MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL
Connecting the University of Maryland & the World
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Children at Madieu Williams’ school in Sierra Leone (front cover), by Dr. Woodie Kessel; folk dancing in Buenos Aires (inside cover), by Saúl Sosnowski; Tanzanian boy poses with his family’s maize harvest in one of the MVP clusters (back cover), by Ray R. Weil.

Photo correction: In the last issue, the back cover photo was referred to as Africa. To be more specific, the photo was taken in Kenya. We apologize for any confusion.
University of Maryland in Africa
All across campus, students and faculty at the university are involved in a variety of projects in Africa—from the UM chapter of Engineers Without Borders placing solar panels on medical centers in Burkina Faso to the Department of Geology studying xenoliths in Tanzania.

Dr. Stephanie Lansing Travels to Haiti to Build a Renewable Energy System
Dr. Lansing recently returned from Cange, Haiti, and discusses her project to build an anaerobic digestion waste treatment system that utilizes local wastewater resources to produce renewable energy.

OIS Director Says Goodbye After 35 Years at University of Maryland
OIS Director Valerie Woolston has retired after 41 years of service to the international education community, 35 years of which were spent at the University of Maryland.

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MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL is the newsletter of the Institute for International Programs (Saúl Sosnowski, director; Joseph Scholten, associate director) and the interconnected group of offices under its auspices, including Office of International Services (Barbara Varsa, interim director), Education Abroad (Michael Ulrich, interim director), the Maryland China Initiative (Robert Daly, director), and the Confucius Institute at Maryland (Chuan Sheng Liu, director). Issues are published twice during the fall and spring semesters and once during the summer. To submit story ideas and/or photos, please contact the editor, Vivian Hayward, at vhayward@umd.edu or 301.405.4312.
As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, countries, regions, and societies across Africa seem poised for the sort of transformational change experienced by Asian peers in the late 20th century. With an eye on both the benefits and pitfalls of the Asian experience, African governmental and non-governmental institutions, at the local and regional level, are seeking to enhance the capacities of their countries and regions to create a sustainable, secure future. Considering the University of Maryland’s roots as a Land Grant school devoted to applied research, it should be no surprise that peers from Senegal to Tanzania are partnering with faculty, staff, and students across campus. This is particularly true given that the current UM campus family includes more than 700 who are natives of Africa and thousands who are of African ancestry.

Following is a small selection of UM personnel and programs engaged in partnerships with peers from sub-Saharan African countries.

**IIP Colloquium, Innovation and Africa**

UM’s Institute for International Programs (IIP) has been exploring ways to encourage greater communication and, where feasible, cross-campus collaboration among the many individuals and units at UM who are active in African countries and regions that lie south of the Sahara. One result has been the creation of a listserv, UMD-AFRICA, for the sharing of information and announcements. This past term, IIP took another step by organizing a colloquium, “Innovation and Africa,” to bring campus Africanists together with peers from a wide-range of Africa-oriented organizations and institutions in the D.C. area, to share information and discuss possible new collaborations.

“Innovation and Africa” took place on May 7, in the Special Events Room of McKeldin library. The very well attended colloquium was organized around four overarching, crosscutting topics: health, education, food security (including water), and infrastructure. H.E.M. Nathaniel Barnes, ambassador plenipotentiary to the United States from the Republic of Liberia, offered an overview of current prospects for sub-Saharan African countries and peoples. For more information and a list of all the speakers, visit international.umd.edu/oip/9830.
of Maryland IN AFRICA
**Nyumburu Center Organizes Books for Northern Uganda Fundraiser**

Solomon Comissiong’s presentation at the colloquium was one of three highlighting the activities of UM student-oriented programs. In the course of his work as Assistant Director of the Nyumburu Cultural Center, Comissiong learned of the efforts of the United Movement to End Child Soldiering (UMECS) in northern Uganda, where a 21-year war had displaced more than two million people and forced more than 30,000 children into soldiering and sex slavery. Many of the schools these children left lacked sufficient textbooks and libraries for high quality education. Under Comissiong’s leadership, the Nyumburu Center partnered with UMECS and Books for Africa in a community-wide fundraising effort. As a result, the Center was able to send 35,000 brand new course-specific textbooks to schools in Northern Uganda last year.

