaking television station.
- Expand international cultural exchange programs, particularly with the Islamic world.

Visit [music.indiana.edu/IUMusic](http://music.indiana.edu/IUMusic) to read the full report and other related news articles.

(See related alumnus profile, p. 47.)

## MUSIC HELPS KATRINA VICTIMS

The Jacobs School of Music hosted "A Benefit for New Orleans: The Cradle of Jazz" September 26, raising more than \$15,000, which was given to the Red Cross in support of its efforts to assist hurricane victims from New Orleans. The IU Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Distinguished Professor David Baker was featured along with IU alumna



The distinctive sound of New Orleans-style jazz greets patrons in the MAC lobby (above) before the IU Jazz Ensemble takes the stage with soprano Sylvia McNair (below).

and Grammy Award-winning soprano Sylvia McNair and Distinguished Professor and renowned baritone Timothy Noble.

"The School of Music is united in its desire to support the many who have suffered the horrors of Hurricane Katrina," said Dean Gwyn Richards.

Indiana University and the Jacobs School of Music have been assisting a number of students who are unable to attend universities in the Gulf region as a result of the devastating floods. (See Admissions Profile, p. 38.)