features

A Celebration of India
The UM community gathered this spring to celebrate India Week, a festival organized by the UM student group Develop Empower and Synergize India. Activities during the week included art exhibits, dancing and musical performances, as well as cooking demonstrations, and more.

The Rise of New Economic Powers and America’s Future
The Smith School’s Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) recently organized a forum that brought together leading policy makers, academics, and business leaders to discuss the emergence of new economic powers and what it means for America’s future.

Maryland Students and Alumni Win a UM Record of 19 Fulbright Grants
This year, UM students and alumni have won a record 19 Fulbright awards to study, do research, or teach English around the globe during the 2011-12 academic year. This year’s recipients include six graduating seniors, 10 graduate students, three alumni, and three Peace Corps veterans.

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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, director), the Maryand 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.
AN ASSORTMENT OF PEOPLE, FLAVORS, MUSIC, AND DANCE came together this spring for India Week, a festival organized by the UM student group Develop Empower and Synergize India (DESI). The celebration gathered people involved in a wide array of activities onto one stage—from singers, dancers, and painters to businessmen, academics, and ambassadors—with every day offering variety and diversity, the very principles that characterize the Indian mindset and lifestyle. The following are just a few activities that took place:

Art

Exhibitions of Indian religious philosophies and art forms spanning several centuries provided an intriguing glimpse of the sophisticated religious and cultural evolution of India. A poster exhibit displayed the great scientific feats in Sanskrit literature, while another exhibit “Akshara” (literally meaning letter from alphabet) beautifully blended the colors of nature with patterns in various Indian alphabets. The dances performed each represented a different demography, while also displaying a holistic representation of the cultural fabric that binds the many forms of dance in the subcontinent. Ashyka Dave, a proficient Kathak dancer had the audience glued as she tapped her feet in rhythm to the beat and executed the movements with flair. Other performances included dance demonstrations from Nataraj School of Dance, Bharat Mallika School of Dance, and Konark School of Dance. The musicians—Aparna Jayaram, Sidharth Kumar, Ananth Kumar, Gurukrupa, Madhura Date, Kushboo Kalyani, and Sonal Tewari—also performed melodies in various languages and ragas (or melodic modes). Their styles ranged from classical carnatic to contemporary fusion.
Debapriya Dutta, counselor (Science and Technology) of the Embassy of India, spoke about the changing scientific landscape in India. Deputy Chief of Mission Ambassador Arun Singh also spoke about the emerging face of India in the west. Singh joined Jon Rice, director of Deloitte Consulting; Suresh Shenoy, executive vice president for Information Management Consultants; and Yogesh Joshi, assistant professor at UM, in a panel discussion on India-U.S. business relations. Vinod Jain, former director of CIBER, delivered an informative lecture on the relationship of India with China and how the two emerging powers are progressing in their endeavor to be superpowers.

Swami Dheerananda of Chinmaya Mission explained the secret of success as outlined by Lord Krishna in the *Bhagavat Gita*; and Sowmya Joisa, a full-time volunteer at Samskrita Bharati, emphasized the need to study Sanskrit and the avenues available in the U.S. to do it. Workshops on how to make t-shirts, mehndi, and origami also provided an opportunity for the audience to take home their own handiwork. The cooking contest showcased stunning variety and substance, with Indian cuisine as an excellent means to study the influence of geographic, religious, and cultural factors on the lifestyle of the Indian Diasporas.

Arnab Ray, the two-time winner of Indiblog blogger of the year, deftly employed his wits and wisdom to conduct a novel quiz program that mixed humor with questions. The week ended with a fashion show by UM students, displaying the amazing array of dress collections that characterize the different parts of India.

The weeklong celebration was partly sponsored by Deloitte, Pepsi, the Stamp (Hoff funding), graduate student government, and was co-sponsored by IMC Inc. and CIBER. For more information on future DESI events, visit www.studentorg.umd.edu/desi.

By Vidyaramanan Ganesan, DESI
H.E. Meera Shankar Speaks on the Future of India and Its Relationship with the U.S.

