WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE UM STUDENTS?
All used photos depict destinations of the latest crop of Gilman Scholarship award winners, taken by past study abroad students. Photos include: (front) Italy, by Rachel Dotter; (inside cover) Japan, by Ian Rodenhouse; (back) Africa, by Luna Liu.
UM Community Joins Panda Conservation Effort
Faculty members and students from across the campus work in tandem with the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Chengdu, China, to study and save the panda species.

Ambassadorial Lecture Series Highlights Africa’s Past, Present, Future
Liberian Ambassador M. Nathaniel Barnes discusses the continent’s socio-economic difficulties, and reflects on some bright spots on the African scene.

World-Class Experts Gather for Iran Conference
Iran specialists led three panels that discussed domestic, regional and international implications of the recent election, especially in light of the country’s nuclear ambitions.

also in this issue

8 OIP News UM sends highest number of Gilman International Scholarship recipients abroad; UM’s study abroad programs earn record ranking in national survey; International Education Week promotes cultural exchange on campus; OIP to sponsor colloquium on innovation and Africa; OIP co-sponsors lecture by Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the U.S.

10 Around Campus Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering student leads service project in Madagascar; Pre-law student honored by women’s advocacy group; Burgers Program builds international linkages; Ecological Economist wins lifetime achievement award; “Israel as a Jewish State” features panel discussions on religion; “Mexican Media Under Attack” conference sponsored by Latin American Studies Center.
famous for Sichuan cuisine and exquisite embroideries, Chengdu, in China’s Sichuan Province, is perhaps even better known for a special group of its inhabitants – the giant panda. The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding plays host to these residents, who are revered around the world for their distinctive black patches, often-docile demeanor, and affinity for bamboo. But for the people of the Panda Base, the giant pandas are their life’s work – and they have devoted themselves to saving this endangered species.

Worldwide, giant pandas have dwindled to approximately 1,600 in the wild and about 270 in captivity. Human development, logging, and deforestation have been cruel to the species – but more organizations worldwide are joining in the fight to save this bear, including the University of Maryland community. Over the past few years, University faculty and students have collaborated on a number of projects with scientists from both the Smithsonian National Zoo and the Chengdu Panda Base. In 2007, a formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Panda Base, by UM Provost Nariman Farvardin and College of Agriculture Dean Cheng-i Wei. UM President C.D. Mote, Jr. built upon this foundation by making a personal visit to the Panda Base in Summer 2009, in the hopes of further cementing the burgeoning relationship between the two entities. While there, Dr. Mote was able to tour the base, encounter newborn pandas, and learn more about conservation efforts from the Base’s Director, Dr. Zhang Zhihe.

“We are thrilled with the partnership that we enjoy with the Chengdu Research Base that allows UM students to work hands-on with the process of breeding this remarkable, endangered species,” said Dr. Mote. “The work of many dedicated UM faculty members, as well as Smithsonian scientists, has enabled this program to flourish. Advancing conservation work and training our students at the same time is an extraordinary opportunity.”
Dr. Zhang is the perfect surrogate for the 87 giant panda in his care. With over 20 years of conservation work, he has been involved with 20 research projects for the Chinese State, Sichuan Provincial, and Chengdu Municipal Government. In addition, Dr. Zhang has developed collaborative programs between Chengdu, the United States, Japan, France, Spain and the U.K. “In order to share advanced technology and exchange information, our base invites researchers from all over the world to improve captive management for the conservation of the giant panda,” Dr. Zhang explains. “As a result of our unique and uncompromising commitment, we are proud to report that we have not taken an animal from the wild in over 20 years, and in that time, have increased our captive population from six giant pandas rescued in 1987, to 87 individuals.”

