UK is helping Afghanistan Mine its Rich Resources

By Derrick Meads

The University of Kentucky College of Engineering’s Department of Mining Engineering is helping Balkh University (BU) in Mazār-e Sharif, Afghanistan build the capacity and quality of its mining engineering program.

The “U.S.-Afghan University Partnership with Balkh University in Engineering” program is funded by a $749,964 grant from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

BU is located in the second largest city in Afghanistan, Mazār-e Sharif, which was controlled by the Taliban from 1998 to late 2001, when it was taken with little violence by a coalition of Afghan, U.S. and allied forces. The city is now considered peaceful and safe for travelers.

Northern Afghanistan, where Mazār-e Sharif is located, has a very large, though

The Office of China Initiatives is Established on UK’s Campus

By Derrick Meads

The University of Kentucky is deepening its ties with China by establishing an on-campus Office of China Initiatives.

The Office of China Initiatives – located on UK’s campus, in Bradley Hall – is an outcome of the strategic planning conversations convened by the UK International Center (UKIC) during Spring 2013. UKIC provides coordination, consistency and focus for UK’s international work in seven world regions. During discussions about the collaborative opportunities available in China, faculty members stressed the need to focus our partnership efforts and to support UK faculty engagement with their colleagues in China.

China’s growth as an economic superpower has made it a priority for UKIC’s regional strategic vision.

“China is an area where UK can’t afford to be left behind,” said Susan Carvalho, associate provost for internationalization. “I think it’s fair to say that every college and university in the country has its eye on China and is looking for the connections that will yield the most benefit to their students and their scholars. So finding our place in the complicated map of Chinese higher education is an imperative.”

Continued on pg. 2

Practitioner-Scholars are Leading UKIC

By Derrick Meads

Practitioners lead professions, while scholars conduct research. There is often a clear division between these two roles, but not at the University of Kentucky International Center (UKIC).

Anthony Ogden, executive director of Education Abroad & Exchanges, actively publishes, presents, teaches and consults while leading UK’s very successful Education Abroad office

“I like the notion of a practitioner-scholar,” said Ogden. “People often think of scholar-practitioners: tenured faculty who take on administrative roles and become practitioners. But there are also practitioner-scholars: individuals who have developed their careers as practitioners, but have done so from an intellectual, scholarly position.”

Continued on pg. 9
Office of China Initiatives is Established on UK’s campus
(continued from pg. 1)
By Derrick Meads
Building on the success of the UK Confucius Institute, Huajing Maske will continue that leadership and will also serve as executive director of the Office of China Initiatives, focusing on UK’s strategic interests.

“The UK Confucius Institute helped establish many important partnerships with Chinese institutions,” said Maske. “The Office of China Initiatives will focus on putting these partnerships into real practice by helping faculty identify their Chinese collaborative counterparts and providing resources to help them succeed.”

The Office of China Initiatives will facilitate broader collaborations among Chinese and University of Kentucky scholars, and will support existing partnerships that require aligned research agendas and greater investment.

“Developing UK’s China partnerships will create new opportunities for funded collaborative research, as well as new student pipelines to and from China,” said Maske.

Collaborative Funded Research
The Chinese government offers significant funding opportunities to its top universities, when they engage in collaborative global research. UK faculty can access this funding through partnerships, and the Office of China Initiatives will help to establish or extend these partnerships. Similarly, major funders in the U.S., such as the NSF, are offering grants for U.S. researchers who are collaborating with international scholars.

“The more we can link with those universities faculty-to-faculty and department-to-department, the better positioned we will be to apply for collaborative grants based in the U.S. or in China,” said Carvalho. “We are looking to establish the kinds of shared interest and synergies that would position our researchers and theirs for some of those funding opportunities.”

An example of collaborative funded research is UK’s Center for Applied Energy Research’s (CAER) participation in the U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center.

“China is making the most investments right now, with respect to coal use and also at the scale in which they’re doing it,” said Rodney Andrews, director of CAER. “They’re willing to do large-scale tests that aren’t going on anywhere else.”

CAER is participating in the U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center through its Power Generation Group, Algae Research Group and Coal Ash Group to develop next-generation clean coal technologies, carbon capture and storage.

Student Pipelines
The Office of China Initiatives will also develop avenues for UK students to visit China for international education experiences, and for students from China to study at the University of Kentucky.

“China also has a strong presence in UK’s student body. Currently 44.2 percent of the international students at UK come from China.”

The Office of China Initiatives, in collaboration with International Enrollment Management, will help recruit Chinese students to UK through Chinese high school and university partnerships.

