All cover photos were finalists in the IIP International Photo Contest: Widows, in Nepal, by Ashwini Sebastian (cover); Ireland Countryside, by Alexandra deSibour (inside cover); Istanbul, by Selin Balcı (back cover).

2010 INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

features

Israel Ambassador Visits UM
Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Michael B. Oren discusses the special and complex nature of the U.S.-Israel relationship from a historical and very personal perspective.

The Peace Corps’ 50th Anniversary
During International Education Week, many of UM’s returned volunteers gathered at a reception to celebrate the Peace Corps’ first 50 years. UM is one of many institutions in the United States commemorating the massive grassroots response that has sent more than 200,000 Americans overseas for volunteer service.

Smith School in Israel
This past summer, MBA students from the University of Maryland traveled to Haifa, Israel, for a 10-week internship as part of the Global Technology Entrepreneurship Certificate Program. During their internship, students simulated the creation of a startup company.

also in this issue

6 Around Campus
2010 Arab Public Opinion Poll: Michael Oihadi Returns to Campus After Eight Years in Abu Dhabi; Wallace D. Loh Appointed President of the University of Maryland; Brazilians Come to Maryland on Student Exchange; UM establishes new ties with Russian Universities; Language Science Day 2010; Introducing the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences; Bestselling Author visits Maryland.

12 IIP News
Masa Israel Journey Awards Grant to UM Education Abroad; IIP recognizes UM Commitment to Internationalism in Awards Ceremony; Students Explore Ways to Use Their International Experience.

Maryland International is the newsletter of the Institute for International Programs (Saul Sosnowski, director; Joseph Scholten, associate director) and the interconnected group of offices under its auspices, including Office of International Services (Barbara Varsa, interim director), Education Abroad (Michael Ulrich, director), the Maryland-China Initiative (Robert Daly, director), and the Confucius Institute at Maryland (Chuan Sheng Liu, director). Issues are published twice during the fall and spring semesters and once during the summer. To submit story ideas and/or photos, please contact the editor, Vivian Hayward, at vhayward@umd.edu or 301.405.4312.
Israel Ambassador to U.S. Visits UM to Discuss U.S.-Israel Relationship

A true litmus test of any alliance, says Michael B. Oren, is not whether the parties agree on everything, but on how they get beyond disagreement.

The economy, technology, policy coordination, and alternative energy sources were among a few examples presented by Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Michael B. Oren, to help explain the vast and complex relationship shared between the United States and Israel. Oren also acknowledged points of contention, including the status of Jerusalem and disagreements over settlements. What they do have in common, he said is “a shared dream of a prosperous, peaceful Middle East.”

Oren, who is also a distinguished historian, gave the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies’ annual Dubin Lecture, co-sponsored by IIP, on October 14, 2010. The Institute, housed in the College of Arts and Humanities, is dedicated to the study of Israel and its place in the region.

There is no one more qualified to help students understand the history and nuances of the U.S.-Israel relationship than Ambassador Oren,” said Yoram Peri, Abraham S. and Jack Kay Chair for Israel studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The highly anticipated campus lecture was met with support as well as opposition. While Oren’s speech and a later private meeting with students were filled to capacity, about 20 students stood for a range of departments and centers that focus on Middle East studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The economy, technology, policy coordination, and alternative energy sources were among a few examples presented by Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Michael B. Oren, to help explain the vast and complex relationship shared between the United States and Israel. Oren also acknowledged points of contention, including the status of Jerusalem and disagreements over settlements. What they do have in common, he said is “a shared dream of a prosperous, peaceful Middle East.”

Oren, who is also a distinguished historian, gave the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies’ annual Dubin Lecture, co-sponsored by IIP, on October 14, 2010. The Institute, housed in the College of Arts and Humanities, is dedicated to the study of Israel and its place in the region.

There is no one more qualified to help students understand the history and nuances of the U.S.-Israel relationship than Ambassador Oren,” said Yoram Peri, Abraham S. and Jack Kay Chair for Israel studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The highly anticipated campus lecture was met with support as well as opposition. While Oren’s speech and a later private meeting with students were filled to capacity, about 20 students stood for a range of departments and centers that focus on Middle East studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The economy, technology, policy coordination, and alternative energy sources were among a few examples presented by Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Michael B. Oren, to help explain the vast and complex relationship shared between the United States and Israel. Oren also acknowledged points of contention, including the status of Jerusalem and disagreements over settlements. What they do have in common, he said is “a shared dream of a prosperous, peaceful Middle East.”