Dr. Zhang and his team spend much of their time studying panda nutrition, genetics, veterinary medicine, behavior, and reproduction. They hope to someday erase the “endangered” footnote from the species, and so far, have had great success. Over the past 20 years, 136 giant panda cubs have been born in 92 litters, including 20 cubs that were born in 2008, and 4 in 2009. Despite such a high birthrate, genetic diversity is maintained by exchanging genetic material with other facilities, to preserve the health of the captive population.

The facility itself is modeled after the panda’s environment in the wild, and combines natural scenery with man-made landscapes to create a humane living environment. A sprawling 500 acres, the Panda Base also houses a variety of other endangered species, including the South China tiger, the red panda, and the golden monkey.

Maryland’s Impact on the Base

Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger, UM professor of animal and avian sciences and associate vice president for research, has been paramount in developing the University’s relationship with the Panda Base. A zoologist by training, Dr. Ottinger has collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution’s National Zoo for over two decades. Her colleagues at the National Zoo, Drs. JoGayle Howard and David Wildt established a longstanding relationship with the Panda Base, and it was through this connection that Dr. Ottinger and her students had the amazing opportunity to work with the Panda Base.

“My specialty is reproductive biology and the conservation of endangered species – the Base needed help with their conservation efforts, and we were happy to assist,” Dr. Ottinger explains. “Additionally, the opportunity for students to participate in this research is an extraordinary chance to understand the challenge faced by these endangered species and carry on the mission of conservation.”
In 2008, an undergraduate intern in Dr. Ottinger’s laboratory, Kasen Whitehouse went to China to work firsthand with the pandas. More recently, Dr. Ottinger mentored Ph.D. student Copper Aitken-Palmer, who spent three years studying giant pandas’ reproductive physiology as part of the collaborative project with the National Zoo. Her work has shed light on new methods for freezing sperm that will improve breeding in captivity and in the wild. Techniques developed in her research have been applied both in China and at the National Zoo.

While overseas, students like Whitehouse and Dr. Aitken-Palmer collaborate with a variety of Panda Base staffers, including Dr. Sarah Bexell, director of conservation education and communications. In addition to mentoring, Dr. Bexell has developed vital conservation programming for educators and tourists who visit the Panda Base in droves of about 3,000 to 4,000 per day. “One of the best parts of my work is when we see the lights go on for children — when they see inside an animal’s mind and love them,” she explains. “Then we hope they will think about their own behavior and how that impacts animals. And as they get older, hopefully realize that if we don’t take care of animals and Earth, humans won’t do so well either. Conservation is no longer just about animals.”

This summer, Dr. Bexell will continue her collaboration with UM by mentoring a group of incoming interns. Two students from Virginia–Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) — a joint venture between the University of Maryland and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) — will travel to China to complete a three-week externship, under the oversight of Dr. Bettye Walters, VMRCVM’s Director of International Activities and Research Associate for UM’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, who is also involved in a number of other international initiatives (profiled in *Maryland International*, Fall 09 Vol. II).

Veterinary students Michelle Larsen and Robert Edwards will assist with ultrasound technology to detect early pregnancy in pandas, as part of the Panda Base’s Laboratory of Reproduction and Genetics for Endangered Wildlife. Pregnant pandas have special nutritional, disease prevention, and behavioral needs, so particular care must be taken by researchers to ensure their health.

“This type of experience is not readily available in the U.S., and this training will provide a definite advantage for students interested in careers in zoological or wildlife medicine,” explains Dr. Walters. “Additionally, through our clinical and scientific behavioral research on giant and red pandas, we hope to foster further collaboration between the VMRCVM and the Panda Base.”

Moving forward, the Panda Base hopes that both the panda population and its international relationships will continue to flourish. Much remains to be done towards saving the panda and other endangered species, but Dr. Zhang is confident in the foundation built thus far, and knows that unwavering dedication is key to making a difference for the pandas. “Looking into the future, there is a long way to go; still, I have a dream to pull off, and I will continue working towards it,” Dr. Zhang says. “I hope to increase the artificial breeding volume of the giant pandas at the Base, to let the species become self-sustained and thereby completely disappear from the list of animals in severe danger.”

