Global Perspectives
News from the Office of International Affairs

AUTUMN SEMESTER 2013

One Health Ethiopia Task Force accomplishes mission

While in Ethiopia, Landers, a professor in the College of Nursing at Ohio State, was privileged to make the acquaintance of Mohammed, who was completing her master’s thesis at the University of Gondar. He aided Mohammed with her studies on hand hygiene. He realized that Americans sometimes forget how fortunate they are regarding the effective medical services offered in their country versus developing ones. Mohammed was an inspiration to Landers as the results of her studies showed the lack of good hand hygiene and the need to improve these types of health initiatives in Ethiopia. The camaraderie that grew between Landers and Mohammed is a perfect demonstration of the goal behind the One Health Task Force.

Beginning in July 2012, the health science colleges’ leadership in consultation with the Office of International Affairs conducted a site visit and established the One Health Ethiopia Task Force. The partnership aims to develop a sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership with Ethiopian academic and affiliate partners, especially the University of Gondar and Addis Ababa University through collaborative research, training, workshops and service-learning activities.

During the summer of 2013, the One Health Ethiopia Task Force was set in motion. Led by Wondwosen Gebreyes, a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine with a joint appointment in the College of Public Health, a group of faculty members and four students from the colleges of nursing, public health, optometry, medicine and veterinary medicine traveled to Gondar, Ethiopia to begin their work. Projects included teaching on various health science fields (research methods, food safety, ethics in biomedical research, molecular epidemiology, zoonotic disease, environmental health, neurosurgery and optometry), research initiatives on rabies, cervical cancer and environmental health, as well as workshops on rabies elimination approaches.

“With respect to the scientific/technical aspects of the Summer Institute, I am confident to say that we achieved the goals – in all aspects: coursework and trainings, pilot projects, and workshops. We were able to impact more than 200 professionals in these courses. And a number of scientific networks and new collaborative partnerships developed. Partner colleges were able to identify areas for further collaboration,” Gebreyes said.

Usha Menon, vice dean in the college of nursing said, “It was truly inspiring to have faculty from diverse health sciences participate in the research methods workshop.

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Record number of 14 Fulbright scholars call Ohio State home

For the second consecutive year, Ohio State has made a Chronicle of Higher Education ranking of top Fulbright producers. Ohio State ranks number one on the list of Fulbright Scholars (faculty and staff) at higher education research institutions. A record number of 14 faculty members from Ohio State have been selected as recipients of prestigious Fulbright fellowships. Recipients are selected by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, which administers the program for the U.S. Department of State. The Fulbright Scholar Program offers U.S. faculty, administrators and professionals, grants to lecture, conduct research or participate in seminars abroad. Approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals travel abroad on Fulbright Scholar Programs each year. For more information about the Fulbright Scholar program, visit fulbright.osu.edu.

- Carol Boram-Hays (lecturer, art history), Johannesburg, South Africa, January – June 2014
- Phil Brown (professor, Japanese and East Asian history), Taipei, Taiwan, February – May 2014
- Alcira Dueñas (associate professor, history), Quito, Ecuador, May – July 2013 and May – July 2014
- Lisle Gibbs (professor, evolution, ecology and organismal biology), São Paulo, Brazil, June – July 2013 and June – July 2014
- Parwinder Grewal (professor and University Distinguished Scholar, entomology), Stockholm, Sweden, August 2013 – December 2013
- Kenneth Kolson (director, John Glenn School of Public Affairs, Washington office), Lithuania, January – May 2014
- Bradford S. McGwire (assistant professor, medicine), Ecuador, July 2013 – June 2014
- Ann O’Connell (professor, quantitative research, evaluation and measurement), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, August 2013 – April 2014
- Stephen Petrill (professor, psychology), Moscow, Russia, August – November 2013
- Anil Pradhan (professor, astronomy), Delhi, India, December 2013 – June 2014
- Ana Elena Puga (assistant professor, theatre), Guadalajara, Mexico, September 2013 – May 2014
- Eric Seiber (assistant professor, health services management and policy), Bogotá, Colombia, January – May 2014

Three students awarded Fulbright-Hays grant

Three Ohio State graduate students have been awarded the prestigious Fulbright-Hays grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Gordon Ulmer, Department of Anthropology, and Kirsten Holdtosen and Ian Johnson, Department of History, were selected to participate in the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad program. The grant enables the students to engage in full-time dissertation research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies. Ulmer will study in Peru, Holdtosen in Serbia and Johnson in Russia. The Office of International Affairs administers the Fulbright-Hays program.

