

Global Kentucky

An Office of International Affairs newsletter that celebrates the University of Kentucky's international leadership.

UK's History of Capacity Building Leadership

By Derrick Meads and Sarah Geegan

The University of Kentucky has emerged as a leader in advancing its land-grant mission into the 21st century.

This mission, serving to improve the lives of Kentucky citizens through education, research, creative work, service and health care, extends beyond the borders of the Commonwealth. Since the 1950s UK has become increasingly involved in aiding other countries in developing successful higher education systems as well as other capacities.

The University of Kentucky's experience as a land-grant institution in a state that struggled with low-income agriculture and subsistence living in the 1930s and 1940s created a wealth of research and experience in sustainable development. This knowledge formed the foundation from which UK has assisted communities



around the world and became a leader in international capacity building.

Capacity building is an approach to development that identifies the obstacles that prevent people, governments and non-governmental organizations from

realizing their goals; then partners with them to build knowledge, develop skills, and restructure organizations so they can devise creative solutions to development challenges and respond to new challenges as they arise.

Continued on pg. 8

UK Awarded \$1.7 million to Help Develop Pakistan Business Schools

By Derrick Meads



The University of Kentucky has been awarded a \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of State to partner with universities in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan through the "University Partnership in Business Administration" program. The Public Affairs Sections

of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the U.S. Consulate General in Peshawar are facilitating the program to support higher education in Pakistan and to increase collaborations between U.S. and Pakistani universities.

"UK has extensive experience working with the Department of State in support of U.S. public diplomacy and international development goals, and it's well prepared to take on the challenges of working in the border region of Pakistan," said Gary Gaffield, assistant provost for international partnerships and co-primary investigator for the partnership.

"Although every country where we've worked has posed unique difficulties, the UK teams have been incredibly resilient, able to understand and adjust to conditions in the field, and, because of that, UK has an unbroken record of success. This

Continued on pg. 9

Conference Highlights Global Health

By Sarah Geegan

The University of Kentucky hosted a regional Global Health Conference, uniting faculty and other professionals, medical residents, students and community members from various disciplines, to reflect the expanding field of global health, on Oct. 26.

Along with UK's emphasis on internationalization, the conference responded to a very strong student interest in global health from a wide spectrum of disciplines. While UK has participated in various global health related activities in past years, and many faculty have conducted important research and teaching in areas related to global health, this was UK's first conference highlighting these achievements.

Dr. Samuel C. Matheny, Nicholas J. Pisacano professor and assistant provost

Continued on pg. 7

UK Partners with Brazilian Universities

By Derrick Meads



UK's Brazil Working Group with the President of Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV), Dr. Nilda Soares; the UFV Office of International Affairs Director, Dr. Vladimir Di Lorio; and UFV's Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Eduardo Mizubuti.

Brazil, "B" in the "BRIC economies," just overtook the United Kingdom to become the world's 6th largest economy, establishing itself as a global leader. The University of Kentucky is doing its part to work with this new economic powerhouse through institutional partnerships, working groups and student exchanges.

"UK's long-standing relationships with Brazilian universities are taking on increased importance, as Brazil's global role continues to expand," says Susan Carvalho, UK's associate provost for international programs. "Those partnerships open up opportunities for shared research and development on both sides, and show us the future of global knowledge production, beginning with agriculture and now expanding to other research areas."

One of the strongest institutional partnerships UK has with Brazil is with the Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV), a public university in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. UFV consistently ranks as one of the top universities in Brazil; its world-class agricultural and engineering programs attract students from around the world.

On November 8-9, 2012, the President of UFV, Dr. Nilda Soares; the UFV Office of International Affairs Director, Dr. Vladimir Di Lorio; and UFV's Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Eduardo Mizubuti visited UK to discuss opportunities that will benefit both universities.

UK's partnership with UFV was initiated in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering and broadened to become the Brazil Working Group. Through a USDA International Science and Education grant, the Brazil Working Group has created new exchange agreements, co-authored research and faculty exchanges.

Steve Workman, experiment station associate director and assistant dean, and one of the Brazil Working Group founders, has been at the forefront of this partnership since his first visit to Brazil in 2004.

"The strong ties between UK and UFV's agricultural programs, combined with UFV's new Medicine and Nursing colleges, has enhanced the similarities between the institutions," said Dr. Workman. "UK is unique among universities in the U.S. with its combination of agriculture, engineering and medicine on one campus. As a result, both institutions will benefit through agreements at the university level."

A member of the Brazil Working Group, Dr. Suman Surendranath, associate professor in the College of Agriculture, exemplifies the kind of work that is key to UK's partnerships in Brazil. Surendranath has been working with UFV faculty in their Department of Food Technology and Department of Animal Science to establish a program on the molecular basis of beef

quality differences between Brahman cattle and European cattle.

"I chose to work with UFV because of the reputation of their Animal Science and Food Technology programs. These departments are highly ranked and respected in Brazil. UFV's labs are of excellent quality, and the research projects I produced there were published in reputable journals," said Dr. Surendranath.

UFV is hoping to channel UK's expertise for its new Colleges of Medicine and Nursing. Dr. Suzanne Prevost and Dr. Pat Howard, both associate deans in the UK College of Nursing, met with the UFV delegation to begin discussions regarding the potential for future collaborations between the programs.

