

Leadership Announcement



Late last year Dr. Alex Winter-Nelson assumed the role of Associate Dean of International Programs for the College of ACES. Dr. Winter-Nelson stepped into this new role after a 27-year career as a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, which included serving as the director of International Programs for ACES for the last 5 years, as well as serving as

the director of the ADM Institute for the Prevention of Post-Harvest Loss since fall of 2017. As a member of the executive leadership team for the College of ACES, this new position elevates the visibility and influence of ACES' efforts in international programs.

ACES hosts Consulate General of France to build connections

To increase student and faculty engagement in France, the Office of International Programs in the College of ACES hosted a delegation from the Consulate General of France's Chicago office. The delegation met with faculty and staff from ACES and the University of Illinois, including representatives from education abroad and international centers, to make personal connections that will facilitate additional student and faculty exchanges.

A highlight of the visit was the delegation's presentation on student mobility opportunities with the goal of attracting more Illinois students to study and intern in France. "French researchers have funds to host students and colleagues. Our office is here to assist. We may not have all the answers, but we can direct you to the right person," said Guillaume Lacroix, Consul Général of France in Chicago.

"France is attempting to be more connected with the English-speaking world, and speaking French is no longer a requirement to study in France. Many programs are now offered in English," he said. For more information on obtaining a visa to travel to France as well as other opportunities in France, visit the Consulate General's website at: <https://chicago.consulfrance.org/>

ACES hosts South African scholar for perspective on food and nutrition security



The Office of International Programs in the College of ACES hosted Dr. Sheryl Hendriks, a distinguished guest from the University of Pretoria in South Africa, to speak about opportunities and challenges for research on food and nutrition security and agriculture in Africa.

Dr. Hendriks serves as the Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development and Director of the Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Well-being at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. She has served two terms on the High-Level Panel of Experts for the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security. A full room of students, faculty, and staff gathered to hear Dr. Hendriks present highlights from a recent report published by the Interacademy Partnership (IAP) to which she contributed. The IAP, an international network of national academies of science, commissioned a set of regional reports on food and nutritional security and a global synthesis. [The IAP Food and Nutrition and Agriculture \(FNSA\) global programme's summary report](#) brings out many similarities and differences in food and nutrition challenges across regions.

Fifth Annual International Food Security Symposium April 2-3, 2019

Lunchtime Presentation: "Making India Hunger Free: Role of Institutions and Innovations" by Ashok Gulati, Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

Keynote Lecture: "Improving service delivery and transforming institutions in fragile states; towards a more politically informed approach" by Ed Laws, Overseas Development Institute

Soy is a cost-effective way of adding protein to school lunches in developing countries, study shows



Peter Goldsmith, Soybean Innovation Lab principal investigator and director, presents a certificate of completion to a Ghana School Feeding Program caterer upon her completion of a Soy in School Lunch training led by Chef Nutepe Karte y-Attipoe.

Adding soy flour to school lunches in Ghana provides a cost-efficient way of increasing the protein level, according to a new study co-authored by a University of Illinois researcher.

Soy is known to be a low-cost protein source, says Peter Goldsmith, professor of agricultural and consumer economics at the U of I. “But the thesis that soy is a good ingredient in a national school lunch program had yet to be proven,

though everyone assumed it.”

The researchers demonstrated the economic and nutritional impact of replacing some of the starch in a school lunch meal with soy products or another protein source. Their results showed that adding soy flour provides a low-cost way to increase the protein level in the meal.

Goldsmith is lead researcher for the USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, also known as the Soybean Innovation Lab (SIL), a program that brings together about 35 researchers from 17 different countries to study how soy can help reduce poverty and malnutrition in developing countries. SIL researchers conducted this study in cooperation with Catholic Relief Services and the Ghana

ACES PhD student Yushu Xia builds connections with French soil scientists towards managing nitrogen

Yushu Xia, a PhD student in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, reflects on her research project partially funded by an ACES International Graduate Grant: “Improving Agricultural Nitrogen Models for Nitrogen Management Assessment at a Field Spatial Scale.” “During a two-week stay in France, I had the opportunity to visit multiple labs focusing on a wide range of timely topics in soil research with my advisor, Dr. Wander. As a grad student working on the modeling of agricultural soil nitrogen losses, I benefited greatly from the experience not only because of the new knowledge I acquired in my specific research field, but also because of the interactions we had with French scientists that made me think about how we should effectively convey our ideas to a broader audience beyond our local soil science community.”

Illinois lab develops new technology to address micronutrient malnutrition around the world



Graduate student Anna Waller holds up a sample of the reactive paper test developed to test nutrient levels in fortified foods.

Food fortification offers a mechanism to address micronutrient malnutrition around the world. However, in countries where cereals markets are not well regulated, the inability to verify the nutritional quality of foods can undermine fortification efforts. Research funded by the ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss (ADMI), based at the University of Illinois, is working to enable easy

verification of nutrient content in cereals to support improved postharvest management and greater nutritional security.

Dr. Juan Andrade, professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, leads the Illinois Global Nutrition Technology (IGNiTe) lab, which focuses on developing and implementing technologies and strategies to address micronutrient malnutrition. Andrade’s team has developed Nu3Px, a low-cost sensing technology consisting of a paper-based, colorimetric assay, coupled with a smartphone cam-

ACES short-term study abroad programs offer immersive



Illinois students in Cape Town during winter break 2018-19.

For recipients of the College of ACES) Arlys Conrad Study Abroad Scholarship, submitting a reflection of their time abroad is one way in which students share and demonstrate the impact of this experience. The experiences highlighted

below exemplify what many of our students gain personally, culturally, and academically through studying abroad.

During January 2019, Stefan King, a student in the Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition who aspires to attend medical school, participated in the ACES faculty-led program: *Service Learning, Child, Family, Health and Agriculture in Cape Town, South Africa*. “I have gained a new perspective about healthcare in a global framework. After experiencing the conditions some individuals face, I aspire to use this experience to empathize with patients’ needs,” he said.

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>