

Notes from the Associate Dean



Alex Winter-Nelson (back left) at Strategic Planning Workshop for High Tech Agricultural Education in Bangladesh.

This summer I was reminded again of the importance of pursuing the land-grant mission with creativity and sensitivity if we are to remain relevant in the 21st century. I was also impressed by the degree to which the challenges we face in our efforts to have impact are similar to those faced by our partner institutions of higher education in Africa and Asia.

During the break, I had the opportunity to travel to Dhaka, Bangladesh with Professor Prasanta Kalita to participate in a strategic planning workshop for high tech agricultural education and research organized by the Asian Development Bank and the Bangladesh Agricultural University. The purpose of the workshop was to identify a pathway to enable institutions of agricultural higher education to contribute to creating knowledge-intensive, sustainable food systems that ensure food and nutritional security and economic development. The priorities that emerged for universities in Bangladesh sounded very much like the aspirations we have for the University of Illinois. They focused on the challenge to develop into institutions that (i) take food systems perspectives for sustainable integrated solutions, (ii) create value through academic-industry collaboration, (iii) foster startups and innovations, (iv) embrace interdisciplinary collaborations to address societal challenges, and (v) apply digital and emerging technologies in new and impactful ways. Transforming institutions of higher education for this age is more easily described than executed. But, the reality that so many institutions around the world have identified similar goals gives me confidence that our growing global network of partner universities can help us rise to the challenge. The activities highlighted in this newsletter point to the degree to which we are already innovating with partners around the world to remain a globally relevant institution of higher education.

ACES Global Academy builds partnerships in South Africa



ACES delegation visits the University of Pretoria.

The 2018-19 Academy of Global Engagement (Global Academy) traveled to South Africa during June 2019 to culminate the twelfth year of this annual faculty training program coordinated by the Office of International Programs (OIP). Accompanied by

Dean Kim Kidwell and Melinda DelRossi, the group visited two campuses and immersed themselves in the South African context to build academic partnerships and lay groundwork for future projects that will benefit all. The delegation's first stop was in South Africa's administrative capital, Pretoria, to visit the new Future Africa campus, a dynamic living, learning, and research environment where Africa's leading scientists and scholars from around the world come together to address global grand challenges. The group then traveled to the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The immersion experience helps fulfil OIP's mission to develop and maintain a platform of strategic partnerships for international engagement, while proving beneficial for the Global Academy scholars both professionally and personally. The 2018-19 Global Academy participants included:

- **Dustin Boler, Associate Professor (Animal Sciences)**
- **David Bullock, Professor (Agricultural and Consumer Economics)**
- **Brian Dill, Associate Professor and Department Head (Sociology)**
- **Tony Grift, Associate Professor (Agricultural and Biological Engineering)**
- **Grant McCarty, Extension Educator**
- **Carmen Ugarte, Research Specialist (Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences)**
- **Frank Zhao, Professor (Crop Sciences)**

International Agronomy Day 2019 hosts professionals from around the world



A group from Brazil enjoys International Agronomy Day at the University of Illinois farms.

Agronomy professionals from around the world converged at the Crop Sciences Research and Education Center's South First Street facility on August 26 for in-field presentations and opportunities to interact with ACES faculty.

The event is hosted biannually to coincide with the Farm

Progress Show in Decatur and showcases ACES to people who work internationally and may look to Illinois in the future for knowledge solutions or degree training.

ADMI hosts second Bangladesh Ministry of Food cohort for food policy short course



Bangladesh Ministry of Food officials and representative from IFPRI on Illinois campus.

The ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss (ADMI) hosted a four-week short course for persons engaged in food policy issues with the Government of Bangladesh as a component of the Bangladesh Integrated Food Policy Research Program. This is the second year for the short course.

From August 19 – September 13, a cohort of eight officials from the Bangladesh Ministry of Food visited the University of Illinois for a series of seminars, workshops, and field trips to give them new perspectives on food systems, food policy, and postharvest management.

The Honorable Allan Mustard to present ACES Distinguished International Lecture on Nov. 6

We are delighted to welcome The Honorable Allan Mustard, retired United States Ambassador and alumnus of the College of ACES, back to the University of Illinois campus to present the annual ACES Distinguished International Lecture and meet with students who aspire to careers in Foreign Service. All students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are invited to join us for his lecture at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 6 in the Monsanto Room at the ACES Library. A reception will follow.

Global Food Security Fellows spend summers in Malawi, Tanzania, and Peru



Ben Norton with enumerators for his field surveys in Tanzania.

The Office of International Programs initiated the Global Food Security Fellows Program to support exceptional students who are interested in conducting food-related research in a developing country. The first cohort of Fellows included four ACES graduate students and three undergraduates.

The Fellows shared their experiences this summer on the Voices of ACES blog:

Ben Norton validated fertilizer quality in Tanzania

Kristen Iverson, Anoosha Memon, and Christina Fernandez worked with the ACES-based and USAID-funded Strengthening Agriculture and Nutrition Extension activity to deliver a video-extension campaign to smallholder farmers.

Marshal White is currently working with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture on balancing economic and environmental sustainability for smallholder rice farmers in Peru.

Two recent ACES graduates among Illinois Fulbright grant recipients

Thirteen University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign students and young alumni, including two from the College of ACES, were offered student Fulbright grants to pursue international educational, research, and teaching experiences across the globe this coming year. The ACES awardees are:

Jordan Blake Banks, of St. Louis, was awarded a Fulbright to pursue a two-year graduate degree in energy technology, with a specialization in bioenergy systems, at Lappeenranta University of Technology in Finland.

Krti Tallam, of Fremont, California, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to India to study how climate change and urbanization have affected zoonotic disease ecology trends. She hopes to develop predictive models toward improving the management of zoonotic disease transfer in terrestrial and marine systems.

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>