"Since there are many similarities between the two college's undergraduate nursing curricula – particularly in the pre-nursing phase – we are hopeful that we may be able to encourage future student exchanges," said Dr. Prevost. "The team is also considering opportunities for junior nursing faculty from UFV who may be interested in pursuing Ph.D. coursework at UK."

The UFV and UK meetings also included discussions about the addition of a new dual degree program, teacher-training programs, sister school relationships for secondary education, distance learning, nanotechnology research, recruitment and many other opportunities to advance the goals of each institution.

Scientific Mobility Program

UK's partnerships with Brazil are also strengthened through the Scientific Mobility Program (SMB) – formerly the Science Without Borders program. SMB provides full scholarships for Brazil's highest achieving undergraduate students to study in the world's best institutions for one year. Twenty-nine of SMB students are currently studying at UK.

SMB students internationalize, and bring new ideas and energy to UK's campus. Ivan Ribeiro, a student from UFV is examining Brazil's scientific literature regarding livestock production, its impact on

Continued on pg. 4

International Studies Abroad Opens Office on UK's Campus

By Derrick Meads

Education Abroad (EA) in the University of Kentucky Office of International Affairs has developed a new strategic partnership with International Studies Abroad (ISA), an international education organization that hosts students from multiple universities. This unique partnership between UK and ISA will be facilitated through an ISA office on UK's campus.

The ISA office, located in Bradley Hall, will extend EA's mission of providing academically sound international experiences to all UK students. The office will also support UK students with specialized advising and UK faculty with customizing education abroad programs within specific disciplines.

"This partnership will significantly enhance the presence of all international education opportunities on campus, at no cost to the University," said Anthony Ogden, director of Education Abroad. "ISA's presence will help further our efforts to advance education abroad programming and do so in ways that will not increase students' financial burdens, or delay time to graduation."

ISA has always provided scholarship funding to UK students, but with this new relationship, ISA will be able to further increase the number and amount of scholarships offered to UK students.

Nick Zappitelli, associate director of university relations for ISA, will lead the new office. In addition to advising, Zappitelli will act as a liaison between ISA and the UK campus. Zappitelli plans to spearhead several new initiatives in the areas that UK's office of Education Abroad has already defined as important: curriculum integration, faculty engagement and alumni relations.

"ISA is looking forward to this new collaborative effort and further developing our relationship with Education Abroad, the student population at UK and the university as a whole," Zappitelli said. "I am eager to get started and I am excited to bring a piece of ISA to the UK campus."

Over 350 UK students have participated



on education abroad programs through ISA since 2006.

About ISA

For 25 years, ISA has provided college students in the United States and Canada opportunities to explore the world. ISA offers a wide variety of study abroad programs at accredited schools and universities in 20 countries and 37 cit-

ies, including Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, England, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Northern Ireland, Panama, Peru, South Korea and Spain. In 2012, ISA formed a strategic partnership with Interstudy, diversifying students' study abroad options to Botswana, Scotland and South Africa.

UK students receive scholarships to study abroad

By Derrick Meads

Five University of Kentucky students have been awarded prestigious scholarships administered by the Institute of International Education to support their study abroad goals.

Four of the students received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship; a congressionally funded scholarship sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Institute of International Education.

The scholarship supports students who have been traditionally under-represented in study abroad, including, but not limited to, students with high financial need, community college students, students in under-represented fields such as the sciences and engineering, students with diverse ethnic backgrounds and students with disabilities.

Award recipients are chosen by a competitive selection process and must use the award to defray the cost of tuition, room

and board, books, local transportation, insurance and international airfare.

Rebecca Brock, a biology major, will use the scholarship to study in Japan.

Dimitar Kamacharov, a finance major, will use the scholarship to study in Austria.

Jonathan Riojas, a Japanese language and literature major, will use the scholarship to study in Japan.

Ashley Flamm, a biology major, will use the scholarship to study in United Kingdom.

Byron Giles, a computer engineering major, received the Freeman-ASIA Award to fund an exchange program at Nagoya University in Japan.

The Freeman Foundation, which sponsors the Freeman-ASIA award and is administered by the Institute of International Education, works to strengthening the bonds of friendship between the U.S. and countries of East Asia.

