A view of Machu Picchu in Peru (front cover). UMD students in the Terrapin Take Off program in Norway (inside cover). Newari women in the ancient city of Bhaktapur located in the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal, by UMD student Ashwini Sebastian (back cover).
UMD Students Respond to Global Hunger Challenge

This past spring, students were challenged to form a team and produce a robust project proposal that presented an unexpected and out-of-the-box solution to the global challenge of feeding nine billion people by 2050. 14 UMD students responded—one of the largest turnouts from a single U.S. university.

International Scholarship Honors Roberta Ma’s Legacy

The Roberta Ma Scholarship—named after Dr. Roberta Ma who first opened her home to international students attending UMD in 1960—is awarded annually to international students meeting specific academic and financial qualifications.

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This past spring, students were challenged to form a team and produce a robust project proposal that presented an unexpected and out-of-the-box solution to the global challenge of feeding nine billion people by 2050. And to make things a little harder, they were asked to do this over the course of only six weeks, amid the other preoccupations of a typical college student. This was the international Thought for Food Challenge to which 14 UMD students recently responded—one of the largest turnouts from a single U.S. university.

Team CIVICUS—which included UMD students Heather Moldofsky, Vanessa Jarnes, Ben Jaffe, Ryan Greenstein, and Javier Scott from the eponymous BSOS-sponsored Living and Learning Program—developed the W.I.T.S. proposal, for “Water Is The Solution.” Team MEGA—which included UMD students in the Gemstone Living and Learning Program Jessica Lu, Kevin Li, Adam W. Louie, Kelly Misner, and Luke O’Connor—proposed “Maximizing Efficiency of Greenhouses Using Aquaponics.” Team University of Maryland—which included UMD students Alex Krefetz, Gabrielle Rovegno, Leah Schleifer, and Jessica Rupprecht—had the idea to “reFarm” through “an educational extension program that aims to inspire young adults to consider a career in agriculture.”

Between mid-March and May 1, each team was tasked with four missions, supported by the Challenge’s sponsoring organizations—Ashoka Changemakers, Syngenta corporation, and the Sandbox Network, the foremost global network of social entrepreneurs aged 20 to 30. Mission One: Research & Understand Global Food Issues, with educational background materials provided by Thought for Food. Mission Two: Brainstorm Ideas, with the help of a kit designed to spark creativity and unleash great ideas. Mission Three: Create and Publish the Project Proposal, assisted by mentors ready to provide advice and input on any team needs by utilizing a web-based publishing platform developed by Thought for Food. Mission Four: Conquer Social Media, with expert tips, tricks, and support that enhance the team’s ability to garner support among voters. Those voters’ support—a sign of a proposal’s ability to create mass awareness, to stand out and get noticed—was one of four criteria used by judges to choose five finalists from among 74 participating teams around the globe. Proposals were also rated on their likelihood to incite social change—to challenge people to think, act, and behave differently on a daily basis—to last beyond the duration of the competition and disrupt the status quo through a breakthrough approach.

None of the UMD teams made this top cut, to pitch their idea before the annual Thought for Food conference in Berlin this past fall, where first or second place awards were $10,000 and $5,000, respectively, to support the further development of their proposal. Team MEGA, however, garnered nearly 1,500 votes in online balloting, and was given a special invitation to attend, present, and observe—all at the expense of Syngenta. Team member Jessica Lu commented, “It was an incredible experience. There was so much energy at the conference, and we met so many innovative young thinkers from all over the world. We’re so grateful to have the opportunity to share our project in Berlin—it was definitely a once in a lifetime experience!”

By Joe Scholten, Office of International Affairs

“It was an incredible experience. There was so much energy at the conference, and we met so many innovative young thinkers from all over the world.”

—UMD student Jessica Lu
Hunger Challenge

PHOTO ABOVE: Although Team MEGA wasn’t a finalist in the 2013 Thought for Food Challenge, the UMD team received a special invitation to attend, present, and observe at the conference in Berlin.

