

THE INTERNATIONAL GATOR

University of Florida International Center Newsletter

July 2011

Volume I, Issue V



3rd Place - Faculty, Staff and Alumni Category

Kelly McLarnon

"The Neighborhood Kids"

Near the town of Messailler, Haiti

2010



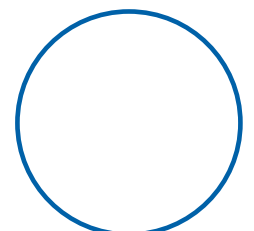
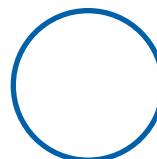
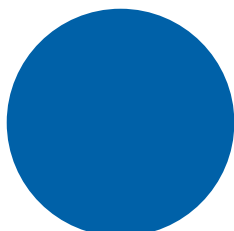
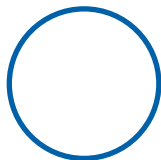
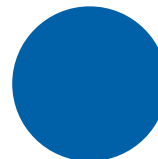
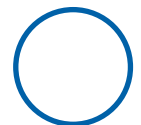
International Center
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

I often hear people talk about the quiet summer months here in Gainesville but in the UF International Center, this period is anything but quiet! As we work with study abroad students, more than 1000 of whom are overseas right now, prepare to welcome an array of new international students, and assist with hosting distinguished international visitors, this office is humming with exciting activity. Staff this summer have been in China, South Africa, Botswana, Germany, Spain, Canada, Italy and Belgium in support of UFIC-led activities. More travel lies ahead in addition to maintaining efforts here in Gainesville with changes in personnel, complicated budget issues, review of our strategic plan, and continuing efforts to further campus internationalization. The hardest thing is for us to fit in our vacations and time with family! This issue of our newsletter captures some of the excitement of what is happening here through the summer months. International efforts led by the UF International Center never take a break. Enjoy this issue of The International Gator. And...enjoy the rest of the summer.

INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER

UF Students win Gilman Scholarship	Page 3
International Student Services Restructuring	Page 4
Going's On	Page 5
Going's On Through Photos	Page 6
SEAGEP visits Chile and China	Page 7



12 UF STUDENTS SELECTED AS WINNERS OF THE GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP

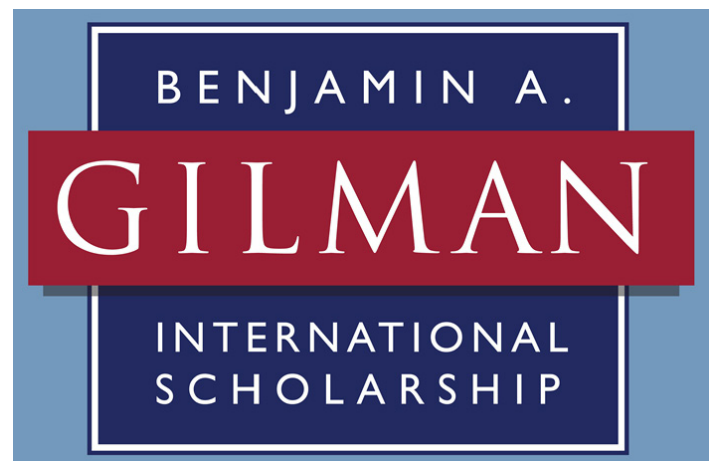
The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad. Such international study is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.

International experience is critically important in the educational and career development of American students, but it can also require a substantial financial investment. The Gilman Scholarship Program broadens the student population that studies abroad by supporting undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints. The program aims to encourage students to choose non-traditional study abroad destinations, especially those outside of Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand. The Gilman Scholarship Program aims to support students who have been traditionally under-represented in study abroad, including but not limited to, students with high financial need, community college students, students in under-represented fields such as the sciences and engineering, students with diverse ethnic backgrounds, and students with disabilities. The program seeks to assist students from a

diverse range of public and private institutions from all 50 states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico.

