UK Celebrates International Education

It is mid-afternoon on a bright and sunny November day in the Commonwealth, and University of Kentucky senior James Chapman is sitting on the balcony of his apartment in Cairo, Egypt.

The Hopkinsville native fell in love with the Middle East’s people, culture, languages, cuisine, sights, sounds, and experiences over the course of his studies at UK.

“I got the international bug at UK!” said Chapman, who plans to attend law school and also pursue a master’s degree in International Relations. “I became fascinated and intrigued by its political, economic, and social importance to the United States and the

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Students Named Gilman Scholars for Education Abroad

Two UK students have been awarded the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for Spring 2011.

The scholarship, which funds education abroad, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is administered by the Institute of International Education. The scholarship is for undergraduate students who are receiving a federal Pell Grant at the time of application or during the term of education abroad and are participating in an education abroad program that is no less than 4 weeks and no more than one academic year in length.

Rhianna Lynn Miles, a sophomore International Studies major from Danville, Ky., received a $4,000 award. As a Spanish minor, she will study at the University of Alicante in Spain. Miles will take classes in Spanish on the culture and history of Spain.

“As an elective, I signed up for a Spanish film studies class. I also have a desire to become acquainted with Mediterranean politics while overseas,” she said.

Tabetha Long, a junior majoring in psychology, is a native of Lexington. She received a $3,500 award to study in Ecuador with the International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership. She will study Ecuador’s Galápagos Islands.

She will also volunteer 15-20 hours per week in the local community while studying at the local university.

“I will be studying conservation and wildlife management, tourism and the ecosystem, and economic security within Ecuador. The program will include excursions to renowned places such as the Amazon RainForest and the (Ecuadorian) Highlands, and homestays within Quito and the Galápagos,” explained Long. “I’m very excited.”

Over the past decade, the Gilman Scholarship Program has helped nearly 6,500 students study abroad. Applications for summer, fall and full academic year programs are due March 1. For information visit www.iie.org/gilman or talk to an Education Abroad at UK advisor.

Global KY highlights UK’s international activities. Do you have a story idea? Contact Michelle Gorin at michelle.gorin@uky.edu
Last summer, Jennifer Grisham-Brown, Professor of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling in the College of Education, led an education abroad program to Guatemala City. The participants, a group of Early Education students, left the United States on May 19 and planned to return on May 28. On the evening of May 27, the Pacaya volcano erupted. Only 25 miles south of Guatemala City, the eruption blanketed the capital with ash and closed the international airport. A tropical storm then made landfall near the Guatemala-Mexico border on May 29.

Grisham-Brown worked with onsite coordinators and staff in both the UK College of Education and the UK Office of International Affairs to reschedule flights and travel dates, arrange for transportation to another airport and get everyone home safely. Here is the story in her own words:

Faculty and students who participate in Education Abroad classes expect to experience new and exciting adventures. Those who participated in the 2010 Guatemala program received more than our fair share of excitement during our time there in May, when many unexpected events prolonged the trip for nearly a week.

The Guatemala education abroad program was created in 2009. As co-founder of a children’s home and preschool in Guatemala City, I wanted to engage UK students in work we are doing there, and on behalf of, orphaned children.

The goal of the program, designed primarily for education majors, is for students to utilize skills they have learned in courses at UK, and apply them in a different country, culture and environment. Undergraduate and graduate students worked for 10 days at Hope for Tomorrow Children’s Home and Preschool with young children, with and without disabilities. They collected assessment information on each child, identified learning goals and planned instructional activities. Undergraduate students evaluated the classroom environment and made recommendations for improvement.

Graduate students provided training to staff on how to appropriately interact with and engage the children. Doctoral students conducted research in area schools related to the gross motor development of young children, and the professional development needs of teachers. In addition to coursework-related activities, students enjoyed two days in Panajachel on Lake Atitlan. The students even invited the three oldest children from the children’s home to join us and took them zip-lining through the Guatemalan rainforest.

