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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

International education is a vital and rapidly growing part of life at Illinois State. The number of students choosing to study abroad has increased dramatically in the past several years, as more and more students realize the value – and affordability – of an international education experience. The rapid globalization of business and markets means there is a profound need for cross-cultural interaction and understanding. In this time of war and international tension, that need is even more acute. Students who travel to other countries to study gain a better understanding of the world and also a better understanding of their place as global citizens.

International education opportunities here on campus are also expanding. Enhanced recruitment and retention efforts are bringing more international students and scholars to Illinois State. These students and scholars come from countries all across the globe and bring with them their culture and world views. Their presence enriches the campus community and provides American students, faculty and staff a chance to broaden their cultural horizons right here in Normal. When international students and scholars leave Illinois State they take with them a high quality education and a greater understanding of American culture. They too, leave with a better understanding of their role as citizens of the world.

International education is a two-way street. Equal emphasis must be given to sending students abroad and to bringing the world's students here. The articles in this newsletter describe how the Office of International Studies and Programs promotes a balanced approach to international education at Illinois State.

Dr. Momar Ndiaye

Director , Office of International Studies and Programs

STUDY ABROAD MORE POPULAR THAN EVER

OISP's Study Abroad area continues to be an extremely busy place. The number of Illinois State students going abroad for education has increased steadily over the past three years. "We've seen a 20 percent increase in study abroad numbers over the past academic year, alone," said Study Abroad Coordinator Jimmy Brazelton. "Interest in international education is getting stronger and even the economic troubles here at home don't seem to be deterring students from going abroad."

One hundred thirty five

students went abroad during the Spring 2008 semester and nearly 300 will be taking classes overseas this summer. Approximately 70 students have already committed to programs for the Fall 2008 semester, a record number for a fall semester. New and affordable Study Abroad programs and an increased awareness about the importance of an international education experience have been major driving factors in the growing student participation.

Several new and redesigned international education opportunities for the summer in-

clude a first year pilot program at Kings College in London. Nine students and two faculty members will take part in the three-week program through the College of Education. Six students will get valuable international business experience through a three-week College of Business internship program in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Two College of Business faculty members will accompany the students as they learn about trade practices and market opportunities in Argentina. The internship is part of the College of Busi-

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PROGRAMS GIVE IN-DEPTH LOOK AT AMERICAN CULTURE

Eight students from Hokkaido University of Education in Asahikawa, Japan learned about the U.S. education system, visited cultural and historic sites and experienced the hospitality of families in Bloomington-Normal during February and March. The students, who are training to be teachers, were at Illinois State for a one-month American Studies program.

Their time at Illinois State included lectures on the U.S. education system, site visits to local schools, English language classes at the University's English Language Institute (ELI) and cultural field trips to Chicago, St. Louis and Springfield. The students had plenty of opportunities for cultural interaction while living with host families in Bloomington-Normal.

Students from Hokkaido University have been participating in the American Studies program since 1997. As part of an exchange program, American students travel to Hokkaido University every summer for a one month study experience focused on education in a multicultural context.



Hokkaido students visit Chicago

A group of 15 students from I-Shou University in Taiwan will take part in an American Studies program this summer. Their in-class time will be divided between learning about the American political system and enhancing English language skills. This is the second time a group from I-Shou has participated

in an American Studies program on campus. During the fall semester, OISP will host an American Studies program for students from the Universitaet Paderborn in Paderborn, Germany. Students from Paderborn have taken part in the program for the past two decades.

The American Studies program is also a valuable experience for Illinois State faculty, staff and stu-



Paderborn students and host families bid each other farewell

dents who get a chance to interact with the students from Japan, Taiwan and Germany. The old saying that "you learn more outside of the classroom than you do in it" certainly rings true. Even during a short, month-long visit, the students and the Americans they interact with come away richer for the experience.

