

Dean's Message

Awards recognize UF's top international faculty

Ambassador Dennis C. Jett (Ret.), Ph.D.
Dean of the UF International Center

This edition of the newsletter includes an article on the International Educator of the Year Awards and the ceremony where the Provost presented them. Accomplishing any goal at an institution of higher education, especially a large research university, requires the full support and active participation of its faculty.



This is particularly true when the objective is the further internationalization of the campus and the curriculum. Some believe that international involvement will detract from their research or their teaching responsibilities. Others may have doubts about the degree to which such efforts are really valued.

The purpose of the International Educator Award is to recognize the most outstanding work done by faculty members to promote the greater internationalization of UF and to show that such achievements are highly valued and rewarded. By serving as examples to other faculty members, the award winners demonstrate in a wide variety of ways how an international dimension can enrich teaching and enhance research.

The diversity of the ways in which the awardees accomplished this is another example of the breadth, as well of the depth, of the scholarly activities at UF. Hopefully it will also demonstrate that any faculty member can engage in internationalization and incorporate a global perspective in all that they do.

2007 Global Culture Photo Contest



ENGLISH by Brandi Hill

Winner

Study Abroad Category

Location: Sand Sloop, South Africa

The UFIC recognized photographers in the 2007 Global Culture Photo Contest. Read about the contest on page 4.

Learning tropical biology on site: The REU Program in Ghana

By DANIEL A. WUBAH, Ph.D.

Will the Ghanaian mangrove oyster become one of our next delicacies? Can the seeds of a pepper plant in West Africa be used as a crop insecticide in the U.S.? What is the necessary environment for the survival and propagation of a stingless bee? These are some of the questions that U.S. undergraduate students tackle when they take part in a unique summer research program in Ghana.



Wubah

In the past six years, 34 students have spent the summer working on carefully selected projects at the University of Cape Coast (UCC) in Ghana. The program was funded by the Office of International Science and Engineering and the Directorate of Biology at the National Science Foundation

See Ghana, p. 7

Ret. Col. Ann Wright discusses officials who practice dissent

Retired Army Col. Ann Wright came to the University of Florida to talk about people who spoke out about illegal activities and policies of the United States and paid with their careers, their reputations and in cases, their security. She is among them.

Wright, author of "Dissent: Voices of Conscience," also signed copies of her book during her visit and presentation on Jan. 29.

Wright grew up in Bentonville, Ark., and got a master's degree and law degree from the University of Arkansas. She joined the Army during the Vietnam War to get out of Arkansas and to see the world. She spent 13 years in the military and 16 years in the Army Reserves. She joined the Foreign Service in 1987 and served in numerous countries, the last being Mongolia.

That is where she was based when the Bush administration was preparing for the invasion of Iraq, which took place in 2003. Wright did not like what she was hearing from the White House about the case for weapons of mass destruction. Ultimately, she resigned her post and became an activist against a war she considers illegal and an administration that does not respect the rule of law. Her book chronicles the lives of other government employees who have sacrificed their careers to speak out about illegal government activities.

One of them was Joe Darby, the Army specialist who brought to light the photos in Abu Ghraib showing the abuse of prisoners. Because of his actions, the United States had to confront its illegal treatment of prisoners and change the way they were treated.

If that were the end of it, the story could be considered positive. But Darby was sitting in a mess hall in Iraq when Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was discussing the photos. Over the air, Rumsfeld sarcastically thanked Darby for bringing them to light, and Darby became known in the Army as the guy who squealed.

Why did Rumsfeld disclose Darby's name, Wright asked the audience. "You think he might want to intimidate anybody else who has the nerve to speak out against the things that are going on, torture, a policy of torture that Donald Rumsfeld was approving?" Today, Darby's life is in danger and he is in a federal witness protection program, she said.

