UNH president seeking strategic plan input:
Give us your international perspective

As we began spring semester, nine working groups organized around nine broad themes were hard at work building their cases and compiling the reports that will be considered by the UNH Strategic Plan steering committee. I thank President Huddleston for having invited me to participate in the group “UNH and the World: Advancing a Global Perspective,” the goal of which, as it is eloquently stated in its charge, is “to make the world part of the university’s organizational DNA.”

By the end of March our group will have proposed its strategy to reach that goal. By the end of the spring semester, the steering committee will produce an outline of the three to five “big ideas,” originating from the work of the nine working groups, on which the plans for the future of UNH will be centered. We are confident that once our task is completed, the initiative that we shall propose will demonstrate the centrality of the need for the internationalization of our campus.

Though there are many definitions of “internationalization,” the one that best summarizes the focus of the global perspective working group is “the process of integrating international/intercultural learning into the teaching, research and service functions of the institution; it seeks as a primary objective to enable all students to understand world cultures and events, analyze global systems, appreciate cultural differences and apply this knowledge to their lives as citizens and workers.” We want UNH to open its campus to visiting scholars, researchers and students from around the world. We want prospective students to be attracted by UNH because of the reputation of its international education, and to look at our institution as a unique place to come to understand the cultures of the world.

I want to encourage all of our readers to be a part of this important process. Whether you are a student, an alum, faculty or staff, a community member or an elected official, we want to hear from you. In this issue of the CIE Newsletter, you will see an article by UNH alumnus Craig Abbott explaining from (PLAN, continued on page 8)

NH International Seminar features UNH scholars speaking on a variety of research topics

The New Hampshire International Seminar series opened this spring on February 18 with UNH assistant professor of geography Joel Hartter discussing “Baboons and Farmers: Impacts of Imposed Conservation in a Forest Park Landscape in East Africa.” Hartter’s lively presentation to a near-capacity crowd focused on research he conducted last June in Uganda.

Seminars are held on Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Murkland 115 and are free and open to the public. Presenters for the spring series are recent recipients of CIE International Travel Grants. The future seminars are as follows:


• May 6 - Steve Bornstein, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, “Intervention Approaches for Children with Hearing Impairment and Other Disabilities in Russia”
IA alumna discovers fascinating world of food culture and production through Italian graduate program

by Jacqueline Lewin ‘05

Jacqueline Lewin graduated from UNH in 2005 with a dual major in international affairs and French. Her interest in the Slow Food movement has led her to a masters program at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Colorno, Italy.

From warm baguettes to spicy olives, from freshly made lasagne to fragrant basmati rice, my hunger for “good, clean and fair” food has taken me from France to southern Italy, up to Northern Italy and over to New Dehli, India, where I am currently. But, my post-baccalaureate studies haven’t been a simple search for the best meal. As I’ve come to learn so well, the exchange that occurs from the field to the table is one that contains history, arts, economics, ethics, ecologies, cultural preferences and traditions, and it is through this wide lens of food and agriculture that I am learning how to see our global community.

I graduated from UNH in 2005 with a degree in French Studies and International Affairs and studied abroad in Strasbourg, France, to use my French language skills and gain a better understanding of European politics. It was during this time that my passion for learning about what people all over the world were eating was ignited. I returned to Portsmouth, NH, where I joined the local Slow Food group to try to meet local farmers and like-minded community members. There, I realized that I didn’t want to know just what people were eating globally, but why we eat what we eat. Being involved with Slow Food, I learned more about the various aspects of the organization, including the masters program it runs in Colorno, Italy, within its University of Gastronomic Sciences (UNISG). I enrolled in the program called Gastronomic Science and Quality Products because it comprehensively explored the food world from all angles and was taught in Italian. Although I spoke no Italian at the time, my love of languages along with my eagerness for adventure prompted me to choose this program despite the fact that there was a similar course offered in English. Confronted with the challenge of needing to learn a new language and wanting to remain connected to food, I took advantage of something I had heard about from fellow travellers: WWOOF (Willing Work on Organic Farms).

Two months before beginning my graduate program, I travelled to Puglia, in southern Italy, and volunteered on an organic olive farm where little English was spoken. It was perfect. I combined my desire to learn about and participate in food production, while learning Italian and of course, eating well. On the farm I discovered the magic of sustainable living. After eating only local produce for the duration of my stay, I realized that I never knew that farmers had it so good. I indulged in fresh vegetables, beans, pulses and pasta made from ancient grain varieties, with the occasional treat of lardo (pork fat cured with rosemary and spices), and my new favorite condiment--cold-pressed olive oil.

