Dear Friends:

As I assume the duties of Director of the Institute for International Programs (IIP) at the University of Maryland, it’s clear that the campus has an extraordinary opportunity to create, with our many international partners, what President Loh has called the Globally Networked University. This gives IIP an important seat at the table as we showcase UMD’s international programs and work with the campus to enhance the international “brand” of the University.

This issue of Maryland International highlights the University of Maryland’s vision for a Globally Networked University: we seek to strengthen our reputation as a valuable international partner, developing an ethically responsible program of global engagement that is culturally respectful, collaborative, and proactive. And as a first step in this direction, we feature President Loh’s recent visit to China.

We also aim to build the global and cultural competence of our students—teaching them how to live, work, and thrive in an interdependent world. Future issues of Maryland International will feature student and program profiles that illustrate the ways the campus is succeeding in this endeavor.

Finally, I intend to use the talents residing within IIP to build the infrastructure to support this new and expanding array of global programs. I look forward to working both with campus colleagues and with external partners to implement the ambitious international agenda that President Loh has laid out for us.

Jonathan Wilkenfeld
Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for International Programs
features

UMD Strengthens Ties with China
During an overseas trip to China with Governor Martin O’Malley, President Loh focused on expanding the university’s educational, research, and economic development mission in collaboration with Chinese partners.

Madame Anita K’ung Celebrates New Chinese Language Scholarship
A 76th generation descendant of Confucius visited the Language House for a Chinese dinner and chat with seven UMD Chinese language students, who were all recipients of the new Ling-ho Anita K’ung Tong Scholarship for the study of language and culture in China.

Female Teachers in Liberia: Between Desire and Reality
A UMD research group in the College of Education recently conducted a study of factors that affect women’s choices to become primary school teachers in Liberia.

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To help position the University of Maryland to face the global challenges of the 21st century, President Loh traveled to China in May at the invitation of Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley. The goal of the joint trip—part trade mission and part exploration of relations with academic institutions—was to encourage Chinese collaboration in research, training, and job creation. In making the case for expanding the university’s educational, research, and economic development mission in collaboration with Chinese partners, President Loh was joined by Jonathan Wilkenfeld, the new Associate Provost for International Programs, as well as Saul Sosnowski, former IIP Director, and Kai Duh, head of the UMD-China Research Park. Several Deans already in China joined the delegation for parts of the trip.

The University of Maryland is a well-known and valued brand in China by virtue of programs such as the Smith School’s executive MBA degree in Beijing, the Nanjing master’s program offered by UMD’s Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and more than a decade of professional training for approximately 1,500 mid-career officials from Jiangsu Province delivered by the Maryland School of Public Policy (MSPP).

The UMD group visited Shanghai, Nanjing, and Beijing to meet with faculty, staff, and students from seven Chinese universities to discuss opportunities for deepening existing collaborations. In Nanjing, the delegation attended a graduation ceremony at which Governor O’Malley delivered the commencement address and Dean Don Kettl of MSPP awarded diplomas for an executive master’s in public management to 25 mid-level officials who had completed a year of study at the College Park campus. To support alumni outreach, the delegation met with graduates of the criminology and criminal justice program at Nanjing Normal University and discussed plans for a celebration next year at Maryland to recognize the 10th anniversary of their graduation. Many of these Maryland alums are now in high-level positions in China. In Beijing, President Loh and Dean Cheng-i Wei met with officials of the China Agricultural University (CAU) to consider ways to expand the current 2+2 program,
in which students take two years of coursework at CAU, then finish up at UMD, and receive degrees from both universities. Also considered was the possibility of multi-year faculty appointments for new PhDs from UMD to teach CAU students in English. President Loh met with President Zhang of Beijing Normal University where they discussed the creation of a Joint Institute on Global Change and Earth System Science. Finally, the delegation met with the officials of Hanban, also known as Chinese Language Council International, responsible for the founding of the first Confucius Institute in the world, located at UMD.