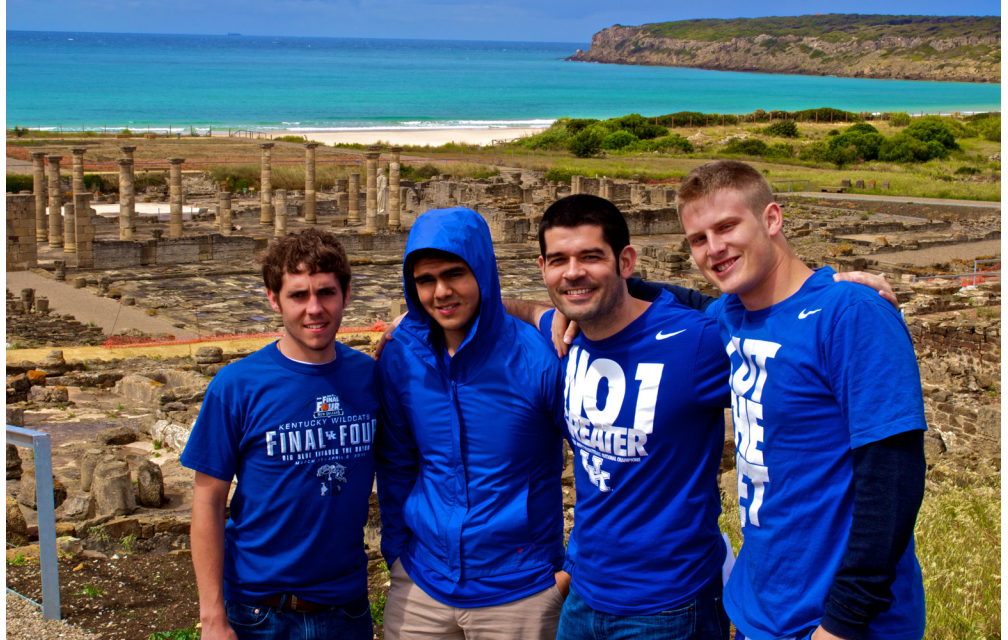
Continued on pg. 4

Five UK students receive scholarships to study abroad (continued from pg. 3)

“International study gives students the attitudes, skills, and knowledge to be competitive and successful in the global economy,” says Summer Eglinski, education abroad adviser. “Students who are under-represented in study abroad have the unique chance to educate their peers and communities about the value of education abroad – a resource that otherwise may have seemed unattainable or unnecessary because of their major, finances or background.”

Dimitar Kamacharov is looking forward to learning more about the Austrian economy and its relationship with the European Union, while experiencing the local culture and meeting local people. “I believe that by studying abroad, I can prove to potential employers my maturity, responsibility and dedication; it’s an opportunity to prove I am ready for the real world, ready to face real-world challenges,” said Kamacharov.

Ashley Flamm believes this experience will help her relate to people with diverse views. “I hope to gain a better understanding of people and how to relate to every sort of person. As I hope to become



Students in Dr. Francisco Salgado-Robles’ service learning program in Seville, Spain.

a doctor, I believe that this is extremely important and can only help me help others in the future.”

Students who are interested in the Gilman scholarship should contact an EA adviser and attend the Gilman Writing Workshop on February 5, 2013 in the W.T. Young Library Hub from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Email Corrine Doxey for more information: corrine.doxey@uky.edu.

The deadline to apply for the Gilman Scholarship for fall 2013 is Tuesday, March 5, 2013, and students who are interested in these opportunities are encouraged to begin working well in advance of the scholarship deadline.

UK Partners with Brazilian Universities (continued from pg. 2)

streams and riparian ecosystems, and the best management practices and laws used to minimize these impacts. Ribeiro plans to present his results at the ASABE (American Society of Biological and Agricultural Engineers) meeting this summer in Kansas City.

“I am excited about studying at UK because this allows me to improve my spoken English, and learn about U.S. culture. The students here are very helpful, and the technology is fantastic. During this next year I am hoping to improve my ability to write about the research I am involved with,” said Riberio. “I have made several friends through the UK Judo Club, where I am learning new techniques, and sharing what I learned from my Sensei in Viçosa.”

FIPSE

Kentucky students are also traveling to Brazil through the Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE), a competitive grant program run by U.S. Department of Education designed to support risky, innovative projects.

Students participating in the FIPSE program receive a stipend that covers their expenses. The exchange program has been designed to fit seamlessly into a student’s program of study, so that a student can graduate on schedule and include study abroad in Brazil. Biosystems and agricultural engineering students have already participated in the program, which is open to all engineering students. The UK FIPSE program is directed by Tim Stombaugh, associate professor in biosystems and agricultural engineering.

“Brazil’s dynamic and rapidly growing economy – in such fields as agriculture, oil and gas, mining, manufacturing, and aerospace – and its importance to the US as a trading partner, mean that the knowledge and experience that our students gain from our partnership with the Federal University of Viçosa will be extraordinarily valuable to them in their careers,” said Gary Gaffield, assistant provost for international partnerships. “Building the human capital of the Commonwealth in this way, and supporting research that will foster continued economic growth and build even stronger economic ties with Brazil, is central to UK’s mission as Kentucky’s flagship, land-grant university.”

UK Student Goes Several Extra Miles For Internship

By Sarah Geegan

Many UK students consider internship experience to be critical in their preparation for the professional world. A Lexington-based company, Lexmark Inc., consistently facilitates students from various majors into its internship positions. One student, however, took this longstanding relationship with Lexmark one step farther, or approximately 7,400 miles farther, geographically speaking.

Hannah Simms is a junior at UK, majoring in international studies and political science with a minor in Chinese studies, as well as a member of the UK Honors Program. This past summer Simms spent three months in China, the bulk of which she devoted to working an internship with Lexmark's Shenzhen branch. Completing what she dubs a "professional rotation," Simms collaborated with various Lexmark-Shenzhen departments, including supply-based management (SBM), the service parts team and the human resources department over a 2-month period.

"Working with the service parts team was fascinating, because they work on maintaining relationships with suppliers to make sure parts are available to customers, and that was interesting to witness in the context of another culture," Simms said. "However, working with the HR team aligned with my interests the most, because my primary interest is law and the legal side of all of this, so I was able to broaden my understanding of contract negotiation, litigation, settlements and those kinds of things."

Simms said she feels very confident her experience will benefit her in her future job search.

"I got to see and participate in the long process of contract negotiations, and to see how the process originates, how contracts are written, how they are negotiated and what goes into play," Simms said. "That's the kind of experience you typically don't get until you are already in the workforce, so I'm thrilled to have been able to experience, as a rising junior, all of those different areas of the supply chain. I think it is going to make me a strong professional, when I get to that point."