Following a wonderful, productive week and half, we spent what we thought to be our last evening, eating at a beautiful restaurant overlooking Guatemala City. In the middle of our dinner, our field director, Kenneth Sese, received a phone call asking if he knew that the Pacaya volcano had erupted. Kenneth told the caller we had heard nothing. Upon looking out the restaurant window, we noticed that a nearby car was covered in volcanic ash!

That call was the start of a nerve-wracking few days. Throughout that time, we endured a mild earthquake, Tropical Storm Agatha, power outages, flight cancellations, mudslides, a sinkhole and a 7-hour drive to El Salvador! Indeed, UK students got more than they bargained for when they signed up for this education abroad experience.

Throughout our many adventures, we were comforted, in part, by the Office of International Affairs. On the night the volcano erupted, I immediately contacted OIA because I was fearful that families of the students would hear of the volcano and grow concerned about the students’ safety.

I also was concerned about how I would finance the additional days of travel and staff relay information to families. Over the course of the next few days, Associate Provost for International Programs Susan Carvalho and staff addressed each of these needs. They assured me that additional expenses would be covered, assisted me in re-booking flights and kept families updated about our status. The office helped turn an otherwise impossible situation into one that was manageable.

Education abroad opportunities provide students with opportunities Continued on page 9.
Haggin Attends NATO-Afghan Students Forum

Discussing the future of Afghanistan is a challenge even for world leaders, but UK graduate student Tommy Haggin recently was selected to participate in such a discussion at the fifth annual NATO-Afghan Students Forum. The forum took place at Kadir Has University in Istanbul, Turkey from October 18 to 22.

Haggin — a graduate student focusing on national security at the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce and an Education Abroad graduate assistant — was the only American student applicant selected to represent the United States in the forum.

Before starting graduate school, Haggin worked for a defense contractor in Afghanistan as a subcontracts administrator, a position that required daily interaction with Afghan businessmen. While he had wide-ranging conversations on a daily basis with his Afghan counterparts, one topic he found himself unable to discuss in-depth with them was, ironically, the war itself.

"Because of the nature of my position, the opportunity to frankly discuss their opinions and perspectives of the war never really presented itself," he said. "We would talk about how it affected our business and our contracts, but that's about the extent of it."

Sixty young people from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Central Asia, Europe, Canada, and the United States animatedly discussed security challenges in Afghanistan during the five-day forum. Participants had a unique opportunity to interact with their peers, experts on Afghanistan, representatives from NATO, and countries assisting NATO’s efforts in Afghanistan. Students also gave group presentations on topics ranging from women in peace and security to other countries’ perceptions of the situation in Afghanistan.

The fifth annual forum brought together a diverse array of students who were passionate on the topic of the future of Afghanistan. Afghan students presented different facets of their country’s culture, history, traditions and art. The students also voiced frustrations about negative media coverage depicting Afghanistan as a country of only terrorists, war and drugs.

While the overall mood of the forum was frank but respectful, a few times it did become more contentious, Haggin noted, such as when Afghan and Pakistan students heatedly began to debate their nations’ bilateral relationship.

“All of us NATO people in the middle felt like we were in a family argument,” Haggin joked. But as with many of the small controversies that arose, the discussion was soon steered back on course.

Since he was the only representative of the United States, other students asked Haggin some pointed questions, especially regarding the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, he said. He was uncomfortable with the notion that his lone opinion might be perceived as representing that of all Americans.

“I told them...if you’re expecting someone here to toe the American line, you’ve got the wrong guy,” he said. “I’m here to listen and learn.”

Haggin also said he was careful to be humble and open to discussion, hoping to dispel the negative stereotypes of Americans as arrogant.

It was also interesting to learn how much people in other countries tended to know about American foreign policy — typically much more than Americans themselves, since American foreign policy directly influenced their daily lives, Haggin noted.

“I think it’s important to remember they live out what they were arguing every single day,” he said.

The event concluded with a concert by Afghanistan’s first rock band, “Kabul Dreams,” to mark the forum’s fifth anniversary. Click here to view a short documentary of this year’s forum.

Education Abroad at UK

Spring Fair

Save the Date

February 2

Explore UK faculty-led programs, summer education abroad opportunities and more!

Open mind. Open world.
Continued from page 1.

international community."

