



# EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, February 2010

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## University of Pecs

By Sharon Alexander and David Forbes,  
Deans of Continuing Education and the College of  
Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences



*UM delegation at the closing ceremony after the agreement was signed. Key representatives from the University of Pecs include Dr. Ferenc Farkas, Vice-Rector and Dr. László I. Komlósi, Rector's Representative.*

A delegation of individuals from UM traveled to the University of Pecs in south central Hungary, for the purpose of exploring potential avenues of collaboration. Delegates included Provost Royce Engstrom; Dean David Forbes; Professor Richard Bridges; Dean Sharon Alexander; Associate Director of Online Learning Mary Engstrom; and Special Assistant Robert Hausmann. This visit built upon the original agreement signed in 2007 between our two institutions as well as the conferences held first at UPecs in 2007 focusing on terrorism and then at UM in 2008 focusing on the environment. Since these conferences, Robert Pal, PhD researcher from UPecs has been at UM, collaborating with John Maron and Ragan Callaway, Division of Biological Sciences, on invasive plant species.

The delegation attended several meetings at UPecs with various faculties across campus including the Faculty of Business and Economics; Faculty of Adult Education and Human Resource Development; Faculty of Health Sciences; and the Faculty of Medicine. Guests were invited to attend a Conference of Human Services sponsored by the Faculty of Business and Economics.

There was also an opportunity to meet with faculty whose research interests aligned with several faculty in the

*Pecs cont. on pg 3*

# Opportunities in East Africa

By Casey Charles,  
Professor, Department of English

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) is a distance and open learning institution of higher education, operating through a network of 22 regional centers throughout the United Republic of Tanzania, with an enrollment in undergraduate and postgraduate studies of approximately 8500 students. The university was established in 1992, and has grown substantially since its inception. I had the good fortune to be able to visit professors at OUT this January and speak with them about their programs and prospects for international exchanges with The University of Montana.

After spending two weeks in Kenya at the Summer Literary Seminar sponsored by Concordia University in Montreal—a program which included daily lectures on current Kenyan culture—I traveled south to Tanzania to meet Vice-Chancellor Tolly Mbwette on January 5 at OUT's campus in Dar es Salaam. Unlike the cooler Nairobi, Dar is located on the coast—hot when the tradewinds are not bringing relief. The Tanzanians, who speak Swahili and English, are generally more relaxed than Kenyans, but the country of the still barely snow-capped Mt. Kilimanjaro and the spice island of Zanzibar is quickly developing its agricultural and mining industries (e.g. tanzanite) while sustaining its commitment to the cooperative economics that Julius Nyerere fostered in the years after independence (Uhuru) in 1962.

As Professor Mbwette and I talked informally about mutual interests between The University of Montana (UM) ([www.umt.edu](http://www.umt.edu)) and OUT (<http://www.out.ac.tz/>), we soon discovered that similar geographies and economic settings of our schools have led common areas of research in fields as diverse as forest and agricultural management, outdoor recreation, and rural education. OUT has faculties and departments in Environmental Studies, Education, Business, and Law that are similar to those at UM.

As it turned out, the deans were scheduled to meet the following day at OUT's new campus in Ubongo, about thirty kilometers northeast of Dar. Tolly invited me to the day-long meeting, assuring me that I wouldn't have to sit through the assessment lectures but could meet with the deans individually during the course of the retreat. The next morning we drove through traffic to the new campus, a 100-acre plot of land with three or four new buildings and an outdoor basketball court. I sat outside of the meeting hall in the verandah, and met individually the deans of Business, Science, Education, Arts and Social Sciences, and Law.

Our talks were fascinating, in part because I soon learned how much the faculty at OUT was capable of accomplishing with a limited amount of resources and amazing amount of resolve. Many of the deans had gained some educational training in Europe, Canada, or the United States; some still had relatives here. As we talked about our mutual challenges and interests, I earmarked some of the connections between our schools that could lead to fruitful collaboration:

- **Business:** OUT's MBA program has opportunities for UM professors to teach and develop curriculum in the areas of accounting, marketing, banking, and commodity exchange economics. Graduate students and lecturers at OUT are interested in pursuing research and course work at UM's Business School.
- **Science:** Environmental Studies students and faculty at UM could learn from the Community Economic Development Programs developed by the Open University in its regional centers. In math and physics, OUT could benefit from faculty exchanges.
- **Education:** Dean Mushi, who studied at Penn State University, is interested in sending Master's and PhD students to study Education at UM, and envisions the possibility of PhD candidates undertaking comparative research on secondary school systems. UM's Department of Modern Languages and African-American Studies Program could in turn benefit from faculty and lecturers in the language of Kiswahili and African history.
- **Arts and Social Sciences:** Dean Emmanuel Mbogo is a novelist; his book about the perilous lives of albinos in East Africa was recently made into a film. The Creative Writing and Media Arts programs at Montana could benefit from his expertise in social