For more information on the Panda Base, visit their website, www.panda.org.cn/english/index.htm

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**THE WORK OF MANY DEDICATED UM FACULTY MEMBERS, AS WELL AS SMITHSONIAN SCIENTISTS, HAS ENABLED THIS PROGRAM TO FLOURISH. ADVANCING CONSERVATION WORK AND TRAINING OUR STUDENTS AT THE SAME TIME IS AN EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY.”** - President C.D. Mote, Jr.
AMBASSADORIAL LECTURE SERIES:
Liberian Ambassador Speaks on Past, Present & Future

His Excellency M. Nathaniel Barnes of the Republic of Liberia visited the UM campus last November to deliver the latest Ambassadorial Lecture Series presentation sponsored by the UM Office of International Programs. UM Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity and Professor of French Language and Literature Cordell Black introduced the ambassador, noting the appropriateness of having Amb. Barnes speak, “because he represents Liberia, an African country with which the State and people of Maryland share a long history.” Ambassador Barnes in fact grew up in Maryland County, Liberia. A delegation from the State of Maryland toured Liberia in summer 2008 to launch a new Sister State relationship.

Ambassador Barnes has a long familiarity with the US. In the 1970s he came here for college, earning BS and MBA degrees. He and his family returned to the US after a violent coup d’etat in Liberia set off over two decades of civil war. The ambassador spent most of that time working in the US telecommunications industry, including at his own telecommunications consulting firm. His attention and affections never strayed from his native land, however, and in 1998, during a lull in Liberia’s internal strife, Amb. Barnes returned home to put his skills at his country’s disposal. He rapidly rose to the post of Minister of Finance, becoming the chief architect of Liberia’s fiscal rebirth, and conceptualizing and developing a proposal for a Summit of Post-Conflict Nations in Africa, with the objective of formulating plans for post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Amb. Barnes’ talk—“Africa: Ghosts of the Past…Demons of the Present…Vision for the Future” presented his audience with a sober analysis of the origins and nature of the socio-economic difficulties that continue to plague many African countries 40 or more years after their self-liberation from colonial regimes. While not discounting in the least the impact of long years of colonial exploitation, Amb. Barnes also noted the ways in which indigenous social and economic expectations in these countries have helped to impede progress by perpetuating inequities. He also noted bright spots on the African scene that often escape the notice of world media, accustomed as it is to a narrative of African disfunctionality. In a lively question and answer session with audience members, Amb. Barnes expressed confidence about the future, as a new generation of African leaders emerges who are ready to adopt and adapt innovative approaches to the particular needs of their specific regions and populations.

By: Joseph Scholten, Associate Director, OIP

Liberia at a glance

Capital: Monrovia
Population: 3,955,000
Total GDP: $1.471 billion
President: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Located on the west coast of Africa, Liberia was founded by freed American slaves. A private organization, the American Colonization Society aided in the colonization, on the basis that American slaves would have greater freedoms in Liberia. The Republic of Liberia was formally founded in 1847, and a government was established that modeled that of the U.S. James Monroe, the fifth president of the United States and a prominent supporter of the colonization, is the namesake of the nation’s capital city, Monrovia.
Ten University study abroad students – students who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to go overseas – are setting off across the globe this spring and fall, thanks to the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program and the dedication of the UM National Scholarships Office.

The Gilman Scholarship, administered by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, provides money for Federal Pell Grant recipients to study for either a short term or semester program. Working in tandem with UM’s Education Abroad, the National Scholarships Office works to publicize such opportunities, and this year, set a campus record for number of awards. The University is ranked 10th nationally for number of participants, its best showing to date.

“I think a lot of what we contribute is letting students know of these opportunities via e-mails, tabling events, and a network of campus contacts,” explains Francis DuVinage, Director of the National Scholarships Office. “Maryland in the past had a low number of applicants, it wasn’t that they performed badly when competing for the scholarships. So now, a big part of what we do is publicity, to encourage students to compete. And when they do, they do quite well.”