- Linn Van Woerkom (associate provost and director University Honors & Scholars and professor, physics), England, Scotland, August 2014
- MacDonald Wick (assistant professor, animal sciences), Macedonia

Global Perspectives

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Global Buckeyes Alumni Spotlight: Michael Smith

“Students with international experience are absolutely more competitive in today’s job market…”

“I graduated from Ohio State in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Marketing. During my time as a student and member of the Honors Business Cohort, I enrolled in an Import/Export class in the Fisher College of Business. Through a partnership between Ohio State and a sister university in South Africa, my class held video chats with fellow Import/Export students in Johannesburg. I remember how using this new technology made the world seem small and connected.

In 2006, I joined a small, private company called WorldStrides, based in Charlottesville, Virginia, which over the years widened its focus from 8th grade class trips to Washington, D.C. to international travel and study at the university and post-graduate level. I now manage a division that sends approximately 8,000 undergraduate and graduate business students to more than 70 countries annually. By the end of 2013, we will have helped more than 280,000 students with their educational travel programs! I am passionate about connecting students with international, experiential learning opportunities because it allows them to gain hands-on understanding of what it means to be a global citizen. Tomorrow’s leaders must have global perspectives because their teams will be made up of individuals not just from different parts of the U.S., but in many cases, different parts of the world. Students with international experience are absolutely more competitive in today’s job market because they have this cross-cultural understanding.

I have been fortunate to have traveled to more than 20 countries in my life, which has helped me realize the deep impact that international travel has on a person. For this reason, I believe strongly in the Ohio State Fund for Global Initiatives and am proud to support the mission to help Ohio State students better understand the world.”

William Brustein on global initiatives (continued from page 1)

Students participating in the GO ENGR program will plan an undergraduate curriculum with elements related to international themes and global dimensions.

Courses, international experiences, language, and reflection, constituting 18 semester credit of special engagement will be awarded the GO ENGR certificate and designation on the student’s transcript.

Why is the Global Option important? It is no longer valid for universities to require students to select either a stand-alone major in area or international studies or a traditional disciplinary degree. If we continue along this path, students most likely will opt for the latter and will not have gained global awareness, cultural sensitivity or foreign language competency or any knowledge of or any specific grounding in the culture of a society outside of the U.S. We must place emphasis on integrating relevant learning abroad opportunities into the degree, minor or certificate; incorporate critical thinking skills of knowledge, comprehension, analysis, synthesis, explanation and extrapolation into the learning experience; evaluate global competence as an outcome; and align the area or international studies concentration to a disciplinary major.

A fully integrated global education is the goal. Graduating students who are good global citizens is the measure of success.

For more information about the Global Option at Ohio State, visit go.osu.edu/GlobalOption.

William Brustein, PhD, is vice provost for global strategies and international affairs. His work at Ohio State is dedicated to fully integrating international and multicultural experiences to the academic units within the university and expanding and enhancing our global reach.
**International Student Profile: Wonhee Hwang**

**Name:** Wonhee Hwang

**What is your home country and city?** Seoul, South Korea

**What is your major/minor(s)?** Finance major and Chinese minor

**When did you arrive in the United States/Columbus and how long will you be here?** I transferred from Korea in the fall 2012. I will be here until I graduate from Ohio State unless I get a job in the United States.

**Why did you choose Ohio State?** My family temporarily moved to Toledo from Korea, and I followed them. In the state of Ohio, Ohio State has a huge campus and a great reputation. It is also multicultural and diverse with different races and ethnicities. I applied to Ohio State and was accepted.

**What have you become involved with during your time at Ohio State? (student organizations, jobs, etc.)?** In the first year, I went to AAIV, which is an Asian American Christian Club. Since my English was not very fluent, I wanted to hang out with Asians first. I found myself more comfortable when I spoke to them.

