



EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, March 2010

CONTENTS

Faculty Exchange to Ethiopia and China 1

Sustainable Development in Indigenous Communities.... 2

The Month of the Irish 4

International Week Schedule 5

International Programs Staff Directory 6

Faculty Exchange to Ethiopia and China

By Solomon Harrar, Associate Professor
Department of Mathematical Sciences



Professor Harrar, Shanghai, 2007

The exchange provides me with the opportunity to spend five months (August 2010 to January 2011) at East China Normal University (ECNU) and another five months (January to June 2011) at Addis Ababa University (AAU). Both universities are official partners of The University of Montana (UM).

I am an associate professor of statistics in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. My area of specialization in statistics is multivariate analysis. Within this area, my current research focuses on two distinct but related topics. These are the handling of missing data in nonparametric multivariate analysis and the application of multivariate techniques in public health research. The application of multivariate statistics is often challenged by the presence of missing data. Besides reducing the effective sample size, missing data when they are ignored will invalidate the results because they violate the working assumption of having a random sample. The Statistics and Actuarial Science Department at ECNU has qualified experts, in this particular field, with whom I plan to work together.

Multivariate statistics has an important place in public health research as health related outcomes typically involve multiple characteristics. For example, in clinical trials multiple end points or biomarkers (multivariate outcome variables) are commonly assessed. My research focus at AAU will be the application of multivariate statistics in controlling and managing infectious diseases in the context of developing countries, an area in which AAU's School of Public Health offers a wealth of resources--field sites, data and literature.

Harrar cont. on pg 3

Sustainable Development in Indigenous Communities in Mexico and the United States

By David Beck, Professor and Chair
Native American Studies Department

Tribal communities in the United States and Mexico share similar histories and challenges, and at the same time differ in significant ways. UM has partnered with two Mexican universities as part of a larger consortium to explore issues related to sustainable community development in indigenous communities. This partnership is funded in the United States by a FIPSE (Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education) grant, which the UM International Programs office supplemented to support my travel to Mexico during wintersession. Together with my family I traveled to the states of Colima and Hidalgo to serve as a visiting faculty member in our partner universities, Universidad de Colima in the city of Colima and Universidad Tecnológica del Valle del Mezquital in Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo. My wife Rosalyn LaPier (Blackfeet and Little Shell Chippewa), a Ph.D. candidate in the UM history department, was invited by both universities to share her knowledge of ethnobotany and language revitalization efforts from her home community on the Blackfeet Reservation.

Colima is a state on the west coast of Mexico. Its climate is tropical and warm. We began our visit in Colima and took a ten hour bus ride to Mexico City where the Rector (President) of Universidad Tecnológica del Valle del Mezquital, Leodan Portes Vargas met us to provide us with a driving tour of his school's home state before we began our work there. Hidalgo is north of Mexico City, with a dry and colder climate. We hiked in the National Park, visited a mining town where we ate pasties and drank locally brewed beer (and hot chocolate for the children), and spent an afternoon at a game preserve, one of the few places in the region where wildlife biologists can help manage the landscape for larger wild animals such as red deer, which are the size of elk, and wild boar.

Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, is home to the Otomi people, who aided the Spanish in the conquest and were thus able to retain some control over their communities in the early colonial era. Features of their cultural heritage are visible in the architecture and the landscape. Otomi elder Francisco Luna Tavera provided us with guided tours of religious sites, both Catholic and traditional, and interpreted the artwork which showed clear signs of indigenous religious belief systems. On the other hand, while we were on a bus tour with a group of several dozen students he asked how many



Market day in Actopan, Hidalgo

were indigenous and none raised their hand. When he asked where they were from, Ixmiquilpan, he told them that they are all indigenous. The stigma of identifying as indigenous is very strong in Mexico; it can lead to discrimination and severely diminish an individual's economic prospects, in a way similar to the U.S. thirty to fifty years ago.

Both Rosalyn and I lectured to the students and provided a workshop for the faculty on issues relating to tribes in the United States in general, and in case studies in community development among various

tribal groups in the U.S., including the Blackfeet, the Menominee of Wisconsin, and tribes on Oregon's coast. One of the reasons that the university rector worked so hard to encourage us to visit Hidalgo was to bring some legitimacy to the concept of indigeneity from the outside world to this community. We were the first scholarly visitors from a U.S. university to lecture at this school. Many of the students and faculty at this university, which is a three year and ten month technical school in a rural state, are indigenous. Most of the students are on 100% state-funded scholarships.

