

May 2008

Stop the Press! Gehlhar Named Associate Vice Chancellor for International Affairs!!!

We are delighted to report that Provost Marilyn Sheerer has named Dr. James N. Gehlhar to be the next Associate Vice Chancellor for International Affairs. Dr. Gehlhar comes to us from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where he was Director of its Center for International Education for sixteen years. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison and earned his PhD at Edinburgh University. Dr. Gehlhar is an expert on Middle Eastern affairs. He completed secondary schooling in Beirut, lived in Turkey for two summers, and spent three years with the Peace Corps in Iran. He speaks Farsi, Turkish, Arabic, and some German and French as well.

Particularly important to his assignment at the ECU Office of International Affairs is Dr. Gehlhar's expertise on the promotion of study abroad, international student recruitment and support, and international and intercultural programming. Under his direction, UT-Knoxville was for many years the national leader in sending students overseas through the International Student Exchange Program. He also ran the University's highly successful Fulbright, Boren, and Humphrey Fellowship programs. He is himself the recipient of Fulbright awards to Germany, Japan, and Korea. He is well known in the profession and has served as head of several national boards for international exchange and received numerous awards for outstanding service.

Dr. Gehlhar will be joining ECU during this coming summer. He and his spouse, Mhairi, look forward to joining our community. Please help in making them feel welcome!

A Word From . . . Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Dr. Charles Lyons

Colleagues!

This will be the last issue of our newsletter for Academic Year 2007-08—we'll resume publication in fall 2008. Even more meaningful from my perspective, this will be the last time I will introduce the newsletter—my successor will have the honor of introducing the next issue, for my time at ECU is now drawing to a close. I will be leaving ECU at the end of June in order to slip back into retirement once again.

While I am sad to go, I am delighted that you have found so fine a successor in Dr. James Gehlhar. I've known Jim for a number of years—we've served together on several boards and commissions. He's a man of great knowledge, experience, and integrity. Equally important, he has the right kind of temperament that will make him an excellent colleague and contributor. I know all of you join me in welcoming Jim to ECU, the right man at the right time to move International Affairs to the next level of excellence.

It has been such a pleasure working with all of you! I will carry the fondest of memories of my time—or should I say times!—here at ECU. Thank you all for being such super colleagues and friends! What an honor it has been to be among you! Good luck to you all!

Cordially,

Charles H. Lyons

Interim Associate Vice Chancellor of International Affairs

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**Farewell Celebration to International Graduates and Exchange Students**

On May 8, the Office of International Affairs will host a farewell celebration for graduating international students and exchange students returning home. The East Carolina Alumni Association has graciously allowed us to host it at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center and two of our current international students have agreed to demonstrate their musical talents during the event. We are very grateful to all who have assisted us with preparation for the event. We are expecting approximately 60 guests including family members who have traveled from around the world to be with the graduates on this special day.

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Anja Mäläskä of the University of Oulu, Finland, to Visit ECU, May 19 to 21

Anja Mäläskä, Deputy Director of the Office of International Relation, the University of Oulu, Finland, will visit ECU, May 19 to 21, to discuss exchange programs. In particular she will meet with Michael Bassman (Honors Program) and Joe Zanga (Brody School of Medicine) to discuss possibilities for expanding Oulu-ECU student exchanges. If others are interested in meeting with Ms. Mäläskä, please contact Charles Lyons at 328-1936 (lyonsc@ecu.edu), or Brandi Dudley at 328-1937 (dudleyb@ecu.edu) to set up an appointment.

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**INTERLINK President Coming to ECU, May 21**

In February of this year, ECU re-entered into an agreement with the INTERLINK Languages Centers to provide intensive English language instruction to international students intent upon admission to the University. The hope is that once numbers of such students justify it, INTERLINK might open an English as a Second Language (ESL) program on the ECU campus. The President of INTERLINK, Mr. Ahad Shahbaz, accompanied by the Director of the INTERLINK program at UNC-Greensboro, Dr. David Parsons, will visit ECU on May 21 to hold talks with Provost Marilyn Sheerer, ESL expert Debra Oneal, and OIA members Charles Lyons and Monika Wojciechowski. For more information about this visit contact Charles Lyons at 328-1936 ([lyonsc@ecu.edu](mailto:lyonsc@ecu.edu)).

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International Visitors Gather at ECU for the Inaugural Conference of Global Partners in Education

Twenty-five members from 12 countries who are co-teaching with East Carolina University in the Global Understanding Project will be visiting East Carolina University to create the Global Partners in Education Association (GPE) at its inaugural conference, May 19-22. The Global Understanding Project is an innovative approach in using technology to bring international experience to one's own campus. It is cost effective, thus it can reach students from all over the world. In five years it has reached out to hundreds of students at ECU and across all five continents. It won the 2008 Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovative International Education. Partners attending the GPE conference will be coming from Algeria, China, Czech Republic, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, and Venezuela. President Bowles will be presiding over the opening ceremony on May 19. The conference will be a working conference. The International Affairs Office will be invited to give a presentation on Tuesday morning, May 20. All interested ECU faculty are invited to meet with the visitors on Wednesday, May 22 at 1:30pm in the global classroom located in the Science/Technology Building, Room 144.

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**Congrats to International Programs Center at UNCG!**

The UNCG International Programs Center (IPC) will be observing its fifteenth anniversary with an international symposium, May 21 to 23. This will be the last event headed by the head of the IPC, Dr. Lyn Lawrance, who will be returning to her native Australia. Congratulations, IPC, and Farewell Lyn! You've been a super colleague!