Outcomes
The Office of China Initiatives hopes not only to increase collaborative research and international education at UK, but also to expand opportunities for shared instruction with Chinese universities, building toward eventual dual degrees and UK credits delivered in China.

“As the world’s leading exporter, with the world’s second-largest economy, there is no question that China is a dominant player in the 21st century marketplace,” said Carvalho. “We would like our faculty and our students to be attuned to economic, political and social developments in China so that they have a context for understanding the trade relationships that are developing.”

For more information about the Office of China Initiatives, contact the Executive Director of the Office of China Initiatives Huajing Maske: huajing.maske@uky.edu
UK Students Receive Scholarships to Study Critical Languages

By Whitney Hale

Two University of Kentucky students have been awarded Critical Language Scholarships to study the Arabic and Turkish languages. Marketing and media arts and studies sophomore and Global Scholar Jordie Gamble will travel to Morocco for her Arabic language studies, while anthropology doctoral student Lydia Roll will return to Turkey for her second year of language coursework in Turkish.

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program, a program of the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, will offer intensive summer language institutes overseas in 13 critical-need foreign languages during the summer of 2014. The CLS Program is part of a U.S. government effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical need foreign languages. Program participants are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship period and later apply their critical language skills in their professional careers.

Jordie Gamble, a 2012 graduate of Christian Academy of Louisville, is the daughter of Lisa and Shannon Gamble of Louisville, Ky.

Gamble, who also plans to study abroad in Spain next fall, will use her Critical Language Scholarship in Arabic to strengthen her conversational skills and learn more about the culture. “I will bring my Arabic skills up to a fully conversational level that will increasingly open up the opportunities available to me. I will also gain valuable experience about living abroad and how to assimilate to new cultures gracefully, a lesson that will come in handy if I’m to become a viable player in the global marketplace.”

The Global Scholar credits Nada Majzoub, her Arabic teacher in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages Literatures and Cultures, for her love of Arabic. “She helped inspire me in a love for the language while breaking it down into manageable portions. I’m so grateful to her.”

Upon completion of her bachelor’s degree, Gamble would like to work with a global nonprofit on marketing and promotional materials.

This is the second Critical Language Scholarship awarded to Lydia Roll, daughter of Darla and Roger Pitman of Bloomington, Ind., and Michael and Cheryl Roll of Marathon, Fla. She will use the second scholarship to help prepare her for a year of living in Istanbul to complete her dissertation.

“I conducted three weeks of preliminary dissertation fieldwork in Istanbul during May 2013. Additionally, I will conduct 12 months of dissertation research in Turkey, beginning in 2015. While there, I will engage in participant observation and ethnographic interviews with university students. For this reason, conversational Turkish language skills are essential. Participation in the Critical Language Scholarship Program will provide the opportunity to strengthen my Turkish language skills, thereby enabling me to conduct my research.”

Roll, who holds a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University, became interested in studying Turkish after living in the International House at the University of Chicago while she was a master’s student at Loyola University. “At I-House, I was able to make friends from around the world, including a group of Turkish students who, over countless cups of tea and conversation, inspired my initial interest in studying Turkish.”

At UK, Roll credits her advisor in anthropology, Diane E. King, with providing invaluable guidance, including the process of narrowing her research focus and crafting the application for the CLS program.

Upon completion of her doctoral degree, Roll plans to become a university professor.

The CLS Program provides fully-funded, group-based intensive language instruction and cultural enrichment experiences for seven to 10 weeks for U.S. citizens who are undergraduate, master’s and doctoral students. During the summer program, participants will cover approximately one academic year of university-level language coursework. The application for the 2015 summer program will be available in the fall on the CLS website: http://clscholarship.org.

For students interested in language immersion, the National Security Education Program Boren Scholarship may also be an opportunity to consider.

Students interested in applying for the CLS and/or Boren Scholarships should contact Pat Whitlow, director of the UK Office of External Scholarships (OES). Students who are interested in these opportunities are encouraged to begin work with OES well in advance of the scholarship deadline.
Students Share Their Experiences of “enKompassing” the World
By Carmen Stinson

UK Education Abroad (EA) is inspiring students to “enKompass” the world by sharing the stories and experiences of students who have studied, interned, researched and even taught abroad through journal entries, videos and program reviews.

“EnKompass is a one-stop forum for students by students,” said Seth Riker, promotion and outreach coordinator for Education Abroad. “Students can access candid testimonials which will inspire them to dive into an education abroad program and find avenues to make it financially possible.”

Riker believes students can relate with other students who have already experienced how an education abroad program helped them achieve their academic goals.

