



EKU INTERNATIONAL

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Director's Corner

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As Director of International Education for the past fifteen years, I have had the opportunity to know approximately 1000 international students who have attended EKU in that span of time. It was my relationships with international students in my Humanities classes that originally attracted me to apply for the directorship, and I consider representing their interests, in all respects, to be the main purpose of my office. In addition, I have been able to develop exchange programs and occasionally to assist various colleges and departments in their international ventures.

My era has seen the development of a modest array of study abroad, exchange, and international student presence at EKU, with a consistently high percentage of graduation for international students (75% have earned degrees) and a steady increase in multicultural content in courses across the curriculum. It has been a good era, one of quality if not of quantity. However, most universities like EKU have twice the number of international students and three to four times the staff in international education. We send about 75 students to study abroad each year; we should be sending two hundred.

EKU has many faculty members with deep international

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Coordinator's Corner

By Beth Blanchard
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This summer Rhonda Whittemore (former EELI Director) and I were able to visit our exchange schools in Yamanashi, Japan and Daegu, South Korea. At each location we had a very busy schedule of meeting with administrators, talking with our counterparts in the International Office, touring the campus, and meeting with former and future EKU students and faculty members. In between we were able to enjoy the gorgeous scenery and sample some of the local delicacies. And there was always time to squeeze in a little shopping at the local markets. The fact that we travelled to both locations with EKU President and Mrs. Whitlock made our trip even more memorable. My only regret was that I didn't get to see Japan's glorious Mt. Fuji, which was persistently shrouded in clouds. I'll have to go back and try again someday.

Back on campus, the fall 2009 semester is off to a good start with students from 46 different countries. Our largest populations are from Saudi Arabia (41), India (25), Kenya (18), Canada (25), Nepal (14), China (12) and South Korea (10). We have 27 countries represented by only one student each. We presently have 43 Graduate students and 171 Undergraduate students.

The new International Student Association President, Janita Schoonderwoerd (The Netherlands), is capably leading preparations for **the 24th Annual International Banquet** which is coming up Saturday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. in the Keen Johnson Ballroom. Join us for authentically prepared food and entertainment from many countries around the world. You won't be disappointed! All seats are reserved, so please contact us at 622-1478 for tickets. We hope to see everyone there!

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concerns and many staff members who are especially attentive to the needs of international students. Very soon, one of our international graduates, Ms. RushdaMajeed, will return to the campus as a guest lecturer in the Chautauqua Series. Our graduates have also included the former Prime Minister of Thailand, TaksinShinawatra, a large contingent of safety and security officers of the Saudi government, and numerous men and women who have pursued noteworthy careers in science, education, or medicine in the USA or in their homelands. Again, quality has been our hallmark, though our numbers remain small.

I am proud of my involvement in International Education at EKU; I now hope for a new era to begin at EKU, with a significant increase in international student numbers, an augmentation of staff and enhancement of space, and additional resources for growth in international education. We cannot remain lodged in the 20th century while the world advances into the 21st. Our task is to maintain quality while introducing new levels of student recruitment, new funding for study abroad students, and new staff and facilities for international programs. It will not be cheap, and it will not be a money-making venture, but it will be worth the investment in the end. It is something that a progressive American university cannot neglect to do.

Study Abroad At EKU

By Michele Gore
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Eastern is a member of several consortiums and programs that provide study abroad experiences for EKU students.

Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA)

CCSA offers summer and winter programs (from 2½ to 4½ weeks in length), semester long programs, and internship programs in English-speaking countries. Courses in the various programs differ from year to year but cover most fields of study. Programs are currently offered in Australia, Belize, England, Ghana, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Scotland, and Hong Kong. Go to www.ccsa.cc for details. For more information contact: Dr. Anne Gossage (622-2997 or anne.gossage@eku.edu) or Professor Michele Gore (622-1705 or michele.gore@eku.edu).

Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS)

KIIS offers a wide variety of summer and semester study abroad opportunities in non-English-speaking countries. Courses in many fields are offered, including in some programs language study. Programs are currently offered in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland/Ukraine, Spain and Turkey. Go to www.kiis.org for details.

