UK Partnerships Will Help Iraq Rebuild

Iraq native Ban Al-Attar was among the first students to receive a Fulbright scholarship when the award was reinstated in Iraq in 2005. She graduated from UK with a master’s degree in Public Health two years ago, and is quick to express her gratitude for the opportunity.

“I love Lexington,” she says. “The moment I arrived in Kentucky, I felt at home.” She is now working as a pharmacy technician at the UK Medical Center and is on her way to becoming board certified. Like her family, Al-Attar values education. She completed her undergraduate work and higher-level pharmacy work at Mosul University, where her mother, sister and two brothers-in-law are all professors. Continued on page 3.

UK Students, Alums Named Fulbright Scholars

Five University of Kentucky students and alumni were selected as recipients of Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarships in May 2010. The UK recipients are among 1,500 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2010-2011 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

Additionally, one UK alumna will be awarded a Fulbright grant for her post-doctoral work.

“We are excited that this group of Fulbright Scholars from UK will have the opportunity to pursue their educational objectives overseas and to contribute to increased understanding between the U.S. and their host countries,” commented Lisa Broome-Price, director of the UK Office of External Scholarships.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide.

UK students who received Fulbright scholarships for graduate study, research or teaching assistantships include the following: Alex Brooks, a 2003 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in English, who will study in England; Jordan Hall, a 2010 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish, who will teach English in Spain; Katrina Hutchison, a doctoral student in educational policy studies and evaluation, who will conduct research in Ghana; Yawen Ludden, a doctoral student in musicology, who will carry out research in China; and Samantha Meenach, a 2010 graduate with a doctoral degree in chemical engineering, for conducting research in Germany. Additionally, 2009 graduate Kimberly J. Scott, who holds a doctoral degree in music in piano performance from UK, will receive a Fulbright Mid-Career Professional Development Grant for postdoctoral research in Finland. Continued on page 5.
UK’s College of Arts & Sciences is embarking on an intellectual journey of international proportions this year with featured South African activists, scholars, politicians, art exhibits, performances and coursework. The South African Initiative (SAI), with the theme “South Africa & Kentucky: Different Lands, Common Ground,” will provide the campus community as well as the general public with a closer look at the two societies’ rich histories and present-day conditions.

“South Africa has undergone the largest and most recent revolution in our times,” said Mark Kornbluh, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. “The country has a totally new system of power, a new constitution and all of this took place only 15 years ago. We get to personally experience greatness on the UK campus through the visits of South Africa’s founding fathers and mothers.”

Kornbluh has been involved with South Africa for some time, traveling to the country for 10 consecutive years to gather oral histories from the major participants in the anti-apartheid struggle. The dean’s efforts culminated in the website “South Africa: Overcoming Apartheid, Building Democracy,” a multimedia project including first-hand accounts of South African activists, raw video footage documenting mass resistance and police repression, historical documents, rare photographs and original narratives.

Kornbluh made many friends in South Africa along the way, which helped in spearheading UK’s “South Africa & Kentucky” efforts, and the initiative offers a myriad of ways for students, faculty, staff, alumni and Commonwealth residents to participate.

The College of Arts & Sciences is launching the South African Initiative with one of the first U.S. public screenings of “Have You Heard from Johannesburg,” a new seven-part documentary film on the global anti-apartheid movement by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Connie Field. Weekly showings will be offered at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. each Thursday through Nov. 11, in room 213 of Kastle Hall. Each showing will be accompanied by special speakers. Kornbluh spoke after the first film about the connections between the South African anti-apartheid movement and the United States’ civil rights movement.

“There are more likenesses between the two regions than many people realize,” said Program Director Lauren Kientz. “You can look at sports and race; both regions rely economically on mining; and both areas have similar poverty and health issues.” Paralleling the South African Initiative, Kientz will teach an experiential learning course, A&S 100-049.

Activities include numerous visitors and scholars-in-residence. Eddie Daniels, South African freedom fighter and former prison-mate of Nelson Mandela, will be at UK as a scholar-in-residence Oct. 24–Nov. 7. His visit will include a book signing, as well as visits to local K-12 schools and UK classes.

In mid-April, Ahmed Kathrada and Barbara Hogan will be the university’s honored guests. Kathrada (Kathy) was one of 10 defendants (including Mandela) involved in the Rivonia Trial, which led to life imprisonment with hard labor. He spent more than 26 years in prison, until he was released in 1989. He held various roles in the new South African government, including serving in Parliament and as President Mandela’s parliamentary counselor. He also served as chairperson of the Robben Island Museum Council.

