$20,000 Scholarship to Study Abroad
Two UM students earned prestigious scholarships to make study abroad dreams a reality: Anabella Aspiras, who spent a semester studying and volunteering in South Africa, and Anson Knausenberger, who studied for seven months in Egypt.

Strengthening Partnerships with India
In the lead-up to President Mote’s fall 2006 trip to India, the Office of International Programs India Working Group is organizing a two-day conference (November 16-17) - “India and the US: Common Challenges and Opportunities,” which will include a series of speakers, respondents, and discussions.

Turkey’s New Era
Turkey’s newly elected President, Abdullah Gul, has communicated to the people of Turkey the coming of a “new” era based on co-existence of Islamic values, pro-European ideas, secularism and civil society.

also in this issue

7 OIP Welcomes New IGCA Director Robert Daly highlights IGCA priorities
12 OIP News MEI English for Teaching Seminar attracts European professors for third year
13 UM News UM delegation meets with potential partners for Maryland-China Research Park; The Peace Corps announces the University of Maryland, College Park, as their newest partner in the Master’s International program
14 Outstanding Faculty OIP Award Ceremony Honors Distinguished International Service
Cairo, Egypt – This ancient city on the river Nile does not typically rank high on American students’ lists of sought-after study abroad locations. However, the U.S. government is working to change this, and UM senior Anson Knausenberger is a beneficiary of its efforts.

To enhance international cooperation and security, and to increase appreciation of foreign cultures, President George H.W. Bush developed a number of scholarships for students to study in countries critical to U.S. interests. This initiative, administered by the National Security Education Program, awarded Anson one such $20,000 scholarship, to study at the American University of Cairo for seven months.

“I chose Egypt because I wanted to experience Middle Eastern culture, learn Arabic, and be an ‘ambassador’ for America,” he says. “I’m so lucky I had the chance to go someplace completely different and witness viewpoints I had never experienced before.”

While abroad, Anson worked hard to meet local Egyptians. “I took classes where I was the only American and tried to visit places unfrequented by foreigners,” he says. “As a result, I was able to challenge myself to think differently.”

Apart from his studies, Anson found time to capitalize on his exotic surroundings; his favorite memories include a pre-dawn pilgrimage to the summit of Mount Sinai and a jaunt down the Nile in a faluka boat.

In the end, Anson returned home with fresh perspectives and a resolve to return to the Middle East soon.

So what’s next after this Government and Politics major...
graduates? Anson must commit one year of service to the U.S. government, as stipulated by receipt of his scholarship. “Studying in Egypt taught me the skills I need for the future,” he says. “Not only did I learn about different perspectives, but I also learned about society itself—and I found that as long as you are open and honest, people across the globe will appreciate it. Perhaps everyone is not as different as it seems.”

Senior Anabella Aspiras had always known she wanted to make a difference in impoverished Africa, but her desire always seemed a world away—until she learned of a scholarship that would make her dreams a reality.

Aspiras won the Benjamin A. Gilman International scholarship, which is offered through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Institute of International Education. This extremely competitive national scholarship allows financial aid recipients to obtain up to $5,000 to defray the cost of studying abroad. The award gave Aspiras a chance she never otherwise would have had. “This scholarship was absolutely critical for my study abroad experience,” she says. “Without it, I could never have afforded to go abroad.”

Aspiras spent her Spring 2007 semester at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Nestled on the slopes of Devil’s Peak, the university offers challenging classes and the chance to meet both international and local students. Aspiras coupled her studies with a summer stint in Tanzania, where she taught English to school children.

Although her studies gave her an insider’s view into local culture, volunteering in the Pediatric Recovery Facility of the local Red Cross gave her a more complete taste of African life. Aspiras worked as a nurse’s aide in the children’s hospital, where she treated young burn, rape and HIV victims.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, a total of 1,410 UM students studied abroad. These numbers are certainly not surprising, as studying abroad offers exciting opportunities, from learning about businesses in China to studying the environment in Brazil, from working on community planning in South Africa, to studying architecture in Italy. With so many destinations for learning, the possibilities are endless. For more information on UM Study Abroad, visit www.international.umd.edu/studyabroad.

