World Affairs Conference

Technology and Power: The Global Outcomes of New Media was the theme for the 2013 James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs, which took place September 24-25 on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus. The conference, in its 49th year, featured renowned scholars and experts, as well as a wide variety of diplomats from around the world who joined the conference to contribute to the exchange of information on this extremely important and timely topic. Fourteen countries were represented, including Bangladesh, Bulgaria, China, Israel, Zambia, India, the Philippines, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Germany, El Salvador, Ecuador, Nepal, and the United States.

UNK Student Body President Moses Moxey from The Bahamas, opened the conference, followed by the first presentation, An Impossible Dream Becomes Reality: Nepal Wireless Networking Project, by Dr. Mahabir Pun. After graduating from UNK in 1992, Dr. Pun returned to the village he left 24 years earlier to start Himanchal Higher Secondary School. He also developed the Himanchal Educational Foundation which enabled him to work with additional villages to start schools and hire teachers. In 2002, he created the Nepal Wireless Networking Project, a social enterprise providing internet access, electronic commerce, education, and telemedicine to remote villages in the Himalayas. Now, approximately 190 villages have wireless technology and another 25-30 villages are connected annually. Pun’s presentation demonstrated to the audience that one person with a dream can have a substantial impact on a large number of people. It also demonstrated to students that there are things they can do now to make a difference in the part of the world in which they live, and beyond.

Human Rights Activist, Mr. Harry Wu, gave the keynote address, U.S. Companies Involvement in Internet Repression in China. Having spent 19 years as a political prisoner, Mr. Wu moved to the United States and repeatedly risked his life returning to China to document slavery and human rights abuses. Wu has testified before various congressional committees, as well as before British, French, German, and Australian parliaments, the European Parliament, and United Nations bodies. Most recently, he has become a prominent voice in the struggle to oppose Chinese government efforts to control the internet. In 2009, he provided testimony to the U. S. Congress on “The State of Global Internet Freedom.”

(Continued on Page 2)
From the Director

This has been another great year for international education at UNK, with UNK experiencing the highest percentage increase of study abroad students among the University of Nebraska campuses. This growth was led by students going to Asia, particularly South Korea, but we have also seen a growing interest among students wanting to study in Spanish speaking countries. Attendance at the World Affairs Conference showed notable growth this year, as did community participation in our Friendship Program (that connects international students to Kearney host families) and the English Language Institute's Conversation Table program.

UNK's regular faculty-led programs continue this year in Peru, China, Czech Republic, and South Korea, with special departmental-based programs embarking to Costa Rica and France. There has been continued growth of 1-2 semester students coming from South Korea, Brazil and Japan, while the number of new degree-seeking students from China has declined.

Cooperation between the International Office and the Office of Student Affairs has continued to grow, especially in the areas of Residence Life, New Student Orientation, Academic Success, and student welfare issues. We look forward to working with all university constituencies to make this another great year for global education at UNK.

World Affairs Conference (continued from page 1)

In his address, Wu opened by candidly sharing his experience in prison, as well as ongoing human rights violations in China. He then spoke of U.S. companies which have acquiesced to the will of the Chinese government by providing software and hardware to assist with efforts to filter content and monitor users, even going so far as providing information necessary for a Chinese citizen to be arrested for blogging against the government.

Additional presentations included:

