

Access

A publication of KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Research and Grants

Kennesaw State faculty and staff received more than \$16 million last year to fund research projects. "Research Report" keeps you abreast of the university's increased research activity.

Jeremy Gulley, assistant professor of physics, has been awarded a three year, \$359,996 grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research for his project Multi-Chromatic Ultrashort Pulse Filamentation and Bulk Modification in Dielectrics. Gulley's work has importance for a number of applications in communications and national defense.

The Center for Sustainable Journalism at Kennesaw State University has taken an innovative approach to covering juvenile justice issues by opening a university-based news and information bureau in metropolitan New York. The bureau is housed at the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism and is funded by a three-year, \$255,000 grant from The Tow Foundation.

Associate Professor of Anthropology **Terry Powis** has again been funded (\$89,525) by the Alphawood Foundation for the Pacbitun Regional Archaeological Project, his long-term research program on the core and periphery of the ancient Maya site of Pacbitun, Belize. The 2013 field season will be the sixth year of Powis' project and the third year in a row that the Alphawood Foundation has provided funding.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology **Teresa Raczek** received a \$19,961 grant from the Committee for Research and Exploration of the National Geographic Society for the Javasiya Research Project. Through excavations at the site of Javasiya in Rajasthan, India, Raczek and her project team will study the role of nomadic groups in fostering the development of early social complexity.

IT'S OUR TIME! Kennesaw State University to start football program in 2015

by **Tammy DeMel**
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It was a sea of black and gold for as far as the eye could see when Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp and Director of Athletics Vaughn Williams announced that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia had approved Kennesaw State's request to add football to its 17-sport NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics program.

"I was told not to say this but... Are you ready for some football?" Papp asked the thousands of faculty members, staff, students, alumni, community and civic leaders who gathered at the Convocation Center to celebrate the news.

"This is an exciting day for Kennesaw State and a milestone that is the culmination of the hard work and support from many individuals on and off campus, most importantly the students," Papp said. "The addition of football at Kennesaw State will help bring positive national recognition to the university and strengthen the sense of pride and connection among students, alumni and the community at large."

In the plan presented to the Board of Regents, Papp and Williams provided a detailed business plan outlining start-up and operating expenses for the football program, Title IX considerations and revenue projections



KSU Athletic Director Vaughn Williams (center) tells an excited crowd at the Convocation Center about the road to kick-off in 2015 at a press conference announcing the start of football at Kennesaw State.

for the next six years. They also outlined the steps the University has made towards securing support for football among its students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community.

"It is important for us to acknowledge all of those who made this day possible, and there are many who supported our dream to bring

football to this campus," said Williams.

KSU Student Government Association President Rosalyn Hedgepeth said that students were enthusiastic about the launch of football. "Today we just saw excitement and that's the energy we expect to see in the stands come 2015."

Fifth Third Bank signs multi-sport sponsorship agreement with Kennesaw State

by **Alvin Barba**
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In announcing the launch of football, Kennesaw State also welcomed a new partner — Fifth Third Bank Georgia — which signed a multi-year sponsorship agreement that will provide substantial support for the start-up of the football program, as well as improvements to KSU Stadium and other athletics programs and facilities.

Under the terms of the agreement, Fifth Third Bank will be the "Official Bank of Kennesaw State Athletics" and will be granted naming rights to KSU Stadium. Fifth Third Bank also will receive sponsorship recognition at the KSU Convocation Center, Bailey Field and Stillwell Stadium, advertising in printed game programs, television and radio broadcasts and on KSUOwls.

com, the Department of Athletics' official website.

"We are thrilled to be associated with an institution such as Kennesaw State University that has similar growth plans, community commitments and values," said EVP and President of Fifth Third Bank Georgia Randolph Koporc. "Fifth Third anticipates a strong and lasting relationship with KSU, and we look forward to sharing in the excitement of all that is ahead for Kennesaw State, including the kickoff of the inaugural 2015 season and having our name associated with the stadium."

