

## Exchange students Studying at UF In record numbers

Each year, several hundred students from UF's exchange partner schools throughout the world come to the University of Florida to study. While they pursue an education on the UF campus, they also bring their cultures and unique knowledge to share with domestic students. As the need for a global education increases, so does the number of international students coming to UF through exchange programs.

Lyn Straka, UFIC's coordinator of exchange services, has seen the highest number of exchange students ever at UF this year. The numbers have been increasingly steadily since the university started tracking exchange students a decade ago. This fall, 147 exchange students began a semester or year of study at UF. An additional 106 arrived for the spring semester. These are record numbers, Straka said.

Another record is the number of students who come for a semester and decide to stay for an academic year. This academic year about a third of the fall exchange students have extended their stay for another semester.

Rene Magerboeck, an Austrian student studying in the Warrington College of Business, came to UF this fall with plans to spend a semester. He decided to stay for two.

"I liked it so much – the learning system, how the classes are prepared and organized – that I wanted another semester's experience," said Magerboeck, who is focusing on international marketing and advertising. Many of his course topics at UF have a strong international component. International advertising, international business law, international marketing and other classes will be useful when he returns to Fachhochschule Wiener Neustadt to complete his master's degree.

Equally important is the interaction and cultural exchange with UF students, Magerboeck said. He

See *Exchange students*, p. 2

## Global Culture Photo Competition



**SHAVING ON THE BUS** by Tamas Kolos-Lakatos

### Winner

International Students Category  
Location: Gainesville, Fla.

## UFIC recognizes photographers

The UF International Center and the Transnational and Global Studies Center recognized outstanding photography by faculty and students in the 2008 Global Culture Photography Competition. Judges awarded first, second and third prizes as well as honorable mention in four categories at a reception Jan. 9. First prize winners received \$200; Second prize winners, \$100, and third prize winners, \$50. First prize winning photographs are featured in this issue.

Winners by category are:

### Study Abroad Students

Photographs taken by UF students while studying abroad

#### First prize

"Look Inside" by Brian Nelson  
Merida, Mexico

#### Second prize

"The Rowing Child" by Dawson Henry  
Siem Reap, Cambodia

See *Photos*, p. 4

## Exchange students share their cultures and experiences at UF

From p. 1

shares his culture and language with other students inside and outside the classroom. As a resident of the International House at Weaver Hall, Magerboeck and about 70 other international students live with U.S. students and share everything from movies to food in their social exchange.

“This has been a very good experience for me and American students,” Magerboeck said. “They are very interested in learning about my culture and background. They were very helpful when I came here and did not know where to go for things I needed.”

This international exchange contributes to the education of domestic students, Straka said. Not every domestic student can study abroad, but every student who graduates from UF should have some international experience and understanding. Exchange students help to provide that experience, she said. They share their cultures in the classroom, in social activities on campus and in their interaction with the community.

“These exchange students come to campus and contribute to our education by sharing their cultural traditions, their language, their educational traditions,” Straka said. “In turn they absorb what our academic and cultural environment has to offer. At the end of their time here, they return home and share their experiences here with those in their home country.”

The academic experience is rewarding enough that some exchange students return to UF to pursue graduate degrees.

Exchange students come to UF under a reciprocal agreement between their institution and a college at the University of Florida. The UFIC assists colleges in establishing exchange agreements. International exchange students studying at UF pay their fees to their home institution, and UF students studying abroad at UF’s exchange partner schools pay their fees to UF. The courses exchange students take away from their home institution count as credits toward graduation at their home institution, so these students add a rich cultural experience to their studies.

UF has 121 active exchange agreements, and an additional three pending approval.

The Warrington College of Business is the largest recipient of exchange students, enrolling about half of the exchange students each year.

Before exchange students leave for their home institutions, the UFIC gathers information about their experi-

### Bringing the World to Weaver Hall



International and U.S. students share an international meal outside Weaver Hall.

ences at UF through personal check-out meetings and a survey. Exchange students view their time at UF in a very positive way. The most frequent reply to the question “What was the worst thing about your experience here is, “Having to leave!”

As they think about their time here they realize that they have grown and learned things about themselves and about the U.S. and Americans. They have formed friendships with UF students that often result in trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific visits and in interest on the part of their UF friends in travelling and studying abroad. The UFIC exchange student program is a win-win for all involved!

### International News

is published by the University of Florida International Center.

Interim Dean: Lynn Frazier

Executive Editor: Sandra Russo

Editor: Larry Schnell

We welcome submission of articles and photographs on international themes from faculty and students. Send to [srusso@ufic.ufl.edu](mailto:srusso@ufic.ufl.edu).

