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FRONT/BACK COVER São Paulo, Brazil
OPPOSITE Maryland Day 2004
   Peruvian dancers from the group Sentimiento Peruano performing in front of Holzapfel Hall
As part of the Office of International Programs’ Ambassadorial Lecture Series, His Excellency Jean-David Levitte, Ambassador of France to the United States, spoke in March during National Foreign Language Week on “France and the United States in a World Transformed.”

The Office of International Programs is particularly grateful to Dr. Joseph Brami of the Department of French and Italian for his role in arranging the lecture. Ambassador Levitte was introduced by Dr. James F. Harris, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, standing in for University of Maryland President C.D. Mote, Jr.

Ambassador Levitte began his speech by recounting his personal experience of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; as the French ambassador to the United Nations, he saw the destruction from his New York office window. Recalling that “at that moment, the whole world was with the United States,” Levitte alluded to the Le Monde newspaper headline, “We Are All Americans.”

The ambassador then described how, as that month’s president of the UN security council, he introduced a draft resolution that changed international law on two issues. It established that this kind of terrorist act would be considered an act of war, and that the victims would be allowed to strike not only against those who committed the act, but also against states that harbored them and those who financed them. Levitte described the success of this resolution as “a real breakthrough in the emotion of the day,” and said that it “paved the way to the war in Afghanistan, with France participating fully.”

Noting that on September 11 and during the following month the whole world was with the U.S., the ambassador posed the question, “So what happened with Iraq?” He attributed the divergence of opinion over Iraq to differences on two issues: one, how best to fight terrorism, and two, ideas on power-sharing and multilateralism.

Addressing the issue of terrorism, Ambassador Levitte said that although he, as a result of his own experience, “fully understand[s] that America is at war,” the overall mood in Europe is different because people there did not register the huge shock
of September 11 as directly. While they support eradicating the scourge of terrorism, Europeans believe that this entails a number of measures, such as sharing intelligence, using the police and judicial systems to identify and condemn terrorists, and attacking the system of financing terrorists, and that force should be used only as a last resort.

The ambassador went on to outline the development of the European Union and its desire for a “common destiny.” He said that European nations are sharing their sovereignty on a daily basis, thus creating “a world that is multilateral in essence,” and that as a result Europeans look for “multilateral solutions.” He remarked with a smile that sharing sovereignty is not something to which Americans are accustomed.

Tracing the specifics of the U.S.-France divergence over Iraq, Ambassador Levitte recounted that President Bush had come to the UN and delivered a “wonderful speech” proposing to disarm Iraq peacefully if possible, and if not, by the use of force. He identified the crucial moment as November 2002, after arms inspectors had been sent to Baghdad and “slowly, Saddam Hussein [had] started to cooperate”—and then, at the same time, the U.S. began deploying thousands of troops with the idea of exerting pressure on him. Levitte said that if the U.S. had deployed only 50,000 troops, “there would have been no war,” but that with 300,000 troops, “the pressure in Washington to use force became irresistible.”

Lenvitte said that the Iraq war, though now past, has raised larger geopolitical issues: “What is at stake now is the future of relations between the Muslim world and the West.” Because of this, France is willing “to cooperate fully,” and although it is not prepared to send troops, it supports training and equipping the new Iraqi forces. Therefore, Levitte said, Iraq is “slowly becoming an element of cooperation” between the U.S. and France.

Discussing its goal of the European Union, the ambassador said that it was not (as portrayed by the American press) to provide a counterweight to American domination, but rather to maintain peace in Europe and build a common destiny and future. He said that the EU had achieved “amazing success” so far, but still had more to accomplish, and spoke of its current efforts to adopt a constitution. He acknowledged that with regard to Iraq, the European nations had “failed miserably” to adopt a common foreign policy, and that this was something on which they needed to work.

Contrasting the EU’s population of 450 million—about fifty percent more than that of the U.S.—with its defense budget, which is half the size, Levitte said that the EU had to create a collective defense. He maintained that it is in the interest of the United States to have a strong partner in Europe.

Conceding that the U.S. and France had been through a rough period in relations, Ambassador Levitte said that he felt the French position was better understood now than it had been one year ago. He concluded his speech by expressing feelings of hope as the two countries look toward the celebration of the 60th anniversary of D-Day later this year. Afterward, he took questions from the audience on such varied topics as nation-building, the political crisis in Haiti, the controversy over the veil in French public schools, issues of secular and religious governments in the Middle East, and anti-Semitism in France.

