MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL is the newsletter of the Office of International Programs (Saúl Sosnowski, director) and the interconnected group of offices under its auspices, including International Education Services (Valerie Woolston, director), Study Abroad (Michael Ulrich, associate director), the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs (Michael Ma, executive director), the Confucius Institute at Maryland (Chuan Sheng Liu, director; Michael Ma, executive director) and the Maryland English Institute (Marsha Sprague, director). Our usual publication schedule is two issues during the spring semester, one during the summer, and two in the fall. To submit story ideas or comments, please contact Kelly Blake, kellyb@umd.edu or 301.405.4771.
Maintaining Ecosystems, Advising Scientific Policy:
UM Geography Professor Ruth DeFries Considers Earth as Integrated System

Confronting the Wolf at the Door:
UM-Sponsored Conference Urges Holistic Response to Peak Oil

Celebrating International Connections:
UM Fulbright Programs Reach 60th Anniversary

President Mote Builds Ties to China’s Top Universities

Football Fever:
FIFA World Cup 2006 Unites International Devotees for the “People’s Game”

Austria’s Ambassador Eva Nowotny Speaks on Governing the EU and Transatlantic Relations

Prince Charles Joins UM Effort to Promote Understanding Between Islamic and Western Cultures

New Staff Join the Offices of International Education Services, Study Abroad, and the Maryland English Institute

Photo credits/notes

front cover  Saúl Sosnowski/Summer in Sichuan Province, China
opposite  Jackie Jones (UM Study Abroad student)/Turkish Landscape
back cover  Saúl Sosnowski/Women making baby shoes in Zhouzhuang, Jiangsu Province, China
MAINTAINING ECOSYSTEMS, ADVISING SCIENTIFIC POLICY:

UM Geography Professor Considers Earth as Integrated System

From her office in LeFrak Hall, Ruth DeFries, PhD, professor of geography, can estimate how much carbon is released into the atmosphere when forests are cut down in Brazil’s Amazon basin, an area she calls a “hotspot of deforestation.” Using data collected from NASA’s Terra and Aqua satellites, DeFries and colleagues can see how this highly biodiverse region is changing as economic pressures influence people to clear forests for farmland and cattle ranching. While fossil fuel consumption accounts for the vast majority of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide, the loss of earth’s forests (occurring rapidly in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America) contributes an estimated 25% of the greenhouse gases responsible for global warming and adversely affects global weather patterns.

Through her research, DeFries intends to document how we use land for short-term gain today affects the capacity of the global ecosystem to provide goods and services in the future, and what impact it has on our vulnerability to climate change. “There are many reasons why we should think carefully about the trade-off of land use,” she says, “and what consequences our choices have over the short and long term on global and local scales.”

In April, the United States National Academies of Science elected Dr. DeFries as a member, honoring her significant contributions to the understanding of earth systems science. Through this post, she will be putting together recommendations for the next generation of earth observation systems and hopes to influence policy makers in key federal agencies through interdisciplinary research. DeFries has a joint appointment between the Geography Department and the Earth Systems Science Interdisciplinary Center (ESSIC), directed by Dr. Antonio J. Busalacchi, which works also with the Departments of Geology and Atmospheric and Space Science and collaborates with NASA (National Aeronautical and Space Administration) and NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) to develop an integrated picture of the global climate. Dr. DeFries recently contributed to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, an international project initiated by the United Nations in 2001 and completed in 2005, which compiled extensive information on global ecosystem changes and recommended scientific and policy-based responses.

VALUING ECOSYSTEMS: A COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS

According to DeFries, one important conclusion of the report, which she says is from “an admittedly human-centered viewpoint,” is that we don’t have enough data on

Dr. Ruth DeFries, professor of geography, was elected to the National Academies of Science in April.
how land use has changed around the world. “We really haven’t thought about what we need to know and what information we need to collect to be able to maintain ecosystem services,” she explains. “Ecosystem services” refer to what we get from the ecosystem, such as food, drinkable water, timber, etc., but not all benefits are as obvious. “There are a range of other services that ecosystems provide such as regulating climate, sequestering carbon, maintaining soil fertility, preserving biodiversity, and the aesthetic value ecosystems bring to our lives,” DeFries says. “We get these for free, and that is probably why they are less obvious.”

