

Fall 2011 E-Newsletter

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1. Launch of Dual-Title Graduate Program in International Agriculture and Development

Melanie Miller-Foster, mjm727@psu.edu

Increasing numbers of potential employers are looking for graduates with international experience and credentials. In response to this demand, a new dual-title degree program in International Agriculture and Development (INTAD) has been launched in the College of Agricultural Sciences. The new program provides graduate students with international perspectives and expertise to contextualize their primary graduate degree.

Unlike a minor, a dual-title degree is more organized and substantive. Graduate students must apply and be accepted into INTAD. The result will be a diploma that notes both the primary degree as well as the INTAD dual title. Students can pursue M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Upon graduation from the program, students can find career opportunities working with international organizations, major universities and research institutes, and major international agricultural companies.



Students already enrolled the graduate programs of four programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences can enroll in the dual-title degree program. Students will learn and develop skills through addition interdisciplinary core coursework and a broad range of electives. Regular opportunities will be available to interact with internationally accomplished faculty and peers in relevant fields.

Currently there are very few degree dual-title degree programs that aim to enrich the international education of graduate students. We are very proud to be one of the first universities to give our students the opportunity to gain unique international perspectives and experiences through the INTAD degree program. ([Return to Index](#))

2. Want to minor in International Agriculture?

Go beyond the borders with your education! The International Agriculture minor offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and appreciating international development and the agricultural systems of various cultures throughout the world. The minor includes opportunities for short-term and semester study programs in international locations to increase exposure to agricultural systems in various cultures. A student in the International Agriculture minor can focus on one or several of the many interrelated issues of agricultural systems, including but not limited to:

- food and fiber production and processing
- human nutrition and public health
- agricultural marketing and trade
- conservation of environmental resources

The International Agriculture minor may be combined with any undergraduate major at Penn State. The minor requires 18 credits, with the core program consisting of six credits - INTAG 100 (offered every Fall and Spring) and INTAG 490 (offered every Spring). The students in the minor have considerable flexibility for choosing the other 12 credits based on interests and career goals. A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor.

Please visit <http://agsci.psu.edu/international/undergraduates/intag-minor> and contact Tom Gill in the Office of International Programs for further information about the details of the requirements for the minor:

106 Ag Admin Bldg
Office of International Programs
814-865-8309 / 814-863-0249
tbg12@psu.edu

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3. The Nittany Lion is On Location

The Nittany Lion has been traveling around the globe this year. We are happy to announce the kick off of our new Nittany Lion On Location webpage, <http://tinyurl.com/nlolnew>, to share the lion's exploits in France, Ireland, South Africa, Chile, and more!

The Nittany Lion On Location project lets students going on an international study abroad bring a little bit of Penn



State with them by bringing the Nittany Lion on their journey. After documenting his location with some photos, students can leave him with a host family or new international friend.

Where will the Nittany Lion travel next? Check out our webpage and watch for an upcoming announcement about our facebook page! [\(Return to Index\)](#)

4. Informal seed systems in Thailand/Cambodia: A one-year Hort CRSP exploratory project

Ricky Bates/Tom Gill

Dr. Rick Bates (Horticulture) and Dr. Tom Gill (International Programs) visited Thailand and Cambodia in May 2011 to conduct project wrap-up and evaluation of a one-year grant from USAID's Horticulture CRSP. This project was conducted in partnership with the Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization Asia Office (ECHO Asia) and Maejo University, Thailand. The goal of this project was to increase the impact and reach of informal seed systems locally and regionally throughout southeast Asia. Specifically, this project focused on building effective linkages between Northern Thailand hill tribe and Cambodian Khmer farmers, a local innovative seed bank, and extension training systems.

Village-based, participatory survey tools were implemented in Chiang Rai and Chiang Dao (Thailand) and Svay Rieng Khmer (Cambodia) village clusters in early 2011. Village surveys resulted in accurate identification and compilation of key annual and perennial vegetable species, as well as garden/farm crop inventories, germplasm maps, and identification of key "gatekeepers" within the informal seed systems of target villages. Seed accessions of 95 species were collected from all three village clusters for seed germination and vigor trials, and evaluation for value chain development. Of these 95 accessions, 15 were evaluated as "high potential" crops and selected to 'grow out' for inclusion in the ECHO Asia seed bank system and further evaluation.

