International Affairs Welcomes Jordanian Delegation

International Affairs hosted a luncheon on June 27, 2006 in honor of visiting officials from Jordan. The delegation was headed by Judge Ali Al-Dmour, Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice of Jordan, and included two judges from the First Instance Court of Amman and a legal consultant for the American Bar Association (ABA-Mideast). The group was in Tampa at the invitation of local attorney and mediator Lynn Cole, who spent the three prior months in Jordan as a representative of the ABA assisting in the implementation of the first mediation program in the region. In addition to visiting USF, the delegation observed both a mock mediation in federal court and actual small claims court mediation sessions.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for insightful exchange of information and ideas by the delegation and members of the USF and Tampa communities. Dr. Jorge Nef, Director of USF’s Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Dr. Dwayne Smith, Vice-Provost, welcomed the visitors on behalf of International Affairs and the University. Dr. Jamil Jreisat (Public Administration) led the roundtable discussion.

As we begin a new chapter in our history, it is appropriate that we focus this edition of USF International on the heart of our institution—our students. In 2006, we celebrated not only our 50th anniversary but also the congressionally designated Year of Study Abroad. Legislation introduced within the U.S. Senate, the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Act, will place study abroad at the forefront of educational initiatives at universities across the U.S. If enacted, the Abraham Lincoln Act engages the federal government and higher education to dramatically increase study abroad, envisioning one million college students studying abroad in 10 years.

USF is preparing for the challenge. We have seen a renewed interest from our students for study abroad. From under 200 students in the mid-1990s, last summer over 700 USF students participated in academic programs abroad. In 2007, we are pleased to offer 39 programs in 27 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Program themes are diverse and range from public health in Costa Rica, politics and international studies in the Czech Republic, history and media in Ireland, and the art and culture of India. There is an increased demand for learning abroad with programs available in an array of foreign languages including our first program in China focused on language and culture.

Beyond the traditional classroom experience at an overseas partner institution, opportunities abound for students to participate in other types of programs including internships and service learning activities. Graduate students in business, education, and public health can combine their program of study with Peace Corps service. Faculty, talk with your students; students, talk with your parents; and students, engage your classmates who have not yet studied abroad. Let them know that their education is not complete without an academic experience abroad. As you can appreciate from the student reflections herein, study abroad provides a unique academic experience—it challenges you to think in new ways, prepares you to become an engaged citizen of the world, and opens doors to opportunities both personally and professionally. In short, it will transform your life!

Dr. María Crummett
Dean of International Affairs

Message from the Dean

As we begin a new chapter in our history, it is appropriate that we focus this edition of USF International on the heart of our institution—our students. In 2006, we celebrated not only our 50th anniversary but also the congressionally designated Year of Study Abroad. Legislation introduced within the U.S. Senate, the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Act, will place study abroad at the forefront of educational initiatives at universities across the U.S. If enacted, the Abraham Lincoln Act engages the federal government and higher education to dramatically increase study abroad, envisioning one million college students studying abroad in 10 years.

USF is preparing for the challenge. We have seen a renewed interest from our students for study abroad. From under 200 students in the mid-1990s, last summer over 700 USF students participated in academic programs abroad. In 2007, we are pleased to offer 39 programs in 27 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Program themes are diverse and range from public health in Costa Rica, politics and international studies in the Czech Republic, history and media in Ireland, and the art and culture of India. There is an increased demand for learning abroad with programs available in an array of foreign languages including our first program in China focused on language and culture.

Beyond the traditional classroom experience at an overseas partner institution, opportunities abound for students to participate in other types of programs including internships and service learning activities. Graduate students in business, education, and public health can combine their program of study with Peace Corps service. Faculty, talk with your students; students, talk with your parents; and students, engage your classmates who have not yet studied abroad. Let them know that their education is not complete without an academic experience abroad. As you can appreciate from the student reflections herein, study abroad provides a unique academic experience—it challenges you to think in new ways, prepares you to become an engaged citizen of the world, and opens doors to opportunities both personally and professionally. In short, it will transform your life!