DuVinage and his team also make themselves available to offer feedback on students’ required applications; remain in close contact while students are abroad; and disseminate information on other scholarships that might be of interest upon their return to College Park. There are a large number of other national awards available, explains DuVinage, and each one aims to provide students with an unparalleled experience.

“All national scholarships try to provide really remarkable opportunities that are intended to open a lot of doors,” he says. “The Gilman is particularly valuable because it targets students that have a high degree of financial need for whom studying abroad might be prohibitive without some additional financial support. So we take special satisfaction working with Gilman because it opens doors that might otherwise not be opened to students.”

This year’s award winners (photos above, clockwise starting from top left) include: Elma Sakian, a junior government & politics major studying at the Universidad de Belgrano, says, “I love this city, the public transportation, the strong sense of community, the inviting culture and hospitality, the AMAZING food, the European-style architecture with some Latin American flavor, and the beautiful balance
of nature and big city that Buenos Aires has seemed to capture.”

Amber Liverpool, who will travel to Spain this summer on a UM short term language program, is a junior Spanish and computer science major who has hoped to study abroad in Spain for a number of years. “Spain is the country I have always dreamt of visiting ever since my first year Spanish instructor told us about the rich culture and amazing ancient buildings there.”

Brittanie Bell is a junior government & politics major who is studying on the inaugural Maryland-in-Shanghai semester program. She says, “I wanted to study abroad in Shanghai to improve my Chinese language skills and to also immerse myself in a culture completely different from my own. I also wanted to lean more about the Chinese government to compare it to the American government.”

Kristen Noto, a French and Spanish double major who is currently studying on the UM Maryland-in-Alcala semester program, says, “I believe my experiences studying abroad will open up job possibilities in the future. I hope to show employers that not only do I speak several languages, but that I am also familiar with different cultures and that I have experienced the world outside of the U.S.”

Yasmine Ali is a junior government & politics major on the Maryland-in-Rome program, who has grown up hearing about the beauty of Italy. “My mom traveled through Italy before starting college, and has talked at length about Rome’s culture and history; I guess I have been captivated by her stories since I was little. I am also excited to study at the American University of Rome, as they have an entire department devoted to International Relations and that is something I am very interested in.”

Justin DiPalo, a junior mechanical engineering student, is spending the semester in Milan, Italy, on the engineering exchange to Politecnico di Milano. Justin says his time abroad will be a major asset to his future profession. “It is not uncommon for engineers to have to travel internationally for conferences, colloquiums, and field work, and a semester abroad would be a great transition into that lifestyle. I see studying abroad as an opportunity to break out of my comfort zone, and become a more diverse and worldly person.”

Andrea Onate is spending the semester on UM’s Maryland-in-London program. A government & politics and sociology double major, she says, “As a student of political science with a primary focus on international relations, studying abroad is an essential part of my academic career. I believe this experience will benefit my growth as a scholar and it will provide me with the tools I need to work for an international organization in the future.”

Nelise Jeffrey is spending the semester in Osaka, Japan. Not pictured: Esther Kim, a junior Chinese and business major who is spending the spring in Seoul, South Korea, on a USAC study abroad program; Sophia Kerby, who is studying abroad in South Africa.

For more information on this and other awards, visit the National Scholarships Office website, www.scholarships.umd.edu.

“We take special satisfaction working with Gilman because it opens doors that might otherwise not be opened to students” – Francis DuVinage

UM’S STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS EARN RECORD RANKING IN NATIONAL SURVEY

The number of Maryland students studying abroad has tripled in the last decade, earning UM its highest-ever ranking in a recently released national survey. The Institute of International Education placed Maryland 25th among U.S. doctoral institutions for sending its students abroad, and 19th for its short-term study abroad programs in its annual Open Doors Survey.