**What most surprised you about your experience in Columbus and the United States?** Cultural differences such as talking to strangers so openly was surprising. In Asian countries, we rarely talk to someone we don’t know.

**What has been the hardest thing to adapt to since you’ve come to Columbus?** Making American friends. When I came to Ohio State, I decided not to hang out with Korean international students. This was because I wanted to improve my English and if I hung out with them, I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to speak English.

**What is the most fun/exciting thing you’ve done since you arrived at Ohio State?** They might not be big things, but fun things that I have done include, just having a cup of coffee with my friends, having a conversation, going to “Light Up the Lake” event at Mirror Lake, studying at the library.

**One Health Ethiopia Task Force accomplishes mission (continued from page 1)**

Not only did it speak to the commitment of the University of Gondar faculty and leadership to our collaboration, it helped our college of nursing faculty establish relationships that are already leading to positive outcomes such as joint appointments across Ohio State and the University of Gondar, joint research projects, and a new study abroad program for nursing students. It isn’t just about Ohio State giving; the warmth and gracious hospitality of the University of Gondar faculty and students was humbling and inspirational.” Menon and her team will return to Gondar in January 2014 to continue their collaborative work.

In addition, the launch of new research efforts such as the rabies survey conducted in the Gondar region went well and helped generate some measurable and informative pilot data to guide future work. “Inherent to these efforts was the expanded interactions and discussions among scientists and clinicians from the academic institutions and various governmental organizations,” explained Michael Bisesi, director of Ohio State’s Center for Public Health Practice. “One fundamental goal to all this work is increasing efficiency and effectiveness of these collaborative and cooperative efforts to better understand and solve problems affecting human and animal health.”

In the upcoming academic year, Ohio State will continue its engagement in cervical cancer pilot research, a service-learning project in electronic capacity building, nursing study abroad in the spring semester. One Health Ethiopia Task Force is also gearing to strengthen this partnership and to that effect, Ohio State is currently hosting Desalegn M. Degefaw, vice president of Academic Affairs at the University of Gondar for a four-month U.S. Fulbright funded fellowship.

“Our hope is to establish ongoing collaborative relationships—not just during the One Health Summer Institute, but well in to the future. We hope to be able to build a mutually beneficial partnership between faculty and students at Ohio State, University of Gondar and Addis Ababa University, which will help leverage expertise and open opportunities for all,” said Ohio State Clinical Assistant Professor, Bayleyeign Molla.

Addis Ababa University and the University of Gondar plan to continue their expansions and advancements in the public health world thanks to the partnership of Ohio State’s One Health Ethiopia Task Force.

**alter/nativas – the Latin American journal**

Ana Del Sarto, assistant professor of Literatures and Cultures of Latin America, and Abril Trigo, professor and director of the Center for Latin American Studies, have overseen development of this journal since the beginning. They wanted to find an outlet that would tie the Latin American community together regardless of what language they speak, and build a bridge to connect people who are interested in Latin American issues.

Currently, the primary audience is Latin American scholars within the academic community as the journals are written at an intellectually rigorous level. But Trigo and Del Sarto are very interested in these articles and essays reaching a broader, academic audience.

The entries in alter/nativas can be submitted by anyone, and go through a referee process by the editorial panel to narrow the selection for the final product. To date, there have been submissions from Europe, the United States, as well as Latin America, with the content of these essays containing a wide range of topics regarding the Latin American community.

The editorial panel consists of worldwide correspondents from international universities that review journal submissions. These editors are established in their respective fields, and are willing to be active participants in alter/nativas in order to network and promote the journal.

“It is an international journal, so we need those international connections otherwise we’d be just another national journal,” said Trigo.

A different approach but with the same idea are the alter/nativas E-books. This concept breaks scholars free from the restrictions imposed by publishers and is 100 percent free. Books typically have a life span of two to three years of popularity, and journals are much shorter.

“To see alter/nativas prosper for the next 10 years would be great. As long as the field of Latin American Cultural Studies is important, then we hope the journals to be of significance,” said Del Sarto.

