

Travel to Chisinau, Moldova
October 7 – 13, 2013

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During a visit from a delegation of Moldovan Scholars to NCSU in August 2013, I was invited by to visit Moldova by Dr. Cristina Cosciug, Vice Rector for International Relations at the State Agrarian University of Moldova (SAUM). The purpose of my visit to Moldova was to strengthen existing institutional linkages between NCSU and SAUM and to develop the administrative structures to begin to bring NCSU students and faculty to study and conduct collaborative research between both institutions. Since 2007 NCSU has had an MOU with SAUM. The visit was also organized to coincide with the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the founding of SAUM and the National Scientific Symposium “Modern Agriculture; Achievements and Prospects” October 9 – 11.

The first working day at SAUM I met with Dr. Gheorghe Cimpoeis, Rector of the University and other administrators and faculty of the University. I also attended the presentation of awarding the Title “Doctor Honoris Causa” to King Mihai of Romania who established SAUM in 1933. At that time, Moldova was a part of Romania. The following day I participated in the International Symposium and had the opportunity to meet with Rectors, Administrators and Faculty from regional Universities from Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, and Kazakhstan. That evening we were invited to attend a concert dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the SAUM at the National Theatre of Opera and Ballet. I also had, with the assistance from the N.C. Department of the Secretary of State, the opportunity to visit the US Embassy and Cultural Center to meet with Embassy officials regarding potential support for scholarships for Moldovan students and faculty who may wish to study at North Carolina State University. In addition to the meetings and scientific presentations, I had the opportunity to visit several cultural sites of interest including the Winery of “CRICOVA” and an excursion to the historical complex Old Orhei and the Curchi Monastery.

There have been a number of important accomplishments as a result of my travel to Moldova.

- 1) I had the opportunity to meet the Rector and other key SAUM administrators and faculty who have expressed interest in establishing a collaborative research agenda with NCSU and to establish student and faculty exchange opportunities between both institutions.
- 2) During the visit, I met with various university administrators and faculty from universities throughout the region who have expressed interest in establishing institutional linkages with NCSU.
- 3) I established a working relationship with key personnel at the US Embassy and Cultural Center to establish the mechanisms for Moldovan Fulbright exchanges to NCSU.

