Int’l Extension: Serving Hoosiers First
Jim Murren, International Extension Program Coordinator

Growing up in a small town ten miles down the road from Gettysburg, PA, and a short two minute drive back up that road to the eighty-three acre family farm that is still worked today by my Dad and his brothers, I would never have imagined that I would someday be sitting inside the College of Agriculture at one of the world’s foremost agricultural research universities. Additionally, to be positioned at the center of Extension and international programs within that College in a state known for its agriculture is a great privilege.

“What is international Extension,” everyone seems to ask me. I’ve asked myself the same question many times, and likely will do so well into the future. I’ve sat and pondered it, rolled the words around on my tongue, searched the internet, pulled some books from the library shelves, talked with educators and specialists, and read through the files handed over to me.

What I’ve gathered in the past two months is that international Extension is rooted in the understanding that our communities are changing along with our changing global community. It also seems that international Extension is in some ways an idea, one that still needs defining.

Service is at the heart of Extension, and because we are Indiana’s Cooperative Extension Service, our service is to extend our hearts (to care), and minds (share knowledge), to the people of Indiana so that they may improve their livelihoods. In an international context, we have a responsibility to our fellow Hoosiers to better understand the intricacies of how our communities are being daily impacted by the global community in which we are living so that we might better serve them in attaining their improved livelihoods. To do that, it demands that we seek to understand that context, those intricacies.

As Extension professionals with Purdue’s resources at our fingertips, we are in a position to not only be informed leaders in our communities, but also to be global pioneers. We can continue establishing a model which will place Purdue Extension as a global leader in international Extension. We are located in Indiana, and serve Hoosiers, first. From an international Extension perspective, we, too, need to serve the people of Indiana as global citizens, which requires us to reach beyond state borders to better understand the greater world that affects us all living within Indiana.

From Pennsylvania to Purdue, with stops along the way in far-off places, my road to here has been circuitous. And in many ways, I feel I’ve come home. It is an outstanding life opportunity to be in this position, and I am happy to be here. Each morning brings new possibilities in leading the way for international Extension at Purdue. That is how I see my role: to lead by continuing to build the ever-emerging idea of international Extension into that of continued and sustained practice.

Moving on…
Kira Everhart-Valentin

That which is good is never finished. – Tanzanian proverb

The launch of this newsletter marks a new chapter for International Extension at Purdue University, and there is no doubt in my mind that it is going to be even better than the last.

During my time at Purdue, I was amazed by the excitement, dedication and enthusiasm of so many Extension educators and specialists. It is clear that you see the importance of priming the Purdue Extension system to better serve our Indiana residents and communities by connecting them in with the world around us. Many have already made it a priority to incorporate international aspects into their programming and projects. Others are currently searching for ways that they can bring international components into their work, and others are just beginning to educate themselves on the role that globalization plays in our Extension system.

We have worked together to find ways to increase resources, support and information as we strive to internationalize our system.

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Building Global Communities
Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer and Chuck Hibberd

Indiana faces global challenges. Energy prices and availability, agricultural commodity markets, financial institutions and almost every aspect of our lives depend on understanding the rest of the world. Purdue Extension can play a key role in helping Hoosiers face that challenge. The first step is for Extension staff to be informed. The goal of the International Extension Newsletter is to help Extension staff access the information and experiential resources to help them be informed. The quarterly Newsletter will include:

- Upcoming international opportunities for Extension staff
- Tips on how to share international experiences and information with communities
- Summaries of Purdue Agriculture international efforts
- Follow-up on the impact of Purdue Agriculture international Extension

We invite your suggestions on how to make this newsletter and the overall Purdue International Extension is working to respond to the needs of this international audience. One immediate concern is the need for training in Occupational English. Workers must be able to read and understand signs in the workplace. Purdue Extension currently operates the Latino Learning Center in Washington, IN where the city has recently welcomed 40 religious refugees from Burma (Myanmar) to the community. The refugees have been hired by Perdue Farms and are working in the company’s poultry processing plant.

