



Office of International Programs *Monthly Newsletter*

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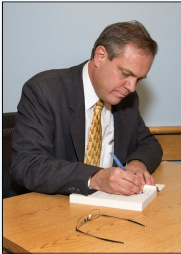


Photo courtesy of
Joyce Seay-Knoblach,
ACES ITCS

Author Thurow Challenges Campus with a Call to Action

Roger Thurow, author of "ENOUGH: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty," inspired a crowd of more

than 100 faculty and students in the College of ACES to get involved in the world hunger issue through a lecture given at the University of Illinois on October 20. Thurow's presentation was part of the ACES International Lecture Series sponsored by the College of ACES Office of International Programs

"Why Not Hunger, Raising Clamor on Hunger through Agricultural Development" highlighted the lack of food in under-developed regions and the importance of finding ways to support hunger movements in Africa.

Thurow also spoke to the ACE 251 class, World Food Economy, taught by Dr. Kathy Baylis. He emphasized to the students the importance of taking an active role in agricultural development. "The future holds higher population rates and more mouths to feed. If we can't feed the world today, how can we expect to do it down the road?" said Thurow.

The ACES Office of International Programs co-sponsored Thurow's visit with support from multiple University organizations. These included the U of I Office of International Programs and Studies, the Center for Advanced Studies, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program and The Center for Global Studies.

Illinois Celebrates 50-Year Partnership with India

A delegation of campus officials and College of ACES faculty recently visited India's G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology to celebrate the 50-year partnership between the two institutions and to collaborate on future research programs. This partnership has resulted in the creation of higher education systems and has laid the foundations for feeding a hungry country.

"Joining G.B. Pant on their 50th celebration was certainly a joyous occasion as it demonstrated the impact that the U of I has had on establishing a premier institution of higher learning in India," said Dr. Schuyler Korban, Director of ACES Office of International Programs. "This trip allowed us to reconnect with this institution and lay the foundation for a brighter future."

This project is a special story of U.S. land-grant universities extending their service to those in need. Dr. Vijay Singh, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE)

Associate Professor, an alumnus of both the ABE program and G.B. Pant, was one of many in attendance during the October visit. "It was great to visit my institution after 18 years," said Singh. "I am very fortunate to be associated with two world-class universities."



GB Pant 2010 visit - Photo courtesy of Schuyler Korban

ACES Global Academy Visits Washington, D.C.

The seven faculty members of ACES Global Academy recently embarked on their first scholars' trip to Washington, D.C. on October 24. Here the Academy spent two days meeting with funding agencies that will help aid them in international projects.

The 2010 Academy includes: Dr. James Anderson, HCD; Dr. Mary Arends-Kuenning, ACE; Dr. Richard Cooke, ABE; Dr. Hao Feng, FSHN; Dr. Aaron Hager, Crop Sciences; Dr. Mindy Mallory, ACE and Dr. Michelle Wander, NRES.

The Academy involves a year-long commitment which focuses on global activities at multiple levels and culminates in an international immersion trip in education, research and outreach.

ACES Welcomes Norman E. Borlaug Fellows from North Africa

The Office of International Programs has welcomed four North African Fellows who arrived on campus November 13 and will stay for one month. These four scholars—Anis Bousselmi, Fouad Elame, Thouraya Mellah and Issam Nouiri—are participating in the USDA-FAS Norman E. Borlaug Fellowship Program, in which they will work with assigned ACES faculty as their advisors. Dr. Kalita Prasanta and Dr. Richard Cooke of ABE and Dr. Nick Brozovic of ACE will spend the month serving as their advisors and taking them on field tours throughout the state.

Faculty Feature: Erik Sacks

Assistant Professor, Crop Sciences



Photo courtesy of Erik Sacks

Q: What is your research focus?

A: I focus on the breeding and genetics of perennial grasses, especially bioenergy crops such as Miscanthus, Prairie Cordgrass and Big Bluestem. I also have a smaller research effort in developing perennial grain crops.

Q: What international ties do you have?

A: I am developing collaborations with colleagues in Asia (China, Japan and Korea) to collect Miscanthus germplasm, native to Asia, and to characterize its genetic diversity and population structure. I am hoping to establish an international cooperative Miscanthus breeding network, pending grant proposals. Also, I am part of a group of researchers from China, Australia and the U.S. who meet yearly to discuss and plan work on developing perennial grain crops.

Q: What is the end goal of your project?

A: As a plant breeder, the ultimate goal of my work is to provide end-users, such as farmers and processors, with new improved cultivars.

ACES Receives \$9 Million to Modernize Extension

A consortium led by the U of I College of ACES recently received a \$9 million grant to improve the livelihoods of rural farmers in the world's poorest nations by modernizing and strengthening their agricultural Extension systems.

The U of I was selected as the lead institution to undertake the "Modernizing Extension and Advisory Systems" (MEAS) project, granted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This five-year project will involve a strategic analysis of the activities and investments needed to strengthen the pluralistic Extension systems in 20 of the poorest developing countries.

"This is the first significant investment that USAID has made to help strengthen national agricultural Extension systems in poor developing countries in several decades," said Burton Swanson, director of the MEAS Project and U of I professor emeritus. The project's goal is to help farmers with limited resources in 20 of the world's poorest countries identify emerging market opportunities while using their land and labor resources to more efficiently serve those markets.

"We are elated that we have been selected to receive this major USAID grant," said Dr. Schuyler Korban, ACES Office of International Programs Director. "This effort will continue to engage the College of ACES and the U of I in the arena of international agricultural development."



Photo courtesy of Brent Simpson

Congratulations to ACES Seed Grants Winners

The Office of International Programs is pleased to announce the three recipients of the International Seed Grants Program. The 2010 recipients include: Dr. Gale Summerfield of Human and Community Development (HCD), Dr. Juan Andrade of Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) and Dr. J. Ryan Stewart of Crop Sciences.

The aim of the Seed Grants program is to allow faculty and scientists within ACES to engage in international collaborations that will help them pursue new opportunities through involvement in research, education, and outreach.

Dr. Summerfield's study, which will address migrant women's land rights in China, is a collaboration with the Women's Studies Center at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Summerfield hopes to lay the foundation for economic restructuring policies and the well-being of families in China.

In partnership with Zamorano University in Honduras, Dr. Andrade will focus on the Nutrigems project, which will teach Honduran mothers how to fortify rice with iron in order to battle malnutrition in rural areas.

At the U of I and Hokkaido University in Japan, Dr. Stewart hopes to enhance undergraduate horticulture students' understanding of how plant propagation techniques affect the development of uncommon fruit crops native to the U.S. and Japan.



Reminder of Funding Opportunities

Please be sure to visit our website, www.global.aces.illinois.edu, for a complete listing of funding opportunities!