



# EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, November 2009

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## Russian Teacher Training Program at UM

By Brian Lofink, International Liaison, International Programs



*Provost Royce Engstrom Welcomes the Russian Training Program.*

Faculty and staff of The University of Montana's (UM) International Programs, English Language Institute and The College of Education and Human Sciences' Institute for Educational Research and Service (IERS) partnered this semester to provide an enriching training program for eleven visiting Russian educators participating in the Teachers to Teachers: Language, Technology, Math, and Science Exchange (LTMS). LTMS is a program within the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State, and administered by the American Councils for International Education: ACTR / ACCELS. The goal of LTMS is to identify and reward Russian educators with concentrated professional development, short-term internships, and workshop design. LTMS provides Russian educators from across the curriculum the opportunity to collaborate with U.S. counterparts to develop new teaching methods, create or expand materials and curricula, and to prepare professional development workshops for colleagues in their home country.

While in Montana, the educators participated in numerous activities designed to enhance effective instruction in their home country. The teachers received hands on practice developing curriculum, incorporating information technology into lesson plans, and participated in

professional development seminars. The educators participated in a two-day conference with U.S. teachers designed to discuss the best practices of effective instruction. Throughout their stay, the teachers worked towards preparing themselves to lead a professional development conference in Russia for other science, math, and technology teachers. As part of the program, the group visited the three local Missoula public high schools: Big Sky, Hellgate, and Sentinel. In addition, during a trip to Helena, the group met with Montana Secretary of State, Linda McCulloch, members of the Montana Office of Public Instruction and visited the Helena Middle School.

The program also offered meaningful cultural activities aimed at enhancing the Russian teachers' understanding of American culture and society.

This is the third consecutive year the University has administered the exchange project. International Programs would like to thank the following UM offices for their support during the three year long program: Office of the President, Office the Provost, and the College of Education and Human Sciences. In addition, we would like to thank Missoula County Public Schools for their support.

# International Education Week, November 16-20

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

12:00 PM International Education Week Address and Performance, UC Atrium

Mehrdad Kia, Associate Provost for International Programs, Effie Koehn, Director of Foreign Student and Scholar Services, and Felicity Dugo, President of International Student Association, give opening remarks. Spanish dance performance to follow.

4:00 PM Study Abroad Information Session, UC 326

Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry, Assistant Director for Study Abroad, International Programs will present information about study abroad opportunities for UM students and returned study abroad students will share stories about their experiences in various countries of the world.

7:00 PM Healing Hearts in Ethiopia, UC 326

A Missoula cardiac surgery team talks about their mission taking care of children with rheumatic heart valve disease in Ethiopia.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1:00 PM Scholarships Abroad, UC 330

Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry, Assistant Director for Study Abroad, International Programs will provide information about scholarship opportunities for UM students studying abroad. Also, UM recipients of scholarships share their insight on the application process.

3:30 PM The World is Your Job Site: Work Abroad, Lommasson Center 154

Explore your options for working abroad and discover which building plan fits you 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.

7:30 PM Contrasting Cultural Products and Norms in Ghana and the United States, Missoula Public Library Meeting Rm

Presented by Hanson Nyantakyi Frimpong, UM Geography Graduate Student from Ghana. Sponsored by Missoula International Friendship Programs and Missoula Public Library.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

12:00 PM Role of Media in Gross National Happiness (GNH), Old Journalism 303

Presented by Passang Norbu, Visiting Scholar from Bhutan.

2:00 PM Peace Corps Information Session, UC 332

Peace Corps Recruiter Amy Quandt will present on the benefits of joining the Peace Corps.

4:10 PM Carnivore conservation and the ecology of co-existence: insights from African savannahs to Neotropical rainforest, Interdisciplinary Sciences Building Room 110

Presented by Marcella Kelly, Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences, Virginia Tech., Sponsored by the Ecology Seminar Series.

8:00 PM Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Change, University Center Ballroom

Presented by David W. Orr, Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics, Oberlin College, and James Marsh Professor at Large, University of Vermont. Sponsored by the President's Lecture Series.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

12:00 PM Internship Opportunities Abroad, UC 326

Kevin Hood, Internship Coordinator, Internship Services will give an information session about internship opportunities and the IE3 Global Internship Program.

4:30 PM Peace Corps Panel Discussion, UC 326

Returned Peace Corps volunteers share their personal experiences, answer questions, and provide tips.