Sibel Edmonds is another. The Turkish-American worked as a translator for the FBI after the terrorist attacks Sept. 11, 2001. She complained that her translations were being altered, apparently to suit government policy



Retired Army Col. Ann Wright signs copies of her book, "Dissent: Voices of Conscience," at a UF presentation.

or conceal its actions. She complained, and less than a year later she was fired. The Justice Department's Inspector General's report showed that her whistleblowing activities were the most significant factor in her firing. Only recently have media reports documented her struggle.

Major communications companies have allowed the United States government to illegally monitor private phone calls for the past five years. Two and a half years ago, Russ Tice, an NSA insider, spilled the beans that the United States was illegally spying on its citizens. He was fired. The practice continues. The communications companies have not been punished.

"You can commit illegal acts, in fact the government can encourage you to commit illegal acts, and nobody is being held responsible for it, nobody except perhaps whistle blowers who even dare say anything about these illegalities," Wright said.

Wright was deeply troubled by the U.S. treatment of prisoners in Guantanamo. Because most were apprehended by bounty, their actual involvement in

See Wright, p. 3

International News

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COL. WILKERSON GIVES 6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESTORING U.S. INTEGRITY

Retired Col. Lawrence Wilkerson presented six recommendations he would give to a new president in the wake of seven years of administration that he described as appalling.

Wilkerson, who visited the University of Florida Nov. 7, 2007, gave a speech entitled “How to Fix our Foreign Policy – An Open Letter to the New President.”

“Foreigners ... judge us by what we do, not by what we say, and what we have done in the world in the past few years has mostly been quite appalling,” Wilkerson said.

UF International Center Dean Dennis Jett introduced Wilkerson, who shared some of Jett’s career moves, including a career in diplomacy and in higher education. Wilkerson’s 31-year career in the U.S. Army included serving as deputy executive officer to then-Gen. Colin Powell. After retiring from the military, Wilkerson served as chief staff to Secretary of State Powell.

He is now widely quoted in news media and is professor of government at the College of William and Mary as well as professional lecturer at George Washington University.

In his speech at the Reitz Union, he outlined his six recommendations for a new president and criticized the Bush administration’s policies at home and abroad.

1. The foundation of power is not just our ideas and values but also our economic might. Good armies and navies are costly, but with a debt at the time of \$45 trillion, the economic picture is precarious. “Mr. President, get your economic house in order.”

2. Have open discussions. Talk to friends and allies. It may not be necessary to heed their advice, but at least listen to them. They look to the United States for leadership. “Don’t burn anybody. Talk to everybody.”

3. Talk to your enemies. Follow the Arabic proverb “keep you friends close and your enemies closer.” Throughout the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union were at odds, but the channel of communication was open. “Throughout that entire time we talked with the Kremlin,” he said. “Why do we refuse to talk to the Cubans, to the Syrians, to the Persians, and up to this point, the North Koreans?”

4. Identify terrorists and go after them for what they are, what they can do to the U.S. That would be 25,000 to 30,000 people who are enemies. “Go after the people who really want to do harm to the United States.”

5. De-emphasize the role of the armed forces. The military is burdened by doing what can better be done



Wilkerson

with other tools. Less than 1 percent of the 300 million Americans are bleeding and dying in Iraq and Afghanistan and a few other places in the world. “Our president has not asked us to make one sacrifice.”

6. Return to basics, specifically the U.S. Constitution. That is the document that every soldier takes an oath to support. Return to the rule of law and provide due process to people we have made prisoners. The practice of incarcerating people without legal rights has been the biggest recruiting tool for al Qaida. “Because of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo, in part, we are now the laughing stock of the world.”

Wright, from p. 2

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One of them was Joe Darby, the Army specialist who brought to light the photos in Abu Ghraib showing the abuse of prisoners. Because of his actions, the United States had to confront its illegal treatment of prisoners

UFIC recognizes outstanding photography

2007 Global Culture
2007 Photo Contest



HOLY LAND PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
by Courtney Micots

Winner

Faculty, Staff and Alumni Category
Location: Anomabu, Ghana

The UFIC recognized photographers in the 2007 Global Culture Photo Contest with prizes for faculty, staff and students for photos taken in the United States and abroad.

