JOINT TOGETHER to help solve the problems of Ecuador's economy are representatives from GMU and Central University of Ecuador at a recent ceremony held to signify the agreement between the two. Seated left to right are John Warfield and Tiberio Jurado. Standing left to right are Lawrence Czarda, Jack High and Antonio Morales Rivas.

GMU Joins Forces With Researchers in Ecuador to Help That Nation’s Economy

By JANICE BREWSTER
Sun Staff Writer

FAIRFAX — George Mason University, the Central University of Ecuador and a research institute in Ecuador are joining forces to help Ecuador's economy.

"One of our main objectives ultimately will be to work with leaders from those countries in order to help them make better political and economic decisions," said James Warfield, researcher and director of GMU's Institute for Advanced Study in the Integrative Sciences.

"Ecuador has really bad economic problems," Warfield said.

Warfield and the GMU institute "have a substantial knowledge of how systems are designed," Warfield said. "That's different from economists who generally describe problems."

Through the systems' approach to Ecuador's economic problems "we will need to identify the essential institutions and get those in place," Warfield said.

Warfield and GMU became in-

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GMU Works to Help Ecuador’s Economy

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The Central University of Ecuador, which Warfield said “has a good connection with the government” joined in the partnership. Warfield said the project will give GMU the chance to tackle a global problem.

Academics “generally deal with narrow subjects,” Warfield said. “We don’t get into global subjects. Any university would get great benefits from insights into developing countries,” he said.

“Universities are usually like post offices,” Warfield said. “Everyone has his own box. This problem requires different perspectives,” Warfield said.

“Anything significant we can find out about Ecuador, we can use in other developing countries,” Warfield said.

Graduate students and faculty will also have the opportunity to work with their counterparts in Ecuador, Warfield said.

One immediate goal of the project is to obtain grant money and financial support from development institutions to help fund the program, Warfield said.