This July, Dr. Ronald Zeigler, director of the Nyumburu Center, and Comissiong plan to follow-up the delivery of the books with a visit to several schools in Northern Uganda. To learn more, visit UMECS at [www.endchildsoldiering.org](http://www.endchildsoldiering.org) or Books for Africa at [www.booksforafrica.org](http://www.booksforafrica.org). To learn more about what the Nyumburu Center is doing on campus, visit [www.nyumburu.umd.edu](http://www.nyumburu.umd.edu).

**Engineers Without Borders in Burkina Faso**

Student presenters at the recent Africa Colloquium also included Headley Jacobus and Ethan Schuler, of the UM student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). Six years into its existence, UM EWB has become one of the most active chapters in the United States and has worked to produce high-quality engineers and student leaders by implementing engineering projects abroad to support developing communities.

In January, the organization completed the first phase of the Burkina Faso Health project in Dissin, a small town in West Africa. A team of UM students—who visited Burkina Faso in 2009 to assess their energy, water, and sanitation needs—organized a two-part process to address their need for electricity in their four medical centers, as well as provide better access to clean water. At the beginning of the year, EWB collaborated with villagers to place solar panels on the centers while also working with the community to set up an educational program on water safety. The team plans to return in June for Phase 2 to implement solar-powered water pumping and filtration systems.

Headley Jacobus, EWB project manager, describes the organization as unique in the UM community in that it is completely student-led. “We have professional and faculty advisers, but they are simply that: advisers. The whole system is only able to function through an organization-wide commitment to mentorship. The result is that EWB turns out exceptional student leaders. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of the university; support that most other local chapters cannot necessarily count on,” Jacobus says.

For more information on recent and upcoming EWB projects, visit [www.eng.umd.edu/ewb](http://www.eng.umd.edu/ewb).

**The Chevy Chase Leadership Internship Program**

The Chevy Chase Leadership Internship Program (CCLIP)—co-administered by the University Career Center, The President’s Promise, and the Adele H. Stamp Office of Campus Programs—is just completing its fifth year, with this year being its third with an international immer-
This past fall, 15 students enrolled in the program, attending the required CCLIP class on leadership in a global context, as well as accepting an internship with a community-based organization in the D.C. metro area. “The goal of the CCLIP program is to see the application of sustainable community development on both a local and global level,” says Megan O’Rourke, course instructor and Uganda trip leader.

During the spring semester, students continued the program with another CCLIP course and traveled to Masaka, Uganda, to complete the cross-cultural requirement during their spring break. CCLIP partnered with the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) to connect students with a local Ugandan organization, Renewed Efforts to Alleviate Poverty (REAP). With REAP’s help, they worked side by side with the local community to construct water-harvesting systems to collect rainwater, which could be used throughout the season and generate income for the family. The systems were constructed by hand with materials found in the local area with sustainability and affordability in mind. Additionally, the students worked with community members to plant several fruit trees to encourage nutrition awareness.

In describing the merits of the students’ hands-on experience, O’Rourke explains that, “The students learned that true sustainable development happens when the local community is involved in every aspect of the process. Many of the students have been inspired to take a more active role in their communities here in the U.S. and to return abroad to work in international development.” For more information on the CCLIP, visit www.thestamp.umd.edu/leadership/cclip.shtml.

UM Faculty Member Assesses Millennium Villages Project

In response to the persistence of extreme poverty in many parts of the world, global leaders gathered in September 2000 to create the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)—goals to reduce poverty and improve life for the world’s poorest people. While many parts of the world made progress since the inception of the MDG, sub-Saharan Africa was still plagued by extreme poverty and high child mortality rates. The Millennium Villages Project (MVP) was initiated in 2004 to address these issues in rural African communities by working at the community level.

By the end of 2009 there were a total of 14 villages in the project. These villages have a range of ecosystems, soils, social settings, and climates representative of about 90 percent of the farming communities in Africa, where the vast majority of the residents still work at subsistence level.