Winners received awards and cash prizes at a reception Jan. 22 in the Grinter Hall Gallery, where the photos were on display through early February. They will be exhibited in the HUB.

UFIC Executive Associate Director Lynn Frazier presented the awards. Judges selected 12 winners and five honorable mentions from 70 entries.

Top honors in the four categories were:

Study abroad

First: Brandi Hill, "English," Sand Sloom, South Africa

Second: Brandi Hill, "Just Friends," Sand Sloom, South Africa

Third: Joanna Lis, "Ksiegarnia," Krakow, Poland

Honorable Mention: Angel Nieves, "Life Experienced Through the City Streets," Shanghai, China

Honorable Mention: Untitled, by Kat Fowler, Hopkins, Belize

International students

First: Inigo de Amescua, "Liberty," New York

Second: Wei Zhou "The New Generation on Wheels," Gainesville, Fla.

Third: Wei Zhou, "Inseparable Isolation," Gainesville, Fla.

Honorable Mention: Anna Szyniszewska, "Patriots" Miami, Fla.

Faculty, staff and alumni

First: Courtney Micots, "Holy Land Pentecostal Church," Anomabu, Ghana

Second: Lesley Gamble, "Cleared for Departure," Bali, Indonesia

Third: Steven Brandt, "A Boy and His Donkey," Lamu, Kenya

Photography and journalism students

First: Jeremiah Wilson, "Smoke Break," Andros Island, Bahamas

Study abroad fair highlights new international opportunities

New study abroad opportunities in China, Japan, France, India and other countries joined a host of international educational opportunities at the UFIC Study Abroad Fair in January.

UF in Chengdu, China, offers UF students a year's worth of credits in beginning Chinese language at the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics. During 12 weeks, the students also can earn credits through a Chinese economy course. Chengdu is the capital of the Sichuan province in southern China.

Students also can study in Tokyo this summer and earn six credits over six weeks through the UF in Tokyo program. In two courses, students explore the culture of Japan through critical reading and writing, journaling and blogging, visual communication and first-hand experiences.

The Paris Research Center has added the course European Integration from Napoleon to Nice: Law, Politics and Institutions of the European Union in the 21st Century to an array of courses. Undergraduates can get

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2007 Global Culture Photo Contest



LIBERTY by Inigo de Amescua

Winner

International Students Category

Location: Metropolitan Museum, New York

Indonesia

Third: Steven Brandt, "A Boy and His Donkey," Lamu, Kenya

Photography and journalism students

First: Jeremiah Wilson, "Smoke Break," Andros Island, Bahamas

Second: Marvin Halelamien, "Acrobatic Circle" Andros Island, Bahamas

Third: Jeremiah Wilson, "Basket Baby," Andros Island, Bahamas

Honorable Mention: Marvin Halelamien, "New Day" Andros Island, Bahamas

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Fine Arts faculty Joan Frosch, Victoria Rovine named UF Educators of the Year for 2007

Theater professor Joan Frosch and art history assistant professor Victoria Rovine were named International Educators of the Year for 2007.

The UF International Center recognized these and other faculty members for their outstanding international accomplishments. Frosch won the Senior Faculty Award, and Rovine won the Junior Faculty Award, with the College of Fine Arts sweeping the awards.

UF Provost Janie Fouke presented the awards at a ceremony Nov. 13.

UFIC Dean Dennis Jett noted that UF consistently ranks in the top 20 universities for international students and scholars. "Those numbers are in large part due to you and your colleagues who are internationally involved," Jett said.

The UFIC gives the awards annually to recognize outstanding international endeavors by UF faculty in support of UF's strategic goal of internationalizing the campus and curriculum.

