

Office of Global Programs (OGP) College of Agriculture

February 2018 updates

News from OGP

- There are few updates on the OGP website, particularly the sections on Global Footprint (international agreements), Cuba, and international visitors.
<http://agriculture.auburn.edu/academics/global-programs/>. You can find OGP reports and Global Programs Advisory Committee (GPAC) minutes at:
<http://agriculture.auburn.edu/academics/global-programs/staff-and-advisory-committee/>. Please review our website and give us your feedback on the changes and what we still need to do.
- Kelly Pippin will go on her maternity leave in June, 2018

International Enrollment in the College as of Spring 2018

- Number of International Undergraduate Students – **12** (8 as of Fall 2017)
- Number of International Graduate Students - **100** (109 as of Fall 2017)
- Total Number of International Students - **112** (117 as of Fall 2017): **62** female; **50** male
- The breakdown by countries and departments/schools are:

Top 5 countries

China	50
Turkey	7
Vietnam	5
India	4
Brazil	5

Programs/Department

Ag Econ and Rural Sociology	19
Animal Sciences	4
Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences	22
Entomology and Plant Pathology	24
Horticulture	4
Poultry Science	7
School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & AE	31
Biosystems Engineering	0
Undeclared	1
Grand Total	112

- Number of AU Global Students interested in the college: **5** (5 as of Fall 2017; no interest gained as of Spring 2018)
- Number of active J-1 Visiting Scholars/Interns: **31** (34 as of Fall 2017)
- Number of incoming J-1 Visiting Scholars/Interns (start date after February 5th): **6**

Study Abroad

- Calculated by academic year: **30** CoAg students enrolled in study abroad trips for the 2017 – 2018 academic year (44 for the 2016 – 2017 academic year); summer 2018 registration has not yet opened.
- Calculated by calendar year: **42** CoAg students enrolled in study abroad trips in year 2017 (**58** CoAg students enrolled in study abroad trips in year 2016)
- Study Abroad programs potentially offered for the 2017-2018 academic year include:
 - I. Vietnam (Daniels; December 2017) - completed with 11 students (2 UG, 9 G)
 - II. Peru (Molnar/Muntifering; March 2018) – set to go with 20 students
 - III. China (Weaver; May 2018)
 - IV. England (Robinson; May 2018)
 - V. China (Luxin Wang; TBD)
- Dr. David Weaver and his students gave their York ISP seminar on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 from 12:00 – 1:00 in Comer 109. The seminar attracted more than 30 attendees who were undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, post-docs and administrators with the College of Agriculture.
- Dr. Bill Daniels took 11 AU undergraduate and graduate students to Vietnam for Aquaculture Production class from December 27-January 10th. They learned alongside 45 undergraduate students from the Advanced Aquaculture program at Can Tho University. A York ISP seminar of this trip is coming up soon.

3+2/3+1 Programs; College-level general MOU(s)

- The revised 3+2 agreement between EPP and Qingdao Agricultural University was signed by AU and sent to SACS for review/approval.
- Several general MOUs and 3+2 MOUs are under review.
- Total number of 3+2 recruits since 2014: **20**
- Currently, OGP does not have a tracking system for the 3+2 students; each semester, Kelly usually asks the Graduate School directly for numbers.
- A general MOU between Auburn University College of Agriculture and Nanjing Research Institute for Agriculture Mechanization, Ministry of Agriculture, P.R. China, has been developed and signed by both parties in November 2017. A workshop and signing ceremony was held November 4th. Invited attendees were Dr. Charles Chen, Dr. Tim McDonald, Dr. Bill Daniels, Dr. Henry Fadamiro (unable to attend) and Dr. Chris Butts (USDA ARS National Peanut Research Laboratory).

- Dr. Daniels traveled with Dr. George Flowers, Dean of the Graduate School, to recruit and evaluate potential students between November 5-11 at NWAUFU, Ocean University of China (OUC), Qingdao Agricultural University (QAU) and China Agricultural University (CAU). Dr. Flowers, Dr. Daniels and Dr. Hanqin Tian also visited the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to discuss potential collaboration with AU. Overall, the trip was very productive in encouraging continued program development and exchanges. Another outcome is the College of Agriculture has agreed to host Dr. Ying Zhang from the Office of Scientific R&D at China Agricultural University for six months beginning August, 2018.

