



EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, November 2005

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International Education Week 2005: November 14-18

By George M. Dennison, President, The University of Montana

The date of 14 November 2005 marks the sixth annual commemoration of International Education Week. The U. S. Department of State and the U. S. Department of Education have joined together to mark this auspicious occasion. Both Secretaries have issued statements explaining the importance of international education to the well being of the American people. Celebrated worldwide, International Education Week provides an opportunity to highlight the benefits of international education and to inform students, faculty, and staff of the University and the Missoula

community about the various regions of the world and their diverse cultures and civilizations. We seek also to provide opportunities for faculty to share their research on Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, and Oceania and to educate their colleagues, students, and fellow

Montanans about contemporary issues affecting the increasingly interdependent global society. Learning about diverse peoples with their rich historical, cultural, and artistic traditions will further international education. In a statement marking International Education Week last year, then Secretary of State Colin Powell wrote, "The more we learn about and understand each other, the more effective we will be in creating a world of global citizens, and the better our chances of achieving peace in our increasingly interdependent world."



Please join us in celebrating the rich history, cultures, music, and artistic traditions of the world's five continents during this week of International Education, which begins on 14 November here on the campus of The University of Montana.

Kyrgyz Minister of Education to Visit UM

In November The University of Montana will have the privilege of hosting the visit of several high-ranking education officials from the Kyrgyz Republic. The delegation will be lead by His Excellency Dr. Nur Uulu Dosbol, Kyrgyzstan's newly appointed Minister of Education and includes Dr. Camilla Sharshekeeva, a former Minister of Education who now heads a World Bank-funded project to reform the nations' system of rural education.

The Minister and Dr. Sharshekeeva will spend nine days in Montana visiting classrooms and meeting with teachers, school administrators, and public education officials in western Montana. They will spend the first several days visiting elementary, middle and high schools in Missoula, Missoula County, and outlying districts, and meeting with teachers, school administrators, school board members, and public officials, including Superintendent James Clark, Missoula County Public Schools. While in Missoula they will also meet with faculty members from UM's School of Education to discuss academic perspectives on issues relating to school administration, financial management, curriculum, methods of teaching, and assessment of student performance. After their visit in Missoula, the delegation will travel to Helena where they will be hosted by Superintendent Linda McCulloch, The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) for two days of meetings with officials of OPI. Discussions with OPI officials will focus on

state-level issues such as the role of the legislature in K-12 education, budgeting and strategic planning, curriculum standards, testing, information tracking systems, and accountability.

The purpose of the delegation's visit is to learn about rural education in the United States at a time when the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education is seeking to modernize the Soviet-styled education system inherited at the time of independence. Until the mid-1990s, much of Soviet-era education remained unchanged in Kyrgyzstan, which has made a conscientious effort to educate all of its citizens both before the fall of the Soviet Union and since then. Beginning in 1995, however, important structural and curriculum changes were started as the Ministry began energetically to develop new curriculum and teacher certification requirements, and to place greater responsibility for school finance on local districts.

The visit is being organized under a partnership agreement between the State of Montana and the Kyrgyz Republic. Other Montana organizations previously involved in this partnership have included the Montana National Guard and the city of Great Falls. On their way home, Minister nur uulu and Dr. Sharshekeeva will spend several days in Washington, D.C., to meet with members of the Montana Congressional Delegation, and officials from USAID and the World Bank.

International Education Week 2005: November 13-18

Sunday, November 13

6:00 pm *Middle Eastern Heritage Night* with Keynote Address by Ambassador Barbara Bodine, Traditional Middle Eastern Appetizer Buffet with Music and Dancing by The Oriental Jazz Ensemble, \$15: community, \$10: students, call 728-3328 for details, sponsored by The World Affairs Council of Montana, The Northern Rockies Committee of the National Council on US-Arab Relations, Mount of Olives Arabic Culture Club, ASUM and International Programs, UC North Ballroom

Monday, November 14

Noon-1:00 pm Opening Ceremony, Speakers: Dr. Mehrdad Kia, Director of International Programs, Effie Koehn, Director of Foreign Student and Scholar Services, Martin Twer, President, International Student Association, Performance by Tajik exchange students, UC South Atrium