Oren, who is also a distinguished historian, gave the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies’ annual Dubin Lecture, co-sponsored by IIP, on October 14, 2010. The Institute, housed in the College of Arts and Humanities, is dedicated to the study of Israel and its place in the region.

There is no one more qualified to help students understand the history and nuances of the U.S.-Israel relationship than Ambassador Oren,” said Yoram Peri, Abraham S. and Jack Kay Chair for Israel studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The highly anticipated campus lecture was met with support as well as opposition. While Oren’s speech and a later private meeting with students were filled to capacity, about 20 students stood for a range of departments and centers that focus on Middle East studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The economy, technology, policy coordination, and alternative energy sources were among a few examples presented by Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Michael B. Oren, to help explain the vast and complex relationship shared between the United States and Israel. Oren also acknowledged points of contention, including the status of Jerusalem and disagreements over settlements. What they do have in common, he said is “a shared dream of a prosperous, peaceful Middle East.”

Oren, who is also a distinguished historian, gave the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies’ annual Dubin Lecture, co-sponsored by IIP, on October 14, 2010. The Institute, housed in the College of Arts and Humanities, is dedicated to the study of Israel and its place in the region.

There is no one more qualified to help students understand the history and nuances of the U.S.-Israel relationship than Ambassador Oren,” said Yoram Peri, Abraham S. and Jack Kay Chair for Israel studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The highly anticipated campus lecture was met with support as well as opposition. While Oren’s speech and a later private meeting with students were filled to capacity, about 20 students stood for a range of departments and centers that focus on Middle East studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The economy, technology, policy coordination, and alternative energy sources were among a few examples presented by Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Michael B. Oren, to help explain the vast and complex relationship shared between the United States and Israel. Oren also acknowledged points of contention, including the status of Jerusalem and disagreements over settlements. What they do have in common, he said is “a shared dream of a prosperous, peaceful Middle East.”

Oren, who is also a distinguished historian, gave the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies’ annual Dubin Lecture, co-sponsored by IIP, on October 14, 2010. The Institute, housed in the College of Arts and Humanities, is dedicated to the study of Israel and its place in the region.

There is no one more qualified to help students understand the history and nuances of the U.S.-Israel relationship than Ambassador Oren,” said Yoram Peri, Abraham S. and Jack Kay Chair for Israel studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The highly anticipated campus lecture was met with support as well as opposition. While Oren’s speech and a later private meeting with students were filled to capacity, about 20 students stood for a range of departments and centers that focus on Middle East studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The economy, technology, policy coordination, and alternative energy sources were among a few examples presented by Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Michael B. Oren, to help explain the vast and complex relationship shared between the United States and Israel. Oren also acknowledged points of contention, including the status of Jerusalem and disagreements over settlements. What they do have in common, he said is “a shared dream of a prosperous, peaceful Middle East.”

Oren, who is also a distinguished historian, gave the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies’ annual Dubin Lecture, co-sponsored by IIP, on October 14, 2010. The Institute, housed in the College of Arts and Humanities, is dedicated to the study of Israel and its place in the region.

There is no one more qualified to help students understand the history and nuances of the U.S.-Israel relationship than Ambassador Oren,” said Yoram Peri, Abraham S. and Jack Kay Chair for Israel studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.

The highly anticipated campus lecture was met with support as well as opposition. While Oren’s speech and a later private meeting with students were filled to capacity, about 20 students stood for a range of departments and centers that focus on Middle East studies and director of the Gildenhorn Institute.
2010 ARAB PUBLIC OPINION POLL

This summer, UM’s Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development Shirley Telhami polled nearly 4,000 people in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates for his annual Arab Public Opinion poll. The results show a clear triangular relationship between Arab attitudes toward the Obama administration, the pro-peace sentiment, and the degree of support for the Iranian nuclear program.

