

Exciting growth continues with addition of new programs



Stephanie Davis Goad
Executive Director

As we wrap up this semester, I am reminded of all the things for which I am thankful, and one of those would be coming to NSU two and a half years ago.

Things have never been more exciting than they have been this past year. With the addition of our new International Student Exchange Program

(ISEP), NSU students may now study abroad for a semester or longer for the price they pay at NSU, use their financial aid to help cover the cost, AND – for the first time ever – apply for a study abroad grant to help cover the cost of their flight!

We’ve also added two new exchange partners in Canada and Japan, providing more opportunities for our students travel for longer than our shorter, faculty-led group trips. There’s never been a more affordable

way for our students to see the world.

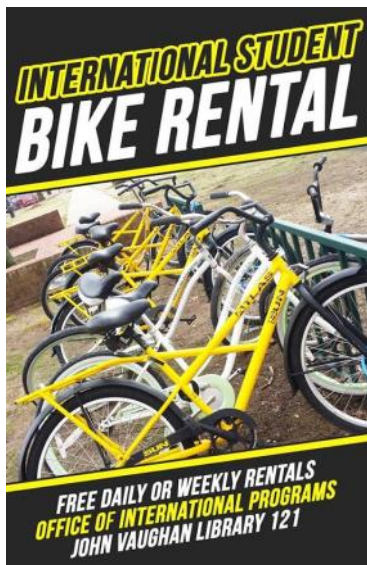
Additionally, our international student population has grown 37 percent over the past year. We have more than 200 international students and scholars representing nearly 40 countries, and they’ve formed a community of their own, sharing their cultures campus- and communitywide.

It’s been a delight working to add and improve programs and to make a difference on the international scene here at NSU, and we’re looking forward to providing even more options for our students, staff and faculty to experience other cultures, whether through our events here on campus, or through adventures abroad. In closing, I’d like to leave you with our department’s new motto: “Bringing NSU to the world and the world to NSU.” That’s the Office of International Programs, and that’s exactly what we do.

Office of International Programs implements bike program

The Office of International Programs prides itself on creating innovative ideas for the International students here at NSU. The new Bike Rental Program is no exception.

Bikes will be available to rent by the week or by the day. What’s the catch? It’s FREE. There is no charge for renting out a bike to use for your convenience. We only ask that bikes are turned in by the deadline provided at the time of rental and that the bikes are taken care of and maintained.



There will be a fee if the bikes are not returned on time or if there is any damage to the bike when it is returned. The OIP is excited about this new program.

“It provides our students with reliable transportation and it gives them a way to be more active within the community,” stated Yen Li, International Student Adviser.

Fall 2015

International Trivia:

What is the richest country in the world?

(Answer on page 2)

Which country is the hottest in the world?

(Answer on page 3)

Did you know ...?

Hong Kong consist of 235 islands?

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“HOMECOMING IS A GREAT TIME FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO SHINE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY CARRY THEIR FLAGS AND SHARE SOME OF THEIR CULTURE,” — STEPHANIE GOAD, OIP DIRECTOR

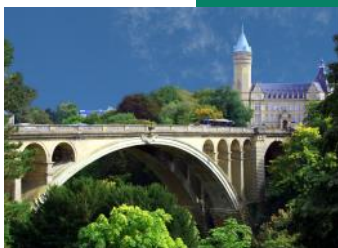
International Matters

NSU international students wow in Homecoming Parade

Homecoming is a time on campus when students, faculty, and alumni all come together to celebrate being a RiverHawk. There are a multitude of events during Homecoming Week, but one of the most notorious for over-the-top creativity is the Homecoming Parade. This year, with help from the Office of International Programs, NSU international students stepped up their game for the



Homecoming Parade by carrying a Chinese Dragon and wowing the crowd. Despite the rainy weather, at least 40 international students and scholars showed up with pride and won the First-Place trophy in the walking group category.



International Trivia
Answer: Luxembourg

NSU Study Abroad partners with ISEP to bring NSU to the world

The NSU Study Abroad programming has been growing every year, and with the university’s new agreement with the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), students have more opportunities to study abroad than ever before. The attractive part is they can do it for virtually the same cost as studying at NSU. “NSU students can now use their state and federal financial aid to study abroad,” explains Tricia Price, OIP Study Abroad Coordinator. “That means that NSU students can now study abroad for a fraction of the cost that it normally takes.” The ISEP partnership allows for

NSU to exchange students to and from more than 300 member universities from approximately 55 countries around the world.



“This will also allow our students to have many more options in terms of placement for study abroad. This is a huge win for NSU Study Abroad,” says Price.

ISEP offers semester, year, and summer programs options. The agency also places students based on their major so students can study abroad and graduate on time when they return.

Those interested in exploring the ISEP program options are encouraged to visit www.isep.org to check out all of the wonderful opportunities.

International Matters

World Fair promotes international awareness through NSU Internationals

In September, the NSU Activities Board and Office of International Programs collaborated to host the 6th annual World Fair.