"Our sponsorship agreement with Fifth Third Bank will have a significant impact on not only the athletics department, but the entire Kennesaw State University family — our students, faculty, staff, alumni and fans," Director of Athletics Vaughn Williams said. "Fifth Third's gift provides

substantial support for starting a football program and will help transform the culture at Kennesaw State."

Fifth Third Bank entered the Georgia market in 2008 with the acquisition of First Horizon Bank.

Since that time, the employee base and branch distribution have tripled. Fifth Third opened six new locations in 2012 and now has 31 banking centers in Georgia, with plans for continued growth.



President Papp (center) thanks Randolph Koporc, president of Fifth Third Bank Georgia and Rosalyn Hedgepeth, president of the Student Government Association for their support in making football a reality at KSU.

Social entrepreneur speaks at Pathways to Peace lecture

by Yolanda Rodriguez
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Jessica Jackley, the co-founder of the micro-lending website Kiva, asked students at Kennesaw State University to help her change the world.

“Help me make the world a place that is more collaborative,” Jackley said to an audience that packed the Stillwell Theater on Feb. 12.

Jackley, this year’s Pathways to Peace lecturer, spoke about her journey to improve the lives of the world’s poor. It started when she was a little girl in Sunday school and learned she needed to share what she had with the poor.

While attending Stanford Graduate School of Business in 2003, she heard Muhammad Yunus, the founder of the Grameen Bank, speak about lending small amounts of money to basket weavers in Bangladesh—that set Jackley on her path.

She quit her job and traveled to East Africa to interview small business owners who had received grants to help their enterprises grow.

From there Jackley helped create Kiva, a nonprofit organization that connects lenders with small business people around the world. To kick off the website, she uploaded photos of the people who needed the loans — a project that took hours to do because of the slow Internet connection. Since its founding in 2005, Kiva has provided nearly \$400 million in loans to people in 216 countries and boasts a 98 percent repayment rate.

As a social entrepreneur, Jackley said she looks “for the things that we can create together that might have value to as many people as possible.”

Jackley hopes that micro-lending will help create different relationships among people, beyond the traditional donor-beneficiary one.

Pathways to Peace is an annual lecture series promoting discussion of activities that significantly and meaningfully promote lasting peace across the globe. Sponsors include the American Democracy Project, Coles College of Business, the Peace Studies Program in Kennesaw State’s Interdisciplinary Studies Department and the Office of the President. Previous speakers were Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof and Nobel Laureate Jody Williams.



Anthony Stalcup

Jessica Jackley, the co-founder of the micro-lending website Kiva, served as this year’s guest speaker during Kennesaw State University’s annual Pathways to Peace lecture.

SoCon 13 brings social media mavens to Kennesaw State

by Guy Bailey
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More than 300 business people, educators, bloggers, media experts and entrepreneurs converged on the Kennesaw State campus on Feb. 9 to learn how to harness the power of social media and social networks at SoCon13, hosted by the University’s Center for Sustainable Journalism. This was the seventh annual SoCon event designed to bring together some of the Southeast’s most influential digital marketers.

A panel of social media all-stars — Jeffrey Mirman,

vice president of marketing with Turner Sports; Ema Carr, marketing and communications manager with YEAH! Burger; Mathilde Piard, social media manager with Cox Media Group and Russell Sauve, e-commerce and social media manager with The Fox Theatre — participated in the opening keynote panel. Each shared their company’s digital strategies, real-world examples and offered their own take on the future of social media.

Mirman told attendees about Turner Sports upcoming move to a 24/7 social media operation to help manage the network’s worldwide popularity. YEAH! Burger’s Carr highlighted how the Atlanta restaurant uses social media to improve customer satisfaction, noting that one

customer was offered a free refill and complimentary dessert within minutes of a complaint filed over Twitter. Piard and Sauve shared how each of their companies use social media to build their brands and how social media has helped them connect with their customers.

