

Busy spring paves way for many opportunities in the fall



Stephanie Davis Goad
Executive Director

I'm not quite sure how the semester flew by so quickly, but here we are, graduating 13 of our international students. I am confident our students have learned more during their time abroad than they ever would have had they remained in their home country and merely read about American life and culture. I

wish them well on their future endeavors and challenge them to always strive to better themselves in every aspect of life.

It's been a full semester, and we're proud of the many accomplishments of our students. The Saudi Student Association was recognized by their government, and the International Student Organization took the first place trophy at our annual international soccer tournament against internationals at other area colleges. Our Indian Student As-

sociation shared India's culture through a color festival called "Holi," and our Asian students put on one of our best Lunar New Year celebrations yet.

We've traveled to China, India, and Spain to grow our programs and provide more opportunities for our students and faculty, and while the semester has all but disappeared into the annals of history, we in the Office of International Programs look ahead to an exciting fall semester. We're excited about unveiling many more study abroad options, some of which will allow our NSU students to study abroad for the price they pay at NSU. NSU will host the Lessons From Abroad - Oklahoma annual conference in early October, and later that month we'll be holding our third annual Study Abroad Fair.

Keep an eye out for our notifications, as we're constantly creating more opportunities to see the world and get involved in intercultural activities.

Spring 2015

International Trivia:
Which country has won the most Olympic medals?
(Answer on page 2)

Which country has the largest airport in the world?
(Answer on page 3)

Did you know ...?
Hong Kong consist of 235 islands?

NSU Women's Tennis heads to Nationals in Arizona

The NSU Women's Tennis Team won the MIAA conference in 2013, 2014, 2015 and made it to top 16 teams at National championship in 2013 and 2014. They have been successful for many years and say they don't plan on stopping anytime soon.



The tennis team recently won the first round of Nationals, hosted at NSU, and they are on their way to Phoenix, Arizona for the next round. They are currently ranked number 1 team in the region, and number 16 team in the nation.

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International Trivia
Answer: USA

International Matters

Saudi government recognizes NSU Saudi Student Association

The NSU Saudi Student Association was recently recognized as an

The SACM sponsorship will mean funding for any cultural events the NSU SSA chooses to hold on campus. The club received T-shirts and lapel pins depicting the flags of Saudi Arabia and the U.S., placed side-by-side, along with Saudi Arabia promotional materials to share with attendees at their events.



Events will include Saudi Arabia National Day and Eid Al-Adha, a festival of sacrifice, celebrated with food. It also

marks the end of the “Hajj,” an annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

official club by the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, the government agency from which many of the Saudi students receive a scholarship to attend college in the U.S.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our students as well as NSU’s campus,” stated Stephanie Goad, Executive Director of International Programs.

“THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR STUDENTS AS WELL AS NSU’S CAMPUS.”
—STEPHANIE GOAD, OIP STUDENT ADVISOR

NSU Study Abroad expecting program growth in 2015

The NSU Study Abroad programming has been growing every year. With the implementation of new policies and procedures for both faculty and students, NSU Study Abroad is making it easier and more cost efficient to study abroad than ever before.

“We are very excited about how far we have come and we are even more excited about the future of NSU Study Abroad programming,” said Tricia Price, OIP Study Abroad Coordinator.

The OIP has been working on many new agreements with universities worldwide in order to give students more options to study where they want to while going to a

university that is structured for their degree.

By the end of Fall 2015, we will have had 13 trips led during the 2015 academic year.

“We are already working with five faculty members to lead trips in 2016, so this is a very exciting time for us,” said Price.

One of the new changes that the OIP is hoping to implement in the next academic year is a departing orientation and a returning orientation for students who are studying abroad by themselves for a semester or more, as well as the faculty members of

NSU planning on taking a group of students abroad.



Indian Student Association wows campus with activities and awareness

The Indian Student Association (ISA) aims to educate, and spread the

vibrant cultural heritage of India to Northeastern State University and the diverse community of Tahlequah.