International Visitors

- **Summer student exchange** - China Agricultural University (CAU) hosted 17 students from CoAg in May 2016. CoAg hosted 13 CAU students in July 2016 and 18 students including one CAU faculty member in July 2017. Each visit lasted about 10 days. **CoAg will continue host this group in summer 2018.**
- **York Lecture for Fall 2017 (Oct 1-3) – Mr. Vimlendra Sharan**, North American FAO representative and York Lecturer, to discuss potential opportunities for AU to collaborate with FAO.
- **The visit of two fisheries institutes of Zhejiang Province, China (October 25 – 26) –** The OGP hosted a delegation from **Zhejiang Institute of Freshwater Fisheries (ZIFF) and the Marine Fisheries Research Institute of Zhejiang (MFRIZ)** from October 25-26 focused on fisheries related research conducted at Auburn University, including breeding, fish genetics and genomics, natural resources protection, water quality, and food science such as food preservation and processing. The delegation also wishes to establish a long term exchange relationship to bring in visiting scholars from these two fisheries institutes and invite Auburn professors to Zhejiang.
- **Delegation from Malaysia (November 13, 2017) –** OGP hosted a delegation from Malaysia, including representatives from the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Malayan Flour Mills Bhd., November 13-14 focused on the topic of aquaculture, particularly fish feeds and shrimp/fish production. We also worked with Dr. Conner and Poultry Science to visit the feed mill and faculty.
- **Visit of Dr. Amnon Erez –** Dr. Erez spoke at the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (AFVGA) meeting from November 15 -18 to present a lecture on peach physiology in response to PGRs (Plant Growth Regulators) in seasons with insufficient chilling units. Dr. Elina Coneva is sponsoring him and funding is shared by OGP, CoAg research office, AU Department Horticulture, and AFVGA.
- **China Agricultural University (CAU) visited on November 16th -** OGP coordinated with College of Agriculture departments hosting CAU 3+2 students and also with COSAM.

- **Delegation from Peanut Research Institute (PRI) of Shenyang Agriculture University (November 21, 2017 – December 2, 2017)** – the group came to visit our peanut research fields and discuss potential collaborations with Dr. Charles Chen and other faculty who conduct peanut research at Auburn University. They also participated in a conference in Tampa, FL and visited the National Peanut Research Lab in Dawson, GA.
- **Delegation from Qingdao Agriculture University (QAU) (December 4)** – OGP hosted President Xiyun Song and his delegation from Qingdao Agricultural University December 3-4. Dr. Song was very impressed with the college, particular the equestrian program. It would be great to send a delegation of our equestrian team to QAU along with some faculty members in 2018.

The purposes of QAU’s visit include:

1. To promote new student or faculty exchange programs.
2. To find out the potentials of developing joint research programs.
3. To further promote collaboration on Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences.

QAU College of Marine Science and Engineering are moving to the Qingdao Blue Silicon Core District. According to the Chinese Government’s plan, this district is designed to support the development of Marine Sciences and Marine Economy.

- **Delegation from Egypt (December 11-12)** – OGP hosted six International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) participants from Egypt on December 11-12 to learn about data collection and dissemination in agriculture.

AAES-Cuba Programs

Six Cuba-AAES Grants were awarded for \$36,500 in year 2017.

