

Global Health Case Competition Showcases Creativity

By Yan Wang

Nine multidisciplinary student teams gathered on Saturday, Jan. 24, in the College of Pharmacy to compete in UK's first Global Health Case Competition.

This competition was hosted by the Global Health Initiative, whose goal is to provide advance research and educational programs for students to improve the health of people throughout the world.

Each student team collaborated and presented strategies that they believed would contribute to reducing the health and socioeconomic burdens of tobacco in Gujarat, India.

Perry Pugno, past vice president for education of the American Academy of Family Physicians and one of the judges, said this competition helps students realize the importance of teamwork to solving health issues.

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A multidisciplinary student team presenting their strategy to the global health case competition judges.

UKCI Recognized for the Second Time as Confucius Institute of the Year

By Whitney Hale



Huajing Maske, director of the UK Confucius Institute accepting the CI of the Year award from Director General of Hanban Madam Xu Lin.

Confucius Institute Conference held Dec. 7, in Xiamen, China. This is UK's second award for the institute and the third competitive award from the Office of Chinese Language Council International (colloquially known as Hanban) in three years.

Awarded by Hanban, the honor distinguishes the UKCI among the more than 470 Confucius Institutes worldwide; there are more than 90 Confucius Institutes in the U.S. UKCI Director Huajing Maske was on hand to accept the award at the conference. UK previously won this honor in 2012.

"Our selection by Hanban reflects UK's strong commitment to promoting learning about China throughout the Commonwealth," Maske said. "I am particularly appreciative of the engagement of facul-

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International Student Council Creates Partnership With SGA

By Sibel Solagan

University of Kentucky senior JoAna Jesus was recently selected to serve as the liaison between the International Student Council (ISC) and the Student Government Association (SGA) for the 2014-2015 academic year.

"Until this fall, my position didn't exist as part of SGA or in ISC," Jesus said.

With this partnership, Jesus will attend both weekly SGA and ISC meetings to foster and develop ideas to better serve international students.

"We decided to create an additional liaison position within SGA to provide international students with a way to communicate their needs and concerns," Seth

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The University of Kentucky Confucius Institute (UKCI) has received one of five 2014 Confucius Institute of the Year Awards in the U.S. and one of 15 among 470 institutes in the world at the ninth

First-Generation Students “see blue.” in London

By Sarah Geegan

When N'Deyah Belle, Brandon King and Abel Rodriguez first set foot on the University of Kentucky campus, they had one thing in common: they were each the first person in their families to go to college.

Today, they have something else in common.

As part of a class tailored for first-generation students, they had the opportunity to enroll in an education abroad course in London, England during the summer of 2014.

In a three-week course led by Director of First Generation Initiatives Matthew Deffendall, the students explored global communication and business, visiting various international corporations and global brands in London such as Coca Cola, the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) and the Chelsea Football Club. The class also met with the vice president responsible for Europe at the global, but Lexington-based-corporation, Alltech.

The course is part of UK's larger initiative to support first-generation students from recruitment to graduation through research based programs, resources, best practices and campus wide advocacy about the needs of students who are the first in their families to go to college.

“It's already hard for first-generation students comparatively to adjust to college,” said Rodriguez. “You don't have parents who have had the experience that you are going through now, so it is kind of hard to find someone who relates to you and can help you transition through it. And it's even harder to find opportunities outside of just going to college, like education abroad, because it's hard enough to deal with college as it is.”

The UK Office of First Generation Initiatives addresses these issues. Through tailored pre-departure sessions and programming, the course is designed to create a strong community among the students before they even set foot on a plane (some for the first time). The course



First-generation UK students in London.

also provides a pre-departure information session for parents.

“The First Adventures Program provides an opportunity for first generation students to have an education abroad experience while also being in a supportive, small community environment of fellow UK students,” Deffendall said. “We go beyond just teaching a course but creating a holistic program that empowers students to feel inspired to travel again in the future on their own. Our students return ready to go again and accept the challenges of an international experience.”

King said that this support was incredibly important.

“I'm so grateful that they guided us through everything, because I certainly didn't know how to go about any of it,” he said. “So with Matthew we had several sessions where they laid everything out in front of us; it would have been very difficult to navigate that myself and to figure out what I needed to do and by when, how to prepare, how to pack, how to do my finances, how to budget, things like that. So being able to have

them guide us through it, and being able to do it together, was the most important thing as a first-gen student.”