In May, UM students, faculty, and staff welcomed Her Excellency Meera Shankar, the Ambassador of India to the United States, for IIP’s ongoing Ambassadorial Lecture Series. The Smith School hosted a lunch and discussion session with Shankar, who had the opportunity to exchange views with faculty members from across the campus before concluding her visit with a lecture on the current state of India, its future, and U.S.-India relations. President Wallace D. Loh, who provided a brief introduction for the ambassador, detailed UM’s strong ties with India. He listed the significant number of Indian students and faculty, the many partnerships such as the Smith’s School’s sustainability project with The Energy and Resources Institute of New Delhi, and four campus-wide organizations promoting Indian culture and the country itself. Loh also noted that this coming fall, several dozen vice chancellors from several Indian universities plan to visit UM to participate in the U.S.-India Higher Education Summit, to be coordinated by IIP, which was developed with the help of the ambassador.

In her address on the current state of India, Shankar spoke of the sweeping changes taking place in her country. While mostly positive, Shankar expressed her concern over the difficulties that appear with such dramatic changes. “The biggest challenge for [India] is to ensure that we not only sustain these high growth rates into the next decade and beyond, but that we also make it inclusive. In a country with a large population, it’s not enough that only some sections of our people benefit from these high growth rates,” Shankar stated. The ambassador spoke of her desire that the benefits from economic growth should be broader-based and especially help those most vulnerable to economic renewal.

And as India’s economy grows, so does the opportunities between India and the United States. Shankar detailed India’s close consultations with the U.S. on several issues—such as security, strategic, trade and economic, and national development. She explained that, “We share not only common values but increasingly convergent interests in Asia and within our region. There are increasing shared objectives with the United States.” She also added that the Indian American community has been a great bridge connecting the two countries, creating a partnership between the United States and India that offers growth and prosperity on both sides. The ambassador concluded that as we look towards the future of India, the relationship between our two countries will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.

As we look towards the future of India, the relationship between our two countries will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.
The Rise of New Economic Powers and America’s Future

In recent years, emerging markets like China, India, and Brazil have experienced persistently high growth rates, seen multi-fold increases in per capita incomes, and pulled hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. While this improvement is a cause for celebration, the years of financial crisis, recession, and debt have raised fears that the West is in decline and this is somehow related to the rise of new economic powers. So what does the emergence of new economic powers mean for America’s future? This past spring, the Smith School’s Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) organized a forum that brought together leading policy makers, academics, and business leaders to consider various dimensions of this question.

The day’s events were kicked off by Rebecca Blank, undersecretary for economic affairs in the U.S. Department of Commerce, who provided a masterful summary of facts and figures relating to emerging markets, their interactions with the U.S. economy, and their effects on U.S. employment and wages. She concluded that rapid growth in previous low-income countries means more export opportunities for U.S. businesses, and that the United States must work harder to retain its competitive edge. The effect of emerging markets on U.S. living standards must come at the expense of others. Trade creates winners and losers among countries, which is desirable. If countries do not impede this natural process, then there ought not to be winners and losers among countries.

The forum sparked many other discussions throughout the day, but there was one persistent theme: innovation in emerging markets. The United States is still a dependable source for radically new knowledge, but there are interesting trends worth watching. IBM, GE, and many other companies fundamentally reliant on science, are setting up labs in emerging markets. Among other things, they are focused on “frugal innovation.”

Early in the day, CEO Susan Ganz spoke of how her company, Lion Brothers, had been adopting cost-saving innovations from emerging markets to produce more efficiently in the U.S. Later, Tarun Khanna of the Harvard Business School discussed the example of heart surgery at Narayana Hospital in India. This hospital, which focuses heavily on poor patients, has mortality rates comparable to the best U.S. hospitals at a cost that is less than 5%, despite the fact that the patient pool is much more complex and no patient is turned away. At a time when we are struggling to contain our healthcare costs, we can perhaps look to these markets for quality solutions at lower costs.