7:00 PM Wildlife Filmmakers: Heroes & Heroines on the Frontlines of the Conservation Battle, UC 326

Presented by Janet Rose, Executive Director, International Wildlife Film Festival and Media Center.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

12:00 PM The Founder of Republic of Turkey, ATATURK: His Life, Reforms, and Principles, UC 326

Presented by Işıl Donumcu, Visiting Scholar from Turkey.

2:00 PM Hope Deferred: Oral Histories From Zimbabwe, UC 326

Presented by Peter Orner, Kittredge Writer-in-Residence, Creative Writing Program.

Visit the Food Zoo to get a taste of the international cuisine.  
Study Abroad Information Table: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Daily in the UC Atrium.

# UM and IWFF/Media Center Sign MOU to Advance International Outreach & Academic Opportunities

By Janet Rose, Executive Director, International Wildlife Film Festival and Media Center

The University of Montana and the International Wildlife Film Festival & Media Center have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, the culmination of a growing collaboration between the two institutions.

The International Wildlife Media Center coordinates and hosts the annual International Wildlife Film Festival every spring and the Montana CINE International Film Festival in the fall. The Montana Film Academy of the IWMC also presents wildlife film workshops and film training programs for youth, educators and the general public year-round.

The MOU, recently signed by President George M. Dennison, follows several years of formal collaboration between IWFF and UM's International Programs, Environmental Studies, Media Arts, Business Entertainment Division and other departments of The University of Montana.

During the annual IWFF, President George M. Dennison has hosted a special presentation for the Missoula community, University faculty, staff and students and visiting filmmakers. The special presentation and hosted dinner features renowned individuals from the film, television and scientific arenas, who are also in Missoula to attend IWFF.

UM Provost Royce Engstrom has also been instrumental in developing this collaborative relationship, and helped to foster a partnership with IWFF's Tarkio Retreat, a one-day gathering of filmmakers, scientists, conservation organizations and other international leaders held at The University of Montana's beautiful Montana Island Lodge. As a co-sponsor of the Tarkio Retreat initiative, to forge new partnerships in media and conservation, Provost Engstrom welcomed IWFF delegates to the retreat and stressed the importance and role of higher education and the resources of The University of Montana in building international relationships and innovative learning opportunities.

The University's unique Molli Program, a special learning project for people over the age of 50, has also played a role during IWFF, hosting internationally renowned and award-winning underwater filmmakers Howard and Michele Hall. A special film presentation and talk by the husband and wife team, on the UM Campus, brought out UM faculty, students of all ages as well as area high school students and members of the Missoula community for unforgettable presentations, with never before seen clips from the filmmakers' ocean work.

The collaboration between The University of Montana and the

International Wildlife Media Center & IWFF has also created special learning opportunities for UM students. Each year, IWFF & the Media Center provide a variety of internships and volunteer opportunities in every discipline ranging from wildlife biology, to media, marketing and non-profit management. Students have an opportunity to work with professionals in their related fields of interest.

The goal of the MOU will be to enhance the collaborative opportunities between UM and IWFF/MC and to enhance the international outreach of each institution. IWFF's international outreach to filmmakers, scientists, policy makers and other types of specialists from around the world, facilitated by UM's support and international programs, will help to create research, funding, teaching and other unique opportunities for international exchange on a global basis.



Janet Rose, Executive Director of the Film Festival & Media Center says, "This is an extremely significant collaboration that will greatly enhance our ability to attract some of the world's most renowned names in wildlife, media and related fields to come to Missoula and participate in events of mutual interest to UM and IWFF. Dr. Mehrdad Kia, Director of UM's International Programs and Associate Provost, has been a significant catalyst in this collaborative effort and serves as a board member of the IWFF."

In the spring of 2010, UM and IWFF will work together to bring some of the world's leading experts on international wildlife trade and policy issues to Missoula from around the world. In addition, two of the IWFF Lifetime Achievement

Award Winners, 2010 will give keynotes on campus and at other university venues: Alastair Fothergill, executive producer of the BBC and Disney Nature's Planet Earth series and the theatrical release film, "Earth" will talk about the power and impact of media on the natural world. Dr. Carl Safina, founder of the Blue Ocean Institute and one of the world's leading experts on the marine environment, will give a public address on the fate of our oceans.

Quoting from the MOU, "The University of Montana and The International Wildlife Media Center & Film Festival agree to explore collaborative programs of international interest and cooperation. IWMC agrees to help facilitate the outreach to and arrangement of internationally-renowned presenters for the express purpose of fostering international relations and education within the academic setting."