Students who are interested in studying abroad can meet with an Education Abroad Peer Ambassador – a student who has studied abroad and wants to help other students do the same.

Peer Ambassadors help students choose which program will benefit them the most and guide them through the application process.

Peer Ambassador Caitlin Banbury believes, “if students can relate to our experience of immersing ourselves in a new culture, it will influence them to venture out of their comfort zones and experience a new outlook on the world.”

The number of UK students who choose to study abroad has increased substantially in recent years. Enrollment in education abroad programs has nearly doubled, from 600 students in 2009-10 to over 1000 students in the 2013-14 academic year.

“EnKompass brings a greater sense of community to the education abroad experience, and will help students on their road to a new and diverse perspectives,” said Riker.

Visit the blog: www.enkompassuky.com

UK Student Wins Scholarship to Study at Oxford
By Whitney Hale

University of Kentucky’s Ryan Winstead, an English and gender and women’s studies junior, has been awarded an English-Speaking Union (ESU) Scholarship presented by the Kentucky Branch of the English-Speaking Union. The scholarship will cover Winstead’s expenses for summer study at the University of Oxford.

The Kentucky Branch of the English-Speaking Union awards a limited number of scholarships to qualified Kentucky college students for courses offered at institutions in the United Kingdom. Scholarship awards include tuition, lodging and two meals daily for three-week courses at the institutions chosen by the scholarship winners. Scholarships also include one week’s lodging in London and a cash allowance.

ESU scholarships are awarded for studies in English literature, history and social sciences at Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh University for the summer of 2014. Scholarship winners, selected through an essay and interview process for the program, are expected to become articulate lifelong ambassadors for British/American cultural exchanges.

Winstead looks forward to pursuing studies in English literature while at Oxford. “The ESU will grant me invaluable insight into English literature that will be essential in my career path, as well as allow me to travel abroad.”

The son of Denise and Russel Winstead, of Madisonville, Ky., Winstead is a 2011 Madisonville North Hopkins High School graduate. Besides pursuing majors in English and gender and women’s studies, Winstead has also taken on undergraduate research working with Michael Trask, associate professor of English, social theory, and gender and women’s studies, rhetorically analyzing the young adult LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) literature genre.

Winstead was attracted to his area of studies in his pursuit of finding a way to lend his voice in the fight for LGBTQ rights. “My

Continued on pg. 6
Educational Policy Professor Devotes Career to International Initiatives
By Jenny Wells

Beth Goldstein, associate professor and interim chair in the College of Education’s Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation (EPE), has devoted her career to international initiatives, particularly in Southeast Asia and China.

The University of Kentucky has been her academic home since 1986. She says UK was one of the first American universities to start working in development projects in Southeast Asia during the 1950’s, which is what attracted her to the university.

“My own background is in Southeast Asian studies, and so that was very exciting for me to come into a university environment where there were institutional initiatives either in place or pending in the region,” she said.

In 1993, Goldstein was the first academic dean of the American Universities Twinning Program, an undergraduate program initiated by UK with a private college in Malaysia. For the last seven years, she has been involved in several projects in the development of higher education in Indonesia. Her current project is in higher education leadership and management.

By the time the project is completed, she and her colleagues will have worked with 50 Indonesian universities, polytechnics and potentially some new community colleges.

“We are helping to facilitate leadership development as these institutions become more autonomous from central government control,” said Goldstein. “We are also working to resolve equity issues for women and underserved student populations.”

Goldstein has been working for several years in Asian programming at UK, particularly Chinese programs. She originally served as co-director of the UK Asia Center, and now serves on its steering committee.

“Through that initiative we are able to start exploring linked programs with universities in China, as well as in Japan, for ongoing faculty and student exchanges.”

Goldstein’s work with the Asia Center also contributed to the creation of the Confucius Institute at UK. She worked with groups that helped identify institutions in China for UK to partner with, and then initiated the application with the Chinese government. UK’s Confucius Institute was established in 2010, and Goldstein now serves on its steering committee.

“The UK Confucius Institute has grown by leaps and bounds,” said Goldstein. “It’s one of the strongest of the Confucius Institutes in the U.S., and even globally has received lots of acclaim from the Chinese government for the programming that it does.”

Through her early involvement in the UK Confucius Institute, Goldstein has also helped set up Chinese language programs in the Central Kentucky area, particularly in Woodford and Fayette counties. Through a grant from STARTALK, Goldstein and her colleagues were able to initiate a program at UK to certify Chinese language teachers for public schools.

