



EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, April 2008

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UM Professor Visits University of Tasmania

By Chris Palmer, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry



UM Chemistry Professor Chris Palmer and Professor and Australian Research Council Federation Fellow Paul Haddad at The Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS)

After an active academic career for twelve plus years at two different institutions, including a year as a Department Chair, it seemed that eligibility for sabbatical at UM couldn't come soon enough. I definitely felt the urge to get away. My goal for sabbatical was to continue and invigorate my research in analytical chemistry, specifically separation science. I was also looking forward to taking advantage of an opportunity to live and work in another part of the world.

The Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS), under the direction of Professor and Australian Research Council Federation Fellow Paul Haddad, made a very generous offer to provide living accommodation for my family and I as well as laboratory and office space for me to work in. ACROSS is located in the School of Chemistry at The University of Tasmania in Hobart, Tasmania. The island of Tasmania is the southernmost state in Australia. ACROSS is one of the preeminent research centers in the field of separation science in the world, and certainly fit with my goals of developing my research and experiencing another country and culture.

After an initial period spent getting settled and

learning the ropes following our arrival in Tasmania in August of 2007, my research productivity has improved and I am now getting some exciting results. I have been able to get back into the laboratory and do some experiments at the bench, and I am involved in a research project that may have considerable practical and fundamental significance. For those with an interest in or knowledge of chemistry, I am developing and characterizing latex nanoparticles to be used as chromatographic stationary phases. The nanoparticles are synthesized by RAFT and mini-emulsion polymerization methods, leading to nanoparticles of uniform size and defined chemistry. The nanoparticles can then be fixed to a support and utilized as stationary phases for conventional chromatography, or can be suspended in solution and used as pseudostationary phases for electrokinetic chromatography. I have now obtained some encouraging results, and fully expect to have significant publishable results before returning to Montana. I hope to continue this research and the collaboration with ACROSS colleagues on my return.

(Continued Tasmania on p. 5)

6th Annual Central & Southwest Asia Conference April 24-26, 2008

Religion, Violence and Law – Islam and Human Rights in Central and Southwest Asia

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

11:00 AM-12:30 PM TAJIKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN: THE PAST AND PRESENT, UC THEATER

Chair and Discussant: Dr. Ardi Kia, Associate Director, Central and Southwest Asia Program and Department of Anthropology, The University of Montana

Tajik Presenters: Layokat Rasulova, Umed Partov, Mahdi Usmonov, Said Gaforov, Akram Mirzoev, Hojamurod Hojaev, Mavzuna Turayeva, and Rakhshonak Zaripova

Afghan Presenter: Shakib Rajaieean

2:00-3:30 PM TAJIKISTAN: INDEPENDENT TAJIKISTAN AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY, UC THEATER

Chair and Discussant: Dr. Ardi Kia, Associate Director, Central and Southwest Asia Program and Department of Anthropology, The University of Montana

Presenter: His Excellency Abdujabbor Shirinov, Ambassador of Tajikistan to the United States

3:30-5:00 PM THE TALIBAN AND ISLAMIC MILITANTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND CENTRAL ASIA, UC THEATER

Chair and Discussant: John Fox, Director of the Office for Afghanistan at the United States Department of State

Panelists: Dr. Mehrdad Kia, Associate Provost for International Programs and Director, Central and Southwest Asia Program, The University of Montana and Jeff Renz, Professor of Law, The University of Montana

Discussant: Dr. Nancy Lubin, President of JNA Associates, Inc., and Senior Fellow for Eurasia at the American Foreign Policy Council

7:30-9:00 PM KEYNOTE PANEL – RELIGION, VIOLENCE, AND LAW IN THE ARAB MIDDLE EAST: THE CHALLENGES TO POLITICAL REFORM, UC THEATER

Chair and Discussant: Dr. Richard Drake, Chair and Professor, Department of History, The University of Montana

Panelists: Dr. Marina Ottaway, Director of the Middle East Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Dr. David Ottaway, Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Center

Discussant: John G. Fox, Director of the Office for Afghanistan at the United States Department of State

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

1:00-2:45 PM ARABIC: THE LANGUAGE OF ISLAMIC RELIGION, LAW AND POLITICS, UC THEATER

Chair and Panelist: Samir Bitar, Arabic Language and Literature, Central and Southwest Asia Program & Department of Modern and Classical Languages & Literatures