- Dr. Michael Adams, Associate Professor of English at Indiana University presented Position, Scale, Direction: Aspects of Global English, dealing with the Web’s influence on the English language.
- Dr. Joseph Siegle, Director of Research for the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at National Defense University, and Senior Research Scholar at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland presented Information Technology, Political Transitions, and Development Progress in Africa.
- Dr. Jessie Daniels, Professor of Urban Public Health, Sociology and Critical Psychology at the CUNY Graduate Center and Hunter College in New York presented Social Movements, Cloaked Websites, and The Struggle over Ideas in a Global, Networked Society, in which she explored social movements in the digital era, and websites published by individuals or groups that conceal authorship in order to deliberately disguise a political agenda.
- Dr. Yousuf Islam, Professor of Computer Science at Daffodil International University in Dhaka, Bangladesh presented Narrowing the Gap between Rural and Urban Students in Bangladesh, in which he shared newly developed peer-teaching methods using social networking blogs to encourage collaboration between rural and urban based students.
- Mr. Kyle Cronin, Director of the Information Assurance Lab at Dakota State University presented Surveillance and Cyber-security in our Globalized World. He spoke about economics, risks, and benefits of our interconnected world, as well as surveillance, “hackers”, and the advancement of computer security.

Attendance was nearly 1,400 during the conference and consisted of Kearney High School students, UNK students, faculty and staff, and area community members.
The University of Nebraska at Kearney is pleased to have received 23 new students this August through the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP). The BSMP is fully sponsored by the Government of Brazil and is projected to grant approximately 75,000 scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students to study in the United States and Europe.

The program initially focused only on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, but it grew so much in popularity that it has been expanded to also include areas in Fine Arts, Business, and Social Sciences. Furthermore, students who are not yet proficient in English can be selected to attend intensive English programs, as was the case for the first BSMP group hosted by the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

In September of 2012, Mr. David Saide, the Technical Assistant of the Education Sector for the Consulate of Brazil in Chicago visited UNK and participated in the James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs. Mr. Saide is the Midwest consular coordinator for the BSMP. As a result of this visit, Camila Parra, the UNK Enrollment and Latin American Recruitment Specialist, completed the application process for both our undergraduate program and English Language Institute. The students will participate in the English Language Institute for one semester and then have the option of reapplying for the BSMP and transitioning into a year of undergraduate studies.

UNK is among approximately 200 U.S. universities to receive students through the BSMP. The program is coordinated in the U.S. by the Institute of International Education, IIE. Parra is the program coordinator for the UNK campus and acts as the liaison between the students, University, and IIE.

## UNK Welcomes Brazilian Students

Twenty University of Nebraska at Kearney students will be trail blazers on the newest semester-based study abroad program to be created at UNK. January 12, 2014 will be the date the students meet at the International airport in Shannon, Ireland before being shuttled to their new home in the township of Spiddal.

The *Spring Semester in Ireland 2014*, led by UNK Associate Professor Jack Garrison of the Department of Theater, will include multiple fieldtrips throughout the Emerald Isles, including Dublin, Cork, Kerry, Northern Ireland, Connemara, Aran Islands and the famous Cliffs of Moher.

Twelve UNK credits will be earned during this semester abroad, including coursework in Irish History, Irish Literature, Introduction to the Gaelic Language, as well as an upper-level International Studies course which views and articulates experiential education through an analytical lens.

Applications for additional Spring 2014 Study Abroad opportunities are currently being accepted. Twelve students will travel and earn UNK credit in Peru, and 22 will travel throughout Europe as part of the Nebraska Semester Abroad program which is hosted by Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

Additionally, multiple UNK students plan to study at the University College Roosevelt in the Netherlands, University College Cork in Ireland, Kansai University in Japan, University of Strasbourg in France, Bergen University in Norway, Southern Cross University in Australia, and Sapporo University in Japan.
International Student Services

The University of Nebraska at Kearney is pleased to introduce two new International Student Services staff members hired to assist international students with their enrollment and immigration needs.

Long-time International Education staff member, Corliss Sullwold, has come out of retirement to fill the position of International Student Services Coordinator, having previously worked in International Student Services from 1998 to 2009. Though she has responsibility in overseeing the ISS division and completing reports and updates for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Student and Exchange Visitors Information System (SEVIS), she feels her most important responsibility is advising international students. She helps students understand immigration regulations as outlined by the Department of Homeland Security and ensures that students complete the necessary processes in order to maintain their legal non-immigrant status while attending UNK.