DeFries emphasizes the need for an interdisciplinary approach to earth systems that integrates scientific knowledge about land, water, and atmosphere with an understanding of human socio-economic systems. She is working with colleagues in several other universities to explore ways to quantify the impact of land use change on ecosystem services, a key step in deriving the economic value of these “free” services so that an analysis of land use choices can accurately show the costs and benefits. In the article “Global Consequences of Land Use” published in 2005 in the journal Science, DeFries and colleagues describe the opportunities for “win, win, win” land use practices that bring environmental, social, and economic benefits, such as the fact that coffee farms grown near forests yield up to 20% more coffee beans because they benefit from the presence of more wild pollinators.

**SMALL LOSS, BIG GAIN**

DeFries concedes though that “win, win, win” situations are rare and prefers to think about the trade-offs in terms of “small loss, big gain.” “If we can use our science to understand how we might change our land use practices a little bit to get us a lot of benefit to ecosystem services—or the other way around—possibly giving up a bit on the ecosystem services to get a lot of benefit for human well-being in some other way, then that is worthwhile,” she explains. In a recent example, a biologist colleague found that an area outside of Yellowstone National Park was providing critical habitat for migratory birds, and was slated for a housing development. 

**SIGNS OF EARTH IN DISTRESS:**
An image acquired by NASA’s Terra satellite shows a portion of the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso on the southern edge of the Amazon, east of Bolivia. The large numbers of smoke plumes in the image suggest that rapid destruction of the Amazon continues. Darker areas show intact forest, and the lighter regions show cleared land. DeFries regularly analyzes similar images to document land use change.

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Max Christian plans to spend the summer fishing in his home state of Montana and contemplating his next steps. It will be a peaceful respite for someone who has spent the last two years talking about the world running out of cheap oil. This spring, Christian both completed a master’s degree in UM’s Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology program and organized, with Nathan Hagens (Gund Institute, University of Vermont) and Jack Santa Barbara (The Sustainable Scale Project) a timely and successful conference on Peak Oil and the Environment, May 7-9 in Washington, DC.

The three-day forum brought together leading scientists, policy makers, and sustainability advocates to address the limitations of world energy resources, the seemingly limitless demand for oil, and how to reconcile the two while taking into account human well-being and the health of the global ecosystem. University of Maryland experts including Norma Alewell, dean of the College of Chemical and Life Sciences, Herman Daly, professor, School of Public Policy and author of several books about ecological economics, and Steve Fetter, dean of the School of Public Policy participated in the conference, along with well known leaders in the environmental movement, including Bill McKibben (author of The End of Nature), Lester Brown (founder of Worldwatch Institute and Earth Policy Institute),
and William Catton (author of *Overshoot: The Ecological Basis for Revolutionary Change*).

**PEAK OIL PREDICTION: ORIGINS AND IMPLICATIONS**

What made this conference unique was the central focus on the implications of “peak oil.” In the 1950s, geophysicist M. King Hubbert, predicted that US oil reserves would reach their peak production in 1971. Hubbert’s predictions hit the mark; the United States produced the most oil in 1971 and has seen a decline in production every year since. We have made up for this decline by importing more oil each year, and now get about 60% from foreign sources. While the data on worldwide oil reserves remains unclear, a growing number of experts now foresee a permanent downturn in global oil production rates within a matter of years. Hubbert originally predicted a global oil peak in 2000; more recent predictions from oil geologists project a peak anywhere from 2006 to 2025. Given that the current daily world oil consumption exceeds 84 million barrels and is predicted to grow 50 percent by 2025, a decline in oil supply could have a devastating global impact, and not just on the prices at the pump.

