

Professor Helps Transform Agriculture in Burma

By Derrick Meads

The University of Kentucky has increased its ability to engage in smart, innovative agricultural development work in countries like Burma, through the return of Brent Rowell as the Extension Specialist in International and Sustainable Horticulture in the UK College of Agriculture.

Rowell began his career at UK as the state extension vegetable crops specialist in the College of Agriculture in 1994, becoming a full professor by 2005.

In 2003 Rowell was awarded a Fulbright to develop his work to reduce pesticide use in Thailand. During his time in Thailand, Rowell visited Burma to see what kind of agricultural work was being done there.

"Burma (also called Myanmar) is a fascinating place, the people are wonderful

Continued on pg. 6



Rowell and his Burmese counterpart, Mar Lar Soe, measure drip irrigation system uniformity in a test plot on the grounds of Rangoon's 2500-year-old Shwe Dagon Pagoda.

UK Builds Higher Education Capacity in Regions Proximate to Conflict

By Derrick Meads

George Blandford, chair of UK's civil engineering department, and Gary Gaffield, assistant provost for international partnerships, led workshops for the Iraq University Administration Support Program's (UASP) University Management Training Course in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

UASP assists academic leaders by strengthening their foundations in university administration. This program fosters the development of higher education management capacity in the seven university partnerships that participate in the University Linkages Program (ULP), laying the groundwork for sustainable development in Iraq.

Blandford led workshops about assess-



ment and accreditation, while Gaffield led the sessions on leadership, strategic planning and institutional relations/advancement.

"UK is becoming recognized for its understanding of not only the conditions of higher education in Iraq, but also the

Continued on pg. 12

UKIC Identifies University's Greatest Global Opportunities

By Derrick Meads

The University of Kentucky International Center (UKIC) is leading the development of a new strategic plan that will align with UK President Eli Capilouto's priorities of enhancing educational excellence and seeking external funding to support that enhancement.

To focus UKIC's strategic planning, Susan Carvalho, associate provost for international programs, has organized a process to identify geographic hubs that offer the greatest opportunities to meet President Capilouto's priorities.

"We are in an environment of finite resources," Carvalho said. "The International Center needs to focus its resources

Continued on pg. 8

UK Delegation Visits Cuba and Learns About its Healthcare System

By Derrick Meads

A delegation of 20 UK students, hospital administrators, faculty and staff recently returned from an Education Abroad program in Cuba, where they explored the country's unique healthcare system.

Although it is considered a developing country, and has faced many problems since the revolution of 1959, Cuba is well known for the success of its healthcare programs. It has the highest life expectancy and the lowest childhood mortality rate in Latin America.

The delegation, led by Peter Berres, retired assistant dean for student affairs in the College of Health Sciences, and Claudia Hopenhayn, associate professor in the College of Public Health, in collaboration with Witness for Peace and the Martin Luther King Center in Cuba, met with a broad range of healthcare professionals, from family doctors to some of the top medical specialists in the country.

"Cuba was rarely in the media for my generation," said Brigid Cecil, a public health masters student. "But I did know that Cuba's health care system is known as one of the best in the world, in terms of being cost beneficial."

The 50-year U.S. embargo has left Cuba with few resources. To be effective the country has invested in prevention and health promotion at all levels of its healthcare system.

"For example, in Havana there is a family physician for each four-block area," said Peter Berres. "The physician cares for entire families – they go to their homes, they live in same communities and they know their patients. The knowledge of families from generation to generation among these physicians is highly valuable for preventative care."

Unlike many developing countries Cuba does not have a shortage of physicians. There is a doctor for every 170 residents in Cuba, which is the second highest ratio in the world according to the World Health Organization. The surplus allows



The UK delegation at a nursing home in Havana, Cuba.

Cuban physicians spend one to two years working in countries that are in dire need of medical care.

In addition to exporting its physicians, Cuba is also helping countries develop their health care infrastructure through its Elam Latin American School of Medicine.

"Elam started out as a humanitarian effort for hurricane-devastated Central American countries, and soon developed into a permanent training site for a wider range of countries," said Hopenhayn. "There are currently about 50 U.S. students studying there; we met one student from Wyoming, who is glad to get a free medical education, while learning Spanish."

Berres added, "U.S. medical students who have been trained in Cuba have a very high rate of passing the Medical Licensing Examination in the United States."

The delegation also noted some of the disadvantages of Cuba's healthcare system, such as the quality of its facilities.

"Many of the problems with Cuba's healthcare system are associated with the American embargo," said Berres. "This prevents them from having access to the latest pharmaceutical and technological advances."

Despite the embargo, Cuban research laboratories are developing innovative procedures, such as a vaccine for lung cancer and a treatment for diabetes that can prevent amputations.

