

UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

A quarterly newsletter of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Faculty Exchange Program awards fellowship grants

Through the UC Faculty Exchange Program (FEP), UC member universities have been given the opportunity to expand their networks, meet counterparts, and have a first-hand experience on academic and research activities in their fields of expertise. This UC program have also paved the way for

collaborative undertakings as well as the experience of teaching courses

the opportunity to network with their identified host universities.



Dr. Masyhuri



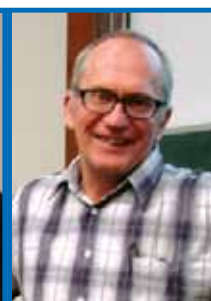
Dr. Artachinda



Dr. Prayitno



Dr. Ngersiri



Dr. Merritt

in his/her field of specialization in accordance with the needs of the host university.

Since its inception, the program was able to award 106 fellowship grants. For the first half of 2011, five expert academicians were given

UGM's Dr. Masyhuri visits UPLB

Dr. Masyhuri, professor of Agribusiness & Agricultural Economics & UC coordinator of the Universitas

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KU confers honorary degree to His Imperial Highness Prince Akishino of Japan

Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand conferred, on 8 March 2011, the Degree of Doctor of Science (Animal Science) honoris causa to His Imperial Highness Prince Akishino of Japan for his tireless devotion and unique contribution to research in animal science. Associate Professor Vudtechai Kapilakanchana, President of KU and Dr. Kamphol Adulavidhaya, Chair of the KU Council welcomed His Imperial Highness upon his arrival at the university.

and staff, guests and students witnessed the conferment ceremony, which took place at KU's Sutham Areekul Auditorium.

Members of the Kasetsart University Council, Council of Deans, faculty members



Photo courtesy of KU website

UGM Faculty of Agricultural Technology welcomes three new officers

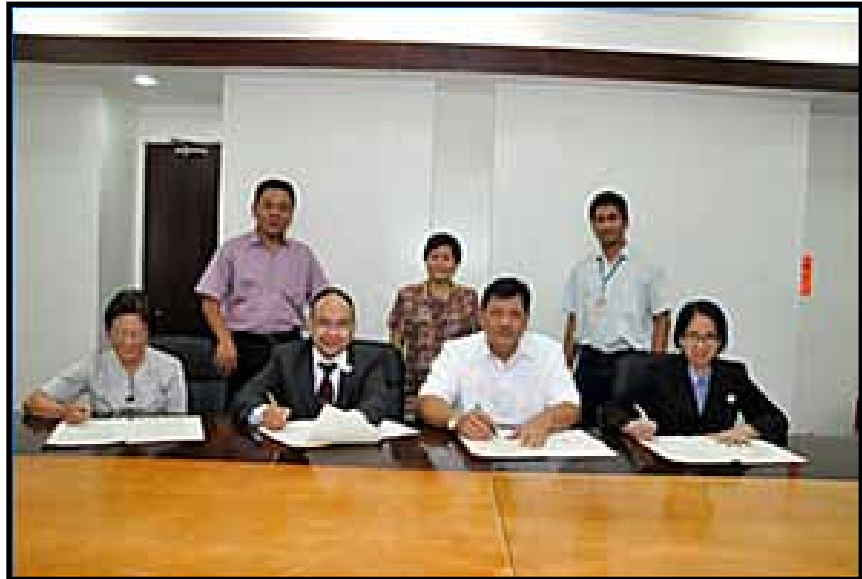
UGM Rector Prof. Ir. Sudjarwadi, M. Eng., Ph.D. led the inauguration of three new officers of the Faculty of Agricultural Technology on 30 May 2011 at the UGM Leadership meeting room. Dr. Sudjarwadi signed the appointments of the following officers: Dr. Ir. Muhammad Nur Cahyanto, M.Sc. as Chairman of the Department of Food Technology and Agricultural Products; Dr. Ir. Adi Djoko Guritno, M.S.I.E. as Chairman of the Department of Industrial Technology of Agriculture; and Dr. Henry Yulianto, S.T.P., M.M, M. Agr., as Secretary of the Department of Industrial Technology of Agriculture.

