The world truly is a smaller place than it used to be. It is becoming an overworked expression, but given the rapid pace of globalization and the ease of international travel and communications, it is a fitting description of the world in which we live. Events or actions that take place half a world away can directly impact our lives. Given that fact, it is important that we are open to taking an “international view” and learning more about the world around us.

The primary mission of the Office of International Studies and Programs (OISP) is to advance the understanding of international and cross-cultural issues both on campus and in the community at large. International education has long been a part of Illinois State University’s mission and continues to play a vital role in fulfilling the goals of the University’s Educating Illinois action plan.

The goals of Educating Illinois include academic outreach and the promotion of diversity. International students and scholars enrich the cultural and intellectual climate of this campus by bringing with them their customs and world views. By interacting with these students and scholars, our understanding of the world is broadened.

It is easy to recognize the cultural and social importance of international education in the U.S., but there is also a beneficial economic component. The U.S. Department of Commerce notes that higher education is America’s fifth-largest export in the service sector! NAFSA: Association of International Educators estimates that international students and their families contributed nearly $13.5 billion to the U.S. economy during the 2005-2006 school year, with more than $625 million in Illinois alone.

I encourage you to become involved with the international education opportunities available on campus. The world is a smaller place today, so it is imperative that we know and understand more about the people in it.

Momar Ndiaye
Director, Office of International Studies and Programs

**GROWING MDI PROGRAM PROVIDES MANAGEMENT SKILL TRAINING**

During the summer of 2006, government and private sector officials from 17 developing countries were on the Illinois State University campus for training on the effective management of development projects.

OISP’s Management Development International (MDI) program has shown impressive growth since its inception in 2001. Summer 2006 saw the biggest number of participants in training groups to date. MDI’s responsiveness to real world development training needs, flexible training programs and experienced instructors combined with overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants from around the globe account for the steady increase in numbers.

July is typically the month with the largest on-campus training programs. However, MDI offers on-campus training to smaller groups and individuals throughout the entire year. MDI also offers in-country training programs across the globe through special arrangements with other institutions and agencies. The customized management training courses are aimed at public, private, and non-profit clients from around the world.

Thirty-five officials from government ministries, nongovernmental agencies and other private sector groups from developing nations participated in a month-long training program in July with classes focusing on the effective implementation, management and evaluation of large-scale development projects, human resource management and the
MDI Receives Positive Feedback from Around the World

What would bring government and private sector officials from developing nations across the world to Normal, Illinois? They come for the top quality training in development project management that is offered by Management Development International (MDI). Once here, they quickly come to appreciate the resources available at Illinois State and the welcoming Midwestern setting.

The growth of MDI training programs since 2001 can be attributed in no small part to the positive feedback from participants and strong word-of-mouth recommendations in home countries. MDI has quickly established a solid reputation for providing high quality training programs at a reasonable cost, something that has not gone unnoticed by government ministries and international development agencies which pay the participants’ tuition.

A number of MDI participants who have come to Illinois State’s campus for training programs have returned to complete additional courses in development project management. One past MDI participant was so impressed with the program and with the University that she is returning as a full-time graduate student.

Feedback on the quality of the training has been positive, both during and after the sessions. Past participants have praised the program for its valuable real-world content and the skill of its instructors in presenting material in an engaging and culturally sensitive manner. “The program is very appropriate,” says Stella Bandera, an education officer/coordinator with the Ministry of Education in Tanzania. “One is able to pick up current academic language and knowledge for improvement in one’s area of specialty.”

Participants, many of whom are high-level government officials, have found the intensive, month-long training sessions have greatly enhanced their ability to envision, implement and manage vital development projects in their home countries. “I have gained the tools and aspects by which to polish the projects and will be able to act with greater efficiency now,” says Dr. Arun Gaur, an under-secretary with the Department of Economic Affairs in India’s Ministry of Finance.

Site visits to local government offices and corporations, as well as the cultural and social opportunities that are an integral part of the MDI experience, have also proven to be major selling points for the program. Trainees have a chance to visit Chicago and St. Louis and see the Lincoln sites in Springfield. “The trips to different communities were very educative and were a good interaction exercise,” says Bandera. “They were also a source of getting acquainted to working in different offices.”

Corporate site visits were also valuable learning opportunities for local company officials who had a chance to interact with the MDI participants. “The MDI program is a good opportunity for State Farm Insurance to learn from others and exchange ideas,” says Debbie Whelton, State Farm public affairs staff assistant.

Even though participants often come from different cultural backgrounds and speak different languages, they quickly form a bond of friendship with each other and with members of the local community. One of the social highlights of the MDI program is the opportunity to have dinner in an American home. “This was quite a new idea for us,” says Gaur. “We are in a different country and people whom we do not know invite us to dinner. It is quite a wonderful thing. It shows that people here like to know about others.”