Outside of the business skills that she gained, Simms said that one of the most valuable skills she acquired was the ability to adapt to an international working environment. As she aspires to work in an international setting, whether in the law or business field, she's confident that her successful acclimation to the culture of a Chinese business laid the groundwork for her to adapt to any international setting.

Associate Provost for International Programs Susan Carvalho echoed Simms' sentiment in regard to global experience.

"In addition to all of the benefits of global awareness and personal growth, the kind of experience that Hannah had gives her the skills that future employers like to see," Carvalho said. "Employers have become aware that the skills they want in new hires—creativity, adaptability, awareness of differences in perspective and ability to bridge communication gaps—are honed during international study, especially the kind of international work that puts US students in the midst of global workplaces."

Having established this internship by working with local Lexmark officials directly, Simms said she hopes her experience can serve as a pilot program, allowing other students to work with international Lexmark branches.

As UK continues to strengthen its relationships with partner institutions across Chi-

na, and send more UK students through education abroad programs in the region, Simms' wish poses a true possibility.

In December 2011, UK signed a joint-venture agreement with Shanghai University to pioneer an American Studies Center on the SHU campus, funded by a grant from The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. The facility aims to broaden Chinese understanding of American culture and to foster intellectual and cultural exchange. UK's primary contribution involves providing a perspective of the American South and Appalachia.

While Simms was in China, she participated in a week-long cultural exchange summit at the American Studies Center, which united 12 SU students and 12 UK students. The session, led by Assistant Professor Michelle Sizemore of the UK English department, allowed the students to engage in cross-cultural dialogue and communication.

"The best part about the summit was simply the opportunity to connect with these other students and learn from them," Simms said.

The conversation that had the biggest impact on her was a discussion about eye contact.

"There was a particular passage in the book that we read dealing with eye contact, and we were talking about how, as

Continued on pg. 12

Dr. Ambati's global vision is curing blindness

By Derrick Meads and Lauren Kamas



Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of blindness in hundreds of thousands of people each year – and may soon be a thing of the past -- as the discoveries of UK faculty member Dr. Ambati have moved us closer than ever before to a cure for this disease.

Ambati, professor of Physiology and professor and vice-chair in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, restores eyesight and is acting as a catalyst to develop science and research that helps patients worldwide.

Ambati, an international authority on AMD, has made significant advances toward finding treatments for this ailment. Since coming to UK in 2001, Ambati has assembled a team of top-tier scientists and clinicians from around the world to help solve the puzzle of macular degeneration. Findings from Ambati's lab have been published in prestigious scientific journals including: *Nature*, *Cell*, *Nature Medicine*, *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, and *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Ambati's approach to biomedical research is different from that of fields such as mathematics – where there is a series of steps, a proof and a conclusion. A biomedical research proof is never really attained; instead, the challenge is dispelling falsehoods through rigor, and through eliminating more and more impossibilities.

“To dispel these falsehoods you need independent means, independent ideas, and different ways of approach-

ing the same problem. This often means bringing in people who have expertise, whether it's in biophysics, bioengineering or other areas of science that we do not have,” said Ambati.

Ambati is connecting the University of Kentucky with global peers through collaborative research with international organizations.

“The way my lab approaches science is to ask the questions without actually having all the tools at hand necessary to solve the problem. As we go along we develop, incorporate or create our techniques or collaborators, and often that means going to distant lands.”

One such collaboration is with the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LPVEI), located in Hyderabad, India. LPVEI, is a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Prevention of Blindness that offers comprehensive patient care, sight enhancement, rehabilitation services and high-impact rural eye health programs. It also pursues cutting-edge research and offers training for ophthalmic personnel at all levels.

“The collaboration will begin with faculty exchanges between the UK Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and LPVEI,” said Ambati. “This effort aims to synergize UK's expertise and cutting-edge basic research with the immense clinical expertise and the volume of patients at LPVEI.”

Ambati explained that the hoped-for outcome of this work is to bring together the non-overlapping areas of exper-

tise – in terms of hard basic science principles – and come up with new ideas for both common and uncommon ocular problems. This could not only lead to new therapies and diagnostics, but also create new insights into fundamental biology,

“The best things happen when there are both physical and virtual collisions of ideas. These ideas collide at interfaces, interfaces between disciplines, across lands and people,” said Ambati.

Regarding a recent seminar on ocular tuberculosis in India, which is very different from ocular tuberculosis in the U.S. Ambati points out that this is a great example of how there are clear areas of shared knowledge development that wouldn't occur unless we actually collided with each other intellectually. He is a firm believer that these sorts of collisions in both spaces, physical and virtual, are essential to the multi-disciplinary team science that is going to govern our future.

This kind of global health work, which creates these productive collisions, is also important to UK, as it helps to recruit, train, and graduate the best students and residents.

“When talking to prospective residents about this global work, their eyes light up. It helps in recruiting a higher caliber, and even more than higher caliber, a more sincere kind of individual,” said Ambati.

Dr. Ambati was born and raised in India. He is the eldest son of Prof. A. Muralimohan Rao, an Indian Institute of Technology-educated mathematician, and Gomathi Rao, a scholar in Tamil literature. He earned his electrical engineering degree at The Johns Hopkins University at the age of 17, and M.D. (magna cum laude) from SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn. Following his ophthalmology residency at the University of Rochester and retina fellowship at Harvard Medical School, he joined the University of Kentucky faculty in 2001.