After a wonderful week with our marvelous hosts in Ixmiquilpan we returned by bus to the city of Colima, in the state of Colima, where Rosalyn and I participated in a much-publicized three day seminar at the Universidad de Colima entitled "Seminario Estudios de indigenismo y desarrollo comunitario en EUA y Mexico." The state of Colima is home to a variety of indigenous groups. Dr. Renato Gonzalez Sanchez, a member of the Colima Economics Department, served as our host. He leads the rural outreach program and organizes community projects in the region, and has served as a close partner with us in our work. Another faculty member, one of the leading quantitative economics professors in Mexico, gave us a tour of rural indigenous communities that rely on coffee and agricultural products for development.

The Economics Department at Colima conducts the majority of the sustainable development work in surrounding rural communities, many of which are indigenous. Featured speakers at the seminar included members of the economics department, the tourism department and the social work department. Rosalyn and I both spoke the first night, and I was scheduled to present on all three nights. After Rosalyn's first presentation, the faculty

Beck cont. on pg 3

Beck cont. from pg 2

requested that she prepare and give another talk on her home community on the closing night of the conference.

Colima, like the rest of the Americas, is home to ancient indigenous peoples. Like many places in Latin America, and indeed even in the U.S., there is great pride in the indigenous past, with visible imagery in many museums and gift shops that is also recorded in history books and even popular magazines and newspapers. But here, as elsewhere, indigenous people in the modern world are impoverished, scorned, ignored, ill-treated and still live at or below subsistence level. However, Mexican universities and their concerned professors are working toward educating indigenous students and developing sustainable social and economic development within indigenous communities. We can only hope that efforts such as we witnessed at the two universities we visited may begin to strengthen the communities and their people.

Otomi cultural leader Francisco Luna Tavera (right) leading a tour of important Otomi tribal places. Pictured with him are Sandra Muñoz, coordinator of languages at Universidad Tecnológica del Valle del Mezquital in Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo; Abaki Beck, Ekoo Beck, David Beck, Rosalyn LaPier and Professor Norberto Alatorre Monroy.



Harrar cont. from pg 1

I hope that the activities to be undertaken during the exchange will also make a contribution to enhancing UM's institutional partnerships with ECNU and AAU. Although ECNU has been an official partner of UM for a number of years, thus far no collaborative activities with this university have begun, although as one of China's major universities, it holds promise for exchanges with my department and other units at UM. Its Department of Statistics and Actuarial Sciences has a strong graduate program with an emphasis on multivariate and mathematical statistics. It would be advantageous for UM's Department of Mathematics to have a close working relationship with the faculty and students of ECNU.

Besides being a logical site for my research interest, AAU's School of Public Health has demographic surveillance and practicum field sites that are of interest to UM's School of Public and Community Health (SPCH). In addition, UM's Intercultural Youth and Family Development (IYFD) Program, a Peace Corps Masters International Program, has a strong desire to use Ethiopia as one of its internship sites. Both the SPCH and IYFD programs would also welcome having AAU faculty participate in co-supervision of their interns and guest lecturing in their classes. However, the specific possibilities are yet to be explored. Of note is that I took part in the effort to form the AAU-UM partnership. In this process, we have developed a good working relationship with some of the key senior administrators on the AAU campus.

In summary, I envisage the experience to be gained from the exchanges leading to a number of peer reviewed publications, extramural funding applications and generating research problems for students besides serving as stepping stones to further research in my own and other departments at UM. On the recreation side, I plan to travels and learn more about the cultural heritages, not to mention the delicious foods, of these two ancient countries.

In personal communications, both ECNU and AAU have expressed strong desire to work closely with The University of Montana. As their way of showing commitment to the partnerships, both universities have agreed to grant me full access to their research resources as well as housing free of charge during my entire stay. I am grateful to both universities for their generous offers. Also I would like to express my gratitude to the Office of International Programs, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Department of Mathematical Sciences for their sponsorship and making this research endeavor possible.