Hogan is the minister of public enterprise and former minister of health of South Africa, and was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2009 by Time magazine. The former political activist is best known for leading South African efforts to fight AIDS.

Arts & Sciences will recognize participation in the Program in International Understanding for undergraduate students who attend at least 10 of the South African and Kentucky activities. They will receive certificates for their résumés, and be eligible for a scholarship for the Education Abroad at UK program in Cape Town in Summer 2011.

“The ability of students to engage globally is attractive to employers,” said Kientz. “And there’s something in this program of events for everyone.”

Looking ahead, the college plans to focus on a particular international theme each year, with politically and culturally relevant speakers and activities. “This is a tremendous opportunity for Kentucky,” Kornbluh said. “We’re going to be a part of the international conversation.”

For more information, contact Kientz at lki222@uky.edu, or visit http://southafrika-kentucky.wordpress.com/ or www.southafrica.as.uky.edu.
Iraqi Partnerships

Continued from page 1.
She had watched with dismay as the educational system and the country’s motivation suffered under Saddam Hussein’s rule.

“If you don’t take education seriously, nothing is going to change,” says Al-Attar. “Now is the time for people to move, change their mentality, study and work hard so that Iraq will change.”

To create more opportunities for students such as Al-Attar to study in the United States, multiple partnerships have been established between the University of Kentucky and Iraqi institutions of higher learning within the past year, aimed at rebuilding the country’s educational infrastructure.

Al-Attar remembers using textbooks from the 1950's in Iraq and watching teachers grow increasingly frustrated due to a lack of resources and meager $2 per month salaries. Her mother was jailed for two days after making a comment about one of Saddam’s policies in a university staff meeting.

As part of an initiative to improve such conditions, the University of Kentucky was selected to participate in the Iraq University Linkages Program through a partnership between the State Department and the Academy for Educational Development (AED), a nonprofit organization that focuses on health and education, as well as social and economic development in developing countries. UK was one of five schools selected for a grant that will provide the university with $1 million over three years for curriculum development and distance learning initiatives.

Each of the selected U.S. schools was paired with an Iraqi institution to focus on defined fields of study. UK was partnered with the University of Kufa, located in Najaf province in southern Iraq, and will focus on civil engineering, business administration and English as a Second Language.

This summer, the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad hosted a conference for participating universities to develop a three-year plan detailing how the project will be carried out and have the greatest impact. The group attending from Lexington included David Bettez, Emeritus Director of External Relations for the Office of International Affairs; Jeannine Blackwell, Dean of The Graduate School and Associate Provost for Academic Administration; George Blandford, Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering; Devanathan Sudharshan, Dean of the Gatton College; and Thomas Clayton, Executive Director of the UK Center for English as a Second Language and project manager for the grant. Several of the UK faculty were quoted in a July article in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

While in Iraq, Bettez and Blandford also had the unique opportunity to leave the Green Zone and visit Najaf. The trip provided an opportunity to meet more

International Night 2010

On Saturday, September 25, the International Student Council (ISC) hosted International Night, an annual event inviting UK students from the United States and around the world to come together and share their traditions and culture in the form of performances, exhibitions and other activities. The free event was held in the engineering quadrangle.

Above: ISC members prepare for the event. Left: Turkish student Hayriye Cetin Karaca gets a henna tattoo.
Iraq

Continued from page 3.

of the Kufa colleagues who will be involved in the partnership. Getting to the site involved a helicopter ride, a Humvee convoy and security forces.

The linkages program also opened the door to other Iraqi higher education initiatives. In September, the Greater Cincinnati World Affairs Council, a nonpartisan organization that works to build global understanding, arranged for a delegation of seven faculty members from Iraqi universities to visit the United States.

The group met with several UK staff members, including Clayton and Assistant Director of International Student & Scholar Services Karen Slaymaker.

In another connection with Iraq, UK will welcome more Iraqi students through the Iraq Education Initiative. The program is also organized by the AED, which plans to send up to 10,000 Iraqi scholarship students to the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia to complete their higher education studies. As of June, seven students had been accepted to UK through the program, and the number is expected to grow significantly.

Iraq native and UK Department of Geology doctoral student Ali Al-Mayahi is studying here on a similar scholarship. In 2005, he took advantage of a program offered by Iraq’s Ministry of Education that provides funding for his coursework and research. When he finishes his doctorate, he will return to the classroom in his home country and bring new knowledge and technological resources to his students. Al-Mayahi taught at the University of Basra for five years before coming to the United States to continue his education, and remembers how difficult it was to teach without the proper tools.

“In all that time, I could not show my students one piece of equipment that would be used to do their fieldwork. I myself had not seen such equipment,” he said.