Dr. Sudjarwadi hopes that the newly elected officers will be able to continue the achievements of the officials they have succeeded. In addition to the duties and responsibilities that have been passed on to them, Dr. Sudjarwadi hopes that these new officials will be able to increase the research output of their respective departments and extend existing networks. As Indonesia is confronted with complex issues on food security, he is counting on the faculty “to become the agent of change” and to be “leading innovators of food affairs in Indonesia.”

He also took this opportunity to thank the former officials for their hard work in steering the Faculty and in turn, the nation, into a better direction. In addition, he informed everyone that the UGM has won a competitive grant program on “developing global reputation with a national character.” He said that this achievement wouldn’t be possible without the participation and cooperation of the faculty.

Source: UGM News Page | 6 June 2011

UPLB inks MOA with Cambodian University



The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the University of South East Asia (USEA) in Cambodia on 28 February 2011 for academic collaboration. The two universities shall undertake the exchange of faculty, researchers, research and administrative staff, and students as well conduct lectures, symposia and research projects.

The signing ceremony took place at the Office of the Chancellor of UPLB. Dr. Florinia Merca, director of the Office of Institutional Linkages, and Dr. Dina dela Cruz, USEA director for research and development and international relations, witnessed the MOA signing between UPLB Chancellor Dr. Luis Rey Velasco and USEA Vice President for Administration and Finance Dr. Rous Bunthy. Dr. dela Cruz is a former staff of the UPLB Graduate School and a SEARCA alumna.

Also present were Dr. Flordeliza

Lantican, dean of the College of Economics and Management, Prof. Vladimir Mariano, director of the Institute of Computer Science, and Prof. Jerry Yap, chair of the Department of Humanities. Prof. Yap presented the English Language training program of UPLB, while Dean Lantican discussed CEM’s training program on biodiversity with the Tokyo University of Agriculture and other training programs that they offer. In the meantime, Prof. Mariano discussed the possible offering of training programs on open source software as well as short courses on how to conduct research in information technology.

The two universities also plan to undertake exchange of faculty, researchers, research and administrative staff, and students; aside from conducting collaborative research projects, lectures, and symposia, and sharing and exchanging of academic information and materials.

Source: UPLB News | 14 March 2011

IPB promotes tropical forest and marine biodiversity of Indonesia through summer course for international students

The country of Indonesia is well known for its diverse natural resources due to its size, close proximity to the equator and archipelagic geography. Despite occupying only 1.3 percent of the world's total landmass, this Southeast Asian nation has a high level of biodiversity, second only to Brazil. Several species of flora and fauna are endemic to this country of 17,508 islands.

However, continued existence of Indonesia's gift of biodiversity is constantly facing a huge threat due to human activities and global climatic changes.

In order to promote the beauty and emphasize the vulnerability of Indonesia's terrestrial and marine biodiversity to more people especially the youth, the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) is offering a summer course entitled "An introduction to tropical biodiversity from the forest to the sea." The summer course is open to all interested international students who are either in their undergraduate or postgraduate studies.

The two-week course consists of lectures, practical field work, seminar sessions, and excursion activities which will take them from IPB's Darmaga campus to the forests of Gunung Walat in Sukabumi-West Java, Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Parks and the marine ecosystem of Semak Daun Island, part of the Seribu Islands in Jakarta.

The summer course hopes to achieve the following objectives:

introduce the participating students to the biodiversity richness of the tropical forests and marine ecosystems of Indonesia; promote the exchange of knowledge on nature and culture; and increase students' interest in tropical biodiversity.

Interested parties should accomplish an application form and submit it together with their resume (or curriculum vitae), an official letter from their home institution authorizing their participation and a health certificate.