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*Africa cont. from pg 2*

fiction and filmmaking. Dr. Mbogo is also interested in developing a Media Arts curriculum in OUT's Department of Journalism and Mass Media. Collaboration on curriculum development, creative writing, and filmmaking could lead to student and faculty exchanges. The Department of Tourism and Hospitality at OUT could also develop ties to Tourism studies in UM's Business and Forestry Schools. (Tanzania is home to regions as famous as the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.)

- Law: OUT's law school would welcome exchanges, especially in the development of courses in International Criminal Law and Comparative Constitutional law.

After a day of comparing notes about the challenges facing higher education, I left my new friends at OUT convinced that collaboration between these two public institutions—both dedicated to making affordable higher education available to populations from far-reaching geographic and economic backgrounds—could substantially enrich research, learning, and teaching. UM has yet to establish ties with East Africa outside of Ethiopia and OUT has yet to establish collaboration with the western United States.

Looking to the future, we look forward to inviting Vice-Chancellor Mbwette and his colleagues to visit UM next fall in hopes of furthering this potential partnership.

*Pecs cont. from pg 1*

Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences located within the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, especially in the areas of medicinal chemistry and pharmacology. In particular, discussions held with Professor Rich Bridges and Pecs Professor Balazs Sumegi and his colleagues were of considerable interest. The mass spectroscopy-based analytical approaches used in the group, as well as their interests in the monoamine neurotransmitter system, hold potential for future interactions with UM faculty.

During the discussions it was decided that, to enhance potential research collaborations, the best first step would be to assemble a readily accessible database of faculty and laboratory group interests on both campuses. This process is already underway with the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Another objective of the meetings at Pecs was to explore the development of a potential relationship between the Faculty of Adult Education and Human Resource Development [FAEHRD] at UPecs and Continuing Education at UM. There were two prongs to this exploration: online learning and lifelong learning. There was considerable interest in both aspects and, in December, 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Dean Denes Koltai, FAEHRD, and Dean Sharon Alexander, CE, signaling our intention to find ways to exchange faculty and/or staff in these two areas. The agreement further stated that, "If appropriate funding can be found, we are hoping that we will exchange faculty and/or staff for periods of up to six months. Our goal is to affect these exchanges by the end of the 2011 academic year."

Planning has proceeded related to both online and lifelong learning. Mary Engstrom, Associate Director for Extended Learning Services is taking the lead in developing an orientation to instructional design and faculty development for a visiting scholar from Pecs. Alexander has initiated similar plans for a faculty member from Pecs to visit UM to review the research and practice of lifelong learning in U.S., Hungary and the European Union (EU). There will be a particular focus on developing programs for older adults similar to UM's MOLLI program. Part of the planning would be to explore the development of a travel plan for a contingent of older adults to travel to Pecs in September or October of 2010 for the purpose of participating in related events associated with Pecs being one of three European Cultural Cities of the Year.

Collaborating with the University of Pecs is a good opportunity for those interested at UM. Not only do they teach several programs in English, they are part of the EU Erasmus program, are very progressive and have a significant interest in collaboration. Thus it would seem great opportunities exist for both UM and Pecs to participate fully. We can expedite interactions at the faculty level by encouraging those from UM, who are traveling to Europe, and their counterparts from Pecs, who are traveling to the U.S., to extend their visits to include a visit and seminar at each of the respective campuses.

## Journey to the Far North - Tromsø, Norway

By Kathryn Shanley, Special Assistant to the Provost for  
Native American & Indigenous Education

As part of the collaboration between the University of Tromsø Sami Studies Center and UM Native American Studies, four scholars (Kathryn Shanley, Gyda Swaney, Michel Valentin, and Robert Boyer) went to Norway in January to meet with Sami Studies scholars, and also to attend the Annual Tromsø International Film Festival. (Kathryn Shanley and Bjorg Evjen serve as the project directors from each institution.) For Shanley and Swaney, the trip began with a stop-over in Stockholm, where they met with Elizabeth Kella (Department of English, Uppsala University) and Bo Vinnerljung (Department of Epidemiology, Swedish National Board of Health), to discuss projects of mutual interest to the Montana and Swedish researches in their respective fields. From there, we flew to Tromsø, the most northerly university in the world.