Training sessions were conducted with team members in preparation for 'Seed Fairs' in each village cluster, and at the end of each 1-month village research period. Seed fairs turned out to be extremely useful vehicles for enhancing the local exchange and distribution of important genetic resources. An extension-type publication detailing 'How to Conduct a Successful Seed Fair' is planned as a result of this experience. Over 600 seed packets of improved or previously unavailable species were also distributed at the seed fairs. Surveys also revealed how local people harvest, store, and exchange seed locally. Seed of locally important species was collected from each village-50% of this seed entered into seed germination trials (comparing local or 'self-saved' species to commercial sources of the same species, if available), 25% of the collected seed entered seed vigor trials, and 25% of the seed was evaluated for inclusion in the seed bank.



Informal & formal training sessions were conducted in each village cluster during the in-village research and prior to each seed fair on seed technology topics. Village surveys provided useful data set revealing key information on seed harvest, storage, and use within target areas. Much of this information has not been documented previously, and will provide important direction for developing future strategies for strengthening these informal seed systems.

This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Award No. EPP-A-00-09-00004. The contents are the responsibility of Rick Bates and Tom Gill and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government. [\(Return to Index\)](#)

5. Africa2Ag week – August 22-26, 2011

Tom Gill

During the first week of the Fall 2011 semester, the College of Agricultural Sciences together with the University Office of Global Programs hosted a week-long series of events focused on agriculture in Africa. The theme of “Africa2Ag week” was building collaborative partnerships for African agriculture. CAS was excited to host six scientists, researchers and administrators from all parts of the African continent for the week, which helped in the realization of building such partnerships.

Dr. Michael Adewumi, Vice Provost of Global Programs at Penn State, kicked off the successful week at the launch event on Monday August 22, graciously hosted by the University Libraries. Dr. Adewumi explained how the Africa2Ag initiative expands upon Penn State’s strategic vision of international collaborations and the training of global citizens. On Tuesday August 23, the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education hosted a seminar on “Capacity Building for African agricultural development” led by Dr. Johnson Onyibe, Head of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Liaison Services at Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria, and Dr. Rita Agboh-Noameshie of the Africa Rice Center, Benin.

On Wednesday August 24, Dr. Fran Osseo-Asare shared her culinary expertise in African cuisine through delicious food samples and a sweeping overview talk of tasty treats from around the African continent.



The international agriculture graduate student forum then hosted our African guests for a “pizza in the park” evening on Thursday August 25 at Spring Creek Park, Houserville, which facilitated discussions on agricultural research and development work throughout Africa.

Friday 26 August witnessed the culmination of the week’s events with a day-long symposium on collaborative partnerships for African agriculture. The symposium was attended by more than 70 participants throughout the day, including guests from Africa, private

foundations, non-governmental organizations and the Association of Public Land grant Universities (APLU) as well as Penn State faculty, staff, extension educators and students from multiple colleges throughout the university. Following Dr. Robert Crane’s opening remarks, Dr. John Gathenya, Climate Change Research Fellow at the Walker Institute of the University of Reading, England, used his keynote address to note current challenges and opportunities in African agriculture. Dr. Gathenya suggested partnerships should be balanced collaborations that focus on cutting edge multidisciplinary research that is relevant to the needs of Africans. Panel discussions that followed throughout the day highlighted that effective collaborations require mutual respect, humility and an understanding of local African culture. African participants saw an important role for Penn State in transforming the agricultural

research, education and extension systems in Africa. Penn State's culture of problem solving, effective agricultural extension programs, and the passion of its faculty, staff and students are already impacting African institutions such as Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

Africa2Ag week was a milestone in Penn State's continuing effort to increase its work in Africa in research, teaching and extension to work alongside African partners to improve the lives of African communities. Many thanks to those who participated and those who put in long hours to ensure the week was a resounding success! For more information about the week's events and to view photos and presentations from the event, please visit:

<http://agsci.psu.edu/international/programs/ag2africa/africa2ag-week>. [\(Return to Index\)](#)

6. Rural Sociology Graduate Students Reflect on CGIAR Experiences in Africa

Recently, two CAS graduate students, Kristal Jones and Rahma Adam, traveled to Africa with funding from CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research). They've shared their experiences below:

Kristal Jones, MS Student in Rural Sociology

Working as an agroforestry Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal, West Africa, Kristal spent two years learning from and working with rural communities on agriculture development that fit their local contexts and needs. "We would plant ten mango trees during the rainy season, with the idea that there would be fruit to both eat and sell. But by the time the goats were let out to graze during the dry season, the trees still weren't fenced and were nibbled to nothing. Despite the frustration of watching all that hard work disappear, I learned to really listen to people and what they wanted, not what I thought was best. The second year we planted thorny trees as a living fence – a more practical first step."

