County fairs have come and gone. Harvests have been rolling in. Overnight temperatures of late haven’t caused the mercury to rise as far as it did a month or so ago.

Leaves are dancing their magic colors in the breeze.

Autumn.

Transitioning to winter.

I’ve heard a little here and there that we’re coming into somewhat of a “slow” season for Extension. I know, there’s always more work than can be done in a work day. And we’re busy, busy, busy no matter what time of year it is.

Slow down everyone, you’re moving too fast.

Simon and Garfunkel said it like this:

You’ll find in this newsletter some new initiatives and fresh ideas for international Extension at Purdue, and some recent experiences abroad that shed light on how leaving home often brings us back to a new place.

I invite you to get a cup of coffee or tea and to read the contributions from Adrienne, Maria, Jeremy and Bill regarding their time in Nigeria.

Check out PEGAT and get involved, if you’d like!

We have fish farming in Africa and Gardens in France. Purdue’s 4-H efforts/exchange with Poland are presented to Extension professionals from Europe and beyond.

Jess and Chuck talk about “delivery” in the field of Purdue’s innovations and information.

And Lowell Hardin gives us his Final Thought...sharing a practical lesson on the need for sound research before extending valuable knowledge to others.

Purdue Extension’s Professional Development Conference is coming up next month. Bill, Adrienne, Maria and I will present our Nigerian experience at a breakout session, and I’ll be offering another breakout session on international extension opportunities and how you might get started in having an experience of your own.

Before then, maybe take a little time to give some thought to your Extension experience and whether or not international extension has a place within it.

Purdue Extension’s Global Awareness Team

Who we are

Purdue Extension’s Global Awareness Team (PEGAT) is a team of Purdue specialists and educators that seek to increase understanding of globalization and its impact on Indiana communities. Formed in the summer of 2009, the team consists of Purdue campus-based experts and field-based educators from around the state. We partner with state and local agencies who share our mission.

Our mission

We aim to unite Purdue University’s mission to be a global university with its Extension mission to provide research-based information and education to the residents of Indiana. Our goal is to assist in building globally aware communities that have the knowledge, skills, and attitude to adapt to cultural and economic change associated with globalization.

What we do

As part of Purdue University’s Cooperative Extension Service, we connect Indiana communities with university expertise. We will do this initially through the following means:

- Establishing and maintaining a website for Purdue Extension educators that serves as a clearinghouse for educational materials and resources relating to issues of globalization in Indiana. (cont’d on page 4)
The Purdue University 2008-2014 strategic plan put forward “Discovery to Delivery” as one of three goals. This concept is a natural fit for the College of Agriculture and especially for International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA). Two of the best examples of discovery with delivery are the Purdue Agriculture World Food Prize winners: Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, Agronomy, and Dr. Phil Nelson, Food Science. Dr. Gebisa bridged the gap between biochemistry and the seed industry to create sorghum varieties resistant to the parasitic weed Striga. Nelson developed aseptic packaging to reduce loses and costs in food processing worldwide. Dr. Gebisa receives his World Food Prize on Thursday, Oct. 15, in Des Moines, IA.

Delivering Purdue innovations and information also requires people in the field, like the four Purdue County Educators and the International Extension Coordinator who went to northern Nigeria in August to help train field technicians for the Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS) project. The presence of Purdue staff helped Nigerian extension staff better understand how their work was linked to worldwide efforts to build food security and general economic development in rural areas.

Please contact Jim Murren, International Extension Coordinator, email: jmurren@purdue.edu, phone: 765 494 9831, for information on how you can be involved.

“Discovery with Delivery” Requires International Extension

Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer and Chuck Hibberd

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The base problem that PICS technology is trying to solve is the control of the bruchid beetle in cowpeas in storage. And the technology itself is simple. But the ripple effect that this will have is what is so impressive. It creates jobs for those making and selling the bags, it creates extra income for the producers and food security for the consumers and it allows a higher quality input for a higher quality product, which brings a better price. The list goes on and on.

By having and taking the opportunity to be part of the PICS project, it has made me a better educator and given me the courage to step outside of my comfort zone. I would encourage all my co-workers to take the opportunity to work abroad. It’s an experience that you won’t forget.

Photo at left: Extension Agents at PICS training at Kadawa research station outside Kano.