For more information contact: Professor Michele Gore (622-1705 or michele.gore@eku.edu) in Case Annex 178.

EKU has agreements with Arcadia University, AustraLearn, theSchool for International Training, and Global Learning Semesters for programs that offer students primarily semester-long study abroad options. Speak with Professor Gore about those programs and other options.



EELI

By Laura Earles
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EELI, Eastern's English Language Instruction Program, began the Fall I, 2009 term on August 20. 34 regular students matriculated: 20 from Saudi Arabia, 5 from China, 2 from South Korea, 2 from Japan, 1 from Venezuela, 1 from Colombia, 1 from Taiwan, 1 from Viet Nam, and 1 from Ukraine. In addition, we were joined by 10 short term exchange students from the University of Yamanashi in Japan, our sister school, who were with us for the first four weeks of class. 2009 was the 16th year of this exchange. We are very excited to have students from so many different places come to EELI to learn English. For enrichment activities, we went to an EKU football game, a play at the drama center, and had a special activity about the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which was celebrated at the beginning of the term. The Fall I term ends on October 9. The returning students will have a two week break. The new director, Laura Earles, will go to Japan during that time with the Madison County International Committee to visit the Yamanashi prefecture and students, faculty and staff from our sister university. The next EELI session, Fall II, 2009 semester, begins on October 22.

The International Student Association

By Janita Schoonderwoerd
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The fall semester is well under way, and there are many great plans and activities listed on the ISA agenda. With an eye on the original purpose of the organization but also a look into the future, this year's ISA officers are motivated to work hard for its members.

During the early 1980s, the International Student Association was founded at EKU for international as well as American students. The founders of ISA realized how important it is for new students to feel welcome at the University and to have people to rely on, people that can help. This vision is still being held on to today.

ISA strives to look after the interests of its members in many ways; it organizes activities in order for the students to create friendships and feel like they belong to the community, but it also protects the interests of its members among different instances at Eastern.

One of our goals is creating awareness for ISA around the University and an excellent opportunity for that is the annual International Banquet, which is organized each fall semester. The 24th annual International Banquet will take place on November 14, 2009, at Keen Johnson Ballroom at 6:30 PM. It is a great opportunity for all of ISA's members to show a little piece of their culture in the form of traditional dishes, clothing, and performances. Around 400 guests are looking forward to this event each year as it is a unique and memorable experience.



Other activities organized by ISA are welcome parties for new students, educational trips to explore Kentucky, the annual Spring formal, and many more.

If you are interested in becoming an ISA member, feel free to contact us. Everyone can join our organization, and we are looking forward to learning from your background!

Did you know that EKU has the following new international student athletes?

Katelyn Collar, Canada, soccer
Lydia Kosgei, Kenya, track
Jordan Berry, Australia, football
Richard Kembai, Kenya, track
Wesley Ruttoh, Kenya, track
Sylvia Bundotich, Kenya, track
Gilbert Chemaoui, Kenya, track
Philip Janz, Australia, tennis
Daniel Jones, New Zealand, track
Andrea Recrado de Blas, Spain, tennis
Bianca Forbes, Canada, track

Student Focus: Agnes Tsheko



My name is Agnes Tsheko. I come from Sefhare village in Botswana, southern Africa. I am a Motswana, and my native language is Setswaping, and Setswana is my national language. My totem is nare (buffalo). In my country, English is an official language. I have a Certificate in Primary Education and a Diploma in Special Education, which is equivalent to an Associate Degree. I worked in mainstream school and special school in my country. I came to EKU in January 2008 to study Interpreter Training. I learned about EKU from the internet. I was awarded a scholarship by my government, and I had to find a reputable university that offers the course. When I searched the internet, I found out that EKU was one of the schools that had the best program. I applied to several schools, but EKU was the only school that responded positively. Unfortunately, I had to change my major to Deaf and Hard of Hearing because there is no guarantee that I will get into the Interpreter Training Program; and again if I get into the program, it means I will have an extra semester to complete my studies.