Dr. María Crummett
Dean of International Affairs

International Affairs Welcomes Jordanian Delegation

International Affairs hosted a luncheon on June 27, 2006 in honor of visiting officials from Jordan. The delegation was headed by Judge Ali Al-Dmour, Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice of Jordan, and included two judges from the First Instance Court of Amman and a legal consultant for the American Bar Association (ABA-Mideast). The group was in Tampa at the invitation of local attorney and mediator Lynn Cole, who spent the three prior months in Jordan as a representative of the ABA assisting in the implementation of the first mediation program in the region. In addition to visiting USF, the delegation observed both a mock mediation in federal court and actual small claims court mediation sessions.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for insightful exchange of information and ideas by the delegation and members of the USF and Tampa communities. Dr. Jorge Nef, Director of USF’s Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Dr. Dwayne Smith, Vice-Provost, welcomed the visitors on behalf of International Affairs and the University. Dr. Jamil Jreisat (Public Administration) led the roundtable discussion.

As we begin a new chapter in our history, it is appropriate that we focus this edition of USF International on the heart of our institution—our students. In 2006, we celebrated not only our 50th anniversary but also the congressionally designated Year of Study Abroad. Legislation introduced within the U.S. Senate, the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Act, will place study abroad at the forefront of educational initiatives at universities across the U.S. If enacted, the Abraham Lincoln Act engages the federal government and higher education to dramatically increase study abroad, envisioning one million college students studying abroad in 10 years.

USF is preparing for the challenge. We have seen a renewed interest from our students for study abroad. From under 200 students in the mid-1990s, last summer over 700 USF students participated in academic programs abroad. In 2007, we are pleased to offer 39 programs in 27 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Program themes are diverse and range from public health in Costa Rica, politics and international studies in the Czech Republic, history and media in Ireland, and the art and culture of India. There is an increased demand for learning abroad with programs available in an array of foreign languages including our first program in China focused on language and culture.

Beyond the traditional classroom experience at an overseas partner institution, opportunities abound for students to participate in other types of programs including internships and service learning activities. Graduate students in business, education, and public health can combine their program of study with Peace Corps service. Faculty, talk with your students; students, talk with your parents; and students, engage your classmates who have not yet studied abroad. Let them know that their education is not complete without an academic experience abroad. As you can appreciate from the student reflections herein, study abroad provides a unique academic experience—it challenges you to think in new ways, prepares you to become an engaged citizen of the world, and opens doors to opportunities both personally and professionally. In short, it will transform your life!

Dr. María Crummett
Dean of International Affairs

International Affairs Welcomes Jordanian Delegation

International Affairs hosted a luncheon on June 27, 2006 in honor of visiting officials from Jordan. The delegation was headed by Judge Ali Al-Dmour, Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice of Jordan, and included two judges from the First Instance Court of Amman and a legal consultant for the American Bar Association (ABA-Mideast). The group was in Tampa at the invitation of local attorney and mediator Lynn Cole, who spent the three prior months in Jordan as a representative of the ABA assisting in the implementation of the first mediation program in the region. In addition to visiting USF, the delegation observed both a mock mediation in federal court and actual small claims court mediation sessions.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for insightful exchange of information and ideas by the delegation and members of the USF and Tampa communities. Dr. Jorge Nef, Director of USF’s Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Dr. Dwayne Smith, Vice-Provost, welcomed the visitors on behalf of International Affairs and the University. Dr. Jamil Jreisat (Public Administration) led the roundtable discussion.

As we begin a new chapter in our history, it is appropriate that we focus this edition of USF International on the heart of our institution—our students. In 2006, we celebrated not only our 50th anniversary but also the congressionally designated Year of Study Abroad. Legislation introduced within the U.S. Senate, the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Act, will place study abroad at the forefront of educational initiatives at universities across the U.S. If enacted, the Abraham Lincoln Act engages the federal government and higher education to dramatically increase study abroad, envisioning one million college students studying abroad in 10 years.

USF is preparing for the challenge. We have seen a renewed interest from our students for study abroad. From under 200 students in the mid-1990s, last summer over 700 USF students participated in academic programs abroad. In 2007, we are pleased to offer 39 programs in 27 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Program themes are diverse and range from public health in Costa Rica, politics and international studies in the Czech Republic, history and media in Ireland, and the art and culture of India. There is an increased demand for learning abroad with programs available in an array of foreign languages including our first program in China focused on language and culture.

