

**Home** from page 2 designed a strategic plan that coordinated 14 U.S. agencies to advance the work of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in Honduras and to aid various American initiatives. An example was his leadership of a team of professionals implementing a \$500 million five year development program for the country.



Charles Ford

The Honduran poverty and the appreciation of its people for help has been encountered by a variety of medical, church and service group volunteers who have gone to the country to provide health care, build homes, put in water systems and treatment systems, and much more. There are many in this area who have helped.

Current news accounts show that much of this effort is at risk in the wake of the removal in June of President Manuel Zelaya after he was caught trying to conduct an illegal election to change the constitution so he could stay in office. The Honduran constitution mandates just one four-year term

and candidates ran in a primary last November for a final runoff this November 27. Zelaya's Congress, his own party and the Honduran Supreme Court agreed there was no legal basis for his attempted special referendum and ordered his arrest and deportation. The Obama administration decided this was a coup d'etat and called for his return to office on pain of sanctions – which are now in place.

Ambassador Ford said the U.S. has a big stake in initiatives such as CAFTA, a factor appreciated by businesses here who need a thriving

export market. His expertise is international trade starting with Commerce Department programs in Argentina, Spain, Guatemala and Venezuela. Then he held a variety of senior positions in Commerce reaching into Latin America, Europe and the former Soviet Union. Then he was Commercial Minister Counselor in the London and European Union embassies advising on export policy and other trade matters.

"I may be retiring from public service," he observed, "but I'm not going to quit work." Indeed, his last post after leaving Honduras was as adviser to Admiral James Stavridis, head of the Department of Defense Southern Command. His big task was to enhance delivery of humanitarian assistance to the countries of the Americas. Honduras has always been a special case. He's optimistic that U.S. relations with Honduras will return to normal after the November elections.

*William H. (Bill) Wild is a retired newspaper editor, freelance writer and bridge player.*

## UD professor wins health communications award

University of Dayton communication professor Teresa L. Thompson has been awarded the 2009 Outstanding Health Communication Scholar Award by the National Communication Association.

The prestigious national award recognizes Thompson's significant and original contributions to the field of health communication.

In her nomination, Thompson was recognized for her extensive work and scholarship in research,

writing and editing textbooks and textbook chapters, journal articles and handbooks.

She has served since 1987 as editor of Health Communication, one of the most influential journals in the field of health communication and also serves a senior editor of the Handbook of Health Communication.

Thompson has studied how doctors and other health professionals communicate with patients about

some of the most difficult topics in health care, which include death and grieving, organ donation, and aging.

An Oakwood resident, she joined the University of Dayton faculty in 1985. In 2002, she was awarded the Alumni Award in Teaching, the University's highest award for teaching.

She will receive the award at the National Communication Association annual convention in Chicago in November.



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