

Welcome to our Spring 2014 issue!



Stephanie Davis Goad
Executive Director

Spring has barely sprung, yet it's almost graduation time for 27 of our international students! While we in the Office of International Programs are excited to see a new crop of students arriving for the fall semester, we have mixed emotions about saying goodbye to those who will leave us to embark

on their next journey in life. We are sad to see to see them go, but we can't help but feel excited about the opportunities that await them. We're quite confident they will

go on to accomplish incredible things.

This semester has been an active one in the international arena. From our trip to the Oklahoma City State Capitol for International Student Awareness Day to the international student soccer throwdown between NSU and Tulsa Community College, it's been as much fun for our staff as it has been for the students.

In this issue, you'll get a taste of just some of the opportunities we offer for American and international students to experience other cultures. I challenge you to jump in and join us any time you have a chance. You'll experience other parts of the world without ever leaving the ground.

Spring 2014

International Trivia

Which country has the largest democracy in the world? (Answer on page 2)

Did you know ...?

Vatican City is the smallest nation in the world?

NSU International students win soccer match against TCC

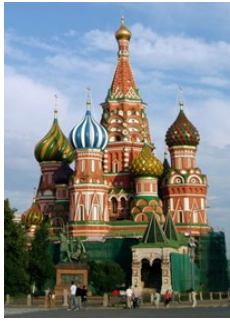


Members of the NSU International Student Organization recently challenged international students at Tulsa Community College (TCC) to a friendly game of soccer. Nearly 20 TCC students came to Tahlequah to vie for the "traveling trophy," which was up for grabs in the first of what International Programs hopes will become a tradition each semester.



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International Trivia Answer:

India

“I THINK THE COMBINATION OF EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECOGNITION WERE THE MAIN POINTS WHICH MADE THE EVENT A SUCCESS.”
— MICHAEL LALHRIATPUIA, INDIA

International Matters

NSU Internationals represent at Oklahoma State Capitol

International Student Awareness Day

International students at NSU were among hundreds of international students studying in Oklahoma who visited the state capitol for International Student Awareness Day on April 9.

The event, sponsored by the Special Joint Committee on International Development, the Governor’s International Team and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, honored international students from high schools, colleges, and universities throughout Oklahoma. NSU’s Office of Interna-



Hundreds of international students from all over Oklahoma, representing 62 countries descended on the State Capitol for the event, which featured free booths, entertainment, and local international cuisines.

Ms. Yen Dang, International Student Advisor, said, “This was an enriching experience that our international students can take back with them to their home countries as a highlight of their time in Oklahoma and the United States.”



NSU international students had the opportunity to meet with other international students, state officials and be recognized by the House Representatives. “Visiting the State Capitol in Oklahoma City was a learning experience and I could get to know and meet other international students from many different countries. It’s also a good chance to visit the House Chamber,” said Erna Leahey, President of NSU International Student Organization. Michael Lalhriatpuia, of India, added, “I think the combination of educational events and international student recognition were the main points which made the event a success.”

tional Programs and the NSU Baptist Collegiate Ministry teamed up to take 30 NSU international students and several staff members, who filled the House of Representatives Gallery, where they were addressed by the Lt. Governor of Oklahoma and other State Representatives.

Fusion of cultures wows campus community at NSU's annual World Fair

The NSU Activities Board (NAB) hosted its 4th annual World Fair on Tuesday, April 1, 2014. This event is a great opportunity to expose students to the diverse cul-

This year we there were seven cultures represented: Saudi Arabian, Indian, Hmong, Chinese, Nigerian, Mexican, and Native American. Each group displayed items

with them. Throughout the event, each group was given the opportunity to play traditional/cultural music of their choice; this led to spontaneous dance lessons and overall entertainment for everyone.



tures that are a part of the campus community.

All cultural groups on campus were invited to setup a booth at the fair to showcase the traditional aspects of their culture and native cuisine. NAB worked ahead with the students to purchase the food needed and the students prepared the food themselves for the attendees to sample.

representing the traditional aspects of their cultures including saris from India, stick ball from the Native Americans, as well as kabsa from Saudi Arabia. One of the most notable attractions was at the Saudi Arabian table, where the Saudi students transcribed names into Arabic and the students were able to take that home

Every year one of the favorite aspects of this event is the traditional style cuisine that is prepared by the students. This year Jaelyn True, a freshman from Pryor, OK, stated that her favorite food was the Chinese dumplings, as well as the chin chin from

Nigeria. "Each year this event is presented, it is always moving to see the pride showcased from our culturally diverse student population," said Sarah Johnson, director of the NAB.