From Puglia to Parma I began my year at UNISG in an intensive masters program which teaches about food using a unique approach. Each day was filled with five hours of lectures covering such subjects as the Microbiology of Cheese, Wine and Cured Meats, Sociology of Food Consumption, and Product Labelling and Marketing. Then, to supplement the class time with practical experiences, each month we went on a thematic and/or regional trip which was organized by the university. The goal of these trips is to see (and occasionally participate in) firsthand the production of diverse food products ranging from artisinally-made treasures to large-scale industrial foodstuffs.

In Jaen, Spain, we toured the heart of industrial olive-oil production, and I left understanding that quantity is not quality. In the Languedoc region of southern France, we saw all the steps of making goat cheese on a small-scale production level: from goats grazing in green pastures, to being milked, to the (LEWIN, continued on page 6)
About half way through the month of October, just a few short weeks after arriving in London, I checked my mail and saw, to my great surprise, a letter from the State of New Hampshire. I rushed back to my room and opened the envelope to find the greatest piece of mail I’ve received all year: My presidential absentee ballot. Within hours I had found a black marker and filled in my choice for president. It was indeed a momentous occasion, as it was my first presidential election, but I couldn’t help feeling sad that I had left the US in the year of what could be the biggest and most important presidential election ever. Little did I know how involved I would be.

The day I received my ballot, I happened to mention this great news to my flatmate, Simon, a British student from just outside of London, and the ensuing conversation was really quite amazing. Being a political science student, he was very interested in the U.S. elections, not only because of the historical significance, but also because of its political, economic and social impact on the world. Our discussion ranged from economic recovery to President Obama’s big health care ideas to Senator McCain’s choice of running mate to our collective anticipation of what could be a landmark era in U.S. and world history. This conversation made me realize how incredibly involved the rest of the world was in our elections and how much fun it would be to experience this election from across the Atlantic!

My school, the London School of Economics (LSE), being the politically minded school that it is, took full advantage of the enormity of the situation, hosting myriad public lectures on election-centered topics. The student body was alive!

During the past thirty years more than 1,000 students—most from UNH, others from all over the U.S.—have enjoyed the UNH English Department’s six-week Summer Program at Cambridge University, and the program is now gearing up for the summer of 2009.

According to English Department chairperson Andrew Merton, who will be teaching a course in travel writing, the program provides an ideal, affordable opportunity for study abroad.

“It’s amazing how fast our students’ perspectives change,” he says. “When they arrive in Cambridge they have the mindset of tourists. But they fall in love with the college, and the city; by the time they leave, six weeks later, they have developed a strong sense of belonging, even a fierce loyalty to the place.”

All courses in the Cambridge program are offered for credit.

**UNH study abroad: Explore the culture and charm of England through the UNH Cambridge Program**

Live in a private room at Cambridge University’s Gonville & Caius College, founded in the 1348 ~ Have your meals served in a gothic dining hall worthy of Harry Potter ~ Take two courses in British literature, writing or history, taught by British dons or UNH professors ~ Attend performances by the Globe Theatre Company in London and the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-on-Avon ~ Travel on excursions to Dover, Canterbury, Ely, and elsewhere in the United Kingdom ~ Go punting on the River Cam, perhaps all the way to the village of Grantchester, where Virginia Woolfe, Augustus Johns, E.M. Forster and other members of the Bloomsbury Group flouted societal norms a century ago ~ Explore the architecture, parks, bookstores, museums, and cultural offerings of Cambridge, an historic gem of a city. There are worse ways to spend a summer.

**Experiencing a trans-Atlantic version of the U.S. election**

by Sid Prabhakar ‘10

Economics major Siddharth Prabhakar from Bedford, NH, is spending the year studying at the London School of Economics.

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**Gonville & Caius College at Cambridge University in England**

**Sid Prabhakar ‘10 took a break from his studies in London to visit Rome.**
Philanthropy

Craig Abbott emphasizes importance of international education to the future of UNH and its students

Craig Abbott is a 1970 graduate of the University of New Hampshire and a resident of Darien, Connecticut. Through his career in international finance, he came to recognize the importance of “cultivating both an international awareness and a hands-on learning experience as a vital component of an undergraduate college education.” Toward that end he created, in 2001, the Endowment for International Studies. Thanks to his generosity, 20 students have received scholarships to study abroad and six have been awarded International Research Opportunities Program grants.