THE UNITED STATES: In contrast with the 2009 poll, this year only 15 percent are hopeful about American policy in the Middle East. Further, results show a dramatic change in the perception of President Obama, whose disapproval ratings jumped from 23 percent to 62 percent. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict remained the single most disappointing issue for 61 percent of voters. On the positive side, 20 percent identify attitudes toward Islam as the policy issue they are pleased with most, while 13 percent identify economic aid as positively. THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT: Despite pessimism, 86 percent of Arabs polled are prepared to accept a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders. In the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, 46 percent say the most central issue is creating a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, while 31 percent identify Arab sovereignty over East Jerusalem as most central to them. IRAN: As in 2009, a majority of those polled continue to believe that Iran is trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction. However, 77 percent now say that Iran has the right to its program, with 57 percent saying that a nuclear-armed Iran would be more positive for the Middle East, in contrast with 29 percent the previous year.

WORLD VIEW: Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan emerged for the first time as the single most popular world leader. As in previous years, the vast majority of those polled continue to identify Israel and the United States as the two most threatening states.

MEDIA: The use of the Internet continues to expand with 40 percent using the web several times a week. 23 percent go primarily to Arabic websites. In terms of television viewing habits, most respondents report watching multiple sources for international news with Al Jazeera leading as their first choice, although the number dipped from 55 to 39 percent. And, 61 percent say they watch American and European movies, shows, and music videos almost daily.
Michael Ohadi Returns to UM After Eight Years in Abu Dhabi

Professor Michael Ohadi has returned to the Department of Mechanical Engineering after eight years of service at the Petroleum Institute (PI) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Ohadi recently stepped down from his position as provost and acting president of the institution.

Ohadi originally was invited to take an administrative position at PI, and after an initial visit, he recognized an opportunity to impact the growth of the institute. During his time at PI, Ohadi helped foster a relationship between the University of Maryland and the up-and-coming institution. His work was vital to establishing tangible connections between the energy sector of the Middle East and UM.

“I worked closely with the university there to establish confidence in what UM can do for them,” he said. Ohadi was also responsible for establishing a multi-phase collaboration between the Petroleum Institute and UM, with the initial phase lasting for two-years followed by a “three-year Phase II project.” Phase I has already concluded, and by the end of Phase II, $10 million will have been spent towards developing research and educational opportunities.

“This has been an excellent opportunity for UM to enter the fast-growing educational and research market in the Middle East,” Ohadi said. “I want to take this opportunity to thank both the governing board of the Institute for their trust in what UM could offer to the PI, as well as the leadership of College Park, particularly former President Mote and Provost Farvardin, for their keen support in making this relationship happen.”

Through this experience, Ohadi learned an important lesson about the growing necessity of international collaboration. In light of increasing globalization and evolving technology, he noted that international collaborations in research, education, and special programs are “a must” for academic institutions aspiring to be “leaders in the field.”

Comparing PI and UM, Ohadi asserted, “In general, PI’s curriculum is based on an American system of education, and the language of instruction for all courses is English, thus...there is not much difference between the two programs.” While this is especially true for undergraduate programs in engineering, he remarked that graduate studies and research programs are better established at UM due to the graduate program’s lengthy existence and the superior research infrastructure supporting American universities.

The ongoing teaching and educational activities between PI and UM, including joint research projects, will provide Ohadi with an opportunity to periodically visit his former institution. Ohadi will miss more than the non-academic side, I’ll also miss the fresh and affordable first-class seafood, fresh fruits, and fresh vegetables, as well as the...Middle Eastern hospitality.

Moving forward, Ohadi plans to use his experience in Abu Dhabi to help expand current international collaborations. Additionally, he plans to foster new national and international relationships in the energy industry. Ohadi will also teach undergraduate and graduate courses in Energy Production and Management Systems.

Wallace D. Loh Appointed President of University of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents recently appointed Wallace D. Loh as president of the University of Maryland, College Park (UM), USM’s flagship institution.

“Dr. Loh is the right person to lead our flagship university to its next level of greatness,” says Clifford M. Kendall, chair of the Board of Regents. “His wealth of experience and achievements in higher education demonstrate his strong commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service and demonstrate his exceptional ability to move institutions forward.”