Frosch, a dance ethnographer and Certified Movement Analyst, is assistant director of the School of Theatre and Dance and co-founder/co-director of the Center for World Arts in the College of Fine Arts. Among her achievements are her documentary feature *Movement (R)evolution Africa: A Story of an Art Form in Four Acts*. Her grants and awards have generated hundreds of thousands of dollars for UF, and include an award from the inaugural EMPAC commission to produce a film "Nora Chipaurnire: A Physical Biography."

Rovine's dedication to international research and education is reflected a wide range of her activities, from research and service to mentorship and teaching. Her work is marked by a commitment to using visual art as a window to cultures, individuals, and histories.



Joan Frosch, right, accepts her international educator award from Provost Janie Fouke.

Each college was asked to nominate two candidates in the categories of tenured and untenured or recently tenured faculty. Consideration was given to research, teaching and service. A committee judged applications and selected winners. Other nominees and their colleges are:

Wesley Bolch, Engineering
Brian Child, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Daniel P. Connaughton, Health and Human Performance
Hartmut Derendorf, Center for Drug Food-Drug Interaction Research and Education, Pharmacy
John Freeman, Journalism and Communications
Franz Futterknecht, Liberal Arts and Sciences
E. Paul J. Gibbs, Veterinary Medicine
Mark Jamison, Business Administration
William F. Keegan, Florida Museum of Natural History
Joseli Macedo, Design, Construction and Planning
Prabhat Mishra, Engineering
W. Steve Otwell, Florida Sea Grant Seafood Extension
Natalia Peres, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
Alfonso Pérez-Méndez, Design, Construction and Planning
Alice Poe, Nursing
Jiunn-Jye Sheu, Health and Human Performance
Michael Weigold, Journalism and Communications
Carol West, Center for International Business Education and Research, Business Administration

Contact: Mabel Cardec, mcardec@ufic.ufl.edu

Peace Corps representative describes international opportunities for UF students

UF is the largest contributor of Peace Corps volunteers in the South, and a Peace Corps representative was on campus in January to encourage more students to volunteer. Allene Zanger, regional director of Peace Corps Programs for Inter-America and the Pacific, said the Peace Corps offers a unique experience.

"The Peace Corps experience will change your life," she said to an audience of former and potential volunteers. "But more importantly, it will change the lives of everyone you meet."

Zanger said Peace Corps volunteers bring hope to people who have no opportunities and convey a posi-

tive image of the United States to people who have no other opportunity to know the people of this country.

The Peace Corps is seeking volunteers in agriculture, business, education, health, youth development, the environment and others fields. About a third of the 8,000 volunteers worldwide work in HIV prevention and in care of people, such as orphans, affected by AIDS, she said. In some areas, HIV and AIDS have taken such a toll on middle-age people that even with a cure, it would take years for recovery, for youths to enter the workplace and return the area to productivity.

Contact: Amy E. Panikowski, peacecorps@ufic.ufl.edu

People & Events

Residents host international students

Oak Hammock Retirement Community residents hosted 16 international students for lunch between Dec. 23 and Dec. 25. Kirk and Gloria McDonald, Ruth and Both Perraud, Pat and Dick Martin, Linda Damico, Brenda Thomas and Edna Hindson each shared a holiday meal and traditions with graduate students who stayed in Gainesville over the holidays. This was the first collaboration between UFIC and Oak Hammock.

Contact: Heather Barrett, hbarrett@ufic.ufl.edu

Zambrano is new study abroad adviser

Hernando Zambrano is a new study abroad adviser in charge of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Belgium programs. A native of Colombia, Zambrano received his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of North Florida.

Contact: HZambrano@ufic.ufl.edu

Yanping Cheng joins UFIC as fiscal assistant

Yanping Cheng has joined the staff of the International Center as fiscal assistant in charge of Medex Insurance issues. She assists with accounts payable and receivable. A native of Beijing, she has a bachelor's degree in business management.