Beyond the traditional classroom experience at an overseas partner institution, opportunities abound for students to participate in other types of programs including internships and service learning activities. Graduate students in business, education, and public health can combine their program of study with Peace Corps service. Faculty, talk with your students; students, talk with your parents; and students, engage your classmates who have not yet studied abroad. Let them know that their education is not complete without an academic experience abroad. As you can appreciate from the student reflections herein, study abroad provides a unique academic experience—it challenges you to think in new ways, prepares you to become an engaged citizen of the world, and opens doors to opportunities both personally and professionally. In short, it will transform your life!

Dr. María Crummett
Dean of International Affairs
USF was honored to welcome His Excellency Professor George Obiozor, the Federal Republic of Nigeria’s envoy to the U.S., during a two-day campus visit on October 16-17, 2006. Prior to his current ambassadorial position, Professor Obiozor served as the Nigerian Envoy to Israel and Cyprus, as special assistant to presidential advisors, and as Director of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs. The Ambassador visited the university at the invitation of long-time friend Walter Clarke, senior advisor to USF’s Global Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Action.

At a welcome reception hosted by Dr. María Crummett, Dean of International Affairs, and Dr. Donna Petersen, Dean of the College of Public Health, Professor Obiozor was warmly greeted by members of the USF and Tampa communities, including several of USF’s Nigerian student population. Vice Provost Ralph Wilcox presented the Ambassador with a crystal globe commemorating his visit to the university, and graciously accepted the Ambassador’s gifts of his publications for USF’s Library.

On the following day, Amb. Obiozor addressed a standing-room only audience in the College of Business Administration, speaking on the topic of “The U.S., Nigeria and Africa”. He urged the U.S. to recognize Africa’s growing international importance, adding that by the end of the decade, sub-Saharan Africa will likely become as important a source of U.S. energy as the Middle East. Questions from the largely student-filled audience included ones regarding the well-known Nigerian “419 Fraud” email scams. The Ambassador assured that the Nigerian government is seriously pursuing perpetrators of such deceptive schemes. “The real victims of ‘419’ are the serious-minded Nigerians who are seeking to establish legitimate business linkages with prospective U.S. partners and suppliers,” he said. “They have to work extra hard to establish their credentials and trustworthiness.”

Throughout his two-day visit, the Ambassador stressed the importance he places on education, indicating that he prefers to be addressed as Professor. To date, USF has established one cooperative agreement with Nigeria and intends to pursue other opportunities. “He is truly a ‘kindred spirit’ who is passionate about expanding collaborative efforts to address global priorities in Public Health,” said Professor Thomas J. Mason, Director, Global Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Action, College of Public Health. “We look forward to a very productive partnership.”

Professor Obiozor concluded his visit to USF with an interview by WUSF’s Bobbie O’Brien, in which he praised USF’s programs and spoke of his intention to inform his government of the university’s capacity and potential to be of great assistance in Nigeria’s development process. The interview can be heard on the IAC website at http://global.usf.edu/iac/news.html.
2006 International Photo Competition Winners

Grand Prize - Portrait
“Young Monk in Thought” - Qinghai Province, China
Adam King

Honorable Mention
“Café Society” - Madrid, Spain
Ben Wiley

Grand Prize - Study Abroad
“Looking for History” - Palos Blancos, Honduras
William Klinger

Honorable Mention
“Yellow Offering” - Qinghai Province, China
Chad Cullen

Honorable Mention
“A Day in Magyarboly” - Magyarboly, Hungary
Mireya Ciritel
Grand Prize- Cityscape
"Colosseum and Moon"- Rome, Italy
Timothy Loken

Honorable Mention
"Women of the Market"- Tangier, Morocco
Michelle Schenck

Honorable Mention
"Along the Arno"- Florence, Italy
David Bell

Honorable Mention
"Portrait of a Brickmaker"- Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. Gurleen Grewal

Honorable Mention
"Child Care"- Puebla, Mexico
Dr. Linda Whiteford

Honorable Mention
"Florence from the Duomo"- Florence, Italy
Dr. Linda Whiteford
IAC Welcomes International Students

International Affairs celebrated its First Annual International Student Reception on August 24, 2006, honoring all incoming international students and their families. The event allowed students to meet not only their new colleagues but also the staff and faculty members who will be available to provide them with administrative support during their academic career at USF.