Manish Gupta, director of IBM’s new research lab in Bangalore, presented some compelling examples of work being done at IBM to find solutions to problems that are unique to emerging economies, such as measuring traffic density using the sound signature of traffic conditions instead of tracking license plates. This non-Western approach was necessitated by the fact that traffic does not always move within marked lanes—displaying that one of the great benefits of the rise of new economic powers will be the integration of the creative energies of billions of new individuals into the formal research and development infrastructure that we rely upon to continually improve the quality of our lives.

The final panel, jointly organized with the Smith School’s Center for Financial Policy, focused on banking and finance in emerging markets. The IMF’s Stijn Claessen discussed the recent financial crisis and the financial reform agenda, especially in the context of emerging markets. George Alleyannis (University of Virginia) presented compelling evidence that the future is in emerging markets, but he also pointed to numerous risks and speculated on the possibility that we may be in the midst of a housing bubble in China. The William E. Mayer Chair Professor of Finance and UM Director of the Center for Financial Policy Lemma Senbet concluded the day’s events with an overview of finance in an unjustly neglected part of the world—Africa, a continent that includes some countries that are emerging and others that are soon likely to join this high-growth group. He stated that the financial markets of the region are rife with opportunities.


By Kislaya Prasad, Director, CIBER

Above photos from left to right: Rebecca Blank with CIBER’s Kislaya Prasad (left) and the Smith School’s Dean Anand Anandalingam (right); Tarun Khanna of the Harvard Business School delivers one of the keynote addresses; Kislaya Prasad, Bill Button, Suzy Ganz, and Peter Bowe (seated from left to right).
Maryland Students and Alumni Win a UM Record

This year, UM students and alumni have won a record 19 Fulbright awards to study, do research, or teach English around the globe during the 2011-12 academic year. The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, providing more than 1,500 awards annually for international experiences. “This truly exceptional harvest of Fulbright awards places Maryland in the top tier of recipient institutions in the nation and highlights the great diversity of our students’ global interests,” observes Professor Jonathan Auerbach, Maryland’s Fulbright program advisor. “Maryland will have Fulbrighters studying education policy in El Salvador, the biology of addiction in The Netherlands, natural resources management in Mali, women’s rights in Armenia, and community radio in Laos. Others will be teaching English at the University of Bergen in Norway and in high schools in South Korea, Andorra, Spain, and Germany.”

This year’s total of 19 recipients eclipses the record of 13 set last year and contributes to a total of 39 Fulbright awards earned by Maryland students and alumni in the past three

2011-12 University Of Maryland Fulbright Recipients And Alternates

ZAINAB ABDUL-RAHIM (B.A. in French Language and Literature and minor in Middle Eastern Studies) - While at Maryland, Abdul-Rahim was very active with the campus’ Japanese Koto Ensemble, an experience that inspired her interest in South Korea and its traditional instruments, music, and culture.

D. BRENT EDWARDS (B.A. in Spanish, B.S. in Finance/International Business, Certificate in Latin American Studies, and Ph.D. candidate in International Higher Education Policy) - Edwards will research education management decentralization (EDUCO) in El Salvador. Using case study methods he will investigate how regional, national, and international actors influenced the adoption and implementation of EDUCO; and the operation, strengths, and weaknesses of community management of education across four rural communities.

REBECCA HAMMER (B.A. candidate in Finance and Economics) - She declined a Fulbright Grant to Taiwan in favor of a Boren Scholarship to China.

KRISTA HEINER (M.S. candidate in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology and M.P.P. candidate) - Heiner will examine the perspectives of stakeholders at local, regional, and national levels to understand how local natural resource management conventions in Mali might be better integrated at each of these levels to enable their long-term success. Before coming to Maryland, Heiner was a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal.

ELIZABETH HOGSTEN (M.M. candidate in Piano Performance) - Hogsten will be studying the piano music of Isang Yun (1917-1995), a classically-trained composer who was born in South Korea but lived most of his life in Germany.

FRANK LATINO (Ph.D. candidate in Musicology) - Latino will prepare a monograph on Walter Gieseking’s (1895–1956) song output and a critical performance edition of his unpublished songs. Much of his research will focus on Gieseking’s private archives in Wiesbaden, Germany.

