Photos: (cover) View of annual lantern festival in Sendai, Japan; (inside) A reflection of a torii, a gate found at the entrance to Japanese Shinto shrines; (back) A traditionally-dressed Korean girl poses at Gyeongbokgung Palace in South Korea. All photos by Tanya Kang, Program Assistant, Study Abroad Office.
Study Abroad Scholarships: Origins and Impacts
Each year, a variety of sources sponsor study abroad scholarships - and even the smallest donation can make a large impact. Where does the money come from and what does it mean to its recipients?

Study Abroad Office Launches New Semester Program in Italy
Maryland-in-Rome, open only the UM students, will begin sending students in Fall 2009 to the American University of Rome.

Newly Appointed Georgian Ambassador Speaks to UM Community
Amb. Mikeladze (pictured on the right with Saúl Sosnowski, Associate Provost for International Affairs) discusses the Georgian-Russian conflict.

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7 OIP News Confucius Institute hosts photography exhibit; First female Anglican priest speaks at UM; International student advisor wins prestigious national award; OIP welcomes Kevin McClure as Coordinator of Global Communities.
10 Around Campus New dean appointed to the A. James Clark School of Engineering; College of Agriculture & Natural Resources launches 2+2 program; UM Ph.D. candidate completes five month research stint in Ireland; Two UM professors lead delegations overseas; Fulbright Program sends UM professors abroad and brings Visiting Scholars to campus; Global Business Courses send graduate students overseas for courses and networking opportunities; College of Education GATE Fellows share research with local teachers on internationalizing education.
When University of Maryland student Cindy Hernández decided to study abroad, she thought carefully about the monetary implications it would place on her as a financially independent student. Hernández, a junior family science/Spanish major, launched herself on a hunt for scholarships — and was happily rewarded.

“I applied for the Study Abroad Office scholarship, and a few days later I got an e-mail saying I received the Prince George’s County International Ambassadors Scholarship,” she says. “Also, I am part of the Academic Achievement Program, and during a meeting with the Director, he recognized me and gave me the other portion of the money.”

Hernández used the subsidy to finance a two-week Winter Term 2009 program to her homeland of El Salvador, where she worked with impoverished children — many of whom could not even afford one schoolbook, let alone a full education.

“I knew there was poverty in El Salvador, but I really wanted to learn about the other side, their struggles and how they lived,” she explains. To get a first-hand glimpse, she was placed in a homestay with a local family from the village of Hacienda Vieja. Hernández remembers using lamps to light the night, the sound of roosters crowing and dogs barking through the evening, and borrowing the neighbor’s shower because her homestay family could not afford one of their own. This experience with the country’s underprivileged taught Hernández invaluable lessons about herself, the world around her, and the strength of the Salvadoreans.

“They were so appreciative — they had posters thanking us for all we’ve done, and had beautiful dances prepared for us by the kids,” she remembers. “These people don’t have many economic resources; but they have everything else — generosity, love for strangers and hope… it amazes me.”

Hernández says her experience has equipped her with a fresh resolve to devote her career to aiding Latino immigrants — and she has her scholarships to thank, which she refers to as a “blessing.”

Like Hernández, hundreds of students apply for study abroad scholarships to finance their programs each year. And each year, thousands of dollars are awarded, and thousands of dreams are made a reality. Where does this scholarship money come from? The generous support of many contacts who believe in the value of international education.
Study Abroad Office Funded Scholarships

UM Study Abroad Office (SAO) funds a number of need-based scholarships for all academic terms and both UM and non-UM programs. SAO staff are making a concerted effort to spread the word about the availability of such scholarships. SAO features a database of funding opportunities on its website; maintains a tabling presence at all UM events such as Maryland Day and First Look Fair; and hosts a scholarship table at their bi-annual Study Abroad Fair.

“Study abroad should not just be for students with plenty of economic resources; we want to attract a diversity of students, including those from all socioeconomic classes,” explains Dr. Michael Ulrich, Director of the Study Abroad Office. “There are funding resources for the most needy students; we want to make sure those students know they can use all their financial aid, plus they also have access to other scholarships because they are studying abroad. In some cases, it becomes almost more economically advantageous for them to study abroad than it would be for them to stay on campus.”

SAO’s scholarship selection committee was able to award nearly 140 scholarships to deserving students for 2008-2009. Awards vary between programs; short term students generally receive a partial scholarship of $500 to $750, while semester recipients receive about $1,000.