Interacting with international visitors is equally valuable for the American hosts, who are honored to entertain high-level government officials in their homes. “Families enjoy the evening because they have a chance to meet people from other countries,” says Shirley Koos, coordinator of International Friends, Bloomington-Normal. “The participants, who miss their own families and friends, appreciate the relaxing evening and the opportunity to share a meal with an American family.”
MDI PROVIDES FACULTY WITH UNIQUE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY

Government and NGO officials from developing nations are not the only ones who walk away enriched by their MDI experiences. Illinois State University faculty members have also benefited from the experience, while at the same time bringing their knowledge of various subjects to the MDI teaching process.

The workshop style of teaching employed during MDI training is a unique form of instruction that allows a great deal of opportunity for teacher-student interaction. The method calls on students to be active participants in their own learning, by presenting the results of their work to their fellow students. It also gives faculty members, who are accustomed to a regular university classroom setting, an opportunity to expand their teaching style. Faculty members who teach for MDI comment that they come away enriched by the experience and they often feel they learn just as much, if not more, than their students do.

When MDI courses began at Illinois State in 2001, they were taught primarily by visiting professors from other universities who are recognized experts in the area of development management. As the program has expanded more and more Illinois State faculty members have had the opportunity to serve as MDI instructors, teaching sessions on topics such as human resource management, project management and financial management. Illinois State faculty members who have served as MDI instructors have called the experience “priceless” and “a terrific opportunity.”

Teresa Palmer, a professor of Management and Quantitative Methods, has worked with MDI for several years and has taught in the areas of job analysis and evaluation, recruitment and placement, human resource management, conflict resolution, labor relations and diversity issue management. Palmer addresses all of those areas in her regular classroom teaching of American undergraduates and graduate students, but she finds covering them in a workshop setting with professionals from various nations to be an exciting change of pace.

“The participants are all adults with responsible positions in their home countries,” says Palmer. “They have all traveled long distances to participate in the program and generally have specific applications in mind to which they plan to apply what they learn in the workshop.”

The short, four-week duration of the program and the all-day sessions create an intense learning environment where flexibility and creativity are a must. Participants are often recovering from jet lag, dealing with culture shock issues or

LINKAGES GETS ISU INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Increased globalization and recent world events stress the need for citizens to have a greater understanding of international affairs. OISP’s Unit for International Linkages (UIL) provides a great number of ways that members of the Illinois State University community can get involved with international education and international programming.

The Unit for International Linkages facilitates the exchange of faculty, students and programs between Illinois State and overseas universities and connects international students and visitors with the campus and surrounding community through a variety of programming. UIL also seeks expanded opportunities to send Illinois State faculty and students abroad for exchanges.

The Unit for International Linkages was established in July 2005 and is directed by T.Y. Wang, a professor in the Department of Politics and Government. Ali Riaz, an assistant professor in Politics and Government, serves as the Unit’s associate director.

The UIL mission of enhancing international education encompasses a wide array of ac-

DID YOU KNOW…the leading senders of international students to the U.S. are India, followed by China, Korea, Japan and Canada?

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NEW COORDINATOR, PROGRAMS IN STUDY ABROAD

Jimmy Brazelton may be the new Study Abroad Coordinator, but he is certainly no stranger to the University and to the Office of International Studies and Programs. Brazelton was hired to head Study Abroad in July 2006, after serving two years as assistant coordinator. He began his career in OISP as a student worker in 2002 and quickly became involved with a wide array of activities, including Management Development International (MDI) and Study Abroad.

During his years of part-time employment in the office, he earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in theatre. His own study abroad experience in Paris has prepared him well for helping Illinois State students get ready to study overseas for a summer, a semester, or a year.

“Having been a student who participated in a study abroad program at Illinois State, I can honestly say that I understand its full benefits,” says Brazelton. “Some people refer to study abroad as a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but I prefer to think of it as a lifelong experience. The changes that study abroad students undergo impact the rest of their lives and sometimes change the course of their lives entirely, which is exactly what happened in my case.”

The Study Abroad and National Student Exchange (NSE) areas have also been combined into one office. National Student Exchange gives students the opportunity to “study abroad” right here in North America, by attending another American or Canadian university for a semester or a year. As part of the recent merger, NSE Coordinator Lily Anderson has assumed the duties of Assistant Study Abroad Coordinator. She advises students, develops recruitment mate-

AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM EXPANDS

Illinois State University’s reputation for academic excellence, its welcoming campus atmosphere and its proximity to cultural and historical attractions in Chicago, St. Louis and Springfield continue to make it a popular destination for international students participating in OISP’s American Studies program. The month-long sessions held throughout the year have attracted many students from the Universitaet Paderborn in Paderborn, Germany and from Hokkaido University in Asahikawa, Japan. During July 2006, the first student group from I-Shou University in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan visited campus to participate in an American Studies program.