"They have things that we as U.S. citizens – because of the embargo – do not have access to," said Sarah Yeiser, a masters in public health student. "It is not just a one-way relationship; we have an opportunity to benefit from Cuba."

The delegation met with many Cubans who shared their thoughts about their country and its healthcare system.

"Everyone we spoke with was willing to discuss the problems in Cuba with us, including their low salaries and scarcity of certain products," said Hopenhayn. "Yet they all praised their healthcare and educational systems, which are free for all citizens. Cuba may not be perfect, but Cubans seemed very proud of what their country has achieved."

According to Education Abroad Director Anthony Ogden, it had been a long time since UK planned a program in Cuba. Nonetheless, he is looking forward to promoting Drs. Berres' and Hopenhayn's Cuba program again next year.

Three UK Students are Awarded Undergraduate Research Abroad Scholarships

By Seth Riker

Education Abroad (EA) and the Office of Undergraduate Research (UGR) awarded three UK students an Undergraduate Research Abroad Scholarship (UGRAS) to support their international independent research projects during the summer session.

The scholarships are the result of a new collaboration between EA and UGR to support experienced undergraduate researchers as they explore their academic interests abroad – with the support of their UK faculty mentors.

“Research has no boundaries,” says Diane Snow, director of UK’s Office of Undergraduate Research, “A researcher’s interests can take them across this country, or across the globe, to find answers.”

Awardees of the Undergraduate Research Abroad Scholarship include:

Anil Erol, a mechanical engineering student, will complete his project, “Determination of Permeable & Thermal Dispersion in a Porous Medium,” in Turkey with the support of Dr. Haluk Karaca.

Holly Poore, a psychology student, will complete her project, “Improving Learning from Text: Cognitive Factors in Knowledge Acquisition Through Reading,” in the Netherlands with the support of Dr. Richard Milich.

Heidi Vollrath, a management and pre-vet student, will complete her project, “Primates are All Brain and No Brawn: An Investigation into Tissue Trade-offs,” in Spain with the support of Dr. Magdalena Muchlinski.

“While these international projects will enhance the student’s research capacity here at UK, their UK mentor’s research program will also be enhanced,” said Snow.

The institutional benefit of undergraduate research is only part of why Anthony Ogden, director of Education Abroad at UK, deems the scholarships a smart investment. “As a Research One institution,



From left to right: Heidi Volraith, a management and pre-vet student; Anil Erol, a mechanical engineering student; and Holly Poore, a psychology student.

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 even 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.”

The UGRAS awardees are planning to pursue their research after graduation. Erol hopes to continue his research at the graduate level and one day teach mechanical engineering as a professor, Poore plans to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and Vollrath knows her anatomy research project will help make her dream of becoming a veterinarian a reality.

Education Abroad Awards Development and Research Grants

Education Abroad at the University of Kentucky recently awarded grants to five faculty members to develop innovative programs abroad. In addition, a graduate student was awarded a grant to support her research into education abroad experiences and possibilities for the future.

Faculty-Sponsored Program Development Grants recipients include:

The Nile River: A History of Water Politics in Africa: Dr. Awet T. Wedlemichael, assistant professor, UK Department of History, College of Arts & Sciences – will establish a program in Uganda that will take students to the upstream countries of the Nile (ideally Uganda and Ethiopia)

to experience the physical and human environments surrounding the sources of this historic river and along its flow toward Sudan and Egypt.

Mountains to Coast: Field Studies in Costa Rica: Dr. Christopher Barton, associate professor, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, College of Agriculture – will establish a field-oriented course in which students will receive hands-on training in various locations in Costa Rica, with an experiential education emphasis.

Family, Consumer and Culture in South Korea: Dr. Hyungsoo Kim, associate professor, School of Human Environment Sciences, College of Agriculture – will travel to Seoul, South Korea to design a

Continued on pg. 11

UK/CoD Students Collaborate with Taipei Government on Urban Regeneration

By Whitney Hale

During the 2013 spring semester, students from the University of Kentucky College of Design's School of Architecture participated in an innovative new studio format called Office Studio. Structured like a global architecture firm, with office branches at two other universities, National Chiao-Tung University in Hsinchu, Taiwan, and University of Hong Kong, in Hong Kong, Office Studio Kentucky consisted of 12 advanced undergraduate and graduate architecture students, and was led by UK School of Architecture Assistant Professor Angie Co and Dean Michael Speaks. The global studio was among a select few U.S. academic architecture studios executing much of its work online.

Through Office Studio, all three schools worked together on a project commissioned by the city of Taipei. Specifically, the studio was asked by the mayor's office in Taipei to research and create planning and architecture proposals for an existing, soon-to-be-decommissioned train depot station located in the Xinyi Business District, site of the famous Taipei 101 tower, which until recently was the tallest building in the world. The station and its surrounding site are part of an urban redevelopment initiative launched in 2010 by Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-pin, and are likely to figure in Taipei's proposal to host World Design Capital 2016.