AMBASSADORIAL LECTURE SERIES

Launched in 2001, the Ambassadorial Lecture Series has brought to campus the ambassadors of China, Bangladesh, Brazil, Argentina, Denmark, Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, and France. For more information on the series, see www.intprog.umd.edu/amb.html.
In March, a one-day symposium titled “Commodore Perry and Beyond: 150 Years of U.S.-Japan Relations” took place in McKeldin Library. This conference examined Japan’s mid-19th-century opening to the outside world after centuries of isolation, its subsequent modernization, and the extent to which these events resulted from U.S. naval officer Commodore Matthew C. Perry’s 1853-54 expedition, which forced Japan to enter into trade and diplomatic relations with the United States.

The large number of sponsors for the event included the Committee on East Asian Studies, the Department of Asian and East European Languages and Cultures, the Undergraduate Certificate Program in East Asian Studies, the Office of International Programs, the Department of History, the Center for Historical Studies, the Department of Women’s Studies, the Honors Program, the College of Arts and Humanities, and the University of Maryland Libraries.

In their welcoming remarks, Dr. James F. Harris, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, and Dr. Charles B. Lowry, Dean of Libraries, noted that the University of Maryland’s Japanese-related programs are becoming stronger as the result of a recent Freeman Foundation grant, and that the University is privileged to be the home of the Gordon W. Prange Collection, the world’s most comprehensive collection of print publications issued in Japan from 1945 to 1949.

The keynote speaker for the symposium was Dr. Fred G. Notehelfer, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles. Examining trends of modernization that were already in place in the 1840s and early 1850s, his lecture posed the hypothetical question, “What If Perry Had Not Come to Japan?” Notehelfer cited writings by mid-19th-century travelers who observed the creation in Japan of a new value structure contrary to feudalism, and the growing status of the commercial class vis-à-vis the historically higher-ranking warrior class. Discussing the rise of the wealthy peasant class in rural areas, Notehelfer focused on the tension between this increasingly powerful periphery and the established centers of power in Edo (now Tokyo) and among the samurai class.

Seven other speakers addressed a range of topics, from mid-19th-century Japanese medical knowledge to U.S.-Japan relations in the new millennium. Dr. Miyuki Yoshikami, of the University of Maryland’s Honors Program, spoke on Japanese koto music. Other speakers were Dr. Ann Jannetta (University of Pittsburgh), Dr. Kevin Murphy (Millikin University), Dr. Wayne Patterson (St. Norbert College), Dr. Helen Hopper (University of Pittsburgh), Dr. Yoshikuni Igarashi (Vanderbilt University), and Dr. Michael Auslin (Yale University).

The conference also included a preview by UM’s Dr. Marlene J. Mayo of a website under development for undergraduate students, “Occupied Japan, 1945-1952: Class, Race, and Gender.” Mayo, who moderated the symposium, is a professor of history and affiliate of the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities.
ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT Dr. Chung-chian Teng, Haipei Shue, Dr. Scott Kastner, Dr. Tieh-lin Yin
On March 11, the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs held a forum titled “Taiwan’s Upcoming Election: Issues, Approaches, and Challenges.” Three speakers discussed the March 20 election: Dr. Tieh-lin Yin, founder of the Institute for Sino Strategic Studies; Dr. Chung-chian Teng, a professor of diplomacy at Taiwan’s National Cheng-chi University; and Haipei Shue, a partner at Washington-based public relations firm Pacific Communications and founder of the first Chinese environmental NGO. Dr. Scott Kastner, Assistant Professor in the Department of Government and Politics, chaired the event.

Yin described the election as “crucial,” saying that if President Chen Shui-bian and the Democratic Progressive Party were to stay in power, it would widen the gap between China and Taiwan and make future reunification more difficult. In addition, he said, a DPP victory might encourage the U.S. to “engage China more aggressively.” He spoke of China as in need of an “inspiring goal” to present both to people in Taiwan and to those in the mainland why Taiwan should move toward reunification rather than independence.

Teng emphasized the importance of opinion polls in this year’s presidential elections, saying that both sides were closely monitoring them. He traced political events in Taiwan over the past six months, discussing President Chen’s controversial desire to create a new constitution.

Shue questioned whether Taiwan has the right to hold a referendum on its political future. At the same time, he criticized mainland China for doing too little to woo Taiwan back and offering it merely “unification for the sake of unification.” He described the actions of the DPP as “disappointing and irresponsible,” and expressed concerns that these actions would force mainland China to militarize itself.

Following their presentations, the panelists fielded audience questions on Taiwan’s cultural and linguistic identity, its bargaining chips in negotiations with the mainland, the controversy over referenda, the relationship between ethnicity and political identity in Taiwan, and the pressure on Taiwan to accept the mainland’s “one China” policy.

