



# EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, September 2006

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## International Collaborations with University of Porto

By Gordon Luikart, Visiting Research Associate Professor, Division of Biological Sciences  
and Paulo Célio Alves, Professor, University of Porto, Portugal

The University of Montana recently had a visit by Paulo Célio Alves, a professor at the University of Porto, Portugal, and a senior researcher at CIBIO (Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources). His

main research fields are conservation biology and population genetics. He is coordinating several projects in phylogeography and hybridization of hares (Genus *Lepus*). He is also involved in projects for developing DNA-based methods to study the hybridization between wolf

and dog, wild and domestic cat, pig and wild boar, wild and domestic rabbit, and partridge species. The main purpose of his visit was to develop international collaborations between the University of Porto and The University of Montana.

The initial collaboration involves development of joint research projects and the establishment of sister centers of excellence in conservation genetics at the University of Porto and UM. This cooperation has already been initiated by Gordon Luikart who is a senior researcher at CIBIO, University of Porto and a visiting research associate professor at The University of Montana Conservation Genetics Laboratory directed by Professor Fred Allendorf. A second collaboration is an international course on Conservation Genetic Data Analysis organized by Gordon (and Dr. Albano Beja-Pereira) to be held in Porto from August 30 to September 2, 2006. The course will have 26 students from 14 countries and 10 invited instructors from across Europe and the USA. The UM Division of Biological Sciences (DBS) and the Office of the Vice President for Research have helped sponsor the course. An additional collaboration was initiated as a

joint project between Paulo, Gordon and Mike Schwartz (Rocky Mountain Research Laboratory, U.S. Forest Service) to develop new DNA tests to detect the presence of elusive carnivore species from

feces found in the field. Yet another collaboration was initiated between Paulo and Professor Scott Mills (UM Wildlife Department) to assess genetic relationships among populations of North American hares. This project was initiated during a field trip to Yellowstone Park where Paulo helped Scott trap hares as part of an ongoing monitoring study. Finally, Paulo and Gordon had a productive meeting with Dr. Kia,

director of UM's International Programs, to plan a formal exchange program for students between UM and University of Porto. Hopes are high to initiate the program next year.



*Professor Paulo Célio Alves (left), Kate Nittinger, Professor Scott Mills, and Julie Fuller trapping hares in Yellowstone Park*



*Professors Kia, Célio Alves and Luikart recently met to discuss plans for a formal exchange program.*

# UM Explores Partnerships in Italy

Dr. Jerry Fetz, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Mehrdad Kia, Assistant Vice President and Director of International Programs, traveled to Italy this summer to meet with officials at three Italian universities and discuss areas for collaboration and exchange.

At the Alessandria campus of the University of Eastern Piedmont "Amedeo Avogadro," Fetz and Kia met with chemistry faculty members who work closely with Professor Ed Rosenberg from UM's Department of Chemistry. During the visit, Professor Rosenberg presented a talk on his research to the faculty and students from Amedeo Avogadro. An official partnership was recently established between UM and Amedeo Avogadro in September of 2005. Discussions focused on areas of future collaboration and possibilities for faculty exchanges.

Fetz, Kia, and Rosenberg also met with the Rector of the University of Turin and administrators and faculty from Turin's Faculty of Economics. During the meeting, the formal agreement between the University of Turin and The University of Montana was signed. Additionally, Dean Fetz and the Dean of Turin's Faculty of Economics, Professor Sergio Bortolani, signed an exchange agreement. Based on this agreement, UM students and faculty will have opportunities to participate in an exchange program at University of Turin in several different areas including Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, Sociology, History, Geography, Italian, German, French and Spanish.

The Italian trip was concluded with a visit to the University of Siena where Fetz and Kia met with Dr. Annalisa Poggialini, Siena's Director of International Relations. University of Siena has expressed a strong interest in establishing a long-term partnership with The University of Montana. Plans for establishing an exchange relationship were discussed and an agreement will likely be signed this fall.

## At a Glance: University of Turin

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**September 13, 12-1 pm:** Dr. M. Asif Khan, Director of the National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar, Pakistan

*Local Observations of the 8 October 2005 Kashmir Earthquake*

**September 20, 12-1 pm:** Professor Peter Omara-Ojungu, Executive Dean, Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Venda, South Africa

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*Pharmacy Education at Charles University in the Czech Republic*

**November 15, 12-1 pm:** Traolach Ó Ríordáin, Instructor, Irish Studies

*Irish Studies in the West: Why Montana?*

# UM Faculty Help Inaugurate China's Xiamen University Xeng He-Marco Polo Summer Academy

By David Aronofsky, UM Legal Counsel and Adjunct Law Faculty Member

I spent June 12-17 helping inaugurate and teaching a course on the U.S. Legal System at China's Xiamen University Law School Xeng He-Marco Polo Summer Academy, which has attracted students from all over China, South Korea, North Korea, Mongolia, Australia and Germany, along with one from the United States. This is the first of several courses being taught at the Academy, created to bring students from different parts of the world to Xiamen University to study pertinent legal and related legal policy issues in an international summer school setting.