“Historically, most of the support for scholarships comes from revenue our office has generated. We have also in the past, including this year, received some support from the budget of the Office of International Programs. And the Provost has in some years, including this year, provided scholarship money,” Dr. Ulrich explains. “It seems likely in the current fiscal climate that those resources will be more difficult to acquire.”

Dr. Ulrich and SAO have recently implemented a mandatory Study Abroad fee for any UM student going on a non-UM or a short term study abroad program. Although they are still cautious about the amount of available scholarship money for 2010, Dr. Ulrich says that some of the money generated will be earmarked for scholarships.

Private Scholarships

When students submit an application for the general Study Abroad Office scholarship, they are also automatically considered for a number of private donor and endowed scholarships. “We have had an endowed scholarship, the Jonathan V. David International Travel Award, for many, many years. Two others, from the Kendall family and Andrea & Steven Levy, are new within the last year or two,” Dr. Ulrich explains. “Donors approach the University to set up a scholarship fund, and work with the Development Office to do so.”

Although award amounts and duration differ between donors, all will generally be available for the foreseeable future. There are also a few scholarships that will be offered on a one-time basis. These include the Prince George’s County International Ambassadors Award (PGCIA), which financed Cindy Hernández’s experience, and a program-specific award in the name of Dr. Barbara Thorne, former Director of the University Honors Program.

The PGCIA scholarship is a joint initiative between the Price George’s County Executives Office and Dr. Bai Akridge, UM Visiting Research Scholar in the College of Education’s Interna-

“These people don’t have many economic resources, but they have everything else—generosity, love for strangers, hope... it amazes me.” Cindy Hernández, PGCIA Scholarship winner

Cindy Hernández, PGCIA Scholarship winner
tional Center for Transcultural Education. It funds study abroad experiences for graduates of Prince George’s County high schools who demonstrate a financial need and genuine interest in studying abroad. The money allowed four students to study abroad this past winter, one for the semester, and will allow another cohort of students to go abroad this coming summer. Although the money will be exhausted after this, Dr. Akridge is hopeful more funding resources will be unearthed.

“I think it’s a very worthwhile undertaking, and our students will demonstrate that this program works by sharing their experiences both on and off-campus,” he explains. “With a relatively small investment we have done a good job of realizing the vision of the program, which is to give students who might not otherwise have had the opportunity, the chance to study abroad.”

Ritchell Madikaegbu, a junior international business and finance major, was awarded a PGCIA scholarship to study for a semester at the CERAM Business School in Nice – Sophia Antipolis. She hopes to someday work for the World Bank, and believes her time abroad will equip her with the French language abilities and global perspective that will make her an attractive applicant. Also, as she could not have otherwise afforded to do so, she credits the PGCIA scholarship for making her overseas study possible. “This shows that there are organizations that care about students studying abroad,” she says. “I hope the PGCIA committee understands the difference the scholarship is making in my life and that they continue to support the dreams of other students like me.”

Another scholarship that will make aspirations a reality is named for Dr. Barbara Thorne, who relinquished her post as head of the University Honors Program at the end of Fall 2008 to rejoin the Entomology Department. She is committed to international experiences, and was honored when her colleagues created a scholarship in her name. “Study abroad programs for undergraduates can have such high impact and be transformational experiences on so many levels, so I am delighted that this campus fosters strong study abroad options and is working hard to make them accessible for students,” Dr. Thorne says.

Help make a study abroad experience possible for future students by making a donation. Contact Robert Balthaser, Director of the Campaign for Scholarships: 301.405.9529 or rbalthas@umd.edu.
**Study Abroad Office Launches Maryland-in-Rome**

Students study at American University of Rome for fall, spring semesters

Rome – home to ancient architectural wonders, world-class art, and exquisite cuisine – will now host the University of Maryland’s newest semester study abroad program, Maryland-in-Rome. The program is based at the American University of Rome (AUR), the oldest independent degree-granting American higher education institution in the city.

“Many UM students have attended AUR and returned with impressive classroom experiences to match their exciting photographs and stories,” explains Dr. Michael Ulrich, Director of the Study Abroad Office at UM. “We are thrilled to launch this new program that will bring closer collaborations between our two institutions, including a more integrated academic program and enhanced communication.”