The University of Florida International Center

P.O. Box 113225

Gainesville, FL 32611

(352) 392-5323, Fax: (352) 392-5575

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



Charles H. Wood, left, receives his Senior Faculty International Educator of the Year award from Provost Joe Glover.

## Educators recognized for international work

Charles H. Wood, professor of sociology and Latin American studies in the Center for Latin American Studies, was named Senior Faculty 2008 International Educator of the Year. Juan Carlos Molleda, assistant professor of public relations in the College of Journalism and Communications, was named Junior Faculty 2008 International Educator of the Year.

The awards were established by the UF International Center to recognize outstanding international endeavors by faculty. The awards support UF's strategic goal of internationalizing the campus and curriculum. Each college was asked to nominate two candidates in the categories of tenured and untenured/recently tenured faculty. Consideration was given to research, teaching, and service. Provost Joe Glover presented the awards at a reception in November in the Keen Faculty Center.

### Charles Wood

Wood was recognized for his contributions to the internationalization of the university through his scholarship, teaching and mentoring, as well as program development. As director of the Center for Latin American Studies from 1996 to 2004, he enhanced the external funding for its research and graduate student programs. He has demonstrated an ability to identify emerging issues of global importance, including deforestation of the Amazon in the 1980s and the impact of crime and violence on economic and political development in the Americas in this decade. He translated these themes into innovative, interdisciplinary programs grounded in collaboration between U.S. and Latin American scholars. He also contributed to the internationalization of UF by enhancing Latin American expertise through the development of joint appointments throughout the university.

### Juan Carlos Molleda

Molleda has developed a groundbreaking research agenda on international public relations, resulting in 25 peer-reviewed publications, 12 invited publications, 26 research papers, 38 lectures at national and international events, and two teleseminars. Since his first academic year in 2000-2001, he has conducted research in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Nigeria, incorporating international research in his classes. He has presented his research at universities throughout Latin America and in Taiwan. In 2005, he was given the International Award for Excellence in Research and Education from the Association of Public Relations of Cuba.



Juan Carlos Molleda was named Junior Faculty International Educator of the Year.

See *Educators*, p. 8

## 2008 Global Culture Photo Competition



**PRAYER FOR TOMORROW** by Sarah Kiewel

**Winner**

Faculty, Staff and Alumni Category

Location: Port-au-Prince, Haiti

## UF student wins photo competition with picture of abandoned hotel

2008 Global Culture Photo Competition



**LOOK INSIDE** by Brian Nelson

**Winner**

Study Abroad Students Category

Location: Merida, Mexico

While UF graduate student Brian Nelson was taking an ecology class in Merida, Mexico, he took pictures mostly of flora and fauna. But the photograph that won first prize in the 2008 Global Culture Photo Competition was of an empty building.

“The shot was just a magical event,” Nelson said. “It was the first photo I took while exploring the downtown area of Merida, the cultural capital of Yucatan.”

The photograph “Look Inside” was taken in the lobby of an abandoned hotel near the heart of downtown. Abandoned hotels provide a unique opportunity for expression, both architecturally and personally, he said.

“The interest for me was the writing on the walls,” Nelson said. “Travelers from around the world had visited this place since it closed, and they left messages expressing their gratitude to the manager of the hotel and love for the city. The whole building was interesting, however, especially from the outside. It had a distinct architecture – very ornate. It seemed to me to be a cinema that might show independent and foreign films. This was based on some of the words I was able to make out from a sign on the door. Inside was just as interesting and ornate, with

See *Hotel photo*, p. 5

Photos, from p. 1

### **Third prize**

“Subsistence Comes from Weathered Hands” by Alex Theodore  
Rural Swaziland, near Ngonini

### **Honorable Mention**

“Flamenco in the Caves” by Nicole Birch  
Granada, Spain

### **Honorable Mention**

“Father’s Hand and Son” by Elizabeth Freeman  
Dublin, Ireland

### **Honorable Mention:**

“Tibet Prayer Flags” by Gesi Schilling  
Tibet

### **International Students**

Photographs by international students while studying in the United States

### **First Prize**

“Shaving on the Bus” by Tamas Kolos-Lakatos

Gainesville, Fla.

### **Second prize**

“Life on the Edge” by Tamas Kolos-Lakatos  
Gainesville, Fla.