To spark innovative ideas about wholly new initiatives, the delegation met with key Chinese leaders. Minister of Education Yuan Guiren was receptive to creating new joint ventures. At the Ministry of Science and Technology, the president met with Vice Minister Jianlin Cao and his staff to brainstorm about extending the scope of the UMD-China Research Park, the first of its kind outside of China. The main purpose of this research park is to support the creation of high-tech enterprises. President Loh also signed licensing agreements covering R&D operations in solar energy, biotechnology, and water technology in the University’s international business incubator and discussed the possibility of establishing a leadership-training program at UMD for managers of new Chinese R&D plants.

The trip offered an important opportunity for the President to showcase an array of UMD programs that could represent templates for future collaborations, and to gain a better appreciation for the ways the UMD-China relationship can evolve in the future. As the trip concluded, President Loh asserted that “the opportunities for mutually beneficial UMD-China partnerships are limited only by our imagination and engagement.”

**China Task Force**

**FOLLOWING THE TRIP TO CHINA, PRESIDENT LOH formed a China Task Force, co-chaired by Dean Darryl Pines of Engineering and Dean Cheng-i Wei of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The goal of the UMD China Task Force is to develop a set of recommendations that will guide the university for the next ten years as it broadens and deepens its partnerships with China’s leading academic, governmental, and commercial institutions and strengthens its leadership position in China as one of America’s top public research universities.**

The University’s China strategy aims to ensure (1) that UMD faculty are engaged in collaborative research in and about China, (2) that UMD students are prepared to understand and respond to China throughout their careers, and (3) that UMD leads in conducting collaborative work with China and in attracting top Chinese scholars to its programs.

The China Task Force will report preliminary recommendations in early September, with a final report due in December 2011.
In his inaugural address, President Wallace D. Loh challenged the campus to become the Globally Networked University by deepening the cross-cultural competencies of our students, expanding the global content of our curricula, and strengthening our cross-border partnerships. In short, UMD will bring the world to our campus as we project our campus to the world. As it strives to become a university without borders, UMD will pursue an ethically responsible program of global engagement that is culturally respectful, collaborative, and proactive.

The Undergraduate Experience
The University of Maryland will encourage an increasing number of students to study abroad by integrating their international education experience into the general curriculum across all departments and disciplines. In addition, the University will develop programs that attract international students to study abroad here on campus—with Washington, D.C. as an attractive pull. To achieve undergraduate international enrollment parity with peer institutions, the University will enhance its international enrollment plan, create exchanges, including two-way 2+2 and 2+3 programs (that is, students at UMD and a partner institution spend two years at each university and receive degrees from both), and encourage international alumni involvement in expanding our global connections.

The campus will also seek ways to deepen and extend the impact of our students’ international experiences. Education Abroad is designing a one-credit “Connecting Across Cultures” program to help prepare and then debrief all students who participate in study abroad. And this year, students in the new Global Studies Minor in International Development and Conflict Management (MIDCM) plan to partner with returning participants in the Community Service-Learning program in Haiti, making them resource experts for the student-developed project proposals required in the Minor’s capstone course on the practical realities of international development. The collaboration will afford MIDCM students a heightened understanding of on-the-ground realities in Haiti, and the service-learning students the chance to reintegrate their experiences back into the classroom. See the Spring 2011, Vol. 1, issue of Maryland International for details on the new Global Studies Minor program.

Graduate and Professional Training and Research
The University recognizes the need for specialized training programs to ensure student success in the globalized economy. To that end, the campus will develop international partnerships that feature joint, specialized training programs. The Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship in the Smith School of Business offers programs for MBA students in the United States (UMD), Israel (Technion), and China (Peking University). In early 2012, the Global China Business Plan competition will expand to include 10 Israeli, 25 U.S., and 150 Chinese students.

Building on successes across several colleges, UMD will explore the utility and feasibility of creating an international training center based on clear faculty strengths, such as governmental relations, public policy and administration, criminal justice, university administration, and business entrepreneurship and innovation. In cooperation with Red Internacional de Institutos de Formación Directiva and led by CAME-Perú, the Smith School of Business currently offers a Global Professional Leaders program.

ZIYAN YANG, A 2+2 STUDENT FROM CHINA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY. Photo courtesy of Ziyan Yang.