Global Health Conference (continued from pg. 1)

for Global Health Initiatives, played a lead role in planning the event, along with Dr. Claudia Hopenhayn, chair of the Conference Committee.

“This is a regional conference with participation from our neighbor universities with whom we work closely,” Matheny said. “As Thomas Friedman stated in his recent book, titled ‘The World is Flat,’ our world is shrinking rapidly. All of us are going to have to be concerned about the health of everyone else, for political, social, as well as health reasons.”

The conference facilitated participants’ assessment of how global health is changing and discussed ways in which they could collaborate to better overcome obstacles and maximize global health efforts. The conference also gave participants with experience in global health a platform to exchange experiences, share successes and failures, and expand future work inter-professionally.

“We are realizing that for most of the world, the greatest burden of disease is shifting to that of chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and diseases associated with over-nutrition,” Matheny said. “The University of Kentucky is fortunate in having a number of faculty with a specific interest in a number of these social determinants, as well as chronic diseases, and some of their work will be highlighted in the conference.”

These faculty include Beth Barnes, director of the School of Journalism and Telecommunications, and her activities in Zambia with educational initiatives; Gail Brion in the colleges of Engineering and Public Health and her interest in sanitation, water and hygiene; and Deborah Crooks’ work in food security in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The conference also served as a venue for those new to global health to learn about different involvement opportunities, both in the U.S. and abroad.

“It is of particular importance for many of our students and faculty to share their interests and experiences with each other,” Matheny said.

Matheny said that the conference also emphasized that health is multifactorial, and that there are complex social determinants that can influence a country’s health status.

“There is a growing awareness of the fact that many factors can influence the health of a country, as in the education of young women and girls, clean water, improved sanitation and improved nutrition,” Matheny said. “In many cases, low-income countries have achieved improved health status without the large investment of resources into expensive medical infrastructures.”

The conference convened with keynote speaker Dr. Michael Merson in the Worsham Theatre.

The founding director of the Duke Global Health Institute, as well as professor of global health and of medicine at Duke University, Merson previously served as chief epidemiologist at the Cholera Research Laboratory in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and at the World Health Organization directing several programs, including the WHO Global Program on AIDS. He currently serves as adviser for UNAIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria,



Dr. Michael Merson in UK’s Worsham Theatre.

and the World Bank, among others. He is also interim vice president and vice provost for Global Health Strategy and Programs at Duke University.

“We are indeed fortunate in having Dr. Merson be both the keynote speaker for this conference, as well as be a distinguished lecturer in our Global Health Lecture series,” Matheny said. “Dr. Merson, quite simply put, is one of the world experts on global health. We expect him to help us discover how a major research, land-grant university can assume leadership in this important area, and help us with a road map for the future.”

UK’s Global Health Initiative and People to People Address Health Crisis in Africa

By Derrick Meads

Prominent global health leaders, such as the former U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia David Shinn; the Ethiopian Minister of Health, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; and Senior Investigator at the U.S. National Institute of Health (NIH), Eugene Major via videoconference, gathered at the University of Kentucky on Nov. 27 for a symposium organized by the University of Kentucky’s Global Health Initiative and People to People (P2P), a global nonprofit, to discuss and create solutions to the severe shortage of medical professionals in Africa, as well as the gap in its medical and scientific knowledge.

The symposium explored solutions to problems such as medical education, funding for health care partnerships and

health care issues in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing primarily on Ethiopia. Other topics included ideas for twinning and tele-medicine initiatives, international exchange programs, case-based exchanges and e-mentoring.

Founder and President of P2P, Dr. Enawgaw Mehari, sees the triangular relationship between African institutions, U.S. institutions and the African diaspora as a potential solution to these problems.

“Local African institutions need access to the technology that is available in the U.S. In order to make the transfer successful, the African diaspora must be involved as they know the language and culture of both parties,” said Dr. Mehari.

Continued on pg. 10

Capacity Building (continued from pg. 1)

Although the term “capacity building” did not emerge in the lexicon of international development until the 1990s, UK’s first capacity building project began when it was selected by the U.S. Foreign Aid Program (now known as USAID) and the Government of Indonesia. The project involved aiding the development of two early Indonesian universities: the Institute of Technology at Bandung and the Institute Pertanian Bogor.

During the ten-year life of this project, faculty and staff from the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts & Sciences, and Engineering served in Indonesia.

Herb Massey, former director of international programs for agriculture, participated in the early Indonesia work.

“By introducing U.S. higher education models, many more Indonesians were able to benefit from higher education,” Massey said. “UK also trained Indonesian agricultural scientists and workers, which played a significant role in increasing Indonesia’s rice production to the point that the country was self-sufficient.”

UK has continued to build upon its partnership with Indonesia, most recently through its participation in a \$19.7 million project, funded by USAID, which began in 2011. The Higher Education Leadership and Management (HELM) project will develop leadership and management skills in finance, general administration, evaluation and external stakeholder cooperation.

Through partnerships with funders, such as the Asian Development Bank, USAID, USDA, PEPFAR, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, NIH/NICHHD, and the U.S. Embassy/Baghdad, UK has accomplished many successful capacity building projects in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Central/Eastern Europe, Iraq, as well as Central/South and Southeast Asia.