In addition to her position in the EPE program, Goldstein is also an associate faculty member in UK’s Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, and in the Department of Anthropology. She is also the director of a new graduate certificate in International Education.

“We’ve had a flow of students through the EPE department for years with interest in comparative and international education, and we wanted to grow that component of the department both in terms of coursework and opportunities for students,” she said. “We wanted to contribute specifically to some sort of a structured form of professional development for students, both inside and outside of our department.”

Goldstein says the creation of this certificate aligns with the goals of the UK International Center.

“The International Center has really made a commitment to grow and particularly to expand opportunities for education abroad, as well as for international students and scholar services here,” she said. “(This certificate) was an opportune time to come together on that.”
In “Kentucky Marine: Major General Logan Feland and the Making of the Modern USMC,” David Bettez, former director of the Office of International Affairs at the University of Kentucky (now the University of Kentucky International Center), writes the forgotten story of another Kentucky man, an influential soldier of the seas.

The University of Press of Kentucky (UPK) book, based on the life of Hopkinsville native Major General Logan Feland, is on sale now and was the subject of a recent broadcast of WUKY’s radio show “Curtains @ 8” on April.

“Kentucky Marine” illuminates the major role of one Kentuckian in the development of the modern U.S. Marine Corps.

Feland’s career spanned the Spanish-American War, World War I and the Nicaraguan revolution, leading him to become one of the USMC’s most highly ranked and regarded officers during a time of U.S. expansion as a global power.

Reflecting the changing nature of the USMC during the 20th century, Bettez captures Feland as a transitional figure in USMC’s history. His leadership of the operation to find rebel leader Augusto César Sandino during the Nicaraguan revolution set the stage for similar 21st century operations in the Middle East. Feland also became one of the first instructors in the USMC’s Advanced Base Force, which served as the forerunner of the amphibious assault force mission the Marines adopted in World War II.

“In this well-written biography, Bettez not only presents Feland’s achievements but also points out his ambition and competitiveness in dealing with the internal politics of the Corps,” said Edward M. Coffman, author of “The Embattled Past: Reflections on Military History.”

Bettez’s book also describes Feland’s private life, drawing from personal letters, contemporary news articles, official communications of the USMC and confidential correspondence.

Bettez, a native of Lexington, now living in Georgetown, Ky., attended UK for his master’s and doctoral studies, focusing on post-1848 European diplomatic history. He received a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Notre Dame. After living, studying and volunteering abroad, Bettez returned to UK and fulfilled a variety of roles, finally being named as the director of the Office of International Affairs at UK, a position he retired from in 2010.

UPK is the scholarly publisher for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, representing a consortium that now includes all of the state universities, five private colleges and two historical societies. Led by Director Stephen Wrinn, its editorial program focuses on the humanities and the social sciences. Offices for the administrative, editorial, production and marketing departments of the press are found at UK, which provides financial support toward the operating expenses of the publishing operation.

---

UK Student Wins Scholarship to Study at Oxford (continued from pg. 4)

By Whitney Hale

experience as an LGBTQ individual growing up in a small Western Kentucky home prompted me to use my opportunity in college to explore and fight for rights for social outsiders. I believe writing is an especially effective way to accomplish this.”

Outside of the classroom, the Gaines Fellow and former Chellgren Fellow is a member of UK’s Speech and Debate Team and Phi Beta Kappa. Winstead also finds time to volunteer coaching local chess clubs and previously interned with the Lexington publication Ace Weekly.

Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, Winstead plans to pursue a doctoral degree in English.

The ESU of the United States is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, educational service organization whose mission is to promote scholarship and the advancement of knowledge through the effective use of English in an expanding global community. Headquartered in New York City, the organization implements programs through a network of 78 branches throughout the United States. The Kentucky branch of the ESU was chartered in 1923 by local business and civic leaders. Since 1960, more than 450 Kentucky teachers and college students have been awarded scholarships by the Kentucky branch of the ESU.

Students interested in applying for the ESU Award should contact Pat Whitlow, director of the UK Office of External Scholarships (OES). Part of the Academy of Undergraduate Excellence within the Division of Undergraduate Education, OES assists current UK undergraduate and graduate students and recent alumni in applying for external scholarships and fellowships funded by sources (such as a nongovernment foundation or government agency) outside the university. These major awards honor exceptional students across the nation. Students who are interested in these opportunities are encouraged to begin work with OES well in advance of the scholarship deadline.
Medical brigade from Lexington travels to India to care for ‘special children’
By Ashley Scoby

Wearing a bright orange shirt that reflects his exuberance, a 6-year-old throws around all the toys he can reach in a cramped, dingy room without air conditioning. He won’t respond to his name, Harshit, but he likes all the noises he can make with the cheap plastic surrounding him.