# Geographer Participates in Two European Conferences

By Christiane von Reichert, Professor, Department of Geography



*Christiane von Reichert in Vaasa with rural scholars David Brown from Cornell and Dudley Poston from Texas A&M.*

In August 2009, I had the opportunity to attend and present research papers at two professional European conferences, which were conveniently scheduled back to back and located in relative close proximity to each other: the biennial congress of the European Society for Rural Sociology ESRS held in Vaasa, Finland (August 16-21, 2009) and the annual congress of the European Regional Science Association ERSA held in Lodz, Poland (August 25-29, 2009).

Vaasa, site of the ESRS meeting, is a city of roughly 60,000 located on the 63rd parallel (further north than Anchorage, Alaska) on the Gulf of Bothnia. With Finland being a very rural, sparsely-settled country, the meeting attracted a large number of scholars whose research focused—like mine—on peripheral and geographically isolated regions. Scholars from Scandinavia and the British Isles were especially well represented. Based on the theme of the 2009 ESRS congress 'Re-inventing the Rural Between the Social and the Natural', Philip Lowe, of the University of Newcastle, arranged for a rich scientific program, including plenaries, mini-symposia, and working groups. David Brown from Cornell University organized the working group 'Geographic Mobility and Its Impact on Rural

Community Structure and Change.' Invited by him, I participated in this working group and presented a paper 'What Draws People Back to Rural U.S. Communities?' Erland Eklund and his collaborators from two universities in Vaasa, the Swedish Abo Academi and the Finnish Vaasan Yliopisto, put on an exceptionally-well organized conference.

The Finnish-Swedish bi-lingualism is a striking feature of Vaasa and the surrounding region. Once under control of the Swedish crown, Finland fell under Russian control after a decisive 1808 battle in Oravais, just north of Vaasa. In 1817, after the declaration of Finnish Independence from Russia, Vaasa became the temporary capital of Finland. An impressive city hall, other architecturally noteworthy buildings, and a system of well laid-out boulevards attest to the historic significance of Vaasa. More recently, the city has done well in putting obsolete but historic factories to new use. The Swedish university Abo Academi, for instance, is located in a refurbished flour mill, and the Finnish university Vaasan Yliopisto is partly housed in a re-configured cotton mill.

The ERSA congress in Lodz, a city of 750,000 located 90 minutes southwest of Warsaw, was held in the relatively new and very attractive building of the Department of City and Regional Management at the University at Lodz. It was hosted by the Committee for Spatial Economy and Regional Planning at the Polish Academy of Sciences presided by Tadeusz Markowski. The theme of the conference 'Territorial Cohesion of Europe and Integrative Planning' reflected the meeting's emphasis on regional inequity and policy implications of regional science research. I gave a paper on the employment challenges encountered by returning migrants to rural communities 'Returning Home and Making a Living.' The congress was well attended by scholars from Eastern Europe, the Netherlands, Austria, Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, but also from East Asia.

Some natives of Lodz (pronounced 'woodge') are well known in the U.S. and around the globe: Arthur Rubinstein, Max Factor, Roman Polanski, and more. In the late 19th century Lodz became known as the 'Manchester of Poland.' Fueled by a rapidly growing textile industry, the population of Lodz surged from 4,000 in 1830 to nearly 80,000 in 1880 and roughly 500,000 in 1910. Investors and workers

*Conference contd. on pg. 5*



*Manufactura in Lodz-from factory to downtown mall.*

## UM Signs MOU with University in Nepal

After a very busy week at The University of Montana, two Nepalese educators departed last month with a Memorandum of Understanding between UM and Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu.

Prabal Raj Pokhrel, Head of the Central Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at TU, and Rajendra Dev Acharya, News Director for Nepal Television and a faculty member at TU, met with School of Journalism faculty members, talked to classes and individual students and participated in two open forums sponsored by the Office of International Programs and the School of Journalism.

Both scholars said they were extremely impressed by The University of Montana's academics, facilities and students, and added that they have high hopes for making swift progress toward a full-fledged exchange program. Both universities will exchange more information, and discuss specific aspects and features of an exchange program. A delegation from UM will also travel to Nepal sometime next year to engage in more fact-finding and discussions.