During this past Spring Break, 12 UK students, led by Co, joined 20 students from the partner schools in Taiwan and Hong Kong on a sponsored visit to Taipei where



Students in Office Studio exploring the soon-to-be-decommissioned train depot station located in the Xinyi Business District, site of the famous Taipei 101 tower.

they toured the train depot building site and met with Mayor Hau's office, planners, architects and creative industry leaders. Students also toured the famous 24-hour food "night markets" in Taipei, as well as buildings designed by recently named Pritzker Prize winner Toyo Ito.

The students then returned to UK where they completed their proposals. All three Office Studios — Kentucky, Taiwan and Hong Kong — collaborated online to complete a large-scale proposal that will be presented to Mayor Hau for his review in June of this year.

Together, the three Office Studios simulated a global design office: working from offices (studios) with principals (professors) in different locations, students col-

laborated on a real, commissioned project for a real client.

In addition, Office Studio Kentucky, taking advantage of online meeting, management and design technology, was conducted as a hybrid online studio.

Co, who currently works from New York City, met with the students two days each week online and Dean Speaks met with the students one day per week in person.

Besides the weekly sessions, Co ran week-long, intensive workshop sessions in Lexington with the students, and Dean Speaks conducted workshops and sessions including a startup workshop where students designed and built all the furniture, including desks, chairs and storage cabinets, for their Office Studio space in Pence Hall.

Office Studio is among the first online studios to be conducted in any school of architecture in the U.S. and offers students an opportunity to get firsthand experience by working in a technology rich studio/office environment that is fast becoming the norm all over the world.

To see photos of work from Office Studio Kentucky, visit the UK College of Design Facebook album for the studio at:

<http://bit.ly/officestudio>



UK Office Studio students during a review of their work in the School of Architecture.

UK Builds Relationships with and Assists Pakistani Business Schools

By Derrick Meads

A group of University of Kentucky faculty, staff and administrators recently traveled to Islamabad, Pakistan, to sign new partnerships and conduct an intensive three-day "Tuning Workshop" with a consortium of five business schools from Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province, located in the northwest of Pakistan along the Afghanistan border.

The UK group included Nancy Johnson, associate professor in the Gatton College of Business and Economics; Kathi Kern, director of Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT); Kathryn Cunningham, faculty and instructional consultant in CELT; Jeanette Coufal, educational consultant; and Gary Gaffield, assistant provost for international partnerships.

"The three-day 'Tuning Workshop' is designed to align curriculum and establish common programmatic outcomes across the KP business schools," said Cunningham. "The goal was to develop learning outcomes associated with student competency, allowing everyone to agree on what students should know when they graduate and how to measure their success."

The workshop was also an opportunity for UK to get acquainted with the consortium, and for the schools in the consortium to get better acquainted with each other. Although the consortium's vice chancellors already coordinate on policy



Kathryn Cunningham conducting the Tuning Workshop.



Mr. Abdul Haq, from Abdul Wali Khan University, showing Nancy Johnson and Gary Gaffield a newsletter.

and fiscal issues, the conference served as an opportunity to strengthen and expand their connections among university faculty.

"There's enormous value for institutions in the same region and the same field to be working together," Gaffield said. "Their programs should not compete; they can, but they should complement each other. The Tuning Workshop helped these schools understand their individual strengths and how to successfully function as a consortium of institutions that provide quality business programs to their region."

The workshop established a strong mechanism for on-going curriculum development and reinforced the important roles of various stakeholders (government, faculty, students, alumni, the business community).

Johnson said that the workshop was a faculty-driven process. "We were there to facilitate. The workshop was about identifying their goals, their objectives and stakeholders for each program and to bring them together thoughtfully."

The overarching goals of the visit were to improve the quality of education; to build relationships between universities, the private sector and other employers; and to provide pathways to success for university graduates.

"By our being there, not as government officials, I think it communicates the interest of the American people," said Gaffield. "That the United States wishes to develop friendly, close relationships not just government to government, or institution to institution, but person to person, people to people. And I think there's real value in that."

The visit was part of a \$1.7 million grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of State, to partner with universities in the KP Province, through the "University Partnership in Business Administration" program. The Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the U.S. Consulate General in Peshawar are facilitating the program to support higher education in Pakistan and to increase collaborations between U.S. and Pakistani universities.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad

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

Professor Helps Transform Agriculture in Burma (continued from pg. 1)

and easy to work with, plus there was a real need for help there," said Rowell. "Once you are involved in that kind of development work abroad you always want to get back to it. I decided Burma was where I wanted to work."

Rowell left UK in 2006 to work for the social enterprise Proximity Designs, through which he helped transform Burma's agriculture through an innovative drip irrigation system (to see a video of the system visit: <http://vimeo.com/41503631>).