Citing the relationships she developed, the knowledge she gained and the fun she experienced, Belle said the most rewarding part of her time in London was learning more about herself.

“I learned a lot,” Belle said. “I learned that I am able to adapt to different environments, and I'm so welcoming to it. It meant realizing that there is so much more in the world, and that I'm not afraid of it. I'm into trying a lot of new things now, and it was really fun and different to see how accustomed I can get in that short amount of time. I just fell in love with a place that I'd never been to before.”

A similar course designed for first generation students will be offered during the 2015 summer II session, in Dublin, Ireland.

The Office of First Generation Initiatives is part of the Academy of Undergraduate Excellence within the Division of Undergraduate Education at UK.

UK HealthCare Pediatric Team Brings Guatemalan Child Closer to a Normal Life

By Allison Perry, Elizabeth Adams

After Cony Puac delivered her daughter Evany, attendants placed the newborn in her arms and cleared the room.

Born in a remote Guatemalan village surrounded by snow-capped volcanoes, even in the first moments of life, children born with facial clefts are ostracized from society. Evany was diagnosed with a severe midline cleft palate by an orthodontist in her community. An opening at the center of her face spanned from her bottom lip to the space between her eyes. On either side of the opening, her eyes were separated by 38 centimeters — 20 centimeters wider than that of an average child's. Evany's nostrils were pushed to the left side of her face in cluster of tissue. At the crown of her head, Evany suffered from several holes in the cranium bone beneath the skin.

Evany also lacked an upper lip, which she needed to receive nourishment early in life through breastfeeding. In order to feed Evany, her parents obtained special bottles designed for children with severe cleft palates from a charity called Evelyn's Baskets of Love and Life. Adapting to her condition, Evany learned to feed herself without a palate by mashing solid foods with her fist and the inside of her mouth. As she continued to grow in her first year, the facial cleft impeded Evany's speech development. Only able to form sounds in the back of her throat, she replaced the word "Papa" with the sound of "a-a."

University of Kentucky pediatric reconstructive plastic surgeon Dr. James Liau said children born with craniofacial cleft palates in countries with limited medical resources are deprived of the chance to live a normal life. Facial clefts and cleft palates are widely misunderstood abnormalities that affect babies across countries and cultures, although environmental conditions and hereditary factors could contribute to the condition. At the University of Kentucky, Liau helps counsel families that have severe facial clefts while babies are still in the womb, and he intervenes as soon as possible after birth. In Guatemala, most rural populations don't have access to surgical experts who



A UK HealthCare pediatric team led by Dr. James Liau performed the first of three surgeries to correct a Guatemalan child's severe facial cleft.

can correct these facial abnormalities in children.

"I feel lucky to have the opportunity to do what I can do," Liau said. "In Guatemala, that's it. Your child dies, or you try to find someone overseas that can help you. It's sad, but it's an unfortunate fact of life."

Liau travels to Guatemala once a year with the Children of the Americas, a nonprofit dedicated to providing medical and surgical services to women and children in rural Guatemala. Liau packs a small surgical kit to perform cleft lip and palate surgeries during his volunteer trips in conjunction with other medical professionals. When he encountered Evany and her family during a trip in January 2014, he knew that correcting Evany's condition would require a major procedure that couldn't safely be performed in Guatemala.

"Her case was pretty severe and pretty dramatic," Liau said of Evany's facial cleft. "It's probably one of the most exotic facial clefts that you'll ever see."

Working with a national network of doctors and volunteers, Children of the Americas arranged for Evany and her mother to travel to the UK Chandler Hospital for the first, and the most intensive, of three reconstructive surgeries. Evany's

craniofacial surgery involved a team of UK HealthCare specialists representing the divisions of anesthesiology, pediatric neurosurgery and pediatric plastic surgery.

Cony Puac and 18-month-old Evany arrived in Kentucky on May 12, 2014 and visited the UK Chandler Hospital for a pre-surgery CAT scan on May 23. While in the waiting room, the new walker clanged a tambourine and grinned while playing games, oblivious to the impending surgery. Puac, 19, quietly sat with translator Jennifer Christmann, who is also interim director of facilities planning and development at UK HealthCare and volunteers with Children of the Americas.