The Maryland-in-Rome program is open only to University of Maryland students and will begin in Fall 2009.

Classes run in the fall semester from early September to mid-December; for the spring semester, courses begin in mid-January and end in mid-May. Students enroll in 12-16 credits, choosing from courses that have been pre-approved by academic departments at Maryland. They receive resident credit for their courses, which will appear on their official transcript with Maryland course numbers, and fulfill major, minor and CORE requirements. An up-to-date list of available courses is on the study abroad website.

Apart from rigorous academics and cross-cultural exchange, AUR offers easy access to Rome’s vibrant culture. AUR overlooks ancient Rome from its perch on the Janiculum, the city’s highest hill, giving students a breathtaking view of the sights and sounds of Rome. Across the street lies Villa Sciarra, Rome’s oldest park, and a short walk down the road is Trastevere, a hip haven nestled on the West bank of the Tiber. With such surroundings, and numerous bus lines connecting AUR to the city center, Maryland students can easily immerse themselves in the culture of this historic city.

Students are housed in neighborhoods surrounding AUR, in furnished apartments alongside Italian neighbors. This provides an invaluable opportunity to integrate into the local community and experience daily life in Rome.

As this is a UM-sponsored program, students can use the TERP payment plan and all types of financial aid to pay for the program. Those who demonstrate academic merit and financial need are encouraged to apply for a partial Study Abroad Scholarship, via the application on the Study Abroad Website.

For more information, visit: [www.international.umd.edu/studyabroad/7431](http://www.international.umd.edu/studyabroad/7431).

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**Confucius Institute Sponsors Phototography Exhibit**

The Confucius Institute at Maryland, an Office of International Programs unit, recently sponsored a week-long exhibition of paintings depicting the sage Confucius and his disciples. The colorful, 4’ x 9’ photographic reproductions for the “Traces of Confucius” showcase were produced by Mr. Hou Xinjian, a photojournalist from Qufu, Confucius’ hometown in Shandong Province.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Confucius Institute also sponsored two luncheon presentations on Confucianism, its modern-day definition and implications. The first featured keynote speaker Dr. Mi Chu of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress; the second was headlined by Dr. Paul Shao, an independent scholar.
Pioneering Female Priest Connects Experiences to Challenges of 21st Century

Growing up on the “mean streets” of south London, Joy Carroll Wallis’ list of things to do in life did not include “become a leading international voice at the intersection of gender, faith, and social justice.” As she related in her recent campus presentation in the new OIP series, “Strategies to Survive the 21st Century,” Carroll Wallis was, after all, the daughter of an Anglican parish priest. She therefore pursued the natural course for someone of her time and station, pouring her energies into becoming a “rebellious Punk,” as she put it. Still, she did feel a call to service, and after attending college, devoted her time and talents to elementary education. To her surprise, though, Carroll Wallis soon felt another tug—to the ministry. And so, like many other members of the Church of England, she trained for and entered into the deaconate.

The timing was fortuitous for the once and future rebel. Then (the later 1980s) as now, the Anglican Communion had two ranks of deacons: “lay” deacons, and “ordained” deacons. Up until that time, only men could be ordained priests, so Carroll Wallis became a lay deacon. Soon afterward, however, the Anglican governing body—the General Synod—lowered that barrier for the deaconate, and Carroll Wallis was among a pioneering group of women who sought and gained ordination. But if women could be ordained deacons, why not priests, as well? Carroll Wallis, who soon became the youngest person elected to the Church of England’s House of Clergy, found herself a leading proponent for this cause, culminating in the November 11, 1992 vote to allow women into the Anglican priesthood.

To place the audience in that moment, Carroll Wallis read from the account she penned for her memoir, Beneath the Cassock, whose popularity in Great Britain led to an American edition, The Woman Behind the Collar. She then related a series of anecdotes from her experiences as an Anglican priest in a pair of inner city London parishes (where the Church of England commonly offers social services to the public). Rev. Carroll Wallis noted that the challenges of urban life in both the U.K. and U.S.—and around the globe—are similar. As we go forward, she suggested, there is common ground in the desire to use our talents to serve our community, whether or not that desire springs from some particular faith tradition.