---

1410 UM STUDENTS STUDIED ABROAD IN 2006-2007

Europe 60%

Africa 3%

Asia 10%

Latin America 15%

North America 3%

Middle East 3%

Oceania 8%

Multiple 1%

*Study Abroad Annual Report 2007

---

continued next page...
“It was extremely tragic what these children went through, but their upbeat attitudes were incredibly inspiring,” she says. “My experience at the hospital allowed me to see a wide spectrum of South Africans, not only the wealthier university students but also the poorer townspeople.”

Aspiras also says that her experience with the nursing staff taught her about the health care system as a whole and about the resolve of the human spirit. “The nurses worked tirelessly, without praise, and didn’t think what they did was especially admirable,” she says. “Instead of raging at the injustice of it all, they simply thought of their jobs as something necessary for society.”

In the end, this humbling experience not only reinforced how grateful Aspiras is for what she has, but also reaffirmed her commitment to aiding Africa. This Government and Politics major initially thought she wanted to work on health policy; but now, after her experience at the Red Cross, Aspiras has decided to become a nurse. Upon graduation next year, she will continue on to nursing school, where she hopes to learn the necessary skills to aid East Africans.

And back on the home front, Aspiras continues to be an ambassador for study abroad and the opportunities the Gilman scholarship awarded her. She has plans underway to talk with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington about such opportunities, to make sure they know that they can also achieve their dreams.

“Aid isn’t just necessary for developing countries, children in our country need aid as well,” she says. “It’s important they know there are opportunities out there for them, too.”

To learn more about these two scholarship opportunities visit: Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program- www.iie.org/gilman, National Security Education Program-www.iie.org/NSEP

UM STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS BY MAJOR, 2006-2007*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Business and Management</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Behavioral and Social Sciences</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Life and Chemical Sciences</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Undergraduate Studies</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Agricultural and Natural Resources</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Computer, Mathematica, and Physical Sciences</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Study Abroad Annual Report 2007
On September 1, 2007, the University of Maryland welcomed Robert Daly as the new Director of its Institute for Global Chinese Affairs. Daly began his work in China as a diplomat with the United States Information Agency, where he served from 1986-1991. After two years teaching Mandarin at Cornell University, he spent the following nine years working on television projects in China as a host, actor, and writer, including helping to produce Chinese-language versions of Sesame Street and other Children’s Television Workshop programs developed by UM alumnus Jim Henson. During the same period he served as a commentator on Sino-American relations and Chinese affairs for media outlets, including the Voice of America, CNN, and Chinese television and radio stations, and lectured frequently at Chinese and American institutions, among them the East-West Center, the Asia Society, the Smithsonian, and the Chautauqua Institution. In the process he became for many Chinese one of the most readily recognizable “faces of America” in China.

Daly has also worked as a consultant and interpreter for American businesses and non-profit organizations, including the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. He has served as director of the U.S.-China Housing Initiative at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and as director of Syracuse University’s overseas China seminar. Prior to taking up his new post, he was, for six years, American director of the Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies, in Nanjing, China.

Asked about the significance of China’s emergence and its likely trajectory, Daly commented: “The impact of China’s growth over the past twenty years is now felt in most spheres of human endeavor, and China’s influence will continue to increase for decades to come. It will pose a challenge to established international and domestic orders. China’s influence will be ubiquitous and complex: at times disruptive, at times wonderful.”

Concerning the place of higher education, and in particular UM, in the future development of China, Daly suggests that “universities play an essential role in promoting stable U.S.-China relations because they are the institutions best able to promote understanding through research, teaching, programs, and conferences. As a major university located near Washington, DC, UM can play this role more aggressively and effectively than can many of the other American institutions of higher learning that are now active in China.”