Puac traveled away from her husband and 3-year-old son in Guatemala to accompany Evany through the surgery. A volunteer family based in New Albany, Indiana, hosted the Guatemalan mother and daughter for several weeks before and after the surgery. While Puac's host family treated her to shoe shopping and Culver's cheeseburgers, she said she missed her home and family.

"She knows she is here for a purpose," Christmann said.

On May 30, Evany underwent a cranial vault reconstruction at the UK Chandler

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From South Africa to Appalachia: The Power of Resilience and Community

By Mallory Powell

Jasmine Newman admits that it was a TV show that sparked her interest in cultural anthropology. Growing up in Pikeville, Kentucky, Newman loved watching “Bones,” a TV series about solving crimes using forensic anthropology. In one episode, the main character mentioned cultural anthropology, a term that Newman didn’t know.

“I started researching and just fell in love with the idea of studying people, studying culture and using that knowledge to help people relate to each other,” she says.

Not only is Newman graduating early with a bachelor’s degree in cultural and applied anthropology, she’s spent the past two summers interning with community empowerment organizations in South Africa and Appalachia. Both of Newman’s internships were facilitated through UK.

“UK has a real drive and reason to work in communities at the local and global scale,” she says.

Across continents, she’s witnessed resilience in the face of hardship and the transformative power of community. In 2013 in South Africa, Newman worked with Black Sash, originally an anti-apartheid organization that now focuses on “know your rights” education. Working with the three national directors of the organization in a tiny, shared office, Newman helped in various capacities – from



The Black Sash Society demonstrating in South Africa in 1954.



Jasmine Newman (right) with Donna, a graduate of the New Opportunity School for Women

social networking to donor compliance – and gained a broad view of non-profit management.

More recently and much closer to home, Newman worked with the UK Appalachian Center to arrange an internship with the New Opportunity School for Women (NOSW) in Berea. NOSW works to improve the financial, educational and personal circumstances of low-income, middle-aged women in the Appalachian region. Twice a year, the school hosts a three-week residential program for 14 women, offering extensive career exploration and leadership development. Each participant completes an internship on Berea College’s campus or in the commu-

nity, identifies job skills, builds a resume and practices job interview and technology skills.

“It was one of the most powerful things I’d ever seen because just two weeks before, many women wouldn’t look you in the eye and by the end they were giving speeches to a hundred people,” said Newman. “I think it’s what happens in a lot of situations – women have had their own hope and self-confidence taken away from them by events, or abusers, or society. At NOSW, we not only give them support and let them know we believe in them, but we also show them in classes that they really can do it. They see reasons to feel confidence in themselves.”

George Ann Lakes is a testament to the impact that the NOSW can have in the lives of the women it serves and the generations that follow them. She graduated from NOSW in 1992 after her husband passed away and she wanted to earn her GED. Within a few years, Lakes had earned her bachelor’s degree and, at age 61, her master’s degree from the UK College of Social Work. Today, at age 71, she works part-time at NOSW.

“NOSW gave me the knowledge and skills of how to approach going back to school,”

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Greene, the SGA liaison director, said. "After meeting JoAna, I knew she was perfect for the position. As a senior political science major, she possessed the attributes needed to successfully represent and convey the needs of the international community. We are very excited about working closely with international students and representing them the best we can."

The creation of the liaison position is only the first step that ISC has taken to become a prominent source of representation for the international student body on campus. The ISC has spoken with many parties on campus to discuss the need for coming together and finding solutions for various issues that international students face on campus.

"Current and ongoing conversations with any student or student group are beneficial for a better understanding of the issues each face. It is clear we have additional work to do to better understand and appreciate the challenges encountered by our international student population and create a strategy that better meets their needs," said Victor Hazard, dean of students and associate vice president for student affairs, who has already



JoAna Jesus, the International Student Council's new liaison with SGA, is fourth from the left in a red jacket.

held meetings with representatives from ISC to help develop ideas for resolving issues.

With all of the work that ISC has done in its new role to promote its mission of being an umbrella organization that celebrates diversity and provides a forum for exchanging ideas and planning events, there is still much more work to be done.

"ISC has really made a lot of progress as far as becoming more systematic in our organization, but there's still a lot more for ISC to do. I'm excited for the possibilities that this new collaboration with the SGA brings," Jesus said.

For her next task, Jesus will meet with senators in SGA to discuss plans for a workshop that will help new international students easily adapt to life at UK.

