

# THE INTERNATIONAL GATOR

University of Florida International Center Newsletter

December 2011

Volume II, Issue II



1st Place - Faculty, Staff and Alumni Category  
William John Grisaitis  
"Three Young Monks"  
Myanmar  
2011

## A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

I am often asked how much I travel or where my most recent travel has taken me. It might come as a surprise to learn that I do not travel as much as many might expect given the nature of my job. I plan my travel strategically to further the mission of the International Center and to balance the need to be away from campus with the need to be here in Gainesville – not always an easy task! To answer the question in the first sentence: My most recent travel was in mid-November to Indonesia. Why Indonesia? To start with, Indonesia is the fourth largest country in the world with a population approaching 240 million. An emerging stable democracy and the largest Muslim country in the world, Indonesia is a nation that is important as a Pacific regional friend and ally of the United States. From a University of Florida perspective, it is home to a substantial number of Gators. For all of these reasons and more, it is a country in which UF ought to have a presence. My travel there, in the company of Dr. Chris Silver, Dean of the College of Design, Construction and Planning, was intended to further our institutional presence in that nation. How did we spend our time while there? One evening we participated in a reception for UF graduates in Indonesia graciously hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia. The reception was organized with the help of the UF Alumni Association in furtherance of their goals to reach out to international alums in a more proactive way. At the conclusion of the Gator reception and in the presence of the Ambassador, we signed an agreement with Bandung Institute of Technology that establishes the broad outlines for a dual degree program between that institution and UF. We spent one morning with the Education Officer and the Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) discussing a partnership program between the University of Florida and several higher education institutions in Indonesia that would be funded by USAID. Another day was spent visiting Bandung Institute of Technology, a three hour drive into the mountains of central Java, to further the plans for formalization of the dual degree program signed earlier in the week. While in Bandung, we also spent a half day with the office of the Governor of West Java talking about their ambitious plans for a “green” and sustainable future for the province, goals to which our expertise might contribute. So, all in all, a full and rewarding trip – and typical of the limited but strategic travel that I will continue to pursue as part of my responsibility as Dean.

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# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK RECAP

Enjoy the gallery of photos documenting the events that took place during International Education Week 2011



Volunteer for International Student Affairs Tabling at Plaza of the Americas



"A Celebration of Catalan and other Iberian Languages" by Matt Loving, Romance Studies Assistant Librarian, and Elisabet Liminyana, UF Catalan Instructor



Center for European Studies Cooking Class: Jessica Lancia teaches German recipes

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK RECAP



FLASH International Demonstrations by UF international students



International Student Services Awards Ceremony



International Educator of the Year Award Ceremony



Networking Beyond Borders hosted by the UF College of Education

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK RECAP



Art Across the Globe: 5 Objects, 5 Continents; Tour by Kerry Oliver-Smith, Curator of Contemporary Art



Faculty Panel: "International Engagement and Career Growth" sponsored by the UF International Center and the College of Education



Jay T. Smith, FAMU's Diplomat in Residence, hosting an information Session on opportunities with the Department of State and Foreign Services



K-12 Global Art Exhibit Reception featuring art created by students from the School Board of Alachua County



## Museum Nights

*Left:* Japanese Club performing traditional Japanese dances

*Right:* Dr. Kevin Knudson demonstrating origami (and mathematics)

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK RECAP



The UF libraries hosted several IEW very successful activities, including the "Arabic Culture: Enrichment through International Education" session.



International Education Week kick-off performance by Belly Gators



UF International Center's Global Connections Raffle



Study Abroad and Peace Corps Mini Fair



Coffee & UF Around the World: Celebrating International Education week by sampling international flavors of Starbucks coffee



# Study Abroad Fair

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

**Reitz Union Colonnade**

**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Explore the world of study abroad and meet:**

- 🌐 UF faculty members who lead study abroad programs.
- 🌐 Representatives from approved Non-UF study abroad programs.
- 🌐 International Center advisors to answer your questions.
- 🌐 Student alumni of UF study abroad programs.

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**Summer A & C 2012: March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Summer B 2012: April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Fall 2012/AY 2013: May 7<sup>th</sup>**

***\*\*Please note some exchange programs have varying deadlines\*\****

For more information visit us in the International Center at 170 HUB or online:

[www.abroad.ufic.ufl.edu](http://www.abroad.ufic.ufl.edu)

Become a  Fan: UF Global Gators

Follow us on : UFStudyAbroad

### CONGRATULATIONS

The University of Florida is one of this year's "top producers" of Fulbright Students and Fulbright Scholars - an exceptional achievement. Top-producing institutions in all Carnegie Classifications were highlighted in the October 24th digital edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

This could not have been achieved without the excellent work of Fulbright Student Program Adviser, John Denny, and Fulbright Scholar Program Campus Representatives, Kathleen Colverson and Sandra Russo. We appreciate their strong contributions to the program's success at the University of Florida.