Over 150 students and members of the USF and Tampa communities participated in the reception, which was held in Traditions Hall at the Sam & Martha Gibbons Alumni Center. All were warmly welcomed by Dr. María Crummett, Dean of International Affairs, and by Marcia Taylor, Interim Director for International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), who urged all students to take advantage of the many services offered by the ISSS department. As the main administrative and immigration advising office for USF’s international student and research scholar population, ISSS advises international students and scholars regarding personal, immigration/visa, academic, social, and acculturation issues.

The reception was so successful that International Affairs plans to continue the tradition with future incoming students. In the Fall 2006 semester, nearly 1400 international students from 130 countries are enrolled at USF. The five countries most represented are India, Colombia, China, Belize, and Canada.

Symposium Explores Impacts of the Pinochet Case

International Affairs’ Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC) sponsored a symposium on September 11 and 12, 2006 entitled “Human Rights, State Terrorism and Universal Jurisdiction: The Global Implications of the Pinochet Case.” The critical question addressed in this discussion was, “In the wake of terrorist acts and human rights abuses, who will be held responsible and how?” Scholars, legal experts, human rights advocates, and members of the university and Tampa communities attended the event. Although the date of September 11 is now remembered for a different tragedy, Dr. Jorge Nef, one of the conference’s organizers, explained the date’s significance in connection to this case. “This is the date on which President Salvador Allende was overthrown in Chile and when Augusto Pinochet came to power. It is when the bombing of the government palace in Santiago shocked the world. The implications of these and so many analogous events are global in scope and impact the world.”

One of the symposium’s keynote speakers was Chilean Judge Juan Guzmán Tapia, who was able to prosecute Pinochet by formulating a unique interpretation of the law, stating that the statute of limitations does not apply to kidnappings in which no body was found, since they constitute crimes that are still in progress. He described some of the atrocities during Pinochet’s 17-year reign: more than 30,000 were tortured, more than 5,000 were killed, and more than 1,200 simply disappeared.

Dr. Bernd Reiter, USF Government and International Affairs professor and fellow organizer of the event, added, “Given Saddam Hussein’s trial and the long list of dictators whose actions have called forth condemnation from around the world, these are issues that cannot be ignored. Important to these discussions are matters of state-sponsored terrorism and the effectiveness of the International Criminal Court – in theory and in practice. We are witnessing the emergence of humanitarian law as a discipline unto itself.”
To recognize the importance of study abroad in shaping education and global leadership, the U.S. Senate declared 2006 as the Year of Study Abroad. Senator Richard Durbin stated, “An education that includes study abroad not only opens doors to careers, it opens minds and worlds of possibility”. Studying abroad gives an enhanced perspective of the world, strengthens strategic relations, and improves foreign language skills. USF fully embraces this concept and is driven by the belief that interaction between diverse cultures is the basis upon which empathy among nations is built. Students at USF are encouraged to embrace opportunities that enhance understanding of other cultures. Since rapid globalization continues to transform virtually every professional field, an international education is pivotal.

The International Affairs Center is committed to providing both students and faculty with the support they need to expand their international awareness. USF currently offers 39 study abroad programs in 27 countries, ranging in length from one week to one year. For more information, please contact Study Abroad Interim Co-Directors Julie Hale at jhale@iac.usf.edu or Jim Pulos at jpulos@iac.usf.edu, or via phone at (813) 974-4314.

We asked this year’s Study Abroad participants to share with us some of their memories and reflections. The response we received was overwhelming and enthusiastic. Here are a few of their submissions:

**USF Embraces the Year of Study Abroad**

“My experience in the 2006 Poverty Alleviation Program in Rural China was the most eye-opening experience of my life. The lessons that I learned there far surpass anything I could have learned in the classroom. To experience China not as a tourist but as an active participant in the community was an experience that has affected me more greatly than I ever imagined it would.”

Adam King
Accounting and Economics

“Studying abroad was the best decision I could have ever made. Living in Sydney, Australia for a semester was an amazing experience and one that I will remember for the rest of my life. I met so many people from Australians to Europeans, as well as other Americans who I still frequently communicate with today. I was able to visit many places within Australia and attend a lot of different cultural events.”

Melissa Merkur
Business Administration

“Our interaction with the world must be a conversation, not a monologue.”

Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State
USF Students

Italy

“I studied abroad in Florence, Italy this summer for summer A & B. All I have to say is that I had the best time of my life! I wish I hadn't waited until my last semester to study abroad. I met so many great people that I still keep in touch with.”