The Daviess County Extension Office ("Burma" continued on page 6)

Submit Your Stories, Ideas, Photos

With the first installment of this quarterly newsletter will come many reactions from its readers. No matter what end of the positive/negative spectrum they may fall, please do send them along. Suggestions for improvement will make this publication more enjoyable for all of us.

We hope also that it will elicit suggestions of the kinds of things that readers would like to read. Moreover, we’re hoping that readers will offer to write articles, give updates on the work they are doing, and send in photos with captions from around Indiana and the world of international extension in practice.

The Daviess County Educators are also exploring other ways to help the new arrivals adjust to life in the U.S. Educators are currently considering how best to augment what has been a months so that we can learn about what is going on within Purdue Extension and International Programs in Agriculture with regards to international extension.

The next issue will go out in July, which means we’ll be putting it together in June. If you would like to contribute, send your submissions to:

jmurren@purdue.edu

You can send your comments there too!

Burmese Refugees in Washington, IN
Scott Monroe, ANR/ECD Educator, Daviess County

In a world that is growing smaller and smaller, one can frequently find an international-like experience outside one’s own back door. That is exactly what is happening in Washington, IN where the city has recently welcomed 40 religious refugees from Burma (Myanmar) to the community. The refugees have been hired by Perdue Farms and are working in the company’s poultry processing plant.

The Daviess County Extension Office

Curricula for the new clientele. Says Learning Center Coordinator Lynne Kiesel, “Instead of calling this the Latino Learning Center, we should call it the Multicultural Assimilation Center”.

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4-H Youth Exchange with Poland
Lee Stanish, International 4-H Coordinator

In 2004 a group of Purdue Extension Educators brainstormed the idea of a potential 4-H youth exchange between Indiana and Poland. Poland, a country in Eastern Europe, is made up of 16 geographical regions called “Voivodships”. After many emails, calls, and discussions, it was decided that an exchange would be piloted between NE Indiana and the Swietokrzyskie Voivodship of southern Poland. This region of Poland is home to about 4,000 Polish 4-H members. A pilot was constructed and carried out in June 2005, hosting a Polish delegation in NE Indiana. The program was well received by the Hoosier communities involved. As a result, a group of Indiana 4-H youth and leaders reciprocally went to Poland in 2006. The exchange has continued on an annual alternating (sending/hosting) basis to date.

Statistics to date

During the program’s active years from 2005-2009, eight NE Indiana counties have participated in the program. This includes Wells, Huntington, Whitley, Allen, Dekalb, Elkhart, Steuben, and St. Joe.

- 2005: NE Indiana hosts 19 youth and 11 adults
- 2006: Poland hosts 10 youth and 14 adults
- 2007: NE Indiana hosts 12 youth and 8 adults
- 2008: Poland hosts 10 youth and 5 adults
- 2009: NE Indiana hosts 16 youth and 11 adults

(*May 26-June 9, 2009*)

Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS)
Heather Fabries, PICS Operations Manager

The Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS) project completes its second year on May 31, 2009. The project’s principal investigator, Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer, returned in late February from an extended trip to Western Africa, notably Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Nigeria. That trip was to assess the advancement of PICS bags sales in Burkina Faso and Niger over the past year and to prepare for the sales of the bags in Mali and Nigeria.