The Month of March – The Month of the Irish

By Traolach Ó Ríordáin, Lecturer, Irish Studies, Department of English

March is the month that brings the Irish out in all of us. No matter what your ethnic, racial or cultural heritage may be, it's the time when 'the wearing of the green' seems as natural as the movement of the seasons. Indeed the wearing of the green is also symbolic of the coming of spring. This is the time when the darkness of winter gives way to the rebirth of spring and the promise of sunshine and the long hot days of summer. For those who trace their heritage back to the Emerald Isle, this is a particularly festive and joyous occasion; it's the time to honour the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick – the Welshman who converted the Irish to Christianity. Not that anybody cares that he was Welsh. After all, he did what any self-respecting, socially mobile Welshman would do – he moved to Ireland.

In any event, this hero of the Irish will be celebrated all over the world. The Lenten fast is suspended for the day so all can eat, drink, and make merry. Montana, of course, will bring its own unique culture to bear on these events. In Butte, a massive parade drawing nearly 30,000 people will snake its way through the historic Uptown. In Missoula, The University of Montana's Irish Studies involvement with local groups has added a whole new dimension that guarantees to appeal to every taste through the course of March. Along with the traditional parade and dinner, there is also a film festival in the Roxy, a production of Beckett's plays *Play* and *Krapp's Last Tape* in the Chrystal, and a feast of Irish music with Tommy Sands in the UM Music Recital Hall. For those of you not satisfied with this culture blast, there are also two opportunities to go to Ireland this coming summer. Dean Comer is offering a two-week, three-credit course in Dublin this summer, while Traolach Ó Ríordáin is taking a group to Ireland for a nine-day history and culture tour this coming May.

Below are the details, dates and costs of all these events:

March 5 and 6: Irish Film Festival. [Organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Irish Studies].

Friday, March 5 at 5pm in the Roxy Theatre

Reception and films: *Give up your Aul Sins*; *Janey Mary*; *Yu Ming is Ainm Dom*; *Mickybo and Me*, and *Garage*.

Saturday, March 6 at 6:30pm in the Roxy Theatre

Films: *Granny O'Grimm's Sleeping Beauty*; *Ding Dong Denny's History of Ireland*; *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*; *Once*

Tickets: \$10 for a day ticket available at the door or from Traolach [Terry] Ó Ríordáin, toriordain@hotmail.com or 544-0311

Information: www.missoula-aoh.org

March 10 – 24: Samuel Beckett's *Play* and *Krapp's Last Tape*. [Presented by Montana Actor's Theatre and Irish Studies].

7:30 p.m. at the Chrystal Theatre;

Tickets: \$18 Weds/Thurs; \$20 Fri/Sat. Student rush tickets available at the door each night. Tickets may be purchased online at www.mtactors.com

Information: bernadette.sweeney@mso.umt.edu

March 13: St. Patrick's Day Parade [Organized by The Ancient Order of Hibernians]

12:00 p.m. from the Iron Horse to Grizzly Grocery

Information: To enter a float, please pick up an entry form at Missoula Chamber of Commerce

March 13: St. Patrick's Day Corned-Beef and Cabbage Dinner, Irish Music and Dance

[Organized by the Friends of Irish Studies]

12:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the St. Anthony's Parish Hall, 217 Tremont Street, Missoula, 59801

Cost: \$8

March 23: Tommy Sands in Concert [Presented by Irish Studies, the Friends of Irish Studies and UM's College of Music]

7:30 p.m. at the UM Music Recital Hall

Tickets: \$15 general admission; \$10 for students, seniors and members of Friends of Irish Studies.

Into the West Tour of Ireland [organized by Traolach Ó Ríordáin and The Friends of Irish Studies]

When: May 25 - June 3

Cost: \$1675 per person sharing for the land tour. Airfare not included.

Information: erin@irishmontana.com

Brain, Mind and the Literary Imagination

[Collaboration between UM; Trinity College, Dublin; University College, Dublin; and St. Patrick's College, Dublin]

When: June 3 – 19

Cost: \$2230-\$2540 (depending on numbers); Accreditation: Three credits [as Biology, or English, or Irish Studies]

Information: christopher.comer@umontana.edu

International Week 2010

Sunday, March 14

12:00-5:00PM International Culture & Food Festival: View the World through a Cultural Kaleidoscope. The festival is sponsored by the International Student Association and consists of a food bazaar, cultural festival and children's world! ~ University Center

Monday, March 15

12:00 PM Opening Ceremony

Speakers: Dr. Mehrdad Kia, Associate Provost for International Programs, Effie Koehn, Director of Foreign Student and Scholar Services, and Felicity Dugo, President of the International Student Association. Performer: Rashmeen Doowa performs a Kathak Indian dance to Aja Nachle. ~ UC Atrium