ANGELA LEE (B.S. candidate in Psychology and Neurobiology) - In The Netherlands, Lee will study how the simultaneous administration of two addictive drugs, nicotine and cannabis, to adolescent rats affects their impulsivity as adults.

JESSICA MACLEOD (M.A. candidate in Journalism) - As a recipient of the Fulbright “Beginning Professional Journalism Award” to Germany, she will produce a documentary that explores the large disparity between high school dropout rates of immigrants versus non-immigrants. MacLeod will also intern at a German broadcast news station.

KARA MARSTON (B.S. in Business Management) - Marston will be assessing the results of Armenia’s 2004-2010 “National Action Plan on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing Their Role in Society” with a special focus on media and its representations of women over that period.
Maryland Students and Alumni Win a UM Record of 19 Fulbright Grants for 2011-12

This year’s recipients include six graduating seniors, 10 graduate students, three alumni, and three Peace Corps veterans. A total of 41 Maryland students applied for the 2011-12 Fulbright grants.

Since its establishment in 1946, under legislation introduced by the late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Program has given approximately 300,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. More than 8,600 applicants competed for these awards in 2010.

For more information about the Fulbright U.S. Student Program at Maryland, please contact the National Scholarships Office at fulbright@umd.edu.

By Francis DuVinage, Director, National Scholarships Office and Maryland Center for Undergraduate Research

MEREDITH MCCORMAC (Ph.D. candidate in International Education Policy) - Her study will investigate the measurement and the effectiveness of Ethiopia’s educational quality improvement program (GEQIP), one of the largest and most ambitious education quality improvement programs in the developing world.

RYAN MISLER (Ph.D. candidate in History) - His project in Morocco will analyze the development of the place of the 'Abid al Bukhari, a corps of elite black slave soldiers established by Sultan Moulay Ismail (1672-1727), by examining its traces in the collective public memory. Prior to beginning doctoral studies, Misler was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco.

KRISTEN NOTO (B.A. candidate in French and Spanish and minor in Italian) - As an accomplished student of three languages, Kristen is well-suited to her assignment in Andorra, a multi-lingual principality where Spanish, French, and Portuguese are spoken alongside Catalan.

DANIEL RICHTER (Ph.D. candidate in History) - His project examines the development of mass culture and the contributions of ethnic communities to mass culture in Montevideo, Uruguay. His research will also investigate the roles of Uruguayan, Argentine, and international actors in the transnational history of entertainment in the Río de la Plata region.

MASEEH ROSHAN (B.S. candidate in Accounting and Finance and minor in Spanish) - Following his year in Spain, Roshan plans to enter law school and focus on international law. During an earlier study abroad semester in Valencia, he worked with local enthusiasts to establish the Valencia Lacrosse Club and helped train new players. Maseeh also has previous experience teaching English in Afghanistan.

RENNIE SILVA (M.P.P. candidate) - In Laos, Silva will investigate the role of community radio in fostering social inclusion, promoting decentralization, and strengthening local communities. Silva has also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cambodia.

MICHELLE TOCCO (B.A. candidate in International Business and minor in Spanish) - A long-time student of Spanish, Tocco aims to teach the language at the elementary or secondary level after she returns from Spain.

BRANDI TOWNSEND (Ph.D. candidate in History) - While in Chile, Townsend will use oral and written sources to research how gender influenced the experiences and memories of political prisoners during Augusto Pinochet’s military dictatorship. She hopes to uncover how feminist groups and human rights organizations’ mental health teams helped survivors recover, shaped how they narrate the past, and contributed to the social construction and gendering of human rights in Chile.

LYDIA TUKARSKI (B.A. in Communication Studies and minor in German) - She plans to use her interest in nature and experience working with environmental organizations to create an “environmental club” while teaching in Germany. This will serve as a forum for interactive lessons to improve her students’ understanding of English language and American culture.