PICS Nigeria: Outside the Comfort Zone

Adrienne Held, Purdue Extension Educator, Warrick County

Participating in PICS has been the single most rewarding experience of my career in Extension. It has changed the way that I think about Extension programming in my home county and it has given me an entirely new perspective on the simple things that I take for granted as an American.

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PICS Nigeria: “I can do this!”

Maria Restrepo, Purdue Extension Educator, Pike County

I have to admit, when the opportunity presented itself for an international extension opportunity in Nigeria, I couldn’t wait to find out more. The more I read, the more I thought, “I can do this!” It didn’t take much convincing to learn about the trip and fill out the application.

After receiving my acceptance, I was bound to research as much as I could about PICS and Nigeria. I could have never prepared myself for everything that I would experience when I was in Nigeria, but definitely tried to have as many ducks in a row before I left.

The trip was an incredible opportunity to experience a new culture, new country and share my skills with other extension agents. The greatest part of the trip was the opportunity to teach my counterpart in another country and learning about the differences in their jobs versus mine.

Teaching the PICS technology was so great as it will impact their lives and economy. The Extension Agents were very interested in the training, and were very involved in the learning process from the role play to the questions they asked. I felt that we were able to make a valuable impact and take away an invaluable experience.

Photo at left: Kids outside of the truck at the yam market along the road between Ilorin and Lokoja.
PICS Nigeria: Life Changes
Jeremy Weber, Purdue Extension Educator, Franklin County

Through this experience I was able to see firsthand the difficulties that other people experience every day that I may not have necessarily seen otherwise. It showed me the things I still take for granted even though I try to remain open and cognizant of those types of things.

I would like to think that after having participated in PICS, I approach things with more patience and understanding than I had before. I think I’m able to relate to people differently now. I’ve also always prided myself on being adaptable, but this experience has further developed my ability to do so.

Projects such as this one give Purdue University, Purdue Extension, and County Extension Educators good visibility. And I believe it makes personnel better able to do their job by helping them better understand themselves and others. The new perspectives they gain can also help them develop better techniques for transferring information to others, and the experience can help re-energize their work/motivate them.

As Ernesto Guevara de la Serna said, “Let the world change you and you can change the world.”

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Unfortunately (for us), Jeremy is no longer with Purdue Extension. We wish him well with his new position at Montana State University Extension where he will work as a Horticulture and Youth Agent/CED for Butte-Silver Bow County. Best of luck to you and your family, Jeremy!

PICS Nigeria: “You’re welcome!”
Bill Horan, Purdue Extension Educator, Wells County

“You’re Welcome!”

It took me a while to figure it out. While in Nigeria, we constantly heard “You’re welcome!” as we walked into a room of people or were introduced to new team members for our PICS program. Finally, it sunk into my thick skull. This wasn’t a response to “Thank you” as we would use the phrase. In Nigeria, “You’re Welcome!” is a greeting! What a neat way to say Hello!

And we sure did feel welcome.

One of the things we noticed, and really appreciated, was the friendliness of the Nigerian people. Their good humor also helped us to feel more at-ease, especially if we happened to make a cultural “faux pas” or asked a silly question. This trip also made me rethink about how I teach. I need to make sure my language isn’t foreign to my audience.

Another thing I learned in Nigeria: we take too many things for granted. Not only all the conveniences of our modern (dare I say “rat race”?!) society, but also people, and education too. Sometimes we need to step back a take hard look at our lives and what we value. Our trip to Nigeria helped me to do that.

Photo at right: Smiling, welcoming faces in a Kano marketplace.

Gardens of France
B. Rosie Lerner

Twenty-five avid gardeners representing 7 US states participated in the July 2009 “Gardens of France”, Purdue University Master Gardener Study Abroad Program. The goal of the Purdue program is to expand Master Gardeners’ knowledge base in ornamental horticulture, landscape, food production, and garden design history. The Master Gardeners participate to share what they learned by giving presentations to their fellow Master Gardeners and others in their communities in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Tennessee, Virginia, and California.

The Gardens of France 2009 Purdue Master Gardener Study Abroad Instructors were:
Dr. Michael Dana, Professor, Purdue Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.
B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist and Master Gardener State Coordinator.

Kira Everhart - Valentín, formerly Purdue International Extension Program Coordinator.

