From the Director’s Desk

The core faculty and staff of the Center for Advanced Study of International Development at Michigan State University are pleased to present the spring 2005 issue of the CASID Update, a comprehensive newsletter on our programmatic activities.

CASID is a multidisciplinary unit housed in the College of Social Science and organized in cooperation with the Office of the Dean of International Studies and Programs. CASID promotes and coordinates the study of issues related to international development from the perspective of the social sciences and liberal arts. CASID and the Women and International Development (WID) Program at MSU have been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Comprehensive National Resource Center for Foreign Language and International Studies and receive funding under Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965. In addition to a wide range of Title VI-funded programmatic activities, CASID also provides assistance to College of Social Science and other core faculty seeking external funding for cross-unit, cross-disciplinary international development research and project activities in collaboration with MSU’s Office of International Development (OID) and Institute of International Agriculture (IIA).

In this issue we feature a wide range of international development-related teaching, research and outreach activities that we have supported during the past year. We look forward to continuing our work in the coming year and the exciting opportunities that lay ahead.

Jeffrey Riedinger
Director

President Simon and CASID Director Participate in Global Food Safety Forum

In November 2004, Acting Dean of International Studies and Programs and CASID Director Jeff Riedinger accompanied MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon, Acting Provost John Hudzik, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dean Jeff Armstrong, Institute of International Agriculture Director Dan Clay, and other MSU deans, center directors, and faculty to participate in the Global Food Safety Forum in Beijing, China. MSU was the sole university co-sponsor of the Forum with the Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council, China’s Ministry of Science and Technology, China’s Ministry of Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank. President Simon delivered a plenary session keynote address on “An Overview of Food Safety Programs at Michigan State University.” MSU’s involvement in the forum is part of an ongoing collaboration between MSU and the DRC involving many activities.

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MSU Wins Prestigious Goldman Sachs

We are pleased to announce that MSU has won the higher education category of the 2004 Goldman Sachs Foundation Prize for Excellence in International Education. The winners of the competition were selected from over 400 applicants from 44 states. MSU was recognized in particular for its emphasis on providing international learning opportunities for students preparing to be teachers and its in-depth outreach to schools on international issues. CASID has provided human and financial support for key activities cited in the award.

As reported in MSU Today, five MSU international initiatives were recognized by the award which came with a $25,000 prize.

The award recognized LATTICE (Linking All Types of Teachers to International and Cross-Cultural Education), a partnership between MSU and 14 Michigan school districts. LATTICE links international students and Michigan teachers in order to heighten teachers’ awareness, sensitivity and understanding of global issues. Groups of 25 teachers and administrators meet with 20 international students eight times a year to provide professional development, give teachers international perspectives that will influence their teaching, and offer the students a chance to become acquainted with and be more involved in U.S. schools.

The award also recognized MSU’s original Web-based materials for K-12 educators and students nationally, sponsored by MSU’s International Studies and Programs and developed by the African Studies Center, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Asian Studies Center.

Also highlighted was MSU’s nationally recognized five-year teacher-preparation program that infuses international content into the student experience – from a required undergraduate course on issues of diversity and equity which draws on Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe, to study abroad and pre-teaching programs throughout the world. For example, in the summer following their bachelor’s degrees, teacher-preparation students have the opportunity to teach 4-6 weeks in public schools of countries such as South Africa and Australia.

The award recognized the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Programs to take Michigan K-12 teachers and other educators to developing countries. In return for travel grants, participating educators develop teaching and curriculum resources for Michigan schools. In the last five years, Michigan teachers have traveled to South Africa, Mexico, Nepal and Vietnam.