With regard to IGCA, Daly says, “IGCA’s mission is to enhance the role and reputation of the University of Maryland within the PRC and Taiwan and among American academic, governmental, and private-sector institutions concerned with China. IGCA is not an academic unit of the university. Its job is not primarily to analyze or teach about China’s rise. Its work is, rather, to help Chinese leaders and strengthen Chinese institutions that are dealing with the social and environmental dislocations brought about by China’s rapid development. IGCA’s non-degree training for Chinese professionals in six major areas—Consumer Product Safety, including agricultural and pharmaceutical products; Energy and Environmental Management; Infrastructure Development; Public Management; Educational Administration; and Public Fitness and Athletics—must continue to draw on and develop the strengths of UM, the State of Maryland, and institutions in the region, toward that end.”
In preparation for President C. D. Mote Jr.’s fall, 2006 trip to India, the Office of International Programs at the University of Maryland began to work with various personnel at UM who have professional or personal ties in India, trying to develop a more coherent presence and profile on the College Park campus and in the surrounding community.

The success of Dr. Mote’s trip gave added impetus to this project, resulting in the formation of an India Working Group (IWG), whose membership continues to grow. Recent additions include UM’s new MacArthur Prize winning Geographer, Dr. Ruth Defries, whose current research focuses on the impact of eco-tourism on the provinces of central India (see the side bar article on page 9).

The first fruit of the IWG’s labors is a two-day conference that will take place on Friday, November 16, and Saturday, November 17, in the auditorium of UM’s School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

A kickoff event from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on November 16 will be followed by a series of speakers, respondents, and discussions in the morning and afternoon of November 17. The theme of both the Friday event and the Saturday sessions, “India and the US: Common Challenges and Opportunities,” is in keeping with UM’s roots as one of the first of the American “Land Grant” colleges of agriculture and applied sciences. This will leverage UM’s strengths in science, engineering, technology, and the social sciences, and the “unfair advantage” of its proximity to the various governmental and non-governmental entities in and around Washington, D.C., to strengthen its partnerships with peers in India.

At the suggestion of UM’s Institute for Advanced Computer Science’s Director, Professor V.S. Subrahmanian, and through the agency of CMPS Professor Ashok Agrawala, the conference has been able to secure the noted Indian business and policy leader, Mr. Syamal Gupta, Chairman of several of the Tata companies, including Tata International, to serve as keynote speaker at the Friday event.

Noted local musical artist and UM alumna, Samia Mahbub Ahmad, will follow with performances from her extensive repertoire of South Asian musical traditions and styles. The Friday kickoff will then conclude with a public reception, featuring Indian cuisine.

The conference is organized by the India Working Group of the Office of International Programs and is co-sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Center for International Business and Research (CIBER), and the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.
On September 25, 2007, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation named Professor DeFries as one of its 24 MacArthur Fellows for 2007. The so-called “Genius Award,” which was made in recognition of Professor DeFries’s innovative, interdisciplinary studies of how humans are transforming the earth's surface, carries with it $500,000 in “no strings attached” support over the next five years.

On a campus full of students, teachers, and researchers with international interests and ties, Professor DeFries is uniquely qualified to claim the title “Global Scholar.” Her scholarship and teaching utilizes both satellite imagery and on-the-ground survey of regions around the planet—Central Africa, to Southeast Asia, to South America—to track changes in vegetative land cover, and quantitative techniques to estimate the impact of human activities on those changes. “I study land cover change and what people are doing to the landscape. I look at the role of land cover changes in climate in terms of effects on the carbon cycle, as well as the implications for conservation and other services people derive from ecosystems,” DeFries explained in a 2006 interview.