Photo at right: Master Gardeners pose with a statue of Jean Baptiste La Quintinie, Director of Louis XIV “Potager du Roi”, literally the royal kitchen garden, designed and built in 1678 - 1683. Today the garden still raises vegetables, herbs, flowers, soft fruits, and tree fruits on 9 hectares of sunken wall garden, creating a terrific microclim ate for production of more tender species.
European Seminar on Extension Education
Lee Stanish, International 4-H Programs Coordinator

Just as the American professional society AIAEE (Association for International Ag and Extension Education) meets annually to share international extension work going on in the United States, the ESEE (European Society for Extension Education) meets every two years as a confluence of Extension activity and issues surrounding Europe. This year the ESEE was hosted in Assisi, Italy presenting papers from 60 scholars. Of the 60 papers presented, 8 authors yielded from the United States. Specifically, Purdue had representation in two of those papers - Lee Stanish and Dr. Jerry Peters on “The Role of the 4-H Club in Poland”, and Dr. Mark Russell, on “Extension Institution Building with Higher Education in Romania”.

To see more details about the conference, visit the conference website [http://www.agraria.unipg.it/ESEE2009PERUGIA/index.html](http://www.agraria.unipg.it/ESEE2009PERUGIA/index.html) which has been updated throughout and after the program. The conference also contained a blog which kept up with photos and circulating ideas from the conference. It can be found on the conference website, or directly at [http://19esee.wordpress.com/](http://19esee.wordpress.com/)

Photo at right: Lee presents his paper to European colleagues.

Purdue Extension Global Awareness Team

(cont’d from page 1)

What we do

- Deliver educational programs throughout Indiana as requested by partnering agencies.

“Our PEGAT team is excited to help link Purdue’s global mission with Extension’s mission. We are passionate about this work, and we are pleased to be joining campus and field resources to make a difference in Indiana.”—Kris Parker, Porter County ECD Educator

The core PEGAT team members are: Susan Tharp, Kris Parker, Carmen DeRusha, Bill Horan, Jim Murren, Rick Chase, Jay McCann and Lee Stanish.

For more information about PEGAT, please contact Susan Tharp at (765) 659-6380 or tharps@purdue.edu

Aquaculture in Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana
Kwamena Quagrainie

Since 2005, Purdue University has been involved in developing aquaculture in Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania. The project is focused on assisting with the development of physical and human capacity; transfer of better technology in fish production; development of a whole chain of activities from farm to the consumer; and increasing profitability of small-scale fish production.

In June, Dr. Kwamena Quagrainie (AGEC/FNR), Dr. Jennifer Dennis (AGEC/HORT) and Jeanne Coulibaly, AGEC PhD student travelled to Kenya and Ghana to conduct workshops for fish farmers, fish traders and fisheries officers on fish marketing. The training program covered the basics in marketing emphasizing product differentiation, pricing strategies, distribution outlets and group marketing. Farmer groups were also taught the need for market research to respond to consumer fish preferences.

Baitfish producers in Kenya were taught strategies for marketing catfish fingerlings as bait for Lake Victoria fisheries, and how to access the end markets at the landing beaches. The Purdue team took some time to visit the Ndunga fish landing beach along Lake Victoria in Kenya and interacted with baitfish fish traders and fishermen. The team also visited Kisumu fish market in Kenya and fish markets in Kasoa and Makola in Ghana.

For more information, email Kwamena at: kquagrai@purdue.edu

Participants at a workshop in Ghana
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...
Lowell Hardin, Professor Emeritus

Research Empowers Extension

An experience I witnessed in the 1960’s taught me a lesson I’ve never forgotten. India was experiencing a food crisis. To prevent starvation, in both 1964 and 1965 the U.S. Food Aid Program shipped five million tons of wheat to that country.

In an effort to increase food production a massive extension program was launched. With millions of dollars in support from the Ford Foundation, India placed an extension worker in each agricultural village in several of the country’s districts. Their assignment? Help traditional small farmers, using the traditional methods, produce more wheat and rice.

Massive as the effort was, food production failed to increase.

In the late 1960’s, however, the situation changed dramatically. By 1975, the Green Revolution in Asia was under way. India, instead of starving, had achieved food independence. More than half of the wheat and rice crop acreages were planted to new high-yielding varieties.

These new stiff-strawed, semi-dwarf plants doubled or tripled the yields of traditional varieties grown by traditional methods. These varieties and improved practices were the results of painstaking scientific research and experimentation. This life-saving work was done initially by Rockefeller and Ford Foundation supported international research centers in Mexico and the Philippines.

The lesson I learned? Research has to come first if one is to have knowledge worth extending. Otherwise one “puts the cart ahead of the horse”.

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