Loh has more than 30 years of experience in higher education. Before joining UM, Loh served as executive vice president and provost of the University of Iowa with oversight responsibilities for budgets, personnel, and planning in the university’s 11 colleges and other academic units. He also oversaw the implementation of the university’s strategic plan that emphasized focused excellence in research and graduate education, expanded undergraduate enrollment and student success, internationalization and diversity, and partnerships with community colleges. Through his leadership, Iowa increased the number of honor, minority, and international students; improved retention; expanded international exchanges; and increased administrative efficiencies and effectiveness.

Loh also served as dean and professor of public service and psychology at Seattle University (1995-2006), director of policy and chief policy adviser for the State of Washington’s Office of the Governor (1997-99), vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of faculties at the University of Colorado-Boulder (1995-97), and dean and professor of law at the University of Washington Law School (1990-95).

In addition, during his service in Washington state government, he assembled and staffed then-Governor Gary Locke’s blue-ribbon “2020 Commission on the Future of Postsecondary Education.” The commission’s work led to the implementation of the “Washington Promise Scholarship,” expanding affordable access to higher education to thousands of low- and middle-income students.

“Dr. Loh brings a remarkable intellect, talent, and life experience to the University of Maryland, College Park, the University System of Maryland, and the state,” says USM Chancellor William E. Kirwan. “His focus on excellence, inclusion, internationalization of higher education, cross-disciplinary research, and community outreach mirrors the priorities of the system and the campus. We feel privileged to welcome him to our community.”

Loh was born in Shanghai, China, and immigrated to the United States with his family to Lima, Peru. After graduating from high school, he moved to Iowa, supporting himself through higher education. He holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, an M.A. in psychology from Cornell University, and a B.A. in psychology from Grinnell College.

Among his distinctions and awards are his election as president of the Association of American Law Schools, the 1993 National Asian-Pacific American Bar Association’s “Trailblazer Award,” and honorary degrees from Grinnell College and Iowa Wesleyan College. The students of the University of Washington Law School named him “Outstanding Professor of the Year.”

“I am thrilled to join the University System of Maryland to work together with the other presidents—under the leadership of the Regents and Chancellor Kirwan—for the advancement of the state’s public higher education system,” says Loh. “I am deeply honored to be entrusted with the stewardship of the flagship institution at College Park. Its rapid ascension to national eminence is truly remarkable, a testament to the accomplishments and dedication of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters of the university.”

—President Wallace D. Loh

By Anne Moultrie, Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications, USM
The Institute for International Programs held its annual International Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 18, 2010. President Wallace D. Loh presented the Distinguished International Service Award, which recognizes significant contributions to the development of international programs at UM, to Rajarshi Roy; Provost Naranman Farvardin also presented the Landmark Award, given for exceptional long-term achievements in support of international life at UM, to David Crocker.

**Dr. Rajarshi Roy received the Distinguished International Service Award**

Dr. Rajarshi Roy was born in Calcutta, India, and grew up in Delhi, where he studied at St. Stephen’s College at Delhi University. He traveled to Rochester in upstate New York for graduate study in Physics, where he met his thesis advisor, Leonard Mandel, and his desire to become a theoretical particle physicist fell by the wayside. He discovered what he had always wanted to do—to design small-scale tabletop experiments and explore the nature of light and its interaction with atoms and molecules. Understanding order and randomness in light and matter has been a passion ever since.

After receiving his Ph.D. in 1981 from the University of Rochester, Roy went to Boulder, Colorado, as a postdoctoral research associate to work at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics (JILA) and then became chair of the School of Physics at Georgia Institute of Technology in 1982. After 17 years at Georgia Tech, he was recruited by the University of Maryland to set up a laboratory for research on the nonlinear dynamics of optical devices and systems. Since 1999, he has worked in the Department of Physics, the Institute of Physical Science and Technology (serving as the director of IPST since 2003), and the Institute for Research in Electronics and Applied Physics (IREAP). He has supervised—individually or jointly—the Ph.D. theses of 26 graduate students, including eight from the University of Maryland, and worked with many postdoctoral fellows and visiting faculty over a period of 30 years.