UK’s leadership is also evident in its role as one of the founding partner institutions in the Iraq University Linkages Program (ULP), funded by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. This program, which began

in 2010, is working with Kufa University, located in Iraq’s Najaf Province, to develop curriculum, introduce state-of-the-art pedagogy and provide professional development opportunities to Kufa’s faculty members.

Gary Gaffield, the assistant provost for international partnerships, is leading UK’s efforts to promote UK faculty, staff and student involvement in international research, development projects and related activities; the development of agreements and partnerships with universities, foreign governments, NGOs and U.S. government agencies abroad; and facilitate access to international funding opportunities.

Gaffield said that UK’s capacity building work not only helps communities overseas, but is also critically important to its land-grant mission, improving the lives of Kentucky citizens through education, research, creative work, service and health care.

“For our students to succeed – and for Kentucky to continue to succeed – our graduates must be capable and comfortable in an international environment,” Gaffield said. “The University of Kentucky is working every day to forge relationships overseas that are opening new markets to Kentucky companies and making possible cutting-edge research that will directly benefit the Commonwealth, its businesses, and its citizens. UK is a model for how a land-grant university fulfills its mission in the 21st century.”

UK’s international work spans its 16 colleges. The College of Agriculture has the longest history of work overseas, whereas the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Communication and Information Studies, Engineering, Education and the Martin School of Diplomacy have also done extensive capacity building work abroad. These capacity building efforts span the fields of:

Agriculture

In 2005, UK participated in USDA’s project, “Improving Agricultural Education in the Republic of Georgia.” UK worked with

the Georgia Institute for Public Affairs (GIPA) to improve the quality of three of the Republic of Georgia’s agricultural colleges.

Healthcare

UK’s colleges of Allied Health Professions, along with UK’s Center for Rural Health and the Kentucky Department for Public Health formed a health care partnership with Russia in 1999. The partnership was funded by USAID and coordinated by the American International Health Alliance (AIHA).

Communication

In collaboration with the American International Health Alliance’s Twinning Center and with the support of President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the UK formed a partnership in 2007 with the Zambia Institute of Mass Communication, ZAMCON, a media-training institute in Lusaka, Zambia.

Education

UK’s College of Education has conducted teacher training in locations such as Rwanda, Chile, Ecuador, Cambodia, Indonesia, South Africa, New Zealand and Egypt.

Administration

The International Public Policy and Management Institute, housed at the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, provides custom training programs for international professionals, government officials and employees of local public enterprises, primarily in Asia.

“UK’s tremendous resources and experience are helping global communities develop long lasting structural improvements,” Susan Carvalho, associate provost for international projects, said. “The legacy built by this work has led to new, meaningful partnerships that will provide our students with rich opportunities for inquiry, discovery and service that will benefit the university, the Commonwealth, and the world.”

For more information about UK’s International Partnerships and Research visit: www.uky.edu/International.

Pakistan Grant (continued from pg. 1)

new award enables us to continue this work and it opens new opportunities for international collaborations.”

Pakistan is struggling to compete globally. The World Economic Forum recently ranked Pakistan 124 out of 144 countries in global competitiveness. UK will help build Pakistan’s capacity to train and educate the individuals who will create opportunities and build a vibrant economy. Through this program UK will develop a partnership with a consortium of five universities in the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province, located in the northwest of Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan.

Over the next three years UK and the consortium universities will work together to enhance their business curriculum; increase the pedagogical and research skills of their faculty; identify measurable competencies and learning outcomes for their graduate business programs; ensure that the outcomes meet international, national, and local standards; and work with them to address needs in Pakistan’s labor market and achieve regional and national development goals.

“We are strongly encouraged by the consortium’s regular meetings, its ability to reach consensus on priorities, and by the presence of faculty members with inter-

national doctorates, providing a firm basis for collaboration with UK,” said Nancy Johnson, associate professor of management at UK and primary investigator for the partnerships.

“Creating a consortium of universities in Pakistan presents the opportunity to draw them together, begin province-wide cooperation in business education and develop business programs that complement each other yet also preserve each university’s particular strengths.”

The partnership will begin with a three-day intensive workshop in Islamabad with two faculty representatives from each consortium university, who will then serve as “Tuners” on their campuses.

The Tuning process is an internationally recognized method to develop, implement, and evaluate quality across multiple universities. This process recognizes and preserves the distinctive character of each university, while identifying points of strength and opportunities for collaboration.

In addition to working in Islamabad, ten Pakistani faculty members and graduate students will travel to UK each summer for doctoral-level research seminars in accounting, economics, finance, management, and marketing.

During their stay at UK they will also participate in a workshop conducted by the UK Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT). It will be led by CELT’s Director Kathi Kern, and will cover course design, distance learning, pedagogy, classroom management and curriculum mapping. The participants will work with CELT staff to redesign one course and workshop on pedagogy that they will teach in Pakistan.

“Opportunities such as this one enable UK to forge lasting relationships that can assist us in recruiting students and increasing campus diversity, and also enhance our curriculum and teaching,” said Gary Gaffield, assistant provost for international partnerships.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad

The mission of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad—and the Consulate Generals in Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi—is to promote bilateral ties between the United States and Pakistan and to foster economic and commercial relations. Embassy activities focus on strengthening democratic institutions, promoting nonproliferation and regional stability, fighting international terrorism, combating narcotics production and trafficking and fostering expanded trade and investment.

