



EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, November 2007

CONTENTS

Musings on Turkey 2

International Education Week Schedule 3

Student Report: Nepal 4

Visitors from Moscow State University 4

UM Professors Present Workshops in South Africa 5

Call for Applications for the Carnegie Junior Fellows Program 6

Directory 6

Russian Leaders Examine Science, Math and Technology Teaching in Missoula, Montana

By George Felcyn, The PBN Company



International Programs and School of Education, Division of Educational Research & Service welcomed, alongside Governor Schweitzer, 17 Russian teachers/leaders for the 3 week Teachers-To-Teachers program

Missoula, MT — Seventeen Russian leaders participating in the Teachers to Teachers: Language, Technology, Math, and Science Exchange (LTMS) will spend much of October 2007, in Missoula, Montana examining effective high school teaching strategies and curriculum. LTMS, a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State, and administered by the American Councils for International Education: ACTR / ACCELS, identifies and rewards Russian educators with concentrated professional development, short-term internships, and workshop design. LTMS gives 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 teachers will receive hands on practice developing curriculum, incorporating information technology into lesson plans, and will visit Big Sky, Hellgate, and Sentinel High Schools - all branches of Missoula County Public Schools.

The visiting teachers are from across Russia, many from near Moscow and were welcomed on October 4th at an opening reception by Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer. The University of Montana's International Programs and the School of Education's Division of Educational Research and Service are jointly administering the project in addition to designing the schedule of activities, facilitates many of the sessions and experiences.

"Montana students always rank well nationally in terms of their science and math skills," said Dr. Richard van den Pol, co-administrator of the project in the School of Education. "Our high schools are proud to share this success with the visiting

teachers."

The LTMS program is the second partnership between the American Councils for International Education and UM. Dr. Mehrdad Kia is the Associate Provost of UM's International Program and he is pleased with the ongoing collaboration.

"It is a pleasure working with these teachers," Kia, who is also a co-administrator of the project, said. "UM has a long tradition of successful, long-term bilateral exchange programs and I am confident that the quality of our high school education system and the famous Montana hospitality will make this a memorable trip for our Russian friends."

For more information, please contact Brian Lofink at 406-243-2299 or Ben Dunbar at 202-833-7522. For more information on LTMS, please visit www.americancouncils.org.



President Dennison giving the welcome address at the opening ceremony for the Teachers-to-Teachers Program.

Mathematics, Culture and Language: Musings on Turkey- the Crossroads of Civilization

By Bharath Sriraman, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences



The faces of diversity- Children in traditional dress

In June 2007, I had the honor of being conferred a visiting professorship at Gazi University in Ankara, Turkey. My yearly summer appointment was a result of the efforts of Professors Ziya Argun and Ahmet Arıkan in the faculty of mathematics education at Gazi and dean of the faculty of education, Basri Atasoy, who wanted me to co-supervise the on-going research of their doctoral students in mathematics education. This opportunity to go to Turkey on an annual basis was particularly appealing to me because of a lifelong interest in Turkic and Indo-Iranian languages and culture. From 1980-82, I had spent time in Istanbul and various ports near the Bosphorus on merchant ships captained by my father. So, it was time to refresh childhood nostalgic memories and experience this unique country through the lens of an academic and linguist.

Ankara is the capital of modern day Turkey, and the structure of the city, its modern amenities and institutions could be compared to that of Washington DC. The city is extremely functional with mass transit systems and boasts a modern state of the art airport with direct connections from most hubs in Western and Central Europe. Even though Ankara is a very modern and westernized capital city, its bazaars and the hustle-bustle of daily life and people are identical to that of Bandar-Abbas, Iran or Bombay, India. The purpose of this first visit was to assess the progress of three doctoral students Yasemin Kymaz, Serdar Aztekin and Cagri Biber on their dissertation work, deliver several seminars at Gazi University on specific research domains within mathematics education, and to travel and engage in cultural activities within the country. There is a great demand for university mathematics educators in Turkey because of the proliferation of new universities and schools. For a person of Indian origin, well versed in Hindi, Urdu and Farsi (Persian), spoken Turkish seemed comfortably familiar yet distant. The reader might be interested to learn that Turkish language and culture considerably influenced the languages and religions of Southern and Central Asia during the growth of the Moghul empire (Moghul is the Persian equivalent for Mongol). The Moghuls from the time of Tuglugh Timur (14th century), who had embraced Islam when the Mongol empire was splintering, were Turkic in origin and Persian in culture. Descendants of the Moghuls in the Indian sub-continent, such as Akbar the great, and Shahjahan (the emperor who sanctioned the Taj Mahal) fused elements of Islam (particularly Sufism) with Hinduism. Although Turkish belongs to the western sub-group of the Oghuz language group, the language contains the strong influence of Farsi and Arabic, and these languages in turn contribute to nearly 40% of the vocabulary of Hindi and Urdu. The distant impression of the language arose from realizing the fact that the same words carried different

meanings. For instance the word "defter" means office in Hindi, Urdu and Farsi, but in Turkish it means notebook. On the other hand words like "Hava" (meaning weather/air) and Ashk (ashq in Farsi, ishq in Urdu) meaning love are universals in all these languages.