Also acknowledged was MSU’s teacher-preparation program, which infuses international content into the student experiences – from a required undergraduate course that explores Africa, Asia, Latin American and Europe to study abroad and pre-teaching programs in Thailand, France and England. These programs provide among the widest selection of overseas study experiences of any U.S. teacher training program.
The Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated by President Carter in 1978 to honor the accomplishments of the late Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey. It is a Fulbright exchange program funded by the United States Congress through the Department of State and implemented by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The Program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from developing countries to the United States to participate in professional development activities and graduate-level academic coursework. A five-year agreement with the Department of State and IIE designates MSU as one of two host institutions in the area of economic development. CASID is the host unit that administers the Humphrey Fellowship Program at MSU.

The aim of the Humphrey Program is to foster knowledge, mutual understanding, and a basis for long-lasting relationships between citizens of the United States and their professional counterparts in other countries. Fellowships are granted competitively to professional candidates with a commitment to service in both the public and private sectors.

The MSU Humphrey Fellows for the 2004-05 academic year:

Ms. Lea Uhrinova, Slovakia, Senior Loan Officer for a women’s microenterprise development project in the Integra Foundation. Ms. Uhrinova’s interests include small business management and professional support for small enterprise owners.

Ms. Kulthum Amani, Tanzania, Senior Economist in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Ms. Amani will focus on development programs and the macro- and micro-economic policies related to poverty reduction and HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Shujie He, China, Deputy Chief of the China Everbright Bank. Ms. He will focus on managing small business finance.

Mr. Marco Scanu, Venezuela, CEO/Partner of Empresa Productora Vivaldi C.A. Mr. Scanu will study how entrepreneurship and Venture Capital relate to economic growth.

Mr. Paul Bagabo, Uganda, Senior Revenue Officer for Quality Assurance, Inspectorate and Appeals Division of the Uganda Revenue Authority. Mr. Bagabo’s interests include the reforms undertaken to reduce compliance costs.

Mr. M. Dian Bah, Guinea, Analyst in the Department of Statistics. Mr. Bah will focus on the monetary and economic statistics published by the Federal Reserve Bank, the World Bank or International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Darshan Gangolli, India, Senior Manager with IL & FS Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. Mr. Gangolli’s interests include regional tourism development, in particular theme park development, eco-tourism and park management.

Ms. Adriana Niedoszewska, Poland, Director of the Department for Managing European Social Fund in the Ministry of Economy and Labor. Ms. Niedoszewska will focus on labor market policies and enterprise development.

Mr. Abdul Tokhy, Afghanistan, General Manager of Smuggling-Obstruction and Custom Monitoring in the Ministry of Finance in Afghanistan. Mr. Tokhy wants to learn ways Afghanistan can generate revenue from their available resources.

Mr. Talantbek Sakshev, Kyrgyzstan, Expert for the Committee on International, External Economic Issues and Inter-Parliamentary Relations. Mr. Sakshev will study the U.S. experience with sustainable economic development of its economy.

Mr. Jaafar Elaouani, Tunisia, Consultant with a private firm. Mr Elaouani’s interests include economic policies that impact governmental infrastructure projects.

Fellows are (from top to bottom and left to right): Marco Scanu, Talantbek Sakshev, Jaafar Elaouani, Darshan Gangolli, Abdul Tokhy, M. Dian Bah, Paul Bagabo, Kulthum Amani, Adriana Niedoszewska, Shujie He, Lea Uhrinova
CASID and WID 2004 Friday Forum

The 2004 Friday Forum included presentations by MSU faculty and visiting scholars on a number of important issues related to international development.

Spring 2004


1-30: Asad Aleem, MSU Humphrey Fellow. “Recent Economic Reforms and Human Development Initiatives in Pakistan”

2-13: Thi Thanh Ha Hoang, MSU Humphrey Fellow. “Vietnam’s Socio-Economic Performance”


3-26: Jack Williams, MSU Geography. “City Life: An Overview of the Video Series”


4-9: Manothong Vongsay, MSU Humphrey Fellow. “Change, Development, and the Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Laos”

4-16: David Wiley and Christine Root. “Federal Programs for Funding International Higher-Education Partnerships”


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CASID Co-Sponsors Forum for State Legislators

A collaborative forum titled, “Michigan and the International Economy: Food Safety and Security,” was held on May 11, 2004. MSU experts discussed food safety and security issues for state legislatures, government departments, and public agencies that are working with agriculture and the food industry, community health and food borne illnesses, as well as import and export commerce. The event, held at the State Capitol Building, was the inaugural session of a new annual forum that focuses on Michigan and the International Economy.