HANNAH WENGER (B.A. candidate in English and Women’s Studies) - While working as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Norway, she will explore issues in women’s rights and opportunities, particularly in academia, and she plans to volunteer with local women’s organizations.

Three UM students were named as alternates:
• Aaron Kutnick (B.A. in Sociology) - Peru
• Colin O’Laughlin (M.A. in Economics, M.P.P. candidate in International Development) - Brazil
• Stephanie Von Numers (B.A. candidate in Psychology and Spanish) - Argentina
Saúl Sosnowski Steps Down After 11 Years as Director of IIP

After more than a decade of service as associate provost for international affairs and director of the Institute for International Programs (IIP), Saúl Sosnowski has stepped down to return to the faculty in the Spanish and Portuguese Department. During his term at IIP, he worked tirelessly to build the university’s international programs by significantly advancing the university’s international visibility, the scope of its relationships worldwide, its education abroad programs, and its services to international visitors and students. Sosnowski has energetically promoted the university as a source of opportunities for scholars, private- and public-sector leaders, and students from many regions of the world, bringing these connections to our campus community.

Under his guidance, the International Visitors Program has expanded dramatically, with the Ambassadorial Lecture Series as a high profile component. He has been equally fervent in leading efforts to reach out to institutions worldwide in search of opportunities abroad for research and educational programs that will benefit our students, faculty, and other members of the university. Sosnowski has also played an important role in planning, supporting, and participating in many of these outreach activities, working closely with former President Dan Mote as well as many others in leadership roles throughout the university.

Sosnowski’s leadership has contributed to successes in other areas as well. The number of students participating in the university’s education abroad programs has approximately doubled during his tenure. The number of education abroad programs has also increased, thanks to

Advancing Maryland-China Relations

A UM delegation accompanied Governor Martin O’Malley on a seven-day China trip, the first leg of O’Malley’s Asia mission to strengthen ties and increase trade with Maryland. See article in the Spring 2011, Vol. 2, issue of Maryland International for more details.

UM delegation poses with Governor O’Malley in Beijing. From left to right: Director of IIP and Associate Provost Saúl Sosnowski, Governor Martin O’Malley, President Wallace D. Loh, Executive Director of Mtech David F. Barbe, Assistant VP for Research and Economic Development Brian P. Darmody, Director of Maryland International Incubator Kai Y. Duh, and incoming Interim Director of IIP and Associate Provost Jonathan Wilkenfeld.

Photo courtesy of Saúl Sosnowski
the cooperative efforts of UM faculty, staff, and Sosnowski’s outreach efforts in developing new programs. The Maryland China Initiative—one of IIP’s sub units that provides leadership development training programs to higher education institutions in China—has also grown rapidly and is now widely recognized for its services.

Over the last two years, Sosnowski has guided the reorganization of the university’s international activities, and with his direction, IIP has contributed to building a platform that will support the university’s success for years to come.

By Ann Wylie, 
Senior Vice President and Provost

Dear friends and colleagues:

For 11 years, I have had the unique privilege to be part of Maryland’s developing presence in the world and of the world at the University. The culture of excellence instilled by Dan Mote on the College Park campus has gone beyond our immediate borders and is now part of our collective international signature, as Wallace Loh just learned firsthand in China. I am most grateful for the opportunity to have directed the Office (now Institute) of International Programs with a superb and committed staff and to have benefited from the wisdom of those who know what a University’s role and responsibility in the world should be. As I prepare to focus once again on Latin America, the region from which I partially took a detour to the rest of the world, I would like to share with you a few thoughts.

Personal bookends: China in June 2000 and June 2011—a symmetrical orderly notion except for the fact that the world is neither predictable nor orderly (every day less so), and that it is not sufficiently flat to sustain bookends. Moreover, as much as some locations seem to prevail over others, no single place contains the myriad of interests, studies, and explorations that define the University’s collective enterprise. At its best, the institution is the point that may contain all others. We know that the term “universe” belies its own singularity, for the plurality of peoples, nations, and cultures continuously expands the very notion of our multiple identities and extended sense of community.