That time led to a love for West Africa, and an interest in alternative research for development models that work with, not simply for, farmers. "I feel so fortunate to be learning from researchers at the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), which is part of the CGIAR consortium. They are pioneering innovative plant breeding and seed dissemination techniques that are participatory, open and have made an impact in farmers' lives." Kristal's dissertation research will chart the changing seed markets and networks over time, as improved varieties of sorghum and millet are released and used by farmers in many different ways. "The CGIAR system, in conjunction with national government programs, is the equivalent of the land-grant university system in the United States. All materials created by farmers and researchers are available for public use and are therefore inherently more accessible than many other types of new inputs." Kristal will focus on farmers' decisions about which seeds to use and how to access them – whether by purchase or exchange, among family or those further afield. Her interviews and mapping techniques will help both farmers and researchers to better understand the different ways in which seeds are shared, in order to support more varied and useful development of networks, with the end goal of having improved seeds help improve lives.

Rahma Adam, PhD in Rural Sociology candidate

The nature of development challenges differs not only from country to country, but from urban to rural contexts. In Tanzania, where Rahma Adam is from, the majority of its 48 million citizens live in rural

areas despite the rapid growth of cities like her hometown of Dar- Es-Salaam. Though she may modestly describe her educational pursuits as “meandering”, Rahma had this principle in mind when she decided to enroll in a Rural Sociology PhD program at Pennsylvania State University to tie together her previous experience studying Biology and Anthropology at Macalester College and later, Public Policy at Harvard University.

While completing her Master’s at the Kennedy School of Government, she carried out fieldwork in Tanzania interviewing women to learn more about local food markets and grew interested in gender advocacy and international development issues. She also quickly recognized the need to pursue an advanced degree. She explains, “I did not see [my Master’s fieldwork] quenching my thirst for questions of poverty and injustice.” Studying sweet potato (SP), a crop whose reputation is still perceived as a “poor man’s crop” has given her many insights into the politics of gender that are deeply-rooted in agriculture and in Tanzanian society. In June 2011, she traveled back to Tanzania to work on the Marando Bora project.

In Tanzania, Rahma worked on gathering data for a qualitative baseline survey and interviewed women who grow SP, inquiring topics including, gender roles in SP production, with a particular focus of farmers’ access to planting material; SP consumption and sale of SP and control of income from the sale. Rahma worked with Lone Badstue, a gender and advocacy specialist working with Helen Keller International. “Working with Lone has been a rewarding and life-long experience to remember. Lone taught me to not only examine research participants’ responses through a microscope, but also to appreciate their lives and surroundings and advise the farmers, whenever it was necessary,” Rahma comments.

It is clear that farmers in Mwanza region are facing many challenges. The stories that she has gathered make it all too evident that there is a long way to go to fully address food security and nutrition issues in the region. Rahma gives an account of an interesting phenomenon that she observed in one of the villages she visited, in Matale. Women ended up going to Nemba or Diho, places that were water accessible, to grow their sweet potatoes, maize and rice. When the women harvested their crops, cattle grazers would let cattle graze on fields that still contained healthy sweet potato planting material for the next season. The women have tried to stop cattle grazers from letting cattle eat the vines, but their efforts (reporting to the village council) have not worked. However, Rahma observed that planting material that was strategically planted between cassava crops were saved---the cattle grazers did not go near those.