The move up is, in part, because study abroad programs are more accessible to students of varying disciplines. Michael Ulrich, Director of Education Abroad at Maryland, noted that study abroad traditionally was for juniors who studied a foreign language. Now, study abroad is increasingly available to students of any discipline and any year.

Students in the Robert H. School of Business, College of Arts and Humanities and College of Behavioral and Social Sciences combined to make up more than 60 percent of the Maryland students who travel abroad. More than 1,870 students overall studied outside of the United States during the 2007-08 academic year, an 8.5 percent increase over the previous year. Popular destinations included London, Australia, Italy, Japan, China, Brazil and Spain.

Colleges and majors that traditionally did not see many of their students go abroad, such as engineering and education, are seeing those numbers increase. Engineering majors now make up 7 percent of Maryland students abroad, while science and education majors combined are about 10 percent.

Matt Ross, a junior operations management major and a peer mentor in the study abroad office, says, “One of our biggest challenges is the myths about study abroad.” Ross says many students are deterred from seeking opportunities because they believe that only juniors can go or that engineers are not allowed to go, both of which are untrue. Ross says that any student can study abroad as long as he or she plans it out. Ross went to Germany his sophomore year and said that one of the greatest advantages to studying abroad was being immersed in different cultures and exposed to different ideas. “We would go out at night. I’d be with a group of 10 people, and every single person at the table was from a different country,” he says. “When else are you going to have that experience?”

BY: KIYA MIRMOZAFFARI, GOVERNMENT & POLITICS STUDENT

SPRING 2010, VOL I
What did you do on your last summer vacation? Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering sophomore Mary Yanik spent hers on a project that combined technology, education and social change with a trip to the other side of the world: she was part of a One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project team in Madagascar.

A double major in both engineering and Government and Politics, as well as a member of the Gemstone program and Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Yanik’s personal interests include integrating science and society, and examining science’s social effects. “OLPC is a great example of that,” she says. “They’re a nonprofit that has enormous social implications for the world. Their goals are to further education and empower children. They do that through technology, so you need the science behind it in order to really affect those children’s lives.”

OLPC provides the world’s poorest children with tough, low-cost laptops capable of connecting to the Internet and pre-loaded with software designed to promote creativity and collaborative learning. The organization designed its own laptop, the XO, to be cost-effective, kid-friendly, and able to withstand third-world environments.

Yanik and her teammates—students from George Washington University—proposed working with a Canadian nonprofit organization called The Madagascar School Project (MSP), which runs a well-established primary school in Ambatoharanana called Lova Soa. Neither the teachers nor the students had worked with computers before, but everyone, including the children’s parents, was enthusiastic about the project. Once they received the laptops, the children, aged between five and seven years old, eagerly began to play and explore. One of their first projects was to build something out of the XOs’ packing materials, and then document what they had created using the computers. In other projects they worked with the laptops’ built-in camera and microphone, created music and art, read e-books, and even tried out some simple programming. They also got a taste of social networking and file sharing—even in the absence of an Internet connection, the XOs can wirelessly connect with each other. Teachers learned about maintaining and troubleshooting the computers, and set up course management software.

The OLPC/MSP project benefited Yanik almost as much as the students and teachers. “The most important thing I learned was how much the kids could learn to do by themselves, and how much they taught each other,” she says. “They were teaching us in some sense. It changed my expectations of education.”

By: Faye Levine, Communications Coordinator,
A. James Clark School of Engineering
For the past decade, the Office of International Programs has brought International Education Week (IEW) to campus in the form of performances, cuisine, films, and other cultural events. This year, the celebration was kicked into full force on November 16 with an Opening Ceremony that featured global displays and a slew of student cultural performances ranging from Romanian rock songs played on guitar, to traditional dances from Burkina Faso and Saudi Arabia. The celebration was also marked by the unveiling of the International Photo Contest, which received more than 100 submissions in 3 separate categories.