Panelists: Dr. Shukri Abed, Chairman of the Department of Languages and Regional Studies at Middle East Institute, D.C., and Khaled Huthaily, Arabic Language and Linguistics, Central and Southwest Asia Program & Department of Modern and Classical Languages & Literatures, The University of Montana

3:00-5:00 PM ISLAM IN TURKEY AND THE CAUCASUS: A RE-APPRAISAL, UC THEATER

Chair and discussant: Thomas Goltz, Resident Scholar and Faculty Associate, Central and Southwest Asia Program and Department of Anthropology, The University of Montana

Panelists: Elin Suleymanov, Consul General of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Los Angeles and Western States of the United States; Dr. Sevgin Ates Rooney, Bosphorus University Chairperson of Department of Tourism/Economics, and Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science, Montana State University; Tamila Meladze, Turkish Language and Literature, Central and Southwest Asia Program & Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures; David Grimland, former United States Department of State; and Tulin Daloglu, Washington Times Columnist

6:30-7:30 PM CULTURAL EVENT – TAJIK MUSIC AND DANCE PERFORMANCE, UC THEATER

7:30-9:00 PM KEYNOTE PANEL – TERRORISM, COUNTER-TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS, UC THEATER

Moderator: Ian Marquand, KPAX Television

Panelists: James Park Taylor, Co-Director Juries and Democracy Program, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, The University of Montana; Omer Kanat, Radio Free Asia; Praveen Swami, Journalist; Nancy Hollander, Freedman Boyd Hollander Goldberg & Ives P.A.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

10:00 AM-NOON ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION, UC THEATER

Chair and Moderator: Dr. Nancy Lubin, President of JNA Associates, Inc., and Senior Fellow for Eurasia at the American Foreign Policy Council.

Panelists: His Excellency Abdujabbor Shirinov, Ambassador of Tajikistan to the United States; Elin Suleymanov, Consul General of Azerbaijan to the United States, Los Angeles; John G. Fox, Director of the Office for Afghanistan at the United States Department of State; Dr. Marina Ottaway, Director of the Middle East Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Dr. David Ottaway, Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Center; Dr. Shukri Abed, Chairman of the Department of Languages and Regional Studies at Middle East Institute; Omer Kanat, Radio Free Asia; Praveen Swami, Journalist; Nancy Hollander, Freedman Boyd Hollander Goldberg & Ives P.A.

Sponsors: Humanities Montana, International Programs, Office of the President, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, Center for Ethics, World Affairs Council of Montana, Missoula Ministerial Association, and the Central and Southwest Asia Program

Arabic Language and Culture for High School Students

By Samir Bitar, Lecturer, Arabic Language and Culture and Khaled Huthaily, Adjunct Instructor, Arabic Language, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program at The University of Montana has been awarded a \$45,270.00 grant from the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland to support an Arabic Language summer Institute for High School students as part of a national STARTALK initiative.

The purpose of this grant is to organize a Montana Arabic Summer Institute (MASI) for high school students to develop their language skills and cultural knowledge of Arabic. The program will build on the existing UM Arabic teaching resources and experience to initiate a carefully designed five-week summer institute that targets 11th and 12th grade high school students. The objective will be for 24 students to develop the communication skills of a novice-mid speaker or better based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The program will also familiarize students with Arabic cuisine, music, poetry, dress, customs, traditions, and body language to develop cultural knowledge. The MASI program will last five weeks (from June 23 to July 25, 2008) and will be followed with a year-long on-line course offered in cooperation with the Arabic Academy, thereby enabling Montana high schools to earn a total of five college credits, or the equivalent of the first semester of introductory Arabic language at the college level. The program holds promise to serve as a model for use in other rural, low-income regions of the United States.



Professor Samir Bitar

The key persons who will be responsible for this project comprise a seasoned team. They are:

Professor Mehrdad Kia, Associate Provost for International Programs, Director of the Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program, and Professor of Islamic Civilization. Professor Kia will be MASI's principal investigator.

Professor Samir Bitar, lecturer of Arabic Language & Culture. He is a native speaker of Arabic from Palestine and will be one of two leading instructors for both the summer institute and on-line distance components. He teaches beginning and intermediate Arabic classes with Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures. Professor Bitar will be MASI's director and first lead instructor.

