



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

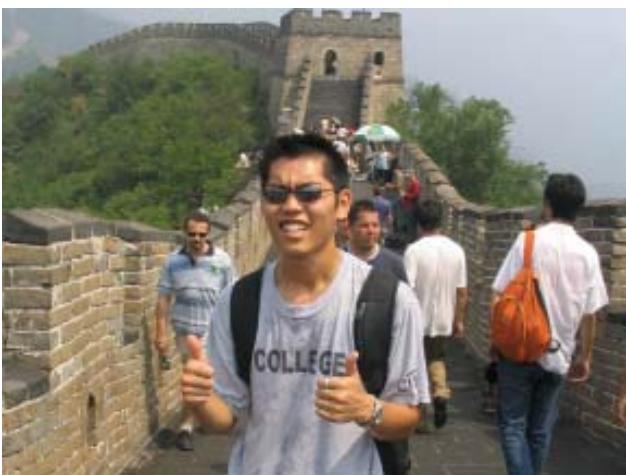
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New UF Study Abroad Program Offers Opportunities in China

Eight University of Florida students participated in the new study abroad program in Beijing this summer. A ninth student from Auburn University also attended the program.

The UF Beijing Center was developed to meet the growing demand for educational opportunities in China.

In the heart of Beijing's educational district known as the "university zone," the center supports existing international study programs and the creation of new ones focusing on Chinese language and culture. With 12 adjacent university campuses nearby, UF participants are surrounded by educational opportunities.



Through the UF Beijing Center, students can earn UF credits and visit cultural and historic sites.

Students can earn up to 15 credits a semester in courses in Chinese language, history and culture, and a variety of other subjects taught by faculty from Tsinghua University, one of the top Chinese universities.

The center provides students with more than an educational experience. Center staff meet students at the airport, conduct an on-site orientation, provide emergency assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a

See *UF Beijing Center*, p. 6



UFIC's Donna Rowland, center, meets with international research scholars for welcome orientation.

A Record Number of International Students And Faculty at UF

A record number of international students, scholars, faculty, researchers and professionals are studying and working at the University of Florida this year.

Some 4,600 members of the UF community from abroad play key roles in almost every aspect of the University of Florida's education, research, and extension activities. They come from every continent, bringing their unique experiences, knowledge and culture to share with the university community. As UF seeks to internationalize its curriculum and provide a global perspective on campus, international visitors contribute by sharing their knowledge, cultures and languages with the university community. For UF students and faculty whose international experience is limited by finances and tight schedules, these international students, researchers and faculty members help bring their part of the world to the UF campus.

Many serve as volunteers in programs such as the International Student Speakers' Bureau. Others take leadership roles in their departments, organizing international events, launching research projects of international significance, and presenting their works at conferences worldwide.

Some are professionals who come to campus to teach specific courses, bringing an international perspective to the classroom and helping UF students prepare for careers in a global workplace.

Most international students, faculty and scholars eventually return to their home countries, but they remain members of the

See *International Students, Scholars*, p. 4

UFIC Recognizes International Students' Achievements

The UFIC recognized seven international students at the University of Florida for their outstanding academic achievements and their contributions to the university community. The awards were presented in April at the International Student Academics Awards Ceremony.

Alec Courtelis Award Winners

The Alec Courtelis Awards were established by Louise Courtelis in 1996 in honor of her late husband, a financier and former chairman of the Board of Regents. The awards recognize academic excellence and outstanding contributions to the university community.

Aparna Baskaran is a doctoral student in physics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Baskaran, from India, has maintained a 4.0 GPA during her UF studies. She has published and presented research papers in the United States, Spain, France, Italy, Poland, Belgium and India.

Among her achievements is co-organizing the international physics workshop in 2004 at the Paris Research Center and on-campus research seminar. She is recognized as a leader and volunteer in her department.

Juan D. Castro-Anzola is a master's student in the Department of Food and Resource Economics in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He has maintained a 3.77 GPA and has co-authored numerous papers. He has won awards in his field of study and is serving his second year as a graduate adviser for this year's National Agri-Marketing Team.