2+2 Program in AGNR: A Student’s Perspective
Coming to the University of Maryland was very significant in my life because this is where I found my real interest in natural resource economics and development economics. UMD is a place where I developed my interests into a real career through the help of excellent faculty and fellow students. UMD is a very supportive university community, so I don’t want to say farewell after my graduation. And that’s why I have chosen to pursue my Ph.D. study in the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics in the fall.

An excerpt from a video testimonial by Ziyan Yang, class of 2011 and third cadre of China Agricultural University 2+2 students.
that is designed to deliver world-class executive education to Central and South American executives focused on building new markets and stronger, more sustainable companies.

The University will also create joint research institutes to explore new cooperative strategies and participate collaboratively in international research programs, to facilitate the exchange of researchers, data and equipment, and to cultivate a group of young scholars and research leaders. As a pilot test of this approach, UMD and Beijing Normal University (BNU) recently agreed to establish the Joint Institute of Global Change and Earth System Science. Several other joint institutes already exist, providing a model for the campus on how to build effective international partnerships. See article on page 4 for more on UMD’s collaborations with China.

**Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Strategic Partnerships**

President Loh has called on the university to build strategic partnerships that leverage innovation and seek to “translate the results of academic research into viable enterprises.” As UMD expands its partnering opportunities with commercial, governmental, and academic institutions, UMD will customize the template developed through its strategic training relationships with Chinese ministries and businesses—some in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development—to structure similar partnering opportunities in other regions.

The campus is just beginning the broader implementation dialogue, but what is clear is the depth of its commitment to becoming the public institution of choice for students, faculty, and staff committed to global engagement.

By Jonathan Wilkenfeld, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for International Programs

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Eight weeks ago we arrived in Haifa, Israel, with the goal of building businesses out of Technion-developed technology. We’ve met with business leaders, incubator directors, venture capitalists and industry experts; we’ve pitched our ventures every week and received tough but important feedback; and we’ve had access to industry advisors and mentors whose experiences in entrepreneurship have helped us navigate the intricacies of our own industries.

Last night was the culmination of this process, as we pitched our ventures to venture capitalists from top firms such as Bessemer, Sequoia, and Giza. All six of our international venture teams presented eloquently, expressing the problems our businesses solve, the markets they address, and the amount of funding required to make them profitable. We fielded tough questions from the panel, but after two months of habituation we were perfectly accustomed to the Israeli style of questioning.

Looking back on what we’ve accomplished, I am very impressed by our collective progress. Eight weeks ago we were presented with technologies in fields ranging from medical diagnostics to imaging and chemical analysis. We’ve taken these scientific innovations and built real business ventures out of them. The experience of building a business is truly priceless, and not something that many people can say they have done. From solving the problems we’ve encountered along the way to understanding the motivations and thought processes of venture capitalists that fund our ventures, we now possess the tools and experiences of seasoned entrepreneurs.

An excerpt from Andrew Giessel’s blog on the Smith in Israel 2011 program
Jonathan Wilkenfeld Named Director of IIP

This summer, Jonathan Wilkenfeld became the newest member of IIP as the Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for International Programs. Wilkenfeld joined the Maryland faculty in 1969 and has served the university in various positions, including chair of the Department of Government and Politics (1990-2002), member of the campus Academic Planning Advisory Committee (2000-2003), and member of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and chair of its Major Initiative Committee on International Programs (2007-2008). He is a professor in the Department of Government and Politics; and prior to joining IIP, he was director of the Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM). He has also been an affiliate faculty member in the UM Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (UMIACS) since 1995.

Wilkenfeld’s research in political science focuses on international relations, the origins and resolution of international conflicts and crises, and the use of simulation models to study the causes of conflicts and their resolution. He has been the co-director of the International Crisis Behavior Project since 1977, and he co-founded the International Communications and Negotiation Simulations Project (ICONS) at the University, an Internet-based distributed foreign policy simulation project that has reached students in hundreds of universities and high schools around the world for the past 30 years. He is also a co-principal investigator at the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). His research has been supported by external grants throughout his career, including continuous support since 1995 from the National Science Foundation, Department of Education, and more recently the Department of Homeland Security. He has been the recipient of the University of Maryland’s International Landmark Award in 2003, the Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Studies Association’s Foreign Policy Section in 2004, and the UM’s 2009 Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Award that honors faculty members who combine outstanding scholarship with teaching excellence.