PHOTO TO RIGHT: Team MEGA prepares their application for the Thought for Food Challenge.

Photos courtesy of Team MEGA.
University of Maryland Senior Erin Hylton, a civil engineering major, has been named a 2014 Marshall Scholar. Selected from a pool of more than 900 nominees nationwide, she is one of approximately 40 recipients of the scholarship, which fully supports two years of graduate study in the United Kingdom.

“Erin’s achievement places her in the front ranks of aspiring global leaders and reminds us all of the outstanding caliber of Maryland’s students,” says Professor Richard Bell, UMD’s faculty advisor for U.K. postgraduate fellowships.

Founded by a 1953 Act of the United Kingdom Parliament, and named in honor of U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall, the Marshall Scholarships commemorate the humane ideals of the Marshall Plan, which contributed vitally to the reconstruction of Europe following World War II, and they express the continuing gratitude of the British people to their American counterparts.

Hylton, who is currently studying in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has focused her academic and future professional pursuits on water resource engineering and aims to devote her career to improving water resource access and quality in the developing world. With the support of the Marshall Scholarship program, Hylton will first pursue a master’s degree in hydrology and sustainable development at Imperial College London, followed by a master’s degree in water science, policy and management at the University of Oxford. According to Hylton, “Water is our most basic and precious natural resource, and its allocation must be balanced across a variety of conflicting uses, from irrigation and energy to sanitation and consumption. As a Marshall Scholar, my studies will prepare me to design and execute context-sensitive water management practices that will help propel us toward a sustainable hydrologic future.”

At UMD, Hylton has served as president of Engineers Without Borders and co-founder and president of Maryland Sustainability Engineering. A member of the University Honors Program and a Federal Semester participant, Hylton has held internships with the Environmental Protection Agency and with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA. She has conducted research on the robustness of mathematical models used to estimate the magnitude of extreme flooding events. After her junior year, she carried out an independent summer research project in Sao Paulo, Brazil, analyzing the social and ecological impacts of the Belo Monte dam project. During her senior year she studied abroad in Denmark, where she took graduate-level coursework in civil engineering.

Hylton has received numerous awards and citations for academic excellence and civic contributions from the Clark School and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She is a previous winner of two national scholarships—a 2012 Udall Scholarship recognizing her environmental leadership and a 2013 Boren Scholarship to pursue advanced Portuguese language studies in Brazil.

Students interested in learning about the Marshall Scholarships and other national scholarship opportunities should contact the National Scholarships Office at www.scholarships.umd.edu.

By Francis DuVinage, National Scholarships Office and Maryland Center for Undergraduate Research

Preparing for college is often the main focus after graduating from high school, but some Terps break the mold and do something extraordinary—they study abroad through Terrapin Take Off. Terrapin Take Off is a group of short-term study abroad programs led by University of Maryland faculty and open to students accepted to UMD. Before they even set foot onto campus for their first semester, students come together over the summer to participate in three-credit courses taught in Italy, China, Norway, or the United Kingdom. Subject areas range from adventure leadership to grand challenges in engineering.

UMD Sophomore Naya Frazier is one of these extraordinary students. As an international business major and international development and conflict management minor, she knew that studying abroad would be an important part of her undergraduate career at UMD. Terrapin Take Off offered her a great way to start school and a chance to get to know people before coming to campus. Frazier participated in the Terrapin Take Off Norway adventure leadership program. For her, Norway presented a completely different experience where she was able to push herself and get out of her comfort zone. Not only was she able to expand her horizons while hiking up a mountainside, but also meet new challenges and develop her leadership skills working in a team. The opportunity to participate in diverse experiences in study abroad continues to support her academic goals.

Since participating in Terrapin Take Off, Frazier has not only been able to connect with people across campus but she also participated in the Maryland Social Entrepreneur Corps program in Nicaragua. “Studying abroad not only allows you to grow, but make connections and network with people from different backgrounds and viewpoints. You get transferable skills for academics and life,” says Frazier. Before graduating, she hopes to do a full semester abroad to continue her studies and assist with her future career development.