Autism, the doctors and special educators think.

“Reciprocity is a problem here,” says Dr. Dan Larrow, a developmental pediatrician at the University of Kentucky. That means the boy doesn’t respond to stimuli such as someone calling his name.

“If this were a kid coming into our Lexington clinic, we’d know we have a challenge,” Larrow says.

But this boy in neon orange with the liquid-brown eyes is not in Lexington, he’s in the rural Indian village of Mayasandra. And the professionals evaluating him are part of a multidisciplinary team from Lexington that has traveled halfway across the world to deliver medical care and recommendations.

This annual brigade is led by Dr. Thomas Young, a UK professor of pediatrics and chair of UK’s Shoulder to Shoulder Global program, which operates a primary care clinic in Ecuador. Young; Dr. Mike Anstead, a UK pediatric pulmonologist; Dr. Harohalli Shashidhar, a former UK physician; Shashidhar’s father-in-law, Dr. M.N. Subramanya, a retired surgeon originally from Mayasandra; and the Shoulder to Shoulder Global board all helped fund the clinic’s setup in the Indian village.

Since 2009, Young has led several groups from Lexington, consisting of students and professionals, to work at the clinic for a week. After they saw 500 children at their first Mayasandra clinic, Young and his group decided to design their plan of care based on the community’s needs.

“We saw all these kids with disabilities. It was such an obvious need,” he said. “I didn’t envision all this when I started. You learn and make mistakes, and try to get better next time.”

Young has worked with Subramanya in India to perfect a model for how Lexington can bring its talents to children in Mayasandra with special health needs, physical and mental.

“These children are special children,” Subramanya said. “Before, all they had was a label. Nobody claimed them. Nobody taught them.”

The trip has evolved into an unprecedented multidisciplinary approach that pulls from all corners of the Lexington medical community. This year fourteen people participated, including special educators, a speech and language therapist, pediatric residents, physical-therapy students and other professionals. All but the speech and language therapist work in the Lexington area.

“It was a great experience to know what each member contributed to the team,” said Ann Cooper, a UK physical therapy student who went on the trip. “You saw what the doctors specifically do, what the special educators specifically do, PT, speech and language. It was interesting to see a team working together that’s not spread out in a hospital. They’re all in one room.”

In that same room all walks of rural Indian life are represented. There is the 4-year-old girl who hasn’t learned to walk, crawl or even roll over. There is a 16-year-old boy with an oversize grin permanently on his face and little to no ability to communicate.

There are those with cerebral palsy, the children diagnosed as developmentally delayed, and the sisters who were born deaf.

There are those who live in shacks without running water or electricity, and those who traveled six hours to visit the group from Kentucky.

“Emotionally, it’s difficult to see the resources are so much more limited here,” said Trevor Tanous, a physical therapist
at Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital traveling to Mayasandra for the first time. “Emotionally, it’s also exciting to see that we are able to identify and help some kids get better care.”

Although the group from Kentucky is in Mayasandra just once a year, the week-long trip has an air of permanence in a country searching for long-term solutions rather than financial band-aids.

Young learned from his Shoulder to Shoulder trips to Ecuador that long-term planning was key.

“You have to have the sustainability piece,” he said. “I didn’t realize that when I first started. We were just going to take residents down there and save all these kids. Then you realize disappearing after a week does no good.”

The clinic in India continues even without its American supporters on hand. It is staffed year-round, and a van, funded by Shoulder to Shoulder Global, collects children from 16 villages and brings them in.

The multidisciplinary approach is new to Young’s program, but it’s a model that is proving helpful for the Mayasandra children with disabilities.

“All those professionals look at the child through a different lens, so we all bring our different experiences and knowledge, and that’s the best way to provide treatment,” said Katherine McCormick, an interdisciplinary early childhood education professor at UK who went on this year’s Mayasandra trip. “The approach is more immediate. I can ask the physical therapist, ‘How do you think this movement impacts the child’s ability to learn?’ and she can tell me immediately.”

Not only does the multidisciplinary approach assist in treating and diagnosing children with disabilities, but there is also an educational component for the participants. Younger professionals get international real-world experience.

Several Indian medical students got that experience as well, working alongside the group from Lexington and acting as translators.

“As medical students, we rarely get to step out of our domain and interact with fields related to medicine, fields we’d likely work with in the future,” said Layma Ibrahim, a student at India’s Mysore Medical College and Research Institute. “The camp in Mayasandra not only demonstrated how effective such an interdisciplinary approach could be, but also gave us the opportunity to be a part of it.”