After the keynote panel, participants divided into breakout sessions and workshops exploring topics such as: law, ethics and social media; going global, customer engagement in the palm of your hand; the art of the hashtag; organic marketing and the internet; big data and solving the challenges of marketing an unknown product; and social media in the nonprofit arena.

Cornel West serves as keynote speaker at Annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration

by Sabbaye McGriff
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As the featured speaker for Kennesaw State University’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. observance on Jan. 20, Cornel West said he didn’t come to present a “sanitized, deodorized” talk on the civil rights leader.

Instead, the scholar and author of critical books about race and democracy said he came to properly situate Martin King in the context of his “examined life,” as a follower of Jesus and as a radical fighter for justice and freedom in the face of “crimes against humanity” like racism, war and poverty.

“We gon keep it funky tonight,” promised West, whose appearance before a standing-room audience at the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center was presented by Kennesaw State’s African-American Student Alliance and the Office of Multicultural Student Retention.

West, the Class of 1943 University Professor at Princeton University, is the author of 19 books, most notably his classics, “Race Matters” and “Democracy Matters.” His recent books include a memoir, “Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud,” and a social commentary, “The Rich

and the Rest of Us,” which he co-authored with broadcaster Tavis Smiley.

West positioned King and the civil rights movement he led within the long line of those who came before him and struggled against “200 years of slavery, 90 years of Jim Crow and Jane Crow and various forms of American terrorism.”

Students questioned West for one-half hour before giving him a standing ovation.

“Dr. Cornel West was amazing!” said Khalfani Lawson, a senior political science major who introduced the speaker. “His speech was dynamic, informative, inspiring, and he left KSU with a new outlook on our responsibility within the community, having charged us to uphold principles Dr. King stood for.”

As part of the celebration, the Kennesaw State Gospel Choir also performed, prompting President Daniel S. Papp to laud the choir and its long-time director, Oral Moses, who recently retired after 29 years as professor of music and who returned only to lead the choir’s King Day performance.

Papp also thanked students who planned and

participated in the celebration for their foresight in selecting West, whose talk he called “inspiring and thought-provoking.”



David Caselli

Cornel West, author, scholar and professor of African American Studies at Princeton in New Jersey, was the keynote speaker at KSU’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

Hoerrner honored for efforts on behalf of first-year students

Keisha Hoerrner, associate dean of University College and professor of communication, was named a 2013 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina and Cengage Learning.

She was among 10 people recognized. The award, now in its 24th year, honors college faculty, administrators, staff and students for outstanding work on behalf of first-year students and for the impact their efforts have on the students and culture of their institutions. The recipients were chosen from among 128 nominees.

Pulinkala joins Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund Advisory

Ivan Pulinkala, interim dean of the College of the Arts and chairman of the Department of Dance, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund of The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc. The Arts Fund helps strengthen and stabilize small and midsized arts organizations in the Metro Atlanta region.

Nominated to the 14-member advisory committee comprised of major Atlanta arts leaders, corporate executives and philanthropists, Pulinkala will have the opportunity to work with many arts organizations in the metro Atlanta region.

Bagwell College and Marietta Center for Advanced Academics partner to train future STEM teachers

by Jennifer Hafer
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In front of the entire student body at Marietta Center for Advanced Academics (MCAA), Bagwell College of Education Dean Arlinda Eaton signed an agreement on Jan. 24 to establish a collaboration to prepare more science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)-focused teachers.

“Our partnership with MCAA exemplifies Bagwell’s goal to remain responsive to the needs of P-12 schools,” Eaton said. “Together, KSU and MCAA will work to advance the achievement of elementary students in the high-need fields of science and mathematics.”

The partnership with MCAA will allow Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education undergraduate

students to complete their senior year field and clinical experiences in a model STEM school. The collaboration also will allow graduate students to observe and conduct research in a model STEM school.

A key component of the partnership will include joint development of a STEM concentration in the master’s degree program.

