

## Past as Prologue

**A**S I WALKED ALONG Pennsylvania Avenue here in Washington, D.C. on a crisp day in early November I passed by the National Archives and noticed the two statues out in front of the building, each of which has a statement carved into its pedestal. The first says, "Study the Past" and the second, "What is Past is Prologue." This second phrase was borrowed from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

It struck me that these two phrases are important reminders for international educators this year. NAFSA: Association of International Educators is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary in 2008, as are a number of other organizations of importance to this field. These organizations all came into being in the period immediately following the defining event of the twentieth

century, World War II. The mission of each organization is slightly different, but the overarching theme of their founding was the same: the world community can little afford to do this—to borrow once more from Shakespeare, "Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war"—on this scale ever again. War may not be totally avoidable in this world of fallible people and nations, but there are better ways to solve our problems and international education has a key role to play in helping us all to look for and find alternatives to international violence.

Much has happened in the intervening 60 years, and in this issue of *International Educator* we begin a six-part series of articles that takes a look at some of the key milestones that have occurred since 1948 that have shaped international education

and its place in the world at large. In addition, we have included a beautiful 60-year timeline poster in this issue that we hope you will hang in your office.

It can serve as a reminder of the sentiment behind the full version of what Shakespeare noted in *The Tempest*: "what's past is prologue, what to come/In yours and my discharge." As usual, the Bard has said it better and more succinctly than I could ever hope to. Let's be sure we know our history, as it sets the stage for today. But we must also remember, this year especially when thousands of us will gather to celebrate NAFSA's anniversary at the Washington Convention Center in May that what comes next is in our hands to shape. International education is as vital to the mission of creating the conditions for a more peaceful world today as it was in 1948. **IE**

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