UK Team Brings Guatemalan Child Closer to a Normal Life (continued from pg. 3)

Hospital to bring the orbits of her eyes closer together. Liao worked with UK HealthCare pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Thomas Pittman to correct Evany's cranial bone structure, laying the groundwork for future soft tissue surgeries. During the surgery, Liao and the plastic surgery team removed a part of her skull, and then united the facial bones at the location where they plan to reconstruct Evany's nose. Evany was held in the pediatric intensive care unit for a few days as part of post-operative protocol.

Walking with more confidence in an examination room two weeks after surgery, Evany recovered with her same playful and sweet spirit as before, which Liao said was a good sign. Her hair would eventually cover a scar left from a line of stitches

marking the incision made at the crown of her head. With the adjustments to the orbits of her eyes, Evany was now seeing straight ahead. Puac inspected Liao as he held her in his lap, speaking in Spanish and calling her "sweet pea." Puac was overwhelmed with gratitude to Liao and the surgical team.

"It's a big change, and I am very happy that she's changed." Puac said of her daughter through a translator. "I am very happy (Liao) did such a good job. I am very appreciative and very thankful to him."

Liao said moving the cranial and facial bones into place was the hardest step in Evany's journey. The next two surgeries, which will be performed by Liao in Guate-

mala, will involve reconstructing the soft tissue features of Evany's face. Liao will use existing tissue to construct Evany's nose and upper lip during the second surgery in January. He will return the following year to perform a procedure that will rebuild the palate. Through the course of two years and three surgeries, Liao hopes to achieve the closest semblance to "normal" for Evany. He believes all children deserve a chance to live a normal life.

"A cleft palate should not keep you from having a healthy, normal, productive life," Liao said. "We are at a stage in cleft care when you should just continue on with what you're supposed to be doing, which is to be happy and have a family and have a life. The ability to do that either here in Kentucky or overseas is something I'm really happy to have."

Global Health Case Competition Showcases Creativity (continued from pg. 1)



Student participants in the Global Health Case Competition.

"The reality, in the future, is that health issues are going to become more and more important to the productivity and well-being of populations and countries," Pugno said. "The solutions are going to come from collaborative groups with diverse viewpoints... to come up with functional solutions that are going to make a difference for our world today."

Kathleen Jagger, professor of Biology at Transylvania University, who was one of the judges, said that this competition gives students an opportunity to learn necessary skills for future success.

"Opportunities like this to work as a team give students a way to learn life skills that are transportable to anything they are going to do in the future," Jagger said.

The team that took first place in the competition included Nneka Udechukwu, a sophomore in the College of Medicine; Sindhu Nimma, a senior in the College of Medicine; Ryan McElhose, a sophomore studying Sociology in the College of Arts & Sciences; and Kevin Chen, a first year graduate student in the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Pugno said, "This team clearly communicated and functioned as a team."

According to McElhose being critical was key for the team to win the competition.

"We are a very dynamic team," McElhose said. "We are not afraid of encouraging each other and being critical of each other... we think differently, yet we collaborate and all of our ideas really come together."

The team will compete with teams from 24 other universities in the 2015 International Emory Global Health Case Competition on March 28 at Emory University with an opportunity to win \$6,000.

"I love my team," McElhose said. "We work so well together and we are looking forward to representing the University of Kentucky in the next stage."



The first-place student team, which will compete with teams from 24 other universities in the 2015 International Emory Global Health Case Competition on March 28 at Emory University.

UK Confucius Institute and Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues Host Sino-U.S. Media Seminar

By Ann Blackford

The University of Kentucky Confucius Institute and the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues at the UK College of Communication and Information, along with the Community Edition of the XinMin Evening News, the largest evening newspaper in Shanghai, hosted the second Sino-U.S. Community Media Seminar on Friday, Jan. 9, at the UK Boone Center. The seminar was preceded by a visit to the Lexington Herald-Leader and the Danville Advocate-Messenger on Thursday.

You You, a professor at Shanghai University and a visiting scholar with the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues in 2012-13, proposed the event



Buck Ryan, associate professor in UK's School of Journalism and Telecommunications, presenting at the Sino-U.S. Media Seminar.