The forum explored several issues germane to Michigan’s continued economic security and prosperity, including the position of the Michigan food industry in the international economy. Topics also included the economic effects of “food safety scares” such as the Alar-Apple scare, the Great Lakes salmon warning, and reports of contaminants in milk and pesticides in food.

The forum began with presentations by two well-known MSU experts, Dr. Larry Busch and Dr. Les Bourquin. Dr. Busch is a University Distinguished Professor of Sociology and specializes in agricultural research policy and the sociology of agriculture. He has consulted on food and agricultural standards and the sociological and cultural differences that affect how new technologies, such as genetically modified foods, are created and received. Dr. Busch has worked widely in Africa and Asia. Dr. Les Bourquin is an associate professor of food science and human nutrition with expertise in food safety issues. Dr. Bourquin works with consumers, media, government agencies and the food industry on food safety issues to improve public understandings of complex food issues such as biotechnology, food irradiation and food-borne illness.

In addition to CASID, the forum was sponsored by the following MSU programs and centers: African Studies Center, Asian Studies Center, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, Office of the Dean for International Studies and Programs, and the Women and International Development Program.
USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios Visits MSU

In October 2004, MSU hosted a campus visit by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Andrew S. Natsios. Administrator Natsios is a graduate of Georgetown University and Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government where he received a master’s degree in public administration. During his visit to MSU, Administrator Natsios gave a presentation titled, “Sudan, Darfur, and the United States Response.” The presentation, attended by over 100 faculty and students, provided a first-hand account of conditions in Sudan.

CASID Staff Attend AIB Conference

CASID Associate Director Robert Glew and CASID International Development Program Coordinator Dan Hester attended the Academy of International Business (AIB) 2004 annual meeting in Stockholm, Sweden. AIB is the leading association of scholars and specialists in the field of international business. Established in 1959, AIB has nearly 3000 members in 65 different countries around the world. Members include scholars from leading global academic institutions as well as consultants, researchers, and NGO representatives.

The conference, titled “Bridging with the Other: The Importance of Dialogue in International Business,” was comprised of 45 panels, 84 competitive paper sessions, and 3 interactive poster sessions. More than 900 people from 37 countries contributed to the program. Dr. Marietta Baba, MSU Dean of Social Science, was part of a panel titled, “Voices from the Field: A Dialogue with Anthropologists on International Organizing.”

AIB Conference Attendees (from left to right) Dan Hester, Mary Yoko Brannen, Jean Canavan, Dean of Social Science Marietta Baba, and Robert Glew

Friday Forum

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Fall 2004

9-13: Shri Jagadananda, Centre for Youth and Social Development, Orissa, India. “Sustainable Development Strategies for Poverty Reduction in Orissa, India”

9-17: Laurie Medina, MSU Anthropology. “Actor-Oriented Approaches to Development”

9-24: Darshan Gangolli, MSU Humphrey Fellow. “Public Private Partnerships for Development in India”


10-15: Kulthum Amani, MSU Humphrey Fellow. “Strategies for Grassroots Development in Tanzania”

10-22: Carolyn Logan, MSU Political Science. “Understanding Demand for Democracy and Development from the Grassroots”


11-5: Stephen Esquith, MSU Philosophy. “Philosophy and Development: Ethics In or Ethics Of Development”

11-12: Adriana Niedoszewska, MSU Humphrey Fellow. “Proactive Policies for Labor Market Development in Poland”


12-3: Talantbek Sakishev, MSU Humphrey Fellow. “Poverty Reduction in Kyrgyzstan”

12-10: Shujie He, MSU Humphrey Fellow. “Chinese Banking Industry: At a Crossroads of Change”
CASID Supports MSU Faculty Development