Over the last several years, certain terms have acquired official sanction while we address the need to educate global citizens through on site studies and off site experiences. We are hard at work with a generation that may hopefully reach beyond the images on the screen to engage the reality that stares at a similar screen from the other side. We seek to obtain a material dialogue across maps that are increasingly vague as everything and everyone is everywhere—or so it seems when, at our own peril, we ignore or bypass others.

We are once again at a crossroads. Crises and uncertainty dominate headlines; fear and hope struggle to take hold of what a not so distant tomorrow may bring. We speak of survival, growth, and development—tenuous and culturally determined terms at best—to confront natural catastrophes and human evil. Yet, in the face of it all, we cling to education as a panacea, to a sound coupling of knowledge and ethics to address ignorance and violence.

There are no bookends in the global enterprise—just a united call to think and act collectively, to know, understand, and accept (not merely tolerate) those who do not resemble us but still share the pursuit of a common good. A tall order, for sure, but that is what navigating the international enterprise demands of us. Maryland’s journey will continue, I trust, with the values that define who we are and how we wish to be known here and in the world.

With gratitude and best wishes I now return to the lettered world I never left.

Saúl Sosnowski

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By Ann Wylie, 
Senior Vice President and Provost

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Distinguished physicist Jayanth R. Banavar, whose research frequently involves interdisciplinary collaboration in the life sciences, has recently been named dean of the University of Maryland’s new College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS). “With an integrated scientific college, Maryland is well-positioned to prepare the next generation of scientists for the types of challenges they are likely to encounter,” Banavar says.

“While strength in the core disciplines is essential, the lines between them will continue to blur, and we need to educate a generation of creative researchers who can thrive in an interdisciplinary environment,” he adds. “I’m delighted to be entrusted with this responsibility.” Much of Banavar’s recent work has applied the techniques of statistical physics to solve interdisciplinary problems—explaining, for example, why biological molecules tend to curl up into helices or why coral reefs support such a rich biodiversity. Frequently, the goal has been to identify an underlying mathematical principle that can provide an elegant explanation of natural phenomena: “to uncover the simplicity underlying the seemingly bewildering complexity.”

He has more than 250 publications in refereed journals, 11 book chapters, co-edited a book, and holds three patents. “Jayanth Banavar’s blend of wide-ranging scientific curiosity, collaborative spirit, distinguished achievement, and academic leadership is a perfect match for the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences,” says President Wallace D. Loh. “So many of our new initiatives are cross-campus, interdisciplinary projects, precisely because major scientific questions and critical world issues demand this approach. Dr. Banavar’s leadership will help us excel in these efforts, and we are most fortunate to welcome him.”

For the past 12 years, Banavar has served as distinguished professor and George A. and Margaret M. Downsbrough department head of Physics at Pennsylvania State University. He received a Bachelor of Science with honors (1972) and a Master of Science (1974) in physics from Bangalore University. He then earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Pittsburgh (1978). Under his leadership, the Penn State physics department enjoyed a significant increase in the National Research Council rankings, and he has fostered collaborations with the life sciences through several joint appointments. A condensed-matter theorist, Banavar has authored or co-authored articles on topics as diverse as metabolic scaling in living organisms, river networks, patterns underlying gene expression profiles, continuum deductions from molecular hydrodynamics, biodiversity and ecology, the geometry and physics of proteins, the physics of porous media, and the nature of ordering of spin glasses. “The breadth and quality of Jayanth’s work uniquely qualify him to lead the new college,” says Senior Vice President and Provost Ann Wylie. “His own research experiences have put him in highly dynamic and productive territory, and his leadership at Penn State has been extremely successful. With the appointment of a new dean and the support of the highly capable CMNS community, President Loh and I are extremely optimistic about the future of the college.”

CMNS took shape last October, blending computer, mathematical, and physical sciences with chemistry and life sciences—a growing trend among leading universities as a way to strengthen interdisciplinary education and research. A 2009 National Academy of Sciences study accelerated this trend with its call for “the emergence of a New Biology,” that integrates biologists with physicists, chemists, computer scientists, engineers, and mathematicians “to create a research community with the capacity to tackle a broad range of scientific and societal problems.”