Award recipients are chosen by a competitive selection process and must use the award to defray eligible study abroad costs. These costs include program tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance and international airfare.

This congressionally funded program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and is administered by the Institute of International Education through its Southern Regional Center in Houston, TX.



University of Florida is proud to announce that 10 students were selected for the Summer Scholarship and 2 were selected for the Fall Scholarship. The awards ranged from \$2,000 - \$5,000. Please join us in congratulating the following students:

Lily Wan, UF in Beijing, Chinese Language
Matthew Caesar, UF in New Zealand, Biodiversity & Conservation
Aria Kitchen, Pareja ECELA, Buenos Aires
Emily Eitzen, UF in Beijing, Chinese Language
Maggi Wu, Korea University, Business School
Nora Zaki, UF in Fez, Arabic Language
Everton Allen, UF in Florence, Journalism
Cady Sandler, UF in Fez, Arabic Language
Anel Disla, UF in Florence, Journalism
Khama Weatherspoon, UF in Fez, Arabic Language
Huynh Ho, UF in East Asia, Architecture
Latrice Bouie, UF in London, Business/Internship
Max Gelber, Bard College, American University of Central Asia

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES RESTRUCTURING

ISS has undergone some organizational changes created by the increase in international student admissions. We now have six advisers to assist departments and our international students in all aspects from creating new incoming student I-20s/DS-2019s to updates of documents and application processes for students requiring Leave of Absence (LOA), Reduced Course Load (RCL), CPT, OPT etc. The international students are divided among the advisers according to the first letter of their last names.

In addition, we have upgraded our Senior

Adviser position, currently held by Martine Angrand, to Assistant Director who will be responsible for the day-to-day functions of ISS operations. Rounding out the ISS staff are two reception positions: a front desk receptionist and a phone receptionist.

ISS is also in the process of updating the website which we hope will be more user friendly to our constituents. We have developed a section just for Departments which we hope will serve as a main resource to guide you through our processes and the immigration regulation requirements.

Debra Anderson, *Coordinator*

Responsible for overall functions of ISS, including supervising immigration operations at all off-campus instructional sites that have international students on location, managing the I-17 Certification processes, oversight for all DSOs (21) assigned to UF/ISS.
danderson@ufic.ufl.edu

Martine Angrand, *Assistant Director*

Responsible for day-to-day operations of ISS and F-1 students U-Z
mangrand@ufic.ufl.edu

Phyllis Molena, *Front Desk Receptionist*

pmmolena@ufic.ufl.edu

Megan Crowley, *Phone Receptionist*

m.crowley@ufic.ufl.edu

Advisers are listed in the alpha order of the students they assist:

Patricia Alba – F-1 students A-C
palba@ufic.ufl.edu

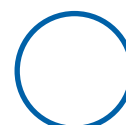
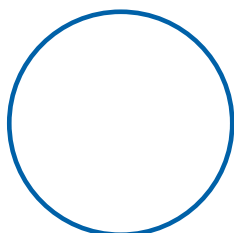
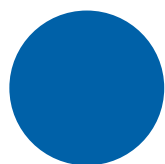
Ethel Porras – F-1 students D-J
eporras@ufic.ufl.edu

Scott Davis – F-1 students K-L, Certificate students and UF J-1 sponsored degree and non-degree seeking students
sdavis@ufic.ufl.edu

Candice Debose-Tyson – F-1 students L-Q and Senior Adviser for new I-20 Document Preparation
cdebose@ufic.ufl.edu

Jessica Kelly – F-1 students R-T
jkelly@ufic.ufl.edu

Martine Angrand – F-1 students U-Z
mangrand@ufic.ufl.edu



STUDY ABROAD BLOGS

In addition to the work that we do in the International Center regarding the logistics of studying abroad, we work to provide different methods of helping students share their experiences with other students, faculty, family and friends to help increase the awareness of the benefits of studying abroad and experiencing other cultures. One of these programs is our UFIC Blog from Abroad where students on various

programs in various locations blog about their study abroad experience.