Participation in the World Fair has grown each year and is currently one of the most popular on-campus events at NSU.

“The World Fair went extremely well. We had 11 different student groups participate, which is four more than last year! All in attendance enjoyed the culturally diverse performances, attire, and cuisine. Overall we had more than 500 in attendance includ-

ing faculty, staff, and students,” stated Sarah



Johnson, Coordinator of Student Activities.

The 11 cultures represented including: China, Saudi Arabia, India, Belgium, Palestine, Japan, H'Mong, Nigeria, Zambia, and Ghana. Each group showcased its culture through traditional attire, food and activities such as dancing and singing.

“This could be the first time that some NSU students are exposed to any culture other than their own,” stated Yen Li, International Student Adviser. “That in itself makes the event a success.”

Are you interested in being a volunteer or showcasing your culture at next year’s World Fair? Please come to the Office of International Programs and we’ll help get you involved!



“THIS IS BY FAR ONE OF MY FAVORITE EVENTS OF THE YEAR AND I THINK IT IS FOR THE STUDENTS AS WELL.” - SARAH JOHNSON
COORDINATOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES



NSU makes inroads with new Coordinator of Asian Programs

Xuan Li, Instructional Coordinator of Asian Programs, joined the Office of International Programs in June with the responsibility of connecting NSU with Asian partners, universities and agents in countries such as China, South Korean, Japan and other parts of Asia.

Li is currently developing various joint-programs between NSU and international partners, including 2+2 or 3+1 programs, where the students will study two or three years in their home country, before transitioning to NSU for another one to two years in order to complete their degree.

“Currently I am working with eight universities in China, trying to recruit more Chinese students to NSU,” Li says.

This June, Li initiated the Faculty and

Instructor Training (FIT) program, which allows partner universities to send their faculty to NSU to experience the U.S. classroom. So far, there have been a total of 30 visiting scholars from 4 universities in China participating in this program.

During their time in the U.S., visiting faculty observe NSU undergraduate and graduate classes, perform research in their discipline, take language and cultural classes and research classes offered through ESL and the NSU Library. One benefit of the program is having visiting scholars showcase their culture to the local community as well as introducing NSU’s heritage and tradition to the partner schools.

International Trivia Answer: Libya



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.

We recently attended the Education USA Fair in the Bahamas and are currently working on admitting several new freshman for the Fall 2016 semester. We met with 1000 Bahamian high school students and found them to be some of the most respectful and well-behaved

students. We believe these students will be very successful at NSU.

The next recruitment trip will take place in March 2016. The plan is to visit China and South Korea. We are also building connections in Malaysia, Taiwan and South America.

We continue to search for great students to bring to NSU. We look forward to the new year and new connections. It is an honor to bring the world to NSU and watch our international population grow.



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/>

International students enjoy an American Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is best when people come together with family and friends to celebrate, sharing a meal with good food and good company. But for our international students who are far away from home and cannot visit home on such a short break, this time of year can be difficult and emotional.

This year, we are so thankful that our international students were invited to a “Thanks Fest” hosted by Chi Alpha at Calvary Church in town.



More than 50 students attended the event and everyone had a great night full of food, fun, and fellowship.

“We have such a wonderful community here at NSU; Our international students are never left out of any holidays thanks to organizations like Chi Alpha,” stated Yen Li, International Student Advisor.



Saudi students bring their national holiday to campus

Saudi Arabia National Day is one of two major holidays celebrated in Saudi Arabia. It's a day Saudis share their culture and celebrate their heritage. NSU Saudi students chose to celebrate with music, cultural displays and dancing.

"Some instructors brought their classes out to watch us, and we wrote their names in Arabic. It was great," said Bandar Alharbi, president of the NSU Saudi Student Association.

It was the first time the club has hosted the event, and Alharbi says SSA members were pleased with the reception they



received by the staff and students.

"It was great that the president was able to attend, and that classes came out to watch us. We wrote their names in Arabic. We enjoyed it."

Shortly following, several members of the SSA traveled to meet Mohammed Aleissa Cultural At-

taché from the Consulate of Saudi Arabia, who met with seven Saudi Student Clubs throughout Oklahoma at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, where approximately 400 Saudi students attended.

"I got my picture taken with the consulate, who gave me a plaque with my name on it and the name of the school. We gave him a plaque from our club as well," said Alharbi.



International students celebrate Halloween in traditional American style

On the heels of Homecoming activities earlier in the day, the NSU international students and scholars quickly exchanged international flags and parade attire for a costume to compete in the annual Halloween Party and Costume Contest at the home of Stephanie Goad, executive director of International Programs. The 80 plus students dressed in a wide variety of costumes ranging from whimsical and funny to dark and scary.