“This collaboration has the power to affect positive change for educators and students,” MCAA Principal Jennifer Hernandez said. “We are very excited to share our knowledge and experience in STEM education to support the efforts of Kennesaw State to prepare teachers to meet the needs of 21st century students.”

Kennesaw State has adopted a lab at MCAA and is in the process of updating it.

“KSU students will work directly with elementary students in the KSU science lab at MCAA,” Eaton said. “They will have many opportunities to apply their theoretical understanding about teaching science and math through meaningful learning activities that include complex problems related to real-world scenarios. They will make use of technology to facilitate their inquiry-based lessons developed under the guidance of both experienced classroom teachers and university faculty.”

Collaborations like the one with MCAA are an important part of the Bagwell College of Education’s strategic plan, which calls for the expansion and deepening of partnerships in the community, according to Eaton.

University forms model partnership with U. N.’s CIFAL Atlanta

by Sabbaye McGriff
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With the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding during a ceremony at Jolley Lodge in February, Kennesaw State formally entered into a partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and its local training center, CIFAL Atlanta (International Training Centre for Local Actors).

Through the partnership, the University and CIFAL Atlanta will jointly provide training programs for leaders around the world. In addition, the agency has relocated its offices to Kennesaw State University’s Institute for Global Initiatives, creating the first and only U.N. CIFAL training center worldwide hosted by a university. The partnership is expected to serve as a global model for other partnerships throughout the worldwide CIFAL network.

On hand to celebrate the new partnership were members of CIFAL Atlanta’s board of trustees and advisory committee,

business leaders, local and state officials and Kennesaw State administrators and faculty who will work with CIFAL Atlanta to design and deliver training programs. Walter Bastian, deputy assistant secretary for the Western Hemisphere, U.S. Department of Commerce, delivered the keynote address.

Kennesaw President Daniel S. Papp described the new partnership as “historic,” not only because it is the first of its kind, but because “what we will accomplish together, as we unite the mission, resources, networks, skills and talents of our institutions, will unquestionably be history making.”

Craig Lesser, chair of CIFAL Atlanta’s board of trustees, said: “The partnership between CIFAL Atlanta and Kennesaw State University is a major step in furthering Georgia’s efforts in leading international education. Leaders from countries around the globe will come to Kennesaw State to participate in training programs, while KSU students and faculty will have the opportunity to interact with these international visitors.”

CIFAL Atlanta and Kennesaw State will initially work to

provide joint training programs for government authorities in the areas of STEM education, aviation and economic development, and inclusive technologies.



David Caselli

Craig Lesser, chair of CIFAL Atlanta’s board of trustees and KSU President Daniel S. Papp put the final seal on a partnership that includes housing CIFAL Atlanta within Kennesaw State’s Institute for Global Initiatives.

College of the Arts Dean Joseph Meeks Retires After 38 Years

by Jennifer Hafer
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College of the Arts Dean Joseph Meeks says he hasn’t written his memoirs yet because it’s a very complex story.

It’s the story of a gifted pianist, who from a young age made headlines and grew up to be a professor at a historically black college during the civil rights movement before becoming enamored with a nascent junior college in Cobb County following a solo recital there at a friend’s request.

“My life has been a lot of taking the road less travelled,” Meeks said.

On Feb. 1, after 38 years on the Kennesaw State faculty — 14 as founding

dean of the College of the Arts — Joseph D. Meeks took his final bow, leaving behind a legacy of accomplishments.

“During the years that Dean Meeks has led the College of the Arts, the College has grown in size, reputation, quality and private support,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ken Harmon. “As a friend and fund-raiser, Joe’s skills deserve special mention. The College of the Arts has more endowed scholarships than any other college at Kennesaw State.”

Meeks was only nine or 10 years old when he entered a piano competition at Furman University and several years later earned a prestigious piano scholarship.

Meeks used his scholarship to attend Converse College, where he met Professor

Edwin Gerschefski. It was this relationship that redefined Meeks’ career goals from performer to educator.