About five years ago, he attended a workshop in Trieste at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, which led to his organizing a series of schools on Hands-on Research in Complex Systems, in partnership with Ken Showalter of West Virginia University, Harry Swinney of the University of Texas at Austin, and K. R. Sreenivasan of New York University. Three such programs have taken place so far in India (Ahmedabad, 2008), Brazil (São Paulo, 2009) and Cameroon (Buea, 2010). Three more are currently in the planning stages. The two-week long schools are designed to introduce graduate students and young faculty from developing countries to tabletop scientific research on problems at the frontiers of science. Experiments on physical, chemical, and biological systems are conducted with modern, yet inexpensive, analog and digital instrumentation, and the laboratory work is complemented by mathematical modeling and data analysis using Matlab. The participants are able to introduce new tools and demonstrations into the classroom and teaching laboratories and to use these new tools in their own research. Thus, the hands-on schools foster the development of scientific leaders in less developed countries.

**Dr. David Crocker received the Landmark Award**

Dr. David A. Crocker joined the University of Maryland in 1993 and is a Senior Research Scholar at UM’s Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy and the School of Public Policy. He specializes in international development ethics, sociopolitical philosophy, transitional justice, democracy, and democratization. Offering graduate courses in ethics, development, foreign aid, democracy, and human rights, Crocker helped establish and directs the School’s specialization in International Development—the School’s largest and fastest growing program. He also directs doctoral dissertations on ethics and global issues. In 1998, he started the Development Circle, a bi-weekly speaker-forum that addresses ethical issues in international development. In 2009, he shared with Herman Daly the School’s award for “Outstanding Faculty Member.”

Since 2007, Crocker has been director of the College Park Scholars Public Leadership program, an undergraduate living-learning-service program for 150 freshmen and sophomores. In this program he treats global leadership, citizenship, and civic engagement, exemplified by people such as Nelson Mandela, Greg Mortenson, and Wangari Maathai. This year, he led a study abroad trip to Peru to study “Development, Democracy, and Human Rights in Peru.” In January, he will direct his third study abroad trip to Morocco, where the group will study “Culture and Human Rights—A Public Leadership Perspective.”

After three degrees from Yale University (M.Div., M.A., and Ph.D.), Crocker taught philosophy for 25 years at Colorado State University, where he established one of the world’s first courses in ethics and international development. He was a visiting professor at the University of Munich, was twice a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Costa Rica, held the UNESCO Chair in Development at the University of Valencia (Spain), and taught at the National University of Honduras and the University of Chile. He was chair of the American Philosophical Association’s Committee on International Cooperation, an officer of the Human Development and Capability Association, and a founder and president of the International Development Ethics Association. He has been a consultant with the Inter-American Development Bank, USAID, and the World Bank.

Crocker has given 250 invited lectures or conference papers in English or Spanish in 25 countries. His most recent publications are Ethics of Global Development: Agency, Capability, and Deliberative Democracy (Cambridge University Press) and “Comercio, reducción de pobreza, y democratización: Hacia un círculo virtuoso.” A study in progress, entitled “Reckoning with Past Wrongs: Ends, Means, and Cases,” evaluates the experiences of Chile, East Asia, Morocco, South Africa, Spain, and the United States.
Brazilians Come to Maryland on Student Exchange

The UM Department of Environmental Science and Technology (ENST) and the Institute for International Programs (IIP), in cooperation with Maryland-Rio Partners of the Americas, hosted nine Brazilian university students and one professor this summer. The exchange program focused on ecology and natural resources management and has been ongoing since 1993. Every other year a group of Brazilian students and one or two professors come to Maryland, while in the alternating years, a similar group from Maryland travels to Brazil. Participating universities in Brazil are Universidade Federal Fluminense and Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ). This year, the exchange was led by Dr. Lowell Adams, an ENST professor and past participant in the program this year. Chuquin, now a visiting the District Department of the Environment, where two Environmental Science and Policy (ENSP) student interns and past participants in the exchange to Brazil, Desiree Simmons and Charlene Wu, met with the group along with several Washington, D.C. employees. In addition, Amanda Chavenson, an ENSP student interning at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, helped the students learn about the importance of wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Kate Biessell and Ana Chuquin, former UM students who made the exchange trip to Brazil in 2007, also helped with the program this year. Chuquin, now with the National Park Service’s Center for Urban Ecology, arranged an outing with park service experts in Rock Creek Park.