With support from Title VI funds from the U.S. Department of Education, CASID and WID have allocated resources for faculty International Development Research Initiation Grants (IDRIG). CASID and WID also provide support to MSU faculty to present papers and serve as a discussant or panel chair on topics related to international development and/or gender relations at national or international conferences. Grant recipients for 2004, and the topics of their research and/or presentations addressed, include:

2004 CASID & WID Travel Grant Recipients:

Dr. William B. Allen, Department of Political Science. Traveled to the United Kingdom in April to deliver the principal banquet address at the Conference on Statistics, Science and Public Policy. Title of paper delivered: Political Arithmetic: Social Science, Scientific Revolution, Political Innovation.

Dr. Sheila M. Contreras, Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures, Chicano/Latino Studies. Traveled to San Antonio, Texas in March to deliver a paper at the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States. Title of paper delivered: Mexican Imagining: Language, Power and Belonging in Chicana Poetic Expression.

Dr. Stephen L. Esquith, Department of Philosophy. Traveled to Washington, D.C. in May to present at the Values in Development Seminar sponsored by the World Bank. Topic of paper and discussion: Complicity in Mass Violence.

Dr. Talbott Huey, CASID and WID Bibliographer. Traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina in August to attend the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Annual Conference.


Dr. Nan Johnson, Department of Sociology. Traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota in May to deliver a paper at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Title of paper delivered: Does Educational Superiority Autonomize Daughters-in-law Who Live with Their Mothers-in-law? A Test of Caldwell’s Thesis.

Dr. Joseph P. Messina, Department of Geography. Traveled to Glasgow, Scotland in August to present two papers at the 30th Congress of the International Geographical Union. Title of primary paper delivered: Deviation from Neutral: Measuring Landscape Change over Space and Time.

Dr. Wang Hsiao-Ping, Department of Linguistics and Languages. Traveled to Honolulu in January to present at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities. Title of paper delivered: Magical Power of ‘Border Towner’.

Dr. Mark Wilson, Department of Geography. Traveled to Naples, Italy in May in order to develop a research protocol and prepare proposals for seed money for an international comparative study of the creative and technological resources of medium cities in developed and developing economies. The trip also included preparations for a conference under the auspices of the International Geographical Union’s Commission on Information Society.

CASID Organizes Evening College Course

MSU faculty presented three sessions on international issues as part of the Alumni Lifelong Education Evening College program. The course explored the challenges of improving the quality of life for people in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Each session included a short video, slides, and lecture presentations. In spring of 2004, Robert Glew, Assistant Professor and Associate Director of CASID, presented on rural development in Niger, West Africa. Diane Ruonavaara, MSU Extension Specialist, led a session titled, “Cultural Diversity and Social Change in Oaxaca, Mexico. And Beth Kangas, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, presented on gender and Development in Afghanistan.

CASID organizes one Evening College course per year on international issues. In order to reach senior members of the community, recent and current courses are offered at a local retirement community.

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LATTICE: Promoting Cross-Cultural Education Among K-12 Teachers and Administrators

Linking All Types of Teachers to International and Cross-Cultural Education (LATTICE) is a collaborative project designed to link K-12 teachers with a cross-cultural education network that involves dynamic interaction on issues that concern educators throughout the world. The program is supported by CASID and MSU’s College of Education, the Office of the Dean of International Studies and Programs, African Studies Center, Asian Studies Center, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Women and International Development Program, the Graduate School, and 14 mid-Michigan school districts. LATTICE provides Michigan teachers the opportunity to enrich their students’ understanding of other countries and integrate this information into their curricula.

The objectives of LATTICE are to: (1) infuse K-12 classrooms with a heightened awareness, sensitivity, and understanding of global issues including ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity; (2) support international learning so that the children of today can be effective participants in the world tomorrow; and (3) concentrate on adult learning and promote practical links to K-12 classrooms.

