

East Carolina University
Global Gateway – International Affairs Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2008

A Word From ... Interim Vice Chancellor for International Affairs Dr. Charles Lyons

Colleagues!

Much has happened since our last Newsletter:

On February 1, 2008 ECU advertised the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for International Affairs. The link to the advertisement can be found at our office website, www.ecu.edu/Intlaffairs. A talented search committee headed by our new Senior Associate Provost, David Condé, will review applications. The committee will begin its review on February 29, with the objective of inviting candidates to campus in late March and early April. The committee hopes to select the finalist by early May, and to have the person on board by June 1. (At least that's the plan!)

With the generous assistance of the ECU Task Force on Internationalization, we have been updating the ECU plan for internationalization that was approved by the Deans Council, Faculty Senate, and Board of Trustees in 2005. The draft can be found at our office website. Please know that since this is a work-in-progress, I welcome your comments, corrections, additions, etc. The task of updating the plan has a particular immediacy, as we will be asking candidates for the position to tell us how they would achieve its goals.

Indeed, we are already beginning to implement or reinvigorate many of the programs indicated in the document. For instance, the campus wide Committee on International Curricular Initiatives will be meeting soon for the first time. Our office is reviving the international faculty-swap program, and will offer a new round of funding to enable faculty to attend international conferences. Faculty members will also be going overseas to develop new linkages for faculty and student exchange, and the Office of International Affairs will be getting a well needed makeover that will make us even more hi-tech.

For this last mentioned development, I am indebted to Elmer Poe. In the several months prior to my arrival on campus, Elmer ran the OIA shop in addition to his many other duties. He provided expanded budgetary support, revived programs like the international conference support, and planned for the office renewal indicated above. Thank you, Elmer! Much appreciated!

Cordially,

Charles H. Lyons
Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for International Affairs

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**Meet an International Faculty Member!**

**Dr. N. Yaprak Savut, an Assistant Professor of Interior Design Program in the Department of Interior Design and Merchandising**

Dr. Savut earned her PhD in Interior Architecture and Environmental Design from Bilkent University-Turkey. Throughout her career she has concentrated on design for the disabled, universal design, and residential kitchen and bath design. During her professional career in Turkey she volunteered with a non-profit organization as an interior designer to plan and build

assisted living facilities for the elderly. Since joining East Carolina University in January 2004, Dr. Savut has been teaching universal design and kitchen and bath design courses in addition to other major courses. She is also serving as coordinator of the Interior Design Program, which is accredited by the National Kitchen Bath Association. Dr. Savut observes that Greenville is similar to another city, Adana, Turkey where she lived previously. Both cities are situated by a river, have agricultural surroundings, and have been influenced significantly by a university. According to Dr. Savut, both cities have a warm climate and a warm, friendly community. Dr. Savut's interest in community service has led her to become a member of the Uptown Greenville Design Guidelines Advisory Committee and to serve as the vice-chair of Historic Preservation Commission of the city of Greenville.

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Meet an International Student!

My name is Maria Arellano-Banks and I am an international student from Venezuela and will be graduating in May 2009 with a degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. I am a member of the Student Dietetic Association and serve as a student ambassador. My experiences at ECU have been wonderful; professors, students, and other personnel have been very helpful and motivating. Throughout these years I have realized that East Carolina University fits the definition of "a big bowl of fresh salad" where individuals from different ethnicities are mixed together but still maintain their cultural uniqueness. I find the school very appealing, and I certainly could say that I'm proud to be a PIRATE!

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### **Student Exchange Placements Still Available for Fall 2008**

While the official application deadline for the student exchange program for fall 2008 has passed, ECU still has a number of exchange placements available. If a student is interested in studying in countries such as Finland, France, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Sweden, or the U.K., please have the student visit the Office of International Affairs to get started on the application process.

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ECU Participates in Tec de Monterrey Exchange Fair

From February 26-March 4, 2008, Brandi Dudley will be traveling to Mexico to recruit exchange students to ECU through the UNCEP/Tec de Monterrey exchange program. She will also visit Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) where the College of Nursing will be working with the University of North Carolina – Charlotte in a new summer program for language and cultural immersion for nursing students. You can follow her travels on the [ECU Abroad blog](#).

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### **Faculty Swap Program**

Did you know that ECU has a program called the International Exchange Assignment whereby faculty members can swap places with colleagues overseas for a semester or a full academic year? Just follow this [link](#) and consider the possibilities!

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Tabrizi Gives Plenary at MIT

International Affairs stalwart Professor M. Nasseh Tabrizi has been invited to give the Plenary Address to the American Computing Conference of the World Scientific and Engineering Society, which will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 21 - 23. Congratulations on this singular honor and recognition!

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### **ECU's Global Classroom Honored!**

Congratulations to Elmer Poe, Rosina Chia, and Jami Leibowitz for receiving an Honorable Mention in this year's round of Andrew Heiskell Awards for Innovations in International Education, a program of the New York-based Institute of International Education. The trio won the award for their renowned Global Classroom project. Their honorable mention can be found at <http://www.iienetwork.org/?p=117779>. Well done, colleagues!

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5th TALGS Conference

The MA-English program with emphasis in Linguistics/TESL invites you to participate in the **5th TALGS** (TESOL and Applied Linguistics Graduate Students) conference featuring both domestic and international presenters, both graduate students and public school teachers. The event will be held on **Saturday, February 16, 2008 (9am-6pm)**. All sessions will take place in the **Bate Building**. The registration area will be located near Room 1031. To view the **conference schedule, presentation abstracts** and **register**, visit <http://core.ecu.edu/engl/talgs/conference/conference.htm>. For additional information, email copel@ecu.edu. We look forward to seeing you at TALGS 2008!