For 11 years beginning in 1964, Meeks served as a professor at the historically black college, Clark College, which later became Clark Atlanta University.

Later, he parlayed his friendship with a Kennesaw Junior College professor into a job teaching music appreciation and leading a mixed chorus.

“You knew that (Kennesaw Junior College) was going to be more than it was,” Meeks said. “Every year we had taken a step up or two steps up. The opportunities were limitless. I had no intention of staying, but then I thought, ‘Why would I go anywhere else?’”



Reid Taylor

After 38 years with Kennesaw State, College of the Arts Dean Joseph Meeks says goodbye but leaves a legacy of accomplishments that will last a lifetime.

American Council of Trustees and Alumni gives Kennesaw State an “A”

by Sabbaye McGriff
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Kennesaw State University is among a select group of 21 colleges and universities that scored an “A” for its high-quality core curriculum in a nationwide study on the state of general education released this week by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni.

This is the third year that Kennesaw State earned an “A” in the annual “What Will They Learn?” report. In this year’s

study, KSU was one of only three schools in Georgia (Morehouse College and University of Georgia) to receive a top score, according to the Washington, D.C.-based American Council of Trustees and Alumni, an independent, nonprofit organization committed to academic freedom, excellence and accountability at America’s colleges and universities.

Schools are assigned a letter grade ranging from “A” to “F” based on how many of seven core, basic subjects they require: composition, U.S. government or history,

economics, literature, math, natural or physical science and foreign language at an intermediate level. “A” schools were those that require a course in at least six out of the seven academic subjects.

“We are quite pleased that Kennesaw State’s core curriculum has earned this honor,” said Ken Harmon, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Our core curriculum was designed to provide a broadly-based, strong and coherent program to promote the learning outcomes we desire for every KSU graduate. This award is

testimony that our students are acquiring the knowledge and skills to survive and flourish in a diverse, global society.”

The American Council of Trustees and Alumni said that more than 60 percent of all institutions received a “C” or worse for requiring three or fewer subjects, allowing students to graduate with major gaps in their academic skills and knowledge. Less than 20 percent require U.S. government or history, and more than 33 percent do not require college-level mathematics.

Confucius Institute named among world's top Chinese culture centers

By Sabbaye McGriff
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The Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State University (CIKSU) was named one of the 2012 "Confucius Institutes of the Year," an honor bestowed annually to a select group of Chinese language and culture centers operating worldwide.

Kennesaw State's Confucius Institute program was one of just 26 institutes around the world selected to receive the award, which was presented at the 7th Annual Confucius Institute Conference, held in Beijing, Dec. 16-18. Seven U.S.-based institutes received the prestigious honor — two of those based in Georgia.

Since it was established in fall 2008, CIKSU has organized more than 40 cultural events for students and the greater community; sponsored study trips to China; and provided customized training and Chinese cultural understanding programs to U.S.-based businesses doing business in China. CIKSU also relies on its partnership with China's Yangzhou University to train volunteer Chinese language teachers who provide instruction in 34 Georgia schools and daycare centers around the state. For the 2012-2013 academic year, 38 Chinese exchange teachers are participating in that particular program.

Barry Morris, vice provost for strategic initiatives at Kennesaw State, accepted the award on behalf of the university. Morris was instrumental in the initial negotiations that led to the creation of the Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State.

"This award is the latest confirmation of KSU's role as a national and global leader in international education," Morris said. "It speaks loudly to the higher education imperative of preparing students for the world that they live in today. I am extremely proud of the hard work, world-class professionalism, and award-winning performance of the CIKSU staff."

Ken Jin, CIKSU's director, credits the Institute's staff for delivering an award-winning program.

"Our team of 44 staff members and teachers has worked very hard to deliver high-quality programs and services and to achieve outstanding performance," said Jin. "We are extremely proud of what they have accomplished. Through their efforts, CIKSU delivers unique and innovative programs that help prepare Georgia students for the opportunities and challenges of the global economy, and serve Georgia companies by assisting them with their business needs in China — all of which helps make Georgia more competitive for attracting investments."