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UK Student, Grad Selected as Rhodes Finalists

By Whitney Hale

Two University of Kentucky students were recently named finalists for the Rhodes Scholarship. Luke Glaser, a 2013 English and Hispanic studies graduate from Louisville, Kentucky, and Grace Trimble, a political science senior and UK Women's Tennis Team member from Winchester, Kentucky, interviewed for the prestigious scholarship that funds graduate study at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Rhodes Scholars are chosen not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements, but for their character, commitment to others and to the common good, and for their potential for leadership in whatever domains their careers may lead.

Glaser, the son of Jennifer and Lawrence Glaser, of Louisville, is currently teaching at Hazard High School with Teach for America (TFA), where he teaches calculus and precalculus, coaches the academic team, and continues to develop the theater program as its director.

A summa cum laude graduate of UK, Glaser was one of the university's two com-

mencement speakers in May 2013. Prior to his graduation, he was extremely active at the university as a Gaines Fellow, member of the Honors Program, a Student Government senator and a College of Arts and Sciences ambassador. Glaser also served as an editor at the Kentucky Kernel from March 2011-May 2012.

Prior to taking a teaching placement with TFA, he served as UK's TFA campus community coordinator, where he helped recruit students for the Teach For America Program and managed a student assistant group "Cats for the Corps," to facilitate students from application to interview.

Trimble, the daughter of Morton and Robin Trimble of Winchester, has advanced her studies in politics, nonprofits and public service as an undergraduate researcher at UK. As part of her research at the university, the Chellgren Fellow had the opportunity to design and implement a survey to gauge the effectiveness of her nonprofit organization, Lexington Tennis Club Smart Shots. Through the surveying process, Trimble has been able to take steps toward improving the over-



Luke Glaser, a 2013 English and Hispanic studies graduate, and Grace Trimble, a political science senior and UK Women's Tennis Team member, were selected as Rhodes finalists.

all effectiveness of Smart Shots. As a junior, Grace was named one of the nation's Truman Scholars.

Trimble is not only a competitor in the classroom but also on the court playing for the UK Women's Tennis Team. In 2014, she was named to the Southeastern Conference Community Service Team. Trimble has been recognized by the U.S. Tennis Association with many national awards through the years including the National Arthur Ashe Essay contest award and a Dwight F. Davis Memorial Scholarship.

UK Education Abroad Announces Winners of Spring 2015 Diversity Scholarship

By Abigail Shipp

Two University of Kentucky students are the first to have been awarded the UK International Studies Abroad (ISA) Diversity Scholarship for Spring 2015 to help each of them pursue their education abroad endeavors.

Johnson Lam, an accounting junior, and Isabella Sanchez, a pre-civil engineering junior, have each been awarded a \$5,000 voucher to apply toward an ISA education abroad program within two years.

"I feel so grateful that I've been given this amazing opportunity," Lam said. "Receiving this scholarship means that I can pursue my dreams of spending a semester in Spain."

Lam, who is Asian American, has been studying the Spanish language since the sixth grade and hopes that spending a semester in Spain will help him become fluent in the language. He also hopes this opportunity will allow him to see other parts of Europe — something he'd only dreamt about before.

"This scholarship has opened up a lot of opportunities that I wouldn't have considered possible before now," Sanchez said.

Sanchez, who is Hispanic, said the field of civil engineering doesn't allow her to explore her history minor as much as she would like, so she hopes to focus her education abroad experience on history courses and experiences.

"Education abroad experiences offer an invaluable understanding of how to respectfully interact with people from different backgrounds and of what it's like to be in the other person's position," Sanchez said.

"Giving students the chance to study abroad is vital in creating a well-rounded and more 'global' student," Lam said. "By creating a new generation of students who can view the world from a multicultural perspective, the world will become more interconnected."



Johnson Lam, an accounting junior, and Isabella Sanchez, a pre-civil engineering junior, have each been awarded a \$5,000 voucher to apply toward an ISA education abroad program within two years.

The ISA-UK Diversity Scholarship offers two award cycles and is not tied to a specific term. Students who contribute to the university's growing interest in the educational benefits of a diverse student body will be considered for the award, which ranges between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

ISA is a UK partner affiliate that offers education abroad opportunities to UK undergraduates in different countries across the globe.

For more information about this scholarship, please visit: www.uky.edu/international/diversityscholarship.

UK Confucius Institute and Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues Host Sino-U.S. Media Seminar (continued from pg. 7)

after researching the relationship of the Manchester Enterprise to its readership in Clay County. Chinese newspapers are developing community editions to increase their readership, market share and income, and many government officials see community newspapers as a way to achieve their goals for their jurisdictions. The first Sino-U.S. Community Media Seminar was held in Shanghai in the spring of 2013.