His internship with Florida's Natural Growers prompted the company to provide future internships to other students in his department.

Maisa A. Haj-Tas is a doctoral student in the Department of Communication Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She has maintained a 3.77 GPA at UF. Haj-Tas, from Jordan, has completed three predisertation projects and presented the findings at national and international conferences.

She has participated in the International Student Speakers' Bureau and Graduate Student Council in planning the GSC Forum, where she will present her research.

International Awards for 2006

Alec Courtelis Award

Aparna Baskaran, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, \$3,000

Juan D. Castro-Anzola, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, \$1,500

Maisa A. Haj-Tas, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, \$1,500

The Scarborough Award

Gabriel N. Kasozi, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, \$1,000

The Diane Fisher Scholarship

Francesca Spedalieri, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, \$500

Olawunmi Oduyebo, Warrington College of Business, \$500

The Scarborough Award winner

The Scarborough Award was initiated this year by the Scarborough Company Insurance Inc., which provides insurance options for international students.

Gabriel N. Kasozi is a doctoral student in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, where he has maintained a 3.76 GPA. He won the Victor W. Carlisle Fellowship in 2005. He was recognized in the

See Awards, p. 7

International News

is published by the University of Florida International Center.

Dean: Dennis Jett

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Editor: Larry Schnell

We welcome submission of articles and photographs on international themes from faculty and students. Send submissions to srusso@ufic.ufl.edu.

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New UFIC Staff

New Staff Bring Strong International and Academic Backgrounds to UFIC

Mabel Cardec, Public Events Coordinator

Mabel Cardec has joined the International Center as public events coordinator in charge of organizing events and assisting Dean Dennis Jett.

She brings a wealth of international experience to the International Center.

For the past seven years, she has worked for the Palm Beach County School District as public affairs specialist and spokeswoman to the Hispanic population of the county. Important programs in partnership with the Hispanic community leaders and cultural groups include the Hispanic Teacher of the Year Award, the Latino Student Career Day, "Kaleidoscope, A Celebration of Many Cultures," Hispanic Parent Forums and others.

Her career experience includes more than 15 years as advertising manager, marketing assistant, public relations and hospitality coordinator for a Spanish publishing house with 30 distributors in Latin America, Europe and



Cardec

the Caribbean.

Cardec earned her bachelor's degree from the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, in public communication. Her master's degree is in education with emphasis on English for speakers of other languages from Florida Atlantic University.

Cardec said she was attracted to the position with UFIC because she believes in the center's mission.

"I believe that cultural diversity and multicultural awareness are imperative in education at all school levels, to enhance and enrich people's lives," she said. "From the enjoyment of multiethnic food, literature, art, dance, and music of all backgrounds, we can find a great deal of things to admire and celebrate. More important than that, I believe our younger generations are not exposed enough to other cultures different than their own, and because of that, they are almost blind and ignorant to international politics and globalization issues that affect them, directly or indirectly."

Cardec was born in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. She is married with two children.

Kirsten Eller, Study Abroad Adviser

Kirsten Eller is a new UFIC study abroad adviser for programs in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Eller received her bachelor's degree in Asian and Middle Eastern cultures from Columbia University in 2002 and her master's degree in international education from Stanford University in 2003. During her undergraduate studies, she studied abroad in England.

After completing her studies, she worked in Japan at Ehime University School of Medicine and at Kanagawa Institute of Technology. She speaks Japanese.

On her return to the United States, she worked in California at Legend Education Service, where she coordinated overseas programs for American and Asian students.

Contact: Kirsten Eller, keller@ufic.ufl.edu

International News



Eller

Aleks Nesic, Educational Outreach

Aleks Nesic is a new UFIC intern working with educational outreach programs that promote a greater cross-cultural understanding among international and domestic students.

