



Office of International Programs *Monthly Newsletter*

May 2011

International Achievement Awards Nominations

Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth International Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement

Established in 2000, this award recognizes the university's distinguished international alumni.

Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement

Many faculty at UIUC are distinguished by their international activities and recognition in their teaching, research, and public engagement. Since 2002, the campus has annually recognized these faculty with this award.

Charles C. Stewart International Young Humanitarian Award

Established in 2005, this award recognizes the accomplishments of the University's young humanitarians whose dedicated international service exemplifies the highest ideals of selflessness and dedication to the welfare of communities outside of the U.S. The recipient's commitment and contributions at the grassroots level should act as an inspiration to current Illinois students, faculty and alumni.

Illinois International Graduate Achievement Award

This award recognizes a graduate student whose innovative and sustained international research or service, undertaken through their UIUC-affiliated international experience, has had the greatest impact or greatest potential impact on the University or larger community.

Illinois International Undergraduate Achievement Award

This award recognizes a significant service or activity made by a current U of I undergraduate student (U.S. citizen or international), resulting from their participation in an international study course or program sanctioned by UIUC.

More details can be found at: <http://iint.illinois.edu/grants/awards.html>.

Join Us on May 24 for an Overview of Activities and to Learn about Future Opportunities in Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services (MEAS)

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 24 from noon to 1 p.m. Illinois faculty and staff are invited to MEAS: An Overview of First Year Activities and Opportunities for Illinois Faculty and Staff Engagement in the Coming Years.

Guests will learn about the latest MEAS news, find out how they might be able to get involved, and participate in a Q&A.

The objective of MEAS is to define and disseminate good practice strategies and approaches to establishing efficient, effective, and financially sustainable rural extension and advisory service systems in selected countries. MEAS is a USAID-funded, leader-with-associates project under Illinois leadership. For more information on MEAS, visit www.meas-extension.org.

The session will be held in the Heritage Room of the ACES Library, Information and Alumni Center. A light lunch will be provided. Registration is required. Please register online at: <https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/6875349> by Friday, May 20.

ACES Academy Shares Insights on India

On April 22, ACES Office of International Programs hosted a session on "Opportunities in India" that covered national research infrastructure, the decrease in size of farms over the last 30 years, water quality issues, disparity of wealth and poverty, degree of hand labor, developing markets, potential collaborators, and the post-harvest project in India.

The presentations featured Dr. Madhu Viswanathan, Dr. Prasanta Kalita, and 2010-2011 ACES Global Academy members—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.

Academy scholars were recognized for their work in and dedication to the Academy's mission of learning more about the international resources available on campus, in the state, and across the nation that will enhance their teaching, research and extension missions throughout the year.



Photo courtesy of Teresa George

2011 C-U International Humanitarian Awards

The purpose of the Champaign-Urbana International Humanitarian Awards is:

- to honor individuals whose work has contributed significantly to international understanding, cooperation, friendship, and development;
- to recognize the richness of Champaign County's international contributions, concerns, and commitments; and
- to educate the public about the connections which exist between our local community and the global community.

Consider nominating a deserving colleague whose extraordinary international service has improved the lives and contributed to the well-being of people in the following areas: agriculture, hospitality, humanitarian relief, human rights, research/education, or trade and business. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2011. Visit www.ci.champaign.il.us for the nomination form and more details.

Congratulations, Cassie Becker

We would like to wish our student intern of two years, Cassie Becker, our best wishes on her recent graduation from the College of ACES. She majored in agricultural communications with a focus in advertising and public relations.



Writing Proposals this Summer

The summer can provide a good time to work on proposals for research, education, and award opportunities.

One such opportunity is the Small Grants Program in Behavioral Economics supported by the Russell Sage Behavioral Economics Roundtable (www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply/small-grants-behavioral-economics-apply). It supports high quality research in behavioral economics and encourages young investigators to enter this developing field. There are no limitations on the disciplinary background of the principal investigator, and the proposed research may address any economic topic. Interdisciplinary efforts are welcome. Appropriate projects will demonstrate explicit use of psychological concepts in the motivation of the design and the preparation of the results. This is a continuous application opportunity. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

To explore more funding opportunities, visit <http://global.aces.illinois.edu/funding>.

Faculty Feature: Dr. Kenneth Olson Professor of Soil Sciences Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

Q: What is your research focus?

A: I joined the Agronomy faculty in 1983 and have both teaching and research responsibilities. My research focus has been on soil erosion and land degradation. I have developed a number of new methods, using time markers such as cesium-137 from atmospheric nuclear testing and fly ash from burning coal, to quantify soil erosion rates and sediment deposition. Soil erosion is a leading, worldwide cause of soil productivity loss and land degradation. Studies were conducted to determine the effects of erosion on soil properties, and the effects of these soil property changes on crop yields were quantified. Current research is focused on agricultural and management systems designed to maintain and restore the soil organic carbon and soil productivity of previously eroded soils.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Alexander Gennediyev, Professor and former Associate Dean of Geography at Moscow State University

Q: What international ties do you have?

A: I have collaborated with soil scientists, agronomists, geographers, and graduate students from nine countries including Romania, Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon, Russia, Pakistan, Mexico, Thailand, and Rwanda. Most of the graduate students have returned to their home countries and are currently involved in soil conservation work for their governments or teaching at universities. My most significant research linkage has been with Moscow State University located in Moscow, Russia. For the last 20 years we have worked on soil erosion, soil organic carbon retention, and sediment deposition as a result of land-use change. Field studies have been conducted in north central United States and in Russia involving teams of Russian faculty, graduate students, and staff who have made visits to UIUC and the north central region of the United States to collect samples. I have made periodic visits to Moscow State University to collect soil samples from Moscow, Tula (pictured above), and Belgorod regions of Russia to collect soil and geologic samples to be tested in both laboratories.

Q: What is the end goal of your projects?

A: To have helped train the next generation of international soil scientists, agronomists, and geographers who are already hard at work at major educational and governmental institutions in Kenya, Russia, Mexico, and Pakistan or at work in the United States on land inventory and assessment studies in developing countries while training and working at NASA and Penn State's Remote Sensing Laboratory.

'Spring 2011 International Visitors' Photo Album

Check out the collection of photos from our Spring 2011 international guests—including visitors from Iraq, South Africa, Greece, India, and Brazil. They are posted on the ACES Office of International Programs' Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/pages/Illinois-ACES-Office-of-International-Programs/169485749764639.