The city of Xiamen, located on the southeast China coast, has special international historical significance as the home port of Xeng He, China's most prominent seafaring explorer. Xiamen was also the city from which Marco Polo left China to return home after writing extensively about the city. The Xiamen University Law School is designated by China's Education Ministry as a national excellence center in international law. UM adjunct law faculty member Kristin Juras will also participate as an Academy instructor by co-teaching a 2-week course on the Law of the Sea with Xiamen University Law Professor Kuen-chen Fu, one of the world's leading scholars in international oceanic law. Professor Juras co-authors one of the leading U.S. Law of the Sea books and is herself a prominent legal expert in this field. All Academy courses are taught in English without translators or interpreters.

This is truly a remarkable educational initiative. My students had virtually no experience studying the U.S. legal system, and yet they now understand what our country's founders were trying to do in creating three co-equal branches of the federal government with an independent judiciary and also creating a federalist system with significant powers given to the states. We studied some two-dozen key U.S. Supreme Court cases that collectively illustrate how our system is supposed to function. These students worked very hard in a language not native to most of them, and hearing them discuss issues such as judicial review, states' rights on volatile issues such as assisted suicide, medical marijuana use, Miranda rights and our electoral college selection of U.S. Presidents as seen in the 2000 Bush v. Gore case was a stimulating learning experience for me. The Xiamen University law students in my class deserve special compliments for their warmth and efforts to make me feel at home in their city.

I lectured at the Xiamen University Law and Business Schools in June 2005, and it was then that Xiamen University sought my participation in helping design the Academy programs. The University of Montana is considering Xiamen as the site for a possible future UM China campus.

## UM Delegation Visits Xinjiang in Western China

By Otto Koester, Coordinator, Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program

Xinjiang: the largest province of China covering one-sixth of the nation's territory and international borders with Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kashmir (Pakistan/India). The western-most province, home of 20 million inhabitants and 13 ethnic groups, most speakers of Turkic languages. Rich in history, culture and mineral resources, targeted by the Chinese government for rapid economic growth. In the geographical center of Asia with the world's second-highest, second-lowest depression, and desolate deserts. A major hub on the old Silk Road, yet unknown to most Americans.

This, in broad terms, is the part of China that four faculty members from The University of Montana visited this past summer. From July 26 to August 13, Louis Hayes, Department of Political Science, Ona Renner-Fahey, Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, and Otto Koester, Central and Southwest Asia Program, participated in a carefully arranged study program of lectures by local experts, museum tours, visits to major historic sites, and attended meetings with different ethnic groups in various parts of what officially is called the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The purpose of the trip was to learn more and gather instructional materials as part of a curriculum development grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to UM's flourishing Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program. The leader of the group was Richard Harris, School of Forestry and Conservation, who speaks fluent Chinese and has conducted wildlife and ecology research in Xinghi and Gansu Provinces for more than twenty years.

The study program began with daily presentations in Urumqi by faculty members from the Central Asia Institute at Xinjiang Normal University, Xinjiang University, and Xinjiang

*Continued Western China pg. 6*



*Top right: Otto Koester, Louis Hayes and Ona Renner-Fahey visiting a Kazakh family's yurt in Urumqi, Western China  
Bottom right: Map of Xinjiang Province*

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## Special Language Programs: Summer 2006

This summer, Special Language Programs brought many new faces to campus to study the English language, American culture, and teaching pedagogy. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and the generosity of the community, they have returned to their countries with a sense that they now have a second home in Missoula. Sixty-one students and fifty-four teachers from Japan and Korea enriched The University of Montana and Missoula on four different programs.

UM was one of only three universities in the U.S. selected by the Korean Ministry of Education to host The Korean National University of Education EFL Teacher Education Program (July 23-August 19). The program, which included fifty-four elementary school teachers, was the culmination of a six-month program of in-service training in a highly selective and competitive national program. Classes focused on the development of materials, practices for the elementary classroom, and language through cultural literacy. Participants were further involved in a teaching demonstration at Paxson Elementary School, cultural and educational tours of Yellowstone, Glacier National Park and Seattle, local horseback riding and rafting trips, and a popular home-stay program.

