PHOTOS: All photos are submissions to the OIP International Photo Contest, which received 135 student submissions to the “People & Animals,” “Landscape & Architecture,” and “Representations of Peace” categories. (Cover) Malnourished Children Responsible for Care Giving in Northern Uganda, by Laoura Maratou; (Inside) Generations, by Sofia Weller; (Back) The Natural Mirror, by Quanli (Shally) Deng.
UM Community United to Spark Change in India
From faculty and student exchange programs, to research endeavors, the UM community is committed to cultivating an ongoing relationship with the region and its peoples.

Ambassadorial Lecture Series Brings Cyprus and Vietnam Closer to Campus
Cyprus Ambassador shares prospects for Cyprus’ reunification in the face of Turkish occupation; Vietnam Ambassador works to strengthen ties with U.S.

Two Iconic Asian Leaders Lecture at UM
Former Vice President of Taiwan, Lien Chan (pictured above, second from right, with President C.D. Mote, Jr., left) and Wan Gang, China’s Minister of Science & Technology, build bonds with the University.

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10 Around Campus University welcomes new cohort of Humphrey Fellows; Maryland State Senator Jim Rosapepe works to strengthen ties to China; Dr. Yoram Peri appointed Director of Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies; Human Development Professor Judith Turney-Purta receives international psychology award; UM earns record research funding; Beyond the Classroom brings African issues closer to campus in lecture/film series.
India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition.

—Mark Twain
When looking ahead to predict India’s growth, one must start by looking back. The nation began as a vast empire of trade routes and Mughal kings; a land steeped in tradition yet bursting with innovation. Despite its culture and commercial wealth, India was also a nation of British occupation. It was not until the people banded together in non-violent resistance that they earned their freedom, and the world witnessed the power of unity.

Years later, India now poised at the apex of a social and economic boom. Already, it is the second-most populous country in the world; educates some of the most renowned scholars on Earth; and may overtake the U.S.’s GDP by 2050. Yet, under the veil of such growth lies a hidden India - the land of poverty, illness, malnutrition and disease. It has the largest concentration of poverty in the world, with half of its children underweight - and such numbers are not expected to decline anytime soon.

Just as India taught the world to unite toward a common goal, so are a group of UM faculty and staff united with the Indian nation to spark change. Collaborations from people like Donna Howard - a Fulbright Pai Scholar, who is starting her own study abroad program with an Indian university - or Bettye Walters - who facilitates two-way exchange programs with an Indian veterinary school - are building bonds and making impacts. Here are their stories.

Dave Thirumalai
Brings Research Project to Bangalore

Disease knows no borders or boundaries; consequently, scientific research must also encompass all regions of the globe. Institute for Physical Science & Technology Professor Dave Thirumalai is committed to this notion, and routinely travels abroad to collaborate on international research projects. This coming January, Thirumalai will travel to Banagalore, where he will spend three weeks researching at The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS).

Thirumalai’s current work focuses on proteins and RNA and how they function in a cellular context; he hopes that the implications of his work will benefit people everywhere. “Proteins perform most of the functions in cells, by interacting with other proteins, RNA, and DNA; if they don’t interact correctly, you get diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s,” explains Thirumalai. “Ultimately, we want to understand why this interaction sometimes goes wrong - it is a simple problem with a huge significance.”

Thirumalai says collaborations like these are important to the global community and UM. “By doing overseas research, we experience new methodologies, and tap into different talent pools. Additionally, such collaborations spread the word about UM, and encourage international students to come to campus,” he explains. “Overseas research is a large tentacle that has many smaller offshoots.”

Miriam Phillips
Explores Traditional Indian Dance Form

While a teenager in high school, new Assistant Professor in the Department of Dance, Miriam Phillips, fell in love with North Indian Kathak dance, and in college, Spanish Flamenco; she has since spent much of her life practicing and researching both forms. Her devotion led her on a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to India, Spain, and the Middle East, which she turned into a three-year sojourn that explored the heart of both dance forms.
“In college, I was dancing both forms, and noticed a lot of similarities, even though both cultures were so far from each other,” explains Phillips. “I used this seeming connection as the basis of my Fellowship.”