Her MacArthur Foundation grant comes hard on the heels of Professor DeFries’s return from an extended stay in India, where she was doing research for her latest project, “Linkages between Urban Growth and Surrounding Areas: The Example from India,” with the support of a senior scholar grant from the Fulbright Program.
On September 25, 2007, Nilufer Narli, Professor of Political Sociology at the Bahcesehir University, Turkey, discussed the social, religious and identity challenges that have been the focus of political debate since the Turkish Presidential elections of Spring, 2007. Narli spent four months at the University of Maryland working on “Governance and Civil-Military Relations in Turkey: the Role of the EU and U.S. Security Policy,” a project managed by the Center for European Security Studies (CESS), based in the Netherlands.

With a population of 73 million, Turkey has found unemployment to be a major issue propelling migration to the big cities. In recent years, population has migrated from the East, Southeast, and Black Sea regions to the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts, where major cities such as Istanbul lie. According to Narli, this has “created major social problems in Turkey, where a large number of people living in the slums of the big cities struggle to find jobs.”

Turkey’s newly elected President, Abdullah Gul, formerly Turkish Foreign Minister and a member of the current ruling Justice and Development party (AKP), has communicated to the people of Turkey the coming of a “new” era based on co-existence of Islamic values, pro-European ideas, secularism and civil society. “Gul’s success or failure to show that democracy, secularism and Islam can co-exist will dictate not only the future of Turkey,” Narli says- “but will also send a message to the whole world, where Islamic values are seen as contradictory to universal democratic and liberal values.”

Although Turkey has been executing far-reaching reforms to meet the Copenhagen criteria that define whether a country is eligible to join the EU, support for the EU reforms changed in 2005. Supporters of secularism were wary about the growing role of the AKP in national politics. “The AKP has supported Turkey’s membership for EU,” whereas “the public support has declined from 70% to 45% in 2005,” Narli says.

The Turkish military, the second largest standing armed forces in NATO after the U.S. Armed Forces, plays a heavy role in Turkish politics. During the first round of presidential voting on April 27, 2007, the military issued a pro-secularism memo on its website. “The memo signaled that the armed forces would not stay neutral: as guardian of the state’s secular character, they would uncompromisingly defend the principle of secularism,” said Narli.

Narli will return to speak at UM on Tuesday, November 13, from 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Language House, multipurpose room, in St. Mary’s Hall. Find out more about upcoming international events at www.international.umd.edu

From September 17-28, 2007, a delegation of eight farm managers and two water managers (or extension workers) came to Maryland from Turkey for farm management training. The sponsoring group, the non-profit, HasNa, works with the Water Users Association in order to strengthen the agricultural sector in Turkey. Bob Kratochvil, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, AGNR-Plant Science & Landscape Architecture, and Adel Shirmohammadi, Professor of ENGR-Fischell Department of Bioengineering, worked with the farmers, as did many extension agents. Professor Shirmohammadi conducted the water management workshop in Turkish.

The workshop, which included trips to a variety of small and large farms in Maryland, led many of the Turkish managers to decide that, upon their return to Turkey, they would diversify their products in order to reduce their risk or add crops that are less labor intensive or more profitable. AGNR has proposed to HasNa that they establish a training center in Turkey. The Center will primarily provide short-term, need-based, custom-tailored training to professionals who are employed or about to be employed. The goal of the center will be to enhance economic opportunities for young adults in the region and will be financed through both public and private sources.
Global Geochemist’s Search for Evidence of Earth’s Earliest Oxidation Wins International Recognition

Associate Professor Alan Jay Kaufman, Department of Geology and Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center, is another UM scholar for whom the world is, quite literally, his subject. Professor Kaufman’s research looks to the far corners of the globe and deep beneath its surface for evidence of the initial rise of oxygen in the earth’s oceans and atmosphere. The international importance of his work was recently recognized through the award of a prestigious Mercator Guest Professorship by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG – the German equivalent of the NSF).

Peering into deep geological time (over 2.5 billion-years-ago to be exact) by studying scientific cores drilled through similarly-aged strata from Western Australia and South Africa, Kaufman and his colleagues have recognized key changes in the geochemistry of these ancient sediments—which accumulated in shallow seas— that were clearly coupled to biological innovations. “We believe,” Kaufman said, “that these findings are a significant step in our understanding of the oxygenation of the earth, because they link changes in the environment with that of the biosphere.”