Professor Khaled Huthaily, Fulbright doctoral candidate in curriculum and instruction and Arabic language adjunct instructor. He is also the author and researcher of a new Arabic language book to be published under a Title VI grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. He teaches advanced Arabic classes. Professor Huthaily will be MASI's second lead instructor.



Professor Khaled Huthaily

Brian Lofink, International Liaison in UM's International Programs and Coordinator Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program. Mr. Lofink will be responsible for coordinating all day-to-day MASI arrangements and logistics.

Putting Missoula on the Map: The Eighteenth Century Revisited Conference

By Shannon Schreiner, President of UM's Le Cercle Francophone

A little known fact: the eighteenth century was a period in history where science, literature, philosophy, music, and history freely intermingled with each other. With that in mind, The Eighteenth Century Revisited Conference at UM has assembled student researchers in interdisciplinary topics pertaining to the eighteenth century.

This Conference will take place April 19th, 2008, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:45 P.M., at The University of Montana-Missoula campus, in the Gallagher Business Building (Room 122). Ms. Shannon Schreiner, President of Le Cercle Francophone (French Club) at UM, and Ms. Arianne Margolin, a MA candidate in French and UM exchange student to the Université de Toulouse 2-Le Mirail, are co-organizing/hosting this event with their faculty advisor, Dr. Mladen Kozul, Assistant Professor of 18th Century French Literature. The Event will be co-sponsored by the President's Office, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, International Programs, the Diversity Advisory Council, and ASUM.

This conference offers a unique experience for many reasons. First, the majority of research in the humanities is currently geared toward nineteenth century and contemporary topics. Students researching topics prior to the Industrial Revolution are severely limited in forums to present and discuss their work

(Continued Conference on p. 6)



Shannon Schreiner (left) and Dr. Mladen Kozul (right)

Cyprus: 10,000 Years of History, Culture and Politics

By Bharath Sriraman, Associate Professor, Mathematical Sciences

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, known as the birthplace of Aphrodite, the goddess of love in Greek mythology lying at the intersection of Turkey-Egypt (North-South axis) and Syria-Crete (East-West axis). This island bears the influence of the Greco-Roman, Persian, Carthaginian, Byzantine and the Ottoman empires, in addition to experiencing the effects of modern colonization. It is perhaps the only place in world which can claim to have an intact 10,000 year old history as evidenced in artifacts, human "technology", and settlements continually dated from the Neolithic period onto the bronze and iron ages. In spite of its rich history and fusion of numerous world cultures, present day Cyprus is often reported in the news as an island of off-shore banking and of "ethnic" conflict between Greeks and Turks. Having visited Cyprus frequently for the last four years, I am dismayed by the picture that the popular world media paints of this island as well as misconceptions held about the nature of the "conflict" on this island. In this article I will attempt to briefly clarify some popular misconceptions and describe the opportunities available for faculty and student exchange.

In 2006, the State-of-the-world liberty index, a quantification based on economic and personal freedoms, ranked Cyprus as no.9 out of 159 countries. In per-capita income, Cyprus is ranked at no.16 in the world, higher than most Western European countries. Cyprus attracts throngs of tourists from Scandinavia and Western Europe by virtue of its pristine coastline in addition to visitors from Greece, Lebanon, Syria and Israel. My relationship with this island began a few years ago when I was asked to become involved in the doctoral program in mathematics education at the University of Cyprus, (see April 2007 newsletter p.3 for specific details). As a result, I have had the opportunity to be a regular visitor to this fascinating island.

Present day Cyprus is divided into two sections, the northern region being governed and recognized by Turkey and the southern region called the Republic of Cyprus (henceforth R o C). Greek Cypriots constitute the majority of the population of the R o C while Turkish Cypriots are the majority in the northern part. Taken as a whole, Greek Cypriots account for 80% of the total population with the Turkish Cypriots (18%) and other groups (Armenians, Lebanese and others) forming the minority. The Greek consciousness or "identity" of the southern half of the island is due to cultural, linguistic and Eastern Orthodox church related bonds shared with Greece. This identity is one that gradually magnified when Cyprus was subsumed by the Ottoman Empire and even more so when Cyprus became a British colony. The history of entanglement of Greek and Turkish Cypriots goes all the way back to the Levant, bears no scars of one group trying to proselytize the other. British promises of self-determination to different groups during their occupation of the island, their continued meddling in internal affairs after Cyprus gained independence in 1960, in addition to Realpolitik games led to the Turkish invasion and separation of the island in 1974. Present day Cyprus has two sovereign British bases which were written into the constitution. These bases are a source of discomfort for a majority of Cypriots and a reminder of the painful

colonial past.