Photo: Joy Carroll Wallis with Joseph Scholten, Associate Director of OIP

By Joseph Scholten, OIP

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR HONORED BY DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Jody Heckman-Bose, an advisor in International Education Services, was recently honored with the prestigious “Service to Homeland Award” from the Department of Homeland Security, recognizing her work in organizing a recent town hall meeting at the University of Maryland. The meeting, attended by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials and international student affairs offices from 12 surrounding universities, was arranged to discuss changes to the congressionally-mandated Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).

SEVP, which oversees the flow of international students and scholars to the U.S., tapped Heckman-Bose to arrange logistics for the presentation and monitor the question and answer portion. She was later presented with an award at an ICE ceremony.

Moving forward, Heckman-Bose expects to again offer input to Homeland Security as they roll out a new computer system for issuing immigration documents to international students.

“Because we are here to serve students, faculty and scholars, having the ability to give input about SEVP is wonderful because it’s important to keep reporting what works and what doesn’t for our students,” Heckman-Bose explains. “This is a computer system, affecting individual lives, and we need to be able to remind SEVP of the human element that is involved.”
The audience who gathered last December for OIP’s ongoing Ambassadorial Lecture Series found themselves treated to a surprise speaker. The member of the D.C. diplomatic corps whose views they had come to hear was the Ambassador to the U.S. from the Republic of Georgia, in the Caucasus. However, rather than H.E. Vasil Sikharulidze, the speaker was H.E. Malkhaz Mikeladze, for on the eve of the talk (quite literally), Amb. Sikharulidze was recalled to Georgia to assume the position of Minister of Defense, as part of a reshuffle of the Georgian cabinet in the aftermath of last August’s conflict with Russia.

Amb. Mikeladze began his talk by expressing his country’s gratitude to the United States for “standing by us” last summer. He added that Georgians “were profoundly moved by the (American) commitment…to contribute to our reconstruction. American aid already has proved invaluable in reviving Georgia’s economy and the spirits of our people.” Amb. Mikeladze emphasized Georgians’ conclusion “that the best way to fight the specter of aggression and authoritarianism was with the most potent weapons in our arsenal: Namely, our commitment to ever-expanding freedoms within our own borders, a stronger democracy, broader rights of free expression, a fiercely independent judiciary, and more robust checks and balances among our democratic institutions.” Amb. Mikeladze acknowledged that Georgia’s record “has not been impeccable,” but commented that “a ‘shining city on the hill’ cannot be built overnight.” He emphasized that Georgians are redoubling their efforts at democratization, and pointed, for example, to the establishment soon after the war of a parliamentary commission – chaired by a member of the opposition – to investigate the origins of the war with Russia.

Amb. Mikeladze offered a thorough overview of his country’s perspective on the origins of the Russian conflict. He emphasized that Georgians believe that they acted “as befits a responsible member of the democratic community” by defending South Ossetia – as any democratic government would have done. Georgians felt that they “were on the front lines of a war that was, in fact, targeted at undermining security in the broader European region and subverting the international system in general,” he explained.

Amb. Mikeladze concluded his remarks with a plea that the U.S. and its allies “not sacrifice democracies like Georgia that are trying to make this critical part of the world a more stable, secure, and free place.” He asked for continued support from the U.S. and the international community, to ensure that Georgia can maintain its “virtuous cycle” of economic growth and political reform, which would “reinforce Euro-Atlantic values and security.” Georgians “dream of a world where small countries are not forced to sacrifice their aspirations for liberty...a world where we will never be asked to succumb and say that justice lies with size, numbers and power. Together we can carry this dream through – for Georgia, for the United States, and ultimately for all mankind.”

By Joseph Scholten, OIP
NEW COORDINATOR NAMED:
Kevin McClure takes over as head of the Global Communities Program

For the past year, Kevin McClure has been a familiar face at Global Communities, his door in the lower level of Dorchester Hall always ajar to lend an ear to any undergrad. Now, McClure has transitioned from Graduate Assistant to Coordinator of Global Communities, an Office of International Programs living/learning unit.

McClure, who is completing an M.A. in UM’s International Education Policy program, accepted the post after the recent departure of former Coordinator Monica Emery. He is a natural fit: committed to helping undergrads explore their place in our globalized world, and dedicated to international experiences, after two study abroad stints of his own.

“Coming out of college, my goals were to become involved with an academic institution, as I have always wanted to work with students; and, as education has always been close to my heart, I wanted to be in a classroom,” McClure explains.

“I have really found my niche in international education, and the position I have in Global Communities is the perfect cumulative experience to my education.”

