

September 2008

A Word From ... Associate Vice Chancellor for International Affairs James Gehlhar, PhD

Welcome to a wonderful, new semester at ECU!

This is the very first semester in Greenville for approximately ninety new international students and thirty new international faculty members as well as for me. I eagerly look forward to all that ECU has to offer and discover each day new events and activities on campus that are truly enriching.

To our students, I urge each of you to make the most of every day that you are here. Although it may not appear so now, this phase of your student life will pass with amazing speed. Please take advantage of your ECU experience and use this opportunity both inside and outside of the classroom to develop your creativity. Opportunity manifests itself in the people, the facilities, and your willingness to get involved. Join organizations and participate in their activities, whether it is hiking, debating, kayaking, presenting theatrical performances, gardening, volunteering, discussing books, or pursuing other interests. These are days that you will long look back upon with fondness, not only for what you accomplished, but also for the range of people you befriended.

I recognize in retrospect that my own experiences as an international PhD student in another county provided me with a mini-United Nations of people with whom to interact and from whom to learn. From that experience and many that have followed, I now inevitably think about world events as though I were a person enjoying many nationalities simultaneously. If you take the time to meet people who are very different from you, I am sure this will be your experience too.

In short, immerse yourself in all that ECU has to offer. This experience will not come around again.

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**Intercultural Sensitivity Workshop**

On August 26, 2008, Brandi Dudley, Dr. John Williams, and Monika Wojciechowski of the Office of International Affairs with the help of Mark Sanders of Joyner Library; Jenny Sigurdardottir of the Office of Undergraduate Admission; and two international students, Eiichi Murakami and Ming Zhou presented the Intercultural Sensitivity Workshop at Carver Library. About 30 library staff members participated in the workshop as part of their Staff Institute Day. In addition to defining aspects of different cultures, the presenters focused on working with members of various cultures to provide library services to multicultural patrons.

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ECU signs Student Exchange Agreement with Arnhem Business School

In May 2008, ECU signed a new student exchange agreement with the Arnhem Business School, one of the Faculties in the Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen (HAN) in the Netherlands. The Office of International Affairs welcomed its first student from HAN this fall semester and will begin to send students from ECU to HAN in spring 2009.

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**ECU Student Receives Gilman Scholarship**

ECU Anthropology student, Jason Glisson, received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for his study abroad program to the University of Tuebingen in Germany for the 2008-2009 academic year. The Gilman Scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the Institute of International Education. During the fall 2008/academic year 2008-2009 application cycle, the Gilman Scholarship Program received 1,659 applications for 700 possible awards. Congratulations, Jason!

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Summer Study Abroad Faculty Workshop – September 10, 2008

The Division of Continuing Studies and Office of International Affairs will host a Summer Study Abroad Faculty Workshop on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm in the Mendenhall Social Room. Information will be provided on building a program proposal for summer 2009.

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**ECU to host “Go Global” event on September 11, 2008**

On Thursday, September 11, 2008 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm in Mendenhall, Room 244, the Office of International Affairs and Global Academic Initiatives will co-sponsor the event “Going Global” during ECU’s Weeks of Welcome. Students will learn how they can internationalize their degree program by taking advantage of the Global Classroom and ECU’s Study Abroad programs.

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Rotary International Matching Grant for Rural Health Project in India

The Greenville Noon Rotary Club in partnership with the Rotary Club of Dharamsala (India) has received a matching grant of almost \$10,500 from the Rotary Foundation for a rural health project in northern India. The funds will be used to help purchase a mobile clinic to provide health services, care and immunization to internally displaced peoples in remote areas near Dharamsala. Under the terms of the matching grant, an equal amount of funding was provided by Rotary District 7720 in conjunction with our club and our partner club in India. The team from the Greenville Noon Rotary Club comprises Sylvie Henning (Director, International Programs, Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, ECU), Harry Adams (Professor Emeritus of Infectious Diseases, Brody School of Medicine), and Ed Davis (Pitt Children’s Clinic). The Greenville Noon Rotary Club is also working with a community partner, the Tong-len Charitable Trust in Dharamsala, through its ECU liaison Dr. Derek Maher (Associate Professor, Religious Studies Program, ECU).

