



# Office of International Programs *Monthly Newsletter*

May 2013

## Building lasting partnerships: ACES Academy for Global Engagement travels to Ghana for immersion experience focused on food security and nutrition

by Suzana Palaska-Nicholson



The sixth cohort of the ACES Academy for Global Engagement (Global Academy) embarked on a journey to Ghana, West Africa during spring break for this year's immersion experience. The aim of the program was to establish connections with colleagues at Ghanaian premier institutions of higher education, research institutes, government, development organizations - national and international - as well as local communities. In addition, the 2012 Global Academy scholars played a role of ACES ambassadors, demonstrating the vast research capacity and academic expertise of the College. The Global Academy scholars are: Dr. Juan Andrade, assistant professor,

Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition; Ms. Jan Brooks, teaching associate, human and community development; Dr. Mary-Grace Danao, assistant professor, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Dr. Barrett Kirwan, assistant professor, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics; and Dr. Hans Stein, Professor, Department of Animal Sciences. Accompanying the group were Dr. Schuyler Korban, director of the Office of International Programs, and Ms. Suzana Palaska-Nicholson, program coordinator.

The Global Academy scholars achieved much during the 10-day visit to Ghana, which took place from March 14 through March 25, 2013. The official program began with a day-long visit to Ghana's flagship university, The University of Ghana, Legon. During this visit, Dr. John Ofofu-Anim, dean of the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, and Dr. Schuyler Korban signed a Letter of Intent, expressing a keen interest in establishing a strong partnership between our two colleges, while focusing on three pillars of our respective missions: teaching, research, and extension. During the next seven days, ACES faculty met with regional and country officers of international organizations focusing on Africa's agricultural development. These included the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), AGRA-Growing Africa's Agriculture, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). During the second week of this visit, the group traveled to northern Ghana, where they spent several days in the regional center of Tamale, and met with faculty and administrators of the University for Development Studies. While in Tamale, the group also visited several processing and storage facilities, such as TAMA Shea-Butter and Heritage Seeds plants, and stopped by for a meeting at the CSIR-Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI). To cap off this experience, the 2012 Global Academy delegation returned to the capital of Accra for one day where they spent the morning at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA).

"Overall, the Global Academy's trip to Ghana has provided ACES scholars with a first-hand look and knowledge of the diverse and important issues related to food security and nutrition in one of the most stable and thriving countries in west Africa. This successful trip to Ghana has allowed us to establish new partnerships, as well as connect with a variety of organizations in that country. This will serve us well as the ACES Office of International Programs continues to strengthen and expand our international engagements in the continent of Africa," Korban said.

## ACES Hosting 40 Fulbright Scholars from Libya for intensive English training

Forty Fulbright Scholars from Libya will arrive at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on June 3, 2013, for a five-week program focused on strengthening their English language skills. The scholars will be hosted by the ACES Office of International Programs in partnership with the U of I's Intensive English Institute (IEI).

In addition to intensive language classes, these scholars, funded by the Institute for International Education, will learn about U.S. government structure, U.S. economic policies, among other topics, and will also participate in a cultural program.

## ACES hosting 10 Fulbright Scholars in natural sciences from Libya

Ten Fulbright Scholars from Libya will participate in a training program in natural sciences provided by ACES starting July 7 through September 15, 2013. These scholars will be involved in research training (provided by ACES faculty) as well as instructional training for teaching (provided by the Center for Teaching Excellence), including institutional development and curricula development. This program is being coordinated by the Office of International Programs in conjunction with the U of I's Center for Teaching Excellence.

This program, which follows five-weeks of intensive English language training, will also incorporate cultural experiences, including trips to Springfield and Chicago. The scholars will conclude their training program by presenting their work at a poster session open to all ACES faculty, staff, and students.

## ACES to host fourth annual Zhejiang University summer internship program

During summer 2013, ACES will once again host the highly successful summer internship program for China's Zhejiang University (ZJU). In its fourth year, the program for ZJU graduate students includes individualized work with an ACES faculty member to complete a research project, industry-focused field trips, and social and cultural activities.