Christian was motivated to organize the conference in part because of what he perceives to be a lack of understanding of the global oil picture, even among those working on climate change issues. “The implications of peak oil on climate are so big, but I found there are very few who are savvy about this issue,” he explains. “Many of the things that are going to make up the difference in conventional oil depletion are much worse for the environment than oil is.”

**OIL ALTERNATIVES: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY**

Among the energy alternatives that could be used to close the gap between demand and supply are tar sands, heavy oil, and coal that could be converted to diesel. Tar sands are a combination of clay, sand, water, and bitumen extracted from the earth by strip-mining to isolate the oil-like bitumen that is then upgraded into synthetic crude oil or refined directly into petroleum products by specialized refineries. Alberta, Canada and Orinoco, Venezuela are the major sources for tar sands and heavy oil, and some US states, such as Montana, are exploring the development of coal-to-liquid fuel technology. “Tar sands, heavy oil, and coal have 2-5 times the greenhouse gas emissions of the light, sweet crude oil that we have been using all along.”

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Christian warns. “What is scary is that we are already ramping up the production of these more destructive alternatives.”

While investment in greener energy alternatives is growing in the United States, the conference addressed the possibility that our energy predicament will not be solved with new technological approaches, both because our demand for energy is so high and the sustainable alternatives don’t have the energy density that oil does. “Biofuels and ethanol take a lot of fossil fuels to produce and yield a small net energy gain. When you look at how much oil we are consuming,” Christian explains, “all these alternatives start to fly out the window.”

REDUCING ENERGY DEMAND

The solutions discussed at the conference stemmed from the one clear area of consensus—we need to reduce consumption. Given that the United States, with less than 5% of the world population, consumes one quarter of the world’s energy, the imperative to conserve, which is often framed in terms of national security, can also be discussed in terms of global justice. Moving to this perspective on sustainability will require a major shift in our economic perspective. Herman Daly, author of *Beyond Growth*, spoke about the myth that economic growth is making us richer and happier and suggested that a true accounting of our consumption would show that there are limits to growth in a finite biosphere that we will not be able to ignore for long. Daly explained that in conventional accounting methods, consumption of resources is measured as income. “For National Income (GNP), depleted (consumed) natural capital (fisheries, forests, mines, atmospheric capacity, etc...) are not subtracted. If they were, growth rates would be less, and for some countries and sectors even negative,” he says. Roscoe Bartlett, a Republican member of the House of Representatives (from Maryland’s 6th district) and a University of Maryland alumnus, also questioned the assumption that more consumption increases well-being: “Some countries that use less energy than we do, feel better about their quality of life. You don’t have to use the amount of energy that we use.”

Nonetheless, many countries are rapidly moving towards rates of consumption comparable to the United States. The explosive growth of China has fueled many questions and concerns about the impact of their consumption on the global climate and competition for resources. “China is teaching us that the Western
Some countries that use less energy than we do, feel better about their quality of life. You don’t have to use the amount of energy that we use.

— CONGRESSMAN ROSCOE BARTLETT (R-MD)

Economic model—the fossil fuel dependent, auto-centered, throw-away economy—will not work for China or India, nor will it work for the other 3 billion people in the world economy dreaming the American dream,” said Lester Brown, “and it won’t work for us either.” Brown urged a move to the emerging global economy based on renewable resources and cited examples of wind farms in Western Europe, solar rooftops in Japan, the growing fleet of hybrid cars in the United States, the reforested mountains of South Korea, and the bicycle friendly streets of Amsterdam as evidence of the shift. Many countries have a significant edge on the United States in terms of the percent of energy they generate from alternatives. Sweden already gets about one quarter of their energy from alternative sources, and has set a goal to be independent from fossil fuels by 2020, according to their Minister for Sustainable Development, Mona Sahlin, who spoke at the conference.

