

East Carolina University
Global Gateway – International Affairs Newsletter
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A Word From ... Interim Provost Dr. Marilyn Sheerer

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Charles Lyons will be returning to ECU in January to, once again, serve as the Interim Director of International Affairs. As many of you are aware, Charles served in that same role a few years ago and orchestrated a Strategic Plan for IA. Charles was the previous Director of International Programs at UNC-G for many years and did an outstanding job in that leadership capacity.

During the period from January-June, Charles will begin the implementation of the Strategic Plan and also work closely with the search committee that is established to hire a new, permanent director. We are fortunate that Charles is willing to spend some additional time with us during this transition period.

*~Dr. Marilyn Sheerer
Interim Provost*

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**Meet an International Faculty Member!**

Baohong Zhang, Ph.D., joined the Department of Biology as an Assistant Professor in fall 2007. He came to the US from China in 2003 and joins us from Texas Tech where he earned his PhD. He has been involved in the field of agricultural biotechnology and genetics and has received awards including the Excellence in Science (*Science* magazine and AAAS) and the Syngenta Outstanding Doctoral Student in Environmental Toxicology. His current research focuses on microRNA-mediated gene regulation, molecular mechanism of environmental pollutant-induced disease. He is using this knowledge to develop new biomarkers and technology to improve our health and the environment. Dr. Zhang has summarized his experience at ECU by stating, "In the past several months, I have been exploring the wonderful environment, the friendly people, the advanced facilities, and the diversity of life at ECU."

**Meet an International Student!**

Khaled Aziz is a senior from Bangladesh who will be graduating this semester with a double major in Biology and Chemistry. He was introduced to ECU by his sister who was an undergraduate here and related to him her wonderful experience, which convinced him to follow. His interests include sports, mainly soccer, working out at the Student Recreation Center, and spending time with friends. He is also involved in cancer research. Khaled describes his experience at ECU by noting, "I have loved life at ECU and time has seemed to pass like a breeze. I am looking forward to life after graduation and the adventures and opportunities that will unfold."

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International Education Week – A Great Success!

International Education Week (IEW), an initiative of the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Education, and institutions and organizations worldwide, is observed annually to celebrate and promote international education and exchange. We were pleased to join this celebration with a variety of events for students, faculty, and staff during the week of November 12th. These events included the screening of foreign films, an international student luncheon and social, a summer study abroad information session, a Fulbright information session, and a workshop, "The World is Shrinking - Know Your Neighbors."

Office of International Affairs Recruitment Initiatives

More than 50% of international students in the United States come from Asia. Countries such as China, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan continue to be the leaders in the number of students that they send. Together with 41 representatives from a variety of institutions of higher education, Monika Wojciechowski, Assistant Director for International Student Recruitment, traveled to six Asian countries. The 20-day tour consisted of six public university fairs and 15 fairs for secondary school students. The students remain to be mainly interested in the following fields of study: business and management, engineering, computer science, the health sciences and communications.

Video Recruitment Session

On November 7th, the Office of International Affairs organized a video information session with the Brazil America Association in Recife. The center offers English language courses as well as information and resources to those interested in studying in the United States. In addition, it administers English language proficiency exams. Finally, it provides an opportunity for a variety of music, dance and theater artists to perform. The November 7th event allowed for the representatives from the College of Education, College of Business, College of Technology and Computer Science, and College of Nursing to speak to prospective undergraduate students. We would like to thank Dr. Mary Beth Corbin, Karen Kus, Dr. Dorothy Rentschler and Dr. David Batts for their support, time and participation in the event. The highlight of the presentation took place when current ECU Brazilian students, Henrique Demoraes Viana and Thiago de Oliveira Caze Cavalcanti, shared their experience with those that might follow their steps and join the ECU community. It is our hope that we will repeat such sessions in other countries permitting the availability of the technical capacities.

Monika Wojciechowski
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## **Study Abroad Participants for Spring 2008**

In spring 2008, ECU will sponsor forty students on study abroad programs and three students completing internships abroad. Students are preparing to study/intern in eighteen countries on six continents.

## **Spring 2008 IFSA Recipients Named**

The spring 2008 IFSA Scholarship recipients have been selected and named for study in Eastern Europe, Russia, Eurasia, and Asia. Each student will receive a scholarship supported by a grant received from the IFSA Foundation in 2006. The recipients are:

Christopher Kent – Poland  
Elizabeth Ross – India  
Timothy Schettino – China  
Ian Thompson – Poland

**Brody School of Medicine Student Participates in First Medical Student Rotation Exchange in the University of Oulu in Finland**

Cynthia Johns participated in the first BSOM Medical Student rotation exchange to the University of Oulu in Finland during the month of October 2007. We hope she is the first of many medical students to take part in this unique opportunity.

“Finland....the farthest I have been away from home yet I still felt so welcomed. We were in many ways very different; however, in the most important way, we were so much alike. We have a desire to improve the quality of life for our people through the practice of medicine.” – Cynthia Johns

Brandi Dudley  
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Spring 2008 First Friends Program

The Office of International Affairs will be reviving the First Friends Program for spring 2008. The goal of this program is to introduce new international students to current ECU students and to create a mutual exchange of culture and friendship. This experience will provide an excellent opportunity for students to add to their educational experience, gain cultural insight, and make new friends.

International Affairs will match incoming international students with an ECU student who will be assigned for one academic year or one semester (for short-term exchange students). This program strives to create connections between current students and new international students.

Spring International Student Orientation

There will be a one-day orientation session starting at 8:00am on Wednesday, January 9th for new international students. Orientation will address a wide range of topics including immigration regulations, health insurance, finances, campus facilities and student services. We expect approximately 30 new international students to attend this important event.

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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](mailto:williamsjul@ecu.edu).