LATTICE does not deliver cursory information about countries, but rather involves dynamic interactions on issues that concern educators throughout the world. Monthly sessions during the academic year include thematic presentations, discussion, food, and music. A typical session includes as many as sixty K-12 teachers, administrators, international graduate students, and MSU faculty. Since its inception in 1995, the LATTICE network has grown to include participants from over forty-five countries.

Jean Frentz, a LATTICE participant and assistant school superintendent recently commented: “Our staff frequently say that LATTICE has been one of the most significant experiences that they have ever had. Last week, one of our teachers said, ‘I’m always so tired before I come to this meeting, and after I leave I feel so energized and excited.’ That is the feeling of all of us.” For more information on how to become a LATTICE member contact CASID Associate Director, Dr. Robert Glew, at 353-4818.

Congratulations to MSU’s Student Fulbright Award Recipients

Congratulations to the seven MSU students who were awarded Fulbrights in 2004-05: Karen Cichy, Valeria Foster, Mark Hamilton, Mona Jackson, Suzanne Kent, Nancy Lubeski, and Michael Walker. Five of the graduate students awarded Fulbrights were supported during their studies at MSU by U.S. Department of Education, Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships from CASID and WID. Their department, language of study, and dissertation research interests are:

Valerie Foster, Anthropology. Valeria studied Swahili with a CASID and WID FLAS award to prepare her for her Ph.D. research in Tanzania. Her research is supported by an IIE Fulbright grant and will focus on the interconnections of widowhood, HIV/AIDS, and food insecurity in Northwestern Tanzania.

Mark Hamilton, Teacher Education. Mark, a Fulbright-Hays recipient, studied Fulfulde with a CASID and WID FLAS award to prepare him for his Ph.D. research in Guinea. His research will focus on community participation in education reform in the Republic of Guinea.

Suzanne Kent, Anthropology. Suzanne studied Spanish with a CASID and WID FLAS award to prepare her for her Ph.D. research in El Salvador. Her research is supported by a Fulbright-Hays and will focus on the impacts of transnational migration on the families who remain in San Salvador.

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Michigan and the World Conference

On November 19th, 2004, CASID co-sponsored the second annual Michigan and the World Conference, “Michigan: A Global Leader.” The conference focused on the local impact of international trade. Specialists in labor, business, government and academia presented expert analysis of issues and trends in international trade. Highlighted themes included the environment, human health, economic development and public diplomacy. Approximately 200 attendees participated in the event which was held on the MSU campus.

The day long conference, co-organized by CASID staff member Dan Hester, included the following sessions where participants could discuss issues with state and national experts: Implications of Free Trade Agreements on Michigan, Canada, and Mexico’s Economic Development; Michigan and the Economy: Globalization, Food Safety and Security; and Managing the Great Lakes in a Global Economy. Speakers included representatives from the Consulate General of Canada at Detroit; NAFTA Trade Affairs Office, Embassy of Mexico; Michigan Department of Agriculture; Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority; and Labor and Industrial Relations Department, MSU.

CASID is a member of the Michigan and the World Coalition. Other members include: Center for International Business Education and Research, MSU; Kalamazoo-based Colleagues International; Greater Lansing United Nations Association; International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit; Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission; Michigan League of Women Voters; Michigan Municipal League; National Wildlife Federation; SE Michigan Returned Peace Corps Volunteers; and the Women and International Development Program, MSU.

Project to Strengthen U.S./Ghana Linkages Funded by State Department

CASID Director Jeff Riedinger and Social Work Professor Rena Harold have been awarded a U.S. Department of State grant titled, “Entrepreneurship Training Program: A Ghana-United States Exchange.” The project, funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, will strengthen institutional linkages between Ghana and the United States and enhance the capacities of Ghanaian institutions to promote and develop women’s workforce participation by providing entrepreneurial training in Ghana.