All those puzzle pieces have come together to create an institution Young and his colleagues hope will last for years in the remote Indian village. Although money is donated to the cause from those in Kentucky, they are not feeding money into a broken system. Rather, they’re creating a system that’s self-sustaining.

A theme of this year’s Mayasandra trip, for example, was evaluating opportunities for overseas staff training. Telemedicine equipment has been donated to the clinic by Polycom in India, and Young hopes to use the technology for video conferencing, medical consultations and other communications between Ky. and India.

Expanding telemedicine opportunities, increasing the variety of professionals traveling to Mayasandra and continuing to build the clinic’s infrastructure are all goals for the interdisciplinary group. Subramanya has offered to donate land for a new clinic, if about $75,000 can be raised for building costs. Certified teachers need to be hired within the clinic, and that comes with a price tag, too.

Plans, and passion for pursuing them, abound with the project. Subramanya and Young have talked about developing vocational workshops to train the clinic’s children in skills such as baking or crafting to help them in daily life. For that to be achieved, the multidisciplinary approach will continue.

“Before, these kids just stayed in the house and were very isolated,” Young said. “That’s a big deal to a child’s life. I wish there was a way to quantify that, but I think that’s what we’re most proud of.”
Practitioner-Scholars are Leading UKIC
(continued from pg. 1)

By Derrick Meads

Ogden has been very busy in his practitioner role. Through his leadership, Education Abroad enrollment has dramatically increased in recent years and has far exceeded national trends, from just under 600 students in 2009-2010 to over 1,000 students in 2013-14. UK students have studied, interned, conducted research and taught in over 50 different countries, including destinations such as Cuba, Zambia and Indonesia.

While he has been growing international education on UK’s campus Ogden is also advancing the field of international education through a forthcoming book, titled “A research agenda for the internationalization of higher education in the United States.”

Building on an already long list of publications on international education, Ogden has also authored chapters in two Oxford University Press edited volumes this year: “Education in North America” and “Internationalization of Higher Education and Global Mobility.”

Ogden is also publishing a chapter in the 4th edition of “NAFSA’s Guide to Education Abroad for Advisers and Administrators.” Ogden’s chapter is titled “Effective Utilization of Institutional Data for Strategic Education Abroad Planning and Campus Advocacy.”

Education Abroad Advisor Thomas Teague has also been selected to author a chapter in NAFSA’s guide. Teague’s chapter, “While Abroad,” covers information on how to advise and support students while they are abroad.

Elizabeth Leibach, director of UKIC’s International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office, is also actively publishing while expanding ISSS’s services.

Through Leibach’s leadership ISSS, and working with Professor Tom Clayton has expanded its services to international students enrolled in the Center for English as a Second Language (CESL). ISSS has also developed new workshops, courses and resources to help UK’s academic advisors provide better service to international students.

Leibach has coauthored articles in professional publications such as the International Educator magazine published by the Association of International Educators (NAFSA), and the American Society for Engineering Education’s (ASEE) journal.

Leibach’s NAFSA article reviewed various advising models used by international student offices around the U.S., and assessed how the models were implemented over time. The ASEE article explored common challenges universities face when developing an international transfer articulation agreement.

Recently Leibach received a Fulbright International Education Administrator Seminar award to study South Korea’s educational systems this summer.

During her Fulbright in South Korea, Leibach plans to meet with government officials, ministry of higher education officials, universities and other private industries to understand what motivates students to study in the U.S. and what avenues they take to get here.

“The system by which South Korean students gain scholarships and access to higher education in the U.S. is very diverse, including nontraditional avenues such as private businesses that sponsor their staff for graduate study in the U.S.,” said Leibach.

Leibach hopes her Fulbright will also help her better understand Korean students on UK’s campus – there were 137 South Korean students on campus during the Fall 2013 semester.

“This will help me promote the culture of South Korea on our campus and ensure UK is prepared to partner with South Korean institutions, which will increase the number and quality of South Korean students, scholars and faculty on UK’s campus,” said Leibach.

Susan Carvalho, associate provost for internationalization, creates an environment of excellence by encouraging UKIC staff to be leaders in their professional and scholarly pursuits.

“UK needs not only to be following national and global best practices, but to be creating those best practices and sharing them with our colleagues at other universities,” said Carvalho. “Such contributions to our evolving field of expertise serve to promote UK, at the same time that they sharpen our own awareness of what we do and how we measure our growth. As scholars, we simultaneously serve our students, our university and our profession.”