One of the Korean teachers summed up her experiences as follows:

"Americans are friendly and love diversity. In spite of a small Asian population in Missoula, most of the town people greet me with bright smiles and do not mind taking their time to show this stranger who is asking directions instead of staring at or ignoring me. In addition, some kind customers at restaurants or coffee shops in this town treated me to coffee or beer and enjoyed talking with me." Jang Ju Li, KNUE program participant

The English Language and NGO Internship Program, (July 2-August 16) drew twenty-one students from three universities: Kumamoto Gakuen University in Kumamoto, Japan; Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul, Korea; and Andong National University in Andong, Korea. Students participated in English language classes as well as internships in Missoula at one of the following organizations: Flagship Program, MUD (Missoula Urban Demonstration), Missoula Children's Theatre, Adventure Cycling, Natural History Museum, Jeannette Rankin Peace Center, Opportunity Resources, Food Bank, Poverello Center, Missoula Parks and Recreation, Boys and Girls Club, and A Carousel for Missoula. The internships gave students opportunities to apply their English skills and learn first-hand about service learning and volunteer work. Whilst pursuing active work in the community, students reflected on the differing cross-cultural solutions to

*Continued Summer Language Programs pg. 6*

## Exchange Relationship in Uruguay Continues to Grow

By David Aronofsky, UM Legal Counsel and Adjunct Law Faculty Member

In 2001, one of UM's most productive exchange relationships with any overseas university and country began when I went to the University of Montevideo in Uruguay on a Fulbright grant. This grant involved teaching in the U.S. Law English language program required for all law students; assessing the program itself as the first external evaluator; and working with University of Montevideo's International Programs Director to help build U.S. exchange links. University of Montevideo is Uruguay's newest university, starting classes in February 1999. I recruited two Accounting students that summer while I was there and they arrived to start the Fall 2001 semester. Both were outstanding students academically.

Since that time, UM Law Professors Bill Corbett, Art Lusse and Scott Burnham, along with Montana Supreme Court Chief Justice Karla Gray, have taught in the U.S. law program on Fulbright Senior Specialist grants. I returned in the summers of 2002 and 2004 as part of my multi-year Fulbright award to teach various courses. In addition, I brought a group of law students from there in Summer 2003 to teach one of their required courses in Missoula, where they also studied Montana's corporate structures laws and processes. In 2004, I had the pleasure of seeing many members of the first law school graduating class get sworn in as new lawyers by Uruguay's Supreme Court. That was one of my greatest experiences as an educator. The families were there, and it was like a great big emotional family reunion, although in the dignified setting of Uruguay's Supreme Court.

Over the years, two more Accounting students came to The University of Montana from Montevideo on exchange and in summer 2005 two young lawyers from the first law school graduating class came to Missoula to spend time studying Alternative Dispute Resolution with Professor Lusse and Technology Law with me. Also in 2005, a law student from there spent the Spring and Summer terms of that year in Missoula on exchange. In 2005, I helped start and coached Uruguay's first Jessup International Moot Court Team, which broke all records for a first-time entry in the 2005 world competition by winning several major awards.

University of Montevideo Law Dean spent a week visiting Missoula in July 2006 in his first, but not last, Montana trip. Professor Lusse will be making his fifth teaching trip to Montevideo in the Fall to continue helping create community alternative dispute resolu-

tion centers in the greater Montevideo area with financial support from Bank of Boston. On the scholarship front, The University of Montana co-published an important book on the U.S. Legal System in Spanish with Uruguay's Fulbright Commission and University of Montevideo.

On a related Uruguay note, while I was there, I helped recruit UM Professors Dick and Sharon Barrett for the Fulbright Senior Specialists program to teach Economics and Journalism, respectively, at the ORT University in Montevideo.

This all started with a South American trade mission I went on with Senator Baucus, with the idea of reminding those we visited that international education is a major form of international trade. Little did I ever suspect such great educational things would happen in only five years time. These Uruguayan students and their families are now part of my extended family, and it is rewarding to see them succeed professionally. One of my former graduate law students just finished her LL.M. at University of Denver, where she received the outstanding graduate law student award. We were able to celebrate together on one of my trips there.

As I write this I am currently in Uruguay teaching an International Trade Law course at a time when Uruguay is publicly debating whether to negotiate a free-trade agreement with the United States. My law students are all engaged in this topic and we are able to use each day's headlines as talking points. I had the pleasure of attending a graduation ceremony the other evening where all the students I taught in 2004 received their law degrees. In addition, one of my favorite students whom I had in various classes dating back to my first one in 2001 graduated after dropping out for awhile to marry and have a beautiful daughter, now two years old. I have two U.S. students with me taking this year's course including Liz Lowrance from UM's Law School, and they have already seen why Uruguay is so special to those of us who have been here. A delightful young law student from Montevideo comes to UM this Fall on exchange, and more will likely follow in the Spring. To sum up, I met the other day with our U.S. Ambassador to discuss the Montana-University of Montevideo relationship, and she could not say enough about the importance of this relationship in her ongoing diplomatic initiatives at a time when the U.S. and Uruguay Presidents have just concluded a meeting where educational exchanges were highlighted as the highest priority for both countries.