4:00 PM Study Abroad Panel Discussion

Learn about study abroad opportunities for UM students. Returned study abroad students share stories about their experiences around the world. ~ UC 332

Tuesday, March 16

12:00 PM Ethiopia: A Land of Diversity

Professors Tsige Gebre-Mariam and Masresha Fetene, visiting scholars from Addis Ababa University (AAU), present on the wonders of Ethiopia and give an overview of graduate programs at AAU and prospective of collaboration. ~ UC 332

3:30 PM Work Abroad

Explore your options for working abroad and discover which building plan fits best. Learn how to travel and see new places without dipping into your college funds. Also, a look at teaching abroad and starting an international career. Presented by Career Services. ~ Lommasson Center 154

6:00 PM Panamanian Paradise:

A presentation highlighting a research intern's semester working at an archaeology laboratory at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. ~ UC 332

Wednesday, March 17

12:00 PM Yemen: Current Challenges

Presented by Khaled Huthaily, Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Central and Southwest Asia Program. ~ Old Journalism 303

2:00 PM Health Systems in Conflict Zones: A Darfur Case Study

Presented by Phillip Nel, PhD Student in medical anthropology, Department of Anthropology. ~ UC 332

7:00 PM The Counterfeiters

The Multicultural Alliance presents a film about the true story of Salomon Sorowitsch, who after getting arrested in a German concentration camp in 1944, agrees to help the Nazis in an organized counterfeit operation set up to help finance the war effort. ~ UC Theater

Thursday, March 18

12:00 PM Change Your World: Intern Abroad

Learn about opportunities with the IE3 Global Internship program which provides international professional development experiences for students, IE3 and UM's Internship Services. ~ UC 332

3:00 PM Peace Corps Information Session

Amy Quandt, UM Peace Corps Representative, gives an information session about the Peace Corps programs offered at UM and the opportunities abroad. ~ UC 332

7:00 PM Someone Else's War

Peace & Justice Film Series sponsors this film which shows that in the background of the Iraq war there is an invisible army made up of 30,000 low-wage workers from South and Southeast Asia. ~ UC Theater

Friday, March 19

12:00 PM Flight to Crisis Mission In Haiti:

Observations on the Past and Future of a Devastated Country. Presented by Thomas Sullivan, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Geography. ~ UC 333

4:00-8:30 PM Jam Session -- America's Jazz Ambassadors Embrace the World

From the Meridian International Center. A photographic exhibition that chronicles the international tours of legendary jazz musicians selected by the U.S. State Department to serve as roving cultural "ambassadors." ~ Montana Museum of Art & Culture, Meloy and Paxson Galleries, PAR/TV Building



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, 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).

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.

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

International Programs Staff

Mehrdad Kia

Associate Provost for International Programs
mehrdad.kia@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2289

Quincie Albrecht

Director
English Language Institute
quincie.albrecht@mso.umt.edu

Otto Koester

Director of Grantwriting and
Project Development
otto.koester@umontana.edu

Ella Bozigar

Assistant for International Programs
ella.bozigar@mso.umt.edu

Brian Lofink

International Liaison
Central Asia Program Coordinator
brian.lofink@mso.umt.edu

Heather Breckenridge
Instructor

English Language Institute
heather.breckenridge@umontana.edu

Jeanne Loftus

Assistant Director for
Faculty Exchange
jeanne.loftus@mso.umt.edu

Julie Brown

Instructor
English Language Institute
julie.brown@umontana.edu

Anna Lokowich

Instructor
English Language Institute
anna.lokowich@mso.umt.edu

Nancy Gass

Assistant Director
Financial Affairs and Budgeting
nancy.gass@umontana.edu

Lee Ann Millar

Instructor
English Language Institute
leeann.millar@umontana.edu

Rick Graetz

Faculty Affiliate
rick.graetz@mso.umt.edu

Josh Rosenberger

Instructor
English Language Institute
joshua.rosenberger@mso.umt.edu

Susie Graetz

Faculty Affiliate
susie.graetz@mso.umt.edu

Jim Taylor

Visiting Scholar
jim.taylor@umontana.edu

Erika Hutchison

Student Employee
erika.hutchison@mso.umt.edu

Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry

Assistant Director for Study Abroad
marjac@mso.umt.edu