### **Third prize**

“Phoenix” by Mujde Erten  
Yosemite National Park, California

### **Honorable Mention**

“American Dream” by Mujde Erten  
Yosemite National Park, California

### **Faculty, Staff and Alumni**

Photographs by faculty, staff and alumni taken while traveling abroad

### **First prize**

“Prayer for Tomorrow” by Sarah Kiewel  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

### **Second prize**

“Fante Boy on Hyaman” by Courtney Micots

# Global Culture Photo Competition 2008

Hotel photo, from p. 4

“It was the first photo I ever took while my camera was on the floor,” he said. “This perspective became my favorite angle to take photographs from.”

In an age of high-tech communication, this primitive form of expression – writing on a wall – remains a viable medium, he said.

“I think the photo says a lot about our ‘global culture,’” Nelson said. “We want to be heard, or at least believe that we are heard, so we write. In this day and age, with the speed of communication and its pervasiveness, it is quite a thought to imagine all the people who traveled from all corners of the globe to make their mark and express their feelings.

“This process takes infinitely more time and effort than text-messaging or emailing, or chatting online.”

Nelson, a master’s student in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation studying ecotourism, said the scene in the abandoned hotel reminds him of the process of choosing options that are not mainstream.

“I wonder if any of the many patrons to the Hyatt Hotel in Merida – when it closes in the future – will return to find it inoperable and feel compelled to express their thanks to the people who helped manage it.

“The photo says to me that travelers on our planet appreciate small-scale and local businesses in a way that larger multinational corporations will never enjoy.”

## 2008 Global Culture Photo Competition



### **WANDER IN THE MEMORY OF WWII** by Chen Wang

**Winner**

Photography & Journalism Students Category

Location: Berlin, Germany

Ghana, West Africa

#### **Third prize**

“Civilized Mirage” by Wendy King

Panama City, Panama

#### **Honorable Mention**

“Stuck in the Past” by Sarah Kiewel

Havana, Cuba

#### **Photography & Journalism Students**

Photographs by UF photography and photojournalism students

#### **First Prize**

“Wander in the Memory of WWII” by Chen Wang

Berlin, Germany

#### **Second Prize**

“From a Bucket” by Jeremiah Stanley

El Modelo, Zacapa, Guatemala

#### **Third Prize**

“Caged from the Victory” by Chen Wang

Berlin, Germany

#### **Honorable Mention**

“Red Labor” by Jason Henry

Teculután, Guatemala

#### **Honorable Mention**

“A Boy and a Boat” by Jeremiah Stanley

Santa Maria, Iquitos, Peru

#### **Honorable Mention**

“München Surfers” by Jasmine Luoma

Munich, Germany

The photographs were judged by Randy Batista, Erica Brough, Louise Brown, Jorge Ibañez and Hector Puig. UFIC Interim Dean Lynn Frazier presented the awards at a reception in Grinter Hall.

To view all the photography winners visit the UFIC website, <http://ufic.ufl.edu/photocontest08.htm>

## Top international students honored with three awards

The University of Florida International Center honored outstanding international students with three awards. The Alec Courtelis Awards, Diane Fisher Service Scholarships, and Scarborough Awards were given out at the 14th International Student Academic Awards ceremony in November as part of the International Education Week.

### Alec Courtelis Awards

Ferhat Ay, a doctoral student from Turkey in the College of Engineering, won the Alec Courtelis Award for his outstanding academic achievements at the University of Florida and contributions to the community.

Felipe Carvalho, a master's student from Brazil in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and Tolga Barker, a doctoral student from Canada in the College of Medicine, were runners up for the award.

Ferhat Ay has maintained a 4.0 GPA in his study of computer and information sciences and engineering. In his first year at UF Ay published two articles, one for the Conference on Computational Systems Biology at Stanford University. It was named "The Best Research Paper."

Ay has volunteered for student organizations and has served on the executive board of the Turkish Students Association, designing and maintaining the association's website. He also has volunteered for the Agency for People with Disabilities and with the Turkish community.

Felipe Carvalho has maintained a 3.64 GPA while studying fisheries and aquatic sciences and working on his research project involving the assessment and movement of blue sharks in the South Atlantic. He has given 14 presentations and 21 posters at international, national and regional meetings. He was awarded Best Poster for his presentation at the annual meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. He also has published papers in research journals and is co-author of two books.

Carvalho's public service includes serving as Brazilian representative on the Food and Agricultural Organization and the International Commission of the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna.

Tolga Barker is in the Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences, where he has maintained a 3.75 GPA while researching mechanisms of the human autoimmune disease lupus in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology. He has co-authored 10 peer-reviewed papers in biomedical research journals.

Barker has presented posters and given presentations at the American Association of Immunologists and published in the FASED Journal. His public service includes volunteering for local charities.

### Diane Fisher Service Scholarships

Diane Fisher Service Scholarships were awarded to Katiuska Lourenco, a senior from Portugal in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and to Mats Petersson, a senior from Sweden in the College of Fine Arts.