UK Professor Leads Water Research for Egyptian and Moroccan Students

By Sarah Geegan

Eleven students from the arid Middle East and North Africa convened in drought-stricken San Angelo, Texas, over the summer — to learn about water.

Through a grant from the State Department’s Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, UK Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences Alan Fryar and colleagues focused on capacity building in the Middle East and North Africa, with a particular emphasis on hydrology. In collaboration with researchers from the University of Georgia and Western Michigan University, Fryar participated in a program called BOOST: Building Opportunity Out of Science and Technology.

“The State Department put out a call for proposals in spring 2011,” Fryar said. “The idea was to work with 18- to 30-year-olds in any of several Middle Eastern and North African countries to address some of the issues that were underlying the Arab Spring, such as the fact that youth unemployment rates were very high.”

Fryar said, because there is a sense that university education is not necessarily an automatic ticket to employment in these regions, the grant represents an effort to help engage young people, particularly the age of university students, with skills-development useful for future employment in fulfilling societal needs.

Continued on pg. 10



Egyptian and Moroccan students testing water quality in Spring Creek.

UK and People to People Host Conference (continued from pg. 7)

P2P had its beginnings at the University of Kentucky in 1999 when Dr. Joseph Berger, professor and chair of the department of neurology, and Dr. Enawgaw Mehari, an Ethiopian native and then-UK neurology resident, chaired a colloquium in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on "The Challenges of AIDS in Africa." The colloquium was sponsored by the United Nations.

"That was the first international AIDS conference in east Africa, and at that time the Ethiopian government was not prepared to admit that AIDS was a problem," Berger said.

To continue the work that was accomplished in the colloquium, Berger and Mehari founded P2P, which has grown into an international network of organizations with headquarters in the U.S. and Ethiopia.

"We would like UK to act as the hub for P2P's work," said Joseph Berger. "UK has a tremendous amount of experience using

teleconference technology that successfully connects UK health professionals with groups in Jordan, Ethiopia and Brazil. This technology and expertise is key to P2P's success in Africa."

Susan Carvalho, associate provost for international programs, notes how UK is working towards these same goals, "UK's Global Health Initiative is focused on bringing together the strengths across UK's campus, in international health care, with a focus on disparities in access to top-quality treatments. This conference showed how universities in the U.S. can partner with those in Africa, and in particular with medical schools there, to create opportunities for students to learn on both sides, and for all of us to share best practices."

Among those who participated in the



UK President Eli Capilouto addresses the conference.

symposium from UK were President Eli Capilouto; Dr. Michael Karpf, UK's executive vice president for health affairs; and Dr. Frederick deBeer, dean of UK's College of Medicine.

Ethiopian diaspora leaders and representatives from World Bank and the National Institutes of Health also attended the conference.

Water Research (continued from pg. 9)

Fryar's colleagues in Egypt and Morocco selected graduate students from those two countries with experience in hydrology and geology to participate in a field course. Five students from Morocco and six students from Egypt traveled to the U.S. in June.

Though they originally planned to conduct the training in the students' home countries, political instability in Egypt required that investigators select a more secure location, comparable in terms of aridity, like Texas. As a result, Fryar partnered with James Ward, an assistant professor of geology at Angelo State University and his former student at UK.

The effort represented both an educational and cultural undertaking, as the students were largely unfamiliar not only with the U.S., but also with their international counterparts.

"Countries across the Middle East and North Africa, in terms of science and technology, have not historically collaborated with each other to the extent that they might have," Fryar said. "Most of

it is cultural, I think. Arabic dialects differ across the region, and because of colonial history, higher education in the sciences is in English in some countries, like Egypt, and in French in other countries, like Morocco."

The students flew into Atlanta, where Fryar met them with a bus and drove the rest of the way to San Angelo, stopping at culturally relevant sites such as Vicksburg, Miss., before beginning the hydrology training.

The training involved various tests and applied skills in the field, such as measuring water infiltration, stream flow, depths to water in wells and water chemistry. Fryar said that the students arrived with varying skill sets, though no set was complete. The goal was to transfer knowledge in a holistic manner.

"I learned more about techniques such as infiltration testing and chemical analysis," said Ahmed Nosair, of Egypt. "We made chemical analyses from samples of ground water we gathered from wells around San Angelo. We also learned some

geophysical techniques."

After the field activities in Texas, Fryar and the students returned to Georgia, where the students participated in a week-long workshop on geographic information systems, remote sensing, and hydrologic modeling at the University of Georgia.

Fryar said he believed the training would help facilitate further water research in Middle Eastern and North African countries.

"The students certainly weren't starting from zero," Fryar said. "They're very bright. Their departments are to some extent under-resourced relative to what we have in the States, but access to the Internet opens a lot of doors."

Ward was pleased with the outcome as well.

"I think it is just awesome to help train them to where they can go back home and apply some of these skills and maybe get younger people in that region into geology and hydrology so that they can educate people about how important it is to conserve water," Ward said.

ESL Partnerships Internationalize UK's Campus

By Sarah Geegan – Photo by Dana Rogers

Mansoor Sultan is a UK student from Iraq, pursuing a master's degree in electrical engineering. Like many of the other 1,788 international students at UK from more than 117 countries, a daunting challenge for Sultan when he arrived in Lexington was his English proficiency — a challenge which the Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) strives to help students overcome.

Lina Crocker, faculty member in the CESL, contends that face-to-face interaction with American students is one of the best tools for both English-speaking practice and orientation into American culture. She facilitates partnerships with various departments across campus, which gives international students like Sultan the opportunity to meet American students.