To learn more about Terrapin Take Off, visit ter.ps/takeoff.

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UMD student Naya Frazier

By Deborah Lake, Education Abroad
For the third year in a row, the University of Maryland School of Public Policy played host to two groups of high-ranking Peruvian military and civilian government officials this past September.

The two one-week programs—one on the defense and homeland security policies of the United States and the other on public finance and performance management—were administered in partnership with Universidad ESAN in Lima. The programs are two of a growing number of international programs the School operates to help train foreign government officials in everything from international security to ethical leadership.

“Our mission is to reach out to international clients with programs that relate to the real world issues they face,” says Tom Kennedy, director of the School’s Executive Programs.

The School is actively growing its international programs in recognition of the fact that public professionals across the globe must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to address 21st century challenges in a more diverse and connected world. Peruvian officials, for example, want to learn more about how the United States and other nations respond to significant policy questions and public management challenges. Working with Professor Sofia Valencia of Universidad ESAN, the School developed a program of seminars, lectures, case studies, and site visits for the Peruvian officials. This fall’s lecturers included Nobel Laureate Professor Thomas Schelling, who discussed nuclear terrorism and proliferation; Dr. Catherine Kelleher, who spoke on the Obama Administration and the Future of Foreign Policy; Professor Phil Joyce, who presented on public budgeting; and Professor Kenneth Apfel, who discussed performance management systems. The program also stressed the overarching themes of leadership and ethics in power, which are critical to good governance.
In 1960, Dr. Roberta Ma first opened her home to international students attending the University of Maryland. She provided these students a place to gather, share meals, and celebrate. This evolving international group soon transformed into a non-profit organization named Koinonia Agapes, Inc., which is Greek for “Fellowship of Love.” As the number of participants grew, it became apparent that a larger meeting site was needed. In 1966, Ma purchased property in College Park with the intention of building an international fellowship hall. Unfortunately, she passed away before the center could become a reality.

Following her passing, the board members of Koinonia Agapes, Inc. funded an international student scholarship to fulfill Ma’s dream of building international understanding and assisting international students.

The Roberta Ma Scholarship is awarded annually to international students meeting the academic qualifications and possessing a demonstrated financial need. This year, the Ma Scholarship awarded a grant to Dienabou Diallo, a communications studies student from the Republic of Guinea. “There are no words to express the joy and gratitude I felt when I was awarded the Robert Ma Scholarship. I was facing serious financial difficulties and was at the verge of not being able to graduate and go out of status. Since F1 students are supposed to have all funds available for their education, I thought no one would help,” she explains. “When everything is grim and I am slacking off, the award reminds me that not long ago, some people believed in me and gave me a little push. That drives me to move forward and push through obstacles.”

To learn more about the Robert Ma Scholarship, contact International Student & Scholar Services at isss.umd.edu.
The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

Kashif Alam (Pakistan) is a course commander and senior superintendent of police with the Police Service of Pakistan. During his Humphrey year, he would like to focus on public policy analysis, national and international security issues, and leading and managing change.

Masimba Biriwasha (Zimbabwe) is the global editor-at-large of AfroFutures.com, an online site dedicated to music, arts, fashion, business, and politics. During his Fellowship year, he would like to focus on digital media entrepreneurship, digital journalism and content management, data visualization, and infographics.

Eva Flomo (Liberia) is a radio producer for UN Mission in Liberia. She is interested in efforts to increase women’s advancement by focusing on empowerment, health, and political participation. During her Humphrey year, she would like to identify partners with whom she can collaborate to work on these issues, as well as focus on development communication, investigative journalism, and community development efforts.