Rahma has an ambitious vision for Tanzania and other developing nations or marginalized populations: “It’s not that [the farmers] are poor, it is that they can be poor planners and do not know how to manage their assets” she explains. For smallholder farmers, the lack of extension advice and advanced farming technology is a particular barrier for farming including SP production. However, this presents a situation where a lot can be gained and Rahma hopes to use her own voice to keep governance relevant to the reality on the ground to improve the lives of Tanzanians and other developing nations. [\(Return to Index\)](#)

7. Penn State Cooperative Extension educators visit Kenya

In June 2011, seven Penn State Family and Consumer Science Extension Educators from offices from across the state traveled to Kenya to visit the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and the Children and Youth Empowerment Center (CYEC). These educators went with the goal of sharing with JKUAT's Extension program and the children and staff at the CYEC, and gaining insight and skills to bring back to their PA county offices to help with low income, immigrant, and at-risk communities. The group of seven included Frances Alloway (Delaware Co.), Juliana Anderson (Delaware Co.), Andrea Bressler (Clearfield Co.), Jan Cohen (Susquehanna Co.), Mary Alice Gettings (Beaver Co.), Robin Kuleck (McKean Co.) and Laurie Welch (Clinton Co.).

The Children and Youth Empowerment Center (CYEC) is a residential center for street children in Nyeri whose goal is to help youth learn about and develop careers in agricultural production and to learn life skills. The group chose to reside at the center with the children rather than staying at the local hotel, which gave them a much richer experience. The CYEC has a garden, animals, and a solar drier that provide the center and the older youth with a sustainable income. The center also includes a health clinic available not only for the children in the center but also for the surrounding community. The group got to talk with the clinic's nurse about community needs and health issues that the clinic is trying to address.

Two of the projects that were conducted by the group included a health fair that taught the children about the importance of hand washing, teeth brushing, plant identification, and healthy food selection, and a youth resiliency activity called "Tree of Strengths" which showed the students the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets for Early Childhood and asked them to choose those that represented qualities in their life. The group also attended the African Day of the Child which was being held in Nyeri to bring attention to the problem of Kenyan street children.



Children showing off their clean hands at the Health Fair

Another purpose of the trip was to visit the Extension program at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), one of the leading agricultural institutions in East Africa. While Extension in the US is supported through federal, state and local funding, Extension activities in Kenya are independently provided by universities, Kenyan government and NGOs, and are therefore typically more disjointed. JKUAT's Extension focus is on youth, women's groups, and farmers, with over 75% of Kenya's income based on agriculture. The group met with Dr. David Kagima, the Director of Extension and Technology Transfer at JKUAT and learned about initiatives and techniques used for community outreach, including radio, public television and demonstration gardens.

The group left energized and with a greater appreciation of the lives of the people with whom they interacted. They are now hoping to further their interactions and work with the CYEC and JKUAT in order to share Penn State's educational materials and look for international grant collaborative opportunities.

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8. Penn State grad collecting books to fill a library in Zambia

Jeff Mulhollem/Chuck Gill - Courtesy of Penn State Live (live.psu.edu/story/54212)

University Park, Pa. -- As a Peace Corps volunteer working in the village of Kalechelo, Zambia, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences alumnus Chuck Cascio noticed that the young people were in dire need of books and other educational materials.

Cascio, a 2009 animal sciences graduate, saw the village's school library had books for very young children, but nothing for the older kids.

"The older students would ask me for my books and magazines," said Cascio. "That's when I really thought of getting 'No Empty Shelves' started, and I hope that it becomes a secondary project for other Peace Corps volunteers when I leave."

In January, Cascio reached back to his alma mater and to the Penn State chapter of the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences to work on "No Empty Shelves," a project to collect agricultural reference and teen books to fill a library in the village.

The club focuses on one internationally based fundraising opportunity each semester, explained club adviser Ketja Lingenfelter, study-abroad coordinator for the College of Agricultural Sciences. "We felt it was an especially meaningful project for the club because Chuck's an alumnus and a former club member."

The most important reason to send books to the people of Kalechelo is to offer opportunity, explained Cascio. "Knowledge spreads quickly throughout the community," he said. "One book doesn't expand the knowledge of just one villager, but of a whole village. The books will help students with their English, in turn giving them a huge advantage when trying to get a job."

The majority of the population lives in what many consider poverty, noted Cascio. "Due to a lack of extra money, most villagers live in mud and thatch huts," he said. "However, Zambians are uniquely friendly and accommodating."

This opportunity gives students a chance to connect with alumni, said Lingenfelter. "And it shows that even a small accomplishment here can have a global impact."

