



Global Opportunity Initiative 2019

The Global Opportunity Initiative is a cohort-based faculty development program geared toward capacity building, network development, and team-building to pursue global initiatives. For 2019, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine have teamed up to offer this program.

The colleges have partnered with Washington D.C. based Global Knowledge Initiative, a non-profit that builds purpose-driven networks. Select early-career faculty from both colleges will learn to simplify complex research challenges, refine their research pitch, build collaboration and networking skills, and foster networking with agencies, NGOs, and contractors active in global engagement.

This intensive experience includes workshops in Washington, D.C. and Blacksburg, Virginia, along with a capstone trip to sites in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda with colleagues from the African Center of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management at Kenya's Egerton University.



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
GLOBAL PROGRAMS
VIRGINIA TECH.



Virginia-Maryland
College of **Veterinary Medicine**

Global Opportunity Initiative Team

Fellows



Tiffany Drape

Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and
Community Education
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Tiffany Drape is a program evaluator and social scientist who focuses on diffusion of education and community development.



Gillian Eastwood

Assistant Professor
Department of Entomology
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Gillian Eastwood is a vector-borne disease ecologist with a One Health interest in understanding pathogen transmission cycles and the human and environmental influences on emerging infectious disease. Her main focus is the ecology of mosquito- and tick-borne viruses.



Gonzalo Ferreira

Assistant Professor
Department of Dairy Science
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Gonzalo Ferreira is a dairy nutrition researcher and dairy management Extension specialist. His research program focuses on finding holistic strategies to attenuate the adverse effects of drought stress on dairy farming systems.



Vivica Kraak

Assistant Professor
Department of Human Nutrition,
Foods, and Exercise
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Vivica Kraak's research focuses on monitoring and evaluating government and industry policies and programs to create healthy, resilient, and sustainable food systems in various contexts. She currently has research collaborations in Australia, New Zealand, and Denmark.



Monica Ponder

Associate Professor
Department of Food Science and Technology
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Monica Ponder is a food microbiologist whose research focuses on understanding bacterial transmission in agroecosystems and developing critical control points to reduce contamination.

Mentors



Tom Thompson

Associate Dean and Director
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Tom Thompson is an agronomist and soil scientist whose recent research and outreach have focused on the adoption of conservation agriculture and nutrient management practices in smallholder farming systems in Haiti, Senegal, and Southeast Asia.



Ben Grove

Associate Director, Global Programs
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Ben Grove leads partnership formation for student and faculty mobility, research collaborations, and college and Extension priorities. Ben's graduate research interests focus on internationalization of Cooperative Extension Systems.



Cassidy Rist

Assistant Professor Center for Public and
Corporate Veterinary Medicine
Department of Population Health Sciences
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Cassidy Rist is engaged in the development of international programs for faculty and students in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Her research is focused on measuring the impact of veterinary health interventions across human, livestock, and environmental sectors in order to support program and policy development.



Jamie Stewart

Assistant Professor
Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences
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Jamie Stewart is a veterinarian with a specialty in food animal reproduction. Her research focuses on improving fertility and reproductive efficiency in ruminant species.