Phillips arrived in India with a list of prominent Kathak dancers, in the hopes of studying the form under the tutelage of master dancers. By luck, she was able to observe the class of Pandit Birju Maharaj, seventh generation of the Lucknow lineage of Kathak dance masters. To aid her research, he instructed his senior most disciple, Saswati Sen, to give Phillips private lessons three times a week. Phillips says this experience and her immersion into the culture was paramount to her research. “I was just dropped in, and immersed into the weave of the culture, and the way of life from which the forms came,” she says.

Although Phillips now does research in other dance forms, she is currently working on a book about Kathak and Flamenco dance, which she hopes to publish in the near future. “The purpose of my work is not to say that Flamenco comes from Kathak, or vice versa...I have looked at the similarities, but also the differences,” explains Phillips. “I have worked for many years to approach the question of what is so alike between Kathak and Flamenco, with the hope that it will one day lead to discovering why this is so.”

**Bettye Walters**

**Runs Veterinary Programs in India**

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has long been a player in the international arena, and in the past years has expanded its repertoire of collaborations to include India. Since 2007, UM’s Department of Veterinary Medicine, one of three member campuses of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM), has been cultivating burgeoning international programs which, says Director of VMRCVM’s International Activities Bettye Walters, are essential in our interconnected world.

“India is a rapidly emerging global presence, so cross cultural competency is increasingly important,” says Dr. Walters, “These programs provide students a variety of hands-on opportunities and unparalleled opportunities for animal and disease research.”

Currently, the College runs a two-way student and faculty exchange program with Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in Chennai, India; has participated in three international conferences on food animal production and evolving technologies; and coordinates a student program in Haryana, India.

**Study Abroad Program**

**Immerses Students in Indian Culture**

This coming January, students have the chance to escape the cold - and earn course credit - by spending their winter break in Amritsar, Punjab. The study abroad program, *Child and Adolescent Development: Cultural Perspectives* is a three-week course that gives students a glimpse into Indian culture and a view of how physical, social, and emotional contexts affect human development.

During the program, students take classes at the Khalsa College of Education; visit nearby Indian classrooms for observation; and travel to Agra, Jaipur and Delhi to explore the history, society and economic conditions of the region.
Donna Howard Expands Her India Experience

Fresh from a half-year abroad in India as a Fulbright PI scholar, Professor of Public & Community Health Dr. Donna Howard is now building upon her international experience to enrich the UM campus. She spent her time in the Department of Community Medicine at Manipal University, where she worked with colleagues to study dating relationship attitudes and practices (profiled in Maryland International, Fall 2008 Vol. II). And now, Dr. Howard is committed to facilitating a relationship between Manipal University and UM.

“Manipal University has just started a Masters in Public Health Degree program, and I hope to interface with that,” she says. Dr. Howard has also created a UM study abroad program, East Meets West: Contrasting Public Health Priorities, Pragmatics and Polemics in the U.S. and India, which will run this January at Manipal University.

Ultimately, through her continued engagement, she hopes to share with UM the significance of international experiences. “I feel more strongly than ever that it is my civic and moral responsibility to be an ambassador of goodwill for my country,” Dr. Howard explains. “I feel a commitment to work for tolerance, peace and social justice. The Fulbright program has catalyzed this spark and India has burnished the inward light that will continue to inspire me.”

Fulbright scholarships are available to interested parties at either educational institutions or NGOs. Visit CIES (www.cies.org) and USIEF (www.usief.org.in) for more.

University Researchers Explore Indian Youth Culture

Drs. Sondalde Desai and Reeve Vanneman of UM’s Department of Sociology have examined the heart of Indian youth culture through a 41,554 household multi-topic survey on the Indian transition to adulthood.