Kofi Annan, the previous general secretary of the United Nations proposed a plan for unifying the island. In 2004, the Annan referendum was comprehensively rejected by three-quarters of the Greek Cypriots because the plan was viewed as being overtly in favor of the Turkish Cypriots. Among the main points of discontent for the Greek Cypriots was the fact that the British bases would remain on the island and the Turkish Cypriot minority would be conferred 50% of the seats in the Senate and Supreme Court even though they constituted less than 20% of the population.

The interior of the island has an arid climate with sparse brush vegetation and mountains called Trodos. These mountains cover a significant portion of the southern portion of the island, and are sprinkled with tiny villages reminiscent of a rural agrarian past. Cypriots are extremely hospitable people, with a long tradition of huge family gatherings and feasting in the Mezze tradition. Mezze is the ancient Greek tradition of feasting together over 10-15 courses which range from salads, cheeses, meats, and pickled sweets washed down with Cypriot wine and Zivania (a distilled grape beverage). A point of humorous debate and contention is the "real" origin of the various dishes, since similar versions are found in both Greece and Turkey, with each country claiming



Bharath Sriraman with doctoral students in Old Nicosia

precedence for inventing a given dish.

The University of Cyprus is the largest institution of higher education on the island, a doctoral granting institution founded in the early 80's, consisting of 6 Colleges (Humanities, Pure and Applied Sciences, Social Sciences and Education, Economics and Management, Engineering, and Letters). Of particular interest to students at The University of Montana is the opportunity to learn Greek, Byzantine history, Turkish and Middle eastern studies, in addition to numerous cultural and recreational opportunities afforded to students in a very unique geopolitical environment. The island is also a gateway to countries in North Africa and the Middle East. As a matter of trivia, many Cypriots shop for home furnishings and other wares in nearby Syria!

One final note: Cypriots in general feel imprisoned within their own country. Even though it is possible to go back and forth between the separated parts of the island through the green line, one should realize that the very act of showing one's passport at the checkpoint legitimizes the institutional mechanism of separation. Having barbed wire run through the length of one's nation and having people uprooted from their land, property and family homes is an unpleasant reality for most Cypriots. Hopefully the future will allow Cypriots to determine the fate of their island and solve their "intramural" problems without external interference from governments stuck in the nostalgic colonial past, as well as those that still indulge in the games of Realpolitik. The University of Montana is conducting an official site visit in May 2008, led by Dr. Mehrdad Kia to explore the possibilities of faculty and student exchange with the University of Cyprus.

(Tasmania Continued from page 1)

I have been somewhat surprised to see the differences in the approach to establishing a department and research center at the University of Tasmania relative to UM. The School of Chemistry here is about the same size as the Department of Chemistry at UM. However, in contrast to UM's efforts to develop and sustain a faculty with a range of research interests and educational backgrounds, the School of Chemistry here is dominated by faculty in ACROSS. Half of the faculty in the School of Chemistry (on two campuses) are fully associated with ACROSS and conduct research on separation science. ACROSS is home to an additional twelve research faculty or fellows, making it larger than the rest of the School of Chemistry. Another significant difference in the two programs is that the BS chemistry degree here is a three year degree, with a fourth optional "honors" year for students who wish to continue their studies.



Chris and family at the Twelve Apostles on the coast of Victoria

Hobart is a small capital city of 200,000 people located on the Derwent River estuary in southern Tasmania. The estuary is surrounded by hills and small mountains, with the prominent and rocky Mt Wellington as the backdrop to the city. The Derwent is home to many private sail boats and there are regular regattas three or four days a week. Large cruise ships come and go every few days during the summer months. Over the New Year holidays large sailing yachts arrive for the culmination of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. The hills in and around Hobart have been developed to a fairly high density, but there are many National Parks and a great deal of rural farmland very close to Hobart. There are also a lot of beautiful and surprisingly unoccupied beaches in the area. The water is a bit cold but that is no problem for my Montana-raised children. We have found Tasmanians to be very relaxed and easy going, and coming from Montana we certainly appreciate that. The differences in accent and language are interesting, but generally do not present any significant barrier to communication. Our children have found the schools to be accommodating, and have made good friends with many of their fellow students. We've also found quality music and gymnastics programs for them and they continue their involvement in these activities while here. We have even become accustomed to driving on the left hand side of the road, and now only strike fear into the heart of the occasional Aussie driver.