Averting a Global Crisis

Solutions to reduce demand for oil considered at the conference included increasing CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards which govern the minimum average miles per gallon for US automobiles, ramping up energy alternatives including solar, wind, and biofuels; policy initiatives to encourage local living and food production; media campaigns that make energy conservation look “cool,” and the more complex issue of nuclear power. Participants made clear that solutions must be developed now to assuage a coming global crisis.

A follow up conference next year may capitalize on the overwhelmingly positive response to this year’s event and focus further on some promising solutions, such as Tradable Energy Quotas, which involve an electronic system for rationing energy. Max Christian may return to help organize the second meeting, or may instead be found building solar-powered homes in Montana, where he gets satisfaction from delivering concrete results.

Resources on Peak Oil

WWW.BARTLETT.HOUSE.GOV
Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R), a University of Maryland alumnus who represents Maryland’s 6th district, is leading efforts to change US energy policy to address the challenges of peak oil.

WWW.BEYONDPEAK.ORG
This website for the Peak Oil and the Environment conference has audio files of almost all conference presentations, many links to relevant publications from both scholarly and popular media, and will also make available a book compilation of the presenter speeches.

The Hirsch Report, entitled The Inevitable Peaking of World Oil Production, was written for the US Department of Energy and published in February 2005. It discussed the likelihood of peak oil occurring and how soon we need to take mitigating action. Robert Hirsch, the lead author and a senior energy program adviser for Science Applications International Corporation, published a brief summary of this report in October 2005 for the Atlantic Council. Go to WWW.ACUS.ORG and search for “peak oil report.”

WWW.PEAKOIL.NET
Colin Campbell is a retired petroleum geologist who predicts that oil production will peak by 2007. The Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas, which he founded, has organized yearly international conferences since 2002 on the topic of peak oil.
UM’s Fulbright Exchange Programs Celebrate 60th Anniversary

When journalist Arturo Tomás Linn left his hometown of Montevideo, Uruguay in 1995, he didn’t know what his year as a Humphrey Fellow at the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism would bring. Linn credits this “extraordinary year” at UM with helping advance his career back home, but never imagined that ten years later he and his daughter would share the stage at an event commemorating the 150th anniversary of the University of Maryland and the 60th anniversary of the Fulbright Program.

Last fall, Leticia Linn followed in her father’s journalist footsteps as a Fulbright student pursuing a Master’s Degree at the same Merrill College of Journalism. On April 26, 2006, Leticia and Arturo shared their experiences at the University of Maryland as Hubert H. Humphrey and Fulbright Fellows. As part of the gathering “Celebrating International Connections,” the Linns’ personal stories were an inspiring tribute to these important milestones for both the University and the prestigious international scholarship programs, and reminded the audience about the critical role that these programs play in building understanding between the United States and the world. “I would like to believe that the idea behind both programs was based in the need of this country to understand the rest of the world, and of the rest of the world to understand America, no matter the circumstances,” Arturo Linn said. “So if ten years ago I stressed the idea that it was important for America to understand the world, how much more important it is today. And if I stressed the idea of the world trying to understand America, how much more important, and difficult, it has become today.”
The luncheon at the Samuel Riggs Alumni Hall featured remarks by Saúl Sosnowski, UM’s associate provost for international affairs; Thomas G. Kunkel, dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism; Barbara Weinstein, professor, Department of History and president-elect of the American Historical Society; and William W. Destler, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. The keynote speaker was Rick A. Ruth, director of the Office of Policy and Evaluation in the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The celebration also included a performance of 7th century Japanese music by the UM Koto Ensemble and the Washington Toho Koto Society under the direction of Kyoko M. Okamoto.

The University of Maryland has a long and rich history of collaboration with the Fulbright Programs, which includes the Humphrey Fellowships. In 2005-6, the College Park campus hosted 14 Visiting Fulbright Scholars, 13 Hubert H. Humphrey Journalism Fellows, and Fulbright students in departments all over campus. UM faculty also participated actively—13 faculty members traveled to five continents on Fulbright grants.