In addition, said Carvalho, “Our scholarship helps us talk to UK’s faculty as peers and professionals. This is an intellectual community that respects—and expects—scholarly rigor behind all of our assertions about the benefits and methods of internationalization.”
Two UK Students Awarded Undergraduate Research Abroad Scholarships

By Jenny Wells

Two University of Kentucky juniors have received the Undergraduate Research Abroad Scholarship (UGRAS) which will support their international independent research projects during the 2014 summer session.

Tamas Nagy, a computer science and chemistry double major in the Colleges of Engineering and Arts & Sciences, and Alexis Thompson, an animal science/pre-veterinary science major in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, have been awarded the scholarships, which support experienced undergraduate researchers as they explore their academic interests abroad with the support of UK faculty mentors.

The UGRAS scholarships are the result of a collaboration between the UK Office of Undergraduate Research and Education Abroad at UK, and will pay up to $5,000 toward the costs of Nagy and Thompson's research projects.

“We are so proud of our UGRAS awardees and very excited about the projects they are undertaking,” said Diane Snow, director of UK's Office of Undergraduate Research. “Research has no boundaries. A researcher’s interests can take them across this country, or across the globe to find answers. These international projects will enhance the student’s research capacity here at UK, as well as their UK mentors’ research programs – a true ‘win-win!’”

Nagy will complete his project, “Systems Biology of Rotavirus Infection: Inferring Functional Host-Virus Genetic Interactions by Mapping Cellular Response to Infection and RNAi Perturbation,” in Switzerland under the mentorship of Lucas Pelkmans at the University of Zurich. Nagy’s UK faculty mentor is Rebecca Dutch, professor of molecular and cellular biochemistry.

“I am honored and excited to receive this award; it will let me experience and contribute to a world-class systems biology lab over the summer,” said Nagy, who is also a Singletary Scholar, Chellgren Fellow and Honors Program student. “I intend to make good use of this grant to go and explore a field that I am very interested in and one that I am considering for graduate school. With this scholarship, UK is offering a very special opportunity to its students that is not available at most other Research I universities. In addition to providing its students with local research options, this scholarship helps driven students to investigate new areas and ideas at excellent institutions abroad.”

Thompson will complete her project, “Ideal level of slow release urea for dairy cows on a grass silage diet,” in Brazil under the mentorship of Marcos Marcondes at the Universidade Federal de Viçosa. Thompson’s UK faculty mentor is Jeffrey Bewley, assistant professor of animal and food sciences.

“I have been involved in research since I started at UK,” said Thompson. “My overall goal for myself is to gain experience with how research is conducted in other countries and cultural differences of the world. This project lets me travel and achieve both of these goals. My future plans are to attend veterinary school and become a practicing veterinarian. The project influences my future plans by allowing me to understand and interpret research to provide the best services to my patients and strengthen my communication skills with my clients.”

The institutional benefit of undergraduate research is only a part of why Anthony Ogden, executive director of Education Abroad & Exchanges, deems the scholarships a smart investment.

“As a Research I institution, we are investing in students to ensure they graduate with the knowledge and skills to engage with their discipline on the world stage. Conducting research abroad will help students learn the demands and rigor of their field in a way they wouldn’t at UK, or anywhere in the U.S.”

Ogden has observed that undergraduate students who participate in research abroad programs often go on to pursue graduate or professional degrees in their fields.

“These experiences not only foster necessary skills in a given field, but they also lay the foundation for a student’s professional network.”
UK Delegation to Visit Shanghai University to Teach and Collaborate

By Derrick Meads

Fifteen UK faculty will teach students at Shanghai University (SHU) in China for a week this summer through the UK Confucius Institute's (UKCI) “UK Faculty China Short-Term Teaching Program,” during the week of June 16-20.

The program fosters global literacy throughout the UK campus by embedding UK faculty members in SHU’s departments where they teach students for one week, meet professional colleagues, identify shared research interests and gain key insights into China that they can then share with their students in Kentucky.

“Students need to know how knowledge is created, disseminated and used in a commercial and global environment of commerce,” said Susan Carvalho, associate provost for internationalization. “By sending UK faculty from a broad range of disciplines to teach at Shanghai University – some of whom have never been to China – they will return with global experiences and perspectives that will be infused across campus.”

Following the teaching week, UK Provost Christine Riordan, College of Arts & Sciences Dean Mark Kornbluh, College of Fine Arts Dean Michael Tick, Associate Provost for Internationalization Susan Carvalho and UKCI Director Huajing Maske will join the visiting UK faculty to celebrate “UK Week at SHU,” from June 23-27. The team will then go on to visit other Chinese partner universities.