When International Affairs (IA) alumni gathered in New York City in November, UNH Whittemore School of Business and Economics alumnus Craig Abbott joined them. Although he graduated fifteen years before the International Affairs dual major came into existence, and he did not study abroad while at UNH, Abbott had a message to bring.

“Based on what I have seen over my career in finance technology and the time spent with global clients and colleagues,” Abbott said, “I believe that an international experience, while at UNH, is essential to the education process for all students, no matter their major or future interests. Reaching out and taking the initiative to learn foreign languages, customs, cultures, new ideas, is the building block for a successful career no matter how you approach it.”

“There is no better way to do that at UNH than the dual major in International Affairs,” Abbott continued. “I admire what you have accomplished.”

Abbott shared with attendees the results of a recent IBM study which surveyed CEOs and business leaders around the world concerning the Enterprise of the Future. From his own experience, reinforced by this study, Abbott summarized, “I believe that the type of people every enterprise in the world is interested in attracting are those that are brave enough, smart enough, creative enough and collaborative enough to seek out an international experience. It is the future of major enterprises around the globe to attract and retain people just like you.”

In closing, Abbott stated, “It is also essential to the future of the university to have a strong and prosperous international education capability, to ensure that programs are designed to give each and every UNH student an international experience before they graduate.”

Scholarships opportunities abroad for exceptional students

In this time of especially tight financial resources, it is important for students to know about grant opportunities that may make it possible, or at least less daunting, to take on study or research abroad. For the academically-motivated student there are a number of undergraduate and post-baccalaureate possibilities through UNH.

**UNH scholarships**


Foley-Jackson Scholarship - one award of $4,000-5,000. By invitation only in January of each year.

IROP Grants - nine-week summer research projects. Deadlines for 2010 research: April 2009 for sophomores, October 2009 for juniors. Contact: undergrad.research@unh.edu

SURF Abroad - summer research abroad. January 2010 deadline. Contact: undergrad.research@unh.edu

For more information visit http://www.unh.edu/cie/scholarships/study_abroad.html.

**Nationally-competitive external scholarships**

Boren/NSEP - $8,000-$20,000 grants for students with U.S. citizenship and interest in government careers to study language and culture in countries of U.S. national security interest. December 15, 2009 UNH deadline. Plan early by contacting sheila.mccurdy@unh.edu.

Fulbright - post-baccalaureate academic-year grants for U.S. citizen to study, research or teach English. Awards vary by country. September 15, 2009 deadline. Plan early by contacting sheila.mccurdy@unh.edu.

For information on other external scholarships, visit http://www.studyabroadfunding.org or the UNH Fellowships Office at http://www.unh.edu/fellowships-office/index.html.
Trading places: UNH exchanges offer affordable and academically advantageous study abroad options

by Beth Rascoe Kilinc, administrative director for study abroad

Have you had the pleasure of meeting one of the Dutch students pictured below? Each is here for spring semester as part of the UNH exchange program with Utrecht University. Occupying their vacated seats back in The Netherlands are UNH students Colleen O’Connell (Occupational Therapy), Sarah Turner (Women’s Studies), Carmen St. Jean (Math and Computer Science) and Jacklyn Vorsteveld (Math). Besides the students currently studying in Utrecht, four other UNH students --Amelia deGrace, Sean Doherty, Justin Pelletier, and James Woidt-- are on exchange at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, this semester studying civil engineering.

Since 2000, UNH has received 76 international students through exchanges and sent 72 of our own abroad. UNH students can study in one of 33 Canadian universities or four European institutions. Financially, exchanges are often a very good study abroad option. UNH students pay their usual tuition to UNH, but pay their housing costs and fees to the exchange host university. Educationally there are benefits too; students are directly enrolled at the exchange university, can choose from the regular course listings, and are assigned an academic advisor.