This summer we have 15 students contributing to our blog representing 13 countries on 5 different continents and it has been by far the most successful group of bloggers that we have had so far. By blogging, students are able to share information about the country they are studying in (Check out Tyler's post about Politics and Culture in South Africa), tell funny stories about adjusting to the new

culture (Check out Lindsay's post on being invited to a Chinese Wedding), and even convey realizations about their experience and their place in the world (Check out Mariana's post on the struggles of missing home while in Buenos Aires).

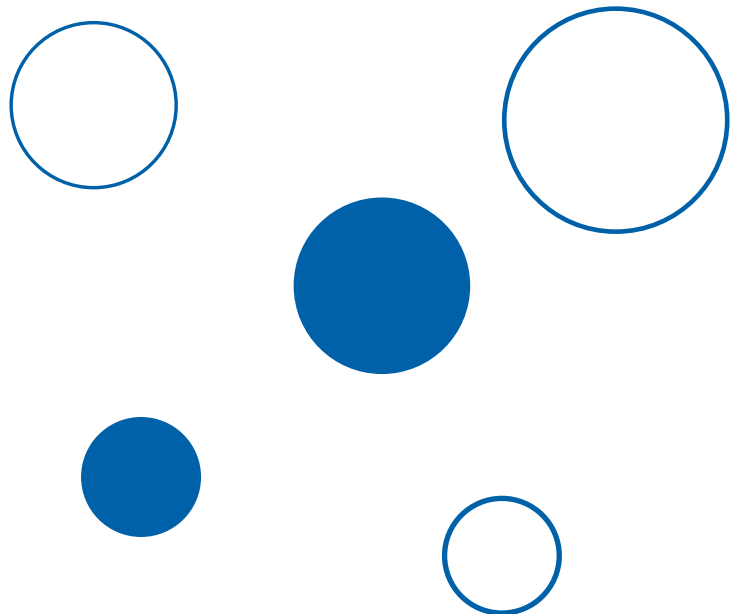
To learn more about our bloggers, be sure to check out the Meet our Bloggers page and be sure to follow our blog to see the daily updates from our students at <http://globalgator.wordpress.com>.

UF, F-1 RECERTIFICATION

The U.S. government requires schools to be certified in order to host international students admitted to their universities on an F-1 student visa. This requires continuous updating of certain information in the Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and a recertification review every two years. However, the federal government only recently initiated the two year reviews and recertification process after the original implementation in 2003. Since the original certification many rules and regulations have changed and updates have been made to the I-17 Certification document. One of the major changes since 2003 has been the change to include "instructional sites" not just branch campuses, where students may receive 51% of their instruction on site. UF/UFIC are currently undergoing the recertification process which should be completed by September 27, 2011.

STUDY ABROAD SERVICES

Study Abroad Services will conduct a training session for faculty reviewers. This will be a hands-on workshop covering the reviewer's role working with online applications in Studio Abroad. The session will be led by David Maas and Yanina Morero. We intend to repeat this workshop every semester or as needed.



GOING'S ON THROUGH PHOTOS

UF STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD IN CHINA, 2011



Above: Dr. Chonghua Zhang, Director of the UF Beijing Center, (the man with the white shirt on the left). Also, Associate Provosts Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland (wearing dark glasses) and Dr. Bernard Mair (wearing a striped shirt) who visited our students in Beijing in June.



COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SIGNING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA

Above: Mr. Bill Messina, Dra. Marta Rosa Munoz, Dean David Sammons, Dr. Fred Royce, Dr. Juan Federico Llanes Regueiro



SOUTHEASTERN ALLIANCE FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION AND THE PROFESSORiate (SEAGEP) SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

All across the country, interests in increasing and enhancing students' global experiences continue to grow. And at the International Center, if we aren't bringing the world to our students, we are bringing our students into the world.