The uniqueness of Turkish culture is its historical relationship to the Greco-Roman and Byzantine worlds, the Caliphate and the Caucuses, making the land a true crossroads of civilizations. This cross fertilization of eastern and western cultures and people is revealed in the beautiful and diverse facial features of modern day Turks as well as the cuisine. The cuisine has elements of Mediterranean simplicity in the basic ingredients combined with complexity from the spices originating in the East. Modern day Turkey established in 1923 following the fall of the Ottoman Empire in World War I is a secular democracy, western in its political and economic orientation as a result of the reforms initiated by Mustafa Kemal Pasha, also known as Attaturk (the father of modern Turkey). However the structure of family life and relations, hospitality and friendliness of people bear a strong resemblance to Indo-Iranian cultures. In modern Turkish the Arabic alphabet is eliminated and instead the Latin alphabet is used with linguistic symbols derived from French and German. A major highlight of my trip to Turkey was a visit to timeless Cappadocia (Katpatuka in Persian), now a UNESCO world heritage site in Central Turkey, first mentioned in the ancient Persian chronicles (6th century BCE) of Darius the great and Xerxes. This visually stunning region is a marvel of nature, also the sanctuary of the first Christians, and later became the home of beautiful monasteries and chapels carved right into the mountains and rocks of this region. Visit <http://www.cappadociaturkey.net/>

I am hoping to build a long term relationship with the faculty and doctoral students at Gazi University as well as explore possibilities of co-operating with faculty at the Middle Eastern Technical University in Ankara. The long term goal is to build a collaboration that can eventually result into a faculty and student exchange. Mehrdad Kia has initiated a Turkish language program in the Central and South Asian Program at the University of Montana this Fall, with Turkish being offered for the first time on campus by a visiting scholar from the Republic of Georgia (Tamila Meladze). This has allowed me the opportunity to finally learn this beautiful and hauntingly familiar language. I will return to Turkey in July 2008 and the two following summers during which time I am hoping to see the doctoral students defend their dissertations, to become fluent in the language, visit other regions of Turkey particularly the Black Sea and North Eastern Black Sea regions, and build lasting relations. I encourage UM students and faculty to become more involved in the ongoing efforts of the Office of International Programs to build ties with a vital region of the world.



Breathtaking Cappadocia

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2007: NOVEMBER 13-16

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to promote programs that "prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States." The web address is: <http://iew.state.gov>. Included on the site are statements from U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, as well as promotional materials, an interactive quiz, and opportunities to post and view planned events around the world.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10:30 AM PAKISTANI WEDDING CEREMONIES

Fizzah Sajjad, Exchange student from Pakistan, Near East and South Asia Undergraduate program

12:00 NOON, OPPORTUNITIES FOR UM STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY, UC 331

Gulnara Kuramshina and Anatoly Yagola, Visiting Professors, Moscow State University, Leonid Kalachev, Mathematical Sciences, Ed Rosenberg, Chemistry, Mehrdad Kia, International Programs

4:30 PM HOW TO PAY FOR YOUR SUMMER TRAVEL OVERSEAS, CAREER SERVICES, LOMMASSON CENTER 154

Learn everything you always wanted to know about how to work abroad, have a really fun time traveling, and see exciting new places without dipping into your college funds. Also, a look at teaching abroad and how to start an international career.

7:00 PM A GLIMPSE OF CULTURE IN THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA, UC 333

Exchange students from Bahrain, Egypt, Oman, Pakistan and Tunisia reveal the intricacies of their cultures.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

11:45 AM INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK ADDRESS AND PERFORMANCE, UC ATRIUM

Mehrdad Kia, Associate Provost for International Programs and Effie Koehn, Director of Foreign Student and Scholar services.