Now returning to UK, Rowell hopes to create a partnership between the UK College of Agriculture and Yezin Agricultural University (YAU) – the only agriculture university in Burma. YAU has the same number of agriculture students as UK, yet they have 30 faculty, while UK has 285.

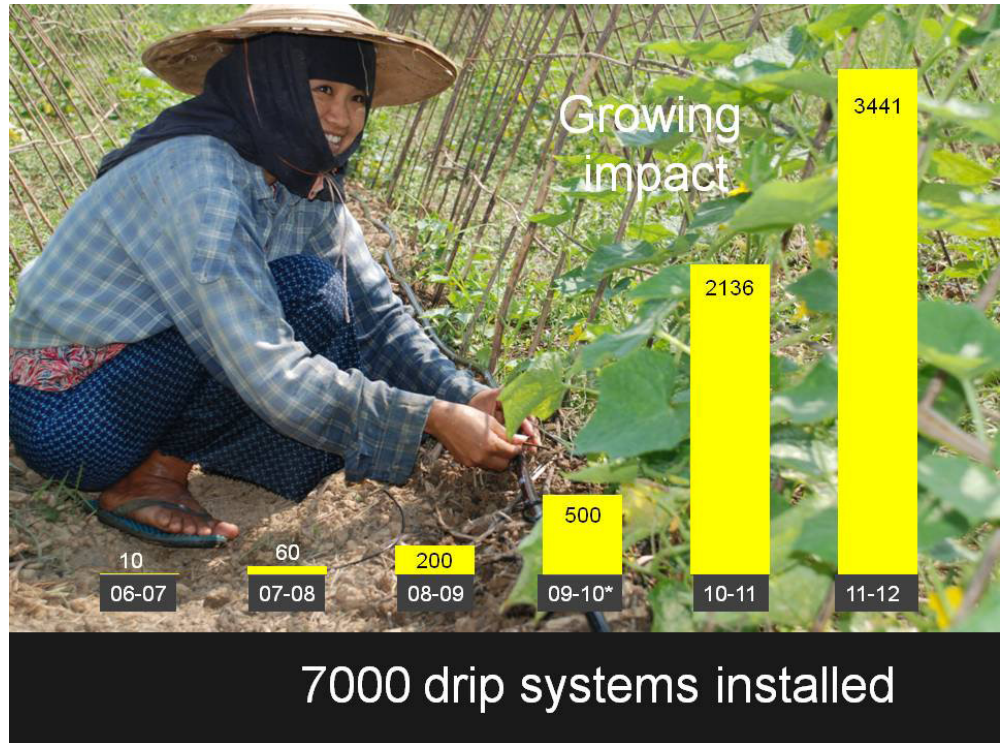
"Brent's efforts in international programs and sustainability are going to bring a lot of attention to our department, and to the university," said UK Department of Horticulture Chair Robert Houtz. "He will be highly visible as the person developing new partnerships with Burma and landing USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development) work for UK."

Rowell has a history of creating change.

"I originally came to UK in 1994 at the beginning of tobacco diversification, prior to the tobacco buyback," Rowell said. "Tobacco growers didn't believe there were any viable alternatives to tobacco, they thought things were always going to be great."

To help tobacco farmers transition to vegetable crops, which are a high-value alternative, Rowell facilitated on-farm demonstrations of technologies such as drip-irrigation and disease-resistant vegetable varieties.

Rowell and Tim Woods, UK extension professor in agricultural economics, also helped the farmers market their produce through Kentucky's first Market-



This diagram shows the number of drip irrigation systems installed in Burma.

ing Development Board formed by the commissioner of agriculture. The board helped form several new marketing co-ops whose work convinced large grocers, such as Kroger and Wal-Mart, to carry Kentucky produce.

"This had a long-term impact on Kentucky farmers; it gave them the skill and confidence to grow quality produce suitable for supermarkets; cooling, packing the whole works," Rowell said.

Rowell's experience creating change in Kentucky prepared him for his work in Burma.

"The big advantage of a drip irrigation system in Burma is relieving the back-breaking labor," he said. "It is not uncommon for people to carry 6-10 tons of water a day. Plus plants grow better with drip irrigation; there is less disease, less soil compaction."

Still, the farmers in Burma had never seen drip irrigation before, and were resistant to using it.

"Farmers would see it the first time, and say 'that won't work, you're just dripping a little bit of water, you really need to pour it on. I'm not going to do that.' It was not intuitive, so we did a tremendous amount of on-farm demonstration for the first couple of years," Rowell said.

The first year of demonstrations helped Rowell and his colleagues identify several problems with the system, which includes a tank, pump and drip irrigation.

