

# COLLEGE OF ACES Office of International Programs



Newsletter

November 2016

## Notes from the Director

The College of ACES is international. Over 75% of ACES faculty members have research collaborations leading to publications co-authored with colleagues abroad. Review of the ACES research network reveals that our scholars have working relations with researchers in over 90 countries. This web of collaborations forms an international platform that is essential for completing innovative work to address grand challenges like climate change, water security, ecosystems preservation, and global food security, all of which are international and interdisciplinary in nature.

The power of collaborations is being harnessed in many ways. The launch of the [Initiative on Big Data, Food Security and the Environment](#), described in this newsletter, signals a new effort to build meaningful collaborations around campus and around the world so that the talent of the University of Illinois can have even greater impact on creating food systems that deliver food security. Our College's engagement in international food security and capacity to collaborate were on great display at this year's World Food Prize meetings in Des Moines, where ACES was represented by a panel organized by the Soybean Innovation Lab, another panel organized by our ADM Institute for the Prevention of Post-Harvest Losses, and most importantly, by the attendance of 18 undergraduate students, supported jointly by the ACES Office of International Programs and the ACES Office of Academic Programs.

Student participation brings to mind a former student, Dr. Jimmy Smith, who returned to give a distinguished lecture last month. Jimmy left the University of Illinois to launch a career devoted to improving the food system to enhance food security. With his return visit in his role as Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute, he is helping us to broaden and deepen our international network of partners for action. The foundation of international partnerships that allows ACES to have global impact continues to grow, in part because we continue to send energized graduates into the world.

*Alex Winter-Nelson, Director, ACES Office of International Programs*

## ILRI director advocates for broadened agricultural development in Africa



Dean Emeritus Robert Hauser, Dr. Jimmy Smith, and Dr. Alex Winter-Nelson

Returning to his alma mater as a distinguished speaker in the food security lecture series, Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute Dr. Jimmy Smith presented a case for broadened agricultural development in Africa.

Smith, who earned his Ph.D. in animal sciences at Illinois,

began his lecture by paying tribute to his mentors during his education at Illinois, which he referred to as one of the most formative times in his life. Smith argued that agricultural development in Africa must and can do much more than produce more food. "It is not just about food security but economic development more broadly," he explained.

Smith emphasized Africa's untapped potential, including its people, land, and water, that could be employed to produce food that is currently imported. That production could then allow for importation of medicine and other products the continent cannot produce. Addressing the "youth bulge" of population aged 15-24, he hoped that instead of taking boats to seek better lives, these youth can benefit from modernized and mechanized agriculture that will provide increased opportunities in Africa that do not exist today.

"What Africa needs is a Marshall Plan in Agriculture. Large investments are required to transform African agriculture to employ young people and drive economic change," he said.

Smith hopes African governments and the international donor community can work together to make sustainable livestock development and efficient agricultural intensification top priorities, by ramping up the use of agricultural inputs and modern biotechnologies. "My wish is that the University of Illinois' longstanding and distinguished agricultural research, training and partnerships, of which I am a grateful beneficiary, can be put to even greater use for Africa's development, particularly that of its young people, who are hungry for jobs and livelihoods as well as food, and on whose ambitions the future of much, within and beyond Africa, depends," Smith said.

## OIP announces the 2016-17 Academy for Global Engagement



*Alma Mater at the University of Havana*

Ten faculty from the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) have been selected to form the newest cohort of the ACES Academy for Global Engagement (Global Academy).

This year's Academy program will explore

academic partnerships for ACES in Cuba with the University of Havana, Agrarian University of Havana, and University of Pinar del Rio. A capstone immersion visit to Cuba is projected for Spring 2017.

The Global Academy training program promotes greater internationalization of the College by providing a platform and support to ACES faculty who wish to further their global research through meaningful and targeted international partnerships.

### The 2016-17 ACES Academy for Global Engagement

1. Dr. Peter Christensen, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
2. Dr. Sandy Dall'Erba, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
3. Dr. Dan Miller, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
4. Dr. Bill Million, University of Illinois Extension
5. Dr. Cameron Pittelkow, Department of Crop Sciences
6. Dr. Marcella Raffaelli, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
7. Dr. Chance Riggins, Department of Crop Sciences
8. Dr. Jeffrey Brawn (senior fellow), Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
9. Dr. Sharon Nickols (senior fellow), Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
10. Dr. Mike Ward (senior fellow), Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

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>

## OIP Announces ACES International Joint Research Grant Awardees for Fall 2016

The Office of International Programs with the support of the ACES Office of Research congratulates the most recent awardees of the International Joint Research Program. This program, in its third year, supports ACES faculty who work jointly with researchers who are based at approved peer institutions abroad and are funded at a matching level by their own institution or another agency. The researchers/partners/projects listed below were awarded funding in late 2016:

**Juan Andrade (Food Science and Human Nutrition) and Ali Almajwal (Division of Nutritional Sciences) with the King Saud University of Riyadh:** "Pre-Clinical and Clinical evaluation of legume-based nanoaggregate as a delivery vehicle to address vitamin D Deficiency in Saudi Arabia"

**David Bullock (Agricultural and Consumer Economics) with EMBRAPA Agrosilvoforestal Research Center Sinop, Mato Grosso:** "Putting more data into data-intensive nitrogen management: Using precision technology to conduct large-scale field trials in Brazil and the U.S."

**Elvira de Mejia (Food Science and Human Nutrition) and Jack Juvik (Crop Sciences) with the University Federal of Viçosa (Brazil):** "Impact on inflammation and atherosclerosis prevention potential of phenolic compounds and bioactive peptides from chia seeds (*Salvia hispanica* L)"

**Hao Feng (Food Science and Human Nutrition) with Institute of Food Science & Technology, National Taiwan University:** "Mano-thermo-sonication as a novel extraction method for ginseng saponins"

**Kaiyu Guan (Natural Resource and Environmental Sciences) with Seoul National University:** "Using novel satellite and field approaches to estimate crop yields of corn, soybean (U.S.) and paddy rice (Korea)"

**Madhu Khanna (Agricultural and Consumer Economics) with Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi:** "Promoting corporate social responsibility in India: Effectiveness of the CSR Act"

**Youngsoo Lee (Food Science and Human Nutrition) with National Taiwan University:** "Developing vitamin A and iron-fortified, less-sodium soy sauce"

**Juan Loor (Animal Sciences) with Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi (Mexico):** "Hypothalamic transcriptome signatures of feed intake regulation induced by propionic acid supplementation in sheep"

**Michael Miller (Food Science and Human Nutrition) with Autonomous University of Queretaro (Mexico):** "Listeria monocytogenes and Hispanic-style fresh cheese"