About 12 Chinese journalists and newspaper executives, plus six local Chinese government officials, joined approximately 25 American journalists and academics for the seminar. Participants from UK included Dean Dan O'Hair, College of Communication and Information; Beth Barnes, professor and director of the

School of Journalism and Telecommunications; Zixue Tai, associate professor in the School of Journalism and Telecommunications; Huajing Maske, director of the UK Confucius Institute; and Jie Dai, staff member of the Confucius Institute.

"While the United States and China have very different government and media systems, it's important for people of those systems in the nations with the world's two largest economies to understand how the other country operates," said Al Cross, director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues. "The institute is very happy to help Chinese editors and publishers understand the workings of community journalism in the U.S., where it is probably stronger than anywhere else in the world."

UK Pediatric Surgeon Intervenes to Help Boy from His Home Country

By Elizabeth Adams



Snayder Menedez has returned to Ecuador without his tumor.

A mother's embrace couldn't settle a fidgety Snayder Menendez Quinones for more than a few seconds in the Pavilion A lobby of the UK Chandler Hospital. But Maria Quinones was relieved to see her 3-year-old son return to his playful self after recovering from surgery at Kentucky Children's Hospital.

The timid boy who arrived at UK HealthCare on Sept. 23, 2014, was now gleeful and talkative. The lesion on his lip was gone, replaced by a scar in the corner of his mouth. His mother was no longer afraid of his toddler tumbles, which could have resulted in major bleeding before the tumor was removed.

"I worry less about him getting hurt playing with other kids," she said. "He is starting school, and I was afraid he would get bullied."

In a tribal village bordering the Amazon jungle, Snayder was born with a small vascular tumor inside his mouth. As Snayder continued to grow and develop in his first year of life, the lesion also grew substantially in size. Eventually the lesion encompassed most of the inside of

his cheek, the floor of his tongue and, most noticeably, a large portion of his lower lip. In addition to interfering with speech development and eating, the lesion weighed down Snayder's lower lip and caused frequent bleeding from the mouth. Because of the abnormality, he was ostracized in his community.

Snayder's family sought out help from local doctors, but none were willing to remove the lesion because of the high risk of complications, such as bleeding and scarring. According to UK HealthCare plastic surgeon Dr. Henry Vasconez, total removal of the lesion would have resulted in the loss of three-quarters of the child's face. His condition was more complex, requiring surgical intervention as well as steroids to stunt the growth of the lesion.

"The child was born with this at birth, but it was small," Vasconez said. "As is common with these type of congenital abnormalities, it continued to grow, and it would only get bigger until it became very large."

Dr. Thomas Young, a UK professor and

director of the UK Shoulder to Shoulder Global program, met Snayder and his mother while serving in the program's year-round health clinic in Santa Domingo. He brought photos of Snayder's lesion to Vasconez, the William S. Farish Endowed Chair of Plastic Surgery at UK HealthCare, who is also a native of Ambato, Ecuador.

As a first step, Vasconez contacted a colleague in Quito, Ecuador, to inquire about the possibility of treating the lesion in Snayder's home country. After some deliberation about the complexities involved with Snayder's condition, Vasconez's colleague opted not to perform the necessary surgery. Vasconez and Young presented the case to officials at UK HealthCare and rallied support for Snayder and his mother to travel to Kentucky for treatment.

When Snayder came to UK HealthCare last September, Vasconez first examined the mass to determine the most effective course of action that would not further damage the child's appearance. He operated on the mass to remove the most

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UK Surgeon Intervenes to Help Boy from His Home Country (continued from pg. 9)

abnormal parts. Through the surgery, he was able to remove 50 percent of the lesion and inject a sclerosing agent to stop growth in a remaining 25 percent. A few days after the surgery, Snyder was saying words, eating properly and showing good control of his mouth.

"It's quite satisfying to be able to help someone who would not otherwise receive care," Vasconez said. "This 3-year-old would be pretty much an outcast otherwise."

Vasconez received his medical degree in Ecuador but completed a residency and specialty training in pediatric surgery in the United States. He has worked at UK HealthCare for more than 27 years. In addition to helping with special cases identified through the Shoulder to Shoulder clinic, Vasconez has conducted outreach through his own charitable mission in Ecuador for more than 20 years. Every year, he organizes a group of 80 to 90 medical volunteers to conduct clinics and perform surgery in impoverished areas of the country.