The American Studies programs provide students with an immersion experience in American culture and North American English. The sessions are designed to give participants a broad overview of topics in American culture, a chance to polish their English skills and an opportunity to interact with American faculty, students and community members.

During the day, students attend lectures on various cultural, social and political topics taught by Illinois State faculty members. For students, the lectures serve as windows on American life and culture. Faculty members find the lectures provide an opportunity to speak on unique topics within their areas of expertise, which might not otherwise fit in with their regular classroom teaching. Faculty members also find presenting material to students from other cultures to be both challenging and rewarding.

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even fighting off a mild travel-related illness. Cultural and language differences also require a more nuanced approach to teaching.

“There is a tremendous diversity of nationalities, cultures, ages and professional expertise among the participants and that can make the programs both challenging and enriching,” Palmer says. “There is a lot more responsibility for quickly establishing a comfortable climate in the classroom so that all can participate freely. You have to create opportunities for participants to ask the questions that really matter to them and listen carefully to what they say.”

Klaus Schmidt, an associate professor of Technology, taught workshop sessions on project management in both French and English during the July program. Schmidt, a native of Germany, agrees that culture and language differences present exciting challenges when teaching. “Even though I speak French rather well, it was sometimes a bit challenging to communicate clearly and efficiently because the French language is spoken differently in various regions of the world,” Schmidt says. “For the first time in my teaching career I became aware of how important language is as a tool of instruction. In this workshop I probably learned as much from my students as they learned from me.”

Both Schmidt and Palmer say they love teaching the workshop sessions and both feel they have grown personally and professionally because of their MDI experiences. “Toward the end of the summer program, a student asked me a question that I considered to be a great compliment,” says Palmer. “She asked me how I managed to understand them all, as they all spoke English with different accents and had occasional difficulty understanding each other. Each year I feel that I have learned at least as much as I have taught. It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of professionals and such wonderful people. It is also a terrific opportunity to do something that stretches your capabilities and challenges you intellectually.”

To find out more about teaching workshop sessions for MDI please contact:

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438-7718 adpena@ilstu.edu

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Management Development International (MDI)
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GROWING MDI PROGRAM
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financial management of development projects. Examples of such development projects are the building of roads, ports and other vital infrastructure, HIV/AIDS prevention programs and efforts to improve public health through better nutrition or vaccinations.

"Through these development project training courses, MDI and Illinois State provide a valuable service to people from across the globe," says Momar Ndiaye, director of Illinois State’s Office of International Studies and Programs. "Government and private sector officials are gaining the knowledge they need to successfully plan and implement vital development projects in their home countries."

The courses, taught in both English and French, consisted of lecture and workshops that utilized computer applications and case studies. Participants also put their course work skills into practice through individual class projects based on the needs of their home countries and outlined plans to address those needs. Individuals then presented their project plans for feedback and evaluation from MDI instructors and fellow participants.

The July training program also included site visits to local government offices, State Farm Insurance, COUNTRY Insurance and the University Farm in Lexington. “The participants in MDI programs were able to appreciate the American culture by participating in ‘Experience America’ activities,” says Dr. Alberto Pena, MDI director. “Through scheduled educational field visits to different organizations, they were also able to discuss common management problems with their American counterparts.”

The all day classroom training sessions were intense, but participants also had a chance to relax, visit a variety of cultural and historic sites and socialize with MDI instructors, OISP staff and community members. Participants had the opportunity to explore the sites in two famous Midwestern cities during weekend trips to Chicago and St. Louis. The group also visited Abraham Lincoln sites in Springfield. A picnic and soccer game, dinners at the homes of local community members, a tea hosted by International Women and a graduation ceremony and dinner gave the visiting officials further opportunities to socialize with each other and with community members.

"At the end of the day, the most important benefit or goal of MDI is that it nurtures friendships," says Ndiaye. “The more we understand each other and support each other, the better the world will be.”

Participants in the development program management classes during July came from Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, The Gambia, Angola, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Cameroon, Guinea Republic, Ivory Coast, Republic of Congo, Philippines, Oman, Montserrat and Haiti. Eight other participants, hailing from Kenya, The Gambia, Madagascar and India, also completed development training sessions at various times during July, August and September.

Participants’ travel and training costs were paid by their home governments, sponsoring organizations and various international development agencies including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. Funding from those international development agencies is a vital component in the success of MDI. The funding not only allows more people from developing nations to participate in the training, it also serves as an endorsement of the quality of MDI offerings.

MDI continues to enhance its development project training offerings both on campus and at locations around the world. Applications are already being processed for training programs during the spring of 2007 and the Anglophone and Francophone training programs to be held in July 2007.