In addition to discussions related to the project's goal of creating an anthology for use by Indigenous Studies teachers and researchers, the members of the Montana delegation gave talks in various departments at the University of Tromsø. Michel Valentin (Modern and Classical Languages & Literatures) gave a talk entitled, "The Transformer: Borders and Disorders, Zones and Fluxes in Djibril Diop Mambety's Touki Bouki (The Hyena's Journey)," to the Visual Cultural Studies and French Department faculty. UM Psychology Professor Gyda Swaney (Salish) gave a lecture entitled "Stressors and Resilience in Samples of Native Americans," at the Department of Health Sciences; Swaney's work, conducted among elders on the Flathead, highlights Native American historical trauma and contemporary stresses and adaptive behaviors. Kathryn Shanley (Nakoda) spoke to the Department of Literature and Culture about Montana Blackfeet / Gros Ventre writer, James Welch: "The Ceremonial Return to Innocence in James Welch's Fools Crow: Speaking Back to American Mythologies and Subjectivities," in which she discusses the mythopoetic vision of the novel as the author seeks to establish a new heroics counter to America's nation-building symbology. In addition, Dr. Shanley gave an overview presentation to the Sami Studies Center faculty on Montana's Indigenous peoples.

Throughout the festival, Alanis Obomsawin, noted Canadian Wabanaki filmmaker, was a featured guest, and she introduced her five films and served on a seminar panel, along with Robert Boyer (Métis filmmaker and UM Media Studies Instructor) and Kathryn Shanley, NAS, along with six other speakers—academics and filmmakers. The seminar entitled "Inside Out and Outside In - Indigenous Images in Film" also screened short films from Sápmi and Montana (Boyer). The image of indigenous peoples, the rise of indigenous filmmakers, and the importance giving voice from indigenous perspectives were some of the topics discussed during the special seminar.

Future plans for the project include working with the University of Saskatchewan Political Science and Indigenous Studies scholars and a faculty workshop at the UM in the Fall of 2010.



*Sommaroy landscape, fjords, at the end of the two months of darkness; photo taken in the early afternoon.*

# Tromsø Film Festival

By Robert Boyer

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Media Arts

This past Winter break, I had the privilege of traveling with representatives of the Native American Studies department to the 2010 Tromsø International Film Festival in Norway. An academic exchange with the University of Tromsø, this trip allowed me to screen my short film "Aapanii Ootukk" produced here at The University of Montana as my graduate degree thesis in the spring of 2009.

2010 marks Tromsø's 20th international film festival. TIFF is a popular film festival for all audiences, and has become an important meeting point for the Norwegian and international film industry. Tromsø International Film Festival had in 2009 a total admission of 48, 258 and this year's festival reportedly smashed that record by over 10,000 attendees. This makes TIFF Norway's largest film festival.

Attending the festival allowed me to see many European films not regularly available to audiences in North America. Tromsø International Film Festival screens challenging quality films for a local, national and international audience. Highlights of the festival for me included premier screenings of "Hipsters" by Valery Todorovsky and "Tambourine Drum" by Aleksei Mizgiriyov. Both Russian directors presented outstanding films portraying starkly corrupt worlds. Not to be outdone in the dark themes of cultural decay was American director Steven Soderbergh's "The Girlfriend Experience".

A collection of films by Canadian filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin was of particular interest to my colleagues and me. Alanis Obomsawin is a First Nation filmmaker and a member of the Abenaki Nation. She is one of Canada's most distinguished filmmakers and has been chronicling the lives of Canada's Aboriginal people for nearly forty years. "Waban-aki: People From Where The Sun Rises" is a beautiful film in which Alanis Obomsawin embarks on a series of encounters with fellow Abenaki. A very powerful film with real lessons about the ongoing battle for cultural survival reflects the impact of an imperial legacy that seeks to "define Indians out of existence."

North of the Arctic Circle, Tromsø International Film Festival is set in the dark polar nights, which gives TIFF the unique possibility to screen films outdoors. The outdoor cinema located at the main square in the heart of Tromsø provides a stunning surrounding view in which to enjoy a selection of shorts and documentaries from the Films from the North program, along with special screenings and various other events.

# Sleepless in Tromsø

By Michel Valentin

Professor, Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literature

As part of the University of Tromsø/University of Montana exchange on Indigenous Studies (Tromsø has the first Indigenous people rights' Ph.d. Program in the world), I flew to what is considered to be the gateway to the Arctic. I took part in seminars and delivered a conference during which I did a two-hour deconstructive reading of the film Touki Bouki by the Senegalese Djibril Diop Mambety in the UT state-of-the-arts Visual Culture Center.

