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The speech covered several topics ranging from balancing great teaching and research, to motivating students to consider furthering their education at the graduate level.

“In order to be an excellent teacher, you need to have good scholarship,” says Marande. “Scholarship changes students’ attitudes toward learning. They feel a part of something and look for more ways to get involved. The two go hand-in-hand.”

The invitation to speak at the conference demonstrates the outstanding reach and respect BU’s College of Science and Technology has achieved, Marande says in the liberal arts community on the east coast. The MAALACT conference hosted representatives from 90 liberal arts universities in the region, including the University of Delaware, Huntington College and Shippensburg University.

“This was an outstanding opportunity for our college,” says Marande. “From the faculty up to the dean, it really speaks volumes for our college.”

Both before and after the speech, colleagues from the other universities approached Marande about integrating the new ideas and research techniques that he mentioned in his keynote. “It was a reward for not only me, but for everyone who is part of the college.”

The conference included a banquet, committee discussions on chemistry research, education techniques and current issues, as well as a display of newly released chemistry textbooks.

“Marande gives keynote speech at chemistry conference”

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Athletic Training Earns Accreditation

Bloomsburg University’s Master of Science in Athletic Training program recently became one of only 23 schools to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) and the only accredited entry-level program in the state.

“This puts us on the national map,” says Joseph Hazzard, assistant professor of exercise science and athletics and the program director for athletic training education. “It is a very big deal to us. Most students don’t look at programs that aren’t accredited.”

The year-long accreditation process began in September 2009 with a comprehensive self-study by the exercise science department faculty that described what they were doing to meet CAATE’s standards for education.

In February, two reviewers visited campus and met with faculty and students, looking for areas of non-compliance. BU faculty completed detailed paperwork and sent the final submission in August.

“This certainly wouldn’t have been possible without a lot of support from the president on down. It was a full department process,” says Hazzard. “We’re proud that we got it.”

The program has been growing steadily over the past few years and, as Pennsylvania’s only entry-level option, is expecting a boost in enrollment within the next two years. Faculty hope many exercise science majors and former student-athletes from the university’s Bachelor of Science programs will consider the newly accredited program.

The program’s initial accreditation status is secured through the 2014-2015 academic year, when the next CAATE comprehensive review will commence.

Vice Chancellor from Cameroon visits BU

Vincent P.K. Titanji, vice chancellor of the University of Buea in Cameroon and parasitology scientist, visited Bloomsburg University in September to discuss a cooperative agreement and student exchange program between the two institutions in conjunction with the science and technology programs.

Titanji met with Robert Marande, dean of the College of Science and Technology, BU Provost Ira Blake and several other faculty members during his three-day stay in Bloomsburg. He also gave two lectures about his recent research on malaria vaccines and battling drug-resistant tuberculosis.

“Naturally, being a scientist himself, he was interested in the science programs here at the university,” says S. Ekema Agbaw, professor of English. “He was very impressed by the instruction of the programs that he saw.”

According to Agbaw, Titanji was excited about the prospect of joint research projects and growing the contacts between the universities for even greater education and research opportunities.

The University of Buea and BU already have general education study abroad agreements, but this recent visit helped reaffirm the established contracts and expanded it to include the science and technology programs, as well as a new overseas practicum with the early childhood education program.

“His visit was very successful,” says Agbaw. “The more people that know each other on both ends, the more growth and expansion will occur.”

The study abroad program has already sent more than 20 students to the University of Buea to take classes under the supervision of Agbaw. With the addition of the new cooperation agreements, the numbers are expected to be much greater in the coming years.

“Chancellor Titanji was very appreciative of his time here,” says Agbaw. “We have agreed that there are even more areas of which we can collaborate in the future.”