7:00 pm UM's Tajik Students Present: *Tajikistan Today*, UC 332-333

Tuesday, November 15

Noon-1:00 pm Brown Bag Presentations: *Goldsmithery in Pre-Christian Georgia*, Rusudan Mikautadze, visiting scholar from Kutaisi State University and *Unique Cultural Aspects of Georgia*, Milena Oganesyanyan, visiting scholar from Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa, UC 326-327

1:10 pm *"Race for Life or Death" South Asian Earthquake 2005*, Yasin Janjua, Visiting Professor, Economics, UC 326-327

2:30 pm Information Session: *Fulbright Program*, Professor Liz Ametsbichler, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, UC 326-327

7:00 pm *Planning Your European Vacation - What The Grizwold Family Didn't Know*, Udo Fluck, MIFP President, UC 330

Wednesday, November 16

Noon-1:00 pm International Brown Bag Series: *Educational Opportunities in Taiwan*, Dr. Merle Farrier, Educational Leadership/Counseling and Dean Sharon Alexander, Continuing Education, Mansfield Center seminar room

3:00 pm *Explore Career Opportunities with the U.S. State Department*, Ambassador Mark Johnson, The World Affairs Council of Montana, UC 330

4:00 pm *International Development: The Peace Corps Perspective*, a panel discussion with Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (Curan Bonham, Tobie Weist, Marian Palaia, Abby Rivenbark, Donald Gisslebeck, Gerry Blackman, Tricia Parrish, and Michelle Bonham), UC 332

7:00 pm *Siberia - Around Lake Baikal*, A Slide Show Presentation by Julia and Stanislaw Pagacz, Wildlife Biologists and UM students from Poland, UC Theater

Thursday, November 17

Noon-1:00 pm Brown Bag Presentation: *Molecular Genetics for International Biodiversity Conservation: Portuguese-American Centers of Excellence*, Gordon Luikart, Faculty Affiliate, Division of Biological Sciences, UC 326-327

3:00 pm Information Session: *Work/Volunteer Abroad*, Cindy Boies from Career Services, Andrea Vernon from the Office for Civic Engagement and Curan Bonham, Peace Corps Recruiter, UC 326-327

7:00 pm *Islam: A Religion of Peace*, Panel members: Ryan Fries, Muslim Student Association President, Khaled Huthaily, Abdullah Al-Ghamdi, Adnan Al-Mesbahi, Dell Brown Room, Turner Hall

Friday, November 18

Noon-1:00 pm Faculty Exchange Panel Discussion, Moderated by Dr. Marc Hendrix, Chair of UM's International Committee, Panel members: Dr. Clary Loisel, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Dr. Keith Jakob, Accounting and Finance, Dr. Jim Sears, Geology, Dr. Vicki Watson, Environmental Studies, UC 326-327

2:00 pm *Color and Crossroads: Images of Thailand*, Nathan Domitrovich, UM student recently returned from Thailand, UC 326-327

6:30 pm International Student Association's Thanksgiving Banquet, Doubletree Hotel Missoula Edgewater, Lewis & Clark Hall, contact 543-8805 or isa@umontana.edu for more information

My Visit to Aoyama Gakuin and Seijo Universities in Tokyo

By Yuka Tachibana, Associate Professor, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

In July I visited two universities in Tokyo to help establish additional exchange relationships with The University of Montana in Japan. My visit was successful as both Aoyama Gakuin University and Seijo University expressed interest in a relationship with UM. Representatives from Aoyama Gakuin University visited UM on September 16th & 17th. Representatives from Seijo University also plan to visit UM this November. In addition, President Dennison, Dean Fetz, Professor Kia, Professor Weidner and I plan to visit these schools to further our relationship with them. We will also visit two universities in Tokyo we already have exchange relationships with; Sophia University and Toyo University. We also plan to visit Kumamoto University and Asia Pacific University in Kyushu.