# Potential Student and Faculty Opportunities at Samara State University, Russia

By Ona Renner-Fahey, Assistant Professor, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures



*From left to right: Petr Serafimovich Kabytov, First Vice-Rector, Natalia Vasil'evna Bodiagina, Curriculum Manager of "University for the Elderly" Program, Alexey Vladimirovich Nechaev, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Ona Renner-Fahey, Valentina Aleksandrovna Lisunova, Director of the Center for Foreign Students, and Anna Alexandrovna Proskurina, Director of Project Management*

This summer I visited the Russian city of Samara in order to explore potential exchange and collaborative opportunities between UM and the State University of Samara.

Samara, with a current population of over 1 million, is situated at the confluence of the Volga and Samara rivers. The city is a great place for outdoor enthusiasts, as it boasts a mile-long beach and a 320,000 square-acre national park. The area is also rich in history, housing Stalin's bunker, the church where Tolstoy was married, and the birthplace of Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony. Samara State University has over 50 departments, approximately 10 graduate programs, and is particularly strong in the sciences.

The idea for this trip began with my interest in having our faculty-led study-abroad program (offered through the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures) based in a more typically Russian and less costly city than Moscow or St. Petersburg. While the wealth of cultural opportunities in Russia's capitals is unparalleled elsewhere in the country, there are considerable drawbacks to these cities serving as a first Russian experience for our students. This could be likened to a foreigner's sole familiarity with America being New York or Los Angeles. Moscow has recently been named the most expensive city in the world, making an affordable trip for our UM students very difficult and St. Petersburg, due to its history and architecture, simply does not offer students the most typically Russian of experiences. Both cities are increasingly witnessing hate crimes and have an obvious organized crime presence. The majority of UM students who are interested in studying in Russia do so to immerse themselves in the language. It is often a challenge, however, for American students to find enough opportunities to speak Russian at length in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The Russians in these cities often know English or are so used to meeting foreigners everywhere they go that they are not particularly interested in meeting more of them. In a "provincial" city like Samara, citizens are eager to meet with Americans and to engage in an exchange of culture and ideas.

Samara State is looking forward to working with UM both on our study-abroad and collaboration and exchange. They have signed a memorandum of understanding and are particularly enthusiastic about collaborative research projects in the areas of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Physics, and Ecology.

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contemporary world issues. Students also took part in cultural and educational trips around Western Montana such as white water rafting, horseback riding, canoeing on Seeley Lake, and a visit to Big Creek Educational Institute in Glacier National Park.

UM has hosted the Toyo University summer program since 1988. This summer, UM welcomed 32 students on The Toyo University English Language and Culture Program (August 6-September 3). The program included English language training, a home-stay program and cultural and educational trips to Glacier National Park, Flathead Lake, Lost Horse Creek Ranch, Alberton Gorge, Seeley Lake, and Lubrecht Experimental Forest.

In addition, UM welcomed eight students from Tokyo, Japan on The Meisei University English Language and Culture Program (August 23-September 13). The program included intensive English language training and home-stay with members of the local community.

Special Language Programs at The University of Montana continues to build on strong East Asian foundations to provide innovative learning opportunities and powerful cultural experiences for a growing number of students and teachers.

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*Western China continued from pg. 3*

Academy of Sciences. Topics covered included the history of Xinjiang from earliest times, its population, environment and ethnic relations, as well as Xinjiang's relations with Central Asia, the Chinese government's strategy for its development, and prospects for regional cooperation between China and its western neighbors. In addition, leading humanities scholars presented lectures on Islam, religion, folklore, and literature. Major field visits consisted of trips to the Xinjiang Museum of History and Kashgar, a major Silk Road city and center of Uyghur culture. Equally impressive were visits to the historic city of Turfan and ruins of Jioche, recently placed on the UNESCO register of world historical sites, and conversations with Kazakh nomads and Uyghur farmers in their homes. Extensive discussions were also held with Xinjiang Normal University officials about closer institutional cooperation between The University of Montana and the faculty of its Central Asia Institute, scholarly materials in need of translation, and films, videos, and reading materials for classroom use with UM students.

Throughout the trip, the faculty group asked themselves what it is about the peoples and cultures of western China that American students need to know. First and foremost is the realization that our understanding of Central Asia and the Silk Road will not be complete unless the history and culture of the peoples and cultures that today comprise Xinjiang Province are included in the curriculum. Second, as it undergoes development, Xinjiang Province and the Chinese west faces problems that are not unfamiliar to Montana and the Rocky Mountain West. Rapid population growth, industrialization and urbanization are accompanied by concerns about water supply and ecological sustainability and, unless major policy reforms are undertaken, will result in the marginalization of traditional ethnic groups.