“Families and communities must balance two competing demands: providing adolescents with sufficient personal skills to cope with potentially risky situations, while at the same time minimizing the likelihood that they are exposed to such risks,” explain the researchers. Both began by surveying 17,000 youth in 2004-05 on their health, education, and family backgrounds, and Drs. Desai and Vanneman will return to survey the same group in 2011-12.

Their Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) is widely used and analyzed in both India and the U.S. Earlier this year, both researchers presented their results to India’s Planning Commission, which directs two-thirds of India’s development expenditure. Intrigued by the survey, the Commission provided a letter of support for future program activities. This, coupled with a grant from the National Institute of Health, will allow their data collection efforts to continue. Visit www.ihds.umd.edu for more on their research.

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OIP Associate Director Joseph Scholten maintains a discussion group for all faculty whose professional work or interest involves India. To be included on the list, e-mail him at scholten@umd.edu.
The Office of International Programs held its annual International Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 19, 2009. Provost Farvardin presented the Distinguished International Service Award, which recognizes significant contributions to the development of international programs at UM, to James Greenberg; Provost Farvardin also presented the Landmark Award, given for exceptional long-term achievements in support of international life at UM, to John Townshend.

Dr. James Greenberg received the Distinguished International Service Award. Dr. James Greenberg is Director of the new Office of International Initiatives and of the College of Education K-16 Partnership Development Center. He was Founding Director of the University of Maryland Center for Teaching Excellence, as well as the founding Honors Director in the College of Education. Recently, he also served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in South Africa; Senior Fellow at the National Center for Urban Partnerships (NCUP) in New York; Visiting Fellow at the University of Pretoria in South Africa; and as invited keynote speaker and workshop leader at the University of Concepción in Chile and the University of Lima in Peru.

For many years Dr. Greenberg has been an invited speaker and workshop leader in Ecuador, where the first Diplomado in University Teaching in Ecuador – designed and taught by Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Roberta Lavine, and colleagues – was recently completed. He has accomplished many other projects in Ecuador and in countries all over the world. He is the recipient of numerous awards, both on campus and off, and has been the keynote speaker at many conferences. During the past ten years alone, he has received four University awards for outstanding teaching and leadership. He has served as a consultant to schools and school systems, colleges and universities, federally and corporate sponsored projects, and both U.S. agencies and local universities in several foreign countries.

He earned his A.B. in Classics at Brown University in 1964, earned a M. A. in Education at the University of Connecticut in 1967, and a Ph.D. in Education, Curriculum and Supervision at the University of Connecticut in 1969. He is past President of the Maryland Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and has served as co-Chair of the Professional Experience Design Team of the State of Maryland Task Force on Teacher Education Redesign. His list of memberships, and leadership positions within them, is outstanding; and his thirty-five years of service to the University has added greatly to its success.
Dr. John Townshend received the Landmark Award.

Dr. John Townshend was appointed the Dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, effective July 27, 2009, and has already succeeded in using his unique brand of leadership to effect changes. He has started work to fulfill his stated goals for the College of building more cross-disciplinary cooperation and research; responding to major research opportunities; increasing state/university support; emphasizing an entrepreneurial focus on fund raising across the college; forming strategic partnerships to benefit research and academic programs; enhancing excellence in teaching and service; increasing faculty diversity; and fostering inclusiveness and intra-college cooperation.

Arriving at the University in 1989 as Chair of the Department of Geography, Dr. Townshend used his talents to enable the department to become a recognized leader in the use of satellite technology to study changes in the terrestrial environment and determine how those changes reflect and impact social, political, economic, environmental, and other conditions of human life. During his time as chair (1989-1995 and 2001-2009), the department has achieved higher levels of excellence on many fronts.