Penn State's International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences is currently accepting monetary donations to cover shipping costs. Anyone can donate by getting in touch with Lingenfelter at ketja@psu.edu or 814-863-4164.

"The student club has been the most helpful partner in this project," said Cascio.

The club turned to students, faculty and employees in the College of Agricultural Sciences for the drive, receiving large donations of books at the end of the spring semester, when students and professors were finished with their textbooks, Lingenfelter said.

"The club set a goal to send at least one shipment of books before students left for the summer," she said. "We accomplished that and still have many books ready to ship, thanks to all the donations by employees and students of the college."

The club is suspending book collection for the fall to focus on raising money to ship more of the books already donated. The books that the club is unable to send to Zambia still will go to a good cause: they'll be donated to the annual book drive sponsored by the State College branch of the American Association of University Women, said Lingenfelter.

Cascio's other Peace Corps activities include teaching aquaculture, small-animal agriculture, 8th-grade mathematics, proper sanitation and beekeeping to the villagers. He also coaches soccer and raises HIV and AIDS awareness. "I love this place," he said. "It's an amazing community, and I think it will benefit tremendously because of this project." [\(Return to Index\)](#)

9. Following the Fruit: Horticulture Class Traces International Trade

Dr. Ricky Bates



A visit to any State College, PA grocery store during the winter reveals shelves packed with fruit from all over the world. That's exactly where Hort 497 began for a group of College of Agricultural Science students one snowy night last January. With the help of the local Wegmans produce manager, Jon Malcos, 19 students from 5 programs of study inventoried scores of fruit varieties produced in over three dozen distant countries. Eight weeks later, these same students found themselves visiting some of the very farms in Chile, where many of these commodities were produced.

In the course, International Horticulture Trade: Follow the Fruit, students were exposed to the complex issues surrounding international horticulture trade by tracing the path of fruit from production and handling, through the export and shipping channels, to the U.S. import and inspection system, and finally to hub and local market outlets. The course culminated with a 10-day study tour to Chile's fruit producing regions.

In addition to investigating the process and peculiarities of producing horticultural crops for specific and distant export markets, students examined relevant social and environmental issues surrounding the production and importation of commodities such as organic vs. inorganic production systems, food safety, the "buy local" movement, and trade agreements. During the study tour they also gained a greater appreciation of Chilean culture, history, geography and the Spanish language. The course ultimately provided students the opportunity to experience another culture first-hand, broaden their worldview, develop leadership skills, and potentially advance their careers. [\(Return to Index\)](#)

10. Student Perspective: Internship with Global Knowledge Initiative (GKI)

Serena Wang, Graduate Student, Food Science Department

Graduation was on a Friday night, and I jumped on a train Monday morning to start working this summer with a non-profit organization called Global Knowledge Initiative. Global Knowledge Initiative (GKI) is an organization that works to link scientists from all around the world, enabling them to collaborate to solve challenges in science, technology, and innovation. This amazing opportunity came about when GKI was at Penn State linking our researchers to ones in Uganda via a videoconference.

I was able to attend and present at this collaboration colloquium because I had worked on an engineering design project related to Ethiopian flatbread, Injera. This project actually linked my undergraduate degree in Biological Engineering and my current studies in Food Science since there was work done in both Penn State departments. Without having any expectations, I stayed after and spoke with Sara Farley, GKI's Chief Operating officer, simply because the colloquium gave me a spark that reminded me of what I truly want to do in the future. I always knew that I would want to do some type of international work helping people, and the colloquium provided me with ideas of how I could combine those passions with my science and engineering background. This is what made GKI sounded so intriguing, and it turned out that they were looking for interns.

After spending a week in D.C. with the GKI team, I was able to dive right in and begin helping them prepare to send a team of researchers to five countries in Eastern Africa. This project was contracted by the World Bank to perform research on the status of the secondary education systems in Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, and Uganda. My role in the project was to help plan the meetings between our researchers and other key players in the secondary education systems – everyone from officers from various ministries of education to local schoolchildren and teachers. It was a great role for me because even though it was behind-the-scenes, it really utilized my natural inclination of planning and organizing. After our researchers were back from Africa, I started on a project looking into the various online tools that scientists would be able to use to communicate and collaborate with each other. The advances in technology make it easier than before for scientists on opposite sides of the world to work together as long as they have the right tools.