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAREER AND NETWORKING DAY

Program Development, in cooperation with the Career Resource Center, hosted International Development Career and Networking Day on November 9th as a kick-off to International Education Week. Approximately 200 students browsed and spoke with various non-governmental and governmental organizations regarding opportunities in international development. Students were able to gather resume ideas from an expert panel on "Skills Needed for a Career in International Development." Drs. Muthusami Kumaran and Mickie Swisher of UF's Family, Youth and Community Sciences as well as Dr. Kathy Colverson from UFIC and Dan Gudahl from Winrock International answered questions from a packed class room. "There is tremendous interest and need for individuals qualified in technical areas, but communication skills and the ability to adapt to changing surroundings are equally important skills" said panel members. This is an annual UFIC event hosted in November.

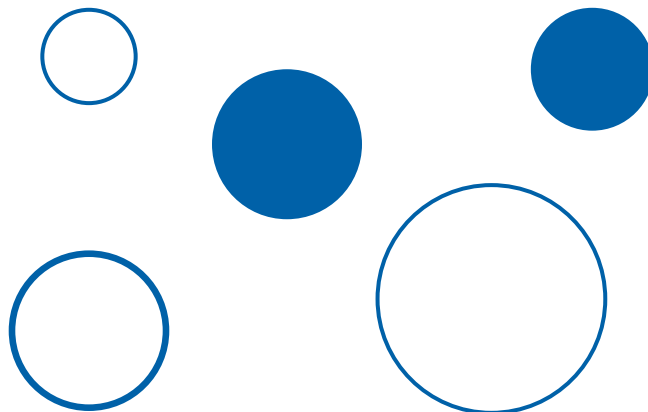
### CALL FOR PERFORMERS AND VENDORS

Does your group perform any style of European folk dance? Or sing traditional European songs? Do you make any traditional or modern crafts from your native European country? How about prepare and serve food from a mobile booth or cart?

VIVA EUROPE! wants you...to be a vendor or performer at the cultural festival on Saturday, April 7, 2012. Call Gail Keeler at 392-8902 x211 for info.

### UFIC RECOGNITION

Dr. Kathleen Colverson was recently appointed to the board of Groundswell International, a non-profit organization that works to overcome poverty by supporting community based organizations in numerous countries throughout the world. Groundswell partners with local groups that address issues related to sustainable local food systems, women's empowerment, natural resource management and agroecological farming. Dr. Colverson will assist with building the organization's capacity as well as offering technical expertise in the areas where Groundswell works. To learn more about the organization please visit <http://www.groundswellinternational.org>





### LUNCHEON AT THE WARRINGTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Warrington College of Business Administration hosted an informal lunch gathering for the non-degree students who are in their first semester within WCBA as part of the inaugural start of a 2+1+1 cooperative agreement with the WCBA and two Chinese universities, Southwest University of Finance and Economics and Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. The lunch gathering provided a casual atmosphere for staff of the WCBA international programs office and the UFIC to talk with the students on their academic progress and adjustment to U.S. campus life. Discussion included things the students found different, exciting, strange and fascinating; class schedules, U.S. exam taking and U.S. culture were also topics of discussion. The overall design of the lunch meeting was to offer the students a voice and help ensure their time at UF is a positive experience.



### THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER PARTICIPATES IN HOMECOMING PARADE

The UFIC partnered with the Gainesville Regional Airport for an entry into the 2011 UF Homecoming Parade. The GRA was the financial sponsor and was promoting new destinations for Eagle Airlines to Miami and hundreds of destinations domestically as well as abroad. The UFIC assembled international students as well as Study Abroad Peer Advisors who are domestic UF students who have previously studied abroad and mentor potential students who will be participating in a study abroad program or thinking about a study abroad destination. With the varied group of domestic students with international experience now under their wing and UF's diverse population of international students the partnership with the GRA seemed truly fitting. Peer advisors and the international students, under the direction of Scott Davis from the UFIC, came together to create a homecoming float that promoted these two groups of students, the UFIC as well as the GRA/Eagle Airlines. This was a fantastic opportunity for our international students to participate in and experience a true college tradition.



Participants decorated the float as well as walked with the float in the parade. International students were encouraged to wear traditional/ceremonial items representing their home countries. The peer advisors were encouraged to wear items they have picked up from their study abroad destinations.

## SPOTLIGHT ON: THE HARN MUSEUM OF ART

The Harn Museum of Art integrates art and culture into curricula throughout the University of Florida. Its holdings are international in scope and include more than 8,300 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and contemporary art. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions, public lectures, panel discussions, academic symposia, film series and other educational programs for adults, students and children.

The Harn Museum's exhibitions, publications and programs engage ideas and issues facing our nation and the world. The museum explores with its university colleagues, both students and faculty, the many ways that artists reflect on, respond to and influence the societies in which they live and work. By addressing the compelling issues of today the museum ensures an interesting and meaningful experience for its visitors on multiple levels.