Jenea Jones
Psychology

Spain

“With 150 students from all over the U.S., I knew study abroad would be amazing, but I didn’t expect to make the long-lasting friendships I made. Although we went to numerous incredible places, I came home with so much more than the memories of the sights. The struggles of adjusting to different foods, languages, and customs is what ultimately made the trip so fulfilling by knowing that we made it through together and are more compassionate people as a result.”

Carlye Wyczkal
Dance Studies

India

“The South India trip was life changing in that it changed my perspective and world view. The beautiful barrage of sights, sounds, and smells shaped my new awareness. Upon my return from India, I was reading Life of Pi by Yann Martel. I think he put it perfectly when he said, ‘A stint in India will beat the restlessness out of any living creature.’”

Zoe Sieber
Psychology

Italy

“This past summer I had the experience of a lifetime! I studied abroad in Florence, Italy, a town that at one point in time housed the most imaginative and important artists in history... We learned about artwork on site, visiting the very places where the masterpieces of artists such as Brunelleschi and Michelangelo rest.”

Fabio Ferrari
Pre-Medical Sciences
**Costa Rica**

“The study abroad program in Costa Rica was amazing. I was able to learn and practice the Spanish language in the classroom, with my home-stay family, and everywhere I went. Costa Rica is very beautiful, and the people there are some of the nicest people I have ever met. It was a wonderful educational and cultural experience, and I hope that some day I will be able to return.”

*Marisa Foyle*
Psychology

---

**England**

“The three months I spent studying in London were the most amazing of my life. Not only was I able to experience a new culture and make lots of really great friends, but I feel like I was truly able to grow as a person.”

*Lauren Maxwell*
Humanities

---

**Czech Republic**

“Praha (Prague), Czech Republic, is one of the most beautiful cities to visit in Europe. The history runs deep, the people are proud of who they are, and love to show off their home. Praha should definitely be on your list of places to visit in your lifetime.”

*Rachael Emery*
International Studies

---

**France**

“I went on the MICEFA program to Paris, France this past spring semester. It was an incredible experience and the relationships that I formed on my trip will last a lifetime. I know that this experience will benefit me forever.”

*Agata Lagodzinski*
Pre-Business Administration
“This photo is of myself in Parc Guell, Barcelona, where the majority of my trip took place. I was really glad to have this experience because it taught me a lot about other cultures. Some of my favorite moments were experiencing the victories of FC Barcelona along with the rest of the city, and exploring the harbor and the old city. It’s a truly beautiful place that I can’t wait to get back to!”

Morgan Sutkiewicz
Spanish

“Studying abroad in itself offers limitless benefits because of the nature of the trip. It is innovative, provocative, inspirational, and intuitive because it carries the specific goal of preparation, research, and learning. I’m thrilled to have achieved such an experience.”

Crystal Belden
Business Administration

Explore a World of Opportunities...

Study Abroad Scholarships

Mark and Kay Orr Scholarship
The Mark and Kay Orr International Affairs Study Abroad Scholarship is a competitive award available for students studying abroad for a full semester or longer. In an effort to increase student interest in more diverse cultural experiences, preference will be given to applicants who wish to study at a university in Brazil, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Japan, Jordan, South Africa, or South Korea.

Compass Scholarship
The Compass Scholarship is a competitive award available for any semester with award amounts determined by the quality of the application and available funds. Preference is given to students in less commonly represented academic fields of study and geographic regions, and to under-served students.

For more information on these and other scholarships available for study abroad, please visit http://global.usf.edu/iac/study-abroad/ or visit the Study Abroad office in Cooper Hall 468.

How you can help...
If you would like to donate to a scholarship fund so that more students have the opportunity to study abroad, please contact Violetta Urba in the International Affairs Office of the Dean at (813) 974-5528 or via email at urba@iac.usf.edu.
China Service Learning Program

This past summer, twelve undergraduate students from the University of South Florida were given the unique opportunity to participate in a one-month China Rural Service Learning program, initiated and organized by Tsinghua University, one of the top universities in China, and the Wang Foundation, a U.S.-based non-profit organization.

Prior to departure, students met with university faculty members from several disciplines related to China to help put their upcoming travels into a historical and cultural context. Upon arrival in Beijing and Tsinghua University, USF students attended a one-week orientation program with colleagues from Tsinghua University and participants from other U.S. colleges and universities, where they learned basic teaching techniques and cultural information useful for their rural service.