Chapman is one of many UK students continuing to push the boundaries of international participation on campus, with the support of a devoted and passionate UK faculty.

The United States celebrated International Education Week November 15-19, but UK has increased its presence and connectivity across the globe since Provost Kumble Subbaswamy established the Internationalization Task Force in February 2007.

“Our students, regardless of whether they come from rural Kentucky or from outside the U.S., are increasingly aware of the importance of being ready for the global marketplace,” said Subbaswamy.

“Thus, it is our responsibility to make sure that UK provides them ample opportunity to become ‘world ready.’ Our internationalization efforts are aimed at achieving this strategic goal.”

International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. The joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education promotes programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and that attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States.

UK students and faculty have a lot to celebrate.

In October, UK was recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education as a top producer of Faculty Fulbright Scholars for the 2010-11 academic year, with four recipients.

This summer, UK was chosen as one of five U.S. schools to update the structure and curriculum of higher education in Iraq through the Iraq University Linkages Program, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and administered by the Academy for Educational Development.

UK is involved in the Iraq Education Initiative as well, which will eventually send several thousand Iraqi students per year over the next five years to the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia to complete their higher education studies.

“Education is the greatest form of diplomacy,” said Senior Assistant Dean of the Graduate School Pat Bond.

Bond traveled to Iraq in early 2009 to participate in the initial planning phase of the program. “The Iraqi people have been isolated for decades and now, through this educational program we have an opportunity to play a significant role in their country’s redevelopment. Education is key to making a difference in Iraq’s democratic reform. We are so pleased to be a part of this exciting initiative.”

UK’s first Iraqi students arrived in August, and more are planning to arrive in early January. After completing their degrees here, they will return to help in the process of rebuilding Iraq.

International changes can be felt throughout campus; UK’s international undergraduate population has expanded from 169 in 2005 to 358 in 2010, according to Associate Provost for International Programs Susan Carvalho.

“We are very pleased to have as a part of our Enrollment Management Strategic Plan and mission the goal of enrolling more international undergraduate students. We have an excellent partnership with the Office of International Affairs to collaborate on recruiting initiatives that showcase the University... Continued on page 10.
International Student Organizations Share the World with UK

International student organizations serve in a powerful, but sometimes underappreciated, role on UK’s campus. They help meet the needs of international students during their Lexington sojourn and provide a link to cultural heritage and people with similar backgrounds.

They also act to increase awareness of practices and ways of life that might otherwise be unknown to members of the university and local community.

As people in the United States began counting down the days to Halloween and Thanksgiving, many student organizations were working hard to coordinate a wide range of international fall events on campus.

The Indian Student Association played host to a colorful Garba Night event on October 23, with dance that derives its roots from Gujarati folk and traditional ‘raas’ forms. The costumed evening was part of the nine-day Hindu festival, Navaratri. While the high-energy scene had distinct appeal to the younger generation of college students, its roots were set in the celebration of age-old traditions. The organization also hosted its annual Diwali Dhoom event, complete with song, dance and traditional Indian foods.

The Turkish Student Association sponsored “Turkish Days” on October 28-29 to commemorate the 87th anniversary of the constitutional amendment that declared the country a republic. Festivities included a Republic Day celebration in the Young Library Auditorium, and a public reception and ticketed dinner featuring live music. Information booths in the Student Center further educated students and provided a taste of traditional food.

In early November, the Muslim Student Association invited the community to an evening about Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca that represents one of the five pillars of Islam. The event featured a lecture about the importance of Hajj, one student’s speech about performing the rite, and a presentation by the Kentucky Refugee Ministries. The event shed light on historical elements of the practice and allowed the public to discover more about a subject they might not otherwise take time to investigate.

Through such events as these, international student organizations support their members while simultaneously providing culturally enriching activities to Lexington. Students and community members alike are encouraged to become cultural mediators and to take part in learning beyond the classroom and workplace.

UK’s faculty, staff and students have regularly supported these organizations and are encouraged to continue to look for ways to do so. Spread the word about their contributions to our learning environment, make the time to find out about and attend events and, perhaps most significantly, offer thanks for the hard work of those students who bring the farthest corners of the globe to the gently rolling fields of bluegrass that we all call home.