In 2009, Ray R. Weil, professor of soil science in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Technology at the University of Maryland, spent his sabbatical working on the MVP. Weil traveled to six African countries and eight of the 14 MVP clusters. He notes that, while the work is very challenging, it is also satisfying to see the progress being made. “Growing enough food to feel secure is no longer a big issue. Yields have doubled or tripled almost everywhere,” explains Weil. “There is plenty to eat. The concerns now revolve around improving diets, making money from selling surplus and value added products, diversifying crops, and improving quality and organic inputs such as composts.”

As with agriculture, the progress in education, health, and infrastructure have been equally or even more impressive. The challenge now will be to make this progress sustainable. The villages are meant to fully function on their own by 2015 when the project comes to an end. For more information, visit www.millenniumvillages.org.

UM IRIS Center Examines Improving Services for the Poorest

Located in the UM Department of Economics, the IRIS Center is a research and advisory center dedicated to facilitating economic growth and improving governance in developing countries. IRIS has many teams coming in and out of Africa, with more than half a dozen on-going projects in 2010.

In 2003, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contracted IRIS to create monitoring tools to measure the depth of outreach of its financial programs to the poor. Initially, IRIS developed the data—using national living standards and expenditure surveys—to create Poverty Assessment Tools (PAT) in Liberia, Senegal, and Uganda. To date, IRIS has developed PAT data for 29 countries and continues to expand its research on poverty measurement. It is providing more automated and advanced analytics to the rich PAT data and exploring new indicators of poverty—from
disability to service delivery to food insecurity. In this way, IRIS is making its evaluation tools more widely relevant and more deeply useful to a broad array of program assessments. To learn more, visit www.povertytools.org.

Currently, IRIS is also measuring the impact of poverty-focused financial services in Africa. With funding through a six million dollar grant by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, IRIS and its sub-grantee, Microfinance Opportunities, have traveled to Malawi and Kenya to assess the effectiveness of two non-traditional financial services. In Malawi, the Opportunity Bank of Malawi (OIBM) extended its reach to the rural poor by driving a mobile bank to select villages once a week to provide traditional banking services many could not access otherwise. In Kenya, instead of mobile banks, residents in both rural and urban communities turned to their cell phones to access their banking services. In both countries, IRIS is using mixed-methods research to assess the impact of innovations in financial services on the poor. For more information on current programs, visit www.iris.umd.edu.

UM GEOLOGIST STUDIES LITHOSPHERIC DYNAMICS IN TANZANIA

This coming November, UM Geology Professor Roberta Rudnick will be taking her fifth trip to Tanzania, this time as a Fulbright scholar, to collect and study samples of rock, or xenoliths, brought to the surface from great depths in the lithosphere.

Rudnick first visited Tanzania in 1989 to study the craton, an old and stable part of the continental lithosphere, with some parts that date back three billion years. While other locations sample deeper and older portions of the lithosphere, the Rift volcanoes that host these samples in Tanzania cause little alteration of the samples, providing a uniquely fresh perspective on what lies below. Rudnick explains that, “In other areas, kimberlites bring these materials up, and they’re full of volatiles, like carbon dioxide and water, that cause a lot of alteration to the samples. In contrast, in Tanzania, it’s basalt that’s carrying these samples, [which has] much less impact on them. [The samples] are much more pristine.”

By studying these rock samples, Rudnick, her students, and postdoctoral associates have determined when this region of the continent formed and the processes that occurred since then. The crust in eastern Tanzania, for example, was part of a Himalayan-scale mountain range 550 million years ago. Today, the mountains are gone due to erosion, and the deeper portions of the mountain belt are exposed at the surface, much like the present-day Appalachians. Rudnick hopes that her upcoming trip will shed more light on what has happened at the very deepest reaches of the mountain belt. For more information on the Department of Geology, visit www.geology.umd.edu.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY APPLIES MAPPING AND REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA

The Department of Geography has for many years partnered with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, using satellite imagery to monitor forest cover changes in the Congo Basin for the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) long-term, multi-partner initiative aims to promote sustainable natural resource management, working to reduce the rate of deforestation and loss of biodiversity by supporting increased local, regional, and national natural resource management capacity in the Congo Basin. With support from CARPE, UM has assisted in establishing the Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale (OSFAC) in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to boost regional capacity and facilitate forest monitoring efforts in the Central African region. OSFAC provides training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing at the University of Kinshasa and ex situ trainings across the Congo Basin. In northern DRC, a UM Faculty Research Assistant, Janet Nackoney is currently on a three-month field mission, working with NGO partners and with support from USAID, on participative land-use planning to decrease deforestation caused by slash-and-burn agriculture as part of the Sustainable Opportunities for Improving Livelihoods (SOIL) project. Nackoney works with village leaders, using remote sensing and GIS, to identify the spatial extent of village agricultural limits and plan future land practices.

With funding from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank, UM researchers are also developing a carbon benefits project in Western Kenya. Professor and Department Chair, Dr. Christopher Justice; Research Associate Professor, Dr. Tatiana Loboda; and Alyssa Whitcraft, a Ph.D. student, joined a team from Michigan State University to develop methodologies aimed at linking small-farm agro-forestry practices directly to carbon markets and bringing carbon offset benefits to Kenyan farmers. The project focuses on combining remotely-sensed data and geospatial modeling to create a simple, flexible, and accurate web-based carbon accounting system. The methods and tools developed will ensure objective long-term monitoring and estimates of carbon sequestration and storage in natural and cropland-dominated landscapes of eastern Africa.

To learn more about these projects, visit www.geog.umd.edu, www.carpe.umd.edu, and www.osfac.net.

Interested in joining the UM Africa list? Contact IIP Assoc. Dir., Dr. Joseph B. Scholten at scholten@umd.edu.
Just two short months after an earthquake hit Haiti, killing hundreds of thousands of people as well as displacing over a half a million from their homes, Dr. Stephanie Lansing, an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology (ENST)—along with three graduate students Katherine Strass, Andrew Moss, and Kyla Gregoire—arrived in Cange, Haiti, to design an anaerobic digestion waste treatment system that utilizes local wastewater resources to produce renewable energy for Partners in Health (PIH), a rural hospital complex.

“The hope is that as Haiti starts to rebuild, they can build it in a sustainable way instead of rebuilding what previously existed, like ineffective latrines and open-line sewer systems,” says Lansing. “We’re taking the waste they have, and we’re using that waste source to meet their most essential energy need—cooking. You can also run this biogas through a generator and create electricity.” She has been involved in the project since 2008 and is currently collaborating with a group of U.S. engineers, as well as students and professors from Clemson University, to redesign the struggling water distribution system.

This project has recently taken on greater urgency due to the dramatic increase in refugees to Cange, which sits about 40 miles northeast of Port-au-Prince. The current wastewater treatment system in the PIH complex consists of 17 over-loaded septic pits that are endangering the purity of Cange’s water supply.

Due to the increased demand in alternative sources of energy and clean water, Lansing plans a return trip to Haiti in May to begin construction and implementation of the waste treatment system.

Lansing has broad experience on low-cost digestion systems with research sites in Costa Rica, Sierra Leone, and Maryland using waste resources ranging from dairy and swine manure to palm oil wastewater. In addition, her research team utilizes ecological and energy modeling to understand carbon and nutrient cycling and quantify the environmental costs and benefits of low-cost waste treatment systems. For more information, visit www.enst.umd.edu/people/lansing.

By Kintija Eigmina, Web and Communications Coordinator, Department of Environmental Science & Technology

Dr. Stephanie Lansing Travels to Haiti to Build a Renewable Energy System

Where does Hong Kong stand today with regard to world trade and development? In April, the Hong Kong Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs, Donald Chi-keung Tong, shared his views at the Student Union in an event sponsored by the Confucius Institute at Maryland (CIM). Tong discussed a range of topics which included Hong Kong’s political and economic developments, current fiscal and social challenges, economic integration with China, and more.

Tong was clear on several differences with mainland China: Hong Kong is not under the same stringent internet controls and has a free and open market. Although Hong Kong has an externally oriented economy and stable banks, the region needs to increase job availability and ascend to stronger financial stability. The United States is Hong Kong’s second largest trading partner, next to mainland China, and Hong Kong is Maryland’s 19th largest export destination.