The week continued with more than two dozen cultural events presented by departments and student groups across campus. Notable performances included a dance demonstration by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Club; a Bhagavad-Gita cooking demonstration; and a lecture by Liberian Ambassador M. Nathaniel Barnes.

This year, IEW will take place from Nov. 15 - 19. Join us as we continue the celebration! visit www.international.umd.edu/ies/2990 for more information.

PHOTOS: (left) A Thai poster presentation by UM students; (right) International Photo Contest Grand Prize winner Qianli Deng, second from left, poses near her photo, "The Natural Mirror."

SOPHOMORE HONORED BY WOMEN’S ADVOCACY GROUP

University of Maryland sophomore pre-law student Odunola “Ola” Ojewumi is the winner of the fourth annual Americans for UNFPA Student Award for the Health and Dignity of Women. The Student Award is given annually to one full-time undergraduate who shows a long-term commitment to improving the health and rights of women globally. Americans for UNFPA is the official U.S. support organization for UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. UNFPA provides women’s health care and promotes the rights of women in 150 countries. As Student Award winner, Ola will learn about the global health and rights of women by visiting women’s health programs this summer; will blog about her experience on marieclaire.com; will represent Americans for UNFPA as a student ambassador; and will receive a $1,000 scholarship. In her essay Ola wrote, “I personally believe the voice of one person can spark a flame that will eventually change the way people think and act, and compel others to take action. Give me the opportunity to spread my voice for this organization."

By Beth Cavanaugh, Univ. Communications

BURGERS PROGRAM BUILDS INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

Honoring and extending the legacy of Johannes Burgers, one of the most prominent fluid dynamicists of the 20th century and who spent the last 26 years of his distinguished career at UM, the Burgers Program for Fluid Dynamics (www.burgers.umd) was created in 2004 under the leadership of Jan Sengers, its first Board Chair. It is administratively housed in the Institute for Physical Science and Technology (IPST) which provides financial support, as does the College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, the A. James Clark School of Engineering and the Physics Department. The Burgers Program mission is “to enhance the quality and international visibility of fluid dynamics research and educational programs at UM with the help of an endowed Burgers Fund. Fluid dynamics in this context is viewed to include a broad range of dynamics, from nanoscales to geophysical scales, in simple and complex fluids.”

Nearly 70 faculty from 22 different academic units across three colleges are members of the Burgers Program, which led the Graduate School to give the Burgers Program its first “interdisciplinary field” designation along with some seed financial support. Activities include:

• An annual fall symposium featuring the Burgers Lecture, three other lectures, and a graduate student poster session.
• An annual spring graduate student/post-doc symposium held in collaboration with the Center for Environmental and Applied Fluid Mechanics (CEAFM) at Johns Hopkins.
• An annual Tutorial School on Fluid Dynamics for advanced graduate students and post-docs from around the world. The subject of the first school is turbulence and will be held May 24 – 28, 2010.
• Faculty/student exchanges with the JM Burgerscentrum in the Netherlands.
• A seminar series, Fluid Dynamics Reviews, which much predates the Burgers Program and post-docs from around the world. The subject of the first school is turbulence and will be held May 24 – 28, 2010.
• Faculty/student exchanges with the JM Burgerscentrum in the Netherlands.

By: James Wallace, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
A crowd of more than 300 packed Orem Hall in the Riggs Alumni Center on November 6, 2009 for what one participant called the most significant gathering to discuss Iran ever to take place in the US. Organized by the University of Maryland’s Roshan Center for Persian Studies and Sadat Chair for Peace and Development, the daylong symposium “IRAN - After the 2009 Elections: Domestic, Regional and International Dimensions” brought together a stellar roster of world-class experts and specialists to discuss the domestic, regional and international implications of the election, especially in light of Iran’s nuclear ambitions. “The dramatic events of the past few months are bound to have important consequences for Iran domestically and internationally,” said University of Maryland Middle East expert Shibley Telhami, who holds the Sadat Chair and is author of the best-selling book *The Stakes: America and the Middle East.* “The symposium will give us a chance to assess these.”