With his new role at IIP, Wilkenfeld plans to work with both the provost and the president in the strategic planning and direction of the university’s international programs. See page 6 for his report on the vision for the Globally Networked University.

Madame Anita K’ung Celebrate New Chinese Language Scholarship

On May 11th, Anita K’ung (K’ung Ling-ho), a 76th generation descendant of Confucius, visited the Language House on campus for a heart-warming ceremony, which included a Chinese dinner and chat with seven UM Chinese language students. These students, who subsequently traveled to China on a three-week study tour with Language House Director Phoenix Liu, were all recipients of the new Ling-ho Anita K’ung Tong Scholarship for the study of language and culture in China. The study tour, which has now successfully taken place, was titled, “Exploring Confucius’ China.”

The seven award recipients greatly enjoyed an interesting and intense living and learning experience in China, where they had several hours of language study each day at Nankai University and participated in cultural mini-lessons as well. In Qufu, renowned for its historical context with Confucius, the students paid visits to ancient sites such as the Confucian Temple and the extensive Cemetery of Confucius. In Beijing, their tours extended to breathtaking sights such as the Great Wall and the Summer Palace. The students also learned how to serve and enjoy tea during a traditional tea ceremony and were introduced to basic movements in Taiji, one of the martial arts practiced across China by people of all ages.

Madame K’ung was surprised during the short ceremony at Maryland as she was invited to uncover
K’ung Spreads “Sage’s Earth” to Chinese Language Scholarship

a large earthenware urn filled with dense, reddish, powdery earth from the birthplace of Confucius in Nishan, Shandong Province, considered hallowed ground in Chinese tradition. Clearly moved, she noted: “This is where I will be placed one day to join my ancestors.” Madame K’ung is the first female descendant ever to be authorized for burial in the Cemetery of Confucius near his birthplace, and where previously only males in the direct line of the Great Sage could be buried—a high honor for her.

Madame K’ung circled the gardens just outside the Language House, anointing the ground with the “Sage’s Earth,” sprinkling it over the new seedling and offering a silent blessing for this new opportunity for Chinese language learners. “Even a small donation such as mine can make a big difference in whether or not students can go for study abroad,” she said. Awardees included Ben Cohen, Quinn Hartigai, Chelsea Persons, Esther Robinson, Xenia Strunnikova, Stephen Wong, and Dale Zhou who are all studying Chinese language and majoring in a variety of disciplines, including physics, government, psychology, accounting, and finance.

The Confucius Institute at Maryland (CIM), the first in the world, was established in 2004 in collaboration with the Chinese Language Council International, also known as Hanban, under the Ministry of Education in China. There are now more than 300 Confucius Institutes worldwide, with 70 of them in the United States. CIM promotes the study of Chinese language and culture and advances the understanding of China by providing non-credit Chinese language classes for children and adults at several levels and in various content areas. CIM also conducts a variety of events on aspects of Chinese society, art, education, history, and philosophy. The CIM sister-university in China is Nankai University, which supplies many of CIM’s Chinese language teachers.

In 2010, CIM launched a fundraising challenge and, in collaboration with Hanban, was able to raise $2 million toward new initiatives—part of this being in scholarship monies. The effort was supported generously by Madame K’ung, who donated funds toward the new scholarship in her name and provided the impetus for the special spring gathering at the Language House. This new scholarship will provide future opportunities for other students of Chinese to enjoy experiences in China “in the steps of Confucius.”