Dr. Townshend earned his BSc (1967) and Ph.D (1971) from University College London. Before coming here, he held positions at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, the University of Reading (England), Clark University (Massachusetts), and the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). His current research focuses on the rates and causes of vegetation cover change, especially deforestation, through the use of remotely sensed data from satellites. He is also the Principal Investigator of the University’s Global Land Cover Facility, which houses the largest open access non-governmental online collection of Landsat satellite data in the world.

He was recently named an Honorary Fellow of the UK Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society. He has also won the Royal Geographical Society’s Back Award, the Outstanding Achievements Award from the Association of American Geographers, and the William T. Pecora Award for Outstanding Leadership in Advancing Global Remote Sensing. We are happy to add the Landmark Award to this list.

Nominations for next year’s awards will be accepted in Spring 2010. An e-mail will be sent to all faculty at that time, requesting nominations.
In the early morning hours of July 20, 1974, Turkish troops illegally invaded Cyprus using as a pretext a coup instigated by the then military junta in Greece. As a result of the invasion, 5,000 Greek Cypriots were killed, and 200,000 were forcibly expelled from their homes and properties. Today, 35 years later, Turkish troops continue to occupy 37% of Cyprus’ territory — and the world barely pays notice to this flagrant violation of international law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, says His Excellency Andreas S. Kakouris, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus, in a recent installment of the OIP-sponsored Ambassadorial Lecture Series.

“Prior to the Turkish invasion, Greek and Turkish Cypriots intermingled throughout the island; but as a result of the occupation, they are separated along ethnic lines, and Greek Cypriots are still unable to return to their homes,” explained Ambassador Kakouris. “Turkey has implanted 160,000 illegal Turkish settlers into the occupied area, and maintains 43,000 troops there.”

Negotiations between the President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community Mehmet Ali Talat began in September 2008. The Ambassador underlined that “the current process is a Cypriot owned process, which must lead to a solution for the Cypriots and by the Cypriots. For this to happen, Turkey must be productive both in the process and in the outcome of the solution which will be a bizonal, bicommmunal federation.”

Ambassador Kakouris described the value added that Cyprus brings as “the European Union’s lighthouse in the Mediterranean.” He noted also that today, “Greek and Turkish Cypriots, as EU citizens, can work in Ireland, reside in France or study in Germany.”

The Ambassador said that Cyprus supports Turkey’s aspirations to join the European Union, but noted that “this support is not a blank check, and that Turkey must meet its obligations. In essence, Turkey, which is seeking to join the European Union, is occupying European Union land,” he added. “Ultimately, a solution that reunites the island, its people, its institutions, and the economy, is not only in the best interests of the Cypriot people, but also in the best interests of Turkey, and serves U.S. interests for international peace and security in the region,” the Ambassador said.
On October 27, 250 students, faculty and staff gathered in the Howard Frank Auditorium at UM’s Robert H. Smith School of Business to welcome His Excellency, Le Cong Phung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States. Mr. Phung’s visit was the latest in the ongoing Ambassadorial Lecture Series, co-sponsored on this occasion by the Smith School. BMGT Dean Anand Anandaligam introduced UM President Dr. C. D. Mote, Jr., who offered the official welcome to Amb. Phung, noting the rapidly growing connections between UM and Vietnam. For his part, Amb. Phung also emphasized the remarkable turnaround in attitudes of Vietnam and the U.S. toward each other as we approach the fifteenth anniversary of the normalization of relations.

He began by noting that U.S.-Vietnamese ties go back more than a century, and that the bitter conflict of the 1950s-1970s marks a departure from the “natural friendship” that has been the norm. Amb. Phung also noted that Vietnam is now a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the U.S.’s main regional partner, and will assume the rotating Chair role in 2010. Vietnam also holds a non-permanent seat on the UN’s Security Council, alongside the U.S. representative. Additionally, Vietnam’s National Police collaborate regularly with the U.S. against international terrorists. “These interactions have allowed Vietnam and the U.S. to begin to believe in each other, and trust each other, again,” said Amb. Phung. “Yes, Vietnam and the U.S. must recognize their differences; but we must work to make those differences small, and our friendship ever bigger.”