After welcoming remarks from UM’s Iranian-born provost, Prof. Nariman Farvardin, the symposium proceeded through three interactive sessions. Conference co-organizer Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, director of the Roshan Center and professor of Persian language and literature and Iranian culture and civilization—himself author of more than twenty books and a hundred major scholarly essays—moderated the first panel: **The Election and Its Aftermath.** Featured in this segment were Steven Kull, director of the Program on International Policy Attitudes and the Center on Policy Attitudes; former U.S. State Department policy adviser Suzanne Maloney, who studies Iran, the political economy of the Persian Gulf and Middle East energy policy; and prominent American journalist, author and foreign affairs analyst, Robin Wright. Their discussion focused primarily on the impact of the Iranian election domestically; the emerging reform coalition and its prospects; how the election changed the popular standing,
strategy and tactics of the Iranian government; and the likely trends in the coming months.

Symposium co-host Shibley Telhami chaired the day’s second panel, Iran’s Regional and International Position, which brought together Trita Parsi, president of the largest Iranian-American organization in the U.S., the National Iranian American Council and author of the award winning Treacherous Alliance: The Secret Dealings of Iran, Israel and the United States; MIT research associate James Walsh, an expert in international security, who has testified before the U.S. Senate on Iran’s nuclear program; and, Gary G. Sick (Columbia University), arguably America’s most eminent Iran expert, who served on the U.S. National Security Council under Presidents Ford, Carter and, briefly, Reagan. This foursome examined how the robustness of the popular protests against the announced Iranian election results, and the government’s reaction, both of which took observers around the world by surprise, are being assessed regionally and globally and also how—if at all—they are affecting the Iranian role in regional politics.

UM Philip Merrill College of Journalism Dean and Professor Kevin Klose, himself a respected author and lecturer from his three decades of international work at The Washington Post and National Public Radio, convened the final panel: Iran’s Nuclear Program, Before and After the Election. Shibley Telhami was joined for this discussion by Abbas Milani of Stanford University and the Hoover Institution; and Karim Sadjadpour, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a leading researcher on Iran who regularly contributes on radio and in leading print publications. Their conversation assessed the nuclear issue – central to Iran’s relations regionally and globally – including different interpretations of what the Iranian government is seeking to accomplish through its nuclear program; the status of negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 countries; and the effectiveness of different international strategies.

Symposium proceedings are available via a Webstreaming link at http://www.umd.edu/iransymposium/, which also has additional materials, including a FaceBook Page for Discussion of Issues.

By Joseph Scholten, OIP, from materials by Neil Tickner (University Relations), the Roshan Center for Persian Studies, and the Sadat Chair for Peace and Development.

To learn more about the Iran Conference and to watch the three panel discussion videos, please visit www.umd.edu/iransymposium/
Daly began researching the fusion of economics and ecology in the 1970s. He argues that conventional economics fails to account for the true costs of environmental degradation, making a loss of value appear to be a gain.

Instead, Daly’s ecological approach adds the hidden environmental costs to the equation. The natural world can no longer “sustain the existing oversized economy – much less a growing one,” he contends. “Growth is more of the same stuff; development is the same amount of better stuff.”

While Daly acknowledges that his ideas are “gaining attention,” he says “the dominant view is still very much for growth as usual, or perhaps with a few more regulations.”

Previous recipients of the prestigious award include two former heads of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, William Ruckelshaus and Russell Train, and the founder of Earth Day, former U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson.

“Herman Daly’s intellectual courage and persistence represent far more than personal achievement – they have stimulated and prodded a vital international policy and research debate,” says University of Maryland President, C.D. Mote, Jr. “He embodies intellectual integrity that brings honor to the University, and we congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition.”

