



Update

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For questions or comments, please contact the editor, Dale LaFleur at: dlaflaur@email.arizona.edu

Letter from the Executive Director



As the academic year comes to a close, it is particularly gratifying to reflect upon the continued

expansion of UA's institutional ties in study, teaching and research throughout the world. Currently, 114 new partnerships are pending or in the process of renewal between the UA and foreign universities and research institutes on every continent. The number of visiting international professors and researchers hosted on our campus has exceeded over 800 during the current academic year.

Over the past twelve months 2,000 UA students will have studied abroad, a record number that far exceeds the mobility rates of our peer institutions. Enrollments in study abroad and student exchange programs have continued to grow at a healthy rate of ten-percent annually. This trend is forecast to continue in spite of economic challenges created by the falling value of the U.S. dollar. If anything, the living costs in continental Europe and the English-speaking world are prompting students to venture further a field to culturally diverse regions in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding service of members of the International Affairs College Advisory Committee. In the fall the Committee will be reconstituted with new appointments to a three-year term. The current members are to be applauded for their many contributions to the international mission of the University.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and productive summer.



Kirk Simmons, Ph.D.
Executive Director

I-Grants – New International Mobility Grants for UA Faculty and Staff

The division of International Affairs (IA) is very pleased to announce three new grant programs supporting the international mobility of UA faculty and staff. Information, guidelines and on-line application forms for these new programs can be found at www.international.arizona.edu under the navigation bar, I-Grants (international grant programs). With the launch of new websites for the division of International Affairs, all grant programs for students, faculty and staff can be easily accessed by clicking the I-Grants identifier on individual departmental web pages as well as the IA division front page.

The new Junior Faculty Conference Grant (JFCG) program provides funding to tenure-eligible faculty for travel to professional conferences held outside the United States for presentation of invited and/or refereed papers. Grants cover the cost of airfare up to a maximum of \$1,500. Applicants must demonstrate the benefit of their conference participation to their career development and to long term ties between the UA and scholars and/or educational institutions outside the United States. Preference is given to junior faculty members who have exhibited extraordinary leadership and scholarly potential. Funding of the JFCG program has been generously provided by the Office of the President.

The new Staff Professional Development Grant (SPDG) program provides funding for short term staff

exchanges with foreign partner institutions of the UA. This program was designed specifically to provide opportunities for international exposure to UA classified staff and appointed personnel, who are often the front line in the interface with international partners. SPDG applicants are eligible for a one-time award of \$2,000. Grant funds can be applied towards airfare, meals, lodging, and other incidental expenses.


The new Faculty Research Development Grant (FRDG) program provides support for travel to tenured faculty members for initiation or continuation of funded research with foreign collaborators. Applicants must provide evidence of existing funding of a research project or the minimum of provisional acceptance of a formal proposal for funded research. Grants cover the cost of international airfare up to a maximum of \$1,500.

The first cycle of funding for the JFCG program is underway for summer. Calls for applications for the SPDG program and the FRDG program will be announced by the end of May. Both the SPDG and the FRDG have been funded through the division of International Affairs. Please visit the IA website at www.international.arizona.edu for the most current information regarding these new grant opportunities. Janis Mathiasen (tel: 626-8530; email: jmathias@email.arizona.edu) can respond to any specific inquiries regarding these programs.

New Passport Card Now Available!

The Passport Application Acceptance Facility is currently accepting passport card applications to be issued in the late spring by the U.S. Department of State. The new passport card is designed to meet the needs of American land border resident communities for a less expensive and more portable alternative to the traditional passport book.

The passport card will facilitate entry and expedite document processing at U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The card may not be used



for travel by air, but will otherwise carry the rights and privileges of the U.S. passport book and will be adjudicated to the exact same standards.

To apply for the passport card or a passport book, you can visit the Passport Application Acceptance Facility located at 1128 E. Mabel Street, two blocks north of Speedway Boulevard between Park and Mountain Avenues. Please refer to the website for further details and fees, <http://passport.arizona.edu> or call (520) 626-7161.

New IA Website

<http://international.arizona.edu>

The division of International Affairs is pleased to announce the launching of a new website. This new site offers updated information across each of our departments including a new on-line database that allows the public to search for information on all our institutional partners world-wide. We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Arizona International Educators Take On Leadership Roles

By Harmony DeFazio and Deborah Kuiken

In January 2008, Dr. David Wright, Director, Office of Study Abroad & Student Exchange was named Arizona State Representative and Deborah Kuiken, Assistant Director, Office of International Student Programs and Services was named one of two Regulatory Ombudspersons to NAFSA: Association of International Educators Region II. Each position will be held for a two-year term.

In this role, Dr. Wright organized an Arizona International Educators conference that focused on stimulating and sustaining cooperative efforts by Arizona colleges, universities, and other partners to promote Arizona as a premier destination for educational training and research opportunities for international students from all nations. The conference was held on April 18th at the Francisco Grande Hotel in Casa Grande, Arizona. More information is available at www.arizonaie.org.

Ms. Kuiken's role as a Regulatory Ombudsperson is to provide case intervention and regulatory problem solving to international education professionals by serving as a designated liaison with governmental agencies. In this capacity, the ombudsperson maintains and fosters positive relationships by interacting with governmental officials and colleagues in a diplomatic fashion. This case-based technical assistance will benefit University of

Arizona international students and scholars who encounter problems with many types of applications filed with the United States Citizenship and Service Center, such as change of status, employment authorization.