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### INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Harn curators collaborate with faculty and students from various disciplines on internationally focused exhibitions. In early 2011, the Harn exhibited *Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas*. The exhibition demonstrated the aesthetic power of textiles, which is enhanced by diverse local and regional ideas, materials and techniques. The works showed how global influences affect the production, meanings and use of textiles. Dr. Susan Cooksey, Harn Curator of African Art, curated the exhibition in collaboration with four University of Florida students. Working closely with African artists and textile producers, these students researched, procured or commissioned works specifically for the exhibition and the Harn's permanent collection.

Cooksey is currently working with Harn Museum of Art Director Dr. Rebecca Nagy, University of Florida Professor of Art History Dr. Robin Poyner and curators at the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium on *KONGO across the WATERS*, a collaborative



*During his research for Africa Interweave Jordan Fenton commissioned an Ebonko masquerade ensemble and an Ekpe chief's attire especially for the exhibition. Photo taken by Russ Bryant, courtesy of the University of Florida Foundation.*

project that explores the art and culture of the Kongo peoples of western Central Africa as well as Kongo cultural connections in the United States. The exhibition will mark a milestone in the history of African presence in the Americas. The first documented Africans to arrive in what is now the United States came to the Florida shore in April 1513 as free conquistadors. The exhibition will take place in the Fall of 2013 during the Florida-wide celebration of "Viva Florida 500," which marks the 500th anniversary of European's first exploration of the United States.

## MUSEUM NIGHTS

On the second Thursday of every month, the Harn Museum of Art holds Museum Nights from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. with support from the University of Florida Office of the Provost, Student Government and the Honors Program. Admission is free and open to the public. The Harn collaborates with colleges, departments and centers across campus to enhance the Museum Nights offerings through interactive performances, activities and music. The Harn has collaborated with the African Student Union, the Center for African Studies, the Asian Student Union, Center for European Studies, the College of Engineering, the Center for Latin American Studies, Islam on Campus, and the UF International Center.

In addition to working with the above groups to plan activities for Museum Nights evenings, the museum also invites student

groups to highlight their culture and talents through information tables and performances such as capoeira by The Brazilian Cultural Arts Exchange, Yosakoi-style dancing by the Japanese Club, and choral music by the Agbedidi Pazení Sauti Africa choir.



*Student dancers from the Japanese Club.*

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## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE HARN MUSEUM OF ART

Permanent collection installations and traveling exhibitions offer faculty members and students opportunities to engage visually, emotionally and intellectually with significant works of art. Faculty and students may discover how art illuminates and provides a context for different academic disciplines. The museum can contribute significantly to the comprehensive educational experience for university students and lead to a lifelong appreciation for art of different periods and cultures. Curatorial and education staff members are available to provide resources that illustrate links between works of art and a variety of curricula and organize gallery assignments for collegiate visitors to enhance their in-class studies. Curriculum comes alive by seeing a related work of art in-person. Instructors may select objects from our extensive permanent collection for a limited number of students to study in a small group setting. These experiences are unique opportunities that encourage the understanding of other cultures and historical eras.



The museum also is able to provide scheduled class tours and educator resources including books, magazines, newspapers, videos and other reference materials.

For more information about using the museum to support academic goals or objectives contact Education Curator of Academic Programs Dr. Eric Segal at 352.392.9826 x2115 or [esegal@harn.ufl.edu](mailto:esegal@harn.ufl.edu)

## ASIAN ART WING

The Harn Museum will open its 26,000-square-foot David A. Cofrin Asian Art Wing to the public on March 31, 2012. The new wing will triple the space the museum has dedicated to Asian art, and will make it the leading university-based center for the study and preservation of Asian art in the Southeastern United States. The galleries will be dedicated to art from China, India, Japan, Korea, and South and Southeast Asia, and will feature masterpieces from the Neolithic period to the present day. The lower level will provide dedicated space for conservation labs, art storage, and curatorial research. The new wing, which will also feature two newly created Asian-inspired gardens, will be named for the late Dr. David A. Cofrin, a founding supporter of the Harn and noted Asian art collector. The new wing's dynamic space will allow many of the 2,000

Asian works from the permanent collection to be on rotating view. The variety and quality of the works—including particular strengths in ceramics, jades, metalwork, paintings, sculpture, and works on paper—will provide many opportunities to explore regional and transnational developments, from ceramic traditions to the spread of Buddhism to the artistic and cultural exchanges between the East and West.

"The new wing will create immense opportunities for engagement and collaboration with students and professors across academic departments at the University of Florida," said Jason Steuber, Cofrin Curator of Asian art. In addition, Steuber noted, "the Harn Museum will expand its leadership role as a noted center for Asian art exhibitions, symposia, research, and scholarly publications."



*Save the Date. David A. Cofrin Asian Art Wing Opening March 31, 2012 to the public. Become a member and see it first on the evening of March 30.*

The American Association of Museums (AAM) accredited Harn Museum of Art, at Southwest 34th Street and Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida's Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open until 9 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for Museum Nights. The Harn Museum Store is open during museum operating hours. The Camellia Court Café is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 352-392-9826 or visit [www.harn.ufl.edu](http://www.harn.ufl.edu).