The next three weeks of the program were spent in rural service locations, chosen for their limited level of economic development by Tsinghua organizers. Each USF student was deployed with ten to twelve Tsinghua students to a rural service location where they assisted in the teaching of English to students of all levels (from primary school age children to local civic leaders). The challenges inherent in these remote locations were immense. Not only did students have to contend with the obvious language barrier but also vast cultural and standard of living differences. By all accounts, the USF students excelled in these challenging environments and furthermore gained a deep understanding of the conditions of development in rural China. They returned to campus with changed perceptions, feelings of accomplishment, a deep affection for China and their new friends from China and around the world.

USF’s participation in the program was made possible through the efforts of Tsinghua University, the generosity and vision of the Wang Foundation, the dedication of Dr. Scott Solomon and Eric Wolters (Department of Government and International Affairs), and the adventurous spirit of the students involved.

Synchronizing History and Media in Ireland

This past summer, 18 USF students from a wide range of academic programs had the opportunity to experience the rich culture of Ireland in a unique study abroad program developed by faculty leaders Dr. Timothy Bajkiewicz (Mass Communications) and Robin Bajkiewicz (History). The collaboration between their two disciplines created a program that explored the history of Ireland through the lens of the media.

Prior to departure, students were provided a list of “must-see media” that supplemented their study of the country. Dr. Bajkiewicz noted that even Irish locals were impressed with USF students and their knowledge of Irish culture and history.

Robin Bajkiewicz was surprised to find that although the students liked the city, their main interest was the countryside, where the Irish culture had a slower rhythm. Both program leaders feel that their main objective of facilitating an understanding and appreciation of Irish history and culture was successfully achieved. Dr. Bajkiewicz himself said, “This trip opened my eyes to how important it is to go out and see the world.”
Students and Faculty Explore South India

Dr. Ann DeBaldo receives an elephant blessing in Tamil Nadu, India.

“Bringing together the students and faculty enriched the experiences of all participants. It was particularly gratifying to identify potential opportunities for international research and further study for faculty and students alike,” said Dr. DeBaldo.

The rich and varied three-week itinerary that began in Chennai proceeded south through the State of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, then into Kerala, providing an overview of South Indian history and culture. Featuring rural and village life (in contrast to the more usual tours of major cities and the high-tech Indian landscape), the participants visited sites where bricks are made by hand, where the ancient art of making metal mirrors lives on in the village of Aranmula in Kerala and where the Kathakali and Kalakshetra forms of dance are taught and preserved.

Participants also explored the rich agricultural heritage of South India through visits to tea and spice plantations where they learned (and sampled) not only the culinary but also the medicinal value of plants. Ayurvedic and Yoga practitioners introduced ancient and still-valuable philosophies and practices of preventive holistic health. And although the weather was very hot, visits to the magnificent temples of South India and discussions with a temple priest helped a deeper understanding of the religious history of South India to unfold. With the start of monsoon rains in Kerala providing a welcome break from the heat, the Study Abroad group explored Ft. Cochin with its international heritage embracing the spice trading Arabs, the Chinese and their unique fishing nets, a thriving Jewish population and ancient synagogue, and of course, the English and Portuguese colonizers.

Global Initiatives in Geography

Dr. Robert Brinkmann visited the University of Latvia in Riga. While at the university, Dr. Brinkmann discussed collaborative opportunities with Rector Dr. Ivars Lācis and Director of International Relations Dr. Alina Grzhibovska. The oldest university in the country, the University of Latvia has partnerships with prestigious educational institutions across Europe, as well as a very active collaborative research program.

In September, department chair Dr. Robert Brinkmann visited the University of Latvia in Riga. While at the university, Dr. Brinkmann discussed collaborative opportunities with Rector Dr. Ivars Lācis and Director of International Relations Dr. Alina Grzhibovska. The oldest university in the country, the University of Latvia has partnerships with prestigious educational institutions across Europe, as well as a very active collaborative research program.

While in the Baltic region, Dr. Brinkmann also gave a lecture at the University of Helsinki in Finland. Discussions between the two departments of Geography regarding potential partnerships were initiated, and Dr. Brinkmann plans to return to Finland to further investigate opportunities for USF to cooperate with this widely acclaimed institution. Founded in 1640, The University of Helsinki concentrates on high-level scientific research and researcher education, and is a member of the League of European Research Universities. Any USF faculty member who is interested in joining multidisciplinary collaborative discussions with the University of Helsinki should contact Dean of International Affairs Dr. Maria Crummett at crummett@iac.usf.edu.