Katiuska Lourenco, a political science major, has maintained a 3.75 GPA. She has participated in a Brussels study abroad program and a University Scholar Program to study Romanian immigrants in Portugal. She has volunteered with UF's Center for European Studies and the Modern Polish Culture class. She is a member of Model United Nations.

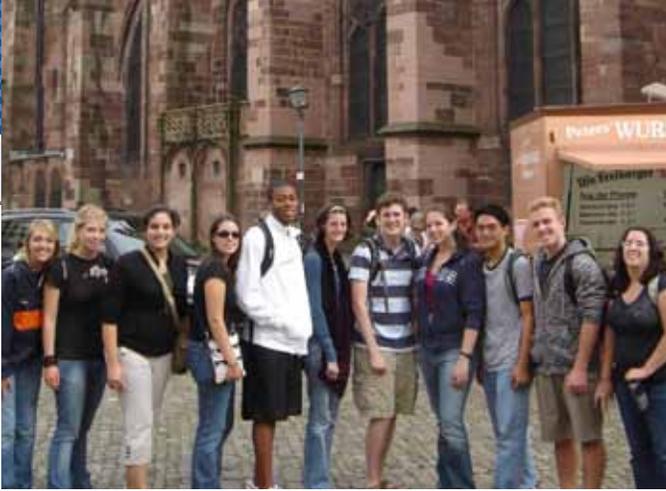
Mats Petersson has maintained a 3.89 GPA while studying ethnomusicology in his pursuit of a doctorate in music. He is a member of UF's World Music Ensemble, Jacaré Brasil, the department's Brazilian music ensemble, and has performed hand drumming and singing in Agbedidi Africa in Gainesville and Miami. He assists undergraduate jazz string players. He has contributed to the local pop, rock and jazz scenes and volunteers with students at the Lowell Institute for Creative Arts.

### Scarborough Awards

Christian Barrientos, a doctoral student, and Lucrecia Masaya, a master's student, both from Guatemala and both in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, won Scarborough Awards.

Christian Barrientos, a former Fulbright Scholar, is majoring in fisheries and aquatic sciences. Barrientos maintains a 3.65 GPA while conducting his research involving nonnative fish species in large lakes in Guatemala through the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory at Ruskin. Since 2007 he has been a member of Students United in Fisheries Research. He volunteers in youth clubs at his church.

Lucrecia Masaya is majoring in wildlife ecology and conservation. She maintains a 3.88 GPA while researching tropical conservation biology in Guatemala. She is a member of the Wildlife Graduate Student Association, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences, the Guatemalan Biology Association, and Jaguars Without Borders Conservation Group for the Maya Forest.



## UF students learn German at Mannheim University

In July 2008, the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, now housed within the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, hosted its first Intensive Intermediate German program in at Mannheim University, Germany. During the six-week program, students earned six credits in Intensive Intermediate German language and three credits in culture studies.

Mannheim is an ideal setting for studying German. The urban environment offers a unique blend of cultural and economic activities in the heart of the historic Palatinate region. One of the most unique parts of this program is the option for students to sit for the ‘Zertifikat Deutsch’ exam while overseas. This internationally recognized certificate proves a working knowledge of German, the ability to negotiate all kinds of everyday situations, and the command of basic grammatical structures and vocabulary.

All 2008 program participants passed the exam, with four of them achieving the highest score possible.

## New staff members at UFIC



Koenig

**Katrina Marie Koenig** has joined the UF International Center as a document preparation specialist. Among her responsibilities is processing student visas. She has a bachelor of science degree in psychology from the University of Florida. Contact: [kkoenig@ufic.ufl.edu](mailto:kkoenig@ufic.ufl.edu)

Visitors to the UFIC are likely to meet **Adam Greenfield** when they enter the office. Greenfield is the new senior clerk. Among his responsibilities are greeting visitors and directing guests to their destinations. Contact: [agreen@ufic.ufl.edu](mailto:agreen@ufic.ufl.edu)

**Adriana Sanchez** has joined UFIC as senior secretary. She is assistant to Susanne Hill, UFIC interim executive director and coordinator of Study Abroad Services. Contact: [asanchez@ufic.ufl.edu](mailto:asanchez@ufic.ufl.edu)

International News

## Fish Out of Water

By Joe Kays

*While in France on a research fellowship, two-time Academic All-American swimmer Kevin Nead switched gears for a long-distance bike race to raise money for diabetes research.*

You’re a 21-year-old college student with four days to kill in France. You could (a) drink champagne on the Champs-Élysées, (b) soak up the sun on the Riviera, or (c) ride your bicycle 400 miles through unfamiliar countryside to raise money for diabetes research.