The project will enable the University of Ghana to develop and implement a workforce development program that will serve traditionally underprivileged women. Particular focus will be placed on establishing effective collaboration between the public and private sectors, including the NGO community, to enhance women’s workforce participation. This collaboration between MSU, the University of Ghana, the Zonta Club of Lansing and the Zonta Club of Accra, Ghana will develop a team of trainers from Ghana who can facilitate entrepreneurship training programs for underprivileged and less educated women. It will build upon the training expertise, information technology systems, and facilities of the University of Ghana and the Zonta Club of Accra, as well as MSU’s extensive expertise in providing technical assistance to local leaders and managers worldwide via in-country training and distance education. The project will be administrated by CASID International Development Program Coordinator Dan Hester.
Curriculum Development Grants for International Development and Gender and Development Courses

The following faculty received CASID and WID curriculum development grants to create and revise undergraduate and graduate courses related to international development and/or gender relations with Title VI funds from the U.S. Department of Education.

CASID and WID 2003-2004 Course Development Grant Recipients

Jualynne E. Dodson, Religious Studies. Received funds to revise the African American and African Studies course Women and Religion: The African Atlantic (AL 834) and the Religious Studies course African Religions: The Atlantic Diaspora (RS 360).

Anne Ferguson, Anthropology. Received funds to develop a new course in anthropology titled, Political Ecology of Health: Africa and the US.

David Katz, School of Social Work. Received funds to revise Social Welfare Policy and Services courses (SW 820 and SW 822B).

Sarah Nicholls, Geography. Received funds to revise the Geography of Recreation and Tourism course (GEO 259).

Global and Area Thematic Initiative Awards for 2003-2004

The Global Area and Thematic Initiative (GATI) is an effort by MSU to foster comparative and thematically oriented multidisciplinary programs of research and training related to the current dynamics of globalization.

The goals of the GATI program include the development of multi-disciplinary faculty cooperation for nationally prominent programs of research and undergraduate or graduate training with complementary relationships among thematic, area, and disciplinary studies at MSU. Other goals include the production of grant proposals for multi-disciplinary research and/or training programs at MSU, the involvement of faculty and students beyond those normally active in area and international studies programs, and the strengthening of the international curriculum. The initiatives funded in 2003-2004 include:

Ethical and Social Aspects of International Human Subjects Research, led by Gretchen Birbeck (Neurology), Fred Gifford (Philosophy), Linda Hunt (Anthropology), Terri Taylor (Internal Medicine), and Tom Tomlinson (Philosophy). This project aims to enhance MSU’s ability to address the challenges associated with international human subjects research by developing an interdisciplinary and productive scholarly community of faculty and graduate students, and by encouraging development and teaching of relevant graduate level courses.

Ethics and Development, led by Stephen Esquith (Philosophy), Frederick Gifford (Philosophy), Daniel Steel (Philosophy) and Paul Thompson (Philosophy). This project will create a set of curricular and research initiatives in the area of ethics and development that build upon existing strengths in MSU’s departmental and interdepartmental international programs.

For more information on GATI, visit http://www.isp.msu.edu/gati/public/index.htm.
CASID Co-Sponsors CIBER Forum

CASID is a co-sponsor of the Center for International Business Education and Research’s (CIBER) International Business Forum. Other sponsors include: Detroit College of Law at MSU, the Greater Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Lansing Community College. Speakers with international experience in business present at the monthly forum, and the events also provide relaxed networking opportunities for individuals interested in doing business in the global economy. The events are open to the general public. For more information and the list of 2005 programs, visit http://ciber.msu.edu/events/IBForum.