Did you know?

In the 1912 yearbook, The Kentuckian, UK’s Cosmopolitan Club included students from five locations: South Africa, Germany, Japan, Siam (Thailand) and Kentucky.

Diwali Dhoom -2010-

Photos by Anwesha Goswami.

UK’s Indian Student Association hosted Diwali Dhoom 2010 on Friday, November 19. The annual campus-wide event celebrates the “Festival of Light” with song, dance and traditional Indian foods.
For the third consecutive year, UK’s internationalization initiative has had the opportunity of hosting a five-week “Summer Institute for Students with Immigrant Backgrounds from Germany,” funded by the German Fulbright Commission and private foundation support from Germany, in partnership with UK.

Through this grant, 24 German students attended UK for the first five weeks of the Fall semester, participated in UK Fusion, attended student-sponsored events and learned about Kentucky and the United States.

Although the basic programming has remained the same, organizers report that the personality and size of the group has varied from year to year. The first cohort arrived in 2008 and was made up of 14 studious and thoughtful students. The 2009 cohort brought 20 very young and fun-loving students to our campus.

The 2010 group was made up of outgoing and independent thinkers.

During the five-week program the students traveled throughout the state, from Louisville to Mammoth Cave State Park and many places in between. A highlight of the program was a hike at Natural Bridge State Park followed by a buffet dinner at the lodge and participation in square dancing at “Hoedown Island.” The welcoming nature of the local people led to a good time for all and had many members of the cohort dancing away the evening under the stars in Eastern Kentucky.

Another perennial favorite of the program is attendance at a UK football game. The university system in Germany is quite different from the U.S. version, especially where co-curricular activities are concerned. The cheerleaders, mascots and fireworks were a new experience for the group and left them chanting “C-A-T-S, CATS, CATS, CATS!”

However, it was not all fun and games; the students were expected to participate in several special seminars on such compelling subjects as immigration, U.S. African-American experiences, and democracy in journalism. The students also audited a regular UK course and attended a communications course geared specifically to the needs of students for whom English is a second, or even third, language.

Each year the participants, who originate from such far-away lands as Ghana, Iraq and Russia, add diversity of thought, nationality and religion to the UK student population, if only for a short 5-week period. The program goal is to enrich and challenge not only the members of the cohort, but also the American students with whom they interact.

This year, participant Shamaila Ghaffar exclaimed, “This has been the greatest experience of my life!”

German Students Experience UK, Kentucky

The German Fulbright students visited Natural Bridge and other Kentucky landmarks during their 5-week program.

UK Cultural Diversity Festival
March 2011

Highlighting the wealth of diversity at UK and striving to engage all students, faculty and staff, as well as the Lexington community, in activities, dialogue and understanding.

Colleges, departments and organizations are encouraged to submit new or existing events for inclusion in the master festival schedule. Event details will be collected in February. If you would like to know more about last year’s festival, www.uky.edu/DiversityFestival.
Confucius Institute at the University of Kentucky
Inaugural Ceremony & Concert

November 6

www.uky.edu/Confucius

The Confucius Institute will provide leadership, support and coordination for Chinese language and programs in K-12 schools, as well as on the UK campus; assist in establishing and maintaining faculty and student exchange between the UK College of Fine Arts and the Shanghai University College of Fine Arts; conduct Chinese language and cultural exchange; and promote education about China on campus, across the Bluegrass region, and throughout Kentucky.

Global KY is a quarterly publication highlighting international initiatives at the University of Kentucky.

Associate Provost for International Programs:
Susan Carvalho

Editor:
Michelle Gorin

Editorial Assistant:
Danielle Palmer

Contributing Writers:
Michelle Gorin
Jennifer Grisham-Brown
Erin Holaday
Rochelle Keesler
Balin Loftus
Andrea O’Leary
Danielle Palmer

Masthead design by Mike Hardy.
More than 120 University of Kentucky students will be studying abroad next term. A few dozen of them won’t be going alone. Students spending a semester in France, Finland, Ecuador and Swaziland have volunteered to take a “Flat Stanley” with them.