She coordinates the International Student Speakers Bureau, International Coffee House, Welcome Table, The People Speak and other social events. Originally from Serbia, Nesic studied at the University of Florida and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology

in the summer of 2005. She went on to a graduate program in international education at the School for International Training in Vermont. After completing a year of courses, she is at the University of Florida for a six-month internship at the Transnational and Global Studies Center, International Center.



Nesic

Contact: Aleks Nesic, aleksn@ufic.ufl.edu.

International Students, Scholars Bring Expertise & Culture to UF

From p. 1

Gator Nation, a community of people throughout the world who have worked or studied at UF. They become part of a growing international network of people who partner with UF faculty, other researchers and students in research and education projects.

Researchers, Scholars, Visiting Professors

About 1,800 international researchers, scholars and visiting professors are working on the UF campus or at one of the research and education centers. Professionals from People's Republic of China comprise the greatest number, with more than 300 on campus during the 2005-2006 year. India follows with about half that number, and South Korea is third. The number of Italian researchers shows the greatest increase, having grown 10-fold in two years.

Donna Rowland, the UFIC program assistant who works with research scholars and visiting professors, has seen the numbers from all countries climb in recent years.

"We have a tremendous number of researchers. Our program has grown three-fold in the past two years," she said. "I expect it to continue to grow. The university as a whole has a tremendous number of research projects that are of interest to other countries, and that is what we are all about – collaborative research. Many of these short-term scholars teach in the Levin College of Law or the Warrington College of Business. From my experience, they are the best of the best."

Among this group are international faculty, researchers such as post-doctoral associates, and professionals. The growth in these numbers mirrors the increase in the scholarly category, according to Yvette McKinney, UFIC coordinator for Academic Programs. Many international faculty members teach courses in the fields of medicine, engineering, agriculture and liberal arts and sciences. Their contributions to the University of Florida have been especially valuable. A substantial number of these professionals are functioning in important positions in the College of Medicine both on the Gainesville and Jacksonville campuses.

Positions in medicine, agricultural sciences, engineering, chemistry, physics and information technology are among the most sought after by international professionals at UF. International professionals bring valuable skills to the university in fields where private industry is typically a strong competitor for exceptional applicants. The



International students sign up for insurance programs with Candace DeBose.

university's global reputation and subsequent increase in the acquisition of grant funds that support the work of faculty and researchers, is a factor in the increase in outstanding international employees on campus, McKinney said.

International Students

An estimated 2,800 international students will be at the University of Florida this year.

International student enrollment was stagnant following terrorists attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, when U.S. visas became more difficult to obtain and international travel declined. However, the recent increase in applications shows that UF continues to be a high profile educational resource for students throughout the world, said Debra Anderson, coordinator of International Student Services.

"We seem to have gotten through the period following 9/11," Anderson said. "The federal government is making an effort to improve the visa process, and as a result we are welcoming more international students."

International students come from every part of the globe, but India and China send the largest numbers. The most popular fields for international students are the hard sciences and computer technology, Anderson said.

International students play an important role on campus and in the community, she said. In classrooms and in campus activities, they share their cultures and knowledge with domestic students. Many are active in campus organizations and contribute to research and educational programs. International graduate students are among the achievers who present their research at conferences.

In the community, many international students give presentation to community organizations such as Rotary International and the Kiwanis Club. Through the International Student Speakers' Bureau, they share the experiences with Alachua County School youths.

As the University of Florida seeks a greater international presence on the campus and in the community, these international visitors play an important role, contributing as much to the university as they take with them when they return to their home countries.

UFIC has Resources for International Students, Faculty

The UFIC has developed and supports a series of programs and opportunities for international students, faculty and professionals. These programs are designed to help people get accustomed to their new home at the University of Florida and to provide opportunities for them to share their cultures with the community.

International Student Speakers' Bureau

The International Student Speakers' Bureau is a group of international students from the University of Florida who volunteer to give presentations about their home countries to school children. The main goal of the program is to promote global awareness among kindergarten through 12th grade students attending both public and private schools in Alachua County.