By Rebecca McGinnis, CIM

ANITA K’UNG (IN YELLOW STRIPED SHIRT) MET WITH PHOENIX LIU (HOLDING GIFT), PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE LANGUAGE HOUSE, AND SEVEN UMD STUDENTS.
In Africa, and other developing countries, girls face numerous barriers to receiving an education despite the long recognized importance and benefits of educating them. One major factor affecting access to a supportive educational environment is the lack of female teachers, making parents more reluctant to send their daughters to school. The African nation with the lowest percentage of female teachers is Liberia—only 12 percent of educators at the primary level and 5 percent of educators at the secondary level are female. These numbers are alarmingly low considering the importance of female teachers to girls’ educational enrollment, retention, and attainment.

Funded by a grant from the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), a non-governmental organization working in 32 African countries to empower girls and women, a UMD research group in the College of Education recently conducted a study of factors that affect women’s choices to become primary school teachers in Liberia. FAWE’s work includes support for gender research by African women to enhance girls’ education in sub-Saharan Africa and, most importantly, to facilitate the integration of gender into education policy and practice in the region. In fact, FAWE stipulated in their funding that each research team should include two female African researchers as mentees. Of the six projects funded, the Maryland group was the only research team not based in Africa.

Professor Steven Klees (International and Comparative Education) and Professors Jing Lin and Nelly Stromquist (International Education Policy), were the principal investigators for the study. The research team also included three Ph.D. graduates from the International Education Policy program at UMD. Truphena Choti (from Kenya), a Program Analyst at the National Education Association, and Carol Corneilse (from South Africa), an Interim Program Coordinator in the Office of the Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity, were the two mentees, and Caitlin Haugen was the team’s research assistant.

Immediately following the spring semester, Corneilse, Lin, and Stromquist traveled to Liberia where they interviewed in- and pre-service teachers, school administrators, faculty at teacher training institutions, union representatives, and international development professionals. The team found a country still struggling to overcome the legacy of a protracted civil war—nearly 80 percent of the schools were destroyed, and the existing schools lack basic infrastructure such as water, latrines, books, desks, and chairs.

While Liberia is moving toward equal rights for both genders, patriarchy is still pervasive and cuts across religious, linguistic, and ethnic groups. In almost every aspect of their lives—in health,
Female Teachers in Liberia: Between Desire and Reality

Women suffer disproportionately to men. Women face several cultural barriers to receiving an education—namely, the assumption that a girl is a resource for her husband’s family and thus her education is a poor investment, the common occurrences of early onset sexual activity and teenage pregnancy, and the expectation that girls attend “bush schools” and then marry. Also known as the Sande Society, “bush schools” provide girls formal education on issues regarding local history and genealogy, family life and sexual relations with husbands, as well as domestic skills (i.e., cooking, childcare) and social attributes (i.e., singing and dancing). Furthermore, a central function of these schools is the performance of female genital mutilation, which represents a major rite of passage from childhood to adulthood. Many girls do not return to regular school after attending “bush schools,” and, in fact, are soon afterward claimed for marriage—a marriage many described as being without the girl’s consent and even against her will.

Investment in Liberia’s education system on a national level is low, and combined with the cultural factors, a girl’s ability to enter and stay in school is severely compromised. Throughout the country, levels of sexual and gender-based violence are also extremely high. In rural areas, females contend with more disadvantages as well—with higher teenage pregnancy rates and up to 70 percent unlikely to have had any schooling—limiting access to education beyond primary school and greatly reducing their life chances. With few girls completing their education, even fewer women are available to become teachers at any level. The women who are able to complete their education and decide to teach do so out of a desire to work with knowledge and share it with others. However, a majority of potential female teachers have children and family responsibilities and cannot afford to go without an income while enrolled full-time in teacher training programs. Upon completing their studies, qualified teachers can expect low to no pay and teaching for many months without a salary due to inefficiencies in processing payments. They may also face difficult working conditions: distant schools, little or no access to housing, late salary payments, large classes filled with over-age students, and a lack of teaching materials. Rural conditions are major dissuading factors as well: poor quality roads, few transportation options, a dearth of safe housing, and lack of childcare services. Many Liberian women cite alternative careers, such as nursing and business, as more attractive and better paying options.