This August, four Purdue extension educators will travel to northern Nigeria to train local field technicians on the PICS hermetic triple bagging technology. The technicians will then go out and educate farmers on using the bags. In 2009-2010, 10,000 villages in Nigeria will be visited by field technicians to spread the word to farmers about the triple bagging system. The Purdue extension educator team is:

- Adrienne Held, Warrick County
- Jeremy Weber, Franklin County
- Maria Restrepo, Pike County
- Bill Horan, Wells County

To learn more about PICS, go to:
http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/ipia/engagement/PICS.shtml

The Gardens of France
Kira Everhart-Valentin, Gardens of France Program Assistant

With study sites including the King’s fruit and vegetable garden at Versailles, the International Festival of Gardens at Château Chaumont sur Loire, and Monet’s Garden at Giverny, the participants of Purdue Extension’s The Gardens of France 2009 travel-study program are sure to get a truly intricate view of France’s garden history. Currently in its second year, the 11-day summer program will take 24 Master Gardeners and horticulture enthusiasts to some of France’s most famous gardens in an educational study of garden history and design.

Participants will come from various states, including Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kansas and California. The program is organized and led by Dr. Mike Dana and Ms. Rosie Lerner of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Purdue. Kira Everhart-Valentin (previously with IPIA and Purdue Extension) will also be serving as an assistant on the program. A companion program, England and its Gardens, was offered annually from 2005-2007, providing Master Gardeners an opportunity to study the garden history of Great Britain. For more information on the program, please visit:

http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/ipia/extension/group_travel_programs.shtml#Gardens
Globalizing Purdue Extension

The word “globalization” has entered the everyday language of nearly every part of our lives – education, communities, business, government. It reflects the changing dynamic of society in which the countries of the world are becoming increasingly interdependent every day. Thanks to the internet and e-mail, international communications have become almost seamless. Each day, people arrive from cultures and places from every corner of the earth. We purchase our products and services from Asia, Africa, South America, Europe and beyond, and our own are being consumed in markets far from our shores. There is no question that the world we once knew is changing before our eyes.

In order for Purdue Extension to continue meeting the needs of its local clientele and the state as a whole, it must make globalization a priority. But how?

Spread the word – Extension is centered on education of individuals in all walks of life. Its first responsibility in regards to globalization, therefore, is to educate. This includes exposing Indiana residents to different cultures and languages from around the world, preparing them to interact with individuals of different backgrounds both at home and abroad, and helping them to see how their everyday lives are influenced by the phenomenon of globalization.

Prepare our personnel – In order for Purdue Extension to meet the demands of a global world and global communities, our own personnel must also understand the effects of globalization and have the skills necessary to succeed. Therefore, we, as an organization, should be offering opportunities to our personnel to be educated in different cultures and international issues, be prepared to interact with individuals from different backgrounds and to go abroad themselves in an educational and extension capacity to experience first-hand the lessons that can only be learned when immersed in a new culture.

(“Globalizing” continued on page 5).

Latino Leadership Development in Frankfort
Kate Meadows

A nine-week program that recently began at Purdue Extension of Clinton County is calling on Hispanic residents in the community to meet with public officials to learn about how their community operates. The class, organized by the Learning Network’s Language Coordinator Claudia Houchen, held its first meeting Feb. 21. Eighteen people, including several high school seniors, attended.

“We want to promote and facilitate constructive dialogue.”
— Claudia Houchen

“We’re trying to help Hispanics understand more about how the city works, and how we can be a part of the community,” Houchen said. “We want to promote and facilitate constructive dialogue.”

The class meets at the Purdue Extension office from 5-6:30 p.m. on Fridays. The purpose is twofold: first, to help Hispanic residents gain a better understanding of how community government functions; and second, to help public officials better understand the Hispanic community’s needs and concerns. Mayor Chris Pippenger was the first guest speaker. Houchen said the high school students, who themselves expressed a desire to participate, are particularly interested in speaking with community leaders.

(“Leadership” continued on page 6)

Moving on...

(“Moving on” continued from page 1)

We made important progress towards this goal in the form of a Globalization Think Tank, a joint International Extension professional development workshop with the University of Illinois, numerous extension educators taking their professional skills on volunteer opportunities abroad, and the establishment of a substantial list of suggested directives presented to the Extension Leadership Team for the institutionalization of International Extension programs into our organization. Those steps have primed the International Extension program at Purdue to move to a new level.