Since the beginning of March, UFIC's Program Development unit has been working with the Southeastern Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (SEAGEP) and the Innovation through Institutional Integration (I-Cubed), both funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to bring a total of 54 graduate students from the University of Florida, the University of South Carolina and Clemson University to Chile, China, South Africa and Brazil. The program, Science and Engineering in the Global Context, intends to heighten students' global awareness and to develop their intercultural competencies in preparation for and pursuit of academic and professional careers. More specifically,

graduate students on these trips have the opportunity to visit local universities and industries, to meet with local researchers and professionals, to network with faculty and students and to present original research on one of four assigned topics – science and technology, science communications, technology transfer and science education in the visiting countries.

Now, while students admitted into the program can only participate in one of the four trips, all 54 students and program administrators will have an opportunity to exchange research findings and travel stories at an international symposium, the SEAGEP Annual Meeting, in September. And as we understand that attending the SEAGEP Annual Meeting may not be in your foreseeable future, we would like to use this newsletter to share with you how SEAGEP is making an impact overseas and at home. With that, we take you on a quick tour of SEAGEP's first two trips to Chile and China.

CHILE

Students who participated in the Chile trip began it with a cultural tour of Santiago's Pablo Naruda Museum, Isla Negra and the Rocks Beach. Dr. Christian Cardenas, a UF affiliate faculty member and Director, Agencia Chilena de Eficiencia Energética (Chile) served as the group's main tour guide and, as participating PhD student in Environmental Engineering, University of Florida, Darina Palacio states, "was a wonderful host."

Early in the visit, SEAGEP students and administrators had the privilege of visiting the US Embassy in Chile. At the Embassy, students were given a briefing from Science, Technology and Health Officer Ms. Mary Brett Rogers-Springs and shared their first impressions of the country with government officials.

Chile, cont. on pg. 8



CHILE, cont.

The rest of the trip included visits to Pontifica Catolica Campus San Jaquin, Federico Santa Maria Technical University and Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso. While at the different universities, students met with professors and Chilean students to discuss trends in engineering and biotechnology and present research. Trips to the Aconcagua Hydroelectric Plant, Los Quilos Installation, Chacabuquito Hydropower Plant and Biogas facility also proved to be very beneficial for the group as hydropower development is a rapidly progressing industry in Chile. The trip ended with final presentations and cultural excursions through the sprawling coastline cities of Vina del Mar and Valparaiso.

For Palacio, Chile provided the opportunity "to learn more about the carbon trading industry and how the mandates of the Kyoto Protocol define policy from the legislative level to the individual level." Furthermore, Palacio "enjoyed driving through the city and identifying the various sustainable construction practices" and the Chilean cuisine. She states, "Never before have I seen that many "green" structures" and "the wonderful food at every meal may have been my most favorite thing about this trip."

CHINA

Fortunately, for those who visited China, UF's own Dr. Chonghua Zhang acted as the group's main tour guide. Upon arriving in Beijing, SEAGEP participants explored China's Forbidden City and Tiananman Square and watched a show at Hong's Theatre. After a first day of cultural activities, the group spent the week meeting with professors and students at Tsinghua University, Beijing University of Science and Technology and China Agricultural University. While on the university visits, SEAGEP students met with international affairs officials and lab professors and gave presentations. For PhD student in Biomedical Engineering, University of Florida, Titilayo Moloye, "talking to the Chinese students" and "learn[ing] that China is heavily investing in research that could lead to potential breakthroughs in the field (biomedical engineering)" made the university trips very beneficial.



After further cultural immersion from visits to the Great Wall, something that Moloye claims, "[she] will never forget," Chang Ling Imperial Tombs, Olympic Park and the Peking Opera House, the group eventually made their way to Shanghai. In Shanghai, the students visited Suzhou Silk Factory and Suzhou Industrial Park where they learned about the park planning process. The group's final day in China was spent touring the renowned World Expo China Pavilion, the Shanghai Museum and the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center.

Stay tuned for a tour of SEAGEP's trips to South Africa and Brazil in the next UFIC newsletter!