While Vasconez said Ecuador is a beautiful country with many natural resources, it is also a very typical Third World coun-



Without surgical intervention, Snayder's tumor would continue to grow and cause complications.

try in need of support. Half of the population fall into a low income category and have little access to health care.

"Like this child, if they can't get something done in their community or village, they usually can't get anything done," Vasconez said. "If it was life-threatening or disfiguring, they would just have to live with it."

"This was a way for me to get back to that

country and try to give back," he said.

Vasconez returns to Ecuador for a medical mission in February. Those interested in knowing more about the connections between Kentucky and Ecuador can learn more through the Kentucky Partners of the Americas at:

www.kentuckyecuadorpartners.org.

UKCI Recognized for 2nd Time as Confucius Institute of the Year (continued from pg. 1)

ty and students who have embraced the opportunities UKCI brings to campus, the guidance of the CI steering committee, and the support of university leadership. Together we are working toward putting UK and its Confucius Institute on the list of world's best institutions."

The award will enable the university's institute to create more opportunities for UK students and faculty to study, teach and travel to China, and will increase UK's visibility among Chinese universities and among the 470 institutions around the world that host Confucius Institutes.

In addition to recognition for the institute itself, last year Maske won the other competitive award presented by Hanban.

She was one of only 15 leaders to receive a 2013 Confucius Institute Individual Performance Excellence Award worldwide.

The honors continue to bring valuable new opportunities to the UK community.

"We are so proud that the UK Confucius Institute and our director, Dr. Huajing Maske, have been recognized again for their exemplary work as a Confucius Institute of the Year," said Susan Carvalho, associate provost for internationalization. "This may well be an unprecedented string of laurels. It is impressive indeed, to have UK on that very visible stage for the third year in a row, and this is a direct result of Huajing's creativity and initiative, in the many innovative linkages she has

devised between Kentucky and China that benefit our faculty, staff, students and community."

The mission of the UK Confucius Institute is to serve as Kentucky's gateway to China in the areas of education, arts, culture and business. Maske and her staff have been largely successful in fulfilling this mission at UK, local Kentucky schools and in the community at large.

Since its inauguration in 2010, the institute has positioned itself as a conduit of UK's China initiatives, and created many successful partnerships between colleges at UK and Chinese universities. UK Confucius Institute has also played a valuable role in K-12 Chinese language and cultural education.

UK Engineering Junior to Study Abroad on Scholarship

By Abigail Shipp

University of Kentucky materials engineering junior Zach Wildofsky, of Tremont City, Ohio, has been awarded the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad, and he will study in Australia.

The Gilman Scholarship is a congressionally funded scholarship sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs 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, students in community college, 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.

Wildofsky is excited about the opportunities made possible with his Gilman Schol-

arship. "It will help me pay for my semester abroad this spring in Sydney, Australia. I believe this study abroad program at the University of New South Wales will offer me specific and valuable skills that I can use toward my career that cannot be taught anywhere else."

The son of Jackie and Sam Wildofsky, of Springfield, Ohio, has always been interested in science.

"For as long as I can remember I have known what I wanted to do with my life. Science has always been a passion of mine, and the science involving sports in particular has interested me for some time. Dedicating my life to improving the lives of others through engineering better and safer sporting equipment is very appealing to me," Wildofsky said.

An Honors Program member, Wildofsky has been involved in undergraduate research during his time at UK and credits Matthew Beck, an assistant professor in materials engineering, as a mentor and role model. The junior has participated in thermoelectrics research and gaining experience with XRD (x-ray diffraction), EDX (energy dispersive x-ray analysis), SEM (scanning electron microscopy), TEM



UK materials engineering junior Zach Wildofsky has been awarded a Gilman International Scholarship.

(transmission electron microscopy) and ZEM (Zeebeck coefficient/electrical resistance measuring system).

"In addition, I have researched electromechanical actuators and presented a final project to professional engineers," said Wildofsky, who interned two summers at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, Wildofsky would like to be a materials engineer working in the sports industry with a company like Nike, Adidas or Wilson.

From South Africa to Appalachia, The Power of Community (continued from pg. 4)

said Lakes. "Education is so important and so many Appalachian women are never privy to opportunities for higher education, so I was so thankful even at age 50 to say that I was a first-generation college graduate. My mother only had a sixth grade education and when she passed away at age 92 I think she still felt like a second-class citizen because she wasn't educated."