“I believe that MDI training programs are extremely relevant to managers in the developing countries because these programs are geared towards improving their abilities to manage development activities,” says Dr. Alberto Pena, MDI director. “MDI programs serve as a beacon for managers from developing countries to come to Illinois State as past participants give testimonies of their very positive learning experiences. All of these point to a prospect of future growth for MDI programs.”

For more information about the programs offered by MDI visit www.internationalstudies.ilstu.edu/mdf
STUDY ABROAD

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The Unit develops grants and contract proposals and manages funded grants relating to international activities, such as intercultural programs and exchange opportunities. UIL proactively searches for grants and funding from such entities as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and others.

The number of Illinois State students participating in study abroad programs during summer and regular semesters is steadily rising. Illinois State offers a wide range of popular programs in Europe, South America, Asia, Australia and Mexico. A growing number of Illinois State students are also participating in independent study abroad programs offered by international education providers.

OISP’s Study Abroad area continues to develop and implement new and exciting educational opportunities. A few examples of these include: a new semester business exchange with Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand; a new semester business internship program through Our Chinese Daughters Foundation (OCDF) in Beijing, China; the development of a summer program for education majors in Patcuaro, Mexico in 2007; and the development of an exchange program with Universidad Caxias do Sul in Brazil. During the summer of 2006, students led by Politics and Government Professor Carlos Parodi were the first Illinois State group to study at the Universidad del Pacifico and the Peruvian human rights organization CEAPAZ.

For more information on the vast array of study abroad opportunities available visit www.internationalstudies.ilstu.edu/studyabroad or contact Jimmy Brazelton or Lily Anderson at 438-5276.

DID YOU KNOW... the estimated net contribution to the U.S. economy by foreign students and their families in 2005-2006 is $13,500,000,000 according to NAFSA, using IIE and College Board statistics with no multiplier effect (making education the 5th highest service sector export according to the U.S. Department of Commerce)?

LINKAGES

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The Unit develops grants and contract proposals and manages funded grants relating to international activities, such as intercultural programs and exchange opportunities. UIL proactively searches for grants and funding from such entities as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and others.

Sponsoring visiting scholars and fostering student and faculty exchanges with overseas universities is another UIL mission component. These types of exchanges are important in developing connections between Illinois State and the international community. Students who have the opportunity to study abroad have a better understanding of the world around them and have the chance to act as cultural ambassadors in their host countries. Faculty members who participate in exchange programs benefit professionally from the chance to research and teach abroad and interact with international colleagues.

On a week-to-week basis, perhaps the most visible UIL initiative is the International Studies Seminar Series, a speakers program that offers information on global issues to the University and local community. The seminars take place during the fall and spring semesters on Wednesdays at noon in Stevenson Hall Room 401. Some recent topics covered were the monitoring of Mexican elections, Arab rights in Jerusalem, globalization and the redefinition of civil society and British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s political relationship with the U.S. For a list of upcoming seminars visit www.internationalstudies.ilstu.edu/internationallinkage/seminar.shtml

For more information on what the Unit for International Linkages has to offer the campus community, or how you can get involved with UIL initiatives, contact T.Y. Wang at tywang@ilstu.edu or visit www.internationalstudies.ilstu.edu/linkage.
Site visits to area businesses, community organizations and government offices are also valuable learning experiences. Weekend trips allow students to explore Chicago, St. Louis and the Lincoln sites in Springfield. In addition to the academic and cultural enrichment, the students also have the social bonus of living with American families during their stay. The homestay portion of the program is enriching and rewarding for students and host families alike.

Students from Paderborn have been coming to Illinois State for American Studies since 1987. The program continues to be popular, averaging around 20 students each fall. Those taking part in the program are typically studying English, economics or international business. Most are proficient in English, but use the opportunity to fine-tune their language skills.

The Hokkaido program has been in existence since 1997, with students visiting during February and March. The Hokkaido students study education and use their visit to learn more about American schools and teaching philosophies. Visits to local schools complement a full schedule of classroom topics on various issues in education. The program is also a chance for the students to enhance their English proficiency through language instruction classes at Illinois State’s English Language Institute (ELI).

OISP’s newest American Studies program began during July 2006 with the visit by 15 students from I-Shou University. Like the students from Paderborn and Hokkaido, the Taiwanese students were on campus to get an in-depth look at American culture, society and politics and hone their English abilities through ELI classes. The Office of International Studies and Programs

The success of the American Studies programs relies a great deal on Illinois State faculty members who share their expertise on American culture and society, and on the hospitality of Bloomington-Normal community members who open their homes to students from around the world. If you are interested in presenting a lecture topic or hosting a student in your home contact OISP Associate Director Sarah Jome at 438-5276 or sjome@ilstu.edu.

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