Dongmei Liao, associate director of KSU's Confucius Institute (left), Barry Morris, vice provost for strategic initiatives at Kennesaw State (center) and Ken Jin, director of KSU's Confucius Institute; in Beijing to receive one of the 2012 "Confucius Institutes of the Year" awards.

I SING BEIJING's beauty wows Kennesaw State audience

by Sabbaye McGriff
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For opera buffs and casual concert goers alike, the pioneering performance of "I SING BEIJING" at Kennesaw State University's Bailey Performance Center on Feb. 22 delivered a unique listening experience for the nearly 600 patrons.

Sponsored by KSU's Confucius Institute and fresh from its U.S. debut at New York's Lincoln Center, I SING BEIJING presented the first-ever singers from Western countries trained to perform in Mandarin.

The show's superb vocals; simple, elegant staging; and glamorous gowns, tuxes and make-up created the sense of a night out at the opera. Yet its mix of selections from contemporary Chinese vocal music and classical Western repertoire — both sang in Mandarin — and standards from popular American theater performed in English satisfied a range of musical tastes. Speakers of English and Mandarin could follow along easily with translation provided in both languages via a video monitor.

I SING BEIJING is performed by 17 singers from some of the top music programs in the Western hemisphere. They represent Albania, Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, Guatemala, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, the U.S. and Uruguay, and are joined by rising stars from China.

For its Kennesaw State performance, the ensemble was accompanied on piano by Fugen Wei, a leading vocal accompanist in China and New York and member of the faculty at the Shanghai Conservatory.

New York Metropolitan Opera star Hao Jiang Tian helped create the program and is its artistic director. One of the first generation of Chinese singers to reach the pinnacle of Western operatic arts, Tian has sung as a principal soloist at the Metropolitan for the past 19 seasons and performed around the world.

Introducing the performers, Tian assured the audience they were in for a complete musical experience, reflecting that opera the world over "conveys the passion and drama of life, love and loss."



I SING BEIJING, presented by the KSU's Confucius Institute, brings to the stage Western operatic traditions with the emerging genre of modern Chinese opera.

World Bank economist featured during ICA Institute lecture

by Sabbaye McGriff
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Headlines depicting Europe's economic woes do not reflect the power and potential of the European economic model, according to Indermit Gill, the World Bank's chief economist for Europe and Central Asia, who spoke at Kennesaw State recently.

The continent experienced an "increasing lack of confidence" three years ago as the world's economic crisis came to Europe, Gill told a standing-room audience in Prillaman Hall during a lecture presented by the ICA Institute (India China America) in partnership with the Coles College of Business.

However, over the past two decades,

Europe's economy produced what Gill called a "convergence machine" in trade and finance that elevated more than a dozen poorer European countries to higher incomes and growth during that time.

In his talk, titled "Golden Growth: Restoring the Lustre of the European Economic Model," Gill acknowledged that fundamental changes were needed to reignite that convergence as well as to maintain the continent's strengths in enterprise and innovation and to bolster its performance in labor and government.

Special guests attending the lecture and offering remarks included British Consul General in Atlanta Annabelle Malins, Ron Domanico, chief financial officer of HD Supply, and Kathy Schwaig, dean of the Coles College

of Business. Govind Hariharan, executive director of the ICA Institute, hosted the lecture and a reception and facilitated a luncheon discussion hosted by Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank President and CEO Dennis Lockhart in Gill's honor.

"How and when Europe emerges from its current economic woes is of great importance to countries such as the U.S., China and India. It was an honor to present an economist of Dr. Gill's stature for the local business community, students and faculty to gain a deeper understanding of the forces driving Europe's economy and their significance to the growth and development of the global economy," said Hariharan.



Indermit Gill, World Bank chief economist for Europe and Central Asia, spoke about restoring economic growth in Europe during the January ICA Distinguished Speaker's Series.

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