The ISA team raised their funds by providing a taste of India in the form of food sales. The food, made and served by the students themselves, ran out quickly. With the support of Northeastern Ac-



tivities Board (NAB), Office of International Programs, and the university ISA was able to host the "Holi Carnival," an Indian color festival. It was an afternoon filled with

lots of color and loud music. A special Bollywood dance performance by the ISA members and the continuous string of music by DJ Shreyas brought the festival to life. Overall, the event was a success and the ISA expects it to get big-

ger and better each year.

One goal of the ISA is to connect with the community through different activities. The club volunteered in the Big Event day of service; volunteering and giving back to the community is extremely important to the members.

Because the ISA wants to give back to the community, it plans to use the funds raised from food sales to cook meals for the homeless shelters of Tahlequah starting in the Fall 2015 semester.



ANY QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, REQUESTS FOR THE INDIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION? PLEASE EMAIL ISANSUOK@GMAIL.COM AND FOLLOW THEM ON FACEBOOK!

NSU Internationals represent at Oklahoma State Capitol

For the second year, NSU international students and scholars attended International Student Awareness Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The event, hosted by **the governor's international task force,**

featured free booths, entertainment, and local & international cuisine. NSU Office of International Programs and Baptist Collegiate Ministry teamed up to take almost 35 interna-



tional students and scholars to the capitol to attend the event.

The students and scholars were addressed by State officials, met with other international students from different schools in Oklahoma, toured the capitol, and saw first-hand how the government officials and the citizens of Oklahoma work together in Oklahoma City.

International Trivia Answer: Saudi Arabia



International Matters

Note from OIP Recruiter: Fall enrollment and spring cleaning



Jami Wright
International Recruiter and Admissions Coordinator

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 friends as well as eat some food from home.

We have thoroughly enjoyed your presence here at NSU

and we hope to see you back in the Fall!

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. We will be in our offices throughout the summer and I would be happy to answer any and all questions that those you recommend may have.

Fall Enrollment Helpful Tips:

- 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 21, 2015
- 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.

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 Student Organization hosts dinner for students

The International Student Organization has begun hosting events for the international student body, as of this Spring. They recently hosted an International Dinner to promote the interdependence of all international students and deepen brotherly relations between them. Between the participation of faculty advisors at NSU and other faculty scholars

from different countries, it was an extremely successful event. Students enjoyed the experience of eating foods from multiple places including Saudi Arabia, China, India and Vi-

etnam. There was something for everyone and it was a learning experience for most.

“I want to give a huge thanks and show gratitude to all who contributed to make our event a success, especially the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) for letting us use their location and for making us feel welcome as well as the Office of International Programs, and Ms. Yen Dang in particular for her permanent cooperation with us,” said **Khalid Alhosan**, President of NSU International Students Organization.

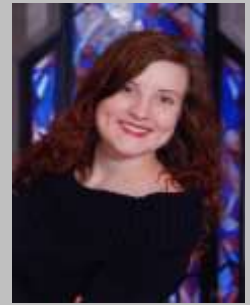
The next event is expected to be held at Lake Tenkiller, where the students will enjoy the warm weather and Oklahoma scenery .



Giessen awarded Brad Henry International Scholarship

Frances Margaret Giessen is a junior at NSU, where she is majoring in organismic biology, with a minor in Chemistry and psychology. She is from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and looks forward to applying to medical schools next year.

Besides her passion for travel, Giessen Irish step dances competitively as well as teaches dance at the Academy of Performing Arts in Tahlequah.



Learn more about the Brad Henry International Scholarship.

Lunar New Year gets bigger and better every year at NSU

According to the Chinese calendar, 2015 is the “Year of the Goat,” and to celebrate, the NSU Chinese students and the OIP put on a Lunar New Year celebration at the NSU Jazz Lab. Lunar New Year is one of the most important festivals of the year in some Asian countries including China, Vietnam, and South Korea. Students shared their talents and culture with others through a variety of cultural displays.

The event attracted many other international students, Tahlequah residents, and many NSU

faculty and staff.

As guests arrived, they were offered Chinese tea, their names written in traditional calligraphy, and temporary tattoos.