“The college is extremely fortunate to have an individual of the quality and stature of Dr. Banavar as its next dean,” says Steve Halperin, who after a dozen years of academic leadership is stepping down as dean of the college. “His outstanding record of leadership and contributions to science command respect not only here, but in the country and around the world. I look forward to my new role as a professor of mathematics at Maryland, knowing that the college is in such very fine hands.”

By Neil Tickner, University Communications

“While strength in the core disciplines is essential, the lines between them will continue to blur, and we need to educate a generation of creative researchers who can thrive in an interdisciplinary environment.” — JAYANTH B. BANAVAR
Norwegian Catch

Environmental Science and Technology (ENST) undergraduate student Grant Hughes-Baldwin satisfied both his love for travel and his passion for marine ecology by studying abroad for a semester at the University of Oslo.

“T

esselation due to its unique society
and its unadulterated nature,” says Hughes-Baldwin. “Even more, it gave me the opportunity to travel to nearby countries and experience a diverse spectrum of cultures, which sets apart the Nordic countries from the rest of Europe.”

Bordering the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, Norway is the perfect place to study the different aspects of marine pelagic ecology, due to the benefits of a long coastline with numerous fjords that characterize the Norwegian landscape. “I started off by studying about the oceanography of the entire region, followed by studies of phytoplankton,” explains Hughes-Baldwin. Phytoplankton represent the algal photosynthesizing component of the plankton. They form the beginning of the food chain for aquatic animals.

Hughes-Baldwin was enthusiastic to learn more about the diverse marine life that populates the Norwegian waters, particularly the Northern cod, herring, and jellyfish. “It was fascinating to discover the advantages some fish benefited from, and that subsequently determined the water column they can survive in successfully,” he says. Hughes-Baldwin’s research tasks also included gathering water samples from the Oslofjord, aboard a research vessel. “We tested water quality with respect to oxygen levels, nitrogen levels, and overall visibility due to primary productivity.”

He also collected samples of phytoplankton, zooplankton, copepods, and algae for further studies to be performed in the lab. I took home one of the cod we caught on the first cruise,” shares Hughes-Baldwin, adding that he cleaned the fish and prepped it for cooking all by himself. “I ate my own Norwegian catch!”

As published in the inaugural issue of Envision, an ENST publication.

GRANT HUGHES-BALDWIN STANDING ON ONE OF THE MOST STUNNING BACKDROPS IN LYSEFJORD. PHOTO COURTESY OF HUGHES-BALDWIN.
The University of Maryland recently announced its appointment of Bonnie Thornton Dill as dean of one of its largest colleges, Arts and Humanities. Dill, long-time chair of women's studies, is expected to serve for two years beginning August 1. She is the first African American woman to hold the post and succeeds James Harris, who is stepping down after 14 years as dean. Internationally known for her cross-cutting scholarship on race and gender, Black and Latina women in higher education, as well as issues such as work, family, and poverty, Dill has led women's studies at UM to national prominence as one of a select few in the United States to offer a doctoral degree in the field. Maryland also serves as the base for the National Women's Studies Association and editorial home of the pioneering journal, Feminist Studies.

Dill has spent two decades in the department, first as professor and later as chair. She is also the founding director of the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity at Maryland, which promotes “intersectional” research. Her scholarship includes numerous articles and three books, most recently, Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy and Practice (2009). “Bonnie’s scholarly life has been defined by intersections and cross-disciplinary work—excellent preparation for the challenges of leading such a diverse college as Arts and Humanities,” says Senior Vice President and Provost Ann G. Wylie, on announcing the appointment. “Under her leadership, our women’s studies program has grown in both size and stature. She is a pioneer in her field, and a number of colleagues in the college recommended her highly. President Loh and I are confident that she will bring further distinction to the invaluable work of the College of Arts and Humanities.”