A fee of US\$1700 covers instruction, course materials, lodging, food and local transportation. Roundtrip airfare, pre-departure expenses (including visas), health and travel insurance and personal expenses are not included. The application deadline is four weeks prior to the field course date. For international students who will file their

application as a group, they may choose their preferred dates. For more information on application procedures, you may contact the following persons:

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Photo courtesy of IPB Summer Course on Tropical Forest and Aquatic Biodiversity Brochure

UC Faculty Exchange, from p. 1

Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia, visited the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) from 23 April to 2 May 2011. Dr. Masyhuri completed his Straight PhD Program in Agricultural Economics in 1988 at UPLB. Aside from being a professor, Dr. Masyhuri is also the director of the Center for World Trade Studies of UGM.



1. With former major Adviser Dr. Cabanilla (most right) and former Co-adviser Dr. Lantican (center).
2. Courtesy call on Dr. Francisco F. Penalba, SEARCA's Deputy Director for Administration.
3. At IRRI with Dr. Thelma R. Paris, Senior Scientist/Socio-Economist-Gender Specialist & Deputy Division Head Social Sciences Division.
4. Dr. Masyhuri delivers a message at the Graduate School Hooding Ceremonies.

The visit of Dr. Masyhuri was highlighted by his being the guest speaker at the UPLB Graduate School (UPLB-GS) Hooding Ceremonies held on 25 April 2011 upon the invitation of Dr. Oscar B. Zamora, Dean of UPLB-GS.

During the 10-day visit, Dr. Masyhuri met with the following officials: Dean Zamora and Dr. Cristeta Cuaresma, Secretary of the UPLB GS; Dr. Flordeliza Lantican, Dean of the College of Economics and Management (CEM) and former co-adviser; Dr. Jose Camacho, CEM Associate Dean; Dr. Prudenciano Gordoncillo, Chair, Department of Agricultural Economics; Dr. Amelia L. Bello, Chair of the Department of Economics; Dr. Reynaldo Tan, Chair of the Department of Agribusiness Management; and Dr. Isabelita Pabuayon, director of the Institute of Cooperatives and Bio-Enterprise Development (ICOPED).

Dr. Masyhuri also met with the following officials to discuss possible areas for collaboration: Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, Deputy Director for Administration; Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Knowledge Management Department Manager; and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Project Development and Management Manager of SEARCA; Ms. Corinta Q. Guerta, Head, Office of External Relations and Donor Relations and Projects Coordination Office and Dr. Thelma Paris, Deputy Division Head of IRRI; Dr. Primo Garcia of the UP Open University; Dr. Patricio S. Faylon, Director of PCARRD and Dr. Ernesto Brown from the Socio-Economics Research Division, PCARRD; and Dr. Agustina Musa of the Asian Development B.

Speaking before 157 Master's and 67 PhD candidates during the UPLB-GS Hooding Ceremony, Dr. Masyhuri shared the various challenges he encountered and the enriching experiences he had as a graduate student in UPLB. Being a

foreign student in a country whose second language is English, he shared that he had to double his efforts in studying for the oral and written examinations because of his English handicap at that time.

He also had to deal with problems regarding his scholarship funding as well as domestic problems back home. Despite the daunting challenges, he persevered in his studies until he completed his PhD degree. Aside from sharing anecdotes from his life as a graduate student in UPLB, he also gave the graduates some sound advice. He told them that graduation is not the end of their education. They should try their best "to continue to learn even after they have graduated." Dr. Masyhuri also told them that the degree they earned would enable them to take advantage of the various work opportunities in store for them upon their return to their home institutions.

Dr. Masyhuri also conducted study visits as part of the faculty exchange program. Dr. Masyhuri visited Joshua's Meat Products in Nagcarlan, Laguna, a successful agribusiness enterprise and the New Batong Malaki Public Market Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Los Banos, Laguna. He also presented a paper on Food Security in Indonesia in a special Agriculture and Development Seminar Series session at SEARCA.

KU's Dr. Artachinda visits IPB

Dr. Orachos Napasintuwong Artachinda of the Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University (KU), Thailand visited the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Indonesia to explore opportunities for possible collaboration between KU and IPB.