Finding the program that is right for you

Because exchange placements are limited, interested students should start the advising and application process at CIE early. UNH has exchanges in the following locations:

• **Canada, Nova Scotia and Quebec**: Any one of twelve colleges or universities in Nova Scotia and of 21 francophone or anglophone universities in Quebec.
• **Lancaster, England**: Semester or year exchanges at Lancaster University
• **Utrecht, The Netherlands** (in English):  
  - Spring semester (liberal arts courses) at Utrecht University, one of the top universities in the world
  - Fall or Spring semester at University College Utrecht, an honors college within Utrecht University where UNH honors students can earn honors credit
• **Edinburgh, Scotland**: Spring courses at Heriot-Watt University for CEPS students in environmental and civil engineering

Exchange students here this semester from The Netherlands

At a recent lunch to welcome them to our campus, our Dutch exchange students voiced their enthusiasm about their experiences at UNH. They remarked on the quality of the classes and professors, and how much fun they were having in the dorms with their fellow students. All had watched the Superbowl, and everyone enjoyed commenting on the differences between U.S. and Dutch culture. They were joined by CIE staff and Professor Brigitte Bailey, one of the founders of the UNH-Utrecht University exchange program. From left to right are: Michiel Van Veldhuizen (History/Philosophy), Rosan Slebioda (History), Willemijn Doedens (English/Psych), Marleen Ensink (History), Charlotte Kok (Communications), and Arthur Muller (American Studies).

(PRABHAKAR, continued from page 3)

with debate and discussion, similar to the one I had with my flatmate. This fervor, for an election taking place in a foreign country, climaxed on election night, when the results-watching party was packed with as many British students as American. Being a predominantly pro-Obama campus, the excitement was electric when it was officially announced that Senator Obama was now President-elect Obama – almost 5:00 a.m. GMT!

It was incredible to see how invested these British students were in our U.S. election and it made me realize how internationally minded and aware they were. I do admit that the students at the LSE are more motivated, academically otherwise, than the average student, so my insights into British society might be slightly skewed. However, I still get a sense that in these students, and perhaps in this society as a whole, there is an inborn interest in and desire to know about the world and what goes on in it. It’s this, among many other reasons, which makes me so glad I picked the London School of Economics to spend my year abroad.
Smetana ‘08 publishes book from her Slovakian family’s oral histories

In summer 2006, international affairs and political science dual major Laura Smetana’08 traveled to Slovakia with support from a UNH Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) to study the effects of the transition from communism to democracy and capitalism. With translation help from her father, she collected oral histories from twenty-four people in her extended family ranging in age from 18 to 80. Most of her time was spent in the town of Myjava, where her family has been situated for hundreds of years.

From the oral histories she collected, Laura wrote a series of stories which she published this past fall under the title Reflections on Communism and Democracy in Slovakia. The book is available at Blurb! on line at http://www.blurb.com/bookstore.

At right: Laura Smetana ’08 presented a copy of her book to her great uncle, Martin Smetana, and his wife, Viera.

(LEWIN, continued from page 3) transformation of milk into cheese, and finally, to tasting the creamy, somewhat lemony cheeses. In Norway one night we fished for our dinner deep in the fjords and another feasted on smoked sheep’s head prepared as the Vikings made it. Travelling outside of and within Italy helped round out my perspective on food. Learning about diverse cultures through the scope of food has given me a deeper understanding of what global citizenship means to me.

Studying food has been delicious and full of adventure, but it has taught me that our daily food choices are not isolated decisions: they affect the whole world. The use of chemicals and cheap labor that is employed by large agri-business is contaminating our daily diet, destroying the environment, and continuing the vicious cycle of poverty amongst farmers, particularly in developing countries. Unique food cultures were birthed by nature’s abundance and now biodiversity and traditional knowledge are at risk. Throughout my journeys I discovered that the industrial food world has robbed us of our right to taste! And it was because of this discovery that I am in India, interning with scientist and activist Dr. Vandana Shiva.

Dr. Vandana Shiva is a prominent voice pertaining to environmental, food, and patent-related issues in the international community. She has founded an organization, Navdanya, which reaches out to thousands of farmers in rural India, and restores them with the traditional knowledge they lost when the conventional (chemical based) model of agriculture was introduced during India’s Green Revolution. At Navdanya I am working against the acceptance of India’s first genetically modified food crop, Bt Brinjal, which is an eggplant variety.

I have no specific plans yet after my internship here in India. Eventually I would like to open a “farm to fork” style restaurant in New England, and use my education and experiences to establish a teaching farm that would emphasize local agricultural practices as a means to a healthy, low impact lifestyle. This would be a way for me to share what I’ve learned and get back to my own cultural roots. But, until then I will continue to explore the world using food as my guide. Already it has changed the way I see myself and my place in this very global, but very connected society. I am sure that wherever I go will be filled with new languages, new friendships, new (or really old) ways of living, and yes, new tastes.