The findings of the six FAWE research projects shed light on how to redress the gender inequities that hamper a female’s right to education and meaningful participation in Africa’s social and economic advancement. The results and recommendations that emerged from the research were presented to a FAWE Board meeting in Nairobi in July where it was well received, and many participants strongly recommended that the study be replicated in other countries. The Maryland research team is now trying to identify potential funders to continue this important work. The studies will be published as part of FAWE’s Research Series. For more information on FAWE, visit www.fawe.org.

By Carol Corneilse, Office of the Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity
Most young people in Tanzania have never heard of the Maryland School of Public Policy (MSPP), but there’s one young man who has—Emmanuel Sulle. Through the generosity of those who saw his promise, Sulle has just completed his first year of studies at the School and has won the Conservation Research in Eastern Africa’s Threatened Ecosystems (CREATE) Research Award from the Frankfurt Zoological Society. During the winter break of 2011-2012, Sulle is planning to study the impact of microcredit institutions, which are in place within the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania.

“Emmanuel is a wonderful example of the School’s bridge across the ocean—of using the tools of public policy to improve the quality of life and to make a big impact on the world,” says MSPP Dean Don Kettl.

Sulle was working as a research associate at the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum when he was encouraged by UMD Professor Robert Nelson to apply to the MSPP program. Nelson’s son Fred, who worked 12 years in Tanzania on wildlife conservation, had worked with Sulle on two research studies—most recently the published report on “Biofuels, land access, and rural livelihoods in Tanzania.”

“We need more people like Emmanuel,” says Professor Bob Nelson, who also serves as Sulle’s informal mentor. “Unfortunately, they are hard to identify.”

Sulle is currently in Tanzania collaborating with the Maliasili Initiatives to undertake two research projects. “Emmanuel is in a position to take his MSPP education and make a serious policy impact in Tanzania,” says MSPP Student Affairs Assistant Director Taryn Faulkner.
Chinese Artists Perform at the Clarice Smith Center

In its 10th year, the Clarice Smith Center continues to put a spotlight on extraordinary artists by showcasing the power of art and ideas. This year, the Center has broadened this endeavor by welcoming international artists to campus. Last December, Susan Farr, Executive Director for the Center, was invited by China’s Ministry of Culture, along with several other university performing arts center directors, to visit China to attend performances of artists interested in touring in the United States. Two of the groups who performed plan to visit UMD this school year as part of the Center’s visiting artists series.

In September, AnDa Union, a Mongolian folk ensemble, will be performing at Maryland with traditional instruments like the morin khuur (horsehead fiddle) and singing in the khoomii style of overtone vocals, revealing a world that is largely hidden from view in the United States. Their music comes from each of the Mongol tribes that Genghis Khan unified, and the performers have different ethnic backgrounds, creating a richly diversified program with a pounding percussive pulse at its core.

The Chamber Ensemble of the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra also plans to offer the UMD community a chance to discover a new musical vocabulary in February through a concert of historical and contemporary Chinese music played on traditional Chinese instruments. The musicians perform large-scale Chinese orchestral works, as well as chamber and solo pieces, in this authentic expression of Chinese musical culture.

While at the University of Maryland, both AnDa Union and the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra will work with Professor J. Lawrence Witzleben and his students from the UMD School of Music on long-term changes in Chinese instrumental performances and the transformation of ethnomusicology in Asia, making far-off cultures at home on the UMD campus.

For more information about visiting artists, visit claricesmithcenter.umd.edu.

By R. Denise Williamson, School of Public Policy
Reflections on Tahrir Square:
Egyptian Student Leaders Discuss Arab Spring

On July 28, University of Maryland students and young professional staff enjoyed a unique opportunity to interact with some of the Egyptian student leaders who participated in this year’s February Revolution, which is transforming the Middle East. The 15 Egyptian visitors—from Cairo University, Alexandria University, and Fayoum University—were in the United States to participate in the Model American Congress (MAC) Program. MAC was set up in 2003 by the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and the U.S. Department of State to bring young Egyptian leaders to the United States for a multi-week introduction into the workings of our Congress.