When the partnership with the University of Kufa was announced, Provost Kumble Subbaswamy noted that the university and the participating faculty are excited about the opportunity to use their expertise to help Iraq rebuild its postsecondary system. That excitement applies to all related endeavors and is echoed by students like Al-Attar and Al-Mayahi.

“What Iraq needs now is hope,” said Al-Attar. “After dealing with oppression, corruption and extremists, we are ready for something positive.”

Increasingly, members of the campus community are using social media tools to connect on an international level. The UK Office of International Affairs recently unveiled a three-part strategy including a Wordpress blog, a Facebook account and multiple Twitter accounts.

The blog features postings from students studying abroad, as well as helpful advice from staff and details on upcoming events. Facebook is the hub of OIA’s online messaging, while two Twitter accounts have been established to target international students and the education abroad audience.

Long-term goals include using the tools to track program alumni and to engage prospective international students, as well as students interested in studying abroad.

During the summer term, UK student Jason Grant blogged regularly for Education Abroad at UK. Grant documented his time at Cambridge University and his related trips. Regular contributors for Fall 2010 include Katie Harvey, who is studying environmental issues in the rain forests of Costa Rica, and Caitlin Westch is studying in Heidelberg, Germany during this academic year.

Other UK students have documented their time abroad for UK, including Brian Kennedy who created a video blog for UK Public Relations during his time in France and six students who blogged about their summer program in Beirut with journalism lecturer Terry Anderson.

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Brooks is a creative writing graduate with a bachelor's degree in English from UK. He will use his Fulbright to broaden his knowledge of the history of the book while pursuing a master's degree in book conservation at West Dean College, located in West Sussex, England.

Hall recently earned his bachelor's degree in Spanish from UK. He will use his Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) to serve as an English teaching assistant at a bilingual school in Madrid, Spain. Additionally, Hall will volunteer with COGAM, the lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual collective of Madrid.

Hutchinson holds a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University and a master's degree from Temple University. She will complete her doctoral degree in educational policy studies and evaluation at UK this fall.

Hutchinson will use her Fulbright to conduct postdoctoral research on the training and recruitment of female teachers in the West African country of Ghana. Upon completion of her degree, she hopes to continue to advance scholarship in comparative teacher education by focusing on the need to increase participation by underrepresented groups in the teaching profession, domestically and in developing countries.

Ludden, a native of Shanghai, China, holds a bachelor's degree from Shanghai Normal University, and two master's degrees, one in comparative literature from a university in Japan and another in music from Campbellsville University. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in musicology at UK. Ludden plans to use her Fulbright to continue her research on the Beijing Opera in China. Upon completion of her doctoral degree, she would like to assume a teaching and research position at a university where she can share her experience in Western and world music with students and a broader community.

Meenach holds bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from UK. She was awarded the Fulbright to complete postdoctoral research on the project “Development of Nanoparticles for Dual Drug Delivery for Novel Cancer Therapy” at Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University in Frankfurt, Germany. Meenach has instead accepted an offer to serve as a postdoctoral researcher at Ohio State University College of Pharmacy.

Scott holds a bachelor's degree from Cedarville University and master’s and doctoral degrees from UK, where she studied under Alan Hersh, professor of piano. She was awarded a Fulbright to continue her postdoctoral research on the piano music and the compositional style of Einojuhani Rautavaara at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. Upon completion of her research, Scott would like to write a book on the piano music of Rautavaara and continue her career as a performer and piano instructor.

For further information about the Fulbright Program or the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, contact Lisa Broome-Price at lebroo2@uky.edu, visit www.fulbright.state.gov or contact James A. Lawrence, Office of Academic Exchange Programs at (202) 632-3241 or fulbright@state.gov.
UK International Representative Audra Cryder was selected as one of only four participants nationwide to explore possibilities for student recruitment and exchange with Latin America through an EducationUSA Reconnect-Plus trip to Ecuador and Peru, Sept. 5-18.

“In the course of two short weeks, we visited dozens of universities and high schools, met with some of the best and brightest students selected by Fulbright and EducationUSA, reached out to thousands of students interested in furthering their education in the U.S. and explored numerous opportunities for academic collaboration. We were delighted to see the incredible level of interest in establishing partnerships with U.S. institutions and obtaining U.S. academic degrees,” said Cryder.

Goals included providing information and guidance to students and families through admissions workshops about higher education opportunities at U.S.-accredited institutions and finding ways to develop or enhance linkages with local institutions capable of hosting study abroad programs for U.S. students, as well as building joint degree or twinning programs.