Both Seijo University and Aoyama Gakuin University are top ranked private schools in Japan. This is why they will prove to be excellent exchange universities for The University of Montana. Seijo has promised to provide two UM students \$400 - \$500 monthly housing stipends. The University has only about 5000 students and is located in a nice, quiet residential area in Tokyo. On the other hand, Aoyama has about 30,000 students and is located in lively, downtown Shibuya in Tokyo. Fortunately, Aoyama has inexpensive student housing available. In addition, exchange students can take many courses in English at Aoyama.

Seijo and Aoyama Gakuin Universities pride themselves in their ability to provide excellent service to exchange students and both schools have outstanding Japanese language programs. We plan to first establish student exchanges and in the future faculty exchanges. I truly look forward to establishing these exchange relationships with Aoyama Gakuin and Seijo Universities.



Professor Yuka Tachibana visited Seijo University (top) and Aoyama Gakuin University (right) this past summer to explore the possibility of establishing partnerships with these universities. Both universities are located in the Tokyo area.



The University of Montana to Welcome Students from Saudi Arabia

By Lee Ann Millar, Interim Director, English Language Institute

The University of Montana and the English Language Institute (ELI) are looking forward to enrolling a number of students from Saudi Arabia. The government of Saudi Arabia has made several thousand full scholarships available to Saudi nationals to pursue their studies in the United States.

Record numbers of Saudi students have been applying to UM in recent months. As of November 2, UM, Missoula, and Montana Tech of The University of Montana, Butte, have processed over 225 Saudi applications for spring 2006 admission.

For enrollment purposes, there are three different categories of Saudi applicant. The first and largest is students who apply directly for admission to undergraduate programs at UM. If eligible, these students are admitted to UM on the condition that they first attend ELI to improve their language skills. The second category includes students who apply directly to ELI. Upon completing their language study, these students must still apply to UM for full admission.

The third category represents a new population at UM. These are students who have applied for admission to Montana Tech, Butte, but who require English language training first. Under a new agreement, these students will be conditionally admitted to Montana Tech, but will reside in Missoula for up to a year to receive language training at ELI.

How many of these applicants will, in fact, be granted scholarships and visas to come to Missoula and pursue their studies? According to Effie Koehn, Director of Foreign Student and Scholar Services, the number of Saudi applicants to universities all over the

U.S. has seen a dramatic upsurge in recent months. Moreover, the process for granting student visas seems to be operating more smoothly than it has in recent years.

However, many students apply to more than one university at a time. Also all potential students must undergo personal interviews at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh in order to be granted visas. With thousands of Saudis applying for F-1 international student visas, it is unlikely that the Embassy will be able to schedule everyone's interview before the beginning of spring semester. Another complication is that flights from Saudi Arabia to the US are already oversold for the period leading up to the beginning of the spring term. With so many variables, it is still too soon to tell how many of the Saudi students who have applied to UM will actually be able to get here to attend the spring semester.

Whatever the number, both UM and ELI are mobilizing to help the campus community prepare for the arrival of a large group of students from a culturally distinct region of the world. President Dennison has convened a task force to address how best to prepare for the needs and integration of the students from Saudi Arabia.

The addition of the anticipated Saudi students to UM's student body presents a marvelous opportunity for increased cultural understanding and awareness. In the words of President Dennison, "I find it very encouraging and exciting that we have a significant number of applicants pursuing admission. We view this effort as part of what has been referred to as public diplomacy, i.e., seeking to influence world developments through personal relationships." IP is excited about this increasing internationalization and looks forward to making the transition as smooth as possible for the Saudi students and the campus community alike.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

The Newsletter of the International Programs at The University of Montana



The University of
Montana

International Programs
International Center (MIP005)

IP Holiday Reception

International Programs
invites you to celebrate
the season with us

Tuesday, December 6, 2005
3:00-5:00pm

The International Center

Please join us for
beverages and hors
d'oeuvres!

We welcome items of international or intercultural interest for the next newsletter. Please send them to International Programs, International Center, or email us (goabroad@mso.umt.edu).

If you are interested in receiving an email notification regarding upcoming international events and IP activities, please send your name and email address to goabroad@mso.umt.edu or call 243-2288.

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