UNH’s new Dual Major in EcoGastronomy

UNH undergraduates who wish to combine their interests in sustainable agriculture, hospitality and nutrition can now choose a dual major in eco-gastronomy. The program is administered jointly by the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture and the Whittemore School of Business and Economics in conjunction with the UNH Office of Sustainability.

In addition to the program courses, students are required to study for a semester at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, Italy, and establish language proficiency in Italian. For more information, visit http://www.unh.edu/ecogastronomy/.
IA alumni enjoyed time together in New York City

IA alumni gathered in New York City on November 14, 2008 to enjoy social time with old friends and new. Alumni attending were Julia Blumenfeld ’07, Christy Crespo-Matiz ’03, Virginia de Freitas Batterby ’06, Emily Gifford ’08, Michelle Giguerre ’06, Brigette Homrig Renaud ’89, Patricia Jalbert Kreuther ’89, Kasia Kaplinska ’02, Guy Lanni ’04, Denis Maslov ’96, Michael Maynard ’99, Michelle Ouellette ’96, Raymond Psonak ’94, Jean Sera ’91, and Alexandra Varga ’07. Four who planned to attend but, in the end, were unable to join us were Skip Burns ’04, Danielle Griffin ’04, Christy Jehn ’95 and Fran Su ’03. We missed you!

Also present were Craig Abbott, UNH ’70; Professor Frank McCann, IA program founder and first CIE director; Mayumi Tomita, Japanese guest of Emily Gifford; and CIE staff members Wen Houle, Professor Claire Malarte-Feldman, Sheila McCurdy, and Mindy McMahon.

Below: Julia Blumenfeld ’07, Christy Crespo-Matiz ’03, and Emily Gifford ’08.

Below right: Guy Lanni ’04 and Jean Sera ’91

IA ALUMNI: Where in the world is...?

Andy Houston ’03 lives in Chicago where he works as an international underwriter for Chubb & Son and is pursuing his MBA in international business at DePaul University. For six months beginning in October 2005, Andy taught English in Ho Chi Minh City, Viertnam, and traveled throughout SE Asia.

Emily Hardy ’06 is a graduate student in political science (international and comparative politics) at Long Island University. Upon completion of her coursework, Emily spent several months doing community service in South Africa, an experience that provided the focus for her thesis. She expects to complete her degree in May. She is also an assistant basketball coach at Stonybrook University.

Nikki Nichols ’07 is working at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC.

Susannah Pratt ’07 is in Chengdu, China, completing an internship with a travel company, where she is involved with translation and marketing to western audiences. Together with intensive Chinese language training, the internship is part of the second year of her fellowship through the Boren Language Flagship program. The first year of her fellowship was spent studying intensive Chinese at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Tyler Crowe ’08, one of UNH’s first international affairs-civil engineering dual majors, is working as a research assistant on a joint venture with the Coastal Response Research Center here in Durham and the Centre de Documentation de Recherche et l’Experimentation in Brest, France. Crowe notes that the position was offered to him in part because of the language skills acquired as an international affairs dual major.
Center for International Education

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Consider becoming a UNH career mentor

The UNH Advising and Career Center invites you to join the UNH Career Mentor Network (CMN). CMN supports UNH students and alumni via one-time, informational interviews, designed for networking and advice. Examples of questions we encourage students to ask are: “What is a typical day in your job?” and “What have you done since UNH and how did you get there?” Your insight can have a huge impact on current students and can create a culture of networking among UNH alumni.

Enjoy the satisfaction of helping others from UNH find their career paths. For more information, visit Wildcat Careers, UNH’s online career resource: www.myinterfase.com/unh/mentor.

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(PLAN, continued from page 1)

his perspective in international finance why a solid international education is critical for today’s student. Based on your life and work, we want to know what ideas, insights and information you can offer the committee as evidence of the need for our future citizens and workforce to be internationally educated and globally competent.

I would love to talk to you directly, so feel free to drop by my office in Hood House 225, or send me an e-mail at: clmf@cisunix.unh.edu. I also encourage you to post your comments on the President’s Strategic Plan website at http://www.unh.edu/strategicplanning/comments.html.

Claire Malarte-Feldman
CIE Director

(PUNTING, continued from page 3)

both undergraduate and graduate credit. The program is open to anyone who has completed at least one year of college. Over the years, students as young as 17 and as old as 83 have taken part.