In addition to the positions that Dr. Wright and Ms. Kuiken hold with NAFSA, it is important to recognize Dr. Kirk Simmons' role as a State Whip in the NAFSA State Whip

Network. This network is an initiative to raise awareness at the federal level of the importance of international education. The importance of raising awareness is illustrated by recent political developments surrounding the employment based H-1B visa status. Universities use the H-1B in order to hire the most talented international researchers, faculty and staff in the world.

There is an annual limit on the number of new H-1B slots available. This number is commonly referred to as the H-1B cap. However, higher education and research facilities were exempted from the H-1B cap in 2000. Congress had recognized that international researchers, faculty and staff are critical to maintaining the competitive advantage and innovative edge of the U.S. higher education system.

The exemption of institutions of higher education from the H-1B specialty occupation cap could be in jeopardy. During last year's congressional debate on comprehensive immigration reform Senator Durban introduced an amendment to give higher education institutions and research facilities their own H-1B visa cap. The most serious implication of the amendment that was introduced, is that new H-1B numbers do not become available until October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year. It would have resulted in the inability for newly hired faculty to teaching at the start of the academic year. Thankfully the amendment was never brought to a vote because of the collapse of the comprehensive immigration reform effort.

We encourage the campus community to create awareness of the importance of the H-1B to the nation's innovation and research agenda. If an amendment is introduced to give universities their own H-1B cap prior to the conclusion of the 110th Congress, it will be necessary to quickly mobilize and prevent it from being passed.

The University of Arizona Strengthens Links to Nanjing, China

By Scott Bird

Yangtze International Study Abroad (YISA) and The University of Arizona (UA) have teamed up with Nanjing Normal University (NNU) in Nanjing, China in a relationship that will open many opportunities for students from the U.S. and China to learn from each other. One of these opportunities is a study abroad program for students from the UA and other institutions. By attending YISA, students will be able to study the Chinese language at Nanjing Normal University and take classes taught in English for UA credit in Political Science, Geography, and International Business. Students taking Chinese will spend their mornings in the language classrooms, before embarking on real-life situations in the streets and markets of China to practice their listening and speaking skills. Students majoring in Political Science, Geography, or Business can spend a semester or more taking upper division classes that apply directly toward their degrees and gain experience in China that will give them an edge with future employers or graduate school admissions offices. Students of any major will find that these courses provide a fascinating examination of trends in Chinese relations with the global community, China's environment and the economy, Chinese urbanization, American business practices in China, and China's Geographical history while meeting requirements for upper division elective credit. With accelerated Chinese language courses, a Chinese minor can also be earned in just two semesters.

This collaboration between Arizona and Nanjing aims to go beyond the study abroad program with

plans for programs designed for Chinese students to experience UA style education in Nanjing and in Tucson. The University of Arizona is ready to welcome Chinese undergraduate students to Tucson after they have completed a block of freshman level coursework taught in English in Nanjing. The first group of these students will begin taking courses this fall semester and will continue their degree program at the UA starting fall 2009. According to YISA Program founder and director, Dr. Henry Tsang, Chinese students who wish to earn a UA degree without leaving Nanjing can now look forward to the opening of Nanjing International University (NIU) in Fall 2010. Tsang is working directly with UA faculty across several departments toward a goal of offering full degree programs at NIU with majors available across a variety of disciplines. More programs will be added as NIU attracts Chinese university students seeking the excellence in education that is associated with the University of Arizona. NIU is expected to have a student body of 10,000 after ten years.

With YISA offering programs to American and Chinese students, and NIU growing into a major university, the University of Arizona will remain an integral part of an ongoing cultural and educational exchange between Tucson and Nanjing. For more information, please contact YISA directly through the website at www.yisa-china.org, or contact The University of Arizona Office of Study Abroad and Student Exchange at 935 N. Tyndall Avenue, <http://studyabroad.arizona.edu/> or by calling (520) 626-9211.



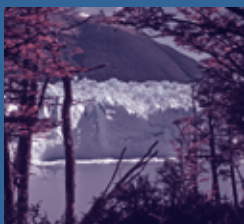
Colleen Thurston, Shanghai P.R. China



Taylor Davies, France



Taylor Davies, Greece



Natalie Colvin, Argentina

New Study Abroad Programs: 2008

The Office of Study Abroad and Student Exchange (SASE) is proud to include faculty-led programs among the study abroad offerings at The University of Arizona. These study abroad sites are developed in collaboration with UA faculty members and their department chairs. This year promises to be another great one for faculty-led programs with many programs ready to begin this summer. New programs in 2008 include:

- Myth and Landscape in Ancient Greece and Turkey
Led by Prof. Bella Vivante, Department of Classics
- Germans, Jews, and the Holocaust in Germany & Poland
Prof. John Heyl, Department of History
- Desert Ecology and Conservation Biology in Namibia
Led by Dr. Hans-Werner Herrmann, School of Natural Resources
- Politics, Environment and Development in Vieques
Led by Prof. Elizabeth Ogelsby and Prof. Sylvia Tesh, Latin American Studies

SASE also recently began advising on several new bilateral student exchange programs. These new programs include:

- Universidad Católica de Argentina, Argentina
- University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria
- Vienna University of Economics & Business Administration, Austria
- University of Hong Kong, China
- University of Leicester, England
- University of the Armed Forces, Germany
- Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
- Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Spain
- University of Bern, Switzerland
- National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan

There are also several new study abroad programs at the University of Arizona, including new study sites in Australia, Fiji, Ireland, New Zealand, and Turkey. For more information on any of our programs, call (520) 621-9211 or visit the office at 939 N. Tyndall Avenue or <http://studyabroad.arizona.edu>.

International Affairs Directory

<http://international.arizona.edu>

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