“This is a wonderful example of how we can make sure that the University of Kentucky remains visible and secures a leadership role in the international arena,” said Associate Provost for International Programs Susan Carvalho. “Thanks to Audra for the extra effort involved in applying for such a prestigious program – we will all be the beneficiaries of her participation.”

International Undergraduate Enrollment by Fall Term

Seven undergraduate students have been selected as 2010-2011 International Student Ambassadors. The team works with International Student & Scholar Services in welcoming new international students to campus, promoting events and programs and assisting staff in providing support to students, scholars and departments.

L to R: Qing Ma, Juhee Kim, Derrick Baah, Maria Alejandra Zavala, Waqar Khan, Haibin Zheng, Xiang Xie

Numbers courtesy of the UK Office of Institutional Research, which tracks “non-resident alien” undergraduate students; this is not an exact synonym for “international students,” but is useful for the purpose of tracking enrollment trends. “International students” in full would include all citizens of countries other than the United States.

*2010 data is preliminary
In 2009-2010, Education Abroad at UK accepted 590 applications for credit-bearing programs. Fifteen students studied abroad for the entire academic year.

Europe, Asia and Latin America continue to be the most frequently selected destinations. The majority of students were enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences, with the next largest groups coming from the Gatton College of Business and Economics and the College of Communications & Information Studies.

There were 18 faculty-led programs conducted by 27 faculty and staff members, in which 148 students participated. Those programs were led by the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Agriculture, the College of Communications & Information Studies, the College of Engineering, the College of Health Sciences, the College of Social Work, the College of Fine Arts, the Discovery Seminar and the Honors Program.

“UK’s numbers remained steady in the wake of economic challenges and a slight increase in the number of travel warnings issued, which affected our Mexican programs directly,” said Associate Provost for International Programs Susan Carvalho. “However, with the arrival of our new Education Abroad Director and an increased range of options for faculty-driven participation in Education Abroad, I hope that we can attract more students to take advantage of the unique opportunities offered by international study.”
In his new role as director of Education Abroad at UK, Dr. Anthony C. Ogden is eager to introduce more UK faculty to the full range of opportunities open to them abroad.

“The fastest growing area of international education is faculty-led programming,” says Ogden. “Students are very attracted to the idea of studying abroad with a faculty member they know and trust. It is important for Education Abroad at UK to support faculty members in engaging students in international learning.”

For example, UK faculty members may choose to work through their college to teach a residential course that has an education abroad experience embedded as a minor component. These programs are typically shorter than two weeks in length and may take place during the winter intersession, spring break or the period immediately following spring term exams. “This is a new model for UK and one that has become very popular at other institutions,” said Ogden.

Faculty-led programs, which usually last from 2-8 weeks during the summer or during winter intersession, allow for collaboration between Education Abroad at UK and the faculty member(s) on all aspects of development and implementation. UK offers more than 20 such programs every year.

UK faculty members may also work through Education Abroad with a UK partner organization to develop customized programs. Compensation and expenses are usually included, and programs can be facilitated at any time during the academic year. Options include both summer and semester-long programs. According to Ogden, these programs often provide on-site resources and staffing not typically available to UK faculty-led programs.

For example, the partner organization may provide individual homestays rather than hotel accommodations. This decreases expenses and potentially furthers the students’ intercultural and language learning opportunities, as well as easing the responsibilities of the UK faculty leader.

Working through Education Abroad to teach at UK partner institutions in other countries, for programs varying from three weeks to a semester, is an attractive option as well, since compensation and expenses are generally included. The UK-taught course is integrated into the existing curriculum and is typically open to all enrolled students at the international university.

An additional advantage to such programs is that the UK faculty member can encourage research and partnership connections with the international university, and nurture future student interest in visiting that site.

Faculty also have the option of working with UK consortia such as the Kentucky Institute for International Studies and the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad. These groups offer full program development for 2- to 8-week sessions that typically take place during the summer and winter intersessions. They work in partnership with UK and faculty leader(s) on all aspects. Credits earned through these consortia courses easily transfer into UK degree programs, and program cost tends to be lower than with many other options.

Ogden understands that a single program model does not necessarily meet the needs of all UK faculty members, and therefore he plans to extend the services of Education Abroad to support a wide range of faculty-led, international education programming. Those interested in teaching abroad in any capacity are encouraged to contact him at a.ogden@uky.edu.

UK C-A-T-S showed their Big Blue spirit at the Hill of Slain, former seat of Celtic Kings, in Ireland.

Brent Buckley, Jon Hemmer and Andy Hemmer (l to r) are studying business and finance on a Knowledge Exchange Institute (KEI) program at Griffith College Dublin. This photo was taken on an excursion to sites related to Celtic history, including the Byne Valley, Hill of Slain and an old Celtic Church with the largest Celtic cross in all of Ireland. Andy’s German housemate, Simon, helped with the “s”.