"It is always amazing to see what ideas they come up with for the contest," Goad says. "We have a costume parade and each student and scholar gets to strut and show off his or her costume while everyone cheers. It's my favorite part." Besides a huge buffet-style meal, the students enjoyed a traditional hayride, games such as "limbo" and "wrap the mummy," and

a pumpkin carving contest, where prizes were awarded.

"It's always a great time for our staff as well. We all get in on the fun," Goad adds. "A lot of times these events are the only chance students have to get off campus, and some may never see the inside of an American home otherwise. It is important for them to gather and celebrate some of our traditions and make friends at the same time. We're proud of the little international community that has emerged from these events."

Giessen to depart for Swansea in January

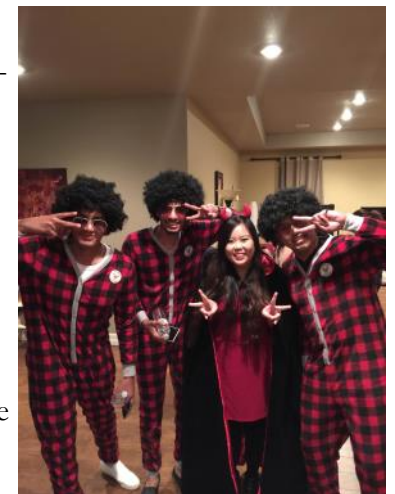
Frances Margaret Giessen is a junior at NSU, where she is



majoring in organismic biology, with a minor in Chemistry and psychology.

She was awarded the Brad Henry Scholarship last April and she is departing in January for the Spring Semester.

Learn more about the Brad Henry International Scholarship at: <http://offices.nsuok.edu/international/StudyAbroad/SemesterinSwansea,Wales>



NSU students enjoy culture through nighttime festival and pageant



Continuing the tradition, NSU Indian Student Association celebrated their second Diwali Night – Festival of Light at the Second Century Square with lights, food, music, dancing and fireworks.



Last year was the first year for this event and it was a great success. This year, attendance and participation grew even more with the implementation of the Mr. and Ms. NSU International pageant.

The participants had to perform a talent as well as wear native clothing from their country during the fashion show. There were 15 participants involved in the pageant.

“I loved that our international students were given the opportunity to showcase their traditional clothing and talents specific to their culture for a chance to be crowned Mr. and Miss International,” stated Sarah Johnson, Coordinator of Student Activities.

The Diwali Festival of Light was the perfect setting for the first crowning of Mr. and Ms. NSU Interna-

tional. There were many students celebrating in the fun atmosphere, not to mention the beautiful scenery.

“It was a colorful night filled with many fun and educational opportunities. Second Century looked beautiful lit up by over 1,000 tea light candles,” stated Johnson.

With so much talent on display, how could any winners be chosen? The decision was made by our judges: Mrs. Penny Turner, Mrs. Stephanie Goad, Dr. Suneeti Jog and Mr. Kyle Murray. Congratulations to our very first Mr. International, Mr. Madalitso Mwale from Zambia, and Ms. International, Sakshi Kaushik from India.

The event was certainly a success and there are already students asking about next year’s festival and pageant. It looks as if the NSU Indian Student Association and the Office of International Programs may have another annual tradition on their hands.



Search for NSU International Programs, NSU Study Abroad, and NSU International RiverHawks!

Check us out on Facebook!

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



Graduating? Traveling? A letter of reminders from your student advisor

Dear international students,

As we approach the end of the Spring Semester, the staff of the Office of International Programs wishes you success in your finals and other academic endeavors. We appreciate your attendance at Northeastern State University and consider it a privilege to have worked with you. 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 throughout the break, please check your NSU email periodically. Below are important end-of-semester reminders:

Travel Signatures

Are you traveling abroad during break? If the travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 will be more than one year old when you return to the United States, you need a new travel signature. Remember to do this before leaving for travel. Campus will be closed from Dec 23 to Jan 4.

Will Your Document Expire?

Do you know when your I-20, DS-2019 or financial guarantee expires? Will you have finished your degree or exchange program by that time? If not, you must file for an extension of

your document BEFORE the document expires!



Documents can only be extended if you have degree/graduation requirements to complete! If your financial guarantee is going to expire soon, please submit the new one to avoid a late charge

Spring Enrollment Reminders!

As you begin to enroll for the spring semester, the OIP has a few enrollment reminders to make sure that you continue to maintain your legal immigration status!

- January 11: Classes begin
- January 15: Last date to enroll and add classes
- February 15: Late fee will be applied
- April 8: Last date to drop classes with a “W”
- You must enroll full time! At least 12 hours for undergraduate and 9 for graduate level
- No more than 3 online credit hours count toward your minimum full time enrollment requirement!

- You must take an on-campus course during your final semester to remain in the U.S.!

If you have any questions or concerns visit the Office of International Programs as soon as possible so we can answer them before the semester ends. I would also like to thank each of you for a wonderful semester. We cannot wait to see all of you on campus next semester. Have a wonderful holiday and enjoy time with your families!

Yen Li

