



# Office of International Programs *Monthly Newsletter*

December 2010

## Pacific State Delegates Receive Training in Food Technology



*Pacific State University of Economics 2010 visit  
 Photo courtesy of Kyla Kruse*

From December 2-9, the Office of International Programs hosted four Pacific State University of Economics delegates from Russia. The delegates, whose research specialties focus on food technology, participated in a training program on campus through a grant they received from the Russian government. This provided them with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of food technology and pursue new initiatives with the help of Dr. Bruce Chassy (FSHN).

The four delegates included: Tatyana K. Kalenik, Yuriy V. Prikhodko, Lyudmila O. Korshenko, and Svetlana M. Minenko. According to Kalenik, "We came to Illinois to establish collaboration in educational and scientific research fields, especially with the College of ACES....to exchange students and faculty members to form joint scientific research projects together." Pacific State University of Economics is certified to do official food products testing for safety, quality, and composition.

## Argentina's Dean Pagano Explores Partnership

Dr. Eduardo A. Pagano, University of Buenos Aires' College of Agronomy Dean, visited the College of ACES in November to explore future collaborations. This partnership would result in not only research collaborations, but possibly student and faculty exchanges, funding opportunities, and even study abroad possibilities as well, said Dr. Schuyler Korban, Director of ACES Office of International Programs.

"We are quite interested in strengthening our partnership with the University of Buenos Aires," said Korban. "Dr. Pagano's visit served as a follow-up in order to expand our relationship and partnership with this institution in these areas."

ACES currently has an agreement with the Ministry of Science and Technology, MinCYT, in Argentina, but not yet the University of Buenos Aires, said Dr. Manfred Seufferheld of Crop Sciences. "The University of Buenos Aires is not only one of the most prestigious universities in Latin America, but also the world," said Seufferheld. "Their College of Agronomy is in the world's top 100 institutions."

Argentina has several geographical areas, but the University of Buenos Aires region is very similar to Illinois in agriculture, Seufferheld said. "There are many possibilities to do great research with the University of Buenos Aires because we can test different things in similar environments."

Dr. Jorge Zavala worked in Seufferheld's lab this past summer as part of an ACES' ongoing research project through MinCYT in Argentina. This three-year project is aimed at understanding insect resistance, specifically of Western corn rootworm, to dietary stress and resistance to toxins. According to Seufferheld, traditional crop rotation does not have the same effect that it used to. "We expect to produce very good results and understand more about insect resistance," said Seufferheld. "In order to make strides for plant breeding, we need to know what mechanisms of insects make them more resistant so we can protect ourselves."

The opportunities that come with a partnership like this are endless. Dr. Julia Bello-Bravo, field staff Extension specialist and Hispanic programmer in the Office of Extension and Outreach, hopes for an agreement to be made by August 2011. Extension would like to establish a training program through this partnership for Argentina farmers to come to campus. "Extension, just like the university, has to play an international role," said Bello. "It will benefit Extension and bring new, creative programs to deal with our financial crisis today – we have to open Extension to the world."

Seufferheld will be co-teaching a new crop science graduate course with Zavala in Fall 2011 – Plant, Insect, and Bacteria Interactions. "This partnership with Argentina gives us an extraordinary pool of possibilities," Seufferheld said. "By helping each other, it is a win-win situation."



*Photo courtesy of  
 Kyla Kruse*

## Progress Report Released for Maize Project with Jilin University

Robert Dunker, Don White, and Don Bullock have released the 2010 Results Report for the University of Illinois and Jilin University (China) Maize Research Project. The report supplements previous reports and presents progress through 2010. The project studies modern agronomic practices, corn hybrids, and new technologies. It should help achieve the Jilin Province initiative to increase commodity grain production and aid in China's food security initiative.

## Kruse Joins Office of International Programs

We are delighted to welcome Kyla Kruse as the Visiting Media and Communications Specialist (50% appointment) to our staff. Kruse earned her B.A. in Communication with a minor in Spanish from Millikin University and an M.A. in Communication from the University of Illinois in Springfield. She has worked for University of Illinois Extension in Springfield since 2001 as a communications and marketing educator – creating marketing plans and promotional pieces in collaboration with educators and specialists to communicate and promote programs to stakeholders.

Kruse has been recognized for her professional contributions at the state and national levels, including the Individual Excellence in Extension (Under 10 Years of Service) and the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) Internet Education Technology Team Award.



Photo courtesy of Carly Rakes

Kruse has a strong interest in international activities and intercultural communications. "I'm looking forward to sharing the many successful international projects going on throughout the College of ACES with campus and communities throughout the world," she said. Kruse can be reached by phone (244-2295) and e-mail ([kekruse@illinois.edu](mailto:kekruse@illinois.edu)).

## Funding Opportunities

Make the most of funding opportunities to explore research and cultural interests. One such opportunity:

[Catalyzing New International Collaborations Grant](#) - National Science Foundation (NSF)  
Closing deadline is March 1, 2011. Estimated total program funding is \$2,000,000, and the award ceiling is \$100,000.

Please be sure to visit our website for a complete listing of funding opportunities.

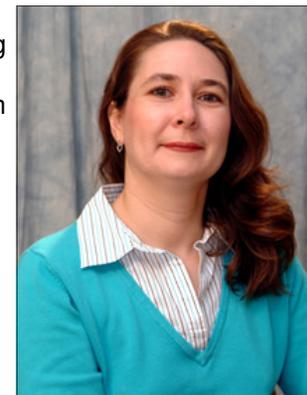


Photo courtesy of fshn.illinois.edu

## Faculty Feature: Dr. Margarita Teran-Garcia Assistant Professor, Food Science and Human Nutrition

### Q: What is your research focus?

**A:** My current research focuses on analyzing environmental and genetic factors influencing the development of childhood obesity and related metabolic diseases. I am interested in expanding the knowledge of gene-environment interactions (dietary and exercise patterns) and psychosocial processes relevant to improving weight management, obesity, and obesity-related diseases. I participate in two, large, multi-disciplinary projects that are collecting primary longitudinal data relevant to childhood (STRONG kids) and young adults' weight status and weight-related health outcomes ("UP-Amigos").

### Q: What international ties do you have?

**A:** I trained as a pediatrician in Mexico and have collaborations with the University of Autonoma of San Luis Potosi (UASLP) and the University of Autonoma of Tamaulipas. This summer I obtained an ACES International Seed Grant to travel, continue, and strengthen our collaborations with the project "Up-Amigos" (A Multidisciplinary Investigation on Genetics, Obesity, and Social Environment). This collaboration started with Drs. Angela Wiley and Celia Aradillas-Garcia (UASLP) in the summer of 2008 as the result of an internal ACES grant to foster international research activities. Our research team was constituted in the fall of 2008 and includes myself, Dr. Flavia Andrade (Kinesiology and Human Health), Dr. Marcela Raffaelli (HCD), and Dr. Angela Wiley (HCD), along other researchers in UASLP.

### Q: What is the end goal of your project?

**A:** My long-term goal is to find early diagnostic biomarkers that will help in the development of effective and individualized interventions directed at preventing childhood and adult obesity, and have a significant positive impact on health by reducing morbidity due to obesity-related diseases.



[www.global.aces.illinois.edu](http://www.global.aces.illinois.edu)

## Office of International Programs Team

Dr. Schuyler Korban, Director

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