

East Carolina University
Global Gateway – International Affairs Newsletter
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A Word From International Affairs

by Dr. Elmer Poe

"Complex global interactions, once reserved for the diplomatic corps, are today the stuff of everyday business deals and cultural exchanges. If we expect students to navigate international waters, we need to give them an international education that meets the highest standards...."

Former U.S. Secretary of Education, Rod Paige

Celebrating and promoting International Education and Exchange, International Education Week (IEW) is a national initiative of the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Education, and universities world wide. We are pleased to join this celebration with a variety of events for students, faculty, and staff during the week of November 12. This issue of the *Global Gateway* provides information about our celebration and we welcome your participation and encourage you to share this with students. Please join us in the internationalization of ECU.

Schedule of Events

Monday, November 12, 2007

- **Office of International Affairs IEW Luncheon – International House, 12pm – 1pm**

A special luncheon for faculty, administrators, international students, and domestic students who have been involved in exchange programs will begin the week's events. Come and meet us!

- **African Film/Panel Discussion – *Every Single Day* (Nigeria) – Science & Technology Building – C-309, 4pm**

The diversity of native cultures within the African continent is matched by the significant range of film production in both quality and quantity. The festival of international films that will be screened as part of International Education Week will begin with *Every Single Day*, directed by Tchidi Chikere, as a selected representation of one of many African works.

- **Summer Study Abroad Information Fair –Mendenhall Student Center, 221, 5pm – 8pm**

This ECU campus-wide Study Abroad Information Fair will help students understand the ins and outs of studying overseas during the summer. Passport information will be also available.

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

- **South American Film – *Gringuito* (Chile) – Science & Technology Building – Global Classroom – Room 144, 3pm**

This is a very apropos film in celebration of international education week because it depicts the experience of cultural change. The film, produced and directed by Sergio Castilla, follows the experience of a young boy, Ivan, when his parents relocate from New York City to their native Chile. The cultural transition theme is maintained throughout the film, but is dotted with sub-themes of Chilean socio-political history. All in all, the film is a heartwarming story of the young boy's experience when introduced into his new culture. Students from ECU and students in Peru will view the film simultaneously. At the film's conclusion, an open discussion between the two groups of viewers will take place via ECU's Global Classroom.

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

- **Discover and Re-Discover the Fulbright World. Explore your own interest. Meet Fulbright alumni. Todd Dining Hall – Sweethearts, 3pm – 5pm**

Does the idea of everyday life in a foreign land intrigue you? What new foods will you encounter? What new sites and landscapes could you see on daily walks? The U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program sends 900 faculty and professionals each year to 140 countries to lecture and conduct research. Becoming a Fulbright scholar will not only be a great personal experience, but it will also enhance your ability to teach. A reception will follow.

- **“The World is Shrinking – Know Your Neighbors” – City Hotel & Bistro, 4:30pm – 8:30pm**

In order to foster better understanding of diversity and to encourage collaboration, Dr. Mary Beth Corbin, Director of ECU NC Teaching Fellows Program and ECU Maynard Scholars Program has paired teaching fellows with international students for a project that will bring the world to North Carolina classrooms. Each pair has worked together to present a lesson featuring the international student's home country. In each case, the teaching fellow provides a pedagogical perspective while the international student offers the content. During International Education Week, these pairs of students will teach the lessons to elementary school children. Three of the pairs will also model their activities on November 14th at "The World is Shrinking - Know Your Neighbors" event hosted by Beth Eckstein, Center for Economic Education in the College of Business, Dr. Carolyn Ledford, College of Education, and Monika Wojciechowski, Office of International Affairs.

- **Chinese Film/Panel Discussion – *Xingfu Shiguang (Happy Times)* – Science & Technology Building – C-207, 5pm**

Xingfu Shiguang (Happy Times) can be best described in American entertainment jargon as a situational comedy with some redeeming humanistic cultural values. The intertwining plot employed by protagonist Zaho as he attempts to raise money for marriage brings to the story both cultural and character lightheartedness. The film is a contemporary projection of Chinese humor.

- **Diversity in Healthcare Series – Mendenhall Student Center – Multipurpose Room, 7pm**

A group of professionals will lead a round table discussion exploring diverse healthcare issues faced by various gender groups on a local and international level.

Thursday, November 15, 2007

- **Bollywood Film – *Lage Raho Munna Bhai* (India) – Science & Technology Building – C-309, 3pm**

This film, directed by Rajkumar Hirani, reconciles the ideals of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, India's architect of independence from British control, with contemporary India where soaring economic growth and a youthful population prevail. Director Hirani highlights the transition of main character Munna Bhai from a gangster who renounces fisticuffs and lying in exchange for nonviolence and honesty. Munna Bhai's transition is motivated by his love for radio DJ, Jhanvi and his need to impress her. His manifestation of Gandhisms comes about through his own transformation and is relevant to modern day India. This Indian musical comedy re-humanizes Gandhi and reflects the past, present, and future of Indian society.

Friday, November 16, 2007

- **International Student Social – A Taste of India – International House, 3pm – 5pm**

Come to our international student social where there will be samples of delicious Indian cuisine.

- **Countdown to Peace Exhibition Reception – Mendenhall Student Center, Gallery, 6pm**

ECU faculty members Jodi Hollinger and Catherine Billingsly will host the "Countdown to Peace" Art Exhibition highlighting the importance of global peace-movements by exploring artworks in various media.

Other Events

Saturday, November 17, 2007

- **Cultural Explosion: "Broadcasting the World's Talent" – Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theater, 4pm to 6pm**

The African Student Organization along with several other student groups is sponsoring a fashion show, diverse song, and cultural dance. This special event is meant to share ECU's ethnic pride and artistic variety.

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**Other Announcements**

**Welcome Back!**

International Affairs welcomes back Monika Wojciechowski, Assistant Director of International Student Recruitment. She has returned after spending three weeks in China, South Korea,

Japan, Vietnam, and Hong Kong recruiting international students. Learn about her experience in Asia by visiting her blog, [ECU Abroad](#).

**Alumni**

If you have current contact information for any ECU international alumni, please forward it to [intlprgm@ecu.edu](mailto:intlprgm@ecu.edu).

**Faculty Travel Grant from the Office of International Affairs - Deadline Extended**

The deadline for submission of applications for the Faculty Travel Grant from the Office of International Affairs has been extended to November 13, 2007. This competitive program will provide 16 travel assistance grants of up to \$500 for faculty members who are traveling abroad this spring as a speaker at an international event. More information and applications are available online at [http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/intlaffairs/upload/FTG\\_application.doc](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/intlaffairs/upload/FTG_application.doc).

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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.