During the event, the Chinese students gave a presentation about the importance of the Lunar New Year Celebration

and gave cultural performances such as singing, dancing and playing the “guzheng,” a traditional Chinese instrument. The students also served traditional Asian food. While it is important for students to share their culture with Tahlequah, it is also a great experience for its residents.

“Some people here will never step on foreign soil so this is a great way to impart another culture to them” said Stephanie Goad, Executive Director. of International Programs.

NSU Internationals dominate Soccer Tournament against other colleges

The OIP started an International Soccer Home-and-Away Tournament between Tulsa Community College (TCC), Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) and Oral Robert University (ORU) in March.

The attendance and competitiveness was beyond compare and it was a fight to the finish. Every team played at least three games before playoffs began. The third place play off and final match were hosted by NSU at the Doc Wadley Stadium and there was an International Food Fair after the games to serve the teams audiences.



The NSU team had a perfect season, going undefeated and went into the final with team ORU on April 25 with confidence. NSU won with the score 6-2.

“I see the passion that our international students have for soccer and I wanted them to get to participate in something that they enjoyed where they could make memories and build friendships too,” said Yen Dang, OIP International Student Advisor.

NSU Office of International Programs International Student Spotlights



The OIP is excited to announce the implementation of the International Student Spotlight. Every semester the Office of International Programs will select one, possibly two, very hard-working students that have made an impact on NSU's campus, student body, peers, as well as faculty and staff.

Lucia Cerchlanova is studying International Business and Finance, and minoring in Spanish. Lucy has been awarded with NSU Honor Society Award, Honor Academic Award, Dean's Honor Roll and many Student-Athlete and ITA Athlete Awards. She is a member of **Delta Mu Delta**, captain of the women's tennis team, and president of Enactus. **Lucy's X-culture** international team won the Best Team Award for project in international business competition among 3500 individuals from 40 countries for developing a high quality business plan for multinational company. She was recently published in *Forbes Magazine* in Slovakia for her accomplishments. This summer, she plans to study comparative economics and diplomacy at Georgetown while interning in Washington D.C.



Tijana Skalusevic is graduating this May. She was born in Serbia but spent the majority of her childhood living outside the country, which sparked her interest in studying abroad.

Since Tijana's arrival at NSU she has competed in collegiate tennis, served as the Vice President of International Club, as well as the President of the Entrepreneur Club and helped with countless NSU events.

Tijana feels like her time at NSU has truly enriched her life and prepared her for the challenges ahead. Tijana has been given the honor of speaking as a student representative at the NSU commencement ceremonies. After graduation, Tijana plans to complete an internship with IKEA in California working in the field of sales and customer relations.



Check us out
on Facebook!

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

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 OIP wishes you success in your finals and other academic endeavors. We appreciate your attendance at NSU and consider it a privilege to have worked with you.

To ensure you receive updated information from the OIP throughout the break, please check your NSU email periodically.

For Spring 2015 Graduates:

- The OIP had a wonderful International Graduates Recognition Ceremony Thursday May 7, 2015 5:00 PM at the NSU Jazz Lab. Thank you everyone that attended and wished our graduates success.

- 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 your 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 stay legally in the U.S:

- must have already applied for OPT
- admitted to a new program at NSU or other institution
- have a pending case with USCIS for change of status

If none of the above situations, apply 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 planning to travel while on OPT, please contact the OIP for detailed instruction.

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

- If transferring to another institution, contact the OIP for SEVIS transfer process information.

- 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.

For Continuing Students:
Travel:

- Fall classes start on August 17, 2015 so please return to NSU before this day.

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

- If traveling outside of the U.S, these document are needed in order to

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

Fall Semester Enrollment:

- You must be 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 21, 2015.

- If concurrently enrolled in another institution

during Summer, please submit the transcript to Admission office to have your credits transferred back to NSU.

Scholarships:

- Check the expiration date on the Letter of Financial Guarantee and make sure to renew it before the semester begins.

Transferring:

- If you are transferring to a different university for the Fall, you must stop by the OIP to complete the transfer procedure.

Hope you have a safe and joyful Summer break!

Yen Dang