The success of the American Studies programs relies a great deal on Illinois State faculty members who share their expertise on American culture and society, and on the hospitality of Bloomington-Normal community members who open their homes to students from around the world. If you are interested in hosting a student in your home contact OISP Associate Director Sarah Jome at 438-5276 or sjjome@ilstu.edu

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ness' Export Project, which assists small and medium sized Illinois-based companies market their products overseas.

A faltering U.S. economy and a weakened dollar may deter many people from taking big family vacations, but the economic troubles have certainly not dampened students' desire for educational experiences abroad this year. "Students really see the value of an international education experience and are not put off by economic troubles here at home or a less-than-favorable exchange rate," said Brazelton. "In fact, many of the exchange programs offered are exceptionally affordable. In some cases, students may also be willing to bear a little more expense for the opportunity to travel and learn about the world."

Brazelton says it is still too early to tell for sure, but a faltering economy could have an impact on international education next year. "It usually takes some time before economic factors begin to influence behavior," Brazelton notes. "If the economy remains sluggish we may see some decrease in students going abroad next year. However, for now we are extremely busy getting students ready to go abroad and we are excited that so many see the value of international education."

MDI MEETS DEMAND FOR DEVELOPMENT EXPERTISE

As they have since 2001, government and private sector officials from a number of developing nations will be on campus this summer for training in development project management. The programs meet the real-world needs of nations working on infrastructure development, public health services, economic growth, education efforts and other projects to improve the lives of citizens.

OISP's Management Development International (MDI) is offering month-long training programs in July, with classes focusing on the effective implementation, management and evaluation of large-scale development projects, human resources management and the financial management of development projects. The classes, taught by MDI staff members, Illinois State faculty and visiting scholars, are offered in both English and French.

Applications for this summer's programs are still being processed, but MDI staff members are expecting 50-60 participants to take part, some of whom have taken one or more MDI training courses in past years. MDI participants include government and private sector officials from a large number of African, Asian and Caribbean nations. MDI training programs have shown impressive growth since they began in 2001. That growth can be directly attributed to MDI's responsiveness to real world development training needs, its flexible training programs and its experienced instructors.

Courses consist of lecture and workshops that utilize computer applications and case studies. Participants put their course work skills into practice through individual class projects based on the needs of their home countries. The July training program also includes site visits to local government offices and businesses as well as cultural visits to Chicago, St. Louis and Springfield.

Participants' travel and training costs are paid by their home governments, sponsoring organizations and various international development agencies including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Health Or-

ganization (WHO) and the World Bank. Funding from those international development agencies is a vital component in the success of MDI. The funding not only allows more people from developing nations to participate in the training, it also serves as an endorsement of the quality of MDI offerings.

MDI also conducts independent study training sessions for individuals and small groups throughout the year, both on campus and on location in other nations. Marketing efforts by MDI staff during



(L to R) Dr. Ariel Henry - cabinet member, Dr. Marie Adrien—head of Humarn Resources, Dr. Alberto Pena—MDI, Dr. Robert August—Minister of Pulbic Health and Population of Haitii, Dr. Momar Ndiaye—OISP, Dr. Abdourahmane Thiam—MDI

the past year have resulted in an expansion of training opportunities abroad. Dr. Alberto Pena, associate director of OISP and MDI Anglophone coordinator, and Dr. Abdourahmane Thiam, MDI Francophone coordinator, visited Senegal and Haiti to explore opportunities to conduct development project training sessions in those

countries. During those visits, Pena and Thiam met with a number of past MDI participants who were very excited about the possibility of continued interaction with Illinois State's programs.

"The past participants in Senegal and Haiti expressed real appreciation for the training they received," said Pena. "They felt the experience was very valuable and the practical knowledge they gained has been a great benefit to their home countries. They were also able to give us feedback on how we can better tailor in-country training programs to best meet the needs of host countries."