12:00 NOON JOURNEY THROUGH THE SILK ROAD, RICK & SUSIE GRAETZ, OLD JOURNALISM 303

Central & Southwest Asia Brown Bag presentation

3:00 PM INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, UC 330-331

Andrea Vernon, Director of the Office for Civic Engagement and Kassi Miller, UM Peace Corps Campus Recruiter will give an information session about various international opportunities.

7:00 PM RESTLESS NEPAL: ANCIENT TRADITIONS IN TURBULENT TIMES, ALLI KWESELL, UC 333

UM Photo Journalism student, Alli Kwezell, will share photos and stories about her recent experiences working for a newspaper in Nepal.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

12:00 NOON JAPAN'S GREAT INTERPRETER: LAFCADIO HEARN, ALAN ROSEN, OLD JOURNALISM 303

Alan Rosen, Visiting Professor from Kumamoto University, Japan, will give a presentation as part of the International Brown Bag Series.

2:00 PM STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION SESSION, UC 331

Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry, Assistant Director for Study Abroad, International Programs will give information about study abroad opportunities for UM students.

3:00 PM MINORITY GROUPS IN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, UC 331

Mirrette Gendi and Maram Enaia, Exchange students from Egypt and Israel, Near East and South Asia Undergraduate program

4:30 PM PEACE CORPS PANEL DISCUSSION, UC 331

Returned Peace Corps members will give information about their experiences.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

10:30 AM POLITICS IN MOROCCO

Ali Ajbaili, Exchange student from Morocco, Near East and South Asia Undergraduate program

12:00 NOON GEORGIA IN BETWEEN, UC 333

Tobie Weist, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, will give a presentation about her recent faculty exchange to UM's Georgian partner university, Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa.

3:00 PM TURKEY, TAMILA MELADZE, OLD JOURNALISM 303

Tamila Meladze, Visiting Turkish Instructor in the Central & Southwest Asia Program, will give an introduction to Turkish culture.

4:00 PM ADVENTURES IN ISAN: STUDYING ABROAD AT KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY IN NORTHEAST THAILAND, UC 333

Nathan Domitrovitch, International Student Exchange Assistant, International Programs, will speak about his experiences as an exchange student.

Restless Nepal: Ancient Traditions in Turbulent Times

By Alli Kwesell, UM Student



The din of traffic horns and chanting protestors gently dulls to a peaceful prayer and soft ringing of temple bells when one gets lost in Kathmandu. Steeped in ancient traditions and caught in turbulent times that echo uncertainty in the hearts of its people, Nepal is a country balancing on the cusp of dramatic change. According to the 2006 poll of the United Nations Population Fund there are 27 million Nepalese citizens, 48% who live below the national poverty line and 37.7% who live on less than \$1 per day. With an economy based largely on tourism, Nepal has been plagued by years of violent civil war, a virtually stateless society, and consequent lawlessness and socioeconomic decline.

On the surface, Nepal's capitol, Kathmandu, is a bustling metropolis crammed with winding roads of traffic jams, screeching motorcycles and pungent pollution. But behind the darkest alley and through any miniature doorway lies the heart of Nepalese culture and warming hospitality: laughing diddis in bright saris, back alley temples and billows of incense smoke from daily offerings.

One day's hike in Nepal can carry a person from the sweaty jungle to high alpine regions. Historically, adventurers have flocked to Nepal to summit the roof of the world and kayak extreme rivers, while culture lovers seek the colors of Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, high castes and low, hill people and city folk. Journalists write about refugees or photograph intense suffering and political unrest while missionaries seek to save and aid workers attempt to develop and enrich.

Nepal is a tiny country sandwiched between the world's densest populations of India and China. For 60 years tourists have sought Nepal for adventure and for 50 years it has been inundated with development workers. For the last 12 years Nepal has been in civil war with a destabilizing change from complete monarchy to attempted democracy and rebel parties in between.

In November, 2006, eight political parties joined to sign a comprehensive peace agreement ending 11 years of violence across the country. Prateek Pradhan, the editor for Nepal's national newspaper, The Kathmandu Post, was quick to describe the peace accord by saying, "A country ravaged and ridden by war and teetering on the brink of failed state status has salvaged itself, heralding a new dawn of peace, progress and prosperity." Suddenly, life seemed hopeful and the Nepalese people celebrated. Three weeks later the streets were empty with the threat of yet another violent protest. For the past 12 years the heart, soul and fierce spirit of the Nepalese people have shined as they have fought for human rights in the shadow of a corrupt and ineffective government, wartime atrocities, and calls for democracy amid the threat of violence to voters, most of whom cannot even read the ballot due to illiteracy. The horror of Nepal's civil war and the atrocities committed in a context of an ineffective government have tainted the white of its magnificent peaks red and blighted every Nepali's view of the future.



