



Notes from the Director

This summer I saw the College of ACES manifest its commitment to substantive international work based in meaningful partnerships. In August I was fortunate to travel to India with Dean Kim Kidwell, President Emeritus Bob Easter, Associate Dean Prasanta Kalita, and Associate Chancellor Pradeep Khanna to visit some of our partners through the ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss (ADMI) and other key institutions and partners. The many interactions made it very clear that Illinois and Indian institutions can work together to address a range of exciting challenges for mutual benefit.

Working with the Borlaug Institute of South Asia, the Bihar Agricultural University, and the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, ADMI is identifying methods for drying and storing grain that may result in greater income for smallholder farmers through reduced physical losses and better health among farm families through reduced mycotoxin contamination in cereals they eat. The progress being made in Bihar signals what the University of Illinois can do when it has strong partners whose goals match our capacities and mission.

While in New Delhi our delegation was invited to identify an individual from Illinois who could speak to the use of big data analytics to address food and agricultural challenges in India at an Agricultural Outlook Forum to be held three weeks later. It is a credit to this campus that we could identify a long list of potential speakers for such an event and an even greater statement that two faculty members were prepared to attend the forum on such short notice. Knowing there are opportunities for ACES to have positive impacts around the world and that ACES faculty, staff, and students will embrace those opportunities makes the University of Illinois an exciting place to serve as Director of the ACES Office of International Programs.

Alex Winter-Nelson



(L to R) Dean Kim Kidwell, Associate Chancellor Pradeep Khanna, Alex Winter-Nelson, and President Emeritus Robert Easter at the Gateway to India in Mumbai.

Fulbright Scholars and Illinois gain much from each other

For the third summer in a row, the Office of International Programs in the College of ACES hosted the Fulbright Junior Faculty Development Program from Lebanon for a 10-week training program in rural and economic development.

This year's seven scholars participated in an ambitious program that included research mentoring provided by University of Illinois faculty as well as instructional training for teaching provided by the University of Illinois' Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. The scholars also attended cultural events and interacted with campus administration and community groups to gain a fuller understanding of American society and of our institutions of higher education. Beyond the research conducted and teaching skills gained, the scholars noted the hospitality extended by the University of Illinois community. "It felt like we were in a family not a university," one scholar said.

The feeling is mutual, as Director of ACES OIP, Dr. Alex Winter-Nelson, expressed: "When I'm asked why we do this program – because it is not a profit center – I say we do it because it is enriching for us. We have a mandate to solve international challenges and a strong international network strengthens the university as an institution trying to address issues that span national borders. Beyond helping build our institutions, these guests enrich our community. They, for example, are on WEFT radio sharing their musical culture, at the library giving presentations, and interacting with many people in this community. We gain much from this program, and we hope that these relationships are mutually beneficial and that they will last," he said.

Possibilities for continued engagement are already emerging from the program; one scholar is planning to co-teaching a course with an Illinois professor in the spring and another is planning to apply for a PhD program at Illinois.

Anthropology alumnus Batamaka Somé kicks off Fall 2017 “Right to Food, Food Assistance and the Biological Consequences of Malnutrition” Lecture Series



Batamake Somé is an alumnus of the University of Illinois and kicked off the Fall 2017 Right to Food seminar series.

This semester the International Food Security at Illinois program is cooperating with the Division of Nutritional Sciences to offer a lecture series on the [“Right to Food, Food Assistance, and the Biological Consequences of Malnutrition.”](#) This series seeks to ground a discussion of a right to food and programs to ensure that right is realized in the latest discoveries about the physical effects of food

inadequacy. The series serves as a graduate seminar (DNS 500) and is also open to the campus community at large.

Kicking off this dynamic seminar series, Dr. Batamaka Somé, an anthropologist and an alumnus of the University of Illinois, spoke about providing sustainable access to food through agricultural development programs that represent indirect forms of food assistance. Throughout his career, Dr. Somé has provided technical advising to non-government, philanthropic and humanitarian organizations, including The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Nations World Food Programme. He currently works as a research consultant for McKnight Foundation and is based in Burkina Faso.

Somé started with the principle that “Hunger is a moral issue,” and the right to food can be promoted through agricultural interventions that promote food security. He then highlighted programs that support smallholder farmers in ways that increase their access to food and the availability of food for others. Dr. Somé also spoke about the collaborative crop research programs (CCRP) supported by his employer McKnight Foundation, specifically one that uses urine for crop fertilization and has improved production and maintained soil quality.

The seminar series will address similar themes from many other perspectives, including biological and the legal, and demonstrates the transdisciplinary nature of food issues and the remarkably transdisciplinary nature of our campus.

2017-18 ACES Global Academy Announced: Partnerships for Global Impact

The ACES Office of International Programs seeks to strengthen existing international programs and introduce additional faculty into them by supporting partnerships of ACES scholars to conduct impactful work through the *2017/2018 Global Academy: Partnerships for Global Impact Program*. This year’s Academy consists of two-person teams in which one member, the “mentoring partner,” will introduce the other to an existing international engagement and through the process broaden that engagement or provide capacity for the “mentored partner” to develop his or her own program.

The Academy will also provide a forum for participants to build skills and knowledge about international work. Through a series of required on-campus sessions, participants will receive expert advice and opportunities for peer learning about issues such as: v building and maintaining international partnerships; securing support for international work; managing business and financial aspects of international work; minimizing family disruptions while engaging in international activities; and using campus resources for international activities.

Congratulations to this year’s Global Academy teams:

- 1. Jan Brooks & Dr. Margarita Teran-Garcia (HDFS)**
Focus Country: South Africa/ Partner Institution: University of Cape Town
- 2. Dr. David Bullock (ACE) & Dr. Nicolas Martin (Crop Sciences)**
Focus Countries: Brazil and Argentina/
Partner Institutions: EMBRAPA (Brazil) & National University of Cordoba (Argentina)
- 3. Dr. Michael Miller & Dr. Matthew Stasiewicz (FSHN)**
Focus country: Mexico/ Partner Institution: Autonomous University of Queretaro
- 4. Dr. Hong Chen & Dr. Anna Arthur Parker (FSHN)**
Focus Country: China/ Partner Institutions: Hebei Agricultural University & Second Central Hospital
- 5. Dr. Erik Sacks & Dr. Alexander Lipka (Crop Sciences)**
Focus Countries: Japan & China/ Partner Institutions: Hokkaido University (Japan) and Zhejiang University (China)

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