Jim Murren, who has taken on the role of International Extension Program Coordinator, is ready and able to take it to that next level. He comes to our organization with tremendous experience in working with international programs and many fresh new ideas. I hope that all of you will take a moment to send him an e-mail, give him a call, or stop by his office to share your thoughts on the needs and priorities for International Extension at Purdue. He needs your experience and your insight to make this program its very best. So, keep the enthusiasm and excitement that I was so lucky to share in, and with that, you will make a good program even better!
Globalizing Purdue Extension

(“Globalizing” continued from page 4)

Help our businesses – Our businesses work hard to compete for their place in the market, and as competition becomes more global, we need to support our businesses by giving them the tools they need to step into the new international marketplace. This would include connecting them to the organizations that have already been established with the goal of helping U.S. companies break into foreign markets, as well as developing relationships with foreign universities and organizations that can serve as liaisons to open doors for our industries.

Engage our people – For Indiana to truly become global, it has to be engaged internationally. Such engagement can be seen in so many ways, from community groups performing service projects in other countries, to exchange programs being developed for students or adults with partnering organizations or institutions, to our own Purdue faculty and staff utilizing their skills and talents to help solve problems faced in other parts of the world. These experiences are extremely valuable to all who are involved, and it is up to Purdue to support and facilitate such opportunities whenever possible.

In the end, globalization may be very “global” in scope, but it affects each and every aspect of the lives of Indiana residents. It is up to Purdue to help its clientele gain as much as possible from it.

International Agribusiness Speakers Forum

Dr. Marcos Fava Neves, Professor of Strategy and Food Chains, School of Economics and Business, University of São Paulo at Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, Brazil will address some of the partial truths and misinformation in media reporting over the booming food prices debate. Many studies are only linking biofuels to the inflation cause, while ignoring several other factors such as the growth of the world population, economic development and income distribution. An overview of the causes is discussed and 10 strategies proposed which policy makers, governments, and organizations can adapt to move the world forward towards long-term sustainability.

Dr. Neves is invited to Purdue under the sponsorship of a grant from the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service International Science Education Program. His lecture titled “Strategies for Solving the Food Inflation Problem” will be held in the Dean’s Auditorium of Pfendler Hall on Monday, April 20, 2009 from 3:00-4:30. Questions can be directed to: Jim Murren, jmurren@purdue.edu, 765.494.9831. http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/ipia/extension/speakers_forum.shtml

“Considering the growth of the world’s population, income distribution in densely populated emerging economies, and the fast growth of urbanization of populations, food production will have to rise in the coming years to try to avoid food inflation, scarcity and hunger in developing countries.” — Dr. Neves

Int’l Extension Opportunities

Interest in international extension opportunities amongst extension educators is relatively high. The consensus from two Area Meetings and email correspondence between educators and international extension coordinator, Jim Murren, suggests that to have such experiences, educators would prefer that international travel be kept to a two week time frame and preferably not be during the summer, the height of county fair season. The two week time frame was considered compatible with educators’ responsibilities in their counties and with their families.

Over the past two months, several such opportunities have gone out on the CES listserv to notify educators, e.g. Farmer to Farmer with Winrock, CNFA, ACDEVCA.

Future opportunities will be posted on the link below, with a few possibly being highlighted on the listserv. Educators are encouraged to check the link below periodically for updates. Favorite it!

http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/ipia/extension/extension_educator.shtml
4-H Youth Exchange with Poland

("Poland" continued from page 3)

Teamwork = Sustainability

Administration of the exchange, like many programs, requires year-round planning and preparation. This includes international logistics, orientations, application processes, marketing, financing, evaluation, educational content, and risk management. To make this challenge attainable, the program is coordinated by a committee of state and field Extension staff. This model pools skills and talents, and divides the workload…making the program realistic.