The University of Maryland’s Deborah Cai (Department of Communication), James Gao (Department of History), Ken Hunter (IGCA), and Scott Kastner (Department of Government and Politics) were invited to Taiwan to observe the elections. They and China Times editor Norman Fu were scheduled to appear as panelists at the April 7 IGCA forum, “The Taiwan Election: Reactions, Thoughts, and Observations”; look for coverage of this event in the Summer 2004 issue of Maryland International.

For more information on the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs, see the IGCA website at www.igca.umd.edu.
Center for Teaching Excellence Provides Guidance to South American Universities

ABOVE Faculty members at the Universidad de Lima listening to CTE keynote presentation
For a number of years, the University of Maryland’s Center for Teaching Excellence has been engaged in teaching and consultation in other countries. Invitations to work with university faculty and administrators have taken CTE to South Africa and to Latin America (where CTE has almost a decade of involvement with a consortium of Ecuadorean universities), as well as Europe.

Last year, Dr. Jim Greenberg and Dr. Roberta Lavine traveled three times to Latin America to deliver keynote addresses at conferences on university teaching and learning, and to work with individual departments on specific issues of teaching effectiveness and innovation, assessment of student learning, and enhancement of faculty development. Greenberg is a professor of education, CTE faculty fellow, and director of CTE’s international programs; Lavine is a professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and affiliate of the Latin American Studies Center.

In January, the two went to the University of Concepción in Chile to make presentations on various aspects of college teaching and the nature of CTE’s work within a university context. Previously, University of Concepción officials had visited the University of Maryland and conferred with UM colleagues on support programs for underprepared students, technology in education, and quality issues in planning and development. On their visit to Chile, Greenberg and Lavine did consultations with a number of departments and with the office of the provost, and gave a keynote address at the university’s international conference on college teaching. It is expected that the successful nature of this visit will lead to further collaboration and interaction between UM and the University of Concepción.

In July, Greenberg and Lavine ventured to Peru on a trip co-sponsored by the Latin American Studies Center. Their agenda at the University of Lima involved individual workshops as well as consultations with the programs of engineering, business, humanities, postgraduate studies, and general studies. In addition, two university-wide presentations on quality and excellence in university teaching were enthusiastically greeted by standing-room-only crowds. As with CTE efforts elsewhere, the work in Lima offered ample opportunity to share some of the outstanding work being done at UM in various disciplines, and to explain the ways in which CTE collaborates with colleges and departments to foster innovation and enhancements in teaching and learning.

In November and December, the Latin American work continued in Quito, Ecuador, where Greenberg and Lavine conducted a major leadership workshop for faculty and top university officials at the Universidad Tecnológica Equinoccial. Focusing on teaching portfolios and strategic planning, the workshops examined evaluation of teaching and modes of assessing and promoting quality in teaching and learning. The format included extensive hands-on work by participating faculty, and Greenberg and Lavine worked with the university rector and department chairs to develop action plans for implementation.

Greenberg and Lavine are currently working with the Fulbright Commission in Ecuador to continue the teaching portfolio project throughout the country. They look forward to this project, as well as to further collaborations throughout Latin America.

For more information on the Center for Teaching Excellence, see www.cte.umd.edu.
OIP Director Speaks in Venezuela on Democracy

In February, Dr. Saúl Sosnowski, Director of the Office of International Programs, took part in a political science project in Venezuela at the invitation of the U.S. Department of State.

At a seminar in Caracas entitled “Political Thought,” Sosnowski addressed the topic of transitions from authoritarian governments. Sponsored by the Center for Philosophical Studies and the Catholic University Andrés Bello, the seminar focused on models of democracy, decentralization as a mechanism to strengthen democracy, democracy beyond political mediation, and democracy as an educational and social process. Participants included experts from Venezuela, Peru, and Germany.

Director of the Latin American Studies Center as well as of OIP, Sosnowski directs LASC’s “A Culture for Democracy in Latin America” project. This effort has developed lines of research that lead to concrete policy recommendations designed to strengthen democratic institutions and Latin America’s democratic public space. Part of this effort is the ongoing “New Leadership for a Democratic Society” project in Argentina.

For more information on “A Culture for Democracy in Latin America,” see www.inform.umd.edu/ias/Projects/Democracy.

University Hosts Conference on Southern Cone Region

In November 2003 the University of Maryland hosted “A Critical Dialogue on the Southern Cone,” a one-day conference on the region comprising Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Organized and chaired by Dr. Laura Demaría, Assistant Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the conference was sponsored by the Office of International Programs; the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; the Department of Spanish and Portuguese; and the Latin American Studies Center.