For more information, please visit the alter/nativas website at alternativas.osu.edu
Amanda Stefanik participated in the May session British Invasion study abroad program.

“My study abroad travel was one-of-a-kind to me. It was the most exhausting and blissful two weeks of my life. It was nice to go to a country where English was the primary language. Even though I stayed in London, England for the majority of the program I was able to still experience a little piece of every corner of Europe. Each moment I turned around I heard a tongue not of my own. The food tasted different with each bite, and the style was so posh I felt as if I was observing a Vogue runway each day I stepped out of the hotel. I enjoyed picking out the cultural differences between the states and England with others in my group, but I didn’t want to be too obvious because I didn’t want to look like a tourist in the country.

I selected this particular study abroad program because I wanted to embrace the musical influences that the 1960s era brought upon the world. With heavy emphasis on studying The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and The Who, my journey throughout London, Oxford, Liverpool and Manchester was quite the Magical Mystery Tour. My knowledge and comprehension of the impacts that the British Invasion had on society were stretched beyond my wildest imagination. I was able to appreciate the significance of the beautiful language called music while miles away, and retain an appreciation for music, and all other things European upon my arrival home.”

For more information on Amanda’s journey, visit her blog: myinvasionofbritian.blogspot.com

Amanda is a sophomore majoring in journalism and strategic communications.

Matheus De Nardo interned for an international fair trade coffee company in Peru.

“By working alongside local sustainable development professionals, Reach’s mission is to offer coffee for water, water for life, and life for the pursuit of happiness. For each sale of their coffee products, a portion of the proceeds goes towards supplying clean and sustainable water to the people of Peru, who, as of yet, do not have access to clean water.

My primary responsibilities included meeting with Peruvian coffee farmers in the Amazonian foothills to help improve coffee quality and yields, working with local professionals in Lima on sustainable water projects in impoverished human settlements, and creating an adaptive strategy to bring Reach’s efforts to Ohio State.

More specifically, one of my projects involved interviewing the residents of two human settlements who lack access to clean water in order to assess the most effective manner to implement water piping and filtration systems. Another project involved addressing issues of land degradation resulting from deforestation for coffee cultivation and informing coffee farmers of the benefits of preserving ecosystem services for the environment and for the quality of their coffee.

Overall, my firsthand experiences interning in Peru allowed me to better understand the struggles of populations in developing countries who lack access to one of life’s most important resources: water.”

For more information on Matheus’ journey, visit his blog: coffeeforwater.wordpress.com

Matheus is a junior majoring in natural resource management.

New international students welcomed at Port Columbus

This past summer the Office of International Affairs made the transition for new international students a little easier. For three weeks, volunteers manned the Welcome Center at Port Columbus International Airport to greet new students upon their arrival. The goal was to make the students feel more comfortable coming to the United States and their new home in Columbus. Students were greeted by volunteers from the university who informed the students of Buckeye traditions, events around campus and the city, and gave them a bag of Ohio State goodies.

“Whenever new international students first checked in at the Welcome Center in the airport, my fellow colleagues and I would give them handouts, such as a university map, university events brochure and an Experience Columbus brochure,” said Xin Ni Au, a junior majoring in human nutrition and dietetics. Au served as volunteer coordinator for the welcome program.

“We would encourage them to participate in as many events as they can to grasp the feel of what it is like to be a true Buckeye. We would also answer any questions they had regarding the university or Columbus, and at the same time, share our experiences with them. My favorite part of this experience was that I got to meet different people from around the world every day,” Au said.

Volunteers included faculty, staff and students who worked at the Welcome Center from 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. over a three-week period prior to the start of autumn semester.

From 2008 to 2012, the international student population at Ohio State increased by 53 percent, and totaled 6,032 students in 2012. The undergraduate international student population increased 145 percent between 2008 and 2012, from 1,355 students to 3,322 students. Currently, there are approximately 1,600 new international students enrolled autumn semester.

The Office of International Affairs continues to partner with departments across the university to help international students adapt to life in the United States and on campus. Many additional programs are in place to help international students learn more about American culture, meet American students and enhance the learning experience of all students.