February 2004
Lonnie J. King, Dean of MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. “The Convergence of Animal and Human Health: Opportunities and Challenges”

March 2004
David J. Closs, John H. McConnell Professor and Chair in Business Administration at MSU. “Supply Chain Considerations to Support China’s Economic Growth”

April 2004
Nabina Shrestha, Micro-Enterprise Officer, United Nations Development Program, Nepal and MSU Humphrey Fellow. “Empowering Women through Micro-Enterprise Development in Developing Countries”

September 2004
Dean Johnson, Chairman of the Board, Shanti, Inc. “U.S. Global Economic Leadership in the 21st Century: Paradigm Shift in our Economic Model”

October 2004

November 2004

CASID Associate Director Speaks in Niger

During summer 2004, Dr. Robert Glew, CASID Associate Director, was invited by the U.S. Embassy in Niger to speak about his research on coping strategies in food and water deficit regions of central Niger. Glew’s presentation was held July 24, 2004 at the American Cultural Center in Niamey. The presentation, “Coping Strategies and Nutritional Health in Rural Niger: Recommendations for Consumption of Wild Plant Foods in the Sahel,” was attended by over 50 members of relevant Nigerien governmental agencies and the NGO community.

During his presentation, Glew highlighted that the need for improving the nutritional health of rural Nigeriens, particularly children, is pressing. According to the 2003 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index the Republic of Niger is ranked 174th out of 175 countries considered. Quality of life indicators reflect the challenge of living in the Sahel, a semi-arid transition zone located between the Sahara desert to the north and savannah grasslands to the south. In many areas farmers are unable to produce enough millet to last until the following harvest. Glew’s research has confirmed that during these periods, people in rural Niger increase their reliance on wild plant foods to supplement their diets. The research indicates that many wild plant foods have potential nutritional benefits. In his presentation he explored how wild plant foods may be used to address nutrition-related health problems in the Sahel. Glew and his colleagues have made preliminary recommendations for consumption of specific plants to address some of the most pressing nutritional-related health problems. Glew emphasized the need for bioavailability studies to confirm the benefits.

Muskegon Community College Global Awareness Festival: Latin America

In November 2004 CASID and WID supported the Global Awareness Festival, hosted by Muskegon Community College. The annual festival is a three-day set of activities designed to increase awareness of global issues. The focus of this year’s festival was Latin America. Staff and student affiliates of CASID, WID and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies participated in the event. Three MSU graduate students presented a seminar titled, “Women Researching Women’s Issues in Latin America.” Alicia Jiménez, Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies, presented a paper titled, “Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and Conservation in Costa Rica.” Suzanne Schneider, Anthropology, presented on healthcare in Mexico. Tara Hefferan, Anthropology, gave a presentation titled, “Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora, Gender Violence and Human Rights and Systems of Inequality.”
CASID and WID Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships

CASID and WID award graduate fellowships under the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship program of the U.S. Department of Education. The FLAS Fellowship program is designed to meet critical needs for specialists in American education, government, and other services of a public and/or professional nature who will utilize their skills in training others and in developing throughout the United States a wider knowledge and understanding of other countries and cultures. CASID and WID FLAS Fellowships are awarded to graduate students enrolled in programs which combine the study of a modern foreign language with advanced training and research in international development studies. Fellowship support includes the payment of tuition and fees (up to $11,000 per academic year) and a stipend of $14,000 for the academic year. For information and application materials please visit the CASID web site at: http://www.isp.msu.edu/casid/students/fellowships.html.

CASID and WID FLAS Fellows for the 2004-05 academic year are:

- Sarah Halter, Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies, Beginning Swahili - community, food, agricultural systems in East Africa.
- Lexine Hansen, Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies, Advanced Arabic - gender, power and development in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia.
- Michael Perez, Anthropology, Advanced Arabic - refugees and development in Jordan.
- Deborah Wilson, Sociology, Advanced Chinese - gender, health and development in China.

21st Annual World Food Day Teleconference Explores Food Policy Issues

The Twenty-First Annual World Food Day Teleconference, titled “Politics of Hunger: What’s at Stake,” took place on October 15, 2004. World Food Day is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness and understanding of hunger issues and to promote year-around action to alleviate hunger.

