

East Carolina University
Global Gateway – International Affairs Newsletter
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A Word From ... Interim Assistant Provost for International Affairs Dr. Charles Lyons

Colleagues!

What a pleasure to return to ECU! As many of you may recall, following my retirement from UNC-Greensboro in the summer of 2003, I served as interim head of ECU's Office of International Affairs from October 2003 to June 2005. The experience was so enjoyable that when Marilyn Sheerer asked if I might be available for another short-term assignment at ECU, I jumped at the chance. I began work on January 2, 2008 and will be here until June 30, 2008.

Marilyn has given me three assignments. The first of these is to oversee, with the help of OIA's talented professionals, the daily office operations. My second assignment, with the assistance of ECU's faculty and staff, is to update and then begin to implement the Five Year Plan for the Internationalization of ECU that was approved in 2005. Finally, in conjunction with a soon-to-be-appointed Search Committee, I will help in the recruitment efforts for a permanent head of the Office of International Affairs. The goal is to have someone recruited and on board by June 1, 2008.

I look forward to working with all of you in the furtherance of our international goals and am delighted to see that ECU (and indeed the entire UNC system) is even more committed to global education than when I was here last. Equally important, I relish the opportunity to see all of my old ECU friends and make many new ones before I once again slip back into retirement. Come on by and say hello!

Cordially,

Charles Lyons
Interim Assistant Provost for International Affairs

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**Meet an International Faculty Member!**

Emanuel Gruber, Associate Professor of Cello and Chamber Music, ECU School of Music

For many years I lived in Israel and had a very busy schedule that included Principal Cellist of the Israel Chamber Orchestra, soloist, chamber music player, and teacher at the Academies of Music in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Eventually, I became more interested in teaching than in playing in orchestra and was very pleased when I was offered a position at ECU. I began a teaching assignment at the School of Music in the fall of 2004 and looked forward to the challenge of building a cello class. Now, after three years, my class has 10 students who love to play the cello and who work hard to become good musicians. Most of my students are from North Carolina and Virginia, but I also have one very gifted student from China. I am happy to observe that the String Department's students have grown in number. Currently, there are nine chamber groups. It has been rewarding to see their improvement in quality as demonstrated in our November 2007 concert.

I share with my colleagues the vision that the School of Music should be recognized as one of the best schools in North Carolina and a good alternative to the best conservatories in the country.

Besides my intense and rewarding professional life, my family and I enjoy living in Greenville, love its natural beauty, and the friendliness of its people.

**Meet an International Student!**

Yuji Taniguchi, Undergraduate Student, ECU School of Music

Life is not predictable. Who would have thought that I would be in North Carolina today? When I graduated from high school in Japan, I never imagined I would be living in America because to me America was a country seen only on TV or in a Hollywood movie.

I attended a music college in Japan called Tokyo School of Music, after which I worked part-time and engaged in music related endeavors such as performing in a rock band as a drummer and doing creative work as a singer-song writer. Because of my interest in learning English, I traveled to Australia to study the language and eventually developed an interest in music therapy. This led me to California where I attended a community college and then transferred to East Carolina University. My interests in English and music have been most influential in my experiences.

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Reaching Out To Our International Alumni

In an effort to reach out to our international alumni worldwide, the staff members of the Office of International Affairs and the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center created a quarterly electronic newsletter. The first issue, which was published on December 8th 2007 included profiles of international members of the ECU community, a description of International Education Week events, campus news, and letters from Monika Wojciechowski and Dr. Elmer Poe. The collaborative effort of the two offices resulted in a first of its kind farewell celebration where we said “goodbye” to 20 graduating and exchange students, and their guests. It is our hope that our international alumni will continue to be active members of the ECU community.

Monika Wojciechowski
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**Two ECU Students Awarded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship**

Myesha Swinson and Blaine Winford have received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for their study abroad programs in spring 2008 to South Africa and Ecuador respectively. The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Institute of International Education (IIE) and is available to U.S. undergraduate students who receive a Federal Pell Grant and study abroad for a semester or academic year. For more information about the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, please visit <http://www.iie.org/programs/gilman/index.html>.

Brandi Dudley  
[dudleyb@ecu.edu](mailto:dudleyb@ecu.edu)

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Greenville International Festival 2008

If you are the advisor to a student organization or part of a local internationally-linked organization, please note that Greenville's International Festival will be held on April 12, 2008. This year the festival will be held in conjunction with a number of other events sponsored by the City of Greenville and ECU under the name of "Piratefest." Once again we are asking international groups who may want to display arts and crafts, or sell international food to participate in the festival. Over 5,000 people are expected to attend the event,

An informational meeting regarding the Greenville International Festival 2008 will be held on Thursday, January 24th at 3pm at the International House (behind McDonald's on 10th street). Participating ECU organizations are required to have a representative present.

International Student Orientation

International Student Orientation was held on January 9, 2008 where over 30 international students were in attendance. They represented many countries that included Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Finland, Sweden, India, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, South Korea, and others. Topics included campus services, immigration guidelines, and a special tour of the ECU campus.

Dr. Bill Mallett
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### **Upcoming Events and Deadlines**

#### ***Wednesday, January 23, 2008***

- Study Abroad Information Session – Mendenhall Student Center, Room 244, 3pm – 5pm

Students interested in learning more about selecting and applying to an international program are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Brandi Dudley at [dudleyb@ecu.edu](mailto:dudleyb@ecu.edu) or 252-328-1937.

#### ***Friday, February 1, 2008***

- Deadline to submit applications to ECU's Bilateral Exchange partners and the University of North Carolina Exchange Program (UNCEP) for Study Abroad in fall 2008 and Academic Year 2008/2009

For more information about these programs and how to apply, please visit our website at <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/intlaffairs/studyabroad.cfm> or contact Brandi Dudley at [dudleyb@ecu.edu](mailto:dudleyb@ecu.edu) or 252-328-1937.

#### ***Monday, February 25, 2008***

- Study Abroad Scholarship Deadline

The Thomas W. Rivers Scholarship applications for student study abroad in summer 2008 are due on Monday, February 25, 2008. For full scholarship details please visit [http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/intlaffairs/scholarships.cfm#CP\\_JUMP\\_88716](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/intlaffairs/scholarships.cfm#CP_JUMP_88716).

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We want to hear from you and encourage you to submit accounts of your international activities in teaching, research, service, or other areas. Please send your comments and suggestions to our editor Julie Williams at williamsjul@ecu.edu.