



VT World Connections

Center for Research and Development in International Education (CRaDIE)

Virginia Tech/ 540-231-8344

www.cradie.soe.vt.edu

Center Receives Grant for Kenya Project

The United States Department of State has awarded CRaDIE \$239,622 to conduct a "Citizen Exchange Between the United States and Kenya" to develop a dialogue on "responsible governance." Patricia Kelly, Josiah Tlou, and David Hicks are PIs on the 2½-year project.

Kenya attained political independence from Britain in 1963 but kept a one-party dictatorship until 1992 when it legalized other political parties. However, not until 2002 was a president elected from an opposition party. Elected on a platform of zero tolerance for corruption, the party has yet to institute approaches for transparency and accountability by top government officials.

Andrew Morikawa, with the Community Foundation of the New River Valley, will join Hicks, Tlou, and Kelly together with faculty from Kenyatta University as they kick off the project in April/May by delivering seminars for Kenyans selected from the Nairobi and Mombasa areas. From those educators, community leaders, and government professionals, ten will come to the United States in October to learn first-hand the governance at national and local levels as well as engaging with U.S. citizens in internships with agencies and schools, living with host families, learning the importance of volunteers in the work of community agencies, and taking part in several cultural events. These ten Kenyans will become trainers and will also implement small community projects upon their return.

Fulbright-Hays Study to China

Josiah Tlou and Bonnie Billingsley joined David Alexander and Jianliang Wang from Western Kentucky on a six-week study trip to China from June 29 to July 26, 2006. Western Kentucky under Dr. Wang and Virginia Tech under David Alexander led the study program, involving 20 classroom teachers from Kentucky, Virginia, and Maryland. They visited schools, universities, and places of interest including the Great Wall in Beijing, the Giant Panda Reserve in Chengdu, and the Terra Cotta Warriors in Xi'an.



Pretoria, South Africa, claims to have more jacandras than any place in the world. A typical Pretoria street scene in October.

Magliaro, Tlou, Burton, and Turner Travel to South Africa

As part of the on-going effort to establish a Center for Excellence in Education in Pretoria, South Africa, Sue Magliaro, Josiah Tlou, John Burton, and James Turner went to South Africa in September 23 – October 4, 2006. There they met with officials from the University of South Africa, the Ministry of Education, the Department of Science and Technology, and the NEPAD e-Africa Commission. Discussions to establish MOUs with NEPAD e-Africa Commission Secretariat and the Meraka Institute, which are based at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), were initiated. The Meraka Institute is positioning itself as a global science hub for research and development, a goal that fits Virginia Tech's expertise and experience as a comprehensive research and land-grant university.

As a result of this trip, John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs, has extended an invitation through David Brewis, First Secretary of the South African Embassy, for a delegation from these South African groups to visit Virginia Tech in February or March, this year.

Visit to Potential Partners in Mexico



From left to right
Bottom row: Luis Jesús Ibarra Manrique, JKnowles, Francisco Manuel López

Top row:
María Guadalupe Galván, T Wildman, J Burton, Mireya Martí Reyes, Héctor Ernesto Ruiz-Esparza (Director of IIEDUG)

By John Knowles

John Burton, Terry Wildman, and John Knowles traveled to Mexico October 29-Nov 3 in order to meet with colleagues in the equivalent of Schools of Education in two State universities—the Universidad de Guanajuato and the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo. The purpose of the discussions was to explore avenues of mutual interest including student and professor exchange programs, shared research projects, collaborative courses, and short-term language and culture immersion programs, among other issues. At the University of Guanajuato, located in the geographical center of the country, VT already has a signed MOU between the two universities.

Additionally, talks have been underway for over a year towards the possibility of establishing a center for Virginia Tech in the capital city of Guanajuato, where the university is located. Los señores Burton, Wildman, and Knowles were impressed at the collaborative nature of the meeting with the Director of the Instituto de Investigaciones en Educación (IIEDUG), Héctor Ernesto Ruiz-Esparza, the leaders of various programs including Mireya Martí, Luis Jesús Ibarra, María Guadalupe Galván and Francisco Manuel López. (Picture forthcoming). There will be a variety of opportunities for faculty from VT to be involved in projects with the University of Guanajuato in the near future.

The Autonomous University of Hidalgo is located in the city of Pachuca, just an hours drive northeast of Mexico City. Discussions at the University's Department of Ciencias de la Educación with Chair María Luisa Gabriela Lugo and Emma Leticia Canales, Coordinator of the Doctoral Program, centered on the various programs that function under the umbrella of the Department and on the problems and challenges of educators in Mexico and the possible ways that the VT SOE might collaborate. The visitors met briefly with Luis Gil Borja, President of the University, and the partners are currently in the process of working out the details of an MOU between the universities.