Pena also taught on-site courses on development banking and finance in Malaysia and the Philippines during 2007. Ongoing efforts to enhance MDI course offerings include conducting small group training sessions at Illinois State throughout the year and exploring the possibility of using distance learning technology to provide training for participants across the globe.

For more information about the programs offered by MDI visit

www.internationalstudies.ilstu.edu/mdi

LINKAGES FORMING WITH UNIVERSITIES ABROAD

OISP's Unit for International Linkages is working to strengthen connections to other universities across the globe. During March, an Illinois State delegation visited two universities in Cairo, Egypt to explore possible academic collaboration and exchanges.

Dr. Rodney Custer, Associate Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and International Education, Dr. Momar Ndiaye, Director of International Studies and Programs, and Dr. T.Y. Wang, professor of Politics and Government and head of the Unit for International Linkages, visited Ain Shams University and American University in Cairo to investigate the opportunities for joint academic and exchange programs. Drs. Custer, Ndiaye and Wang also visited the USAID office in Cairo to discuss

potential funding opportunities for academic programs.

The Middle East and Asia are two regions being targeted by the Unit for International Linkages as it seeks to expand Illinois State's international education programs. During the fall of 2007, Drs. Custer, Ndiaye and Wang visited National Chengchi University in Taiwan and Beijing Normal University and Fudan University in China. An exchange agreement has been arranged with National Chengchi University, allowing up to four Taiwanese students and up to eight American students to visit the other campus during an academic year. OISP is currently working to establish similar exchange agreements with the two universities in China. Exchange agreements are also in the works following previous site visits by OISP representatives to the Independent University of Bangladesh in Dhaka, the University of Jordan, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Birzeit University and the Nazareth School of Nursing.

Facilitating the exchange of faculty, students and programs between Illinois State and overseas universities and connecting international students and visitors with the campus and surrounding community

through a variety of programming is the main mission of the Unit for International Linkages. The mission of enhancing international education encompasses a wide array of activities. The Unit develops grants and contract proposals and manages funded grants relating to international activities, such as intercultural programs and exchange opportunities.

Sponsoring visiting scholars and fostering student and faculty exchanges with overseas universities is another UIL mission component. Exchange programs are important in developing connections between Illinois State and the international community. Students who have the opportunity to study abroad have a better understanding of the world around them and have the chance to act as cultural ambassadors in

their host countries. Faculty members who participate in exchange programs benefit professionally from the chance to research and teach abroad and interact with international colleagues.

The Unit's most publicly visible work is the popular International Studies Seminar Series, a speakers program that offers information on global issues to the University and local community. The weekly seminars, presented by Illinois State faculty members and visiting scholars, take place on Wednesdays at noon during the fall and spring semesters. Topics covered during this spring semester included gender violence, China's one child policy and relations between the U.S. and North Korea.

For more information visit the Unit for International Linkages webpage at [www.internationalstudies.ilstu.edu/international_linkages](http://www.internationalstudiesilstu.edu/international_linkages) or contact Dr. T.Y. Wang at tywang@ilstu.edu or Dr. Issam Nassar at irnassa@ilstu.edu



(L to R) – Drs. Custer, Wang and Ndiaye meet with officials of Ain Shams University in Cairo.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MAKE ISU A GLOBAL CAMPUS

More than 900 international students and visiting scholars from across the globe call Illinois State University their current home. Approximately 500 are traditional degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students, while roughly 400 are non-degree seeking students here as professional development trainees, exchange students, visiting scholars or participants in other short-term academic or cultural programs. They have come for the excellent academic programs, access to research and technology resources, and the wel-



coming campus and community atmosphere.

When they leave they will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to be successful in their chosen fields. They will leave Illinois State with a much better understanding of American culture and their own place in the broader global community. Their time here also enhances the education of their fellow students, their professors and the entire campus and surrounding community. The great diversity of the international student and visiting scholar population enriches the culture of the campus and gives American students, faculty and staff the opportunity to interact with people from around the world.