During fall 2005, ISSB volunteers visited 15 schools in the Gainesville area with an estimated audience of more than 1,600 school children. During the spring 2006, 86 speakers from 36 countries volunteered.

ISSB is recruiting new and returning speakers for the fall semester 2006. Visit the International Center's website for more information: <http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/issb.htm> or contact Aleks Nesic at aleksn@ufic.ufl.edu.

International Coffee House

Beginning Sept. 1, every Friday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., students are invited to the Bryan Lounge in the Reitz Union for coffee, cookies and cross-cultural conversation.

The International Coffee House, an opportunity for international and domestic students, faculty, staff and visiting scholars to mingle in a relaxed environment, is free and open to public. Last semester, the event attracted more than 900 students.

To sponsor a night of the International Coffee House, please contact Aleks Nesic at aleksn@ufic.ufl.edu.

The People Speak

Oct. 24, also United Nations day

The People Speak is a community forum hosted at the University of Florida that provides a venue for discussion about international policy and the role of the United Nations.

Last year, The People Speak featured a debate on Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism by a UF professor of political science and a retired U.S. Ambassador. More than 400 high school students involved in the Model United Nations as well as UF students, faculty and staff attended the event.

Welcome Table

July 24-Aug. 25, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Grinter Hall Lobby

International and domestic students will volunteer their time to welcome new international students, answer their questions and/or refer them to the right places on campus. This is an opportunity for new students to meet one another, current students and staff of UFIC, and to learn more about studying at UF and living in Gainesville.

Weeks of Welcome Pizza Party

Sept. 7 from 2-4 p.m., Grinter Hall Lobby

The International Center will host a pizza party for all new, transfer and returning domestic and international students. This event is a part of the Weeks of Welcome (WOW), a campus-wide series of events designed to welcome first-year and transfer students as well as students returning to UF. Staff from UFIC will serve pizza and provide answers to students' questions.

International Student Scholarships

UFIC maintains a list of scholarships that may be available to international students. Visit the website <http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/issresources.htm#financialaid>.

Spouse Program

International Student Services is committed to ensuring the integration of international families into the University of Florida and Gainesville community. The spouses of international students meet once a week to talk about relevant topics and issues. Spouses are invited to join the group to share experiences and develop friendships. Additional information is available at <http://ufic.ufl.edu/issdependents.htm>.

Contact: Yanina Morero, ymorero@ufic.ufl.edu

International Students Run Bed & Desk Program

Student volunteers collect beds and desks to make available to international students at no cost.

Contact: beddeskact@yahoo.com

Visit the international students website <http://ufic.ufl.edu/iss.htm> for information on resources, forms, frequently asked questions and an international handbook.

UFIC Dean Jett Participates in Law Conference in Peru

UFIC Dean Dennis Jett participated in the planning and presentations of an international law conference in Peru in May.

Jett joined Levin College of Law Dean Robert Jerry and Dean Emeritus Jon Mills, Center for Latin American Studies Director Carmen Diana Deere, and more than a dozen other UF faculty at the conference.

The 7th Annual Conference on Legal and Policy Issues in the Americas, Creating a Consensus for Justice Reform in Peru, was a collaborative effort of the Levin College of Law's Center for Governmental Responsibility, its Law and Policy in the Americas Program, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Peru.

Faculty from UF and law schools in Peru discussed topics including citizen security and human rights, alternative dispute resolution, economic integration, legal education and professionalism, market standards, appellate systems, and property rights. Jett moderated the panel discussion "Status of Justice Reform in Peru: Building a Consensus for the Future."

University of South Africa Representatives Visit UF to Build Collaboration

Representatives of the University of South Africa are seeking to develop collaboration with University of Florida faculty. During a visit in May.

Professor N Barney Pityana, principal and vice chancellor (equivalent of president), and Siza Magubane, director of international relations at the University of South Africa met with representatives of the UF International Center, the Warrington College of Business, Distance, Continuing and Executive Educa-

Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo was the keynote speaker.