McClure earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond, where he also had the opportunity to complete a summer service learning program in Ecuador. He hopes to draw upon this experience when designing the curriculum for his Global Communities students.

“I got a taste for how service learning immersion experiences can be really fulfilling and transformative,” he says. “That has definitely had an impact on the types of things I’ve studied as a student, and the types of things I think students should be learning.”

McClure looks forward to encouraging all Global Communities students to explore service opportunities, in addition to their required 1-credit colloquia courses. Ultimately, he envisions Global Communities as the University’s premier global engagement program.

“Through service learning immersion experiences, students put into practice the things they are learning in the classroom, providing a rich cultural context to their readings and discussions,” he explains. “Meanwhile, they are interacting with the people they live with and see on a regular basis – so, we are hoping that in the process of doing these experiences and being in the classroom, the students build a community that is strong and really incomparable here at the University.”

McClure is currently working to develop a number of such service opportunities for his students – an Alternative Spring Break program, a sustainability camping trip, and a short term study abroad course to a developing country during Winter Term 2010.

Additionally, along with teaching 3 colloquia courses, overseeing the budget and developing supplementary course offerings, McClure will continue to be a sounding board for students’ questions and concerns.

“In this position I am the liaison between the students and the University – I am a resource for them, and they often come in with questions or seeking advice,” he says. “It’s interesting, you kind of become a surrogate parent for these students.”

And it is unequivocally the students that make the position meaningful for McClure.

“The students are my favorite part – there are a number of small things they constantly do that let it be known that they appreciate what you are doing,” he says. “They create a welcoming atmosphere, and they know, just like I do, that this is a very important program, and something worth putting time into. So, because of them, we continue to work to make sure the program is a true success.”

“We hope that in the process of doing service experiences and being in the classroom, the students build a community that is strong and really incomparable here at the University.”

Kevin McClure, Coordinator

For more information about Global Communities, please visit its website: www.international.umd.edu/gc
The University of Maryland appointed Dr. Darryll J. Pines as Dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering and the Nariman Farvardin Professor of Engineering, effective January 5, 2009.

“President Mote and I are excited that Darryll has taken on this new challenge at the University of Maryland,” said Nariman Farvardin, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. “We are very confident that under his leadership, the Clark School of Engineering will continue its rapid ascent to be among the very best in the United States.”

Professor Pines earned a Ph.D. in 1992 and an M.S. in 1988 in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1986, he received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He came to the University of Maryland in 1995 as an assistant professor in the Clark School and has served as Chair of the Department of Aerospace Engineering since 2006.

Under his leadership, the department was recently ranked 8th overall among U.S. universities (up from 11th last year), and 5th among public schools in the U.S. News and World Report graduate school rankings. In addition, during his tenure as chair, the department has ranked in the top five in Aviation Week and Space Technology’s workforce undergraduate and graduate student placement study. The undergraduate program also went from 10th to 9th during that time. Pines has been Director of the Sloan Scholars Program since 1996 and Director of the GEM Program since 1999.

He also served as Chair of the Engineering Council, Director of the NASA CUlP Program, and Director of the SAMPEX flight experiment. Last year, he served on the university’s Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

Pines has previously served as Program Manager for the Tactical Technology Office and Defense Sciences Office of DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency). He also held positions at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Chevron Corporation, and Space Tethers Inc. At LLNL, Pines worked on the Clementine Spacecraft program, which discovered water near the south pole of the moon. A replica of the spacecraft now sits in the National Air and Space Museum.

Pines’ current research focuses on structural dynamics, including structural health monitoring and prognosis, smart sensors, and adaptive, morphing and biologically-inspired structures as well as the guidance, navigation, and control of aerospace vehicles. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and an Associate Fellow of AIAA, and he has received an NSF Career Award.

“The Department of Aerospace Engineering has excellent faculty, exceptional staff and innovative students, and I have been humbled and honored to serve as its chair for these past couple of years. It has truly been an exciting and rewarding time period for me. But it is they who have made the department great,” said Pines. “And now, building on the great work of my predecessors, I will continue to move the Clark School in the bold new direction toward engineering excellence, solidly grounded in the foundations of discovery, invention and innovation.”