Prof. Artachinda met with the Head of International Programs, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics, and the Head of Postgraduate

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UC Faculty Exchange, from p. 4

Programs in Economics to discuss matters regarding the University Consortium.

Areas for possible collaboration between the two universities include the organization of seminar visits from the students and staff of the IPB to the Faculty of Economics in KU and continuation of graduate programs of IPB students in the international graduate programs at KU.

Both institutions will look into tapping funds from scholarship donor agencies and in improving research collaboration and student exchange program via existing programs such as European Academic Mobility Network with Asia and M-I-T Student Mobility Program between Malaysian, Indonesian and Thai institutions.

In fulfillment of the requirements of the faculty exchange program, Prof. Artachinda conducted a lecture on “The economics of agricultural biotechnology in developing countries,” and a special lecture on “Induced innovation theory and technological change.”

Aside from these lectures, she visited the University Farm and the Surfactant and Bioenergy Research Center of IPB.

UGM’s Dr. Prayitno visits TUA

Dr. Tibertius A. Prayitno, professor of Wood Science and Technology at the Faculty of Forestry of UGM, Indonesia visited the Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) in Japan from 20 February - 1 March 2011.

Dr. Prayitno’s program of visit included meetings with the academic staff of the host university, a visit to Shizuoka University, the Tokyo

Board Industries plant and Hakone to see the giant Japanese Sugi trees, the conduct of a seminar on Indonesian Bamboo Technology and exploring opportunities for possible collaboration between UGM and the identified TUA institutes.

On 21 February 2011, Dr. Prayitno made a courtesy call to TUA President, Prof. Dr. Kanju Ohsawa. He also met with Prof. Akimi Fujimoto, TUA representative to the University Consortium and Consortium Coordinator, and Dr. Hiroya Ohbayashi, Associate Professor from the Laboratory of Wood Science and Technology.

At Hakone, Prof. Jun Kobayashi, head of the TUA Laboratory of Wood Science and Technology talked about the distribution of forests in Japan, from the lowlands of Tokyo to the highlands of Hakone. Prof. Kobayashi also discussed the conservation efforts they have undertaken to preserve the giant Japanese Sugi trees.

Dr. Prayitno noted that despite these trees growing in close proximity to commercial areas like Hakone, the Japanese people were able protect their existence, some of which are already over 300 years old.

During the visit to the Tokyo Board Industries, a particleboard plant in Tokyo, officials from the Tokyo Board discussed how they processed wood waste from Tokyo. Particleboards are wood products made of small chips of timber, lumber and wood. Dr. Prayitno was most interested in the plant’s wood waste processing and was inspired by the plant’s efforts to reuse wood waste. He also shared that in Yogyakarta, the collected wood waste is just thrown away or burnt for energy.

At Shizuoka University, Dr. Prayitno met with Dr. Suzuki and some university graduate students, where he was given an orientation of the university’s latest technologies in forestry research and recent forest product innovations.



1. Dr. Prayitno in front of TUA campus.
2. Discussion with researchers on wood science and technology.
3. Hugging one of the giant sugi trees preserved by TUA in Hakone conservation forest.
4. Dr. Prayitno posing with TUA professors and students after delivering a lecture on Bamboo Technology in Indonesia.

To cap his visit, Dr. Prayitno delivered a seminar on Indonesian Bamboo Technology, attended by Prof. Kobayashi, Dr. Ohbayashi, junior faculty and graduate students from the Forestry Science.

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UGM students' innovative coconut fiber pillow wins national competition

Three Industrial Engineering students of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) won first place at the Make and Sell competition held at Ten November Surabaya Institute of Technology on 25-27 February 2011.

The students' winning idea, a pillow made from discarded coconut fiber pillow bested 83 other equally good entries from dozens of universities. The competition emphasizes creativity in creating product innovations that are

environmentally friendly.

Ismiati, Annisa Dewi Akbari and Irfan Anshori came up with the idea after Irfan observed that much of the coconut fiber waste generated by industries are just sold cheaply, burned or simply thrown away. Realizing the potential of turning the waste into a useful and environment-friendly product, the three students put their heads together and came up with the design and the procedure of making the cocopillow, their

entry for the competition.