"We knew there were problems with elevating our foot-powered pumps – they had to be above the tanks, which were also elevated to create pressure for drip-irrigation," said Rowell. "The first tanks were old 55-gallon oil drums which were too small, difficult to transport and expensive. In subsequent years we developed collapsible 250-gallon tanks or 'water baskets' and easily elevated foot pumps, which made drip irrigation much easier, and accelerated adoption."

After redesigning the drip-irrigation sets, Rowell helped train more than 160 field staff to conduct on-farm demonstrations

Continued on next page

Burma (continued from pg. 6)

in their villages and communities across the country. The field staff worked in the villages around where they had grown up, were paid a decent wage and were provided with motorbikes to increase their access to farmers.

Although the drip irrigation sets were inexpensive, the cost was still beyond farmers' reach in Burma. To help farmers access this technology, Proximity began offering credit on a large scale in 2011.

"This really boosted sales of all our products; without it we wouldn't have done much," said Rowell. "If you bring technology like that and try to sell it in a country like Burma, you just won't get anywhere without offering credit."

By Rowell's last season in Burma, positive feedback had spread by word-of-mouth, and there was no longer a need to conduct on-farm demonstrations. In his first year Rowell and his Burmese counterpart personally installed 10 systems; five years later, more than seven thousand have been installed across Burma.

"Rowell's tremendous work has eased backbreaking labor for thousands, while increasing access to food," says Gary Gaffield, assistant provost for international partnerships in the UK International Center. "This smart, sustainable, inexpensive and transformative technology is why government agencies like USAID are looking to partner with universities like the University of Kentucky."



A Burmese farmer.

African American and Africana Studies Program Expands with New Faculty

By Sarah Geegan

The African American and Africana Studies (AAAS) program was established in Fall 2011, uniting the African American Studies & Research Program with Africana Studies, to create greater community presence, to provide international study opportunities in the focus area and to work toward creating an undergraduate major. In the Fall 2013, the area will expand even further, as two new distinguished faculty join the program.

DaMaris B. Hill, currently a visiting professor of African-American literature from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, and Chamara Jewel Kwakye, from University of Illinois, will begin teaching in the fall.

DaMaris B. Hill is a writer and scholar who earned her doctorate in English-creative writing and women, gender and sexuality studies from the University of Kansas. Her story "On the Other Side of Heaven - 1957" won the 2003 Hurston/Wright Award for Short Fiction.

Chamara Jewel Kwakye is a scholar, storyteller and performer who earned her doctorate in educational policy studies



Frank X Walker, associate professor of English at the University of Kentucky and recently named Kentucky poet laureate, welcomes the new faculty.

at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Kwakye is currently writing a book that documents the life histories of black women in the academy.

AAAS Director Frank X Walker said the collaborative nature of the program will allow these two new faculty members to thrive.

"The interdepartmental collaborative process we experienced inside A&S made the arduous process worth it," Walker said. "These two amazing hires mark a long awaited milestone in the evolution of Africana Studies at UK. I'm thrilled that we were able to attract such significant interest and even more excited about the two outstanding scholars we are now adding to our ranks. A&S has two new superstars."

UK, Georgetown College and BCTC Host International Advisers

By Derrick Meads

Educational advisers from 18 countries (e.g., Peru, Kazakhstan, Bosnia, Malawi and Argentina) are traveling to Lexington on April 29 to attend a weeklong Training Institute where they will learn to navigate the complex process of applying to U.S. colleges and universities.

The University of Kentucky, Georgetown College and Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) were selected to host the Training Institute by EducationUSA, a U.S. Department of State-supported network of 400 advising centers around the world. The centers are based in embassies, university campuses and nonprofit organizations abroad, such as Fulbright commissions.

"The overall goal of the Training Institute is to provide accurate, up to date, information so the advisers can help international students find the right opportunity," said Carlton McLellan, senior manager

for adviser professional development at the Institute of International Education. EducationUSA holds three two-week Training Institutes a year in the U.S. The first week is held in Washington D.C. where the advisers attend workshops on leadership development and learn about the importance of a U.S. education and how it can promote diplomacy between the U.S. and other countries.

The second week of the Training Institute – held on UK, Georgetown and BCTC's campuses in April – will cover international student experiences, admission processes, international student support services, financial aid and many other aspects of U.S. higher education.

"Hosting the Training Institute is an opportunity to share our expertise with the advisers – and I do believe we have a lot to offer – especially as a group of institutions," said Audra Cryder, international



representative for UK. "The insights and feedback from the international advisers will also help us improve our processes and meet the expectations of international students."

According to Susan Carvalho, associate provost for international programs, the Training Institute is also a great opportunity to showcase the state of Kentucky to an international audience and show how UK, Georgetown College and BCTC provide a soft landing for their international students and a high-quality education.

UKIC Identifies University's Greatest Global Opportunities (continued from pg. 1)

towards a few strategic, geographic hubs that will create real synergies for UK."