The Office of International Programs will be seeking mentors for this program, which will run for approximately six weeks starting in early July. Mentoring is a great opportunity for faculty to enhance their international scope. Faculty interested in mentoring one or more of these students should contact Suzana Palaska-Nicholson at 244-9451 or [spalaska@illinois.edu](mailto:spalaska@illinois.edu). A \$500 honorarium will be given to each participating faculty per student.

ZJU, which is ranked among the top three Chinese institutions, began its partnership with the University of Illinois in 2009. To foster this relationship and strengthen research collaborations, ACES has proudly hosted dozens of ZJU's finest students during the past three summers. As a testament to the support of ACES faculty and the program's organization, in 2012, ZJU named the UIUC-ZJU summer research program as its best study-abroad program. Moreover, this program is serving as an excellent recruiting tool for new graduate students to our ACES programs.

## OIP announces Spring 2013 International Seed Grant Winners

OIP congratulates its International Seed Grant winners for Spring 2013. The goal of the Seed Grant program is to support awardees in establishing a strong international relationship that will continue to expand and flourish into a larger and substantial international collaborative effort that will ultimately benefit departments, programs, the College of ACES, and the University of Illinois. The funding of the International Seed Grants program is made possible through support provided by the Arlys Conrad Endowment Fund. This semester's winners are:

**Dr. Aaron Hager**, Department of Crop Sciences: "Facilitating Scholarly Exchange, Collaboration and Student Recruitment through the Development of International Agronomy Day on the Campus of the University of Illinois"

**Dr. Mohammed Babadoost**, Department of Crop Sciences: "To Teach Plant Disease Diagnosis and Management in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan"

**Dr. Gustavo Caetano-Anolles**, Department of Crop Sciences: "Linking Protein Evolution and Molecular Dynamics"

**Dr. Jody Endres**, Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences: "Bioenergy and Transformation to a Green Economy: Building Socio-economic Metrics through Comparative Approaches"

**Dr. Hong Chen**, Department of Food Sciences & Human Nutrition: "Using Ultra High Purity of Extract of Ginkgo Biloba in the Fighting Against Liver Metastasis of Colon Cancer"

**Dr. Michael Ward**, Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences: "Tracking Migratory Birds across the Gulf of Mexico: The Inclusion of Cuba"

## Long elected Fellow of the Royal Society



Guttsell Endowed Professor of Crop Sciences and Plant Biology Stephen P. Long has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, the world's oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.

Members are elected for life on the basis of excellence in science, via a thorough peer review process.

## Cardoso, Danao, and Mackie receive Lemann Institute travel grants

Three ACES faculty members have received grants from the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies for travel to Brazil. The travel grants are intended to build on the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program (SMP) to increase collaborations between faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Brazilian universities.

Winners of these grants, as part of a campus-wide selection process, include Dr. Phil Cardoso, Dr. Mary-Grace Danao, and Dr. Roderick Mackie.

**Dr. Phil Cardoso**, assistant professor in dairy research and extension, will use the grant to build collaborations with leaders in the fields of nutrition and reproduction of dairy cattle. He plans to visit with faculty at several universities: Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in Porto Alegre, Universidade Federal de Pelotas (UFPEL), Universidade de Sao Paulo (USP), Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP) in Botucatu, and Universidade Federal de Lavras (UFLA).

**Dr. Mary-Grace Danao**, assistant professor in agricultural and biological engineering, will use the grant to build collaborations and recruit graduate students for her bioenergy and postharvest processing research program. She plans to visit Universidade de Sao Paulo in Pirassununga, which has a new biosystems engineering program, and Univesidade Federal de Lavras, which has a strong postharvest processing research program.

**Dr. Roderick Mackie**, professor of animal sciences, will use the grant to visit Professor Humberto Madiera, dean of the School of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná. Mackie hosted Madiera in his lab as a Fulbright Scholar during Fall 2012, and they are currently collaborating on a SMP project. Mackie also plans to visit a potential PhD student and establish initial contacts with several rumen