I am really glad I had this opportunity to stay busy doing work for something I care about before I started my graduate studies. Now that I am back at Penn State, I am happy to know that I can help with any future events when GKI comes back, and excited to begin my research looking into the effects of UV irradiation used as pasteurization. These next few years will be full of hard work focused on my research and studies, but I know that in the future is limitless with opportunities for international work and collaboration. ([Return to Index](#))

11. College of Ag Sciences International Educational Embedded Experiences – Draft list for Spring 2012

International Educational Embedded Experiences are courses that are led by CAS faculty in the spring semester, are typically 3 credits but can be more, and have an “embedded” international trip experience either over spring break or right after the spring semester ends. The trip component can last for 1 to 4 weeks. Some are focused on specific major areas or groups. Please contact Ketja Lingenfelter, Study Abroad Coordinator at ketja@psu.edu for details.

Location	Course Number	Course Title/Description	Travel Dates	Leader
Brazil	INTAG 499C	Sustainable crop production, environmental and integrated pest management strategies course and study tour to Brazil, 3 credits	Spring break 2012	Melanie Gilbert Lyn Garling
France (based in Paris)	INTAG 470	Comparing US/French Agricultural Systems spring semester course and study to France, based in Paris, 3 credits	May 13-27, 2012	Ted Jaenicke Ketja Lingenfelter
France (Normandy)	AN SC?	Equine industry in Normandy	March or May 2012	Ann Swinker Marianne Fivek
Germany	AG 199	Food, Fuel and Fiber Study Abroad course at PSU Altoona focuses on the diversity of agriculture and touches upon several topics encompassing food, fuel and fiber issues on a global level	May 7-15, 2012	Gail Good
Honduras	CED 430	Focusing on international development with a spring break trip to Honduras	Spring break 2012	Leif Jensen
Ireland	HORT 299/499	Landscape/Horticulture site course	May 7-15, 2012	Martin McGann
Jordan	SOILS 499A?	The interconnections between soils, civilizations and societies with a focus on ancient and modern agrarian societies in Jordan	May, 2012	Kate Butler Melanie Gilbert
Kenya	AGRO/CED 497C	Agricultural Systems in East Africa, Eco-village in Lamuria	End of May, 2012	Janelle Larson Sjoerd Duiker
Korea	AEE	Teacher training course focusing on globalizing agricultural curriculum	End of May, 2012	Daniel Foster
Mexico?	SPAN 197	Third level Spanish for the agricultural industry with three week Language Immersion Experience at Cuernavaca and Buenavista de Cuellar	End of May, 2012	Alex Borys?
South Africa/ Mozambique	FOR 497E	Natural Resource Study Tour of southern Africa. Forestry and natural resource management issues in southern Africa. 1 credit?	End of May, 2012	Mike Jacobson
Vietnam/ Cambodia	INTAG Honors	An Ag leadership course for honors students	End of May, 2012	Mark Brennan

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12. "Traveling Tuesdays!" Series during the Fall Semester

Each Tuesday at 12 noon, the Study Abroad Lounge (122 Ag Admin) hosts a different speaker, movie, or show related to international agriculture. Dr. Terry Musser kicked off the series with a discussion about her experience in Haiti in July. Other speakers include Jenna Moser, a Borlaug-Raun International Internship Program participant in India; Sara Lomonaco, a visiting scholar from Italy presenting the Origins of Italian Foods; speakers about agricultural embedded courses, semesters abroad, and more.

All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to bring a lunch and join these informal sessions for an opportunity to "travel the world" with College of Ag Sci Study Abroad.

Traveling Tuesday events are coordinated by Nicole O'Block, our first Study Abroad Lounge intern, working this fall semester. Majoring in Agricultural Sciences and minoring in International Agriculture and Leadership Development, Nicole brings extensive international experience to the position. She has participated in embedded courses to France and Ireland, and recently spent a semester in Florence, Italy on the Institute at Palazzo Rucellai Agriculture Program. Nicole is also involved in International Student Orientation on campus, and is an active ambassador for Penn State to international students.

In addition to the Traveling Tuesday events, Nicole will be developing handouts on semester programs by major, assisting with Education Abroad fairs, and much more. [\(Return to Index\)](#)