Although the pillows are not yet mass produced, they are now available for IDR 39 thousand apiece. According to Ismiati, the cocopillow compared with the typical pillow is more durable and comfortable because of its design that adapts to the spinal curves. "The pillow has indentation in the middle, making it very comfortable to sleep on," she furthers.

Source: UGM News | 21 March 2011

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KU's Dr. Ngersiri visits UQ

On 17-26 April 2011, Dr. Lertluk Ngersiri, an associate professor from the Department of Genetics, Faculty of Science at the Kasetsart University (KU) returned the University of Queensland (UQ), where she obtained her doctoral degree in Zoology and Entomology a few years back. In UQ she had the opportunity to train on the injection techniques to stain insect nerve fibers with fluorescent dyes. These two are techniques that, according to Dr. Ngersiri, are beneficial for her current studies, and can be echoed to her colleagues in KU, as well.

Apart from her training, she met with Dr. David J. Merritt, to discuss common research interests, which can be the subject of future collaborations between the two universities.

To conclude her fellowship grant, Dr. Ngersiri presented before a UQ audience her research on giant water bug, creeping water

bug and lac insect. There, she had the opportunity to meet Dr. Lyn C. Cook, an expert on scale insects who she was able to share and exchange knowledge particularly on lac insects.

UQ's Dr. Merritt visits KU

Dr. David J. Merritt, an Associate Professor of the School of Biological Science, University of Queensland (UQ) travelled to the Kasetsart University in June 2011 for a one week visit under the same UC fellowship grant. Dr. Merritt leads the Entomology Curriculum Australia (ECA), a project funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council which aims to provide a set of subjects in entomology through distance education. Through the fellowship grant, Dr. Merritt was able to meet with the Australian Education Center in KU to explore the possibility of expanding this distance learning module in the current curricula of KU and other universities in Thailand.

Dr. Merritt met with fellow FEP grantee Dr. Lertluk Ngersiri, whom



Dr. Ngersiri (KU) and Dr. Merritt (UQ) share common research interests in insect genetics, development and physiology.

he considers a long-time colleague owing to their mutual interest in insect genetics, development and physiology.

To conclude his week-long visit, Dr. Merritt presented a public scientific lecture on "Bioluminescent insects and their circadian rhythms in caves," based on the work he has done in Australia and New Zealand.

(AVLAlcala with reports from Dr. Masyuri, Prof. Artachinda, Dr. Prayitno, Dr. Ngersiri and Dr. Merritt)

The University Consortium

The Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources is a program launched on 19 September 1989 by SEARCA.

The idea of having such a program was formed in August 1988 when SEARCA, with convened a meeting of deans of five leading agricultural graduate schools in the region. The deans noted a rising demand for graduate education across all agricultural disciplines and related fields, strong agricultural and demographic pressures, and tremendous growth in education, and agreed to the idea of establishing a University Consortium.

The objectives of the Consortium are:

1. To provide highly trained personnel in agriculture and natural resources for national development of Southeast Asian countries.
2. To promote mutually beneficial cooperation among agricultural universities in the region.
3. To utilize more fully and efficiently the scarce resources and expertise available in each country in the region for top-quality graduate education and research.
4. To stimulate freer sharing and exchange of information, facilities, and expertise among agricultural universities in the region.

SEARCA has served as the Consortium's Secretariat since 1989. Its founding members are Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) and Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), both in Indonesia; Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Malaysia; University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in the Philippines; and Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand. Four associate members have been admitted, namely: University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada, University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia, Georg-August University of Göttingen (GAUG) in Germany, and Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) in Japan.

"To be a leader in implementing collaborative strategies for excellent graduate education and cutting-edge research in agriculture, environment, and natural resources for the benefit of Southeast Asia" - this is the vision of the revitalized University Consortium.

The Consortium has five components, namely: student exchanges, faculty visits, research fellowships, professorial chairs, and thesis grants.

