



# Office of International Programs *Monthly Newsletter*

April 2011

## Dr. B.B. Singh Presented Second Spring ACES International Lecture

On Wednesday, April 13, Dr. B.B. Singh, Sheth Alumni Award Winner, presented on "Conventional and Molecular Plant Breeding: Some Observations" in the second lecture of the Spring 2011 ACES International Lecture



Photo courtesy of Kyla Kruse

Series. Dr. Singh spoke on the importance of educating the general public on genetically modified crops and of keeping a focus on conventional plant breeding in education and research.

## Follow Us on Facebook

Have you seen the photos of our recent international guests—including the Iraqi Fellows as they studied dairy management practices here in the College of ACES? The latest news, photos, links, and events are posted on ACES Office of International Programs' Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/pages/Illinois-ACES-Office-of-International-Programs/169485749764639](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Illinois-ACES-Office-of-International-Programs/169485749764639).

Like our page, and start getting the latest information on your Facebook news feed.



## Learn about Opportunities in India on April 22

Please join us for "Opportunities in India" on Friday, April 22 from 2-3:30 p.m. in Edwin R. Madigan Laboratory (ERML) Room 350B. The presentation will feature:

- Dr. Madhu Viswanathan—Professor of Business Administration, Miller Faculty Fellow in the Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership, and recipient of 2010 Bharat Gaurav (India Pride) Award, India International Friendship Society, Delhi, India.
- Dr. Prasanta Kalita—Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Soil & Water Resources Engineering Leader, and Illinois' lead faculty member on USAID-India's Agricultural Innovation Project.
- 2010-2011 ACES Academy for Global Engagement—Dr. James Anderson, Dr. Mary Arends-Kuenning, Dr. Richard Cooke, Dr. Hao Feng, Dr. Aaron Hager, Dr. Mindy Mallory, and Dr. Michelle Wander along with Mr. Richard Vogen and Dr. Vijay Singh.

## Office of International Programs' Seed Grants Announced

Six projects have been selected for the International Seed Grants Program sponsored by the ACES Office of International Programs:

- Dr. Mindy Mallory - studying the marketing of grains and oilseeds in India.
- Dr. Elvira de Mejia - developing a program on bioactive compounds in Brazilian foods and human health.
- Dr. Juan J. Loor - working with Spain to enhance milk quality in Aasaf dairy sheep.
- Dr. Michael Ellis - developing a Swine Production Science diploma with Mexico.
- Dr. Gustavo Caetano-Anollés - collaborating with Korea to study evolutionary genomics.
- Dr. DoKyoung "D.K." Lee - working with France to research prairie cordgrass—a bioenergy crop.

The Seed Grant program stimulates and promotes strong relationships between ACES and international faculty that flourish into larger and sustainable collaborative efforts in research, education, and outreach. Projects are funded through the Arlys Conrad Endowment Fund.

## Four Greek Universities Explore Collaborative Opportunities with College of ACES

The College of ACES Office of International Programs welcomed a group of presidents and vice-presidents from a consortium of Greek universities to Illinois on April 6. The group visited Illinois for two days to explore opportunities for academic collaboration and exchange with the University of Illinois. Their interests included environmental sciences, engineering, informatics, and business. They met with college administration, department heads, and faculty members and also toured the South Farms during their visit to the College of ACES.



Photo courtesy of Cassie Becker

## Opportunity for International Fellowships, Workshops, and Conferences

The Organization for Economic and Cooperation Development (OECD) provides a unique opportunity for International Scientific Exchange Fellowships and Workshop/Conference Sponsorships. Fellowships are awarded under the "Cooperative Research Program: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems." The deadline for fellowships is September 5, and the deadline for conferences/workshops is September 15. Details of the program are available at [www.oecd.org/agriculture/crp](http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/crp).

## Helping the People of Japan

The Japan House and the College of Fine and Applied Arts have established a fund with the U of I Foundation to aid the people of Japan directly affected by recent natural disasters. Visit <http://faa.illinois.edu/japanrelief> for more details.

## Mentoring Students from Zhejiang University

Zhejiang University, ranked among the top three Chinese agricultural institutions, began its partnership with the University of Illinois in April 2009. To foster this relationship and strengthen research collaborations, the U of I College of ACES proudly hosted 18 of Zhejiang's finest students in the summer of 2010. This 2010 class engaged in a six-week research internship at the U of I. Students spent their time completing a research project with their respective faculty members, learning about graduate schools in the U.S. and immersing themselves in American culture through industry-focused tours in Chicago and St. Louis.



There are still openings for faculty interested in mentoring one or more of the 2011 students arriving in early July for this year's training program. Those faculty who are interested should email Ms. Carly Rakes at [crakes2@illinois.edu](mailto:crakes2@illinois.edu).

## Faculty Feature: Dr. Alan Hansen Professor, Agricultural and Biological Engineering 2011 ACES Global Faculty Awardee

**Q: What is the focus of your study abroad program?**

**A:** I enable students to practice engineering in South Africa in a team setting with South African students from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). They work on projects that address local community and industry needs.

Students learn about the cultural and environmental issues facing South Africans and how to account for these issues in the design process as well as in their interactions with the UKZN students and faculty.



*Photo courtesy of Al Hansen*

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

**A:** My strongest ties are with South Africa as a result of this study abroad program, which will be taking place for the fifth time this summer 2011. I have also collaborated with faculty from other universities in Japan, China, India, and Brazil. I hope to spend a sabbatical in 2013 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the School of Bioresources and Environmental Hydrology, which is requesting government funding designated for attracting international leaders to spend three months at UKZN to provide research leadership.

**Q: What overall impact do you hope to achieve through your international activities?**

**A:** First of all, I am enthusiastic about offering University of Illinois students the opportunity to experience a different culture and environment in South Africa that will enrich their perspectives immensely, and I am excited about seeing that they can make a difference in helping people in South Africa. Secondly, I want the students to gain self-confidence in being able to solve engineering problems in circumstances that are very different from what they are used to here in the U.S. Thirdly, I would like to promote the exchange of students and faculty between UKZN and the University of Illinois. This applies to other universities as well.

## South African Guests Learn about Illinois Agriculture

On April 1, South African Embassy officials—Ms. Vangile Brenda Titi-Msumza, Ms. Susan Clare Middleton, Mr. Mbane Peter Thabethe, and Ms. Francie Cooper—traveled to Urbana to learn about Illinois crop and cattle production from the University of Illinois College of ACES. During their visit, they also met with ACES faculty members to gain knowledge of current research and educational collaborations between the College and South Africa.



*Photo courtesy of Carly Rakes*