In consultation with Interim Provost Tim Tracy, Carvalho asked the International Advisory Committee (IAC), a group of faculty and administrators representing each of the university's colleges, to identify seven geographic regions where UK has the greatest strategic opportunity. The IAC then nominated nearly 100 faculty members — who are active in those geographic regions — to serve on committees for each of the seven regions.

"This process puts people around the table who may have never met before," Carvalho said. "This creates synergy across UK's departments and colleges. It's the kind of conversation that universities ought to be having."

The committees will identify three to four geographic hubs where UK's strengths and external opportunities converge. Once the hubs are identified, the IAC will explore opportunities that will align with Capilouto's priorities, and ways to

position UK faculty to maximize those opportunities, focusing on infrastructure such as an office there and/or here, travel money, strategic hiring and partnerships in the region.

The IAC will also identify three to four second tier hubs, where UK may not currently have the strength to compete for external opportunities, but toward which the university should focus its future planning.

The goal is to have the hubs identified by May, a report that identifies strategic opportunities in these hubs by the end of August and a UKIC strategic plan in place by the time UK develops its new campus wide strategic plan for 2014-2019.

In order to accomplish the president's priorities, Carvalho believes UK must celebrate and build upon the principles of "comprehensive internationalization," which have been defined as follows:

"Comprehensive internationalization is a commitment, confirmed through action,

to integrate international, global and comparative perspectives throughout the teaching, research and service missions of higher education. It is a means to advance the core learning, discovery and engagement objectives of higher education in a 21st century context." (Hudzik & McCarthy 2012, Leading Comprehensive Internationalization).

Comprehensive internationalization will enhance education excellence by bringing meaningful international elements into the curriculum, creating excellent study abroad opportunities, recruiting talented international students to UK and by supporting excellence through sustainable revenue sources, such as grants and international student tuition.

"Although we are in an environment with finite resources, there is passion for growing and serving our students better. This kind of prioritization is essential and energizing for the entire campus," said Carvalho.

UK Students Receive Scholarships to Study Languages Abroad

By Whitney Hale

An undergraduate in the University of Kentucky's College of Communication and Information and a doctoral candidate in the College of Arts and Sciences have received Critical Language Scholarships to study languages abroad. Meredith King, a senior majoring in communication, will study Chinese in China, and Lydia Shanklin Roll, a doctoral candidate in anthropology, will study Turkish in Turkey.

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 2013. The CLS Program is part of a U.S. government effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical-need foreign languages. Participants are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship period and later apply their critical language skills in their future professional careers.

Meredith King, daughter of Tiffany and Jim King of Lexington, Ky., has dreamed about going to China since she was 10 years old. "Becoming fluent in Chinese has been a life-long goal and pursuit of mine. This scholarship puts me one giant



Meredith King, a senior majoring in communication, will study Chinese in China.

leap forward in that," King said.

King became interested in Chinese as a 10-year-old when she checked out the only book on Chinese in her local library. "I poured hours into studying the language," said King. "I was blessed to have a Taiwanese woman in my church as a child. When she heard I was trying to learn Chinese on my own, Shu-Mei tutored me every Sunday afternoon for a year. Without her tutoring and encouragement, I don't believe I would be studying Chinese at UK."

King has had several professors and advisers who have been influential during her time at UK, one of whom is Matthew Wells, assistant professor of Chinese. "We have outstanding students like Meredith from all over the university in our Chinese courses, not just from Arts and Sciences," Wells said. "Students from agriculture or communication have discovered that studying a foreign language like Chinese enhances their undergraduate experience and adds value to their degree. With Kentucky doing so much business in Germany, China, and around the world, knowledge of foreign languages is a 21st-century job skill."

Wells encourages students to make connections between different programs in their studies. "Meredith's success in her own department and in the Chinese program shows how easy it can be for undergraduates to pursue their passions for different disciplines, and how much they have to gain from it."

Recently, King was accepted to the Graduate School's University Scholars Program to begin graduate work in communication. King will continue to study Chinese through the 400-level. After she completes her master's degree in communication, she hopes to work in international development to combine her research in youth development with her China experience.

Lydia Shanklin Roll, daughter of Darla and Roger Pitman of Bloomington, Ind., and Michael and Cheryl Roll of Marathon, Fla.,



Lydia Shanklin Roll, a doctoral candidate in anthropology, will study Turkish in Turkey.

will be able to strengthen her Turkish language skills as a result of the CLS. "This is incredibly important for me, as I intend to utilize my Turkish language skills in order to conduct ethnographic interviews in Turkey, a key component of my doctoral dissertation research in cultural anthropology," Roll said.