People who have had a Fulbright or Humphrey experience often say that it changed their life. Arturo described his time at the University of Maryland as an “extraordinary personal as well as professional and academic experience.” When his daughter came to College Park, he passed his Humphrey insights on to her and advised that she make as many professional contacts as possible. But, the best thing about contacts, he said, was that “one day, they stop being mere contacts. One day, they became good, loyal, and lasting friends.”

Remembering Philip Merrill (April 28, 1934–June 10, 2006)

Philip Merrill was an American diplomat, publisher, banker, and philanthropist who helped build the University of Maryland’s College of Journalism which bears his name. He was president and CEO of Capital-Gazette Communications, Inc., which publishes Washingtonian magazine, the Annapolis Capital, and five other Maryland newspapers. In addition, he served in leadership roles for the Department of Defense and NATO and was appointed by President George W. Bush to head the Export-Import Bank of the United States from 2002-2005. University of Maryland President C.D. Mote, Jr., who was a good friend of Mr. Merrill’s, said: “Phil profoundly changed the University of Maryland, and any list of shapers of the university will have Phil Merrill’s name etched on it. [He] saw that he could make a difference at Maryland. His passion for excellence was palpable.” Merrill donated $10 million to the College of Journalism in 2001. His wife Ellie chairs its board of visitors.
To strengthen relationships initiated on previous visits, University of Maryland President C.D. Mote Jr. traveled to China in June to meet with key universities and government ministries. He was accompanied by Saúl Sosnowski, associate provost for international affairs, and Chuan Liu, professor of physics and director of the Confucius Institute at Maryland, who signed an operational agreement for 2007 with Hanban, the National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. Faculty members from Beijing Normal University with expertise in linguistics and second language acquisition expressed interest in teaching at UM’s Confucius Institute. The UM delegation was hosted by Beijing Normal University’s President Binglin Zhong and Madame Chuan-sheng Liu, the Party Secretary. In a meeting at China’s Ministry of Science and Technology, President Mote and Minister Xu Guanhua made progress in planning the much-anticipated US-China Science Park in College Park.

At Tsinghua University in Beijing, new opportunities for faculty collaboration in aerospace and mechanical engineering, computer science and nanotechnology were explored. Nariman Farvardin, dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering, will visit Tsinghua in October 2006 to explore these opportunities. Tom Kunkel, dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism, will pursue exchanges with Tsinghua on media literacy, civil society, and human rights. The Journalism School will also be working with Zhejiang Institute of Media and Communications in the province just south of Shanghai, on developing a new media park. President Mote, accompanied by Dean Kunkel, signed a new agreement for the UM to partner with this institution. Mote and Sosnowski also visited with leaders of Zhejiang University, one of China’s top ranked research institutions, to learn more about opportunities in engineering, agriculture and biotechnology, nanosystems, and economics.

During their visit to Sichuan University (SU), Mote discussed SU’s plans to send exchange students to Maryland and host UM students for exchanges and study abroad in Chengdu, China’s fifth largest city, located in one of the westernmost provinces bordering Tibet. Sichuan University’s location offers special opportunities to study environmental science, anthropology, archeology and history. A UM Study Abroad program is being planned there focusing on pandas and their environment. ❇️
Passion for the game of soccer, or football as it’s more widely known worldwide, has the power to unite people across cultures and political allegiances, at least for the fleeting moments of competition. Ivory Coast’s civil war came to a halt in June as the country rallied behind their football team which qualified for the World Cup tournament for the first time. Iran’s national team competed despite efforts by US and EU political leaders to prevent their participation because of the ongoing controversy over their country’s nuclear program.

An estimated 30 billion viewers worldwide tuned in for the world’s only truly international sports tournament (save the Olympics), the FIFA World Cup. Held this summer for the 18th time since its inception in 1930, the Cup brought together the world’s thirty-two best teams, which qualified to compete from a pool of 198 national teams in Germany from June 9 - July 9, 2006. The final game between Italy and France drew more than 1 billion viewers, compared to the estimated 50-100 million viewers that tune in for the American football Super Bowl each year.