Tong is the most senior representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in the United States. As Commissioner, he directs the HKSAR Government’s efforts in promoting U.S.–Hong Kong economic and trade ties and constituency-building activities in the United States. He also oversees the work of the three Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Washington, D.C., New York, and San Francisco.

By Rebecca McGinnis, CIM

Dr. Lansing with Haitian children in Cange.
An International Athlete-Student’s Perspective

When I was just three years old, my father took me swimming for the first time, and since then I’ve spent much of my life in the water. I originally lived in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but during the Bosnian War my family moved to Croatia in search of a better life. While growing up, I spent hours in the pool, training tirelessly and competing around the world for my family and for my country, always working towards a better future. Then four years ago, my dedication paid off when I was offered a full athletic scholarship to the University of Maryland.

My decision to enroll at UM was an easy one, a decision I have yet to regret—for UM offered me many opportunities in athletics and academics. Looking back at the past few years, I can fondly recall all the swim meets, classes, and social gatherings that I attended and the people I met along the way. I am truly thankful that I had the opportunity to immerse myself in another culture, meet people from such diverse backgrounds, and be a part of an intercollegiate NCAA Division I swim team. Over the years, my teammates and coaches and the tireless hours of training and competing have shaped me into who I am today. Being a part of the UM swim team has taught me to be responsible, independent, and a good leader, inspiring my fellow teammates to keep striving to be better. The friendships I have made are for life, and I am content knowing the friends I have here will always support me and help if I’m in need. I have learned that being a part of a team is not about winning medals; it’s about the life experiences and the friendships.

Outside the swimming pool I was just as motivated to make the most of my time at UM. One of the university’s many benefits includes its close proximity to D.C. where I made sure to form a strong network of professional contacts alongside my contacts on campus. I took my education as seriously as my athletic training from the first day I stepped foot onto campus, and I promised myself to not let any opportunity pass me by. Both in and out of the water, my motto has always been to take charge of my own life and create my own opportunities.

Now that the semester is coming to a close and I look back at my time at Maryland, I am forever grateful to the entire UM Athletic Department for providing me the opportunity to attend this great institution. I would also like to thank my teammates and coaches as well as my family who have been with me every step of the way. They are truly my greatest supporters with whom I have faced many challenges, from the war in the 1990s to this very day and hopefully to the next step—the 2012 Olympic Games. Thank you all. Without you, I would not be where I am today.

By Aleksandar Damjanic
This year Valerie Woolston will be awarded Life Membership in NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the leading association in the field of international education and exchange. This award is given to the few who have worked in the association for their entire career and who have made important contributions as well as demonstrated leadership in the international education field. It is an award that seems to be a fitting farewell gift after her recent retirement from the University of Maryland. With 41 years of service in the international education community, 35 years of which were at UM, Woolston has had a very broad career with experience in all aspects of international education, from admissions and advising to education abroad.

Barbara Varsa Named New Interim Director of OIS

After serving as Director of the E.L.S. Language Center for five years, Barbara Varsa came to the University of Maryland in 1980 embarking on her extended career in international education. She had a divided appointment with the Maryland English Institute (MEI), established in 1980, and the Office of International Education Services. She was in the first group of Teachers of English as a Second Language (ESL) at MEI, one of the longest running ESL programs affiliated with a university in the country. Her responsibilities with the newly named Office of International Services (OIS) included the evaluation of international credentials, advising of international graduate and undergraduate students and the Associate Director of OIS since 2005. Her undergraduate studies in French and Spanish and graduate studies in Comparative Education, as well as years of experience in the field of international education, have prepared her to assume the role of Interim Director of OIS effective April 1, 2010.

OIS Director Says Goodbye After 35 Years at University of Maryland

Woolston completed her B.A. in 1965 and her M.A. in 1976 in comparative education, both at the University of Maryland. She has spent a great deal of her life committed to international education, not only at UM but also at several universities across the state. She came to the Office of International Services (OIS), formerly known as International Education Services, in 1978 from Morgan State University where she worked as a counselor and foreign student advisor in the Counseling Center. Before that, she worked at other universities in the area as well as at UM while pursuing her degree. “[Maryland has] always been a very good institution and an institution that cares a lot about international students and scholars. The faculty has been incredibly supportive, as has the administration. The faculty in particular really like having international students in their programs, and they help out whenever it’s needed,” says Woolston.