Dr. Darryll J. Pines, Dean

For more information on the A. James Clark School of Engineering, please visit their website: www.eng.umd.edu

By: Millree Williams, Senior Director of Public Affairs Strategy in University Communications
Doctoral Student Initiates Research Collaboration with National University of Ireland, Galway

As an undergraduate at UMass Amherst, UM Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Ph.D. candidate Erin Falco had always wanted to study abroad; however, with only a full-year option to London, she was unable to take advantage. Years later, she has finally had the chance to live in Ireland, where she completed a cutting-edge research project with a leading European biomedical engineering laboratory.

The project was funded through a grant that Dr. John Fisher, Associate Professor in the Fischell Department of Bioengineering, secured from the National Science Foundation. The project proposal detailed a collaboration with Dr. Abhay Pandit from the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science at the National University of Ireland, Galway. “Our lab at UM has significant experience in developing new biomaterials and applying them in tissue engineering applications,” Dr. Fisher explains. “This is a great pairing with Abhay’s lab, where we could do additional work in gene transfection, one of their specialties.”

Falco immediately jumped on board, and departed for Ireland in February 2007. She spent the next four months working closely with Dr. Pandit and his colleagues in the Irish lab, performing research on regeneration of skeletal muscle to repair abdominal hernias. “One of the things we wanted to look into was using gene therapy to stimulate growth factors, proteins, that would help recruit and multiply muscle cells instead of scar tissue cells,” Falco says. “The Center at NUI Galway gave me a lot of flexibility and freedom – you have everything at your disposal, and you can be trained in a number of things by the lab coordinators.”

Falco compiled an in-depth paper on her research and two further experiments she continued at Maryland. Eventually, she will submit it for publication and use it as the basis for her Ph.D. dissertation. Falco was also given the opportunity to present at an international biomaterials conference in England. “I got to see presentations from all over Europe, which was interesting because everyone has different techniques in terms of how they run their labs or do things,” Falco says.

Falco - who has been back to Ireland three times - was also able to dive into the Irish culture by joining a touch rugby team and traveling around the country.

Coincidentally, nearly a year and a half after Falco’s return to the U.S., Governor Martin O’Malley signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NUI Galway, to formally establish a commitment to collaborate between the institution and the University of Maryland, College Park. This will yield closer ties between the two universities, and further exchange of faculty and students for research, teaching and study. “As our world grows smaller and more interconnected, the MOU that we’re signing carries with it great potential for the many vital human pursuits where Ireland and America lead the way,” noted Governor O’Malley. “It’s our hope that we can draw upon the spirit of global engagement to meet the new challenges we face as the world grows ever more flat.”

AGNR Welcomes First Contingent of 2+2 Program Students

In Fall 2008, the UM College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) welcomed a group of students from China Agricultural University (CAU), the premier agricultural institution in China. Now starting their second term, these students are the first contingent to participate in a new “2+2” program of study linking UM and CAU.

Students in the program take their first two years of course work at CAU, and then come to UM to complete their studies, earning a UM degree. AGNR Dean, Prof. Cheng-i Wei, led the development of the program as part of the larger drive to attract more international undergraduate students to UM. In June 2008, UM President Dr. C.D. Mote, Jr., met with this first group of CAU-UM students, during his visit to China.

AGNR has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the other leading agricultural university in China, North West Agriculture and Forestry University in YangLing, Shaan Xi Province, creating a similar “2+2” program between UM and NWAFU.

Participants in the first group of CAU-UM students will be profiled in the next issue of Maryland International.
UM PROFESSORS LEAD OVERSEAS DELEGATIONS

Materials Professor Luz Martínez-Miranda Heads Physics Delegation to Korea

According to a study by the American Institute of Physics, fewer than 15% of physicists worldwide are women. “The scarcity of women in physics, especially in leadership positions, is a problem for many countries,” Martínez-Miranda explains. “They cannot benefit fully from women’s ideas and approaches to improve their economic competitiveness or solve difficult problems in energy, health, and global sustainability. Women, men, institutions, and governments need to work together to encourage, educate, recruit, retain, advance, and promote more girls and women in physics and other science and technology professions."

“Serving as a leader of the U.S. delegation was a great honor,” Martínez-Miranda says of the experience. “A lot of physics departments either include a materials science program or are oriented toward materials science, which makes participation in this conference important for the materials scientists. We have a lot to contribute in the fields of interdisciplinary research and education.”