“He is a giant in the field,” adds Donald Kettl, dean of the Maryland School of Public Policy, where Daly has been a senior researcher since 1994. “We are very proud to celebrate this national recognition of the way Herman has shaped modern debate on the mega-environmental issues we face. This award is a wonderful and much-deserved recognition of his many contributions to environmental policy.”

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS
The International Institute for Sustainable Development has described Daly as “a maverick economist on a mission to give his discipline a heart.”

In a 2008 article written for the UK’s Sustainable Development Commission, an independent government watchdog, Daly argued that “we cannot continue growing.” What is often called “economic” growth is too often “uneconomic” and a losing proposition, he wrote. Increasing “environmental and social costs faster than production benefits,” makes us “poorer not richer, at least in high consumption countries.”

In 1994, Daly stepped down after six years as senior economist in the World Bank’s environment department – a period when, he says, he tried to “green the Bank’s economists.”

Daly’s public “farewell speech” offered a prescription that would make the World Bank more open to sustainable development: “A few antacids and laxatives to cure the combination of managerial flatulence and organizational constipation” along with “new eyeglasses and a hearing aid.” Specifically, he argued for a more realistic accounting of how proposed development projects would deplete a nation’s natural resources.

From the World Bank, Daly came to the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy – where he would be only nine miles from Washington, D.C. and his former colleagues.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS
In 1996, Daly received the Heineken Prize for Environmental Science awarded by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Right Livelihood Award, Sweden’s alternative to the Nobel Prize. In 1999 he was awarded the Sophie Prize (Norway) for contributions in the area of Environment and Development; in 2001 the Leontief Prize for contributions to economic thought, and in 2002 the Medal of the Presidency of the Italian Republic for his work in steady-state economics.

By: Neil Tickner, Senior Media Relations Associate, University Communications
WITH THE SPRING SEMESTER IN FULL SWING, COLLEGES & DEPARTMENTS ACROSS CAMPS ARE SPONSORING A SERIES OF EXCITING EVENTS. HERE ARE JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS. CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY WEBSITE, WWW.UMD.EDU, FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS.

“Israel as a Jewish State” Keynote & Conference
The first conference presented by the Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies, this March 7-8 event featured a keynote address by Yuli Tamir, former Minister of Education. Three separate panel discussions focused on the role of religion in Israeli society, and analyzed religious pluralism; judaism and democracy; and the role of religion in the Middle Eastern conflict.

Conference: Mexican Media Under Attack
In the face of violent murders of reporters, a number of journalists in Colombia emerged as aggressive investigators of drug corruption more than a decade ago. Today, Mexico is considered one of the world’s most dangerous countries for media workers. This March 9 conference, sponsored by a number of organizations including UM’s Latin American Studies Center, featured a series of panel discussions that analyzed whether the drug war threatens democracy in Mexico and what lessons can be learned from Colombia.

Russian Ambassador to Discuss U.S. Relations
The Office of International Programs and the Maryland School of Public Policy will host His Excellency Sergey I. Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the U.S., for a lecture on April 21, 2010. Ambassador Kislyak’s talk, “Russia and the U.S. - A Historical Perspective,” will touch on relations between the two countries. The Ambassador’s lecture will take place in the Atrium of Van Munching Hall. Attendance is limited - to reserve a seat, e-mail anjak@umd.edu or phone (301) 405-7641.

OIP to sponsor colloquium on Innovation and Africa
On May 7, the Office of International Programs will sponsor a day-long colloquium, “Innovation and Africa.” This event will bring together Africa-interested members of the campus community with counterparts from the DC area (diplomats, international agencies and non-governmental organizations) to discuss current conditions and priorities in Africa, and to identify potential partnerships and projects. For further information, contact Joe Scholten (scholten@umd.edu).

For more information on UM events, please visit: www.umd.edu/calendars