

## Welcome to our first issue!



Stephanie Davis Goad  
Executive Director

Welcome to our first issue of “International Matters!” It’s been an incredibly busy and exciting semester in the Office of International Programs!

When I joined the program as Executive Director in July, “Team International” hit the ground running, putting programs into place to benefit international students as well as staff, faculty and students traveling abroad.

Some of the positive changes we’ve been able to implement include a Friendship Family program, in conjunction with the campus

ministries, the addition of the International Riverhawks Club, a Saudi Student Club, and a prayer and meditation room (open to everyone), which is located in Leoser Hall.

We’ve had lots of fun providing events for our international students, who visited the Castle of Muskogee for Halloween, attended a bonfire and goat roast, and for the first time ever, carried the flags of their countries in the Homecoming parade. We’re looking forward to showcasing our programs at the university’s first Study Abroad Fair.

We hope all our efforts will bring to the campus a more global perspective and show that international truly does matter.

## International students garner first place in HC Parade



With less than a week’s notice, about 30 international students carried their countries’ flags in the Homecoming Parade and won the First Place trophy in the Walking Group category. This is the first year international

students have been represented in the parade.

“I felt so proud to be representing my country with all the other countries. I felt the unity of so many countries in one place,” says Arpitha Reddy, a graduate student from India.



Yen Dang, international student advisor said she was proud of the students.

“They all had smiles on their faces because they were carrying their flag in front of so many people.”

Fall 2013

### International Trivia

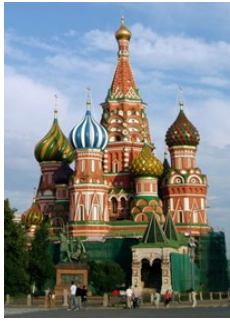
Which country almost entirely surrounds the White Sea? (Answer on page 2)

### Did you know ...?

Australia is the only continent without glaciers?

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**International Trivia  
Answer:**

**Russia**

“THE CASTLE WAS AWESOME. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER PARTICIPATED IN THAT KIND OF HALLOWEEN EVENT. WE HAVE HALLOWEEN IN CHINA, BUT IT’S DIFFERENT.  
— YANTING  
“JOYCE” JIN

## International Matters

### Cultural events and trips abound during fall semester

#### Castle of Muskogee

NSU’s Office of International Programs teamed up with the Baptist Collegiate Ministry to take international students to the Castle of Muskogee for an evening of spooky American culture, followed by a late-night dinner at IHOP. Approximately 45 students showed up for the first off-campus international event of the semester.



#### Bonfire and Goat Roast

More than 100 turned out for the First Annual International Bonfire and Goat/Chicken Roast, where international students feasted on goat

meat prepared by the Saudi students, along with other international dishes. The music of many cultures filled the cool night air as students danced and made S’mores by the fire.

The event was a group



Above: Eid Al-Adha celebration at Lake Tenkiller. The Saudi Student Club celebrated their holiday with other international students.

effort between International Programs, the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, along with the International Riverhawks Club and the Saudi Student Club.

## Guzman represents NSU in Weifang Scholar Program in Weifang, China

During the month of October, the Office of International Programs selected one student to participate in the China: Ambassador Program. Nicolas Guzman spent one month participating in Chinese language and culture classes at Weifang University. The month long stay was provided by Weifang University.

Guzman was able to visit Beijing, Qingdao and made many friends from all different countries during his stay. He was also given the opportunity to teach at Weifang University.

“Back home I would never have imagined how beautiful China could be. The experience I had in this country will remain mine for the rest of my



Nicolas Guzman (middle) spent one month in China as part of the NSU Weifang Scholars Program. While there he attended classes and visited historical places throughout China.

life. Some of the people I met due to this adventure will forever be dear friends of mine,” says Guzman, who’s traveled abroad a few times. You can visit his blog at

[myadventureinchina.wordpress.com](http://myadventureinchina.wordpress.com). He detailed several of his trip experiences and shared some of his thoughts about being in a foreign country.

“BACK HOME I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED HOW BEAUTIFUL CHINA COULD BE.”  
—NICOLAS GUZMAN

## Northeastern State set to hold first Study Abroad Fair

The Office of International Programs and the Northeastern Activities Board will be holding the university’s first Study Abroad Fair, which will allow NSU students the opportunity to learn about how they can study abroad. There will be 9 NSU faculty sponsors

leading short-term trips in 2014 represented, and representatives from EF Tours and Oklahoma Study Abroad will tell faculty and staff how they can lead a study abroad trip. Also, students can visit the Confucius Classroom booth to learn how they can study abroad in

China. The fair will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20 in the UC Morgan Room (across from Flo’s). Please stop by to learn more about studying abroad in Spain, Italy and Greece, Costa Rica, Ghana, Ireland and more!