"It is wonderful that they are able to tell their story and share more of themselves with the students of NSU."

"EACH YEAR THIS EVENT IS PRESENTED, IT IS ALWAYS MOVING TO SEE THE PRIDE SHOWCASED FROM OUR CULTURALLY DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION.."

—SARAH JOHNSON, DIRECTOR, NAB



International Matters

Lunar New Year Festival highlight of spring semester



Marla Stubblefield
Director, Language
and Cultural Center

I am pleased to say that this month marks the first anniversary of our Language and Cultural Center.

We have had many success stories of ESL students passing their Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and moving on to the NSU enrolled international student population. Our students are working very hard to acquire the English language and our instructors and program coordinator play key rolls in their success. We still encourage all NSU students and faculty to get involved with our International Buddy Program. This program provides an opportunity for someone in the U.S. to connect with an international student and is a great opportunity for the students to learn the English language and culture through immersion. Contact the LCC at 918-444-2051, visit us

on the NSU website or contact the Office of International Programs for more information, and don't forget to keep your eyes open for future events and classes offered through the LCC. The Language and Cultural Center has been very busy this year delivering ESL courses to new international students on campus and hosting cultural events.

Our Lunar New Year festival brought in hundreds of students, staff and community members for an evening of entertainment such as Asian music, dance, martial arts performances as well as authentic Chinese cuisine.



ESL students traveled with other international students to the capitol in April, and then our instructors incorporated the event into their academic activities by having students present their experience to their classmates and engage in development of their English language acquisition.

Students receive Brad Henry Scholarship to study in Wales

NSU Study Abroad is excited to announce 2014's Brad Henry International Scholar recipients. The Oklahoma State Regents Office provides the funding for the scholarship, and it is the only NSU study abroad program that is fully funded. Students receive tuition and accommodations paid for and extra funds to help pay for airfare.

In order to be eligible, students needed to be an Oklahoma Resident, be enrolled at NSU full-time, be in good academic standing, and have completed at least 30 hours of coursework. Students were selected by a panel



of interviewers and nominated by NSU President Turner to the OK State Regents Office.

Ms. Erika Salmon (right) is a senior majoring in English with a minor in Applied Linguistics.

Ms. Joy Morrow (left) is a senior majoring in English & Sociology with a minor in Applied Linguistics and Legal Studies. Ms. Salmon and Ms. Morrow will be pursuing classes at Swansea University next Spring.

Chanslor returns to the States in June

Martyne Chanslor, 2014 Brad Henry International Scholarship recipient, is currently completing her spring study abroad in Swansea, Wales. She returns to the U.S. in June to resume her studies at NSU. Learn more about her trip by visiting her blog at: <http://acrumbofdust.blogspot.co.uk>



International Students land summer internships through Duke and Harvard

Two NSU international students have landed prestigious internships for the summer.

Harsh Patel, a freshmen Biology/Organismic major (India), was accepted into the 2014 Duke University



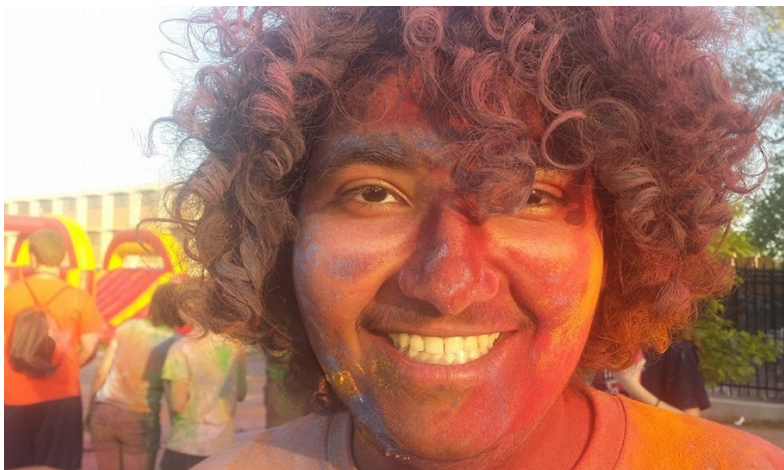
Summer Medical and Dental Education Program at the Duke University School of Medicine. He is confident the internship will be awarding professionally and personally and will only enhance his undergraduate education and his future in the health professions industry.