The Flat Stanley project is an international literacy and community building activity for students, based on the 1964 children’s book “Flat Stanley.” Participants travel with their Flat Stanley and photograph him in various locations on their travels. Elementary school students from Cassidy Elementary School in Lexington will be creating the paper cutout Flat Stanleys that UK students will use.

The elementary school students are encouraged to personalize their cutouts. Each participating classroom will be paired with two or three University of Kentucky students who are going abroad. The UK students will take the cutouts with them overseas for the duration of their abroad program.

The goal of this program is to connect local school students with the University of Kentucky and the world. It also gives University of Kentucky students the opportunity to give back to the community in a meaningful way, by including local elementary school students in their international experience.

The concept of Flat Stanley (or, in some cases, Flat Susie, depending on the classroom’s preference) is not new. In fact, UK student Lauren Hicks was enthusiastic about volunteering because her class corresponded with a Flat Stanley when she was in the third grade. But for most of the UK student participants, Flat Stanley is a new idea.

While abroad, the University of Kentucky students will take photos of their Flat Stanley at the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben and other famous landmarks. They’ll do the same at museums, with their host families, and at other places of cultural interest. Flat Stanley will even get to see exotic birds on the Galápagos Islands such as the Blue-Footed Boobies.

Every two weeks the students will send photos of Flat Stanley to their classroom, as well as some cultural information about where he is and what he is doing. The elementary school students will have the chance to learn about the places their Flat Stanley visits and ask the UK students questions about them.

“What a great opportunity for our children to see the world without leaving our classroom!” said Tiffany Cook, a fifth grade teacher at Cassidy Elementary School. “We are excited to have this opportunity and will be able to make some great social studies connections. Thanks to UK for allowing us to take these ‘virtual’ field trips!”

Congratulations to the newest Education Abroad at UK Scholarship recipients!

Argentina
Kyle B. Beck
Business, Marketing

Australia
Melanie C. Pynappel
Integrated Strategic Communication

Costa Rica
Cathryn E. Barlekamp
Accounting
Matthew W. Carlson
Family Science
Christiana W. Holsapple
International Studies

Ecuador
Christopher M. McCurry
English, Secondary Education

Egypt
Christine M. Kindler
History, International Studies

England
Florian A. Barrie
Integrated Strategic Communication, Marketing
Hannah W. Kelly
Anthropology
Courtney A. Pflug
Integrated Communication, Journalism
Lindsay R. Pilgrim
Physician Assistant Studies

Finland
Christopher S. McCabe
Arts Administration
Caroline A. Wakefield
Arts Administration

France
Corinne E. Baskin
Psychology
Bing Li
Finance, Economics

Germany
Clayton R. Campbell
International Studies, German
Alexander J. Kuuskoski
German Studies

Ireland
Janet K. Eaton
Biosystems, Agricultural Engineering

Spain
Rhianna Miles
International Studies
Abdel-Sater N. Shalash
Accounting, Management

South Africa
Lara L. Walker
Secondary English Education

South Korea
John Steele
Finance, Management

Talk to an advisor to learn more about the various scholarship and financial aid options or click here.
MULTICULTURAL THANKSGIVING

The UK Alumni Association and the UK Office of International Affairs hosted Multicultural Thanksgiving for the campus community. Students, scholars and family members attended, many of whom had never experienced a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner. Due to the popularity of this annual event, the dinner was moved from the Alumni House to the UK Student Center this year.

Photos courtesy of the UK Alumni Association.

Haiti Revisited

The UK Council of Endowed Professors and Chairs sponsored a campus-wide forum on Friday, November 19, focusing on “The United States, The University of Kentucky and the Crisis in Haiti.” The keynote address was given by Russell Porter, Deputy Coordinator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Haiti Task Team. In addition, UK Opera Program Director Everett McCorvey spoke about his work with a Haitian children’s choir. Other UK participants included Sam Matheny, the Nicolas J. Piscano Professor of Family and Community Medicine at UK Medical School; Kerling Israel, a graduate student in UK’s College of Public Health; Jeremy Popkin, the Marshall Hahn Professor of History; and Mike Reid, Chair of Physiology (Right).