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University Consortium is a newsletter of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) for the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC). It can be downloaded from the UC website at <http://www.uc.searca.org>

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SEARCA scholars conferred awards at UPLB graduation rites

Two SEARCA scholars, both Filipinos, were recipients of the Academic Excellence Award conferred by the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) during the recognition ceremonies held on 25 April 2011. The 39th UPLB Commencement Exercises was held on 26 April 2011 at the D.L. Umali Freedom Park on the UPLB campus in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines.

Ms. Aisa O. Manlosa, MS in environmental science, and Ms. Michelle Grace V. Paraso, PhD in environmental science, garnered the highest general weighted average for their respective degree programs.

Ms. Manlosa and Dr. Paraso were joined by 22 other SEARCA scholars in the roster of UPLB graduates in this year's commencement exercises, namely:

Mr. Nguon Samnang, Cambodian, MS in food science;

Mr. Venn Vutey, Cambodian, MS in veterinary medicine;

Ms. RR Devita Anggraeni, Indonesian, PhD in animal science;

Mr. Panji Deoranto, Indonesian, PhD in agricultural economics;

Ms. Bhakti Etza Setiani, Indonesian, MS in food science;



Among the SEARCA scholars who joined the graduation ceremonies at the D.L. Umali Freedom Park on the campus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) on 26 April 2011 are (L-R): Dr. Raquel M. Balanay (Filipino), Dr. Yi Yi Soe (Myanmar), Dr. Michelle Grace V. Paraso (Filipino), Dr. Violeto N. Coronacion (Filipino), Dr. Myo Kyaw Thu (Myanmar), and Dr. Panji Deoranto (Indonesian).

Ms. Raquel M. Balanay, Filipino, PhD in agricultural economics;

Mr. Violeto N. Coronacion, Filipino, PhD in agricultural education;

Ms. Gay Therese M. Bucol, Filipino, MS in horticulture;

Mr. Kenneth A. Laruan, Filipino, PhD in forestry

Mr. Stephen Rey P. Ligasan, Filipino, PhD in community development;

Ms. Lucille T. Minguez, Filipino, MS in plant pathology;

Mr. Joselito I. Rosario, Filipino, PhD in forest resources management;

Mr. Andres M. Tuates, Jr., Filipino, MS in agricultural engineering;

Ms. Aye Aye Myint, Myanmar, PhD in entomology;

Ms. Khin San New, Myanmar, PhD in agronomy;

Mr. Myo Kyaw Thu, Myanmar, PhD in agronomy;

Ms. Nyo Mar Htwe, Myanmar, PhD in plant breeding;

Ms. Yi Yi Soe, Myanmar, PhD in horticulture;

Ms. Wilaiwun Intarachaimas, Thai, PhD in agricultural education;

Mr. Afonso Alves DJ Candido, Timorese, Master of Public Affairs (Local Governance and Development);

Ms. Ngo Thi Thanh Truc, Vietnamese, PhD in environmental science; and

Mr. Tran Duc Tri, Vietnamese, MS in agricultural economics.

All the above-mentioned scholars completed their programs under the regular SEARCA scholarship, except for Mr. Ligasan and Mr. Rosario, who were PhD research scholars.

Of the total number of scholars who graduated from UPLB, four were supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). (LLDDomingo)

UBC researchers awarded \$2 million by NSERC programs

University of British Columbia researchers have received a total of \$2 million from two grant programs of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). More than 140 UBC students also received NSERC scholarships, fellowships and awards.

Twelve projects received a total of \$1.44 million over three years from the Discovery Accelerator Supplements (DAS) program, which recognizes outstanding researchers and boost their studies to produce groundbreaking

advances. The grants were part of an investment of \$14.7 million for 123 grants announced today by Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology) at Brock University.

Meanwhile, more than 140 UBC students received the Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships and NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships and Postdoctoral Fellowships Programs – ranging from \$17,300 to \$105,000.

Source: UBC Media Release | 17 Jun 2011