By Lowell Adams and Silvia Goi, professors in the Department of Environmental Sciences at UFRRJ.

Students learned about academic programs and research at Maryland and were introduced to many surrounding parks, labs, NGOs, and other institutions.

Discussions and field trips included visiting the District Department of the Environment, where two Environmental Science and Policy (ENSP) student interns and past participants in the exchange to Brazil, Desiree Simmons and Charlene Wu, met with the group along with several Washington, D.C. employees. In addition, Amanda Chavenson, an ENSP student interning at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, helped the students learn about the importance of wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Kate Biessell and Ana Chuquin, former UM students who made the exchange trip to Brazil in 2007, also helped with the program this year. Chuquin, now with the National Park Service’s Center for Urban Ecology, arranged an outing with park service experts in Rock Creek Park.

Bisell set up an afternoon meeting with officials of the Inter-American Development Bank focused on Brazilian projects supported by the Bank.

Support for the exchange was provided in part by a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State through Partners of the Americas, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, and the University of Maryland (IIP, Latin American Studies Center, and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources).

By Lowell Adams and Silvia Goi

International Workshop on Carbon Markets in Emerging Economies

International climate policy is increasingly favoring the use of emissions trading systems to reduce the emissions that lead to climate change. The world’s largest and most rapidly developing economies—including Brazil, India, South Korea, and China—are therefore likely to experience increasing carbon prices through expansion of domestic and international greenhouse gas markets. Yet this rapid change remains largely unstudied in the emerging economies, with little systematic investigation of the process by which firms enter and participate in carbon markets in different country or sector contexts. The University of Maryland—in collaboration with the University of California, Santa Barbara; and the Instituto de Eletrotécnica e Energia, the Institute for Advanced Studies, and Escola de Artes, Ciências e Humanidades at the University of São Paulo, Brazil—is planning an upcoming workshop, funded in part by the U.S. National Science Foundation, to examine this process in greater detail in the Brazilian context.

The workshop organizers—Professors Nathan Hultman (UM), Simone Pulver (UC Santa Barbara), Adelé Melges de Andrade (Universidade de São Paulo), and Sergio Páez (Universidade de São Paulo)—hope to advance scholarship and understanding in areas of business investment decisions under international carbon markets in emerging economies and to enhance the international network of scholars, researchers, and practitioners. Another workshop in New Delhi, India, is scheduled for mid-January.

By Nathan Hultman, Professor, School of Public Policy

UM Establishes New Ties with Russian Universities

In an effort to strengthen the commercialization of Russian universities’ intellectual property—a fairly new and somewhat controversial idea in Russia—the U.S. Russia Foundation for Economic Advancement and the Rule of Law (USRF) is funding a new project, Enhancing University Research and Entrepreneurial Capacity (EURECA), for Russian universities to collaborate with U.S. counterparts in order to learn about technology transfer and other approaches to working with industry.

The University of Maryland was chosen—along with UCLA, the University of Washington, and Purdue University—out of 14 universities that applied to the EURECA project. This fall, a Russian delegation visited campus as part of its 10-day program, a kick-off to the EURECA project. The day began with a visit to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR), where the group interacted in a live link with UM faculty in Moscow and learned of AGNR’s internet-based videoconferencing technologies for collaborative work. The group also met with various UM faculty across campus including Asher Epstein, director of the Dingman Center; Kallaya Prasad, director of the Smith School CIBER; Dennis Wood, director of the IRIS Center; Gayatri Varma, director of the Office of Technology Commercialization; Gary Rubloff, professor of materials science and engineering; Kai Duh, director of Maryland International Incubator; Dave Barbe, executive director of Mtech; and Brian Damody, associate vice president for research and economic development.