Contact: Cheng@ufic.ufl.edu

Ghana, from p. 1

the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. The students were mentored by scientists from UCC, and they learned various approaches to research in tropical biology, especially in ecology, biodiversity, conservation biology, bioprospecting, and environmental science; experiences they could not obtain in the United States. Participants design experiments in collaboration with their mentors, collect and analyze data, and present results at the end of the program in Ghana and at regional and national meetings in the U.S.

Answers to questions above? Alexandra Sutton discovered that cultivating oysters through aquaculture has high potential, but further study on the oyster's ability to filter salt is necessary. Dzifa Gbewonyor found that an extract from the Ashanti pepper plant seeds has an insecticidal effect on cowpea plants. Nicholas Davenport demonstrated that deforestation has a negative effect on the survival of stingless bee.

So what is special about research in Ghana? A December 2007 report by Conservation International states that the diversity of butterflies in the Atewa forest of Ghana is twice that of the continent of Europe. In addition, 17 rare butterflies and a spider with origins as far

International News



UFIC Dean Dennis Jett, right, and Academic Technology Director Fedro Zazueta join elementary students in a celebration of global art.

Elementary art by international students

"It's Elementary! World Art from Gainesville" featured an exhibition of global art created by students in Alachua County schools. The photos were on display at the Hub Nov. 12-16 in celebration of International Education Week and then at the UFIC through Feb. 11. The exhibit was sponsored by the UFIC and the Center for Academic Technology.

Contact: Heather Barrett, hbarrett@ufic.ufl.edu

Winter Events

Feb. 27, Brown Bag Student Speaker Series, UF alumnus Minh Vo, 11:45 – 12:45 International Center conference room.

Through March 30, "Here and There: Highlights from the UFIC Global Culture Photography Competition," Alachua County Public Library.

back as the dinosaurs were recently discovered in that forest. More reasons to study biodiversity in Ghana? The only known group of a most critically endangered species of frogs, *Conraua derooi*, was found at the Atewa forest in 2006, and it is the only surviving group that is keeping this frog species from extinction.

Do herbalists in a West African village hold the key to curing diseases in the U.S.? The answer may lie in the hands of future participants in this program. This REU program was recently renewed, and UF will serve as the host institution for the next three years. Additional information can be found at <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/ucc/index.html>.

Daniel Wubah is associate provost for undergraduate affairs



Willa Brown of Williams College inspects her insect trap near the Kakum Forest in Cape Coast.

2007 *Global Culture*
2007 *Photo Contest*

SMOKE BREAK by Jeremiah Wilson

Winner

Photography & Journalism Students Category

Location: Andros Island, Bahamas



Graduate student gives UF students an Iraqi perspective on U.S. occupation

Ayad Ali, an Iraqi doctoral student at UF, gave students and faculty his perspectives on the U.S. presence in Iraq.

His presentation on Nov. 7, 2007, was entitled “Iraq: Liberation or Occupation? A Perspective from an Iraqi Gator.” He answered the question raised in this title: The U.S. is an occupier that has caused widespread death and suffering of the Iraqi people.

After four years of the presence of U.S. troops, the toll on the Iraqi people is high, he said. About 100,000 people died in air strikes at the beginning of the war, half of them women and children. Another 600,000 have died in subsequent fighting, by some estimates. Terrorism is at an all

time high, and human rights abuses abound, he said. More people have been tortured than under Saddam Hussein.

More than 170 academics have been killed and half the students have discontinued their education, he said. The infrastructure has never been restored.

“We are an oil-rich country,” he said, “and we still don’t have electricity.”

He concluded that a stable, constructive dictatorship is better than anarchy and destructive democracy. Iraq should not be divided into regions of three ethnic populations, Shia, Sunnis and Kurds, he said. Iraq is integrated and would suffer under an ethnic division.