A few families are still needed for 2009! If you are interested in becoming a part of this program, or fostering similar international programming in your county, please contact one of the Poland Committee members below:

Cindy Barnett – (CFS) Whitley County
Roger Sherer – (4-H/Youth) Wells County
Lee Stanish – (Int’l 4-H Coordinator) Campus
Barb Thuma – (4-H/Youth) Allen County
Neasa Kalme – (4-H/Youth) Steuben County

Latino Leadership Development in Frankfort

("Leadership" continued from page 4)

“They’re asking tough questions,” she said, adding that they’re passionate about being involved in the community. One of the students, who Houchen said posed some strong questions to the mayor at the first meeting, is Kary Carreño.

“I want to understand why Frankfort runs the way it runs, and why solutions don’t come easily,” Carreño said. “It’s easy to say ‘Fix it!, but it’s not so easy to actually go out and do it.”

“By knowing how our community runs and who runs it, we can establish a communication bridge between the Hispanic population and the Anglos in our community,” she said.

Upcoming leaders include local sheriff, Mark Mitchell; representative from Senator Richard Lugar’s office, Celina Weatherwax; County Commissioner Mike Beard; and the Mexican Consulate of Indianapolis, Juan Solana.

Those who attend all classes will receive a scholarship to attend the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute in Chicago in March 2010.

Burmese Refugees in Washington, IN

("Burma" continued from page 2)

Community-wide effort to welcome the refugees with open arms.

Community gardens and Master Gardener programs can provide opportunities for interaction. Such activities also provide opportunities to learn about vegetable crops and foods native to Southeast Asia. Programs in personal finance and nutrition can help teach new community members how to manage their new homes and how to manage a western diet full of new foods and fraught with excess calories and sugar.

In today’s shrinking world, international experiences occur just outside of one’s own back door. Daviess County Extension’s back door includes working with a diverse group of community members from around the globe, providing international extension opportunities right here at home.

For more information on working with refugee groups, the International Center of Indianapolis offers a free publication titled: “Transitioning Refugees: Connecting Cultures at the Crossroads.” The publication can be downloaded here:

http://www.icenterindy.org/pdf/Transitioning%20Refugees.pdf
Purdue Extension is a service tailored to meet the needs of Indiana, needs we know firsthand. Our educators, specialists, and volunteers live and work in all 92 Indiana counties. We provide the link between Land Grant research and Indiana residents. In doing that we provide practical solutions to local issues. We provide information and expertise that's available in the form you want, when you want it. That's Purdue Extension, Indiana's home team advantage.

International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA) at Purdue University promotes and facilitates international activities in the College of Agriculture through collaboration with educational institutions, agencies and organizations throughout the world. These educational partnerships are designed to help improve agriculture, natural resources, and food systems locally, regionally and around the world, as well as enrich communities at Purdue, Indiana and beyond.

**Final Thought...**

“Final Thought…” is intended to be a place within the newsletter for anyone who’s interested to say a little something about international extension, or to share something they’ve come across in the papers, bookstore, magazines that will assist us in our international extension work.

It’s not a place to rant, let off some steam, vent, etc. Instead, it should be something that causes us to sit back and consider what we’ve read, and perhaps inspire us to seek out additional information on the topic.

For example, I came across the following editorial the other day. It talks about the economic woes of the global economy and how it may, according to the author, lead to a new global food crisis. Agricultural production in the U.S., Brazil, Russia, Paraguay, Argentina, and China is discussed.

Biofuels, global finance, farm credit, and production input costs are mentioned as possible contributors to the looming new food crisis.


Send in your “Final Thought…” and share with us how you see international extension from the vantage point of Economic and Community Development, Ag and Natural Resources, Consumer and Family Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development.

Limit your submissions to approximately 250 words. You can email them in a Word document to:

jmurren@purdue.edu

The due date for “Final Thought…” submissions for the next quarterly newsletter is June 15, 2009. We look forward to hearing from you!