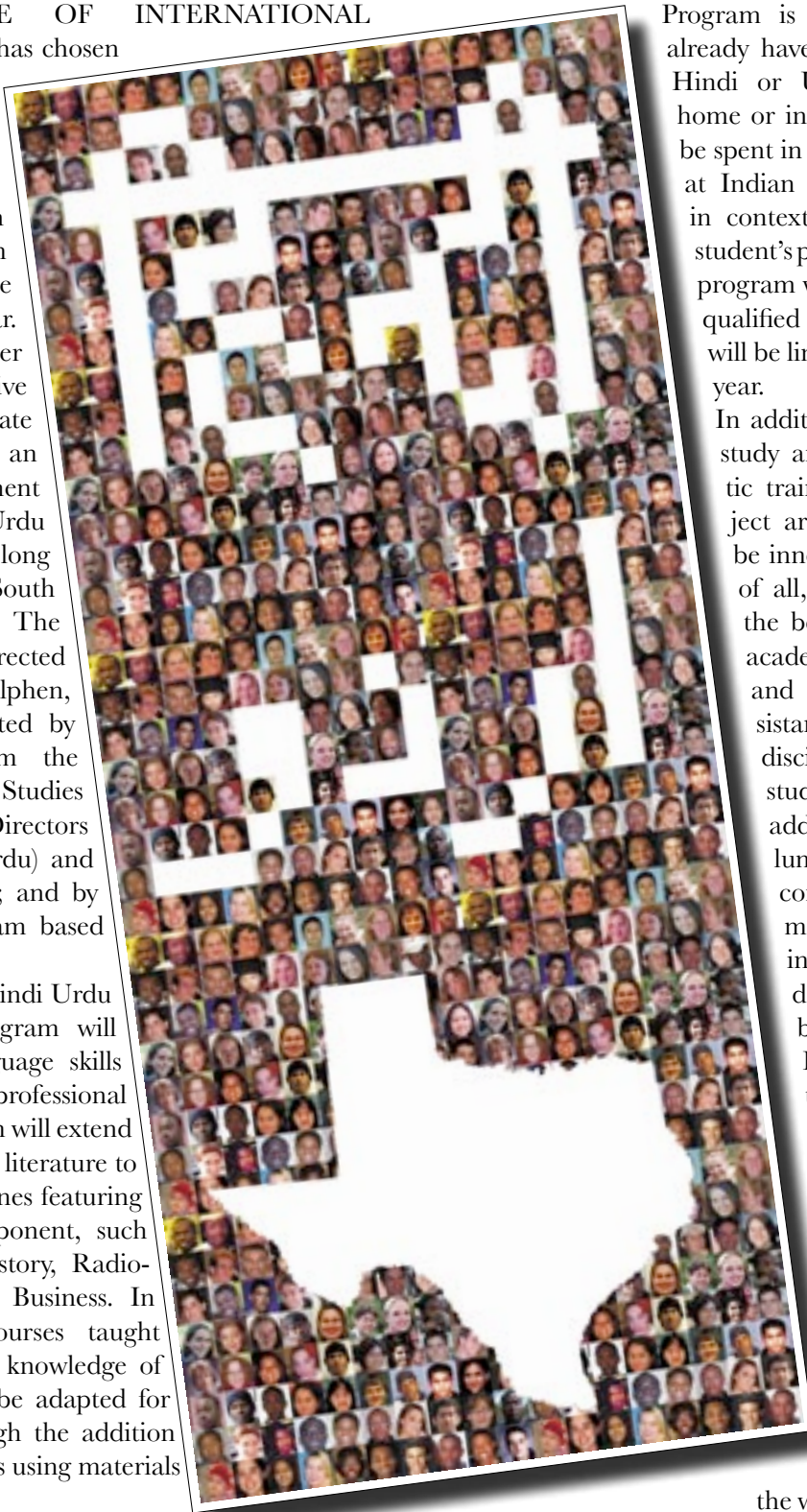


Hindi Urdu **FLAGSHIP** Launched

THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (IIE) has chosen the South Asia Institute to establish its National Flagship Language Program in Hindi and Urdu, with an award of more than \$700,000 to fund the program in its first year. From the fall semester of 2007, this innovative new undergraduate program will add an important new element to Hindi and Urdu studies, which have long been at the heart of South Asian studies at UT. The program will be directed by Herman van Olphen, who will be supported by two colleagues from the Department of Asian Studies serving as Associate Directors — Akbar Hyder (Urdu) and Rupert Snell (Hindi); and by an administrative team based in the SAI.

Students in the Hindi Urdu Flagship (HUF) Program will learn advanced language skills for a wide range of professional careers. Its curriculum will extend beyond language and literature to include many disciplines featuring a South Asian component, such as Anthropology, History, Radio-TV-Film, and Business. In these disciplines, courses taught by professors with a knowledge of Hindi or Urdu will be adapted for HUF students through the addition of course components using materials in Hindi and Urdu.

The intensive four-year HUF



Program is designed for students who already have some background in either Hindi or Urdu, whether acquired at home or in school. The junior year will be spent in India and will combine study at Indian universities with internships in contexts relevant to the individual student's professional development. The program will be available to all suitably qualified undergraduate students and will be limited to 20 new students each year.

In addition to its special intensity of study and its integration of linguistic training across a range of subject areas, the HUF Program will be innovative in several ways. First of all, each HUF student will have the benefit of close linguistic and academic support from Hindi and Urdu-speaking teaching assistants with competence in the disciplines/area studies being studied by Flagship students. In addition, the language curriculum will introduce a range of computer-assisted audio-visual materials, drawing on the latest instructional technologies; this development will be guided by Orlando Kelm, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, who has successfully developed such facilities for several languages.

Though the special funding for the National Flagship Language Program does not entail any particular employment obligations, HUF students will certainly be well positioned for employment with the federal government or in

the worlds of business, technology, administration or academics. **RUPERT SNELL**