*Photo Above: School of Journalism Dean Peggy Kuhr meets with Prabal Raj Pokhrel, left, and Rajendra Dev Acharya, center*

*Photo Below: Provost Royce Engstrom, Associate Provost Mehrdad Kia, Prabal Raj Pokhrel, and Rajendra Dev Acharya at the Griz football game*



*Conference contd. from pg. 4*

from Poland, Germany, and throughout Europe flocked to Lodz, including a large Jewish population, most who suffered tragically during the Third Reich. During its industrial peak in the late 19th century, as many as 800 cotton mills operated in Lodz. By running vertically-integrated spinning, weaving, and dyeing mills, a handful of industrialists (Scheibler, Posnanski, Grohman, and more) amassed extraordinary wealth, which they displayed in their stunning palaces. Today, the City of Lodz is making efforts to maintain and renovate the many publicly owned buildings despite limited financial resources. Foreign investors have brought in sizable funds to refurbish some of the more striking factory complexes. The 'Manufatura', for instance, is a grand-scale redevelopment project that turned Posnanski's textile mills into an urban mall and playground, complete with fountains and volleyball court, outdoor cafés and restaurants, department stores and specialty shops, and a world class hotel. This and other projects in the making are expected to greatly add to the attractiveness of Lodz.

All in all, my participation at the ESRS congress in Vaasa and the ERSAs congress in Lodz took me to two interesting, historically significant, but very different cities in Europe. The meetings provided good venues for sharing findings from my CSREES/USDA-funded research on return migration to geographically isolated communities in the rural United States. In addition, I gained further insight into rural and regional issues and approaches in Europe and had the opportunity to build networks with international researchers.

# Voice of Witness

## Zimbabwe: Hope Deferred

By Peter Orner, Kittredge Writer-in-Residence, Creative Writing Program

A Voice of Witness book, an oral history edited by Visiting Kittredge Writer Peter Orner, with the help of graduate students from Montana's renowned MFA Program.

### 1. BACKGROUND

In 1980, Zimbabwe was considered a jewel of Southern Africa. The country had emerged from decades of colonialism and brutal war to become a unified nation with a commitment to democracy, reconciliation, human and civil rights for all, universal education and economic development. Hope was in the air and people throughout southern Africa (and in South Africa in particular, still living under apartheid at the time) were looking toward Zimbabwe as a beacon of freedom. Its president, Robert Mugabe, was a world-renowned freedom fighter turned statesman.

Over the next few years, however, cracks began to show in the façade of Zimbabwe's great promise. The ruling party Zanu-PF moved to consolidate power and crush rising dissent. The most notorious – still not openly discussed – was a hidden civil war (known to Zimbabweans as Gukurahundi) which ran from 1983-87, with government forces (predominantly Shona-led) attacking former soldiers from ZAPU (the second liberation army) and the Ndebele people of the South.

A devastating drought in the early 1990s, along with IMF economic restructuring, contributed to weakening the economy. Growing political patronage and corruption did little to help matters. Zimbabwe, a once proudly self-reliant agricultural powerhouse, was forced to import food for the first time.

In the late 1990s, confronted by angry ex-combatants short-changed after Independence, the government moved to support land occupations and then actively to seize white-owned commercial farms. In 2000, proposed amendments to the national constitution included land reform measures. Controversially, the government would be empowered to take land for redistribution. The amendment was defeated in a national referendum – a great shock to the government and a wake-up call to civic society. For many, 'land reform' – like 'indigenization of industry' in the 1990s – has proved to be less about restoring racial and economic justice, and more about enriching loyal elites. The fiery narrative of race serves to smokescreen government failures and corruption. Meanwhile, the mass of the population experiences growing food shortages as first agriculture and then local industry seem to head for total collapse.

### 2. 2008 ELECTIONS

By 2008, Zimbabwe is considered a pariah nation and economic basket case: inflation – the world's highest – tops 11 million percent, while more than 80 percent of Zimbabweans are unemployed. Mugabe is reviled as one of Africa's worst dictators. In a peculiar hybrid, the country holds to the Westminster parliamentary model, while sustaining the secretive centralism of an underground liberation movement. And yet, hope glimmered once more, as early results from the March 2008 seemed to indicate a win for the opposition. Despite alleged rigging and violent voter intimidation, it seemed that the vehement call for change would make itself heard. Beaten down by eight years of vicious repression and severe hardship, Zimbabweans took a deep breath. At home and in the Diaspora, where at least a third of the population have fled, people allowed themselves to hope again, at least for a few short days.

### 3. PREMISE OF THE BOOK

How did Zimbabwe – a country with so much promise following independence in 1980 – a stellar education system, a growing middle class of professionals, a sophisticated economic infrastructure, a liberal constitution, an independent judiciary and many of the trappings of fully functioning democracy – go so wrong? Orner and his team have conducted extensive interviews with a number of the people who know this complicated story best – the Zimbabwean people who have endured (and hoped) across the decades. *Zimbabwe Stories: Hope Deferred* will collect these fascinating and diverse stories and give readers a panoramic view of a beautiful country in economic and political tatters.