Jon Mills Award

At the conference, Peruvian attorney and law professor Jorge Santistevan de Noriega was awarded the Jon Mills Award for Significant Contributions to Relations Between Florida and the Americas for his commitment to developing and maintaining collaboration between the University of Florida, and legal and educational institutions in Peru.

Santistevan de Noriega is a distinguished attorney, professor of Law at the Catholic University of Peru, the Judicial Academy of Peru, and the Lima University Law School. He is a foreign enrichment professor at the Levin College of Law and formerly was the national ombudsman.

More information is available at <http://www.law.ufl.edu/cgr/conference/>

UF Beijing Center Offers Comfort and Convenience in an Educational Setting

From p. 1

week, and are available for consultation. Students have opportunities to volunteer and conduct internships at the center.

The program also has a cultural component. Students can tour Beijing's downtown "hu-tong," taste local specialties including Peking duck, see the sites in the greater Beijing area and visit local companies.

Accommodations on the Tsinghua University campus are comfortable and private. Students stay in dorms with a single room and private bathroom, television, telephone and Internet connection. Three meals a day are included.

Sherman Bai, associate professor of industrial and systems engineering, is the UF Beijing Center's

tion, and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences seeking areas of collaboration and exploring opportunities through distance education.

The team found UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension materials particularly useful in their programs in South Africa. Their visit follows a visit to the University of South Africa by UFIC Dean Dennis Jett and pharmacy professor Ian Tebbett in February.

resident director.

The center is catalyst for a growing UF involvement in China. In March, UFIC Dean Dennis Jett, College of Pharmacy Dean William Riffey, and pharmacy professor Ian Tebbett visited a dozen educational institutions including Tsinghua University, Peking University, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Zhengzhou University and Fudan University as a first step toward establishing diverse programs in China for UF students.

The team initiated the discussion of online and exchange programs in English and Chinese language, culture, communications, forensic sciences, clinical pharmacy, public health and joint degree programs.

Contact: Kirsten Eller, keller@ufic.ufl.edu

Summer 2006

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poster presentation category in the 2005 IFAS graduate Student Research Symposium and won the Graduate Student presentation by the 65th Soil and Crop Science Society of Florida. Kasozi was awarded the David L. Niddrie Graduate Travel Award in 2004.

He is a volunteer in the International Speakers' Bureau and has given presentations on his home country of Uganda to more than 1,000 Alachua County students.

Diane Fisher Service Scholarship

The Diane Fisher Service Scholarship recognizes exemplary service to the University of Florida and the Gainesville community. Diane Fisher was a document specialist for the UFIC. She passed away in October 2003. The scholarship was established in her memory.

Francesca Spedalieri is an undergraduate student

in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, where she has a 3.96 GPA.

She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Golden Key International Honors Society of Collegiate Scholars. She participates in Italian language activities on campus and is an orientation leader for the seven new United World Scholars studying at UF this fall.

Olawunmi Oduyebo

is an undergraduate at the Warrington College of Business, where she has maintained a 3.61 GPA. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and served as vice president for Preparing for College Success, which involves mentoring middle school children.

She is a member of the prestigious Florida Leadership Academy and has represented the college at national academic conferences.

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Summer and Fall 2006 Calendar

August

Every weekday through August 25

International Student Welcome Table	Grinter Hall Lobby	9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
16 New Faculty Orientation: Resources for Success	Reitz Union	7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
17 New faculty Orientation: Roadmaps for Success	Reitz Union	7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
22 International & Exchange Orientation	Reitz Union Auditorium	3 p.m.-5 p.m.
29 Study Abroad Re-entry Event	Rion Ballroom, Reitz Union	
31 Study Abroad Re-entry Event	Rion Ballroom, Reitz Union	

September

1 and every Friday evening following

International Coffee House

7 Weeks of Welcome Pizza Party

Bryan Lounge, Reitz Union	7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Grinter Hall Lobby	2 p.m.-4 p.m.

October

24 The People Speak

Reitz Union

Time to be determined