Following the 10-day program, training will continue in both countries, with the hope that UM will gain new partnerships in Russia as well as connecting other U.S. organizations and business-incubator groups with Russia. As past President C. D. Mote, Jr. stated in his welcome remarks, ‘‘Russia has had great experience working within a centralized, ‘top-down’ science and technology environment. . . . But less well-developed is its bottom-up culture of innovation that starts with individuals and leads to organizations that create enterprise and start-up companies, and leads to inspiring innovators and entrepreneurs who will subsequently engage and compete in the global market place. The U.S. experience, and that of the University of Maryland, universities play an important role in each other, and partnerships, highlights the important role that in cultural transformation to the grass-roots level. Though we will learn a great deal from develop long-term, on-going friendships, and engagement.’’
W hen Senator John Kennedy arrived in Ann Arbor, on October 14, 1960, after a long day of campaign ing for president and a debate against his main opponent, Richard Nixon, he was astounded to find thou sands of students still awaiting him outside the steps of the Michigan Union around 2 a.m. He only spoke for three minutes, and instead of delivering his standard speech, he ad-libbed a series of challenges to the crowd, draw ing inspiration from its energy and idealism: How many of them who were training to be doctors would be willing to volunteer a couple of years of their lives to work in Africa or Latin America on behalf of world peace? Within a few short days, thousands had signed a hand-written petition and sent it to the Kennedy campaign. It was out of that grassroots reaction that has sent more than 200,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) out of this nation’s borders in the name of world peace? Within a few days, the Peace Corps was born.

Introduction of the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences

On October 4, the College of Chemical and Life Sciences and the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences combined to present the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS). This change will position the campus to take advantage of new research and educational opportunities that cross the boundaries of biology; the physical, earth, and computer sciences; and mathematics. The integration will enhance opportunities for collaboration; increase resources for, and output in, research; and provide opportunities for the development of innovative new educational programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Professor Steve Haferman is serving as dean of the CMNS through June 30, 2011. A search for a new dean of the integrated college will begin soon. For more information, visit www.cmns.umd.edu.

Bestselling Author

Visits Maryland

Gurchuran Das, renowned international businessman (former CEO of Procter & Gamble India) and bestselling author (India Unbound, a narrative account of India from independence to the global information age, available in 17 languages and filmed by BBC) visited UM on September 29, at the invitation of the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) in UM’s Robert H. Smith School of Business. Das attended a luncheon for UM business students and spoke about his recent book, The Difficulty of Being Good: On the Subtle Art of Drama, to a larger gathering of students, faculty, and staff from across the university. The latter work interrogates the Hindu epic, Mahabharata in order to answer the question, “why be good?” Das noted, for example, a famous incident in Mahabharata in which a character comments: “No man of mettle can abide seeing his neighbor’s fortunes rise while his decline,” as a different angle of approach to the great “ sins” of capitalism and socialism: greed and envy, respectively. Mahabharata, in Das’ view, does not provide a prescriptive list of dos and don’ts for humanity, but rather a handbook/toolkit for “doing right” (dharma) amid the often conflicting “goods” of life. For Das, great leaders and organizations all share two traits: dedication and humility. For future events in the CIBER Distinguished Speakers series, visit www.rhsmith.umd.edu/ciber.

Language Science Day 2010

This semester, the University hosted arguably the largest and most integrated community of language scientists in North America. The first annual Language Science Day brought together the cross-disciplinary community of language science students and faculty to improve awareness of the rich opportunities for language science at UM. The event showcased research activities and opportunities, increased student awareness of training possibilities, and jumpstarted potential interdisciplinary connections.

Language Science Day, organized by students in the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program, was sponsored by the NSF-IGET program on the Biological and Computational Foundations of Language Diversity, by the Center for Advanced Study in Language, and by the Department of Linguistics.

Students Explore Ways to Use Their International Experience

Education Abroad recently held a special event for students who studied abroad this past spring and summer. The event was designed to help students develop concrete ways to discuss their international experience with employers and graduate schools; explore new options for studying, working, and volunteering abroad; learn about national scholarship opportunities for further education abroad; reconnect with friends from their program; and reflect on the cross-cultural skills they developed while abroad. The event included a raffle to encourage students to engage in all of the planned activities. Richard Solaski was the lucky raffle winner of a $100 travel voucher, graciously donated by STA Travel. Student feedback was extremely positive and attendees felt they gained a great deal from the afternoon’s programming.

14 | MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL
To submit story ideas and photos, please contact the editor, Vivian Hayward, at vhayward@umd.edu or 301.405.4312