For a detailed description of the coming summer’s Cambridge Program, including a complete list of course offerings, go to the program’s website: www.unh.edu/cambridge or contact the program administrator, Joy Winston, by phone (603) 862-3962, or email, cambridge.program@unh.edu.

(CAMBRIDGE, continued from page 3)

Punting on the River Cam, a common sight in Cambridge, England

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Brigitte Bailey and Sarah Sherman, associate professors of English

Each year, the Center for International Education awards competitive grants for faculty international activities from funds provided by the vice president for academic affairs. Below are recipients' reports for summer and fall 2008 activity abroad.

Brigitte Bailey and Sarah Sherman traveled to England in July to attend a conference “Transatlantic Women: Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers in Great Britain, Ireland, and Europe.”

Professor Bailey helped organize the conference and presented a paper on her own research.

The conference, “Transatlantic Women: Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers in Great Britain, Ireland, and Europe,” held at the Rothermere American Institute at Oxford University, July 16-19, 2008. The conference was an outgrowth and convergence of two burgeoning areas in American literary studies: the recovery and analysis of 19th-century women writers and the mapping of transatlantic literary and cultural relations. We conference organizers—Prof. Beth Lueck (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater), Prof. Lucinda Damon-Bach (Salem State College), and I—were very pleased with the high quality of the papers and the disciplinary and national range of the presenters; participants included literary scholars, art historians, museum professionals, historians, and gender studies scholars and hailed from 10 countries. Conference papers focused on writers from the 1790s to the 1910s and on the contexts that generated and shaped women’s writing: tourism, international abolitionist circles, labor, reform, celebrity, comparative political economy, aesthetics, faith, contested representations of race and ethnicity and national identity, the business of publication, gender and the writing trade, etc. The conference prompted wonderful interdisciplinary conversations and may lead to a collection of essays which, we hope, will make a real contribution to transatlantic scholarship.

I was especially glad to forge a contact with the relatively new Rothermere American Institute at Oxford, which hosted the event. The RAI draws scholars from a number of nations and institutions to carry out research and create such intellectual exchanges on American politics and culture as this conference represents. As American Studies grows more international, these institutional connections will become more important for scholars. Finally, I was also able to pursue my own research interests in 19th-century American writers in Europe; I presented a paper at the conference on a New England writer, New York journalist, and foreign correspondent: “Margaret Fuller’s New-York Tribune Dispatches from Great Britain: Modern Geography and Reform Rhetoric.” Thanks to CIE for supporting both aspects of my work—the scholarship and the international conference—by helping to fund the trip!

Other participants in this truly transatlantic conference included scholars from England, Ireland, Germany, France, Norway, Canada, and Turkey. In fact, the panel that I chaired, on “New Englanders in Great Britain in the 1890s,” included two scholars from England (Alison Easton from Lancaster University and F. Jane Silvey, an independent scholar based in Worcester, England) and a third from Turkey (Stephanie Palmer, an American now teaching American studies at Bilkent University). Jane Silvey and Alison Easton’s papers dealt with transatlantic intel-

Professor Sherman chaired one of the conference sessions.

I am very grateful to have received a CIE grant to help fund my travel to Oxford, England this July for a conference entitled “Transatlantic Women: Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers in Great Britain, Ireland and Europe.” The conference was sponsored by the Harriet Beecher Stowe Society, the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society, and the Margaret Fuller Society, as well as the Rothermere American Institute and St. Catherine’s College, both based in Oxford. My UNH colleague, Professor Brigitte Bailey, was one of the conference organizers and another UNH colleague, Professor Lisa MacFarlane, also attended.

CIE International Development Grant winners for spring 2009

The following faculty members were awarded $500 grants for academic travel abroad between January 1 and June 30, 2009.

While in New Zealand this semester Ahmad Etebari, pro-
fessor of finance, will participate in professional seminars and
meet with colleagues at Otago University and Waikato Univer-
sity and with research staff of the New Zealand Securities Com-
mission related to his research on insider trading.

Lynette Hamlin, associate professor of nursing, for March
travel to Celaya, Mexico, where she will help to launch, in part-
nership with the University of Guanajuato, the Nursing Depart-
ment’s new international health study program.

Joanne Curran Celentano, professor of nutritional sci-
ences for April travel to Pollenzo, Italy. She will attend classes
and meet with faculty and administrators at the University of
Gastronomic Sciences to discuss the new UNH Ecogastronomy
dual major program.