Lucia Cerchlanova, sophomore international business major from Slovakia and member of the NSU tennis team, was selected by Leaf to work a internship in Slovakia. Leaf is a not-for-profit organization focused on developing young leaders who have the potential to help Slovakia grow and develop. Leaf was founded by Harvard and Wharton University students.

There were 175 candidates from 18 countries and only three were selected.

Color abounds at the “Holi” traditional dance of India during Finals Fest



For the first time, the Office of International Programs and the NSU Activities Board teamed up to provide a cultural experience during Finals Fest. Holi, a holiday celebrating color, is an annual tradition in India. “It was great to see so many American students enjoying this cultural activity right alongside our international students,” says Stephanie Davis Goad, Executive Director of International Programs. “We hope to make this an annual event.”

Happy here at NSU? Tell your friends!

We know that you all are about to pack up and head home to your countries for summer break. No doubt you are ready to visit your family and eat some food from home. We all hope that you have a wonderful break and enjoy your time away from school for a while. As you are hanging out with family and friends be sure to spread the word about NSU. The best compliment we could receive is a referral of a friend.



Check us out on Facebook!



Search for NSU International Programs and NSU Study Abroad!

Phone: 918-444-2050
Fax: 918-458-2056
E-mail: international@nsuok.edu

Graduating? Traveling for the summer? Read these important reminders

As we approach the end of the Semester, the staff of the Office of International Programs wishes you success in your finals and other academic endeavors. If you are completing your studies and moving on from NSU, we congratulate you on your achievements. To the continuing students, congratulations for the successful completion of this semester. We look forward to your return!

To ensure you receive updated information from the OIP please check your NSU email periodically. Below are important end-of-semester reminders.

Spring 2014 Graduates

- The Office of International Programs invites you to the International Graduates Recognition Ceremony at 4 p.m. **Thursday, May 8**, at the NSU Jazz Lab. Please confirm your attendance with Yen Dang at dangy@nsuok.edu or 918-444-2055.

- Deadline to apply for OPT (Optional Practical Training) is 60 days after the completion date of your program. The OPT application must be received by the USCIS before completion of degree program. Failure to meet the deadlines will result in the loss of your OPT benefit.

- After completion of studies, F-1 students must be in one of the following situations to continue to stay legally in the U.S:

- must have already applied for OPT

- admitted to a new program at ASU or other institution

- having a pending case with USCIS for change to another status

If not in any of the above situations, students must depart the USA within 60 days.

- After completion of studies, you are not allowed to continue to work on campus as a student. Any employment after degree completion without the approval from USCIS is considered unauthorized and will jeopardize your immigration status.

- If you plan to travel while on OPT, please contact the OIP for detailed instructions.

- If you intend to enter another degree program here at NSU, please come to the OIP to request a new I-20 reflecting the new program.

- If you have received a Notice of Action from USCIS regarding a change of your immigration status, please contact the OIP immediately to get your record updated in SEVIS.

Continuing Students

- Fall classes start on August 18, so please return to NSU before this day.

- If you plan to travel during break, please make sure the signature on your I-20 is up to date (less than 1 year old).

- If you travel outside of U.S, the following documents are needed in



order to reenter: a valid passport, an unexpired U.S visa, and your I-20 with current signature.

Fall Semester Enrollment

- Make sure that you are enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for undergraduate and 9 hours for graduate students with no more than 3 hours online.

- Deadline to enroll and add classes is August 22, 2014

- If you have concurrent enrollment in another institution during Summer, please submit the transcript to the Admissions office to have your credits transferred back to NSU.

Saudi Scholarship Holder

- Please check the expiration day on the Letter of Financial Guarantee and make sure to renew it if needed before the semester begins.