Audace Machado (Burundi) is a producer for the Isanganiro Radio Station where his programs focus on issues of good gover-
The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Brings Fulbrighters to UMD

nance, anti-corruption, and tolerance. As a journalist and a blogger in his country, he worked as a correspondent for international media organizations and traveled widely. He won the “Comesa Media Award” in 2011 and 2012. During his Fellowship year, he would like to focus on best practices in radio program production and communication strategies.

Thu Ha Nguyen (Vietnam) is a senior editor at VietNamnet where she also covers politics. During her Humphrey year, she is interested in improving her skills as a political editor and political analyst.

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Vanessa Carolina Sanchez (Venezuela) is a reporter for Venevision television station in Venezuela where she covers governmental affairs. During her Fellowship, she would like to focus on international politics with an emphasis on the relationship between the United States and Latin American countries.

Ajla Terzic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) works as the foreign policy editor at the Oslobodjenje. She is the author of three books, several essays, and many op-eds and columns for political and cultural magazines. She won the Central European Initiative Fellowship for Writers in Residence Award in 2012. Throughout her Humphrey year, she would like to focus on international relations and the role of printed media in online community programs.

Hussein Zaky (Egypt) is deputy chief of foreign news desk at the Al-Akhbar newspaper. He was a Middle East Fellow at International Journalists’ Programmes in Berlin in 2011 and served as a mentor and trainer at “Media Neighborhood Project” organized by BBC Media Action and the European Union in 2012. He would like to focus on the role of local media in the public’s participation in social and political issues and its ability to encourage democracy and rule of law.

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2013-2014 Humphrey Fellows sailing on the Chesapeake Bay.
The creation of the Maryland Language Science Center represents a major commitment to language science as a strategic priority for the university. This new campus-wide, interdisciplinary research center will connect language scientists across the university to answer deep scientific problems—such as understanding how our brains make the richness of human languages possible—with solutions to real-world problems involving language in education, technology, health, and security. The center is a collaborative effort involving more than 200 language scientists, drawn from 16 departments and centers in six colleges across UMD.

“Language is the foundation of what makes humans distinctive as a species. Without it, society, culture, and technology would simply not be possible,” says Colin Phillips, a UMD professor of linguistics and director of the center. “The formation of this new center will help us solve a variety of complex research problems that require the diverse expertise of faculty and students across the entire university.”

Building on the established work of language scientists at the university, the research center will solve a variety of pressing global problems including early identification of language disorders in infants, narrowing education achievement gaps caused by ‘language poverty,’ and building technology for information extraction and for real-time translation systems.

“With the creation of the new Maryland Language Science Center, we are focusing on an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to language science and making it one of the university’s strategic priorities,” says Mary Ann Rankin, UMD’s senior vice president and provost. “Through this unique collaborative model between the humanities and sciences, we will be able to create connections across campus between traditionally disparate areas and secure our spot at a global leader in language science research.”

The Language Science Center will also serve as an incubator for development of new research areas that intersect with language, such as culture, genetics, automatic speech recognition, and K-12 language education.

To learn more about the Maryland Language Science Center, visit www.languagescience.umd.edu/launch.

By Alana Carchedi, University Communications & Marketing
Robert Ramsey, professor and chair of UMD’s Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, has been awarded “The Precious Crown Medal of the Order of Cultural Merit” from Korean Prime Minister Jung Hong-won, who presented on behalf of President Park Geun-hye.

Ramsey, the only westerner honored in the ceremony, was awarded the medal “according to the Constitution of the Republic of Korea for great achievements and contributions to the advancement of Hangul research and promulgation.”

In 1998, Ramsey also received the Presidential Award and Medal for Contributions to Korean Language from the Republic of Korea. He has received teaching awards from the Korean Student Association, the Asian Student Union, and the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Maryland.

Ramsey does primary research on the historical development of Japanese and Korean languages and the historical relationships between the two. He is known for his work on Korean dialects and the reconstruction of prehistoric stages of Korean.