USF’s Department of Geography has recently initiated several international collaborations that are expected to expand in the future.

USF Health

Susan James

Dr. Robert Brinkmann (left) at the University of Latvia.
October, almost eight months into my U.S. Peace Corps Morocco experience. I delight in every day the rising sun wakes me up in my quintessential Berber home (decorated à la American-bohemian style) to the sounds of my kitten screeching for food and the sweeping swish of the neighbor's broom.

Still early into my service, I am little by little getting the hang of the what's what and the who's who in my village of about 4,000 Berber, or more politically correct, Amazigh inhabitants. But I'm far enough along to not be regularly awestruck by the typical day-to-day activities and customs of the culture. I struggle to fill my days and “keep busy” by visiting the health clinic, studying the language, planning potential health lessons, ticking off household chores, and doing my daily community walk-about. The rest, well, I never really know.

For someone like myself, who craves and thrives off of schedules, planning, and organization, I've had to more-or-less abandon such punctilious tendencies. Things just do not operate this way. I don't think I've ever had a premeditated appointment as productive as my numerous informal meetings, say, on a street corner or at the post office.

So, while I still never leave home without my daily To-Do list and refer to my 2-year calendar to keep track of how many months I've survived the Sahara, working in this setting has shown me the value and the merit of chance encounters. It's one of the many lessons of the Peace Corps. Allowing room in my day for a little serendipity opens the door to so much unknown potential. I never know who I'll meet or what party I'll be invited to around the next bend. And unlike the To-Do lists (that end up in the trash), this is something that when I leave here, I will take home with me.

Greetings from U.S. Peace Corps Morocco

Vanina Granell graduated in December 2005 with a bachelor's degree in International Studies and French minor.

Master’s International Program

The Master’s International program in Business stresses leadership and teamwork, cultural diversity, and an international perspective, preparing students to work in a variety of organizations in a global market.

The Master’s International program for Special Education provides additional expertise in understanding and addressing diversity among students as well as the world around them.

For additional information on all Master’s International programs, please visit: http://global.usf.edu/iac.

Interested in Peace Corps Service?

The Peace Corps celebrates its 45th Anniversary this year, honoring the 180,000 volunteers who have served around the world. Would you like to learn more? Ryan Morris, a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer from Kazakhstan, is the Tampa Bay area’s Peace Corps representative. He is available to answer questions, speak to student organizations or classrooms, and assist with the application process for USF students and others in the Tampa Bay area interested in Peace Corps service. For additional information, please visit http://global.usf.edu/iac.
Fulbright in South Africa

Dr. Donald Dellow, Associate Professor in the Adult, Career and Higher Education Department, received a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant Award to spend three weeks in South Africa in late August and early September 2006. The grant allowed Dr. Dellow to participate as a moderator in a colloquium on “The Characteristics of an Internationalised University” at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He also spent time with the Director and staff of the NMMU International Affairs Center discussing potential future collaborative efforts, including a possible study abroad trip for administrators and doctoral students in higher education. Another element of the grant provided for his participation in the International Education Association Annual Meeting in Cape Town.

According to Dr. Dellow, “My program in South Africa was exceptionally rewarding. I had no previous experience in South Africa and after being there awhile I realized that we hear so very little about the amazing change that has taken place there since the end of apartheid and the presidency of Nelson Mandela. As I peered into Nelson Mandela’s cell on Robben Island I couldn’t help but contemplate how swiftly he moved from that cell to the Presidency of South Africa and brought about so much change, and with so little malice toward those who imprisoned him. I encourage my colleagues to visit South Africa and see for themselves this amazing story of democracy and this amazing country.”

Dr. Dellow notes that the Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant is not a research program, but rather an opportunity for U.S. specialists to work with international colleagues on topics of mutual interest in a more informal way. The Fulbright experience allowed Dr. Dellow to collaborate with South African colleagues on ways for both countries to further internationalize higher education and better prepare students to compete in a global economy.