Under her leadership, OIS has seen the growth of international students from a mere 500 in 1979 to more than 3,600 international students today and 1,100 international faculty and scholars, representing more than 150 countries. During her work as the director of OIS, Woolston has collaborated with staff to recommend and establish the Maryland English Institute, a support service unit that provides English language instruction to international students, and proposed and initiated the Global Communities Living and Learning program. She also established the first study abroad program in London by allocating OIS staff to create the Education Abroad unit.

Now that Woolston has retired, she looks forward to some free time. Although she has no definite plans, she hopes to travel and continue her involvement with international issues. In fact, Woolston has recently partnered with Andrea Levy, another UM retiree, to expand Levy’s pre-existing study abroad scholarship. This new scholarship, the Levy-Woolston Scholarship for Study Abroad, will help foster opportunities for UM first-generation undergraduates with financial need to participate in a first-time international study abroad experience. Charitable contributions to the University of Maryland College Park Foundation for the benefit of the scholarship fund are encouraged and may be sent to the attention of Patricia Wang, 4100 Riggs Alumni Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-1541.
University of Maryland Hopes to Collaborate on Future Projects in Argentina

This spring, a delegation of University of Maryland faculty and administrators traveled to Argentina with the hope of strengthening relations between the two countries and sparking future collaborations in agriculture, environment, and natural resources. The UM team—Cheng-i Wei, professor and dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Dr. Saúl Sosnowski, associate provost and director of the Institute for International Programs; Dr. W. Kenworthy, professor and chair of the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture; Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi, associate dean for research; Dr. José Costa, associate professor, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture; and Dr. Raymond J. Miller, director of International Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources—arrived at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires for an overview of food and agriculture in Argentina and areas available for joint programs. Afterwards, they met with the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr. Lorenzo R. Basso, to further discuss the ongoing development of Argentina’s long-range agricultural plans and the possibility of UM assistance in reviewing the plan as well as training Ministry staff in areas of policy, management, and budgeting.

The UM delegation continued their journey to the Government House in Entre Ríos to meet with Governor Sergio Daniel Urribarri to learn more about current policies involving the agricultural industry. The meeting included presentations by the National Institute of Agricultural Science (INTA)—similar to the research arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A number of researchers presented their work on topics that included wheat, soybeans, canola, natural resources, crop management, food safety, growth modeling, and more. Specifically, two areas were highlighted where cooperative research could be mutually beneficial: leaf rust in soybeans and wheat breeding.

The delegation also visited several universities, including the University of Buenos Aires and the National University of Entre Ríos. During discussions, questions arose on how to proceed and where funds would come from; Wei encouraged immediate action by making a challenge grant proposal. The UM College of Agriculture and Natural Resources offered a $50,000 grant on the terms that the provincial and federal governments match it, providing $150,000 total. Both the Ministry and the Governor agreed readily to the match, taking future collaborations one-step closer to reality. “It’s gone from an Argentine visit eight months ago to [almost] an actual program,” says Miller. “If we can get a program started in Argentina, we can potentially have connections to other countries through their free trade agreement.” While plans are still in the preliminary stages, hope remains that the challenge grant will lead to UM programs in Argentina in the near future. For more information on International Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources, visit www.ipan.umd.edu.

University of Maryland’s 2010 Rankings

The number of UM programs in U.S. News’s top 25 stands at 78; 29 programs have earned top 10 rankings.