Amb. Phung pointed out that Vietnam, not China, has the world’s fastest growing economy, and trade with the U.S. skyrocketed to $13 billion in recent years. However, if that growth is to continue, the country’s education system must be modernized, and Amb. Phung indicated that Vietnam is looking to the U.S. to help it achieve that goal. At present, 10,000 Vietnamese students study in the U.S each year, mostly in graduate programs (including at least 24 at UM). By 2020, Vietnam hopes that number will double. Ambassador Phung closed by expressing his view that Vietnam needs a strong relationship with the U.S., and the U.S. needs a strong relationship with Vietnam.

By Joseph Scholten, OIP

MARYLAND SENATOR JIM ROSAPEPE VISITS CHINA’S HANBAN

During a trip to Beijing this summer for a foreign policy conference, I had a chance to see firsthand the strong ties between the University of Maryland and China. Most importantly, I visited Nankai University and its Elementary School in Tianjin, which are partnering with UM and Paint Branch Elementary School in College Park. Nankai sponsors the elementary school, and its students come primarily from families of people who work or study at the University. I also met with top officials at Hanban, China’s agency that promotes Chinese language study and cultural education around the world. The Confucius Institute at UM was launched by Hanban and UM is its first center in the U.S. We discussed ways to expand Chinese language education, in line with the recommendations of the state’s 2008 Heritage Language Task Force on which I served. Hanban has already provided a Chinese language teacher to Paint Branch this year - the first Chinese language program in a public elementary school in Prince George’s County. Finally, even when I wasn’t looking for Terps, I found them! I learned that the man briefing us at the Chinese Finance Ministry, Shaolin Yang, earned his graduate degree at UM.

By Jim Rosapepe, Maryland State Senator
For decades, the debate over Taiwan’s political sovereignty has generated an often-strained relationship between the former and the People’s Republic of China. However, the last 30 years have brought a subtle shift towards peaceful negotiations, and much of this has been the work of Dr. Lien Chan, former Vice President of Taiwan and Honorary Chairman of Taiwan’s Kuomintang (KMT) political party.

Dr. Lien spoke this past September on “Sixty Years of Cross-Straits Relations: From Conflict to Conciliation,” to a packed audience of students, educators, public, and mass media. His lecture, which was co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs and the Office of the President, briefed attendees on the history of diplomatic relations between the two neighbors, and emphasized conflict resolution as a method of reconciliation.

Dr. Lien made headlines in 2005, when he traveled to China to meet with leaders of the Communist Party of China. This historic visit – the highest level of exchange between the KMT and the Communist Party in 60 years – was hailed as groundbreaking by the international community, and sparked dialogue between the two parties that continues to the present day. “I went there in order to reduce tension and to search for peace and stability,” says Dr. Lien. “There was a public commitment on both sides to this very important issue.”

During the visit, Dr. Lien and other leaders, including People’s Republic of China President Hu Jintao, were able to affirm that Taiwan is, indeed, part of China. Both sides were also able to shelve their differences in the search for common ground. “Political issues cannot be avoided or postponed, even if they are very difficult or complicated. It came time for us to consider the problem and do something,” he cogently recalled. “In the end, goodwill was shown, mutual trust was established, and opportunities for a better, peaceful future opened up.”

Dr. Lien has stayed true to his commitment to peace, following his 2005 visit by another in 2008 with President Hu Jintao. Although a peace agreement has not been signed between Taiwan and Mainland China, Dr. Lien noted that the process of peace is a slow and subtle one. Eventually, he hopes hostilities across the strait will end, confidence levels raised on both sides, and a gathering momentum for peace built.