By: Faye Levine, Communications Coordinator in the A. James Clark School of Engineering

Women’s Studies Professor & Chair Bonnie Thornton Dill Leads South African Group

When Dr. Bonnie Thornton Dill, Professor and Chair of the Department of Women’s Studies and Founding Director of the Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity, was asked to lead a sociology delegation to South Africa, she immediately jumped at the chance. Together with 25 other faculty and trained professionals, she spent 10 days in the multiracial tip of southern Africa studying race, ethnicity, class and gender.

“My role [as delegation leader] was to design the intellectual focus of the trip, what our mission would be, what we would be exploring, and lay out questions we would want answered,” explains Thornton Dill. “The organizing entity, People to People, used that to develop a program for us that included visits to organizations. I also used my own contacts through Sociology to contact people I knew, or people I worked with in South Africa to arrange site visits.”

The group had the opportunity to visit three African universities, where they met with members of the sociology, anthropology, gender and women’s studies faculty. Additionally, they had presentations from three local NGOs devoted to gender and race equality and advocacy. And no trip to South Africa is complete without getting a taste for the local culture – Thornton Dill and her group visited famous sites, churches, local homes, and numerous townships to complete their studies.

After such a positive experience, Thornton Dill explains she would love to lead another delegation – and looks forward to bringing her research back to UM.

“This gave me the opportunity to learn much more about, and in much greater depth, the politics and issues that are of particular interest to me,” she says. “It has also given me some perspective on how to teach my UM courses in a more comparative way, around issues of race and gender and looking at South Africa as a case study.”

Photo: Dr. Thornton Dill with Commissioner Bafana Khumalo and colleague from the South African Commission for Gender Equity
This past September, four University of Maryland professors trekked across the globe to begin research and teaching posts as Fulbright Scholars. In turn, UM welcomed two overseas faculty as Visiting Fulbright Scholars. Both groups join the prestigious ranks of only about 1,000 U.S. faculty and 1,000 overseas faculty to receive such honor.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARS
Spencer Benson of the Center for Teaching Excellence is no stranger to international engagement – he has previously spent a sabbatical in Taiwan, and has led short term study abroad courses across Asia. He is now stationed at the University of Hong Kong for the academic year, where he is working to further develop the university’s General Education curriculum.

“I’ve tried to develop new insights with respect to general education and the roles of the university in student lives, and build new bridges to numerous universities in Asia,” Dr. Benson explains. And, although he is enjoying his time overseas, he looks forward to expounding upon his experience when he returns to UM. “I look forward to developing new projects, such as a short term study abroad program on Traditional Chinese Medicine; new ideas and initiatives that build upon undergraduate education strengths; and helping other faculty build connections to counterparts in Asia.”

Christopher Foreman of the School of Public Policy is spending the academic year at the American University of Armenia, lecturing on the American political system and policy process. He chose AUA for its commitment to creating a cadre of professionals trained in American concepts and methods.

Dr. Foreman spent the fall semester lecturing on a number of topics, including the Electoral College system and the U.S. presidential campaign. And he was especially delighted his students witnessed history through Barack Obama’s Presidential victory. “The last class session happened to fall on election night in the U.S.,” he recalls. “We watched Obama’s victory speech and the commentary that accompanied it on CNN. Imagine teaching an astronomy course and having a total solar eclipse occur on the last day. It was very exciting.”

Donna Howard, Department of Public & Community Health, is currently conducting research on dating relationship attitudes at India’s Manipal University (profiled in Maryland International Fall Volume II). And Stanley Presser, Department of Sociology, is lecturing/researching on “Survey Research in China” at Fudan University.

VISITING SCHOLARS
Dr. Isabell Klaiber from Germany’s University of Tübingen is in UM’s Department of English through March 2009. There has been a faculty exchange between UM and Tübingen since 2000, and she is the fifth faculty member to come to UM since then. She is researching and teaching UM courses on the topic of 19th-century American literature and culture as well as gender and ethnicity.

Dr. Sun-Woong Kim, a linguist from Korea’s Kwangwoon University, is working with UM’s linguistics program on Generative Grammar. “The Department of Linguistics at UM is globally known as one of the most advanced posts of the recent development of the Generative Grammar,” he says. “Its faculty, students and their accomplishments have exerted a great influence in the linguistics field worldwide, and the department is the most wanted destination for research to prospective visiting scholars.”

