

Notes from the Associate Dean



Alex Winter-Nelson, Associate Dean of International Programs with Christine Lepine, ACES graduate student and Next Generation Delegate, at the Global Food Security Symposium.

It has been an eventful spring for the College of ACES Office of International Programs.

Our good fortune in the company we keep was on display at the inaugural meeting of the International Programs External Advisory Committee. This committee was formed to provide an external perspective on our activities. The members of this board have exceptional records of high-level international engagement through international agencies, universities, and the private sector.

The exceptional capabilities of our current and former students

have been recognized with several recent awards. We saw a record number of applications for graduate student international research grants. We also saw our students receive recognition from outside associations like the Chicago Council for Global Affairs, which selected crop sciences graduate student Christine Lepine (pictured) as a Next Generation Delegate. The accomplishments of our former students were celebrated at the annual college awards banquet, with two of our graduates, Dr. Rida Shibli and Mr. Carl Burkybile, recognized for their international work.

The exceptional depth of our student capacity and interest in international work motivated the launch of a new program from this office: The Global Food Security Fellows (GFSF) program. Through the GFSF program, graduate and undergraduate students will have the opportunity for meaningful international research experiences addressing food security issues around the world. The first cohort of graduate student fellows will work on joint research projects with ACES faculty and researchers at international agricultural research centers while the first undergraduate fellows will join ongoing international research and engagement programs of ACES faculty and staff. Look for news from these fellows in the fall.

ACES International introduces External Advisory Committee

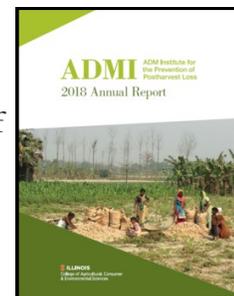
A newly created External Advisory Committee for International Programs in the College of ACES will provide feedback on international activities and offer advice and support to develop partnerships and identify external opportunities. The distinguished members include:

- **Dr. Jimmy Smith**, Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute
- **Dr. Robert Zeigler**, Director General Emeritus of the International Rice Research Institute
- **Mark Richardson**, Senior Vice President of Global Supply Chain at OSI Group
- **Dr. Usha Barwale Zehr**, Director & Chief Technology Officer of Mahyco Seeds
- **Dr. Sam Eathington**, Chief Science Officer of The Climate Corporation
- **Dr. Earl Kellogg**, Professor Emeritus and Associate Provost of the University of Illinois

“I feel extremely fortunate that these board members agreed to give their extremely valuable time to serve on this committee. The collective experience and expertise of this group is remarkable, and the international programs of ACES stand to gain a great deal from the committee’s input,” said Alex Winter-Nelson, associate dean of international programs for the College of ACES.

ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss (ADMI) releases annual report

Contact our office to request a copy of the ADMI annual report that includes an update on the ADMI Village program in India, renewal of partnership in the USAID Postharvest Loss Innovation Lab, and exciting research projects funded through an open window program.



Soybean Innovation Lab organizes two field days in Malawi



SIL researchers and partners evaluate the performance of 30 soybean varieties at the Pan-African Trial field day held in Chitedze, Malawi, this past March. Image credit: Godfree Chigeza

During March 2019, the Soybean Innovation Lab (SIL) and partners at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, and the Feed the Future Malawi Ag Diversification Activity organized two field days in Malawi and Zambia to showcase

the performance of 30 commercial varieties sourced from eight countries (Colombia, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) and 10 partners (five public-sector institutions and five private-sector companies). Pan-African Trial operating partners at the Department of Agricultural Research Services in Malawi and Good Nature Agro, a seed company based in Zambia, implemented the field days, which targeted key stakeholders such as seed companies, soy processors, government research organizations, and non-governmental organizations with an interest in licensing specific varieties for future registration and release in-country.

Organizations interested in the Pan-African Trials should contact the trial manager Dr. Michelle Santos at mdfsanto@illinois.edu.

ACES announces international seed grant recipients for Spring 2019

The Office of International Programs has announced the recipients of ACES International Seed Grants for Spring 2019. This program supports awardees in establishing a strong international relationship that will continue to expand and flourish into a larger and substantial international collaborative effort. The funding for this program is made possible through support provided by the Arlys Conrad Endowment Fund. This semester's recipients are:

- **Dr. D.K. Lee, Crop Sciences**, "Integrating deep learning technology to improve management practices and environmental impact of energy crop production" (South Korea)
- **Dr. Glen Hartman, Crop Sciences**, "Testing seed quality of African grown soybeans and development of a guide to seedborne pathogens"
- **Dr. Tiffany Jamann, Crop Sciences**, "Using host resistance to protect maize from tar spot" (Ecuador)
- **Dr. Anna Kukekova, Animal Sciences**, "Effect of early life experiences on gene regulation and adult behavior" (Austria, Russia)

Funk Awards include international recognitions



The Soybean Innovation Lab team came out to support Director Peter Goldsmith (center) at the awards banquet.

Each spring the College of ACES recognizes faculty, staff, and graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements or exceptional service to the college at the Paul A. Funk Recognition Awards Banquet. This year's awards included three with an international aspect:

FACULTY AWARD FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

Peter Goldsmith was recognized for his tireless effort in international research, service, and education. Dr. Goldsmith, professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, also serves as director/principal investigator for the USAID Soybean Innovation Lab (SIL), based at the University of Illinois. The tangible products from SIL's work include new soybean varieties, agronomic recommendations, methods to use soybean in local diets, soy food entrepreneur networks, educated plant breeders, and many more.

ACES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD OF MERIT

- **Carl Burkybile**, B.S. '69 Ag Education, M.S. '75 Vocational Education, *Director of Agriculture, Healing Hands International*. After teaching vocational agriculture for 32 years, Carl took his abilities, skill, and drive to the global level. Carl founded *Caring for Kenya*, and he has since led 22 mission trips to Kenya. In 2012, he was appointed Director of Agriculture for *Healing Hands International*. In this capacity, he works to improve food security around the world, currently in 14 countries.
- **Rida Shibli**, Ph.D. '90 Horticulture of Irbid, Jordan, *Professor of Plant Biotechnology and Biodiversity, University of Amman, Department of Horticulture and Crop Sciences*. Rida is an outstanding example of a U of I alumnus who has dedicated his entire career to education and service, both in his native country of Jordan and on the global stage. In 2016, he was appointed minister of agriculture in Jordan, and he currently serves on the country's highest legislative body, the Jordanian senate. He has received many national and international awards and has been an outstanding ambassador for ACES, recruiting several students from Jordan.

For more news items on international activities in the College of ACES, visit <https://aces.illinois.edu/international>. To receive an electronic version of this newsletter, visit <http://illinois.edu/gm/subscribe/7045>