

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

ACES Office of International Programs

**Academy of
Global Engagement**

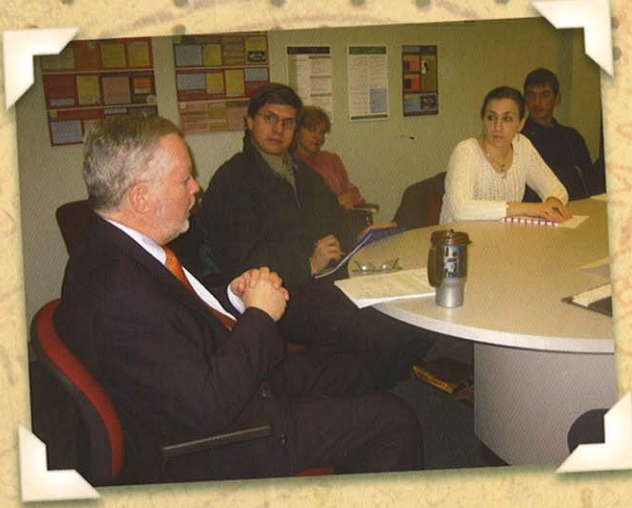


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ILLINOIS

ACES Office of International Programs



The College of ACES has a rich history of international programming dating back to the mid 1950s. In 1996 a new promise was made to reinvigorate and update international activity in the college, and in 2002, the concept known as the ACES Office of International Programs sprang to life.

The ACES Academy of Global Engagement

was formed in 2006 to increase the number of ACES faculty who are globally engaged through an intense, year-long experience designed to elevate the status of the global mission of the college. The program also hoped to expose early-to mid-career faculty members and University of Illinois Extension staff to resources available to encourage development of international programs within their discipline and with others in the College of ACES.

The Academy familiarizes participants with campus, state, national, and international resources that will facilitate global engagement, generate discussion of globalization and its implications for the College, and create a team-building environment allowing group members to meld interests as they contribute to the program.

Academy Structure

Six to eight scholars are selected by a group of internationally experienced faculty to participate in the program. The Academy aims for diversity in terms of division across all seven departments in the college and different disciplines in the College. Goals for these scholars include:

- To increase the number of faculty who participate regularly in global activities
- To heighten global awareness and discourse generally in the College of ACES
- To elevate the status of our global mission within the college
- To take full advantage of campus resources in international programming
- To capitalize on opportunities that leverage external resources and partnerships

Not only are ACES Global Academy members learning more about international research, teaching, and international collaboration how-tos, but they are exposed to the diverse interests inside the College of ACES. Joint research programs have sprung from Academy classes in the past, and continue today in areas of the world such as Mexico (Human and Community Development, Food Science and Human Nutrition and Agricultural and Consumer Economics), China (Crop Sciences, Agricultural and Biological Engineering and University of Illinois Extension), and Argentina (Animal Sciences and Crop Sciences).

2009 Academy China Section: Feeding Billions: Food Security in China

In September 2009, the Academy traveled to China to build networks with universities and partners in the world's largest growing economy. Issues such as crop production, and value chain development came to the forefront through visits not only with businesses such as McDonald's but with partner universities around the country.



"This was a wonderful opportunity for me to learn more about agriculture in China. I have used what I learned to share with local ag professionals and students, as well as the general public. The trip helped me make connections for potential outreach opportunities surrounding common global issues."

2008 Academy Brazil and Bioenergy Networks

The 2008 Class, which included six members from University of Illinois Extension, Animal Sciences, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Crop Sciences, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, and Food Sciences and Human Nutrition, explored "The Bioenergy Network" throughout Brazil in November of 2008.

The trip included an extensive tour into the Mato Grosso state in Brazil, an area of vast agricultural expansion in the country. Academy scholars made connections with the prestigious Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz in Piracicaba, the premier agricultural university in Brazil, and with EMBRAPA, Brazil's government agricultural research arm. xTo cap the immersion experience, the Academy participated in a joint University of Illinois-University of Sao Paulo conference on Bioenergy Policy issues.

"It greatly expanded my understanding of international efforts at the U of I as well as potential funding sources at the federal level."

"I learned a lot during the year on international resources and gained a better appreciation about potential interactions and how to carry them out through the immersion experience."



2007 Academy Europe: Bioenergy Curriculum Development

In September 2007, the Academy class adopted a theme of Global Climate Change, and the Emerging Demand for a New BioEnergy Curriculum for their immersion experience to Europe. The class saw first hand Europe's stark differences in bioenergy priorities. Issues such as second generation biofuel development, sustainability of biofuel processes and the controversy of bioenergy issues in Europe were brought to the forefront through a conference with industry representatives, and visits to industries such as Shell, Wageningen University, and a zero energy greenhouse. The trip was capped with a study of Europe's approach to bioenergy education at Ecole d'Indenieurs de Purpan, France.

"I am now able to see my own research endeavors through eyes that have a much broader field of vision. I look at my research with the potential to find interactions with other disciplines as well as through a more international perspective."



2006 Academy Mexico: Exploring Natural Interventions for Diabetes

The initial year for the ACES Global Academy in late September, 2006 took the group to Mexico for a specific study on the problem of diabetes in the Mexican population through a joint research venture designed with the University of San Luis Potosi and the city of San Luis Potosi. The group presented joint seminars at their university as well as at the Autonomous University of Queretaro to explore joint ventures in this area, and spent some time exploring relationships with groups such as CIMMYT, Colegio de Postgraduados, and University Autonomos in Mexico City.

"I formed a collaborative working relationship with one of my fellow academy scholars as well as learned more about potential collaborators in Mexico."



"Our meetings in Mexico brought to light the most important issues facing the country and sharpened some of our planned research ideas, and raised new and interesting questions."