Two related papers on the earth’s early oxygenation were published back-to-back by Kaufman and his team of collaborators in the September 28 issue of Science magazine. A third related article by Kaufman and UM colleagues Associate Professor James Farquhar, graduate student David Johnston, and undergraduate research assistant Andy Masterson was published in Nature magazine on October 11. These publications were highlighted by the national and international press, including electronic articles on Yahoo, CNN, ScienceLive, Der Spiegel, and the Singapore Times, to name a few.

Professor Kaufman’s DFG fellowship has taken him to Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster for the 2007-2008 academic year. There he is continuing his paleo-environmental and paleo-climatic studies at the Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut with his long-time friend and colleague, Harald Strauss, a co-author on the Nature paper. While in Münster, Kaufman will be far from a sedentary geologist; since arriving there he has already traveled to South Africa and Swaziland for more field research and collection of ancient rock cores.

To date, his international research has led him to Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Japan, South China, India, Azerbaijan and Namibia, as well as to South Africa. In 2001, Kaufman was a member of a NASA team of “astronauts to the Early Earth” sent to Western Australia to investigate sediments that harbor the most ancient signs of life on the earth, in order that we might later read similar clues in our Astrobiological search for life on other planets, like Mars. At that time the team scoped out where to start the drill core that eventually resulted in the Science papers.
Celebrate International Education Week, November 12-16

From November 12th through 16th, The University of Maryland will be joining schools and other organizations all over the world in the eighth annual celebration of International Education Week (IEW). UM’s International Education Services office (IES) is once again coordinating events on the College Park campus, where a variety of departments, offices and student organizations have planned presentations, shows, and social events that showcase cultural exchange and education.

Among this year’s events is a session, “International Experience and Your Career,” co-sponsored by the UM Study Abroad Office and University Career Center. Participants at this workshop will learn how their international experiences can be marketed for future careers, based on first-hand testimonies from people working in international fields. The Language House will be hosting an international film screening, as well offering a free Tai Chi class. The closing event in UM’s IEW festivities will be the conference, “India and the US: Common Challenges and Opportunities” (see the article and schedule, pp. 8-9).

Last year’s IEW celebration at UM featured over twenty-one events run by fourteen offices, departments and student groups around campus. Any department, office or student group interested in adding an event to this year’s schedule is welcome to do so.

Please contact Kristin Georger at kgeorger@umd.edu. For the complete, up-to-date list of IEW events, please visit: www.international.umd.edu/ies

World-wide demand for professors who are capable of teaching their academic discipline in English is high, and continues to grow. In response, the Maryland English Institute has developed a unique program: the English for Teaching Seminar.

This two-week course, designed for non-native English-speaking professors and prospective professors, emphasizes the integration of English into unique teaching situations in the university seminar, the classroom, and the office. Now in its third year, the program has attracted European professors from Finland, Denmark, Austria, and Germany. The most recent seminar, which started on September 15th and lasted until September 29th, saw a group of ten professors from various disciplines— including law, sociology, pharmacology, and humanities—take interactive and practice-oriented courses that focus on developing knowledge of the English language, and the integration of this knowledge into their academic expertise.

During their stay in the U.S., seminar participants also had opportunities to indulge in University of Maryland social activities, such as attending performances at the Clarice Smith Performing Center, as well as to explore Washington, D.C., Georgetown, and Annapolis.

At the end of the program, all participants who successfully completed the seminar’s 40 instructional hours received a certificate of attendance from the Maryland English Institute at the University of Maryland.