Lakes describes UK as incredibly supportive during her time as a nontraditional student and she has since ensured that each of her own five children pursued higher educational or vocational training. She's remained connected to UK, too: Her youngest daughter is currently a student in the UK College of Social Work

and Lakes works with UK students like Newman who volunteer or intern at the NOSW.

"I'm very proud to be a UK alum and I think it's great for UK students to see what it's like in a small nonprofit and to see what an impact we have on women in Appalachia," said Lakes. "And it helps us to have a better connection with UK. If we all work together, we'll make it a better world."

For Newman, a native Appalachian who always envisioned herself working internationally, interning with the NOSW in Berea and Black Sash in South Africa gave her more than credit hours and job experience. It gave her a new perspective on her own roots and broadened her ideas

about how she can help make the world a better place.

"Doing these things in your own community gives you a greater appreciation of where you came from, what you're made of and what the people in your community are made of," said Newman. "But it took me working at the global scale to realize that there was stuff back home that also needed to be done, and that with my background I could make a difference at home just as much as I could globally. Wherever I can go to help is where I need to be. Wherever I have the opportunity to help is the best place for me at that moment, whether it's here or somewhere else."

UK Joins Universities Worldwide to Fight Hunger

By Whitney Hale

The University of Kentucky is one of nearly 50 universities worldwide that have banded together to address the global issue of hunger. On Dec. 9, UK President Eli Capilouto and leaders from the other universities signed the Presidents' Commitment to Food and Nutritional Security at the United Nations in New York City.

PUSH – Presidents United to Solve Hunger – was created by Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, as the result of a first-time gathering between leaders of more than 30 universities in the U.S., Canada and Central America at Auburn in February.

The Presidents' Commitment to Food and Nutrition Security – a declaration acknowledging their commitment to make food insecurity a priority – is another direct result of the meeting.

"What makes this event especially significant is the recognition that universities have a tremendous role to play in addressing global grand challenges," said Auburn University President Jay Gogue. "Our institutions have a deep faculty talent pool, an energetic, innovative population of students, an unprecedented commitment from top leadership, and a staying power from generation to generation that lends itself to tackling long-term issues like hunger."

The Hunger Forum and Public Signing Ceremony marks the first time universities around the world will share a collective focus on ending food insecurity. It is also the first time students and university leaders were united in the effort with international organizations, NGOs and student groups joining Auburn in this initiative.



Affiliates of Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH), a worldwide coalition of more than 300 colleges and universities, have met annually since 2006 to share ideas and best practices related to local and global hunger. To take the movement to the next level, leaders from more than 30 universities in the U.S., Canada and Central America gathered in February 2014 to discuss taking collective action against food insecurity and malnutrition. The pre-summit was organized by Auburn's Hunger Solutions Institute (HSI) and cosponsored by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. PUSH and the Presidents' Commitment to Food and Nutrition Security are both direct results of the February meeting.

PUSH member institutions include land-grants, liberal arts, faith-based, historically black, and Hispanic-serving colleges and universities from five continents. Auburn is joined by fellow SEC members Mississippi State, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas and Alabama.

Participation in PUSH enables members to share their collective knowledge in areas where hunger is historically addressed at academic institutions: teaching, research, outreach and student engagement. One of the first action items in the Presidents' Commitment to Food and Nutrition Security is an inventory and mapping exercise so all schools can register their food and nutrition security work in these four major areas.

"Most universities are already contributing to food security across their programmatic agendas," said Hunger Solutions Executive Director Dean June Henton, founder of UFWH and HSI. "But PUSH will accelerate individual university achievements in two distinct ways. First, additional strength will come through the power of collective action and commitment to share best practices. Second, it will give universities a strong and unified voice at the multi-sector table as the world defines sustainable food security initiatives going forward."

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Associate Provost for Internationalization:
Susan Carvalho

Editor:
Derrick Meads

Contributing Writers:
Elizabeth Adams
Ann Blackford
Sarah Geegan
Whitney Hale
Allison Perry

Mallory Powell
Abigail Shipp
Sibel Solagan
Melanie Sparks
Yan Wang

Have a story idea? Contact Derrick Meads at derrick.meads@uky.edu
www.uky.edu/International