



International Affairs Update

International Affairs
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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Reader,

As we conclude the academic year, this brief newsletter highlights just a few examples of the ways in which The University of Arizona is engaged across the whole of the world community. The international mobility of our students and faculty members has never been greater and the diversity of their participation in learning, teaching and research touches every corner of the globe.



In the most recent Shanghai rankings, the UA is again recognized within the top 100 universities in the world. We can, indeed, be proud of our status as a world-class research university and of our continuing leadership as a global player in international education.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

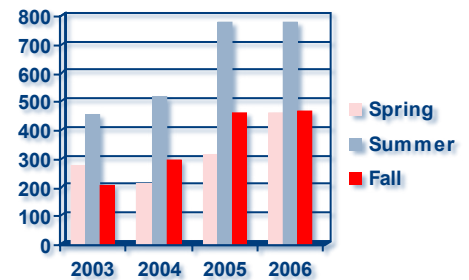
Kirk Simmons, Ph.D.

A Great Year to Study Abroad

In November 2005, the United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution designating 2006 as the “Year of Study Abroad,” and encouraged colleges and universities to promote and expand study abroad opportunities. Senate Resolution 308 noted that only 1 percent of U.S. students study abroad each year. However, nearly 5 percent of The University of Arizona (UA) undergraduates study in another country each year and over 20 percent of UA students receive a study abroad experience during their academic career. The UA is consistently included in the “top ten” for sending the highest number of U.S. students abroad, as reported by the Institute of International Education.

Several new study abroad programs were established at the UA in 2006. This fall, the Departments of Anthropology, East Asian Studies, and Political Science will begin offering direct credit for UA’s first ever program in China: Yangtze International University in Nanjing. The Department of Political Science has also launched a new summer program in Yalta, Ukraine and a semester program in Pecs, Hungary. The School of Natural Resources will offer our newest summer program in Africa, “Conservation Biology in Namibia”.

Students interested in our new programs, or



UA Students Studying Abroad 2003-2006

the many other study abroad opportunities at the UA, are encouraged to visit <http://studyabroad.arizona.edu>. Students can also visit the Office of Study Abroad and Student Exchange at 939 N. Tyndall Avenue or call (520) 626-9211.



Himbas in north-western Namibia
 Courtesy of Dr. Hans Werner Herrmann
 The School of Natural Resources

Passport Acceptance Facility:

Due to increased demand for first time passports and a new travel initiative, the Passport Acceptance Facility has added new services, increased hours of operation and launched an informational website: <http://passport.arizona.edu>.

The new travel initiative requires travelers to and from the Caribbean, Bermuda, Panama, Mexico and Canada to have a passport or other secure, accepted document to enter or re-enter the United States. The current proposed timeline for implementation of this requirement is:

- December 31, 2006 – Requirement applied to all air and sea travel to and from the above destinations.
- December 31, 2007 - Requirement extended to all land border crossings as well as air and sea travel.

Please allow yourself plenty of time for application processing if these changes affect you. The public is welcome and no appointment is necessary.

Office of International Student Programs and Services

The Office of International Student Programs and Services (ISPS) is indebted to the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Vice President for Learning & Information Technologies and Chief Information Officer, Dr. Sally Jackson, and the staff of the Center for Computing and Information Technology for their extraordinary support in implementing the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) on our campus. SEVIS serves as an electronic means for the university to receive and transmit information concerning international students' visa status with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of State.

The Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) has worked closely with ISPS to expand relationships with sponsoring agencies and governments.



Tucson Mayor's Awards recipients 2005-2006

Over the course of the academic year, CESL and ISPS collaboratively participated in recruitment events in Washington, D.C. and Mexico City and co-hosted delegations from the Embassies of Qatar and Kuwait. During the spring semester, approximately 80 students sponsored by the Ministry of Higher Education of Saudi Arabia were enrolled at CESL, many of whom will transition to UA degree programs in fall 2006.

International Friends, a community based organization for hosting international students, continues to welcome new international students. Over 100 international students are currently matched with friendship families in the Tucson community through this organization and sixteen received the Tucson Mayor's Award honoring their involvement in the Tucson community throughout the year.

Office of International Faculty & Scholars



Dr. Jean Jacques Ebolo from the Congo Scholar Rescue Fund recipient

The Office of International Faculty & Scholars (OIFS) has had an exciting and productive year. In November 2005, OIFS relocated to 1128 East Mabel Street, which is located two blocks north of The Eller College. Shortly thereafter, OIFS began a major redesign of the office website. Equipped with downloadable forms and templates as well as an interactive world map

of U.S. Consulates, the new and improved website has proven to be an invaluable resource for both foreign nationals and hosting departments alike. If you have not already seen the new website, please visit it at <http://internationalscholars.arizona.edu>.

One of the most rewarding collaborations has been OIFS involvement with the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE SRF). The SRF "provides temporary, matching-sum fellowships to help support scholars from any country, in any discipline, whose lives or careers are threatened." Each year the SRF awards only 20-40 fellowships. This year, OIFS has secured sponsorship of one threatened scholar and is anticipating sponsorship of at least one more threatened scholar in the coming year. Participation in this program is conducted through OIFS' Exchange Visitor Program. For more information on hosting a threatened scholar, please visit: www.iie.org/ScholarRescueFund.

Office of the Executive Director

International Affairs has continued to see an increase in international visitors to the campus over the past few months, many of whom have been seeking institutional partnerships in research, teaching, and student exchange. This level of activity is reflected in 35 new partnerships with colleges and universities in 22 different countries during calendar year 2005. The level of participation in the faculty Foreign Travel Grant program and the sponsorship of outstanding international scholars through the International Visitors Fund have increased substantially as well.

The International Affairs College Advisory Committee (CAC) has provided expert guidance with the development of strategies directed towards further internationalization of the campus under the rubric of Focused Excellence. The CAC will be sharing these strategies with our new President, Dr. Robert N. Shelton, and, as during his tenure at the University of North Carolina, look forward to his continued leadership in international education.



2005

Foreign Travel Grant Program:
Faculty Recipients: 169
Departments Represented: 83
Country Destinations: 52

International Visitors Fund:
Department Recipients: 15
International Scholars Hosted: 16



Arizona's First University.

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