Leslie Couse, assistant professor of education and Dora
Chen, assistant professor of child and family studies, will travel
to Beijing, China, in May to spend a month visiting preschools,
conducting focused observations on teaching methods and
children’s engagement in the learning process, and to provide
inservice training for teachers.

Lori Hopkins and Marco Dorfsman, associate profes-
sors of Spanish, will travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June to
participate in a Latin American Studies Association conference
panel on, “Imaginary Equality and Identity in Contemporary
Literature.”

William Kempster, associate professor of music, will travel
with about 50 members of the UNH Concert Choir to the Czech
Republic in June to compete in the prestigious Bohuslav Marti-
tinu Choral Competition.

Wheeler Ruml, assistant professor of computer science,
plans to establish a research collaboration with colleagues at the
Cork Constraint Computation Centre while in Cork, Ireland, in
June. He will be joined by undergraduate IROP awardee Kevin
Rose, who will conduct research in Cork this coming summer.

(SHERMAN, continued from previous page)
lecular and literary influences on Sarah Orne Jewett, a writer I
have studied extensively. It was fascinating to hear about the
rich, new connections they had unearthed. A current interest of
mine, in both my research and teaching, is the way that nine-
teenth-century writers like Jewett treated issues raised by liberal
religious and political thought. On this topic, both papers were
illuminating. Silvey’s addressed the long-standing correspon-
dence between Jewett and Mrs. Humphrey Ward, the English
author of a best-selling and controversial novel, Robert Elsmere
(1888), about the intellectual and spiritual development of a
young Protestant minister. Easton’s paper looked at the wide
range of Jewett’s reading in English liberalism and her appreci-
ation of progressive Episcopal ministers such as Boston’s
Phillips Brooks. A central goal of the conference was to bring
these kinds of previously unstudied relationships to light and I
thought the panelists succeeded brilliantly. Similarly, Stephanie
Palmer’s paper on Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, a local color writer
and contemporary of Jewett’s, demonstrated the complexities of
transatlantic literary interpretation through a comparative study
of English and American reviews of Freeman’s New England
stories. It was startling at times to see how differently English
and American writers read the same texts: a case study in com-
parative cultural analysis. Other panels offered equally ground-
breaking papers. For example, a talk on Harriet Beecher Stowe
revealed her deep knowledge of German historicist criticism of
the Bible and her application of those interpretive theories in
her novels. A fascinating paper on George Sand persuasively
argued that antebellum women writers in the United States were
crucially influenced by this scandalous French woman writer,
an influence they acknowledged in their private letters and jour-
nals, but felt forced to deny in public. I could continue at much
greater length, but let me just say that this was a remarkably
productive and inspiring conference, marked by great collegial-
ity and good-will and capped by a magisterial keynote speech
given by Elaine Showalter, a revered founder of the field of
women’s literary studies. I should add that, as an editor for the
publishing series “Becoming Modern: New Nineteenth-Cen-
tury Studies,” which has transatlantic studies as part of its mis-
sion, I also used the conference as an opportunity to scout for
promising manuscripts. I discussed some exciting projects with
authors from both the US and abroad and managed, I hope, to
raise awareness of the series, which is sponsored by the Univer-
sity of New Hampshire Press and the University Press of New
England. Finally, my stay in Oxford was inspiring in itself. I
had never been there before and the city was just as beautiful as
writers have described it. To be part of such a wonderful schol-
arly occasion in such a storied place was pure magic and I am,
again, extraordinarily grateful to the CIE for helping to make
my trip possible.
I travelled to Russia thinking about one of the famous quotes of Winston Churchill: “Russia is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, surrounded by an enigma.” When I returned from Russia I thought that perhaps that quote was appropriate before the internet and proliferation of global travel, but not so much now. I went to Russia to present a paper at Mari-State University in Yoshkar-Ola, Russia, province of Mari-El.

My presentation was about the effects of hearing impairment on language development and ways of improving language development in children with hearing impairment. I also visited the major school for deaf for the province in the neighboring village of Semenovka. I repeated my presentation to teachers and had meetings with them and the headmaster. Finally, I was invited as a guest to a performing arts competition for deaf children where they signed and sang to classic and popular music. This occurred at the Mari Branch of the All Russia Deaf Society in Yoshkar-Ola. At the end of this competition I was asked to address the students, and answer questions from members of the adult deaf organization who attended.