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Walt Wolfram

Southern Bred ESL: Hispanic English in the Mid-Atlantic South

How do dialects, particularly Southern dialects, affect the acquisition of English as a second language? Is it preferable-or even possible-to learn a dialect-neutral version of English? What does current sociolinguistic research in North Carolina tell us about the emerging English of Hispanics in the Mid-Atlantic South?

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### **Visiting Distinguished Rivers Professor Offers Lectures**

Dr. Julian Lethbridge, Visiting Distinguished Rivers Professor of International Affairs and Professor of English, the University of Tübingen, Germany will deliver the following lecture series:

- "The Place of History Among the Disciplines" (Tuesday, February 12, 4:00 pm)
- "The Place of Theology Among the Disciplines" (Tuesday, February 19, 4:00 pm)
- "The Place of Literary Criticism Among the Disciplines" (Tuesday, February 26, 4:00 pm)

- "The Function of the Humanities at the Present Time" (Tuesday, March 4, 5:30 pm)

The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of English, the Program in Great Books, the Office of International Affairs and the Office of the Provost are sponsoring these free public lectures.

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The Fourth Annual Youth Arts Festival

East Carolina University will present The Fourth Annual Youth Arts Festival on Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 10 am to 4 pm. This event will be held on the "mall" area in the center of campus. In the case of rain the festival will be held in the Leo W. Jenkins Fines Arts Building on 5th Street.

One of the main goals of this festival is to expose the children of eastern North Carolina to many culturally diverse art forms through regional and local artists. The festival is sponsored completely by donated funds and its purpose is to attract over 100 visual and performing artists to campus to demonstrate their creative talents and to encourage the children of our community to create their own artworks. Various musical, dance, and theatrical groups will also be featured at the festival.

We are seeking participation from anyone willing to demonstrate their work or perform art activities with the children. This includes faculty, staff, and international students and artists. April 5 will be an exciting and interactive day full of fun and adventure. All children, families, and individuals interested in the arts are welcome. For more information about the festival or to recommend an artist contact:

Hannah Bradshaw, ECU International Student
heb0221@ecu.edu

or

Dindy Reich, Coordinator of the Youth Arts Festival
reichd@ecu.edu
252-328-5749

All events are free and open to the public.

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### **English Conversation Classes**

If there are students in your classes who may need additional help with English conversation, please contact Monika Wojciechowski at [wojciechowskim@ecu.edu](mailto:wojciechowskim@ecu.edu).

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Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Saturday, February 16, 2008

- Great Decisions Lecture – Latin America: Shift to the Left? – Speaker: Dr. Jeffrey Popke, ECU Department of Geography, Rivers West Building, Room 105, 10:00 am – 12 pm

Friday, February 22, 2008

- The International Student Association will sponsor its annual spring membership drive at Ham's restaurant from 7:00pm – 9:00 pm. Food will be provided and all are welcome to come to this special social event.

Saturday, February 23, 2008

- Great Decisions Lecture – U.S.-China trade policy – Speaker: Dr. Runying Chen, ECU Department of Interior Design and Merchandising, College of Human Ecology, Rivers West Building, Room 105, 10:00 am – 12 pm
- The ECU Chinese community and the Office of International Affairs will sponsor a Chinese New Year celebration at the Mendenhall Student Center Multipurpose Room from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Food will be served at 5:00 pm followed by traditional Chinese martial arts, music, ethnic dancing, singing, a children's choir, and other cultural activities. Taste the food, see the sights, and experience the Chinese New Year! Welcome the Year of the Rat!
- Asian Studies Lecture/Performance: Ms. Grace Jong Eun Lee, *kayagum* composer and soloist, Vancouver Community College, will present a kayagum lecture and demonstration, "Enchanted Sounds of Traditional Korean Music," Rivers West 105, 5:30-7:00 pm. Students, faculty, staff, and the general public are invited to attend this free presentation made possible with the assistance of the Korea Society. Additional sponsors are the Korean Association of Greenville, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, its Interdisciplinary Asian Studies Program, and International Studies Program. For more information, call 328-5520 or email hennings@ecu.edu.

Friday, February 29, 2008

- A special Fulbright Scholar Program luncheon at 12:00 pm at the International House will highlight how to apply for grants and give those interested a chance to talk with Fulbright alumni. The program is sponsored by the North Carolina Chapter of the Fulbright Association and the Office of International Affairs.
- The African Student Organization will celebrate the closing of Diversity Week at the Mendenhall Student Center (Lower-Level) from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The event will highlight African food and culture and promote appreciation for the diverse world in which we live. There will also be a special Africa trivia contest with prizes awarded to the winners.

Saturday, March 1, 2008

- Great Decisions Lecture – Talking to our enemies – Speaker: Renee M. Earle, Diplomat in Residence, Duke University, Franklin Center for International Studies, Rivers West Building, Room 105, 10:00 am – 12 pm

Saturday, March 8, 2008

- Great Decisions Lecture – Private philanthropy– Speaker: Kenneth Morgan, Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, past member of the board of directors of Rotary International and the Triangle United Way, Rivers West Building, Room 105, 10:00 am – 12 pm

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, April 29, 2008 - Annual Faculty and Staff International Pot Luck Dinner. More information will follow.

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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).