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ECU Featured in Chinese Professional Journal

Congratulations to several colleagues in the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences whose work appears in the January 2008 issue of the bilingual *Chinese Journal of Rehabilitation Theory and Practice* published in Hong Kong. Daniel Wong was the special editor of the issue, which includes articles by ECU Professors Paul Bell, Myra Brown, Susie Harris, Robert Kulesher, Anne Dickerson, Denis Brunt, Patricia Hudson, and Paul Alston. They certainly have raised ECU's international profile!

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**Undergraduate Certificates in Global Understanding Approved**

The Undergraduate Certificate in Global Understanding and the Undergraduate Certificate in Global Understanding with Distinction have just been approved and will begin enrolling students in the fall. Building on ANTH 1050, these certificates provide students with opportunities to begin developing global understanding through the integration of elementary foreign language study, study abroad, courses with international content, and co-curricular activities involving international organizations or ethnic communities. The certificates will be administered by the International Studies Program.

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Students Recognized for Completion of MA in International Studies

The MA in International Studies Program will recognize eleven students this May who have completed the program this academic year (or will have completed it by the end of Summer Session I). In addition to having completed a concentration and thesis or non-thesis option, the students have spent at least ten weeks in an international setting and have met the foreign language requirement. They are Laura Amerson (Rwanda/Kinyarwanda/Public Health), Kristin Bolton (Spain/Spanish/Security Studies), Andrea Cadwell (Afghanistan/Pashto/Security Studies), Carrie Carman (El Salvador/Spanish/Hispanic Studies), Harmon Driscoll (Italy/French/Museum Studies), Sandeep Gottipamula (English/US/Business), Steven Mann (Brazil-Argentina/Spanish/Security Studies), Rachel Parker (Switzerland/French/Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies), Alexander Penn (UK/Chinese/Security Studies), Katherine Weingarten (Luxembourg/German/Security Studies), and Sijia Yang (US/English/Business).

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**BSOM Students Receive Internationally Recognized Fellowships**

Nicholas Glomb and Marie Rowe, both third year medical students at BSOM, have been selected to receive the prestigious Albert Schweitzer Lambaréné Fellowship in 2008. They will spend three months working in the Gabon, Africa and are the second and third ECU medical students to be selected for this award.

In addition, Adnan Mustafa, third year medical student at BSOM, was awarded an O. C. Hubert Student Fellowship in International Health. Hubert fellows spend six to twelve weeks in a developing country working on a priority health problem in conjunction with CDC staff. Adnan will spend his fellowship in

Bangladesh studying the epidemiology of acute meningitis/encephalitis syndrome at several sentinel sites.

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Dr. John Williams to Teach New Introductory and Capstone Seminars

Next year, Dr. John Williams, who has taught for the MA in International Studies Program for many years, will be teaching the new introductory and capstone seminars (ADED 6600 and ADED 6690) for the MAIS concentration in International Higher Education Administration. In addition, he will have a number of responsibilities in the Office of International Affairs.

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### **Non-immigrant Visa Applicants for Fall 2008**

Over 450 undergraduate and graduate applicants of non-immigrant visa types have sought admissions to ECU for the fall 2008 semester. The 82 undergraduate students who have or will need an F-1 student visa in order to study at ECU, come from Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, India, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, the UK, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

If you are interested in assisting Monika in her recruitment efforts through distributing materials on your trips back to your home country, corresponding with prospective students in their native language, or if you have any ideas on how to promote ECU, please e-mail [wojciechowski@ecu.edu](mailto:wojciechowski@ecu.edu).

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Fall 2008 Outgoing Exchange Students Selected

This fall ECU will send 45 students overseas for a semester or for an academic year on study abroad programs. Students are preparing to study in Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

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### **2008 Greenville International Festival Review**

The 2008 Greenville International Festival, held on Saturday April 12, was a grand success despite the early ending due to severe weather! This event was hosted by the City of Greenville and East Carolina University's Office of International Affairs. Over 8,000 people from the community enjoyed music and dance from Africa, Ireland, the Middle East, and China. The International Food Court had over 10 food booths from around the globe. Festival attendees had the opportunity to taste cuisine from Africa, the West Indies, the Middle East, Bosnia, India, and China. The International Festival was part of PirateFest that included the Uptown Arts Festival and the Pigskin Pig-Out and celebrated eastern North Carolina's rich history and diverse culture. We are sure the event will be bigger than ever in 2009!

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ECU Hosts U.S. Student Fulbright Workshop

On April 22, 2008, ECU hosted a U.S. Student Fulbright Workshop to familiarize both undergraduate and graduate students with the Fulbright program. Dr. Birgit Jensen, Associate Professor of German in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, moderated the workshop, the first of many she intends to conduct for the ECU student population.

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## **Orientation 2008**

We are anticipating a record number of international students entering East Carolina University in the fall 2008 semester. Over 100 new students from 27 countries are planning to attend our two-day orientation session starting on Thursday, August 14. Orientation will address a wide range of topics including immigration regulations, health insurance, finances, campus facilities, and student services. More information will follow soon!

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Since this is the last newsletter until fall semester 2008, we would like to thank you for your support and contribution toward our effort to promote internationalization at ECU. As always 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 editor, Julie Williams at williamsjul@ecu.edu.