Alli Kwesell was in Nepal working on a photo story titled "Roof of Their World" for The University of Montana, and interning at The Kathmandu Post for one year. She spent a previous year studying and teaching in India and Nepal. Her undergraduate degree is in photojournalism, and she is beginning a masters degree in Anthropology.

Moscow State University Professors will Speak at UM

By Leonid Kalachev, Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences

Professor Gulnara Kuramshina of Chemistry Department (Moscow State University) and Professor Anatoly Yagola of Physics Department, Division of Applied Mathematics (Moscow State University) are going to visit The University of Montana at the beginning of November 2007. Professor Kuramshina is a specialist on solving inverse problems of molecular spectroscopy as well as on analysis of molecular force fields and dynamics in polyatomic molecules. She is going to give a seminar at the UM Chemistry Department on November 7. Professor Yagola is a world renowned scientist working in the area of inverse and ill-posed problems. He is going to give a colloquium talk at the UM Mathematical Sciences Department. He will also present a short course for graduate students in Montana Ecology of Infectious Disease program. During the International Week, November 12 – 16, Professor Kuramshina and Professor Yagola will take part in a round table discussion related to collaboration agreement between The University of Montana and Moscow State University supporting joint research projects and faculty and students exchanges between the two universities.



Professors Kuramshina and Yagola from Moscow State University.

UM Professors Present Workshops at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

By Ed Rosenberg, Professor, Department of Chemistry

Professors Ed Rosenberg and Trina Valencich of UM's Department of Chemistry spent the period August 1-20, 2007 in the Department of Chemistry at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) in Johannesburg, South Africa. They were invited by Professor Ewa Cukrowska, head of the Analytical Environmental Chemistry group at WITS. The purpose of their visit was to present lectures and workshops in their areas of expertise. Professor Rosenberg presented a workshop entitled "Recovery of Heavy Metals from Waste Streams and Mining Leaches: A Green Chemistry Perspective," and a lecture entitled "Organometallic Complexes as Probes for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics." Professor Valencich presented a lecture on "Science for Non-Science Majors," and a hands on laboratory workshop on her general education course "Consumer Chemistry." Professor Cukrowska became aware of the couples' work through two former UM graduate students, Eric and Dana Roberts who are now on the faculty at WITS. WITS is one of the major South African Universities established 83 years ago with a student population of 26,000, the majority of whom are black Africans from all over the continent.

The purpose of Professor Rosenberg's workshop was to familiarize members of the WITS environmental group, representatives of local governmental councils and mining companies, who attended the two day affair, with the latest ways of dealing with heavy metal pollution. South Africa and particularly the Johannesburg area is one of the major mining centers of the world. This area provides 47% of the monetary value of South African exports, mostly in the form of precious metals, chromium, manganese and other heavy metals. South Africa is the world's leading supplier of chromium and this element is pervasive in the environment. Chromate waste ends up in the concrete used for construction, in the air and in the ash produced at power plants. When it is present as chromate it is incredibly toxic (remember the movie Erin Brokovich) and chromate pollution was the main focus of the more than 20 coworkers in Professor Cukrowska's group. Professor Rosenberg has established several collaborative research projects aimed at dealing with the chromate and uranium pollution problems in the Johannesburg area; following one on one discussions with workshop participants.

The Chemistry Department at WITS is composed of graduate and undergraduate students from all over Africa and it was the students and young faculty from the less developed countries such as Rwanda, Zambia and the Congo that were very appreciative of the workshop Professor Valencich presented

which involved the participants in chemical experiments based on the synthesis and analysis of common household items. They viewed this type of laboratory experience as an excellent way to introduce chemistry to students with little or no scientific background.

The experience in Johannesburg was on the one hand inspiring, and on the other hand shocking and depressing. It was inspiring to sit in a room occupied by students and faculty from all over the African continent and representing almost all of the 11 major ethnic groups in South Africa. They all worked



Professors Ed Rosenberg and Trina Valencich of UM's Department of Chemistry during their recent trip to South Africa

together, helped each other and seemed at ease with the fact that most of the senior faculty and staff were white Europeans. South Africa is in a state of transition where the government and bureaucracy are mainly handled by native black Africans but where most of the wealth and power is still in the hands of white Europeans. With 35 % unemployment in the black population it is no wonder there is an extraordinary rate of violent crime. For the middle class, both black and white, this creates an atmosphere of fear and extremely tight security. Riding down a typical middle or upper class street in Johannesburg one does not see houses but only 6-7 foot walls with barbed wire or broken glass on the top.

