

# outbursts

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## She finds magic in mango research

*A Virginia Tech graduate student, funded by OIRED's ERA-Senegal project, studies an invasive fruit fly.*

By Assa Balayara

**F**ieldwork is where I come to life. Venturing into orchards and markets offers me a chance to meet growers, wholesalers, and retailers. I study the mango fruit fly, a pest with devastating effects on mango orchards, and one with a huge economic impact.

The majority of people in the mango business in Senegal, my home country, are unaware of problems associated with fruit fly infestation. The mango supply chain provides up to 40,000 jobs in Senegal. Thus, this pest poses a direct threat to Senegal's economy.

I'm able to teach tactics like orchard and market sanitation that can ultimately decrease the pest population. Senegalese mango growers assure me of the value of my research. "Please keep up the hard work and continue what you're doing," they tell me. Their sentiments encourage me to try my best to discover solutions.

My current fieldwork and research on mangoes is a prime example of the back-and-forth learning process that takes place when I meet with growers. I'm currently conducting lab work in the national plant protection laboratory in Dakar. My field excursions take place in an area north of Dakar and the southern part of Senegal below The Gambia. I've noticed that orchards in the latter are highly infested.

My goals include identifying the effect of organic pesticides. My long-term aim is to improve the mango business and the



*Balayara, far right, loads mangoes as part of her fieldwork in Senegal.*

quality of life for my compatriots who depend upon mango for their livelihoods. In doing these things, I will be meeting another goal of mine – to continue learning.

### NEW LEADER FOR ERA-SENEGAL

By Miriam Rich

As an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Tom Archibald brings a set of skills suited to his new position as chief of party for the Education and Research in Agriculture in Senegal (ERA-Senegal) program.

Archibald has a background in adult and extension education with expertise in how



people work together to share knowledge, connect research and practice, and use education to contribute to community development. On top of this, he speaks fluent French, an asset in the West African country.

The agricultural program builds institutional capacity across the higher education system in Senegal. It is funded by the Senegal mission of the U.S. Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's global food security initiative, Feed the Future.

*On back: more about new leadership*

# 3 new leaders join international affairs office

*Karl Markgraf, Van Crowder, and Theresa Johansson joined Outreach and International Affairs during 2015. Here is a brief introduction to some of their priorities and views.*

By Miriam Rich

## Karl Markgraf, associate vice president, international affairs

"The university is perfectly poised to offer study abroad opportunities for students who traditionally have not studied abroad," Karl Markgraf says. While education abroad is not Markgraf's only area of oversight, it



is of particular interest to him as a former German professor. He has seen the difference such travel makes in transforming students.

They become more capable and compassionate individuals

who want to serve the world – a process he sees reflected at Virginia Tech. "There's a collective voice here where people are fiercely dedicated to student success and truly living out the motto of *Ut Prosim* – That I May Serve," he says. "It's not an idle statement."

Markgraf spent the last 17 years as director of the Center for International Education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. There, he collaboratively developed and oversaw the International Fellows Program, which encourages students and faculty members to conduct research outside the United States. His expertise also includes study abroad program development, foreign student advising, intensive English programs, and international student recruitment.

## Van Crowder, executive director, Office of International Research, Education, and Development

Van Crowder worked in international development with the United Nations and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) before assuming directorship of OIRED with its portfolio of approximately \$100 million in international projects. Most are funded by USAID.



Most recently the senior director of human and community development at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which is part of the Department of State,



Virginia Tech student Linnea Morgan, photographed in India by fellow student Max Berney in 2014

Crowder sees "great depth and breadth of capacity that the university brings to our work – from gender to bugs." He refers to the Women and Gender in International Development program and the Integrated Pest Management Innovation Lab, two of the office's major initiatives.

Crowder hopes to leverage OIRED's successful management of diverse, multimillion-dollar international projects to create expanded international opportunities for faculty, students, and staff across the campus – and at the same time grow and diversify the funding of OIRED's portfolio. "The Beyond Boundaries initiative of President Sands to advance Virginia Tech as a global land-grant institution creates a climate conducive to this expansion," he says.

## Theresa Johansson, director, Global Education Office

Overseeing the health, safety, and logistics of 1,200 students bound for foreign ports is no small task. But GEO's new director, Theresa Johansson, finds "Virginia Tech



to have an attitude of helpfulness and humility that's very refreshing. I see this up and down the ladder and across campus." Johansson credits her experience as an assistant director for study abroad at

William & Mary with preparing her to lead a program at a much larger university. An initiative under Johansson's leadership is to formalize a unit that oversees international travel safety for students, faculty, and staff – part of an overarching effort to channel more resources and professionalism as the campus internationalizes.

At Virginia Tech, "the energy around international engagement is tremendous" and "everyone is stepping up to the plate," she says. They do so without seeking to take credit: "This is a campus with a real desire to be global, and the humility to do the work, at the same time."

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