Scholars specializing in the literature, culture, and films of this region met to discuss their research. Participants came from the metropolitan area and beyond, with speakers from Georgetown, George Washington, Johns Hopkins, the U.S. Naval Academy, the University of Richmond, the University of Virginia, and Lebanon Valley College. Conference topics covered a broad range: female self-construction; new work from the McCondo literary movement; 18th- and 19th-century travel literature; science fiction; Jorge Luis Borges and his mentor, the poet-philosopher Macedonio Fernández; the theory of translation and the translation of theory; nineteenth-century declarations of independence; and current political discourse.

The conference was designed as an open dialogue, where the speakers presented and defended their work in progress to other specialists in the field. By focusing exclusively on the most current research, the meeting served as a testing ground for new readings and current trends and provided helpful feedback to the presenters. For graduate students from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the event provided a unique opportunity to meet area scholars, while the conference benefited greatly from their active participation.

For more information on the conference, see the page on the Latin American Studies Center’s website at www.inform.umd.edu/ias/Events/DocumentEvents/ConoSur.htm.
Physics Professor Conducts Research, Delivers Lectures in India

In December 2003 and January 2004, Dr. O.W. Greenberg, Professor in the Department of Physics, visited India on a National Science Foundation-Department of Science and Technology of India exchange grant to do research on quantum statistics with his counterpart Dr. A.K. Mishra of the Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Chennai, the city formerly known as Madras. Greenberg specializes in elementary particles.

In addition to conducting this research, during his five-week visit Greenberg spoke at Calcutta University, the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (Calcutta), Delhi University, the Physical Research Laboratory (Ahmadabad), the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (Mumbai-Bombay), Hyderabad University, and the B.M. Birla Science Center (Hyderabad).

At the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Greenberg delivered the Ripon Professorship Lecture, given annually by a distinguished physicist. At the Tata Institute, he spoke in the Homi Bhabha Auditorium before an audience of about 1500.

UM Joins with Tel Aviv University and Israeli Businesses for Research Project

The state of Maryland and the Israeli Electronics Corporation have joined for a new research collaboration project. The Joint Center for Reliable Electronic Systems will conduct and coordinate joint reliability research between the University of Maryland’s Clark School of Engineering and Tel Aviv University’s Fleischman Faculty of Engineering.

The Center’s mission is to study the reliability of commercial off-the-shelf parts currently used in sophisticated electronics and to develop guidelines for increasing lifetime without sacrificing quality. The Center will also serve as an academic resource for seminars and training to Israeli and outside companies who design, build, and maintain systems whose expected life far exceeds that of the parts from which they are built.

Dr. Joseph Bernstein, an Associate Professor of Reliability in UM’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, is a visiting professor at Tel Aviv University until the summer of 2004. He describes Israel as the ideal place for such a center because its economy depends on providing products with long lifetimes and low cost of maintenance.

At the announcement of the project, Dr. Itamar Rabinovich, president of Tel Aviv University, said, “We look forward to many years of this kind of mutually beneficial collaboration between Maryland and Israel.”
In November, 40 teachers and administrators from eight South African provinces and members of the country’s Department of Education attended a leadership institute at the University of Maryland’s Department of Education Policy and Leadership and the Center for Teaching Excellence.

This was the first group to participate in the program, which will host about 100 educators each year. The leadership institute is part of a four-year grant awarded by the United States Agency for International Development to Prince George’s Community College and the University of Maryland to provide professional development opportunities for science and math teaching methods to South African secondary school teachers.

After shadowing teachers and administrators in Maryland schools, the group participated in a weeklong institute on educational leadership. Led by Dr. Jim Greenberg of the Center for Teaching Excellence and Dr. Carol Anne Spreen of the Department of Education Policy and Lead-
ership, the institute included sessions on U.S. curriculum reform, curriculum planning, and theory; visits to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Science Foundation; a trip to a local high school to talk about its transformation to a science-technology magnet; and a workshop on hands-on teaching at the Materials Science Engineering Resource Center.

The next leadership institute will take place in mid-June 2004.

In March, the University of Maryland’s men’s basketball team defeated five-time defending champion Duke to win the Atlantic Coast Conference championship for the first time in 20 years.

The No. 6 seed in the tournament, UM began by narrowly beating No. 3 seed Wake Forest 87-86. The Terrapins then defeated No. 2 seed N.C. State, 85-82. In the finals, they claimed a 95-87 overtime victory over archrival Duke.

In this year’s NCAA Division I men’s basketball tournament, the University of Maryland advanced to the second round, beating the University of Texas-El Paso 86-83 before losing to Syracuse, 70-72.

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