Access to certain areas is not possible and Professors Rosenberg and Valencich got only a limited view of this bustling city of 5 million. Driving by one of the many "townships," one gets a glimpse of the extreme poverty most black Africans live in.

On the other hand, the couple managed 3 wonderful days on the Cape Peninsula and in the Western Cape at the southern tip of the country. This area has to be one of the most beautiful places on earth and has all of the features of a sophisticated vacation destination including some of the best wines in the world. No trip to Africa would be complete without a trip to an African game preserve and the couple was treated to wonderful weekend at Pilanesburg Game Preserve where almost every species of African mammal and bird could be seen up close in their natural habitat. South Africa presents the entire 5 billion year geologic history of the earth in its rock outcroppings and mineral deposits and one of the most fascinating days of the trip was a visit to a geologic park near Johannesburg.

Overall it was a great experience for the two UM professors and both agreed that an anticipated return invitation for 2010 to attend an environmental conference that Professor Cukrowska is organizing will definitely be accepted.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

The International Programs Newsletter at The University of Montana



The University of
Montana

**International Programs
International Center (MIP005)**

Carnegie Junior Fellows Program New Opportunity for UM Seniors and Recent Graduates

UM students have the opportunity to work as research assistants for the prestigious Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellows Program provides an opportunity for students who desire careers in international affairs to have a substantive one-year working experience in Washington, D.C. Junior Fellows provide research assistance to Associates working on Carnegie Endowment projects.

Pay: Positions are paid, full-time positions for one year. Junior Fellows are paid a gross salary of \$2,916.66 per month (\$35,000 per year). A full benefits package is also provided.

Eligibility: Applicants must either be graduating seniors or students who have completed their bachelor's degree within the past academic year. No one will be considered who has started graduate studies.

Applicants do not have to be US citizens if they attend a university located in the US and are eligible to work in the US for a full 12 months from August 1 through July 31 for the Fellowship. Students on F-1 visas who are eligible to work in the US for the full year (August 1 through July 31) may apply for the program.

Please note: The University of Montana may nominate no more than two students.

The UM deadline for consideration of your application is Friday, November 30. ASAP, review the Carnegie web site at www.CarnegieEndowment.org, then Contact Laure Pengelly Drake, Director of External Scholarships and Advising, at 243-6140 or Laure.pengellydrake@umontana.edu.

In the September issue there was an error in the article about Visiting Professor Renichi Suzuki. Professor Suzuki did not teach courses in the Japanese section. However, he provided a lunchtime Japanese Language Table each week.

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.

International Programs Staff

Mehrdad Kia

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

Quincie Albrecht
English Language Institute
quincie.albrecht@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2084

Deirdre Black
Special Language Consultant
English Language Institute
deedblack@gmail.com
406-243-2084

Julie Brown
English Language Institute
julie.brown@umontana.edu
406-243-2084

Nathan Domitrovich
International Student Exchange Assistant
nathan.domitrovich@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2296

Tara Dunlap
English Language Institute
tara.dunlap@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2232

Meghan Easley
English Language Institute
meghan.easley@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2232

Nancy Gass
Assistant Director
Financial Affairs and Budgeting
nancy.gass@umontana.edu
406-243-2212

Jennifer Ginn
Student Employee
jennifer.ginn@umontana.edu
406-243-2288

Rick Graetz
Faculty Affiliate
rick.graetz@mso.umt.edu

Susie Graetz
Faculty Affiliate
susie.graetz@mso.umt.edu

Jana Hood
Director
English Language Institute
joan.hood@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2334

Anne Hosler
Student Employee
annehosler@mac.com
406-243-2288

Brian Lofink
International Liaison
brian.lofink@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2299

Jeanne Loftus
Assistant to the Director
jeanne.loftus@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2288

Anna Lokowich
English Language Institute
anna.lokowich@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2232

Lee Ann Millar
English Language Institute
leeann.millar@umontana.edu
406-243-2084

Doug Saxen
English Language Institute
doug.saxen@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2084

Meghan Squires
Assistant Director for Faculty Exchange
meghan.squires@mso.umt.edu
406-243-6865

Robert Squires
Assistant Director
English Language Institute
robert.squires@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2232

Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry
Assistant Director for Study Abroad
marjac@mso.umt.edu
406-243-2296

Julie Vetter
Assistant Director
Special Language Programs
julie.vetter@umontana.edu
406-243-2084