College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (www.cmpts.umd.edu)
- COMPUTER SCIENCE ranked 14th
  - The ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ranked 13th
  - The PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE ranked 13th
  - The SYSTEMS ranked 18th
- MATHEMATICS ranked 20th
  - The APPLIED MATH ranked 12th
- PHYSICS ranked 14th
  - The ATOMIC/MOLECULAR/OPTICAL ranked 7th
  - The CONDENSED MATTER ranked 10th
  - The COSMOLOGY/RELATIVITY/GRAVITY ranked 11th
- The PLASMA ranked 7th
- The QUANTUM ranked 9th

EARTH SCIENCE ranked 32nd
- The GEOLOGY ranked 7th

Smith School of Business (www.smith.umd.edu)
- BUSINESS ranked 45th
  - The FINANCE ranked 25th
  - The INFORMATION SYSTEMS ranked 6th
  - The PART-TIME MBA ranked 15th
  - The SUPPLY CHAIN/LOGISTICS ranked 15th
A team of UM students, faculty, and mentors has earned one of 20 coveted spots in the international U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2011. The biennial competition challenges collegiate teams to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are affordable, energy-efficient, and attractive.

This will be the fourth time Maryland has made it to the finals. A UM team placed fourth in the first Solar Decathlon in 2002. The 2005 team received the People's Choice Award, the BP Solar Innovation Award, and a Safety Award Honorable Mention. LEAFHouse, Maryland's 2007 entry, garnered second place overall, along with the People's Choice Award and several industry awards. “This year's conceptual design, WaterShed, begins where LEAFHouse left off,” says Amy Gardner, associate professor of architecture and principal investigator for Maryland’s Solar Decathlon 2011 effort. “Our goal for WaterShed is to produce an ecosystem whose efficiency comes from the interconnectedness of building, site, and the people who inhabit them.” WaterShed, strives to create a mini ecosystem that efficiently captures and fully utilizes the energy of sun, wind, and rain as well as household wastes that retain valuable energy and nutritional resources.

Nearly 300 students from architecture, engineering, environmental science and technology, landscape architecture, and other disciplines will help bring WaterShed to life, in partnership with a multi-disciplinary faculty team. “In the past, teams have put in long hours; and their dedication, creativity, and collaborative spirit have been a key to our success,” Gardner points out. “This year, the project will benefit from the UM tradition of an integrated, inter-generational team, with voices both fresh and seasoned, encompassing mentors and students from varied disciplines.”

A series of Decathlon-related courses offered across the university, beginning in fall 2009 and continuing through fall 2011, form the base structure for Maryland students’ participation, and students also volunteer to help on an extracurricular basis.

Garth Rockcastle, dean of the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation says, “The Solar Decathlon effort resonates with the school’s priorities of sustainability and building craft. It also provides our students a unique opportunity to make connections with peers and mentors from other units within the university and building professions.”

The 20 teams selected for the upcoming Solar Decathlon are geographically and academically diverse as well, hailing from the U.S., Belgium, China, and New Zealand and representing both large and small colleges and universities. The final entries will be publicly displayed and judged on the National Mall in October 2011.

By Neil Tickner, Senior Media Relations Associate, University Communications

**in U.S. News & World Report**

**College of Education (www.education.umd.edu)**
- EDUCATION ranked 25th
  - The ADMINISTRATION/SUPERVISION ranked 16th
  - The COUNSELING AND PERSONNEL SERVICES ranked 1st
  - The EDUCATION POLICY ranked 13th
  - The CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION ranked 19th
  - The EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY ranked 6th
  - The ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ranked 14th
  - The HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION ranked 10th
  - The SECONDARY EDUCATION ranked 22nd
  - The SPECIAL EDUCATION ranked 11th
  - The ENTREPRENEURSHIP ranked 26th

**Clark School of Engineering (www.eng.umd.edu)**
- ENGINEERING ranked 22nd
  - The AEROSPACE ENGINEERING ranked 9th
  - The BIOMEDICAL/ENGINEERING ranked 35th
  - The CHEMICAL ENGINEERING ranked 41st
  - The CIVIL ENGINEERING ranked 27th
  - The ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ranked 14th
  - The MATERIALS ENGINEERING ranked 31st
  - The MECHANICAL ENGINEERING ranked 21st

**College of Chemistry and Life Sciences (www.chemlife.umd.edu)**
- CHEMISTRY ranked 38th
- BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (Interdisciplinary) ranked 57th
The Department of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) at the A. James Clark School of Engineering is pleased to welcome visiting scientist and Feodor Lynen Fellow Dr. Evelina Vogli to the University of Maryland. Professor Gottlieb Oehrlein, director of the Laboratory for Plasma Processing of Materials and Professor James F. Drake will serve as her hosts. Dr. Vogli is the senior engineer and head of the Coatings Technologies Research Group at the University of Dortmund, Germany.