The largest city in the world so high north (280 miles above the Arctic Circle, 1800 miles south of the North Pole, 800 miles across from Greenland), Tromsø hosts the world's northernmost university (1972). It has research institutes, satellite-based industry and fisheries. Norway's neighbors are Sweden, Finland and Russia.

One reaches Tromsø from Missoula after a 15 hour flight eastward to Europe, then northward over Norway's coast. Through the port-hole, the sun appears so far down on the southern horizon, like a diminished star, that one has the impression of being on another planet. In Tromsø, one does not take the sun for granted--light and temperatures are not special but spatial, of cosmic origin. When the light suddenly comes back, on Jan. 21, Tromsø celebrates its return with joy and rituals, as if relieved that the earth's movements can be trusted, and that everything is alright after all. Norwegians enjoy the cosmic day with excellent, special cakes, candles everywhere, reindeer sleigh rides, and a lot of merrymaking. An outside projection of Robert Flaherty's famous Nanuk of the North (with a contemporary music sound-track), on an "ice screen" had even been organized on Tromsø Central Plaza.

Like on a different planet, coastal areas and sea, mountains and valleys, islands and fjords form a complex labyrinth of naked, interlocking landmasses and sea-trenches. In certain areas, one walks on rocks as old as the earth—like on a worn-out moon. There is something special and forlorn, sad and exhilarating . . . , something sublime, something extra-terrestrial in the air and the light. Out of a Sci-Fi flick, Tromsø is on a hump-back-whale-like mountain-island, between two fjords, pierced by large, gated tunnels with underground roundabouts, parking—lots and mysterious subterranean chambers, where a whole population could survive. For which cosmic catastrophe is Tromsø ready?

Called the Paris of the North, Tromsø is full of lights and people especially during the TIFF (Tromsø International Film Festival), when

*Sleepless cont. on pg 7*

# Global Summit on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

By Colin Henderson,  
Associate Professor, Department of Applied Arts and Sciences

Leaving the cold and gray Missoula winter for a week, Colin Henderson, Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Arts and Sciences, joined more than 500 researchers and students who convened December 1-5 in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia for the 4th Global Summit on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. Researchers attending the conference from Central and East Asia, Africa, and Europe presented 384 papers on topics spanning the conservation, pharmacology, and biotechnological exploitation of native medicinal plants. An invited plenary speaker, Dr. Henderson kicked off the conference with a presentation on the impacts of native and introduced pollinators on plant conservation. Beyond the technical sessions, Dr. Henderson attended evening events with government ministers who initiated an extended discussion about the Sarawak government's online programs for preservation and instruction of native languages.

Kuching, the capitol of the state of Sarawak was an apt site for the conference. Covering approximately the northern one-fifth of the island of Borneo, Sarawak rests in one of the most biologically and culturally diverse regions of the world. As the largest island in the archipelago that bridges the Australian and Asian land masses, Borneo possesses one of the richest plant and animal faunas in the world. More than 350 new species have been identified there since 1996. The confluence of five distinct ethnic populations, together with extended Asian, and Western colonial periods produces an equally complex cultural environment—traditional open-air street shops next to American style malls; pizza and satay on the menu; pop-radio lifted straight out from southern California; Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, and Animists coexist for the most part without outward tension.

The conference created a forum for researchers from mostly developing nations to share research on conserving and developing their last great resource, the

medicinal and biotechnological potential of their native flora. A common theme in the presentations was the pressure that the push for economic development and improved standard of living place on conservation of remaining native plant communities. A number of innovative approaches combining governmental protection and local empowerment were presented and showed promise for deriving economic benefit while preventing over-exploitation. It was clear that throughout the region, governments and researchers are tuned in to the issues surrounding bio-prospecting. Malaysia itself has recently passed laws protecting all biological resources and requiring licensing of any discoveries to ensure economic benefit for the nation from any discoveries that occur. Sarawak has its own biodiversity center with modern analytical laboratories and an ambitious program to inventory its biological resources. The lab houses an extensive specimen catalog that includes more than 44,000 specimens. The modern cataloging system is geo-referenced and includes any historical and cultural data that may be available. An added important datum on each of the specimens is a preserved and stabilized raw extract for future biochemical characterization.

Dr. Henderson's presentation played off of Jerry Bromenshenk's and his honey bee research to discuss the importance of native pollinator conservation to native plants. That research has recently shown an

extraordinarily diverse assemblage of microbes that are accumulated by introduced and native bees. The more generalist nature of the introduced honey bee compared to native pollinators may pose increased potential for disease transmission among pollinators as well as plants that could compromise viability especially as native habitats dwindle and native plant populations diminish. The presentation was well received and precipitated extended discussion between sessions throughout the week of the conference.