What to pack? Hint: Pack your suitcase, then take out half of the contents. Packing light is best, considering elevators are scarce in some countries.

# International Matters

## English language program thinks outside classroom



**Marla Stubblefield**  
Director, Language  
and Cultural Center

I am thrilled to be a part of the Language and Cultural Center at NSU. Working collaboratively with International Programs has provided amazing opportunities that bring awareness to all NSU campus-

es, students and the general public about our international student population and programs available through our Center. Through these programs we are able to initiate dialogue among multiple culture groups and open doors of opportunity to a global student body. NSU's ESL program is growing with each new session, and we look forward to inviting students from all around the world to join us. Currently, we have students from China, Russia, Japan, and Saudi Arabia enrolled as students on our Tahlequah campus. We encourage all NSU students and faculty to get involved with our International Buddy Program. This program provides an opportunity for someone from the United States to connect with an international student. It 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 International Programs for more information and don't forget to keep your eyes open for our Lunar New Year event in January 2014.

## Stocks represents NSU at College Fair in Weifang, China

I have now been living in China for almost three months, and I am happy to be representing NSU while I am here. It's nice to feel connected and close to home despite being so far away. One specific way I am representing NSU is at the China Education Expo held in Beijing each October and March. We recently finished up the October Expo, which this year was actually in November. Our booth was in a hot spot this year, and we had great traffic. Throughout the two-day expo, myself and my partner Addison Ball proba-

bly talked to 300 people. At the end of two days, we had information to contact around 80 interested students in our undergraduate and graduate programs. NSU was a very attractive destination for students because of affordability, availability, and aesthetic appeal. Hopefully we can see some of these student's faces on our campus within the next year. With our International Office working hard all the time, I'm sure this is more than possible.



— Haley Stocks,  
NSU Graduate

Note: Haley will be teaching English at Weifang through next October as part of the Cooperative Education: Work Study China agreement between Weifang University and NSU.

## OIP establishes international student groups on campus

International students at NSU now have a say in what activities they want to do on campus, since the establishment of the International Riverhawks Club and the Saudi Student Club.

The two clubs have worked together to offer events such as a bonfire, a barbecue at Lake Tenkiller, and a trip to Muskogee for Halloween.

The International Riverhawks meet at 4 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays each month in the Office of International Programs, and the Saudi Club meets



IRC Officers from left: Arpitha Reddy (India), Habeeba Kadri (Nigeria), Tijana Skalusevic (Serbia), Ranjith Ramakrishnan, (India) and Yuka Ito (Japan). Maria O Lodge, president, not pictured.

the second and fourth Thursdays in the same location. The two clubs maintain Facebook pages under “NSU International Riverhawks” and “NSU Saudi Student Club” and encourage those interested in learning about other cultures to click “Like” for updates and announcements.

## Attention: Graduating Seniors

For those who are planning to graduate from NSU in December and would like your family members to be in attendance at the commencement ceremony, please visit Yen Dang, the international student advisor in the Office of International Programs or email her at [dangy@nsuok.edu](mailto:dangy@nsuok.edu) to set up an appointment. She'll write your family an invitation letter so they may obtain a visa to attend graduation.

### Important Dates to Remember for Fall Semester 2013

Nov. 27-29: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 6: Last Day of Classes

Dec. 9-13: Final Examinations

Dec. 14: Commencement  
9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

### Is your I-20 about to expire?

It is the responsibility of all international students to keep their I-20 up to date. Please take a look at item number 5 on your I-20 where it states "to complete studies not later than \_\_\_\_\_" and be sure your I-20 will not be expiring at the end of the current term. If your I-20 is set to expire at the end of the semester, you need to contact your academic advisor and have him or her send a memo to the international student advisor requesting additional time to complete your program. Once the extension is granted, the international student advisor will extend your I-20. You must request an extension BEFORE the I-20 expires!

## NSU opens new prayer/meditation room open to students, faculty, staff



NSU now offers a room for prayer and meditation in Leoser Hall. The room is open to anyone on campus who would like to meditate, reflect or otherwise practice his or her faith.

No one certain group is allowed to dominate the room, and out of respect for others who may be using the room, it has been designated as a quiet space.

The room is located in the Hawk Reach area in the counseling center in Leoser Hall.

## Are you international and want to work after graduation?

You can apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT). This allows you to work anywhere in the US and gain experience in your field. You can apply for authorization up to 90 days before graduation and up to 60 days from the completion of your degree.

All work authorization applications must go through the NSU Office of International Programs. Contact Yen Dang in the OIP for assistance, or email her at [dangy@nsuok.edu](mailto:dangy@nsuok.edu).

Check us out  
on Facebook!



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and NSU Study Abroad!

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E-mail: [international@nsuok.edu](mailto:international@nsuok.edu)  
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