Hobart and Missoula are separated by some 13000 km, are situated in opposite hemispheres, are part of different nations, and have different histories, cultures, geographies and climates. However, in spite of these contrasts, we've been struck by the similarities in the economic, social, and environmental challenges that confront the cities and the states in which they are located. Although the primary economic activities of both states are historically the extractive industries (forestry and mining) and agriculture, the current populations have a strong interest in environmental conservation, with ecotourism becoming significant themes of the economy. The populations of both cities have similar interests in outdoor recreation, including fishing, cycling, bush walking (hiking) and camping. Like Montana, Tasmania has made substantial efforts to preserve large and/or environmentally significant tracts of land in World Heritage and National Parks. Both states seek solutions to challenges in wilderness conservation and management, as well as in developing a suitable balance between traditional extractive and agricultural industries, tourism, and preservation and protection of natural systems and species. Not surprisingly, UTAS and UM have in many cases developed analogous educational and research programs in wildlife biology, forestry, and environmental policy and management in efforts to address these issues. There are many potential opportunities for collaboration and for exchange of ideas between the University of Tasmania and UM.

My family and I have also taken advantage of opportunities to travel around Tasmania and mainland Australia. We've seen countless wallabies, kangaroos, echidnas and wombats, as well as the occasional koala and platypus. We've been impressed by the colorful bird life, and the size of the lizards (goannas). We've been on a trip through the "Outback," and spent quite a bit of time on the beautiful coastlines of Tasmania and Victoria. We've visited Sydney and Melbourne, and found both to be enjoyable international cities. We've also done some bushwalking (hiking) in the hills and mountains, as well as a bit of fishing, in Tasmania and New South Wales. We've been impressed by the incredible variety of landscapes, scenery, and wildlife on the relatively small island state of Tasmania. We've enjoyed the fresh seafood and produce available here in Tasmania, as well as some of the many local wines. And, we've found the people to be relaxed, friendly, and gracious. We'll be glad to get back home to Missoula, but we'll also be sorry to leave such a wonderful and pleasant place as Tasmania.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

The International Programs Newsletter at The University of Montana



The University of
Montana

**International Programs
International Center (MIP005)**

(Conference Continued from page 3)

(there have only been two conferences offered during the 2007-2008 academic year). Second, this conference is student-led and organized, providing experience for the organizers who wish to further their careers as scholars, as well as for the presenters who want constructive feedback from their peers and from specialists independent of their normal circles. Third, the conference carries the rare distinction of being "transnational and international;" the conference has attracted presenters from other universities in the U.S. and abroad. Fourth, it is open to the public, allowing them to broaden their horizons. And finally, The Eighteenth Century Revisited bridges the gap between science and the humanities.

Ms. Margolin and Ms. Schreiner are not only co-organizers, but also fellow presenters. Ms. Margolin's paper is a condensed version of her M.A. French thesis, *The Epistolary Laboratory in the Scientific Works of the Marquise du Châtelet* (2008). Ms. Schreiner is a junior in the French and Pre-Medical Sciences, minoring in Psychology, and will present a paper on Denis Diderot and the concepts of memory and neuropsychology. Students from UM will be participating, as well as two doctoral candidates from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill and from the Université de Toulouse 2 – Le Mirail. The participation of the latter helps solidify the ties between UM and Toulouse. It is a great honor to have one of the best students from Toulouse participate in the conference. Other topics include Diderot's writings on early theories of fermentation, the history of music in the work of Antoine Watteau, paleontology in the 18th Century, Madame de Pompadour in Art and Life, and Aestheticism and Deconstruction in the works of the Marquis de Sade.

The public is invited, and greatly encouraged, to attend this event. For more information, please contact Shannon Schreiner, President of Le Cercle Francophone at lecerclefrancophone@hotmail.com or at 546-4618.

We welcome items of international or intercultural interest for the next newsletter. Please send them to International Programs, International Center, or email us (goabroad@mso.umt.edu).

If you are interested in receiving an email notification regarding upcoming international events and IP activities, please send your name and email address to goabroad@mso.umt.edu or call 243-2288.

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