

OIP adds scholarships, graduates 32 international students



Stephanie Davis Goad
Executive Director

I'm not entirely sure how the spring semester flew by so quickly. One minute we were welcoming new international students at orientation, and before we knew it we were preparing for 32 of our internationals to walk across the stage at graduation.

We've kept busy providing fun events to enhance the college experience for our international students as well as sent some of our NSU students abroad. While we are sad to bid adieu to so many great students, we wish them well in their future endeavors and encourage them to go out and make their mark on the world in their own unique way. No doubt they'll represent NSU well.

It may be the end of another academic year, but we have been hard at work preparing for the fall semester, and we're elated to

announce that beginning Fall 2016, the OIP will offer scholarships to new prospective international students as well as our continuing international students. Last fall we added study abroad grants to help our NSU students travel abroad, so it's thrilling to be able to offer something to help college become a little more affordable for our international students as well.

Our team has worked tirelessly to grow and improve the international programs at NSU, and our entire staff is committed to creating more innovative ways to expose the campus community to other cultures and ways of life, whether through on-campus cultural events or through studying abroad. We've experienced many growing pains over the past three years, but we're happy with the direction we are headed. Be watching for more exciting things on the international horizon as we propel this cultural ship forward.

NSU sends first student abroad through ISEP Program

Rebekah Dow, senior English major at NSU, is currently wrapping up her study abroad experience at Radboud University—Nijmegen, in the Netherlands. She's the first student to



study abroad through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), since the program was implemented at NSU last fall.

She says one of the biggest differences she's noticed between her life in abroad and life in the U.S. is transportation. "It

seems like everyone has a bike, and they are used daily as a way of transportation, not just as a recreational tool. There is a ton of infrastructure in place for bikers, so I feel safe riding my bike, which I can't usually say that about the U.S."

She says stepping out of her comfort zone to study abroad has been one of the best decisions she's ever made.

"Studying abroad has added so much to my college experience, and I doubt I'll have the same chances later in life. For me, now was the best time to be brave and adventurous and just do it."

Spring 2016

International Trivia:

1. Internationally, which country has the largest number of students studying in the U.S.? (Answer on page 2)

2. Which sea is regarded as the largest lake in the world? (Answer on page 3)

(Answer on page 3)

Did you know ...?

The count of 7.4 billion people in the world is growing by 2-3 people every second?

Inside this issue:

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“WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME VISITING NATURAL FALLS STATE PARK...THE STUDENTS HAD A LOT OF FUN HIKING AND ENJOYING A PICNIC LUNCH.” — YEN LI, INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR

International Matters

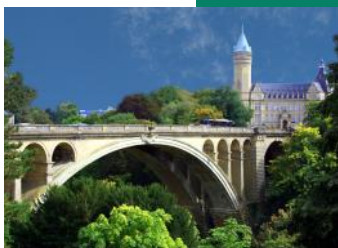
NSU Internationals enjoy day trip to Natural Falls State Park

Sometimes we take the beautiful natural features of Oklahoma for granted, which is why the Office of International Programs thought it would be a great idea for the international students to relax and unwind in nature during one of the most stressful times of the semester (before finals). About 40 international students explored Natural Falls State Park in Colcord, Oklahoma, and ventured further on to Siloam Springs, Arkansas for shopping. Between enjoying the gorgeous, lush scenery at Natural Falls State Park and tasting the premium made coffee at Pour Jon’s in Siloam Springs, students and staff had



a difficult time deciding which part of the day they liked best.

We had a wonderful time visiting Natural Falls State Park, says Yen Li, International Student Advisor. “The students had a lot of fun hiking and enjoying a picnic lunch.”



International Trivia
Answer: China

OIP serves up slice of culture at International MasterChef

Homemade food has a way of drawing people together and revealing important aspects of culture and history for many groups. Such was the case at the first International MasterChef competition hosted by NSU’s Office of International Programs. International students and staff and supporters gathered for the competition as participants re-created a dish from their home country for sampling and judging. While the judges deliberated over the dishes



students participated in games and activities for chances to win additional prizes. Claiming Best Dish was Mohammed Al-shareef, and Madeline Kellner took the prize for Best Dessert. Each received a trophy and a chef apron touting the

name of the competition.

“It was great to taste authentic dishes from different countries,” said Stephanie Davis Goad, NSU’s executive director of International Programs, who also served as one of the judges.

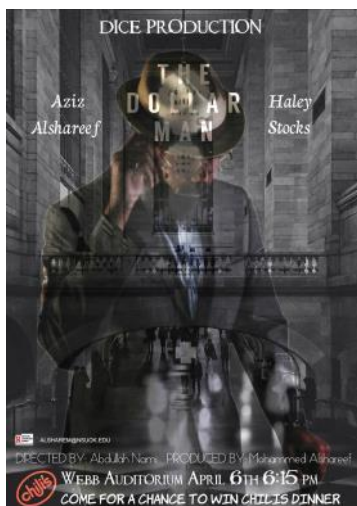
“I think knowing those dishes were made by our own international students is what made the event even better.”

NSU Saudi students film 'The Dollar Man' movie, hold premiere on campus

Some of NSU's international students from Saudi Arabia, including two brothers, worked for three months this semester filming "The Dollar Man" and hosting a premiere for the campus and community.

The story and screenplay, done by Aziz Alshareef, was about "The Kid" trying to make his way into the Dollar Man's gang by being extremely loyal. That's what he seems to be, but that's not what he really is. "The Kid is avenging his brother," said Aziz. Alshareef's brother, Mohammed Alshareef, served as producer and director of cinematography. The film was di-

rected by Abdullah Nami, and sound was done by Meshal Alyahya and Rasheed Alobaid.