The project is progressing quite well. The diesel Jeep that will serve as the mobile health clinic has already been purchased. It is equipped with medical and wound care equipment as well as educational materials and some basic presentation technology. An important component of the project is polio immunization awareness. A project manager and a nurse have been hired and the initial assessment of the target communities’ health needs is underway. By October, basic medical services will be reaching these very needy people with the help of Rotary.

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**Asian Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Development Travel Funding**

ECU has just begun the third and final year of a grant from the US Department of Education through its Undergraduate International Education and Foreign Language Program to expand our Asian Studies

Program. The Asian Studies project is interdisciplinary. It includes faculty from the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, other ECU colleges and schools as well as community members interested in any region or country in Asia. The grant project has three prongs: Curriculum Enhancement, Faculty Development, and Community Outreach.

We are looking for faculty members who would like to explore the possibility of adding units or modules on any region or country in Asia to existing undergraduate courses or developing new undergraduate courses. The grant has funds for faculty travel leading to course enhancement or development. The typical award is \$3000 for travel and \$1000 stipend once a revised syllabus or course module is produced. (Awards are not made for conference attendance.)

Faculty members from all divisions and departments are encouraged to submit proposals. The [proposal form](#) and descriptions of past projects can be found on the Asian Studies web page: [www.ecu.edu/asianstudies](http://www.ecu.edu/asianstudies). The tentative deadline is September 30. Travel must be completed before June 30, 2009.

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International Student Orientation 2008

East Carolina University and the Office of International Affairs (OIA) welcomed international students from 31 countries for the fall 2008 semester. This event was held from Thursday, August 14 to Sunday, August 17 and allowed new students to meet not only other international students, but also the staff and faculty members who will be available to provide them with administrative support during their academic career at ECU.

All students were warmly welcomed by Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. David Conde, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Special Initiatives, and Dr. James Gehlhar, Associate Vice Chancellor for International Affairs. Each of these individuals urged all our new international students to take advantage of the many services offered by ECU and the OIA. As the main administrative and immigration advising office for ECU's international student and research scholar population, the OIA advised new international students regarding personal, immigration/visa, academic, and social issues during this program. Also, over 100 international students and members of ECU and Greenville communities participated in a welcome cookout at the end of orientation.

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### **International Student Recruitment**

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 they send. Therefore, Monika Wojciechowski, Assistant Director for International Student Recruitment, will be returning to East and Southeast Asia in early October with hopes of attracting more students to ECU. She will be promoting ECU at fairs and school visits in **Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo**. If you are interested in assisting Monika in her recruitment efforts through distributing materials on your trips abroad, corresponding with prospective students in their native language, translating materials, or suggesting ideas on how to promote ECU abroad, please e-mail [wojciechowskim@ecu.edu](mailto:wojciechowskim@ecu.edu).

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Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Monday, September 15, 2008

- The deadline for ECU students to apply for study abroad programs in spring 2009 is quickly approaching. All student exchange and study abroad applications (including ECU Bilateral programs and UNCEP) are due by September 15, 2008. For more information contact Brandi Dudley at dudleyb@ecu.edu or 252-328-1937.
- The Thomas W. Rivers Scholarship Applications for study abroad in spring 2009 are due on September 15, 2008. All application materials should be submitted to the Office of International Affairs. For more information contact Brandi Dudley at dudleyb@ecu.edu or 252-328-1937.

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

- A Welcome Reception for East Carolina University's new international faculty and staff will be held Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at the International House from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Stop by and get to know our new international faculty and staff. Contact Rhonda Brown at brownr@ecu.edu or 252-328-1934 for more information.

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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).