To request an English for Teaching Seminar brochure, contact Linda Sahin, lsahin@umd.edu or visit www.international.umd.edu/mei.
UM Delegation Meets with Potential Partners for Maryland-China Research Park

During the week of August 20th, a delegation of officials from UM and its private sector partners visited China for the purpose of cultivating additional participants in the University of Maryland-China Research Park (UMCRP) initiative of UM’s Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute (MTECH). Through the offices of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the delegation, which included UM Provost Nariman Farvardin, V.P. for Research Mel Bernstein, Interim Engineering Dean Herbert Rabin, AGNR Dean Cheng-I Wei, UMCRP Director Kai Duh; Dr. Peter Shin, President of ProteinOne; and Mr. Joseph Hernandez, President of Innovative Biosensors, Inc., met with governmental and private sector leaders in three key urban areas: Beijing; Shanghai, and Guangzhou. As a result of these meetings, several more public entities and private companies from China have presented proposals to begin working at UMCRP.

UM PARTNERS WITH PEACE CORPS

On August 13, 2007, The Peace Corps announced the University of Maryland, College Park as their newest partner in the Master’s International program.

“This new partnership offers a wonderful opportunity for our students to have an international experience,” said University of Maryland President C. D. Mote, Jr. “It not only deepens our long-standing relationship with the Peace Corps, it reflects a commitment to many of the values the University shares with the Peace Corps: global involvement, service, and sustaining our environment.”

Designed for Americans who want the opportunity to earn graduate degrees while serving as Peace Corps volunteers abroad, Master’s International is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The College Park campus in particular has been very active in producing Peace Corps volunteers, with nearly 1,000 undergraduate and graduate alumni serving abroad as volunteers since 1961.

The Master’s International program at UM will be housed in the College of Chemical and Life Sciences. Students in the program will earn a Master of Science degree in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology. As Peace Corps volunteers, they will serve in the areas of agriculture and natural resources.
The Office of International Programs will hold its annual International Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 15, 2007. President Mote will present the Distinguished International Service Award, which recognizes significant contributions to the development of international programs at UM, to Vladimir Tismaneanu, and Provost Nariman Farvardin will present the Landmark Award, given for exceptional long-term achievements in support of international life at UM, to Suheil Bushrui.

Professor VLADIMIR TISMANEANU has served in the Department of Government and Politics and as Director of the Center for the Study of Post-Communist Societies at the University of Maryland with great distinction since 1990, when he came here from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the former editor of the journal *East European Politics and Societies*, and he now serves as chair of the journal’s editorial committee. He currently serves on the editorial boards of several other publications and is the author of numerous books and articles. In 1980 he received his Ph.D. from the University of Bucharest, with a thesis on the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School. In 1981 he left Romania for political reasons and is widely recognized as an intellectual leader and key figure in the political resistance movement against dictatorship in that country.

In 2001 Professor Tismaneanu was a Public Policy Scholar at the Wilson Center. His fellowships are many and varied. At the University of Maryland, he received the award for excellence in teaching and mentorship, the Distinguished Scholar Teacher Award, and the GRB Semester Research Award. In 2002, the University of the West (Timisoara, Romania) awarded him the title of Doctor Honoris Causa, and in 2003, he received the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest.

As a public intellectual, Professor Tismaneanu’s stature is unquestioned, and he has often been referred to as the “father of modern political science” in Romania. In 2006 Romania’s President Traian Basescu appointed him Chair of the Presidential Commission for the Analysis of the Communist Dictatorship in Romania. In 2006, President Basescu presented the conclusions of the Commission’s Report to a joint session of the Romanian Parliament, and in April, 2007 he appointed Professor Tismaneanu chair of the newly established Presidential Advisory Commission for the Analysis of the Communist Dictatorship in Romania. Currently, Professor Tismaneanu is working on two books: *The Devil in History: Communism, Fascism, and the Lessons of the 20th Century*, and *Two Sisters: Communism, Anti-Fascism and Jewish Identity*. 
Professor SUHEIL BADI BUSHRUI is a distinguished author, poet, critic, translator, and media personality, well known in the United States, Europe, and the Arab world. Widely recognized for his seminal studies in English of the works of W.B. Yeats and for his translations of Yeats’s poetry into Arabic, he is also the foremost authority on the works of Kahlil Gibran. In his capacity as the Founder and President of the International Association for the Study of the Life and Works of Kahlil Gibran, he collaborates with a network of international scholars and researchers.