UF swimmer Kevin Nead – in France at the Institut Pasteur de Lille last year as part of the university’s HHMI-funded Science for Life program –



Kevin Nead

Photo by Daron Dean

– chose the third option. From his broad shoulders and apparent lack of body fat, it’s clear Nead is no stranger to strenuous physical activity. As a member of his college swim team, he typically swims as much as 20,000 yards (more than 11 miles) a day. So when his laboratory in Lille closed for a week last August, he decided to do something different.

“Originally, I got on a bike when I realized I couldn’t just go to a swimming pool whenever I wanted, like I can here,” says the soft-spoken Nead as he sits in the lobby of the University of Florida’s swimming and diving complex.

Soon Nead was cycling hundreds of miles a week. He had already started mapping out a cycling vacation when he stumbled on an article about cycling fundraisers. That night he brainstormed the entire project.

Nead drafted letters to family, friends, teammates, and others he had met during a college career that included athletic and academic All-America honors as well as numerous awards for community service and scholarship. He steered anyone interested to a blog he created on the Website of a Gainesville, Florida, newspaper. Nead’s efforts raised \$4,000 for the American Diabetes Association.

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## Science students have international opportunities through Science for Life

Undergraduate science students seeking international education can apply for the Science for Life Extramural Program for the 2009 academic year. Applications are available at <http://sfl.chem.ufl.edu>.

The Science for Life Extramural Program is supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and is designed to strengthen and transform undergraduate research and interdisciplinary laboratory education in life sciences. Administered through the Honors Program and Office of the Provost, the program involves 10 colleges, 50 departments and 300 faculty. Chemistry professor Randy Duran is program director.

The program is designed to enhance early undergraduate research and transform laboratory teaching in the life sciences. Participants are encouraged to co-author a peer-reviewed publication and share their advanced scientific research with other UF students and faculty. Below are the 12 UF participants, the universities they attended and their research projects.

**Matthew Downs**, ETH Zurich

Quantifying the influence of cargo/cargo linkers on microtubule gliding motility

**Michael Gajdeczka**, University College Dublin, Ireland

Maple DNA Barcodes – Assembling the Encyclopedia of Life

**Mehrnoosh Arrar**, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales  
University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Computational study of ligand binding characteristics of Tryptophan 2,3-dioxygenase (TDO) and Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO)

**Beck Frydenborg**, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Induction of cell division in terminally differentiated cells

**Christiana Lee**, University Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France

En Route to Molecular Motors: Synthesis of a porphyrin- based molecular gate.

**Jeanette Polcz**, Fundacion Instituto Leloir, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Effects of AB on Synaptic Dysfunction

**Jasmine Betz**, Fundacion Insituto Leloir, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The role of blue-light-activated histidine kinases in activation of the activation of brucella virus

**Matthew O'Rielly**, University Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France

Molecular recognition properties of synthetic receptors

**Marzana Ahmed**, ICDDR - Dhaka, Bangladesh

Pathogenesis of enteric pathogens

**David Moore**, University of Sao Paolo, Brazil

Biosensors from intrinsically conducting polymers

**Cherlsea Catania**, University Pierre & Marie Curie, Paris

Evaluation of collagen matrices as bone repair material by cranial defects implants in rats.

**Steve Robinette**, Imperial College, London

The evaluation of covariance TOCSY-based mixture profiling to

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## Educators are recognized for their international work

From P. 3

Nominees for International Educator of the Year from individual colleges are:

Alba Amaya-Burns, College of Public Health and Health

Thomas T. Ankersen, Levin College of Law

Scott Banks, College of Engineering

Enrique Bimstein, College of Dentistry

Oana Cazacu, College of Engineering

Sylvia Chan-Olmsted, College of Journalism and Communications

C. Richard Conti, College of Medicine

Joseph Funderburk, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Lauren Garber Lake, College of Fine Arts

Robert Gilbert, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Bob Hatch, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Rafael Muñoz-Carpena, Institute of Food and Agri-

culture Sciences

Esther Obonyo, College of Design, Construction & Planning

Todd Palmer, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Yong G. Peng, College of Medicine

Randy Ploetz, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Francis E. "Jack" Putz, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Paul Richards, School of Music, College of Fine Arts

Diane Ryndak, College of Education

R. Terry Schnadelbach, College of Design, Planning & Construction

Gregory Schultz, College of Medicine

Sharleen Simpson, College of Nursing

Ian R. Tebbett, College of Pharmacy

For more information, visit the UFIC website at

<http://ufic.ufl.edu/iea.htm>