By Neil Tickner, University Communications

UM’s International Partnership Agreement with Italy

The University of Maryland and its Institute for Systems Research’s longstanding and successful relationship with researchers from the Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy, recently led to a formal cementing of the partnership. A memorandum of understanding between the University of Maryland and the University of Trento is being signed, and a second memorandum of understanding between the State of Maryland and the Autonomous Province of Trento is in the works. The partnership plans to begin with research, and an education component will be added in the near future.

Specific, strategic research topic areas are being defined to build significant collaborations. Three topic areas have been identified to begin and/or continue collaborations, and more will be added as the partnership develops:

- **Bioengineering, biomedical devices, bio-microsystems**: Led by Fischell Department of Bioengineering Chair William Bentley (BioE) and Professor Peter Kofinas (BioE) from Maryland and Professor Alessandro Quattrone, University of Trento
- **Renewable energy and storage, nanomaterials**: Led by Professors Gary Rubloff (MSE/ISR) and Reza Ghodssi (ECE/ISR) from Maryland and Dr. Salvatore Iannotta, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
- **Microsystems**: Led by ISR-affiliated Professor Elisabeth Smela (ME) and Associate Professor Pamela Abshire from Maryland and Dr. Pierluigi Bellutti, Fondazione Bruno Kessler

The partners are committed to future four- to six-month bi-directional student exchanges, two- to three-month researcher and professor exchanges, and seed-funded collaborations with matching funds from both the Autonomous Province of Trento/European Union and Maryland/United States.

For more information about this international partnership, contact Jeff Coriale, ISR director of external relations, at Coriale@umd.edu or (301) 405-6604.

By Neil Tickner, University Communications
UM Students Pursue Language Study Around the World

The Boren Fellowship and Boren Scholarship are highly competitive Department of Defense awards for language study in regions critical to U.S. national interests. The programs target applicants with a strong interest in using their skills and knowledge in government service. This year, 117 fellowships were offered from a pool of 625 applications, an 18.7 percent national selection rate. Maryland students achieved a 50 percent success rate. There were 940 applicants overall for 151 scholarships, a 16 percent selection rate. Notably, Maryland students achieved a 58 percent success rate. Both awards are new records for our campus and a result that will place us among the top recipient institutions nationally.

**BOREN FELLOWSHIP**
- **Krista Heiner** (Mali) declined a Boren Fellowship in favor of a Fulbright to Mali.
- **Camilla Kardel** (Tajikistan) will study Persian in Dushanbe while working at a local NGO on issues of gender and development.
- **Vanessa Leal** (Syria*) has proposed to complement Arabic study in Damascus with work on immigration and refugee affairs at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.
- **Ryan Misler** (Morocco) declined a Boren Fellowship to accept a Fulbright to Morocco.
- **Gabriel Ramirez** (Syria*) will examine Shari’ah’s role in society, in addition to pursuing Arabic study in Damascus.
- **Liabeth Yohannes** (Brazil) will study Portuguese and analyze the socio-economic impacts of the Biodiesel Use and Production Program.

**BOREN SCHOLARSHIP**
- **Emily Burke** (Turkey) will spend an academic year of language study and coursework at Bogazici University, Istanbul.
- **Abigail Cember** (Russia) will study language at the ACTR Moscow program this summer.
- **Crystal Goldie** (Nigeria) will study at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. Crystal’s award also provides for summer 2011 Yoruba language studies at the University of Florida.
- **Rebecca Hammer** (China) has declined a Fulbright Grant in Taiwan in favor of a Boren Scholarship to study Chinese, either in the People’s Republic or in Taiwan.
- **Iman Ng** (Syria*) has been awarded a scholarship for intensive study of Arabic.
- **Elizabeth Richter** (Tajikistan) has declined a Boren Scholarship for intensive study of Persian at the Dushanbe Language Center in Tajikistan.
- **Sarah Straney** (Russia) will study language in Russia.

*For Syria, it is likely that the Boren program will select an alternate study abroad site.*
To submit story ideas and photos, please contact the editor, Vivian Hayward, at vhayward@umd.edu or 301.405.4312