The University of Maryland is home to many more avid soccer fans than you are likely to find in the general US population. Many students and faculty participate in weekly pick-up games that almost rival the World Cup in the variety of nationalities represented. The Math Department’s group, organized by Ricardo Nochetto, a professor who is from Argentina, regularly includes players from Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Italy, Germany, Serbia, Romania, Israel, China, and the US. What makes football so popular worldwide? David Andrews, an associate professor in UM’s Department of Kinesiology, who researches the sociology of sport, points to the sport’s origins to explain its widespread appeal: “Football was globalized through working class origins, unlike cricket and other British games. It was originated in 1863 and introduced by British railway workers and sailors to Argentina and other places in the late 1860s. Not to romanticize it too much, but it is kind of the people’s game.”

UM Summer Study Abroad in London: Sport and Culture in the Global Marketplace

David Andrews, associate professor in UM’s Department of Kinesiology, has co-taught (with Dr. Michael Silk, also in Kinesiology) the UM summer study abroad course, Sport and Culture in the Global Marketplace in London since 2002. Originally from England, Andrews is a huge fan of English football (especially the Fulham league) and talks about the English fanaticism for the game, acknowledging that he even bought the FIFA World Cup 2006 commemorative cologne. Students in the study abroad program can experience the English fervor for football and other sports firsthand during the two-week course which focuses on international business, popular culture, sport and tourism, and is based at the The University of Surrey, Roehampton, in southwest London.

Short-term study abroad programs like this and others offer students a great opportunity to experience a different culture and learn in an unconventional context during the winter and/or summer. Winter term opportunities for January 2007 are listed online at http://www.international.umd.edu/studyabroad.
Austria’s Ambassador Shares Insights on the Evolution of the EU, and its relationship to the US

Her excellency Eva Nowotny, Austrian Ambassador to the United States, reflected on the challenges and responsibilities Austria has faced during its post this year as the presiding country of the Council of the European Union during her April 27, 2006 visit to the University of Maryland. Nowotny’s visit was part of the Office of International Programs ongoing Ambassadorial Lecture series.

In a conversational and frank tone, Nowotny explained the reasons for the rotating European Union (EU) presidency, which she acknowledged that many Americans find “bewildering and hard to understand.” “The rotating presidency is the expression of the principle of equality of all member states of the Union—large, small or medium sized,” Nowotny explained, “and is an expression of the intergovernmental principle.” Austria, which joined the European Union in 1995, is among the small to medium sized member states, with a population of approximately eight million. A landlocked nation bordered by eight other countries, Austria enjoys a high standard of living and is one of six EU nations that has declared permanent neutrality in international affairs.

Among the complex issues the EU faced during this period of Austria’s leadership were responding to the Russian/Ukrainian gas crisis, participating in multilateral negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, organizing international cooperation to deal with the dangers of an avian flu pandemic, and dealing with questions of new countries entering the EU. Nowotny explained that debates about the future of Europe center on the issues of ratifying its constitution and how much it will enlarge.

Ambassador Nowotny discussed the accession of Romania and Bulgaria, scheduled for January 1, 2007, and the opening of the first substantive negotiations about EU membership with Turkey, Croatia, and Macedonia. She also discussed the countries of southeast Europe, including Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, and Albania, with whom the EU has had very close and direct relations over the centuries. “The gradual integration of these countries into the European Union is, we are convinced, the best and most promising instrument to ensure their political and economic stability, and indeed the peace and stability of the whole region,” Nowotny stated.

Nonetheless, she mentioned that the EU faces questions about whether there is a natural end to enlargement and what defines Europe in terms of geographic borders. Qualifying for membership into the European Union has been thus far based on whether a country meets certain political criteria, but Nowotny acknowledged that discussion around potential new member states has brought up debates about integration, identity, immigration and multi-culturalism and that European politicians must address these issues publicly.