Roll 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 assistance with the process of narrowing her research focus and crafting the application for the CLS program. She also acknowledges the feedback from Pat Whitlow in the Office of External Scholarships for her CLS application. Roll plans to complete her doctoral degree in cultural anthropology and become a university professor.

UKCI Scholarships Aid Students' Summer Education Abroad in Shanghai

By Lauren Kamas

The University of Kentucky Confucius Institute (UKCI) proudly awarded scholarships to 14 students to support their participation in the UK-sponsored summer education abroad program, Conversational Chinese at Shanghai University.

This 4-week Summer I course in China will take place May 12 to June 7. The students will learn Chinese in an immersion environment while living in the international student resident hall at Shanghai University's Zhabei campus, located near the heart of the city.

"UKCI is delighted to be able to offer these students financial support and assist them in their preparation to travel to Shanghai," said UKCI Director Huajing Maske. "The Institute is also very pleased with the number of students who applied for the scholarship and will be taking part in this great education abroad experience. It's wonderful to see so many UK students interested in acquiring such an authentic Chinese experience."

Students will receive six credits for this course, and will also participate in activities to deepen their understanding of Chinese culture, which include calligraphy classes, Chinese tea ceremonies and exploring historic locations in and around Shanghai.

Freshman Jonathan Elliott says he believes that learning about other cultures is very important. In his pursuit of a degree in Economics coupled with his interest in China's rich culture and language, Elliott sought an education abroad program that would meet his particular needs.

"I want to learn in a setting where I can fully immerse myself in Chinese language, customs and thought; the Conversational Chinese course offered exactly that," said Elliott. "UKCI has provided tremendous support to me, and without this scholarship, I'm not sure I would be able to take part in this educational experience. I also attend Friday supplemental Chinese sessions. The teachers have done a wonderful job of helping me to learn important



The Jin Mao Tower in the Lujiazui area of the Pudong district of Shanghai, China.

phrases and dialogues that I haven't learned from my textbook."

Hana Hafer – a freshman Biosystems Agricultural Engineering major – learned about this study abroad opportunity in her Modern Chinese and Culture Course.

"In Shanghai, I intend to work and study for six credit hours of Mandarin Chinese Language, which will count toward my Chinese Language and Literature minor," said Hafer. "With my degrees, I plan to one day be an international business engineer. UKCI has made this dream and opportunity become a reality. Their personal advice and this scholarship have enabled me to plan an incredible trip to China in a little over a month."

Finance and Chinese Language major John Burke says he decided to take part in the Conversational Chinese in Shanghai program to enhance his Chinese speaking and reading abilities. As a sophomore, Burke has utilized many of the resources UKCI provides, and has attended events

that have helped him gain an appreciation for Chinese culture and the desire to learn more.

"I'm very impressed with how successful UKCI has been in comparison to other similar institutes around the country," said Burke.

UKCI was able to offer these scholarships – totaling \$15,400 – through the additional funding it received after being recognized as a Confucius Institute of the year for 2012. Students became eligible to receive this financial support upon registering and taking part in UKCI's offering of the HSK test.

Another tactic in support of the UK's goal to prepare students for leading roles in a global society, these awards will provide the 14 recipients with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in China. In addition, these scholarships greatly strengthen UKCI's support of Chinese language programs at UK and is an opportunity that UKCI hopes to offer for years to come.

Cardiologists Visit Oman to Discuss Global Health Care

By Jodi Whitaker

Dr. Sibiu Saha and Dr. Thomas Whyne, physicians at UK HealthCare's Gill Heart Institute, recently visited the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital in Oman to participate in discussions with university physicians on global health care, lung cancer and heart disease.

Saha, who is a professor of surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and chair of the directors' council for Gill Heart Institute, discussed the challenges of health care for developing nations and the current obstacles in the global health care system.

"Poverty, inadequate health care infrastructure, economic disparity, shortage of health care providers, and rise of non-communicable diseases such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and trauma pose a big obstacle to global health care," Saha said.

Saha and Whyne, who is also a professor of cardiology in the UK College of Medicine's Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, spoke at the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital during a symposium organized by the Oman Society of Lipid and Atherosclerosis and Sultan Qaboos University.

Saha also discussed the importance of evidence-based practice in order to provide quality health care at a reduce cost.



Dr. Sibiu Saha, Dr. Thomas Whyne, Dr. Ashok Sharma the Head of Cardiac Surgery at Sultan Qaboos University, and Dr. Jasvinder Sharma. The photo was taken in the Hospital of Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman.

Saha said he was impressed with Oman's achievements in health care. He was particularly impressed with the country's low infant mortality rate, universal coverage of health care services, availability of hospitals and treatment facilities, and a number of health care providers that is adequately proportional to the population.

"Oman's progress in health care is considered a 'miracle' by the World Health Organization," he said.