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Teaching Abroad: Exploring Your Options
Six University of Kentucky students spent a summer in Beirut, Lebanon, getting a first-hand look at Middle East issues, thanks to a grant from a Lebanese businessman and Lexington horse farm owner.

The students - Christopher Robbins, Katie Perkowski, Ashley Westerman, Kelsey Thomas, and Noha El Maraghi – are majoring in journalism in the School of Journalism and Telecommunications, while political science Ph.D. candidate Ralph Schoellhammer joined the group as part of his doctoral research.

The grant was awarded by Lebanon’s former deputy prime minister, Issam Fares, who also owns Fares Farms in Lexington.

Accompanied by journalism lecturer Terry Anderson, the students visited Palestinian refugee camps, traveled around Lebanon, interviewed officials, and listened to lectures from top professors and experts. They also established a blog and wrote about life in the dorms of the American University of Beirut, spending time by the Mediterranean Sea, learning about the politics, culture and society of the region, and taking road trips to Baalbek, Byblos, Damascus and more.

The group contended with uncertain Internet connections, food that sometimes disagrees with the average American traveler and a large but friendly campus cat population, among other adventures. (To read their blog, go to www.beingbeirut.blogspot.com.)

“This has been a remarkable chance for these students to see part of the Middle East and to talk to the people who live here - Christian, Sunni, Shiite and Druze - about the region’s problems and opportunities,” Anderson said during the trip. “It’s a point of view they don’t get in the United States, and has helped them understand the Middle East more thoroughly than they would ever have been able to.”

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For the first time, students selected the winners of the Education Abroad Photo Contest by voting on Facebook.

These three images were chosen from among ten finalists. The winning photo (center) was taken by Yuen Chan in the Czech Republic. It features the “Key Sculpture” located in the town center of Prague. The sculpture was created by Jiri David in 2010.

Second place was awarded to a photograph taken in Japan by Clayton Bohle (left). Caroline Kosse won third place for the moment she captured in Egypt (right). To see all the finalists’ photos, visit UK International Affairs on Facebook.
What Do You “Noh?” UK Welcomes Japanese Theater Master

Wearing kimono, tying obi and strutting around in hakama are all part of the experience of UK’s Noh Theatre Workshop. This unique opportunity is made possible by the UK Department of Theatre’s Visiting International Guest Artist Atsuyoshi Asano.

“Asano -sensei” or “esteemed teacher Asano” is in Lexington for the academic year offering classes and performance opportunities in Noh, a type of Japanese classical theater that dates back to the 14th Century. The classes are open to students and community members.

Noh is not the kind of musical theater familiar to most Americans, but a slow, mesmerizing performance combining dance, music, poetry and chanting that is similar to opera. The main performer, called the “shite,” must be able to dance and sing, often while wearing a mask. According to Japanese aesthetics, Noh should connote “yuugen,” or “profound, dream-like beauty” through its often sad stories and expressionistic movement.

Following in a family tradition dating back generations, Asano’s father performed Noh. As a child, Asano watched him, yet never imagined that would be the path his life would take. He originally studied to be a veterinarian—but after graduating, he decided to continue the family tradition.

Today, Asano is a professional principal actor in Kyōto’s Kanze School of Noh. He completed his apprenticeship under Sugiura Motosaburo, who has been designated as a “Ningen-kokuho” or “Living National Treasure” by the Japanese government. This distinction is given to individuals recognized as preservers of intangible cultural property.

Asano first came to the United States in 2008 at the invitation of Dr. C. Michael Rich, Assistant Professor of Japanese in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Culture at Georgetown College. He taught several intensive workshops that were popular with students and community members. As a result, UK Department of Theatre members Nancy Jones and Robert Haven, together with the UK Asia Center, arranged to host him for a year-long residency.

Asano is teaching three classes at UK and is leading a separate session for interested members of the community—some of whom even travel from Louisville to study.

The Noh workshop is unlike most theater classes. Instead of studying scenes or basic movements, students learn through full immersion in Noh. They receive the same training as native Japanese performers. “Studying Noh is so different from learning lines, blocking, and character… but this has been a wonderful chance to experience a very different kind of theater. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said UK student Madison McGhee.

Asano and his students will perform Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall as part of the ArtsAsia Festival. Students will also demonstrate what they have learned in April as part of the UK Department of Theatre’s World Theatre Festival.

“This has been a wonderful chance to experience a very different kind of theater.”
- UK Student Madison McGhee