The prestigious Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship offers outstanding researchers from all disciplines the opportunity to engage in a six- to 18-month research project at a foreign academic institution of their choice. The fellowship is awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which promotes academic cooperation between experienced researchers and group leaders from Germany and around the world by offering a wide variety of awards, professorships, and fellowships for scholars at all levels of their careers. Fellows are hosted by a worldwide network of more than 24,000 “Humboldtians,” alumni, and fellows of these programs.

“I chose the University of Maryland because [it] is among the top engineering programs in USA,” says Vogli. “Both Professor Oehrlein and Professor Drake are nationally and internationally renowned in [the fields of] plasma and plasma-surface interactions.”

“This research stay offers me the possibility to gain valuable experience that will further my academic and scientific careers,” Vogli explains. “The work to be done at the University of Maryland will help me become acquainted with new methods and techniques, establish new contacts, exchange experiences with scientists from other countries, and become acquainted with cooperating partners. I hope to solve problems and obtain many positive results in a very international environment.”


By Faye Levine, Communications Coordinator, A. James Clark School of Engineering
UM Organizes Conferences for Cross-National Policy Exchanges

Under the auspices of the recently established UM Center for International Policy Exchanges (CIPE), Prof. Douglas Besharov (School of Public Policy) has been organizing a series of cross-national policy exchange conferences, both overseas and in the United States, in an effort to bring policy ideas from abroad back for the benefit of U.S. researchers and policy makers.

The conferences have generated a substantial number of high-quality policy papers, some of which have been or will be subsequently published in peer-reviewed journals and as part of the Oxford University Press’s International Policy Exchange Series. Upon publication of the Oxford volumes, the Center plans to hold follow-up policy conferences in Washington, D.C., and perhaps in other parts of the country.

Following are a list of conferences held to date:

- **Asian Social Protection in Comparative Perspective**—In January 2009, UM and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) partnered with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore to host a two-day conference. UM Professor Kenneth Apfel served as the discussant for a plenary session and two paper sessions.

- **Measuring Poverty, Income Inequality, and Social Exclusion: Lessons from Europe**—In March 2009, UM partnered with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to host a two-day conference in Paris, featuring paper presentations by European experts in the fields of poverty and poverty measurement with a U.S. discussant assigned to each session.

- **Environmental Policy: A Multinational Conference on Policy Analysis and Teaching Methods**—In June 2009, UM and APPAM partnered with the KDI School of Public Policy and Management in Seoul, South Korea, to host a two-day conference with presentations by UM Associate Professor Nathan Hultman.

- **European Measures of Poverty, Income Inequality, and Social Exclusion: Recent Developments and Lessons for the U.S.**—In November 2009, UM, APPAM, and the U.S. Census Bureau hosted a meeting in Washington, D.C., featuring European authors from UM’s earlier conference in Paris, this time presenting their findings to a U.S. audience.

- **Evaluation and Performance Management of Job Training Programs: What Can the European Social Fund Learn from the WIA Experience?**—Another November meeting was cosponsored by UM, APPAM, and the European Commission in Washington, D.C. Experts from the U.S. presented research with a focus on lessons for the future of European (and U.S.) labor activation policy and job training programs.

- **A World in Motion: A Multinational Conference on Migration and Migration Policy**—In February 2010, UM and APPAM partnered with the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance in Maastricht, the Netherlands, to host a two-day conference. Mark Hugo Lopez, UM visiting assistant professor, served as the discussant for a paper session.

In September 2010, UM, OECD, and the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA-Bonn) will partner to host in Paris a conference on Activating the Unemployed: Welfare Reform in Times of High Unemployment. Like the March 2009 conference, it will feature a group of European experts presenting papers with a U.S. discussant assigned to each session.

For more information about the conferences or the Oxford University Press book series, visit www.umdcipe.org.

By Patrick Tiedemann, Research Assistant, School of Public Policy
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