Whyne discussed the prevention of heart disease with the group, stressing the importance of advanced screenings, and was impressed with the both country and the hospital. "I would say they are in step with

(the UK Chandler Hospital) as far as their facility is concerned," Whyne said.

Whyne found it especially impressive that for the most difficult hypercholesterolemia patients, the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital had two units for LDL apheresis to decrease severely elevated LDL – the "bad guy" in cholesterol metabolism – unresponsive to medications and diet. This sophisticated, time-consuming and costly technique has only minimal availability in the United States.

Whyne said heart disease is becoming more prominent in Oman and other Middle Eastern countries, possibly contributed to by the introduction of a Western diet into their culture.

EA Awards Program Development and Research Grants (continued from pg. 3)

program for students to understand a variety of subjects in family sciences from diverse cultural perspectives.

Service Learning in Healthcare: Dr. Wuyang Hu, associate professor, Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture – will design and lead a program in Beijing that will introduce students to the literature on global food, food safety, resource management, agricultural development and trade in China with an emphasis on international business practices.

Viva! Vancouver: A Global Sustainable City. Dr. Brian D. Lee, associate professor,

Landscape Architecture, College of Agriculture – will establish an innovative and new education abroad program in a city that has set forth the goal of becoming the Greenest City in the World by 2020. The course will focus on how Vancouver's landscapes and socioeconomic systems are integrated to create a high quality of life while also being sustainable.

For more information about Development Grants, visit: www.uky.edu/international/faculty_grants

EA Outcomes Assessment Research Grants Spring 2013 Recipient:

Going Abroad for Graduate Admission? Kayla M. Johnson, M.S. Higher Education, Education Policy & Evaluation, College of Education – will conduct an impact study, that addresses the following research question: "How do education abroad experiences impact graduate school admissions decisions?" This project seeks to inform Education Abroad programs and potential participants about whether or not studying in another country will strengthen a student's chances of gaining admissions to a variety of graduate programs.

For more information visit: www.uky.edu/international/research_grants

UK Builds Capacity in Regions Proximate to Conflict (continued from pg. 1)

unusual demands placed on colleges and universities in post-conflict societies in general and in countries struggling with regional, ethnic, cultural, economic, and sectarian divisions," Gaffield said. "UK is increasingly being sought as a partner by NGOs because of our experience and expertise in these regions."

There are several recent examples of UK's growing reputation as a leader in helping post-conflict societies rebuild civil society:

2010 – The University of Kentucky was one of five schools selected to participate in the Iraq University Linkages Program through a partnership between the State Department and FHI 360, a nonprofit organization that focuses on health and education, as well as social and economic development in developing countries.

2011 – George Blandford and Gary Gaffield led a session on University Partnerships in Post-Conflict Societies at the Annual NAFSA Conference.

2011 – The Iraq Embassy invited a small number of U.S. universities to a meeting in Washington D.C. to seek their advice and assistance in launching a major scholarship program to send Iraqis to U.S. Universities. Pat Bond, senior assistant dean in UK's Graduate School, and Gary Gaffield represented the University of Kentucky.

2012 – The Institute of International Education (IIE) conducted a conference in Erbil, Iraq, on quality assurance, accreditation, and assessment. George Blandford was one of four presenters and led the sessions on self-studies, engineering quality assurance initiatives in Iraq, and engineering accreditation.



Gary Gaffield, assistant provost for international partnerships, led workshops for the Iraq University Administration Support Program's (UASP) University Management Training Course in Erbil, Iraq. Photo credit IREX.

2012 – UK was invited by Chemonics – a major development consulting firm headquartered in Washington D.C. – to assist in a \$19.7 million contract from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for a five-year project to develop institutional capacity and independence in Indonesian higher education.

2012 – Gary Gaffield was invited to address a joint Iraqi-American conference in Washington D.C. on higher education cooperation between the U.S. and Iraq. The event was organized by the Embassy of Iraq.

2012 – U.S. Department of State awarded the University of Kentucky a \$1.7 million grant to partner with universities in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, through the "University Partnership in Business Administration" program.

"George Blandford has become a leader in helping rebuild Iraq's higher education capacity," Gaffield said. "Through his work with Kufa University's civil engineering

department, he has enabled Kufa University to become a leader in quality assurance in Iraq."

Blandford says he would like to be a part of creating opportunity in post-conflict areas. "I hope to continue UK's relationship with Kufa University, open opportunities to link with other universities in Iraq and bring more Iraqi students to UK. More than 30 graduate students from Iraq are conducting their research at UK. These students bring intelligence and a strong work ethic to UK's campus."

UASP is administrated by IREX, an international nonprofit organization that provides thought leadership and innovative programs to enable local individuals and institutions to build key elements of a vibrant society: quality education, independent media, and strong communities. To strengthen these sectors, IREX's program activities also include a focus on conflict resolution, technology for development, gender, and youth.

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