Peter Orner is the author of *The Second Coming of Mavala Shikongo* (Little Brown, 2006), a novel set in Namibia, and is also the editor of the Voice of Witness oral history: *Underground America: Narratives of Undocumented Lives* (McSweeney's/ Voice of Witness, 2008). A Spanish version of *Underground America* will be published this year.



*Peter Orner, Kittredge Writer-in-Residence*

# MCLL China Study Abroad Trip

By Zhen Cao, Adjunct Instructor, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Jointly sponsored by MCLL, the Provost's office, the Mansfield Center and the International Programs, Dr. Zhen Cao led a group of 8 students to China on a study abroad program from June 20 to August 14. The program's purposes are of two: language training and cultural exploration.

The Shanghai government listed the group as an official "U.S. College Students Cultural Exploration Delegation" and arranged a five-day break-in trip to Fengxian (Cao's home town), a resort district by the beach in the suburbs. The group visited a high school, a free market, city parks, the ecological agricultural theme park, the Garden of Hundred Birds (a natural conservation theme park), the beach development zone, the history museum, the city planning exhibition. The group also attended public evening dancing activities, seminars with local educators and played golf at the beach golf course whose lifetime membership is set at 1.2 million yuan Reminbi (180,000 USD.) The local government picked up most of the cost and entertained the group with quite a few banquets. The group's activities made the local news and also appeared in the Shanghai municipal government's internal news letter.

The group then went to Shandong province, paying a visit to Qufu, Confucius' home town, where they paid respect to Confucius' tomb, Confucius Temple and visited the Kong Family residential compound. The group also visited Taishan, the first and also the highest of the Five Holy Mountains in China (see the picture.) They climbed more than 3,000 steps all the way to the top of the hill to visit the Temple of the Heavenly Jade Emperor, where emperors used to worship and communicate with Jade Emperor, their heavenly father. The Shandong trip ended with a one day visit to Jinan, capital city of the province, well known as the City of Fountains.

In early July, the group visited Suzhou, the center of silk culture and music in China. It is also known as the number one garden city in the country, and the Venice in the Orient for its enormous waterway system in the city. The group visited a silk factory and a silk museum where they experienced the whole process of silk production: from egg breaking of the silk worms to the finished silk ware products.

In July, the group also spent one weekend in Nanjing, which served eight times as the country's capital. The group paid homage to the mausoleum for Dr. Sun Yat-sen who led the well known 1911 revolution which overthrew the last emperor of China. The group also visited the Nanjing Massacre Museum, the Confucius Temple and the historic National Civil Service Examination Academy by Qinhuai River, the busiest commercial section of the national canal system. The group took a boat ride on Yangtze River.

Late July, the group went to Hangzhou, the Lake City, Which served as China's capital city in Southern Song Dynasty. It is one of the centers of the Chinese tea culture. The group visited West Lake and LingYin Temple, the largest Buddhist temple in southern China. The group then visited Longjin (Dragon well) tea plantation.

In August, the group took an overnight train to Xi'An, which served as China's capital for over a thousand years. There the group visited the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum, the bathing fountains for the emperors and their concubines, the famous Five-room Jiang Kaishi summer mansion, the National Museum of the History of China, the ancient summer palace and the ancient capital city wall. Most of the group made a bike trip on top the 14.7 km long city wall. The group also visited the two thousand year old "the Great Wild Goose Pagoda" and the Music Fountain Square.

From August 9 to 14, the group made their final excursion trip to Beijing, the capital city of China. They visited the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and 2008 Olympic Game Park. Some of them swam in the Water Cube, where Michael Phelps won his eight gold medals. One student did skate-boarding in Tiananmen Square. The group took one day visiting exotic markets to the south of Qianmen, where they enjoyed food of different styles all over the country.

Amazingly enough, while we can not find authentic Chinese restaurants in U.S., there are very authentic American restaurants in most major cities in China. For quite a few Mondays, the group had very authentic Montana burgers in a franchised restaurant called Blue Frog in different parts of China. Blue Frog offered "buy one get one free" every Monday night.



*The UM study group in front of Confucius' grave.*



## International Programs Holiday Reception

**International Programs invites you  
to celebrate the season with us**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2009**

**3:30 - 5:00 PM**

**International Center**

**Please join us for beverages and  
hors d'oeuvres!**

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.

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