*Kuching, Malaysia*

## 2010-2011 Faculty Exchange Recipients

**Solomon Harrar**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, East China Normal University, China and Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, Academic Year 2010-2011

**Jesse Johnson**, Department of Computer Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Academic Year 2010-2011

**Edward Rosenberg**, Department of Chemistry, University of Turin and University of Piemonte Orientale, Italy, Fall 2010

**Ronald Wakimoto**, Department of Ecosystems and Conservation Sciences, Ugyen Wangchuk Environmental and Forestry Institute, and Royal Bhutan University College of Natural Resources, Bhutan, Spring 2011

*Sleepless cont. from pg 5*

French is heard in the streets of this totally bi-lingual city (all Norway speaks English, besides Norwegian).

In the harbor, all kinds of colored ships wait in mooring by hotels and shops: a cruise ship, tugboats, scientific-research vessels, oil platforms tenders, trawlers, sail-boats, even an ancient Norwegian schooner... One can imagine Vikings' ships in early medieval times waiting in Tromsø's fjords, ready to pounce on Western Europe and its fat monks, lords and "burghers", and bring back the loot of the "civilized world" to the "poor" shores of the North: eternal antagonism and dialectical movement between the nomadic and the sedentary, the rural and the city life, the 'barbarian' and the 'civilized', the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'.

Now Norway is a postmodern (everybody manipulates cell phones, e-pods and M6) rich, capitalist country but tempered by an extreme sense of equality. Its "socialistic" welfare system, (backed by high-taxes and oil revenues) offers free health-care, free higher education tuition, etc. One does not see in Norway the extreme poverty one sees in America. The minimum wage is high, but so is the cost of living. Its banker and investors refused to buy into the subprime and derivatives hyper-real economy like many others seduced by American capitalism: they escaped the direct hit of the financial debacle.

### The University

The hospitality of the Sami staff/faculty and the University of Tromsø is amazing. Three of the Deans of the Colleges came to the presenta-

tions and dinners in honor of the Montana delegation. Academic life and spirit seem to be noticeably different from the U.S. Political correctness has not hit Norwegian universities yet. I was also struck by the camaraderie and equalitarianism going horizontally through the vertical partitioning of hierarchical relations. Deans are very accessible, familiar and amiable, with a power and salary commensurate with their positions, but without jumping into the extreme. It seems that it would be very difficult for Norwegian academic administrators to play nepotistic or micro-power games (favoritism or personalism): they are all civil servants serving the State in a consensual, democratic way.

What surprised me also is the way professors treat students. They do not infantilize, spoon-feed, escort and protect them from a hypothetical 'big bad world'. Students are responsible for their own time, planning and life, study and homework. Professors also trust them abroad on their own. They do not "chaperone them into foreignness", taking them as "private confidants" along the way. As a consequence, students are more adult, responsible, cosmopolitan and out-going.

Tromsø (with a population the size of Missoula's) is not provincial or anti-intellectual. Not only is the world present in Tromsø, but its people crave high-arts and popular culture, foreign and indie films; Hollywood movies, pop culture, as well as rare and delightful Sami singing (one has to hear the Sami singer—Maria Bonji). 47,000 International Film Festival's tickets were sold for a population of 70,000.

Tromsø is a special place.



## Spring 2010 International Brown Bag Series

All presentations are held from noon to 1 PM in the Central and Southwest Asia Program seminar room (Old Journalism 303) and are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact International Programs at 243-2288.

### **Thursday, March 4** **Conservation and Exploitation of Biodiversity** **in Developing Nations: Observations from** **the 4th Global Summit on Medicinal and** **Aromatic Plants**

Colin Henderson, Associate Professor,  
Department of Applied Arts and Sciences

### **Thursday, April 8** **Borders as Barriers and Resources:** **Experiences and Local Developments on the** **Finnish/Russian and U.S./Canadian Borders** Minna Piipponen, Visiting scholar, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu Campus

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](mailto: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](mailto:goabroad@mso.umt.edu) or call 243-2288.

The views expressed in these articles do not necessarily represent the views of International Programs.

### **Peter H. Koehn & Phyllis B. Ngai Scholarship**

The Peter H. Koehn & Phyllis B. Ngai Scholarship has been established to provide an annual one-time-only scholarship award of \$1,000 to a sophomore, junior, or senior who is registered for the minor program in International Development Studies and is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. The recipient's overall grade point average must be at least 3.0. Applications are due by 12 March, 2010. The scholarship will be awarded for Academic Year 2010-2011. For more information please contact Marian Palaia at 243-2586.

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