This year’s teleconference addressed the political dimensions and decision-making involved in developing food policies, including resource allocation issues. The program featured Dr. Werner Kiene, World Food Program representative of the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank and IMF). Dr. Kiene joined the World Food Program in 1994, working first in Rome and later in Bangladesh until taking up his current assignment in Washington D.C., where he strives to ensure that international food transfers gain broader acceptance as “investment in human capital”. He has a broad knowledge of the policy making process and worldwide practical experience with economic and social programs, especially in the developing world.

A video of the teleconference is available to MSU faculty for use in courses at no charge and can be reserved by contacting the CASID office at 353-8570. Information packets on the World Food Day Teleconference are also available from CASID upon request. For other information on World Food Day activities or resources contact: Patricia Young, National Coordinator for the U.S. National Committee for World Food Day at (202) 653-2404.

MSU’s Student Fulbright Award Recipients

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Nancy Lubeski, K-12 Education Administration. Nancy, a Fulbright-Hays recipient, studied Chichewa with a CASID and WID FLAS award, which she will use to conduct her Ph.D. research in Malawi. Her research will explore the extent to which educational practices in primary schools in Malawi, as perceived by female teachers and girls with disabilities, are consistent with Education for All goals.

Michael Walker, Anthropology. Michael, a Fulbright-Hays awardee, studied Shona with a CASID and WID FLAS award to prepare him for his Ph.D. research in Mozambique. He plans to examine men’s and women’s access to wetlands to investigate if access to these critical resources is becoming more exclusionary and/or individualized in western Mozambique.

For information on future Fulbright competitions, as well as workshops for interested students, please contact Dr. Frank D’Itri at ditri@msu.edu.
Stacia Fejedelem Joins CASID Team

We are pleased to announce that Stacia Fejedelem joined the CASID team during summer 2004. Stacia is the new Humphrey Fellowship Program Administrator. As administrator, she will provide program support, serve as a liaison to IIE and provide academic advising to the Fellows.

To promote greater synergies and efficiencies in our operations, CASID is currently co-located with the Office of International Development (OID) in Room 202 of the International Center. This co-location facilitates CASID’s core missions: (1) enhance its leadership role (in partnership with WID) as a U.S. Department of Education designated and funded National Resource Center (NRC) for Foreign Language and International Studies; and (2) diversify and expand the contract and grant portfolio of CASID, the College of Social Science, and MSU for cross-unit, inter-disciplinary international development research, teaching and outreach. CASID and OID provide complementary support to MSU faculty. CASID assists faculty in developing proposals to fund such initiatives within the College of Social Science; OID assists faculty to do the same across the university.

Global Food Safety Forum

Continued from cover

faculty at MSU with expertise on the various dimensions of food safety, from production agriculture to processing, packaging, and preparation – from farm to fork. MSU’s partnership with the DRC builds upon Dr. Riedinger’s long-standing research collaboration with DRC scholars on issues of farmers’ land use rights in China.

During her visit, President Simon and Dean Armstrong, and Dr. Zhai Huqu, President of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), signed a renewal of the MSU-CAAS Memorandum of Agreement to foster international cooperation in education and research. Dr. Ewen Todd, Director of MSU’s National Food Safety and Toxicology Center, and Dr. Ye Zhihua, Director General of the CAAS Institute of Agricultural Quality Standard and Testing Technology, signed an agreement to establish a research laboratory at CAAS to conduct joint research on food safety policy, risk management, testing technology, and personnel training. MSU and CAAS have been awarded U.S. Department of Agriculture funding to conduct joint research on Third Party Certification of Food Safety. This three-year project is expected to lead to a larger and more comprehensive collaborative project on food safety.

MSU President Simon also joined Jonathan Choi, President of the Sun Wah Group, Dr. Zhong Binling, President of Beijing Normal University, and Xu Jialu, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People’s Congress, in a press conference announcing the inauguration of the U.S. – China Centers for Research on Educational Excellence. With funding from the Sun Wah Educational Foundation, MSU and Beijing Normal University have established parallel centers to research and develop effective models of K-12 education. The news conference and following lunch were held in the Great Hall of the People, reflecting the importance of the initiative.