While in College Park, Dr. Kim’s research surrounds the grammatical phenomenon known as preposition stranding – something that only occurs in English. For Dr. Kim, the Fulbright experience is an unparalleled honor, and a dream he first set his sights upon as a graduate student at Seoul National University. Now he hopes to encourage others to take advantage of the Fulbright experience. “I am proud of being a Fulbrighter and it has been an extremely honorable, memorable and rewarding experience,” Dr. Kim says.

Photos (left to right): Dr. Foreman in Armenia; Dr. Sun-Woong Kim on the UM campus; and Dr. Spencer Benson in Hong Kong. For further information on Fulbright awards, please visit: www.international.umd.edu/oip/5470.
GLOBAL BUSINESS COURSES HELP STUDENTS NAVIGATE GLOBALIZED WORLD

Eight graduate courses across the world offer invaluable networking opportunities

The University of Maryland’s R.H. Smith School of Business is going above and beyond common standards to prepare its students to navigate in a globalized world, through comprehensive short-term business courses abroad. These courses allow students invaluable networking opportunities and first-hand glimpses into overseas operations.

Developed by the Center for Global Business Education, the eight courses currently offered take students to locations in South America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East for hands-on study of a variety of business topics. Courses run in winter and summer for four credits, and are open only to graduate students in the Smith School.

“These courses are some of the most popular courses offered in the MBA program, and some people enter the program anticipating taking a short term course,” explains Lisa Barnard, Assistant Director of the Center for Global Business Education. “They offer a different style of classroom – an experiential style of learning – and the chance to build contacts and network.”

Students can count two courses towards their degree, although some take more courses solely for the experience, explains Barnard. And, as each course runs for 10 days, it gives part-time students the chance to accelerate their degree, and earn many credits in a short period of time.

“They really are an intense four credits,” Barnard says. “Students meet two to three times at UM prior to departure, and they meet once upon their return as well. While abroad, the format tends to be at least two company visits a day – sometimes three – and cultural activities on the weekends.”

During daily corporate visits to hospitals, manufacturing plants, banks, and more, high level executives give the students a tour. Afterwards, the group is given a presentation about the institution.

“Companies are interested in hosting us because they know these are MBA students, who are often working in the field in addition to completing their degree; they are also curious about the U.S. market,” Barnard says. “In the end, it’s a win-win situation – students get exposure to different companies and the companies make contacts with the students.”

Often, the contacts students make abroad, and the experiences they have, forever change their lives. Mike Lowell, a business student who graduated in May 2008, is currently working in Mexico City with the State Department, a career that was influenced by Global Business courses he completed in Brazil and India.

“The completion of two global study courses really set me apart from other Foreign Service Officer candidates,” Lowell explains. “Additionally, I gained a profound understanding and appreciation of Brazil and India that changed my perspective of the world. And while I am able to speak about their national and regional issues with greater intelligence, I am also able to continue learning about their culture, politics, business, at a deeper, more personal level.”

For more information, visit: www.rhsmith.umd.edu/global/

GATE FELLOWS SHARE RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONALIZING EDUCATION WITH MD TEACHERS

On November 19, UM’s College of Education (COE) hosted primary and secondary teachers and administrators from across Maryland at a colloquium on Internationalizing Teacher Education. The colloquium was the latest fruit of the COE Global Awareness in Teacher Education (GATE) initiative. Funded by a grant from the Longview Foundation, the GATE program offers stipends to COE faculty to fill the gap in research on global education, especially in the area of curriculum development, for preservice teacher preparation.

Maryland District 22 Senator, James C. Rosapepe delivered the keynote address, followed by Longview Foundation Executive Director, Betsy Devlin-Foltz, who spoke on “Teacher Preparation for the Global Age.” COE’s group of GATE Fellows - Jeanne Galbraith (EDHD); Roberta Lavine (EDCI & Spanish); Jing Lin (EDHI); J. Randy McGinnis (EDCI); Rebecca Oxford (EDCI); Jeanine Staples (EDSP); Jennifer Turner (EDCI) - then briefed attendees on their current research. The afternoon consisted of a series of global education workshops; a talk from Linda Valli, EDCI Interim Chair; and a discussion of “Next Steps.” Further information on the GATE Fellows program can be found at: www.education.umd.edu/international/CurrentInitiatives/GATE.html.
To submit story ideas and photos, please contact the editor, Kellie Corcoran, at corcoran@umd.edu or 301.405.4321.