Ambassador Nowotny also discussed transatlantic relations and the goals of the June 2006 EU-US summit in Vienna, which included a joint program for the expansion of the area of freedom and democracy, strengthening the economic partnership, and cooperation in combating terrorism and improving international organizations. She challenged those in both the US and European news media who delight in predictions of the economic decline of the other party. Nowotny asserts that such statements are based on “sentiment and not on facts” and emphasized the strength and importance of the EU-US relationship. “The interests which unite us are after all much stronger and more compelling than the differences which may separate us,” she said.

The interests which unite us are much stronger and more compelling than the differences which may separate us.
—AMBASSADOR EVA NOWOTNY ON THE EU-US RELATIONSHIP

Photo: Ambassador Nowotny and UM President Mote share a moment after the lecture held at McKeldin library.
OIP Welcomes New Staff this Summer

Kristin Georger joins the office of International Education Services (IES) as an International Student Advisor and web content coordinator. Kristin just moved to the area from Buffalo, NY where she graduated from Canisius College this year with a Master’s in Higher Education Administration and served as the advisor for international student activities and clubs. As an undergraduate, Kristin studied in Exeter, England. An avid outdoors person, Kristen did a five month conservation project with the Student Conservation Association.

Connie Jesse Lira joins IES as an International Student Advisor. She has spent the past year and a half traveling and living in Mexico and Peru. Previously, she worked with the Institute of International Education on their Egypt Development Training II Project as a Program Officer managing training programs for mid-level professionals from Egypt’s public and private sectors. She comes with 10 years of experience working with student exchange and development projects funded by the US Agency for International Development. She has a Master’s in International Education and Human Development from George Washington University.

Tyler D’Andrea joins the Study Abroad office as the new Program Assistant and Advisor. Tyler graduated from the University of Florida in April 2006 with a degree in Russian Studies (with minors in Teaching English as a Second Language and East Asian Languages and Literatures). He studied in Germany, Russia and China and served as a peer advisor in the University of Florida's International Center. Tyler replaces Angela Schaeffer who is entering graduate school and will continue working with Study Abroad through a part-time graduate assistantship. Jessica Corlett, the 2005–6 graduate assistant, is leaving to work for the Discovery Channel.

Jennifer Moore joins the Maryland English Institute as the new program management specialist. Jennifer is a University of Maryland graduate with a degree in Communication. She brings many years of experience from her previous positions as a program management specialist in the University’s Conference and Visitors’ Services office and as a marketing assistant for a national trade association.

A warm welcome to all!

Prince of Wales Teams Up with UM to Address Tensions Between Islamic & Western Cultures

The Prince of Wales is helping the University of Maryland launch a new international effort aimed at promoting better understanding and easing tensions between Islam and the West. The university is publishing a new series, Essays on the Alliance of Civilizations, written by high-level world figures to stimulate more constructive international dialogues. Prince Charles has written the inaugural essay, entitled “Religion—the Ties that Bind,” which highlights the “universal truths” he says all the great religions share, and the contributions Islam has made over the centuries to the advancement of science and the development of modern Western culture.

The series is the first response to a United Nations initiative, the Alliance of Civilizations, set up last year by the prime ministers of Spain and Turkey to “bridge divides and overcome prejudice, misconceptions, misperceptions, and polarization which potentially threaten world peace.” The University of Maryland Center for Heritage Resource Studies and the Department of Anthropology are publishing the series under the editorship of Suheil Bushrui, UM professor and former Bahá’í Chair for World Peace, and David Cadman, a U.K. professor affiliated with the Temenos Academy. The Prince’s essay, “Religion—the Ties that Bind,” is available at: www.newsdesk.umd.edu/pdf/tiesthatbind.pdf. See also the UN Alliance of Civilizations site: www.unaoc.org and the Center for Heritage Resource Studies: www.heritage.umd.edu for more.