Because of the extraordinary events of the past several months in Egypt, the organizers of the MAC program—The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), “a bipartisan, non-profit educational exchange organization dedicated to fostering relations between the next generation of political leaders in the United States and their counterparts around the world”—decided to arrange a forum for this year’s participants to discuss those events with U.S. co-evaluations and to hear about their American colleagues’ perspectives both on the Egyptian Revolution and also U.S. politics in theory and practice. UMD was ACYPL’s institution of choice for this discussion, which IIP staff arranged and convened in its offices. The ensuing conversation was electric, as participants from both countries struggled with large concepts such as the meaning of justice and the proper role in politics of institutions such as the military or organized religious groups. At the end of the meeting, it was clear that this session was only the beginning of conversations and relationships that those involved hope will continue into the future, whether through electronic media, such as email and Facebook, or by future encounters in both countries.

By Joseph Scholten, IIP

Biotechnology Collaborations Topic of Malaysian Visit

This summer, a delegation of Malaysian officials visited campus for an information session and discussion on potential collaborations and cooperative ventures. The Most Honorable Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin; His Excellency Dato’ Sri Jamaludin Jarjis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Malaysia to the United States; and Deputy Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation Datuk Haji Fadillah Bin Yusof led the delegation of more than 40 high-level officials to the Avrum Gudelsky Veterinary Center on the Maryland Campus of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) to hear presentations by faculty from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) and biotechnology industry representatives. In addition to representatives from institutions of higher education in Malaysia, delegates from various government agencies and private-sector biotechnology groups, including Malaysian Biotechnology Corp, attended as well.

After opening remarks by hosts Siba Samal of VMRCVM and AGNR Dean Cheng-i Wei, Yassin detailed Malaysia’s approach to biotechnology and its strategic focus for his country. He commended UMD—and AGNR in particular—for the progress made in establishing productive collaborations in such a short time since the ambassador and a team from the Embassy visited the campus earlier this year. Several presentations were given on topics such as cooperative work and novel approaches to producing vaccines, global biotechnology public-private sector initiatives, production of biofuel and biomass, nanoparticle growth in plants to produce useful and novel products, use of biotechnologically produced food ingredients, and other possible opportunities for future collaboration and exchange.

Adapted from materials from the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
The University of Maryland’s new vice president for research, Patrick O’Shea, proposes an aggressive plan to build the university’s regional, national, and global research profile, with an emphasis on transdisciplinary, large-scale national and international collaborations. UMD must leverage its special location “inside the beltway,” and further advance the University’s Research Park, M’Square, O’Shea asserts.

“Size matters when it comes to research impact, and this heightens the importance of collaboration with all sectors,” he explains. “Downsizing of corporate research labs is increasing the importance of academic research. Strong university-industry ties are critical to the economic future of our country. The University will play an increasing role in strengthening the government-university-industry triangle in a way that is symbiotic to our mutual interests.” To address President Loh’s strategic priorities of innovation, entrepreneurship, and internationalization, O’Shea promises greater rewards for faculty innovation and new initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship, tech transfer, and commercialization.

He emphasizes the need to establish a vibrant “ecosystem” at UMD to promote diverse research, scholarship, and creativity of the highest caliber. “Issues and challenges that were once considered local are now global. Though the scale has changed over the millennia, the nature of the challenges has not. Water, health, energy, environment, food, information, infrastructure, transportation, and security are still the key issues that require transnational approaches. As a globally engaged research university, the University of Maryland will explore solutions that are diverse, adaptable, creative, innovative, entrepreneurial, and culturally competent.” In addition, the Division of Research will promote the creation of innovative, product-based companies.

Before he assumed his new post this summer, O’Shea was chair of the largest department in the A. James Clark School of Engineering, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and co-director of the Maryland Cybersecurity Center, a cross-campus initiative launched last fall.

Adapted from materials by Neil Tickner, University Communications

International Photo Contest

Have you traveled abroad recently and captured something spectacular with your camera lens? We want to see! Enter your best digital photos, and you could win big.

Visit the website for complete details!

www.international.umd.edu/studyabroad/8650
To submit story ideas and photos, please contact the editor, Vivian Hayward, at vhayward@umd.edu or 301.405.4312