Study Abroad Programs

Two study abroad programs, Teaching and Learning in Malawi and Teaching, Learning, and Discovering Communities in Mexico, will be offered again in summer 2007. Patricia Kelly will lead the Malawi Study Abroad for Virginia Tech and its partners Radford University and North Carolina A&T from June 23 to July 18. Information about the program and activities can be accessed at <http://www.cradie.so.e.vt.edu/studyabroad>.

Those interested in the Mexico study abroad should contact Kris Tilley-Lubbs at glubbs@vt.edu.

Africa Studies Group Formed

Brett Shadle from the History Department has spearheaded the formation of an African Studies Group (ASG) that has garnered interest from 45 faculty across many departments. At its first meeting, the group decided to focus on two areas: scholarly activities, where group members or outside speakers would occasionally present papers, and activism, where we might, for example develop a symposium on water/sanitation in Africa or collect books for libraries.

ASG will reach out to other organizations in the university community, such as the Black Faculty Caucus, Africana Studies, VT International Relations Organization, and the Africa Committee from the Provost's Office.

Shadle has set up an ASG site on Blackboard for posting minutes, announcements, and other communications of interest from group members. Contact him at shadle@vt.edu to get added to the list for access to the site.

Presentations on International Topics

In December, Ndalapa Mhango and Josiah Tlou presented at the annual conference of the National Council for Social Studies in Washington, DC. Their paper, "Peaceful Conflict Resolution for Classroom Teachers," offered classroom strategies drawn from international conflict resolution approaches.

In January, George Glasson and Absalom Phiri will present a paper at the Association for Science Teacher Educators (ASTE) in Clearwater, Florida, on ecological sustainability, indigenous science, and education in Malawi. Phiri received a grant from CRaDIE in support of his travel to present on an international topic.

The Student Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC) is a national student and youth movement with chapters at high schools, colleges and universities across the United States committed to bringing an end to HIV and AIDS in the U.S. and around the world through education, informed advocacy, media work, and direct action.

Check the web site for more information:

www.fightglobalaids.org

Funding Sought for Chinese Language Institute

The Center has partnered with Legacy International to seek funding from the United States Department of State to develop LIVT "Live-It" Chinese Language Institute for high school students to study Chinese during summer 2007 in China. Students must have had at least one year of Chinese prior to the Institute experience.

Chinese is an official language of the United Nations and is one of the most widely spoken first languages in the world. American skills in the languages of China lag sorely behind the growing need to interact meaningfully with this new global power. The US Department of Education reports that only 24,000 American students study Chinese, and that most of them are receiving introductory exposure rather than achieving overall proficiency. Therefore, the United States is very interested in motivating a cadre of young adults to continue studying Chinese to attain a high-level of proficiency.

The Center will assist with selecting the participants, developing management manuals, and conducting the evaluation under the direction of Dr. Jimmie Fortune. Jianliang Wang from Western Kentucky University will serve as the in-country coordinator for the Language Institute. Previously, Dr. Wang has led groups of educators to China in cooperation with Virginia Tech.

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Center Continues Seeking MOUs

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Having signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with other universities, non-governmental agencies (NGOs), and other partners, assists with quickly contacting collaborators for grant proposals. Such MOUs are the first step in developing a collaboration to seek grant funding for jointly developed projects. MOUs are signed by presidents of the institutions and other designated officials.

Recently, North Carolina A&T in Greensboro signed an MOU with Virginia Tech. CRaDIE and the A&T liaisons,

Dr. Elizabeth Barber and Dr. Thomas Smith, are currently exploring opportunities.

Virginia Tech has completed negotiations with The University of South Africa (UNISA) for a signed MOU between the two institutions. This MOU will form the basis for initiatives with a number of partners in South Africa.

An MOU with the e-Africa Commission Secretariat of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa Development) is currently pending.

The ONE Campaign

The ONE Campaign is an effort by Americans to rally Americans – one by one – to fight the emergency of global AIDS and extreme poverty. The ONE Campaign derives its names from the belief that allocating an additional one percent of the U.S. budget toward providing basic needs like health, education, clean water, and food would transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation in the world's poorest countries. ONE Campaign also calls for debt cancellation, trade reform, and anti-corruption measures in a comprehensive package to help Africa and the poorest nations beat AIDS and extreme poverty. Log on to the web site below to sign the declaration.

[<http://www.one.org>](http://www.one.org)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cradie.soe.vt.edu

Please submit items and activities of interest to kellyp@vt.edu for the Fall Semester issue.

Many Americans believe we spend 20% of our GNP on poverty alleviation worldwide, an overestimation of about 99.9%.

Outreach NOW 2006 Presentation

In September, George Glasson, Absalom Phiri, and Ndalapa Mhango presented research conducted as part of Study Abroad (summer 2006) in Malawi at the Outreach NOW conference at The Inn at Virginia Tech. Katie Walraven and Jessica Whitley, students in science education who also participated in study abroad, presented results from their summer research as well.

The presenters and study abroad students had collaborated with Malawian primary school educators to explore issues and develop curriculum that is related to ecological sustainability issues that impact indigenous cultures.