Project Name	Auburn PI	PIs Department/ College	Amount Funded
Identification and Quantification of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes with Potential for Limiting Quality Turf in Cuban Golf and Tourist Facilities	Kathy Lawrence	ENTPP / CoAg	\$3,750
Vegetable Production and IPM Short Course for Sustainable Small-farm, Organic-based Systems	Edward Sikora	ENTPP / CoAg	\$3,750
Developing and Validating Functional Ice (FICE) to Reduce Food Waste due to Spoilage of Seafood and Poultry in the US and Cuba	Amit Morey	PS / CoAg	\$3,750
Evaluation of Agronomic Management on Soil and Environmental quality of Red Ferralitic Landscapes in Mayabeque Province, Cuba	Brenda Ortiz	CSES / CoAg	\$9,000

Developing Sustainable Organic Mulch Sources for Ornamental Gardens and Food Crops in Cuba	Adam Newby	HORT / CoAg	\$3,750
Discovery and development of innovative botanical pesticides for insect pest management	Arthur G. Appel	ENTPP / CoAg	\$12,500

- Our work in Cuba via the AAES-Cuba grants is becoming very challenging for our grantees due to reduced staffing at the US Embassy in Cuba and forced staff reductions at the Cuban embassy in Washington DC. Bringing Cubans to the US is not possible as the US is not issuing US visas in Cuba; not sure if they could route through other countries to US. The Cuban embassy is issuing Cuban visas and ‘tour card’ can still be procured at the airport for travel to Cuba.
- OGP will begin sending letters to our collaborative institutions informing them of the recently awarded projects and working with them to facilitate faculty work in Cuba.

York ISP Proposals

For the November 5th deadline, 2 proposals (China - Weaver; Guyana – Knappenberger et al) were submitted and approved for funding. For February 5th deadline, X proposals were submitted and are currently under review. Next deadline is September 5th.

USDA/NSF/USAID

Worked with Dr. Molnar on USDA 2017 CGIAR Borlaug Fellowship Program for India proposal for Indian scholar and grant awarded. Needed to work with PPS to work out payment options and meeting unique requirements. Dr. Conner Bailey is working with Dr. Molnar on this project.

The University of Georgia was awarded the new Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut Research (PRIL). We expect a call for proposals from PRIL and expect AU to be competitive.

Dr. Daniels worked with 5 partners on 7 USDA Food for Progress concept (phase 1) proposals for 4 countries (Cambodia, Pakistan, Philippines and Tunisia). All proposals focused on aquaculture. If approved, full proposals will be developed through SFAAS and other departments and partners.

AFCLC

Dr. Bob Norton, Professor of Veterinary Infectious Diseases, Biosecurity and Public Health at AU, introduced OGP to Mr. Howard Ward, who is the Director of the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC); The United States Air Force has a large cultural training program, where military officers are trained to work with governments and military in many foreign nations. Mr. Ward informed me today that AFCLC has a significant interest in identifying subject matter experts who have significant cultural knowledge, are proficient in the language(s) spoken in a given country, and have on-the-ground experience that could become the basis for fostering cooperation between the United States and that nation. Food and agriculture are two areas that are good starting points for conversation that will hopefully evolve into cooperation.

News from Office of International Programs (Andrew Gillespie)

- OIP is back up to full staff on student and scholar processing and advising. They are also advertising for the H1B-LPR coordinator position and hope to fill it soon to meet the demand.
- OIP is pushing for a more correct use of the J and H program for our post-docs. Friends and colleagues coming to visit our labs will still come under the J visa visitor exchange program. But for those post-docs coming to run our labs and supervise PhD's and such, OIP is pushing those to H visas to be more competitive with the markets out there.
- The Department of State has issued a new coding system for travel warnings to other countries. Rather than alerts and warnings, there are 4 levels, and OIP is adjusting Travel Warning policy to reflect this new approach. This impacts faculty on RAT50s.



<https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/NEWTravelAssets/pdfs/Travel%20Advisory%20Country%20List%20Alphabetical%201-18-18%20VERT.pdf>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

- OIP's new International Center (headed by Dr. Adeola Fayemi) has new programming for campus, including continued Portuguese and Korean language training, but now also Arabic.
- OIP will run a symposium on International Teaching and Learning in Orlando on May 31-June 1. Faculty are invited to register.
- There will be an afternoon presentation on the AU Professional Improvement Leave Program (PIL- sabbaticals) followed by a Fulbright program presentation on February 28th in Foy Hall. This will be announced in Auburn News shortly.