During “UK Week at SHU” members of the UK delegation will give lectures providing Shanghai University faculty members the opportunity to connect with UK’s disciplinary and academic expertise.

The UK Confucius Institute held a similar “UK Week” at Jilin University in Spring 2012. Seven UK Deans led by Interim Provost Tim Tracy spent five days at Jilin University giving academic talks, and met with their counterparts to discuss collaborative opportunities.

The UK-JLU Collaborative Framework was established as a result of “UK Week” at Jilin University, which includes a 2+2 agreement and faculty exchange agreement with the Gatton College of Business and Economics, and a 4+2 agreement with the College of Public Health. Partnerships with UK’s Computer Science Department, College of Communication and Information and College of Arts & Sciences are still being negotiated.

Ernest Yanarella, chair of the Department of Political Science, taught a course as part of the “UK Faculty China Short-Term Teaching Program” in 2012. The title of his course was, “Bridging Modernity, Globalization, and Sustainable Development in China and the West.”

Yanarella said that such partnerships are a win-win situation for Chinese universities and UK.

“The opportunity for UK faculty to teach at Chinese universities opens up possibilities of promoting greater cultural understanding across political and other divides and generating collaborative teaching and research projects with Chinese scholars,” he said.

As the Executive Director of the Office of China Initiatives; Maske is hoping “UK Week at SHU” will help UK faculty find opportunities to access research dollars that are available in China through collaborative research. “There are considerable resources that UK faculty can access in China that will help them fund their research, access data and increase opportunities to publish.”

The opening ceremony and reception for “UK Week at SHU” will also be an opportunity to celebrate and connect with UK’s alumni in China.

“We are very excited about inviting all of our alumni in China to the opening ceremony and reception,” said Maske. “The number of UK alumni in China is rapidly growing every year. This is such a great way to create community and opportunity for everyone involved.”

The event will be hosted by UKCI, the Office of China Initiatives and Shanghai University.
UK is helping Afghanistan Mine its Rich Resources (continued from pg. 1)

By Derrick Meads

Rick Honaker, chair of UK's Department of Mining Engineering, meeting with administrators at Balkh University in Mazār-e Sharif, Afghanistan.

unexplored, mineral base. Extracting these natural resources could have a tremendous impact on Afghanistan's economic well-being. To help access these natural resources, Afghanistan will need a large number of engineers, particularly in resource estimation and mining.

“The goal of the project is to help the Afghans to be as self sufficient as possible,” said Rick Honaker, chair of UK’s Department of Mining Engineering. “When the U.S. divests and reduces its military presence, Afghans will need to generate an economy that is fruitful and strong and based on the resources that they have.”

UK will help build BU’s capacity to train mining engineers over a three-year period by developing new surveying, computing and deformable solids laboratories, an online engineering library, and a video-conferencing system. UK will also provide training for BU faculty on UK’s campus.

The first BU faculty group visited UK during the Spring 2014 semester and received training to use the deformable solids laboratory equipment, attended the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City and observed mining courses.

“We are training the trainers — the whole aspect of having them here is that they will train their peers on their return,” said Honaker. “They are very excited about learning to use the equipment. This allows them to see all of the theory that they have been teaching actually work in a laboratory setting.”

UK’s Department of Mining Engineering is also helping BU develop its curriculum.

BU is currently using a dated USSR geology curriculum to teach its students. To help BU develop its curriculum into a full mining engineering program UK will provide course materials, training, faculty exchanges, joint research activities and access to data.

Ahmad Sabety, a visiting BU faculty member, is looking forward to sharing what he has learned with his students in Afghanistan.

“We want to improve our students so that they can help access Afghanistan’s resources,” Sabety said. “Twenty percent of my country is mountainous, with deposits such as iron, copper and petroleum — there is a lot of opportunity.”

Honaker and Jhon Silva-Castro, assistant professor in UK’s Department of Mining Engineering, recently visited BU’s campus to meet with the chancellor of BU and the dean of BU’s mining engineering program, to tour their campus and discuss how the partnership could be most effective.

“BU’s dean of mining engineering is looking to change the program dramatically — to build it from the ground up,” Honaker said. “He would love to see his program become ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accredited one day, and become a leader in Afghanistan.”

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul hopes that UK and BU’s partnership will continue long after the three-year project through student and faculty exchanges and collaborative faculty research.

“Our presence in Afghanistan, not as government officials, conveys the interest of the American people in developing friendly, close relationships, not just government to government, or institution to institution, but person to person, people to people,” said Gary Gaffield, assistant provost for international partnerships. “I think there’s real value in that.”