Making the movie was not only a group effort, it took a mix of cultures to

pull it off. Student actors hailed from Saudi Arabia, Asia, South Africa and the United States. Actors included many NSU students and a few community members: Haley Stocks, Clay Watts, Robby Dias, Turki Alsharif, Kate Kent, Elliot Njita, Kamal Nassar, Mada Mwale, and Zac Goad.

The brothers Alshareef, both business majors, said they took a film appreciation class, which helped fuel their passion for doing the film, even though they aren't majoring in media studies.

"The fact that these are international students – two of them brothers – filming in Tahlequah makes it such a unique and interesting project," says Stephanie Davis Goad,

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— STEPHANIE DAVIS GOAD, OIP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NSU delegation of staff, students visits partner schools in China

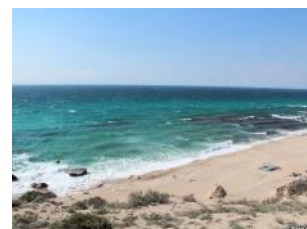
In March a delegation of officials from the Northeastern State University visited a number of important partner institutions in China. The purpose of the mission was to strengthen the University's existing relationships with partner institutions and to sign several new agreements, to market NSU as a choice destination of study in the U.S., and to support NSU students participating in the exchange Program at the partner universities.

The delegation included NSU president Dr. Steve Turner, Dr. Roger Collier, Dean of the College of Business and Technology, Dr. Debbie Landry, Dean of the College of Education, Jami Wright, International Admissions Coordinator for the Office of International Programs, and



Xuan Li, Instructional Coordinator of Asian Programs for the Office of International Programs. Also traveling with the group were two NSU student ambassadors, Tricia Price Diaville and Maegan Blevins. This is the first time an NSU delegation has included student representatives.

International Trivia
Answer: **Caspian Sea**



International Matters

Note from OIP Recruiter: Bringing the world to NSU



Jami Wright
International Recruiter and Admissions Coordinator

The Office of International Programs continues to bring in new students from China, Saudi Arabia, India, Nigeria, and many other places. We are excited every semester about our new students and look forward to many more to come.

In addition to our efforts to recruit students from China through our partner institutions, we have started targeting students from other areas such as India, Brazil and the Bahamas. We're excited to continue adding diversity at NSU and exposing our students and our com-

munity to other cultures from around the world.

We continue to search for great students to bring to NSU, and we look forward to making new connections. If you have connections in other parts of the world where you feel NSU should be a presence, we want to encourage you to let us know. Together, we can build a bridge to span the ocean and bring NSU to the world.



Is someone you know interested in NSU?

We are looking for good students! Please tell your family and friends about NSU. We would love to meet them. The best compliment we could receive is a referral of a friend or family member. If they have questions on how to apply, please have them visit the link below or call

Jami Wright at
(918)444-2052.

<http://offices.nsuok.edu/international/ProspectiveStudents.aspx>

Visiting Chinese scholar holds voice recital on NSU campus

Liping Wang, who attended NSU as a visiting scholar during the 2015-2016 year, rounded out her stay in the U.S. with a voice recital, under the direction of Dr. Robert Daniel, associate professor of music.

"I felt so excited to have such a wonderful opportunity," she says.

Wang performed classical music by Handel, Mozart, Schubert, and Bellini, as well as some classic Chinese songs.



In China, Wang works as an instructor of music at Southwest University of Science and Technology in Mian Yang City in the Sichuan province.

"This was a different experience for her, which happened to benefit her as well as NSU," says Xuan Li, Instructional Coordinator of Asian Programs at NSU. "She was able to bring some of her culture here and at the same time, was able to have a unique experience performing in the U.S."

Ms. Wang returned to China in February after spending a year at NSU.

International Matters

NSU International students enjoy first ever prom event

Capping off the spring semester while honoring spring international graduates was the first ever NSU International Prom Party. Held at the NSU Jazz Lab, the party was both ceremonial and celebratory, completed by the crowning of the first ever international prom king and queen. It was a celebration of the end of the semester as well as the end and beginning of a successful journey for spring international graduates.

International Students enjoyed a night of eating, dancing, and celebrating the valuable education received at Northeastern State University. The international team wishes to



send out a big 'thank you!' to the Jazz Lab for hosting the party and to the International Students at NSU for making it such a great first event!



Long named new Brad Henry Scholar for 2016-2017

Erin Long has been awarded the prestigious Brad Henry Scholarship. Currently a sophomore majoring in Special Education and obtaining a minor in Sign Language, Long is from Colcord, Oklahoma and is heavily involved on campus through the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority and Campus Christian Fellowship. She has traveled abroad before and frequently volunteers for missionary trips in Haiti and Guatemala. She will be attending Swansea University in Swansea, Wales for the Fall 2016 semester.

"I am extremely excited; this is an opportunity of a lifetime," says Long.

The Brad Henry Scholarship is awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The



scholarship includes funds for tuition, room, and board for an entire semester at Swansea University. The applicants must complete the application, maintain good standing at NSU, and un-

dergo an interview with a selection committee. Find more information on the Brad Henry International Scholarship.

Summer Plans?

Are you an international student staying here over the summer? If so, let us know. We're planning fun activities and would love for you to join us. Email Yen Dang Li at dangy@nsuok.edu or call 918-444-2050.