While the future of diplomatic relations between the two neighbors remains to be seen, Dr. Lien is certain about one thing – both sides have come a long way towards diplomacy, and their work will have lasting effects. “I’m sure our children or our grandchildren will definitely feel proud of this generation, for what we have been doing in furthering the search for peace, development, cooperation, reciprocity, and a win-win situation for all,” said Dr. Lien.
NEW BUSINESS INCUBATOR DEDICATED AT UM BY CHINESE MINISTER

Professor Wan Gang, Minister of Science and Technology for the People’s Republic of China, visited UM on October 16 to dedicate the University of Maryland-China Research Park, a new incubation effort by the Ministry to help Chinese companies expand internationally.

The UM-China Research Park is one of just five such initiatives established by the Ministry worldwide, and the only one of its kind in the U.S. Professor Wan Gang spoke at a special ceremony and cut the ribbon dedicating the Research Park, along with UM President C. D. Mote, Jr.; Christian Johansson, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED); and Chinese Minister Liu Guanyuan.

Afterwards, the delegation was hosted by Dr. Darryll Pines, Dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering, for a briefing on energy research at the University. The delegation was then welcomed for lunch at the President’s house by Mrs. Patricia Mote.

UM-China Research Park tenants get modern, furnished office space right next to the University. Companies can use it as a base for their development operations, access talent and research facilities at the University and receive vital services from the facility’s operator, UM’s Mtech, the Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute.

High-tech firms frequently seek locations close to a major research university to benefit from its expertise and talent. The Research Park encourages research collaboration in such areas as health care, environment, agriculture, energy and fire protection.

“The State of Maryland already has a significant presence in the global market, but this research park is another boon to the State’s efforts to enhance the economy,” said Mote. “The Park can house 10 to 25 company start ups, which will likely stay in Maryland, and further stimulate the growth of high-wage, high-knowledge jobs.

Six companies or organizations moved into the Research Park the day of the dedication, including: Beijing Grandsoft Company, Beijing Oil Tec Petroleum Technology LLC, Beijing Sino-American Venture Capital LLC, Shandong Province Liaison Office, UK CommunityDNS, US-China Training Services Inc., and Wuxi ToaTek.

BY ERIC SCHURR, MTECH DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Photos: (above right) Professor Wan Gang lectures at UM; (left) UM President C.D. Mote, Jr., and Prof. Wan Gang cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially dedicate the UM-China Research Park.
Last year, when Dr. Yoram Peri was on sabbatical in Washington, D.C. from his native Tel Aviv University in Israel, he never dreamed he would embark on a new career as the Director of UM’s Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies. Now, having assumed the post this past September, Dr. Peri is working to chart a course for the fledgling Institute, to strengthen its research, teaching, and community outreach bases. But first, to understand the aims of the Institute, it is best to start with the background of the Director.

Q: Welcome to Maryland, Dr. Peri. Can you please elaborate on your background, prior to coming to UM?
A: I actually had three careers. The first was journalism - I was a journalist since very young, and most recently was the Editor-in-Chief for Davar newspaper. That was one life. The other was politics. I was involved in many positions, the last was as Political Advisor for Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The third career was in academia, as a professor. I spent five years at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and in 2001 moved to Tel Aviv University.

Q: What are the particular research foci that you bring to the Institute?
A: I wrote many books about the political role of the military. However, when I left my paper and joined Hebrew University, I shifted my interest to the media because of my experience in journalism. Now I am working on a book about media and national security, which really combines the two fields. It will have a global focus, although Israel will be the main case study – it has such a strong story!

Q: The Institute for Israel Studies is relatively new – incorporated in 2008. How do you see the Institute growing over the immediate future?
A: I am working on a vision planning process now. The most important question is how we brand the Institute – there are so many other organizations in the Washington region that work on the field of Israel. We must determine our forte and how to make an impact.