In 2006, Professor Bushrui had the privilege of editing with Professor David Cadman a volume entitled *Selected Speeches and Articles of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales*. The book includes an introduction by University of Maryland President, Dr. C.D. Mote, Jr. and was published by the Center for Heritage Resource Studies.

This past June, the prestigious Congress of Protestant Churches of Germany invited Professor Bushrui, along with a distinguished group of international scholars and world leaders (including HH the Dalai Lama, Mikhail Gorbachev, HRH Prince Hassan, and Nobel Laureate Professor Mohamed Younes), to contribute to a book entitled *The Power of Dignity – Rethinking Globalization*, which was submitted to the recent G-8 Summit meeting.

Professor Bushrui is currently Director of the Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace Project at the Center for Heritage Resource Studies. He is the founder of the Bahá’í Chair for World Peace and served as the first incumbent from 1992 until 2005. He is also Senior Scholar of Peace Studies with the Center for International Development and Conflict Management, Senior Scholar with the Academy of Leadership, and Fellow of the Temenos Academy of London.

Professor Bushrui has received numerous honors and awards, including the Juliet Hollister Award given by the Temple of Understanding (a foremost interfaith organization) and an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Franklin & Marshall College in recognition of his international services to scholarship and intercultural understanding. His most recent award was the Interfaith Bridge Builder Award given by the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.

Nominations for next year’s awards will be accepted in Spring, 2008. An e-mail will be sent to all faculty at that time, requesting nominations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hosted by professor</th>
<th>Director (Country/Year)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, February 11</td>
<td>THE RETURN</td>
<td>Elizabeth Papazian, SLLC</td>
<td>Andrei Zvyagintsev (Russia, 2003)</td>
<td>A father returns after a 12-year absence and takes his sons on a “vacation” to a remote island in the north of Russia. The father-son dynamic uncovers, in the best Russian tradition, a reflection on existence itself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 10</td>
<td>CENTRAL STATION</td>
<td>Regina Igel, SLLC</td>
<td>Walter Salles (Brazil/France, 2000)</td>
<td>Dora, a dour old woman, works at a Rio de Janeiro central station, writing letters for customers and mailing them. When 9-year-old Josue’s mother dies, Dora travels with him to find his father.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 14</td>
<td>JAMÓN, JAMÓN</td>
<td>José María Naharro-Calderón, SLLC</td>
<td>Bigas Luna (Spain, 1992)</td>
<td>Jose Luis is an executive at his parents’ underwear factory, near a major highway, where his girlfriend Silvia works. When Silvia becomes pregnant, Jose Luis promises to marry her, most likely against the wishes of his parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 12</td>
<td>HAPPY TOGETHER</td>
<td>Jianmei Liu, SLLC</td>
<td>Wong Kar-Wai (Hong Kong, 1997)</td>
<td>Yiu-Fai and Po-Wing arrive in Argentina from Hong Kong and take to the road for a holiday, but something is wrong and their relationship goes adrift.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 12</td>
<td>LE GRAND VOYAGE</td>
<td>Valérie Orlando, SLLC</td>
<td>Ismaïl Ferroukhi (France/Morocco, 2004)</td>
<td>The pilgrimage of a French-Moroccan high-school student and his father to Mecca across two continents, in a broken-down car, reveals the tensions as well as the tenderness that can manifest between fathers and sons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 10</td>
<td>LILYA 4-EVER</td>
<td>Rose-Marie Oster</td>
<td>Lukas Moodysson (Sweden/Denmark, 2002)</td>
<td>A young girl in an unnamed Soviet Republic, abandoned by her mother and without a family, finds herself drawn into a vicious global circle of prostitution and sexual slavery. This film leaves no one in the audience outside its vision of unrelenting darkness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>