Guatemala Disasters

Continued from page 2.

they might otherwise never experience. For students participating in the 2010 Guatemala program, their education abroad experience is one they will never forget. Not only did they get to impact the education of children and see beautiful places, but they encountered Mother Nature in a way they will always remember.

Kristi Lunceford, doctoral student in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling, summed up the trip using the words of one of the children at Hope for Tomorrow. When something good happened, Edwin, an 8-year-old with cognitive disabilities, always commented “It’s jumby”. We think the word meant “yummy” and represented more than just food, but anything that was fun. When asked about the experience in Guatemala City, Kristi said, “It was ‘jumby’ . . . an experience that I didn’t expect (and) don’t regret.”
International Education

Continued from page 4.

of Kentucky and the outstanding academic and extracurricular opportunities,” said Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Don Witt.

“The globalization of our campus helps to synergize the entire UK community. As more students, faculty and staff from across Kentucky, the country and the world contribute to our educational mission, we are building a stronger university poised to address the global issues of today and tomorrow,” Witt explained.

The International Studies major in the College of Arts and Sciences has been overwhelmingly successful among UK undergraduates, with 361 majors and 25 minors in only its fourth year on campus.

The Global Dynamics component of UK’s new General Education program will ultimately touch every undergraduate at UK, with a course solely devoted to global citizenship.

UK’s participation in the German-American Fulbright Commission’s 5-week “Discover Germany - Discover USA” program allows a diverse group of students from both countries to experience the life, culture, civilization, society and values of their host countries.

“What this program does for Kentucky students is almost immeasurable,” said Vice President for Institutional Diversity Judy “J.J.” Jackson. “For many of them, participating in this program takes them outside of Kentucky or the U.S. for the very first time in their lives. Thus, they get to see and live among/engage with people from ‘another world’ and learn other peoples’ values, customs, thought and way of life. At the same time, they get to see themselves through the eyes of these people from another world.”

Most recently, UK joined universities from around the United States and the world to host a Confucius Institute.

“As more students, faculty and staff from across Kentucky, the country and the world contribute to our educational mission, we are building a stronger university poised to address the global issues of today and tomorrow.”

- Vice President for Enrollment Management Don Witt

which will provide Central Kentuckians, as well as UK students, faculty and staff the opportunity for a greater understanding of China through community classes, teacher preparation courses and events and services for the public.

UK’s connections abroad are as wide and diverse as the countries to which the university travels; UK’s international pathways include the Gatton College of Business and Economics’ Global Scholars Program; the Career Center’s increased emphasis on international internships; UK Libraries’ work digitizing folklore in northern India; UK Voice Professor Noemi Lugo’s musical education work in Latin America; UK Opera’s involvement with the Haitian children’s choir Haitian Harmony; the College of Journalism and Telecommunications’ AIDS journalism reporting project in Africa; the College of Agriculture’s programming; the College of Arts and Sciences’ South Africa Initiative, titled “Different Lands, Common Ground; and global comparative education in the College of Education. The list continues to grow.

“Education in the twenty-first century is about the global exchange of ideas. All students involved in higher education need the opportunity to work alongside their international peers, and this can happen by our welcoming international students to the UK classrooms as well as by sending our students out into the world for classes, research, and engagement,” said Carvalho.

“It also happens in our increasingly global curriculum; even our courses focused on the U.S. need to consider our place in a worldwide context. Our goal is to make sure that all students can speak with first-hand knowledge about cultural differences, about international situations, and about how knowledge is produced globally,” she added.

UK celebrated International Education Week November 12-19. Events, sponsored by the Office of International Affairs and other campus units, included a “Parade of Nations” flag parade; various film series; sessions for UK students on study abroad, international internships, employment and research; workshops for international students on American slang and southern barbecue; and International Education Day, an opportunity for Kentucky high school students to visit UK’s campus and learn more about international educational opportunities.

For more information on International Education Week at UK, see the OIA website.

To learn more about the national commemoration, visit http://iew.state.gov/.