Q: What are the areas you hope to develop, as you strengthen the Institute?
A: Generally speaking, there are three areas for us. First, we would like to enlarge the scope of teaching of Israel. We will develop a core curriculum, which will include politics, culture, society, the conflict, and a variety of other courses. I want to also bring in more professors, and implement E-Learning, so local Israelis can teach classes via web cam, and explore new topics with our students. Second, I would like to develop the research field. There is little research done on areas apart from the conflict. I want to develop these other areas because it has an impact on the posture of Israel in the world. Finally, I would like to become heavily involved in community outreach, both with the University at large and the community beyond, to make them aware of Israel and Israeli culture. This would also allow us to participate in public discourse about Israel; I envision us working with policy makers to inform them about Israel.

Q: How do you hope to strengthen your presence here at the University?
A: I really would love to cooperate with other units, departments, groups, and faculty on joint projects. Often if you deal with Israel, you only focus on one thing – the conflict. But there are many other aspects that are so fascinating, and I want Israel to be seen in a wider sense. Therefore, I would love to cooperate with others on campus – if they have any ideas or interest, and I can be of help, I would love to participate.

Dr. Yoram Peri can be reached at yperi@umd.edu, or via the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies, 0140 Holzapfel Hall.
UM PROFESSOR RECEIVES NOTABLE PSYCHOLOGY AWARD

Dr. Judith Torney-Purta, Professor of Human Development, was a recent recipient of the American Psychological Association’s 2009 Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology. Torney-Purta, who has conducted research for nearly 40 years on young people’s knowledge of democracy, was honored for her lifetime contributions to developing civic knowledge around the world; promoting international collaborative research; and infusing her teaching with an international perspective.

NEW MUSKIE FELLOWS JOIN UM

This past September, UM welcomed two new international students from the U.S. Department of State’s Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program. Joining the UM family are Rashad Aliyev from Azerbaijan, and Saule Kussayeva from Kazakhstan. The Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program, which was first established by the U.S. Congress, is a highly competitive program that aims to promote mutual understanding; build democracy; and foster intensive academic study and training for fellows from 12 countries of the former Soviet Union. In addition to academic coursework, Muskie fellows perform community service and complete an internship in their particular field of study.

UM STUDY ABROAD OFFICE CO-HOSTS D.C. CONFERENCE

On October 24, UM’s Study Abroad Office co-sponsored the Life After Study Abroad Conference in conjunction with the Washington Area Study Abroad Network (WASAN). Over 100 study abroad alumni from WASAN member schools, including 15 UM study abroad students, gathered at The George Washington University in Washington D.C. to network with peers and continue their international involvement, as many conference participants prepare for graduation. Conference speakers included representatives from government agencies, non-profit organizations, embassies, and the private sector.

UM EARNS RECORD FUNDING

UM brought in more than $518 million in research funding in fiscal year 2009, a record amount that firmly places the University in the top 10 of all universities nationwide without a medical school. Recent major awards include $14 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to establish an Energy Frontier Research Center; $93 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites; and $22.7 million to ARHU’s National Foreign Language Center to extend their STARTALK program, an effort to expand education in the seven languages deemed critical by the federal government.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM BRINGS AFRICA TO CAMPUS

Beyond the Classroom, an undergraduate living-learning community devoted to exploring civic and social issues on a global scale, is sponsoring a semester-long Faculty & Film Series on Africa. Fifteen free events, ranging from film screenings to lectures, are offered this semester. A few events yet to come include: a Nov. 23 film screening of “As We Forgive,” a documentary on Rwandan genocide; a Nov. 30 screening of “The Reckoning: The Battle for the International Criminal Court,” which chronicles the first court to prosecute crimes against humanity; and “Invisible Children” on Dec. 7, which follows the campaign to rebuild Ugandan schools. For more info, please visit www.beyondtheclassroom.umd.edu.
To submit story ideas and photos, please contact the editor, Kellie Corcoran, at corcoran@umd.edu or 301.405.4772.