As I interacted with all these people, I thought of the parable about the several blind men each describing an elephant while feeling a different part of the elephant. They describe the elephant differently and then argue with each other about what an elephant really is. In reality, they are all describing the elephant, but just from a different perspective. I discovered that there were many commonalities between educational and communication approaches in the United States and Russia, and also some significant differences. But even these differences were just a different way of describing how to help children with hearing impairment. I saw things from a different perspective, and it is good to stretch one’s way of thinking.

I was treated like royalty when I was in Russia, and that is no exaggeration. The people were kind and caring. The people that I met in Russia want very much to have a connection with American people. It was of great interest to me that in addition to professional questions, I was asked the following types of questions almost equally: “What do you think about Russian people?”, “How can you vote in American election if you are here?”, “Who do you want to win American election?” I thought about this while I was traveling from Russia to Frankfurt during the middle of the night U.S. time, election night, not knowing who the next president would be. It was a surreal experience sitting on the airplane and then walking through the Frankfurt airport asking “Do you know who won the American election?”

A Russian newspaper covered Bornstein’s visit.

It had a personal meaning for me to hear that Barack Obama would be the next president. I thought about my grandparents who came from Russia. I thought about Barack Obama being the first president who was African-American. I thought about my father, who was Jewish, and my mother, who was Catholic, dating and not marrying for sixteen years because the religious difference made it taboo. Sixteen years to wait for a marriage. Approximately two and a quarter centuries to wait for an African-American president. The people of Russia want to have a connection with American people. Most of them want peace in this world, as do most of us. It’s time to move forward.
Louis S. Tisa, professor of microbiology and genetics

Professor Louis Tisa traveled to Argentina, in October 2008 to present research at the 15th International Conference on ‘Frankia’ and Actinorhizal Plants.

With the assistance of a travel grant from the Center for International Education at UNH, I was able to attend and present our research at the 15th International Conference on Frankia and Actinorhizal Plants. The conference focused on the nitrogen-fixing symbiosis between the soil actinomycete Frankia and its root-nodulated, angiospermous host plants. Actinorhizal plants (Frankia-nodulated) are almost exclusively woody plants that play a significant role economically and ecologically in agriculture and in the environment. The actinorhizal symbiosis is a strong contributor to global biological nitrogen fixation process. You would find these actinorhizal plants in New Hampshire located in nutrient-poor soils including the coastal sand dunes and gravel pits. The meeting attracted scientists from 18 countries from five continents. The depth of the different research areas ranged from the molecular biology and phylogeny of the bacterium or host plant to their cellular biology and to field studies on the symbiosis. The strength of the conference is its integration of studies on the basic and applied aspect of the symbiosis. My research group is studying functional genomic approaches toward the bacterial partner and its relationship with its plant host.

There were several important highlights on this trip. First, my lecture on combining in silico approaches with wet-laboratory studies was enthusiastically received. The identification of unique Frankia natural products will affect future studies and was a logical extension from our ground-breaking collaborative work elucidation of three complete Frankia genome sequences. Second, I am leading another Frankia sequencing project that is sequencing the five different genomes from unique habitats worldwide. Almost all of the research groups involved in that collaboration project attended this meeting and helped solidify this international collaboration. Lastly, this direct face-to-face interaction provided an opportunity to develop further the existing collaborations and establish new collaborations. From March to June, 2008, I had a short sabbatical stay in Didier Bosgusz’s laboratory at the Instiut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) in Montpellier, France, and initiated a collaborative research project on plant-microbe interaction. At this meeting, Didier and I began to outline and develop two research proposals that we hope to submit to NSF and other funding agencies. Claudio Valverde and Luis Wall (Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina) initiated two new collaborative projects. Several European and Asian laboratories also want to establish an exchange program that will cross-train our students with our genetic and genomic techniques and their ecological or field studies. One of my career goals is to continue these international research collaborations which provide unique training and educational opportunities for UNH students. I hope to further these efforts in December 2008 in Tunisia, and will be the opening plenary speaker for the 13th Congress of the African Association for Biological Nitrogen Fixation.

Faculty International Development Grants

* $500 grants for travel between July 1, 2009 and December 30, 2009

* $1000-$3000 grants for faculty to initiate or expand international teaching, research, or outreach activities between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010.

Deadline: April 24, 2009

(Guidelines and applications are available on line at http://www.unh.edu/cie/faculty/grants.html)