The campus community also acts as a global forum, allowing students from China to interact with students from Ghana, students from Germany to meet students from Korea, and students from Turkey to get

to know students from Japan. Traditional international undergraduate and graduate students are joined by others participating in semester-long exchange programs, short-term



American culture programs and professional training opportunities throughout the calendar year. Fulbright scholars and other visiting researchers help to round out the international experience at Illinois State.

The University's international student population hails from a wide array of Asian, European, African, Middle Eastern and Latin American countries. As of Fall 2007, the

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ACADEMICS, COMMUNITY AND PROGRAMS ATTRACT STUDENTS TO ISU

Illinois State has long had a vibrant and diverse international student population. Students from across the globe come to Illinois State because of excellent academic programs and a welcoming community atmosphere. Those elements have earned the University a positive reputation on the world stage. OISP staff members are continually working to enhance student recruitment and retention efforts in order to bring even more of the world's students to Normal.

The overall goal of OISP's recruitment efforts is to further increase student diversity for the benefit of the University and the entire student population. The more than 900 current degree-seeking and non-degree seeking international students and visiting scholars are a vital and active part of the campus community. OISP is focused on increasing the overall number of international students on campus, increasing the diversity of nationality of those stu-

dents, and increasing the diversity of students within various majors, in conjunction with the needs of academic departments.

Using the internet and other available electronic technology is a primary means of identifying and communicating with potential international students. Site visits to universities, international education conferences and student recruitment fairs across the globe help to bring the Illinois State message to thousands of potential students. In addition to



targeting traditional undergraduate and graduate students, emphasis is placed on building more short-term international education opportunities for non-degree seeking students, one of the fastest growing segments of international education. Exchange programs, month-long American Studies programs and training sessions for government and private sector professionals conducted by OISP's Management Development International (MDI) program are examples of that type of programming.

Making international students feel at home and encouraging them to be active in the campus community are the keys to effective retention efforts. The welcoming atmosphere of International House, located in the Atkin-Colby residence halls, has long been a focal point for international student life and has fostered valuable cultural contacts between international and American students and community members. Living, eating,

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top countries of origin for international students at Illinois State are India, South Korea, People's Republic of China - including Hong Kong, Thailand, Germany, Japan, Canada, Ghana and Kenya. Some countries with small numbers of students include Turkey, Serbia-Montenegro, Uzbekistan and Nepal. These students are active participants not only in the academic portion of campus life, but also in life outside the classroom. A great many students are very active in registered student groups and country or region-specific cultural organizations. International students can also be found working as student employees in offices across campus and as athletes on a number Redbird teams.

Illinois State's excellent academic programs have gained an international reputation with both undergraduate and graduate students from abroad. The top majors for international students on campus as of Fall 2007 include computer science, business, social sciences, communication, technology, English, biology, mathematics, fine arts and English as a Second Language.

"A vibrant and diverse culture of international education at Illinois State is an integral part of the University's Educating Illinois strategic plan," said OISP Associate Director Sarah Jome. "It also contributes greatly to the education and world view of all students, faculty, staff and community members. The current international student population and the large number of international alumni make Illinois State a true global campus."

*Photos on pages 5 & 6 from International Fair 2008

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studying and socializing together help build strong connections between American and international students.

International Fair, Gala Night and a host of other

country and region-specific cultural events give students a chance to share their culture with the campus and surrounding community. Even when students return to their home countries, they still have a strong affinity for Illinois State and



fond memories of life in Normal. International House alumni often keep in touch with fellow students and former professors. The International House alumni spirit was especially apparent in August 2007 when many I-House alumni returned for a memorial service in honor of former I-House Coordinator Marilyn Boyd, who passed away earlier that year after a battle with cancer.

"Our objective is to increase the opportunities for international students to share their world views with the campus and community through expanded academic and cultural programming," said OISP Associate Director Sarah Jome. "The increased cultural understanding and lasting friendships between international and American students and community members is a valuable retention tool for both international and American students."