Dr. Donald Dellow (center) in South Africa with colleagues Dr. Josef Mestenhauser and Mariam Assefa

2007 Faculty Development Programs

International Affairs is developing two faculty development programs for summer 2007:

- **Tampa-Asturian Cultural Connections** — for faculty members who would like to experience the history, music and art of Asturias, Spain, and learn about the many connections between Tampa and this northern Spanish province. USF and University of Oviedo faculty of similar academic interests will be paired during the visit to enhance collaborative opportunities. May 5-12, 2007

- **Language Immersion in Panama** — for faculty members who would like to learn conversational Spanish for their personal and professional development. The program will involve participating in four on-campus language classes prior to travel to Panama’s City of Knowledge. June 30-July 15, 2007

Please contact Julie Hale at jhale@iac.usf.edu or the Study Abroad office at (813) 974-4314 for further details.

Congratulations to USF’s 2006-2007 Fulbright Scholars!

- Dr. Daniel Belgrad, Humanities and American Studies – Ukraine
- Dr. Michael Decker, History – Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia
- Dr. Abdelwahab Hechiche, Political Science – Algeria
- Dr. Mahmood Nachabe, Engineering – United Arab Emirates
- Dr. Carnot Nelson, Psychology – Turkey
- Dr. Takhiridjon Mutalovich Razykov, Uzbekistan- Clean Energy Research Center

Visiting Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Takhiridjon Mutalovich Razykov, Uzbekistan- Clean Energy Research Center
USF Welcomes Fulbright Students

USF is proud to host seven newly enrolled Fulbright grantees in the 2006-07 academic year. This brings the total number of Fulbright grantees currently studying at USF to 17, the highest number in the university's history. The Fulbright Program supports educational exchanges that strengthen understanding and communication between the United States and over 140 countries. Congratulations and welcome to the following students:

Jayapragas Gnaniah – Malaysia
PhD, Special Education

Layeb Ignegongba – Chad
MPH, Global Health

Slaheddine M’Nasri – Tunisia
MA, Speech Language Pathology

Halah Faraj – Bahrain
MBA

Enrique Montes Herrera – Venezuela
MSc, Marine Sciences

Fabiola Reyes Yañez – Venezuela
MA, TESOL

Gina Sosa Betances – Dominican Republic
MPH, Global Health

“Fostering leadership, learning, and empathy between cultures was and remains the purpose of the international scholarship program.”

-Senator J. William Fulbright

Student Profile -- Halah Faraj

USF extends a warm welcome to Halah Faraj, a Fulbright student from Bahrain. Halah is pursuing her MBA with an emphasis on Finance and Information Systems. She brings a unique perspective to the MBA program by drawing on her experience holding the front Trading Desk position in the Treasury Division of the Foreign Exchange and Money Market in Bahrain. In this position, Halah was responsible for trading money market funds involving numerous foreign currencies. Upon graduation, Halah plans on gaining business experience in the United States and then returning to Bahrain to work in the investment banking industry. According to Halah, USF has enhanced her learning through class discussion and research, and she feels that her time here will result in lifelong enrichment.
USF Welcomes Bahraini Ambassador

USF had the privilege of welcoming His Excellency, Dr. Naser M. Al Belooshi, Bahraini Ambassador to the U.S., on November 8, 2006. Dean of International Affairs Dr. María Crummett hosted a luncheon at which Ambassador Al Belooshi and members of the university and Tampa business communities discussed Bahrain’s initiatives and development strategies in the areas of energy, science, and technology. Facing declining oil reserves, Bahrain is focused on developing alternative energy sources to meet the country’s long-term energy needs. Ambassador Al Belooshi expressed interest in returning to USF soon to further explore the university’s work in the area of clean energy research.

Ambassador Al Belooshi, who received his doctorate and master’s degrees in economics from the University of Paris, was confirmed to his position in October 2005. In his previous posting as economic representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States, Ambassador Al Belooshi proved instrumental in his support of the Bahrain-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The agreement, which went into effect in August, is the first bi-lateral trade agreement with an Arabian Gulf country and is expected to expand trade and investment ties between the U.S. and Bahrain.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is an archipelago in the Persian Gulf, connected to Saudi Arabia’s Eastern coast by causeway. It is 266 square miles in size (approximately 3.5 times the size of Washington, D.C.) and has a population of nearly 700,000. Bahrain is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council along with Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. With its highly developed communication and transport facilities, Bahrain is home to numerous multinational firms with business in the Gulf.