"Our students are excited to practice their English with American students," Crocker said. "It's very important for them to get that opportunity, but it is also very important for the American students to be exposed to people from different countries. It's wonderful to watch the students interact. Some of them who are often very shy really open up and practice their English when they are speaking with students that are their own age, and many times real friendships develop from these events."

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, a group of ESL students met with a class within the College of Education, led by Jeanette Groth who works in the College of Education office for International Engagement. A casual setting, the students formed small groups consisting of ESL students and American students, and discussed various topics, ranging from sports to food.

Mansoor Sultan attended this event.

"These events will help to improve my speaking and listening with American students," Sultan said. "They correct my vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation, and I learn from them better than from movies or books. Books are very formal and academic. They don't teach you anything about manners or other important parts of culture for conversations."

Groth said that such events are also ex-



ESL students meet with College of Education students in the White Hall Classroom Building.

tremely beneficial to her education students. "The fastest growing population in schools is "English-language-learners or ELL students," Groth said. "Our students, through events like this, get the experience of what it is like to have ELL students in the classroom, and how to address their needs because their needs are very different."

Elementary education senior Shelby Coons said she appreciated the opportunity. "It was a great chance to speak with students from across the world, and to eliminate stereotypes and find similarities between our cultures," Coons said. "This experience will be very helpful when I have my own classroom."

Crocker also arranges similar partnerships with UK 101 classes. These events afford the same benefits to her international students and allow freshman UK students to form friendships within the international community at the beginning of their college career.

Marie Louise Ndusa, an ESL student from the Congo, said she was very pleased to attend the UK 101 session.

"I'm very happy to talk about the differences in customs, culture and government," Ndusa said. "Right now we are talking a lot about voting. I find it strange that some American students don't want to vote, and we talk about that. It is interest-

ing to hear why students choose different majors and why they came to UK also."

Crocker, having worked with the CESL for more than 30 years, has established partnerships with several very different departments and programs across campus, including sociology, business, anthropology and engineering classes. She has also set up events with groups of American students preparing to student-teach abroad and K-12 classes.

"Lina's partnerships are so mutually beneficial for both groups of students," Laurie Nesbitt, a faculty member within CESL said. "We've recently organized, in conjunction with Zach Edens from the Gatton College of Business and Economics, an opportunity for business students to interview our students for one of their projects that has a global focus. The project involves doing research to open an American chain restaurant in another country, and they are using the input from the ESL students to make modifications to their business plans to make them more successful."

Nesbitt said that her ESL students were thrilled to have the interaction with the business students.

"I've worked at several universities, and I have never seen such a successful partnership program as the one we have at UK," Nesbitt said.

UK Student Goes Several Extra Miles For Internship (continued from pg. 7)

American students, we are trained that eye contact is a sign of respect and often intelligence or power," Simms said. "It is seen as positive, especially in business relationships. However, the Chinese students talked about how sometimes if you make eye contact with someone that you don't know very well, in their culture, it's perceived as disrespectful because they consider it very intimate."

The symposium also featured Professor Ron Pen of the UK School of Music, poet and Associate Professor Frank X Walker of the Department of English, anthropology Associate Professor Mary Anglin, and art Professor Arturo Alonzo Sandoval, who lectured and performed on topics surrounding Appalachian arts and culture.

Simms said it was very an interesting experience to interact with and learn from UK faculty on another continent.

Simms also completed coursework throughout her time in China, spending her first month participating in the UK Education Abroad Conversational Chinese Language program, an intensive language immersion experience at Shanghai University. Simms engaged in four hours of intense language classes each day, along with cultural classes that focused on topics such as calligraphy and tai chi.

"We got to really connect with the culture," Simms said. "We went to the Shanghai Circus, and we took trips to different small towns in China. It was really interesting to learn from that sort of holistic perspective, including both the language and the culture."

Simms said that the best part of her experience, however, was the relationships

she built with people she met in China, both the students at Shanghai University and her coworkers at the Lexmark-Shenzhen office.

Her favorite anecdote from the three months took place on a team-building trip with her coworkers in the SBM department at the Lexmark-Shenzhen office.

"For that trip, we went to a small city called Lianzhou, which was on the countryside; one of my coworkers was actually from there," Simms said. "And all of my coworkers wanted to bring home chickens from this area. So we drove five hours to this rural village, and we caught chickens and put them in boxes and brought them back with us on this long drive, which was absolutely hilarious. I have a picture of me, with my blonde hair, wearing my Alpha Delta Pi Shirt, holding a chicken outside in this rural Chinese village, and it was one of the best experiences I've ever had. I had been to Beijing and Shanghai, but this small city was like Georgetown, Kentucky (which is where I'm from) in relation to Lexington, and getting to experience rural China with a group of native Chinese coworkers was an unbelievable, unique opportunity."

Simms said she returned to the United States with a new and refreshed interest both in Chinese language and culture. Though she partially expected to be burned out after her extensive time there,



she said that instead she grew increasingly intrigued by the intercultural differences. More so now than ever, she hopes to find a career that allows her to interact with the Chinese on a regular basis.

Carvalho said that the UK Office of International Affairs continues to foster international relationships and exchanges so students like Hannah can have these crucial, global experiences.

"We look forward to watching Hannah's future successes," Carvalho said. "And we at UK are inspired to make such experience more and more available to all of our students."

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