Along with his many achievements, Ramsey is credited for the first book on the subject written in English, entitled “A History of the Korean Language.” He has also authored three other books and several dozen articles, written extensively on sociolinguistics, and lectured widely on various linguistic topics in Japan, Korea, Europe, and the United States. He is also known for his broader writings on East Asia, and especially his book “The Languages of China.”

The awards ceremony—held in Seoul, South Korea—celebrated the return of Hangul Day to the full status of a national holiday. The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Washington, DC, also honored Ramsey as part of its own celebration of Hangul Day.

By Nicky Everette, College of Arts & Humanities
Hopeful signs that humans and tigers can coexist are emerging in rural Nepal, where the government has committed to doubling populations of the critically endangered big cat by 2022. A new study by conservation scientist Neil Carter, a postdoctoral research fellow at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) at the University of Maryland, provides evidence that when Nepalese villagers are empowered to make local land management decisions, the resulting landscape changes can benefit both people and tigers.

Few wildlife species face more potential conflicts with humankind than tigers, which require large areas for hunting and raising their young and inhabit some of the most densely populated regions of the world. Carter studies the interactions between humans and tigers in Nepal’s Chitwan National Park and its environs. In his latest research, Carter and his colleagues showed that in areas near the national park border where local people were permitted to harvest some of the natural resources they needed, such as timber and grass, the amount of tigers’ preferred type of habitat increased. Within the park, where local resource harvests are prohibited, the amount of suitable habitat declined.

Chitwan National Park was established in 1973 to protect tigers and other keystones of the area’s biodiversity, but it has had significant costs for people living in the area. Recognizing the potential for resource conflicts, in 1996 the Nepalese
Villagers’ Land Uses Help People and Tigers in Nepal

government added a buffer zone next to the park, where people have more access to the forest’s resources and more say in its management.

“In Nepal, we’re finding that there is this middle ground where you can have people using the land and still not only keep land from degrading, but improve habitat quality,” says Carter. “Policies in Chitwan’s buffer zone, such as prohibiting livestock from freely grazing in the forests and community-based forest management, improved habitat quality.”

In July 2013, the Nepalese government announced the nation’s tiger population had jumped 63 percent in four years, with an estimated 198 tigers now living in the wild—many of them in and around Chitwan National Park. As Nepal and other countries work to pull tigers back from the brink of extinction, Carter says “the next step is to model how tiger habitat and human livelihood strategies will interact and change in the future under different conservation policy scenarios.”

By Melissa Andreychek, National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

Tigers in Nepal

A Busy Fall for Maryland Global Leaders Lecture Series

This fall saw three new events in the ongoing Maryland Global Leaders lecture series, which is a joint effort of the Office of International Affairs and the School of Public Policy. In October, Maryland Global Leaders joined the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) in welcoming to campus Professor Moisés Naím, senior associate in the International Economics Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, best-selling author, and long-time editor of the journal Foreign Policy. CIBER Director Professor Kislaya Prasad engaged Naím in a lively but informal evening of discussion of his latest book, “The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn’t What It Used To Be.” Later that same week, Felipe Larraín Bascuñán, Chile’s Minister of Finance, spoke to an audience about the Alianza del Pacífico (“Pacific Alliance”) that now links his country to Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Peru in a trade bloc whose $2 billion GDP now surpasses that of India. The Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM), the Smith School, and the Department of Economics co-sponsored his visit. And in November, the Representative to the U.S. of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Ambassador Maen Rashid Areikat, keynoted the campus-wide calendar of events in celebration of International Education Week with a discussion of the impact of the Arab Spring and its aftermath on the ongoing Israel-Palestinian conflict. His talk was co-sponsored by the Center for International Development and Conflict Management, and the Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies.

Planning on bringing someone of global prominence to campus, or thinking about it? Contact Joe Scholten (scholten@umd.edu) about featuring your guest in the lecture series.

By Joe Scholten, Office of International Affairs
To submit story ideas and photos, please contact the editor, Vivian Hayward, at vhayward@umd.edu or 301-405-4312.