Tracy Falconer is new to International Student Services, but not new to international students. Prior to accepting the position of International Student Advisor, Tracy spent six years as an instructor in the UNK English Language Institute. Tracy’s primary responsibilities are assisting current international students with mandatory semester check-in, preparation of letters, forms and documents for students, reviewing informational materials made available to international students as required by USCIS, assisting students with government forms and applications, and inputting data into the SEVIS system that validates the students’ legal non-immigrant status.

While Corliss and Tracy work with international students who are currently enrolled at UNK or are transferring to UNK from another institution, two other ISS staff members work with prospective students who want to enroll at UNK.

Camila Parra is the Enrollment and Latin American Recruitment Specialist. In addition to her efforts to recruit new international students from Latin America, she is the first point of contact for prospective international students who have begun the application process. Camila communicates very closely with these prospective students to make sure they provide the necessary documentation in order to complete the application process.

Once students have completed their application, Susan Garrett, Application and Records Evaluator for International Admissions, reviews the applications, admits the students, and initiates the government paperwork necessary for the students to be able to complete their visa interview and prepare to come to Kearney.

Finally, the Office of International Education employs two student workers who provide a friendly greeting for visitors to the International Center. There are many needs Ramesh Neupane (Nepal) and Peijie Li (China) are able to assist students with. For those requests they are not able to address, they connect them with the staff member who can best meet their needs.
International Students Serve in Key Leadership Positions

Three UNK international students are serving in key leadership positions on campus during this 2013-2014 academic year.

Moses Moxey, Industrial Distribution major from West End, Freeport, Bahamas is the UNK Student Body President and Student Regent. Additionally, he is involved with the Black Student Association and the African Student Association. Moxey was very determined to study at UNK. He worked, saved, and found sponsors to help make that dream a reality (find his story at www.unk.edu). He never imagined that five years later he’d become Student Body President & Student Regent.

“But here I am,” Moses said. “I didn’t plan to be president of a university. One December night, I thought, ‘Hey, I could be a student body president. I think I could do a lot of good things for this campus.’” Moxey plans to graduate in 2014.

Peijie Li is also an Industrial Distribution major. He is from Kunming, China, in the southern Yunnan Province. Peijie is serving as a Chancellor’s Student Ambassador.

Peijie had always planned to study in the United States, but his decision to study in Nebraska was influenced by the owner of a coffee shop near his home in Kunming. When Peijie told the shop owner of his desire to study in the U.S., the shop owner suggested his home state, Nebraska. Peijie looked at his options and felt UNK would be the best fit for him. At age 17, he arrived at Eppley Airfield in Omaha, only to be greeted by a Nebraska blizzard!

Peijie’s other campus activities include the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, the International Student Association, Phi Eta Sigma honor society, and the international student orientation team. He is a student worker in International Education.

Ryo Suzuki is the Director of International Student Affairs for the UNK Student Government. In his second year at UNK, Ryo is from Tokyo, Japan. It was the size of the campus and the reasonable tuition and fees that led him to this institution.

Ryo is majoring in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management. In addition to serving on the Student Government, he participates in the International Student Association and is a member of Enactus, a student organization for Business majors. He also serves on the international student orientation team. Ryo is employed on campus as the Supervisor for the Intramurals office and enjoys weightlifting and participating in campus recreation activities in his spare time.

International Alumni, we have web pages for you!

unk.edu/international

- Update your contact information with us and tell us what has been going on in your life.
- Read about other UNK international alums.
- Catch up on news and happenings by reading the Global Newsletters.
- See the campus activity calendar or access the UNK Alumni Association website.

If you are interested in being a person prospective students could email about life at UNK, contact Bonnie Payne at: payneb@unk.edu
Chinese Calligraphy Artist Appearance at MONA

Chinese Calligraphy artist Mr. Zhang Zhenzhong made an appearance at the Museum of Nebraska Art in September for an artist talk and reception of his exhibit, “Chinese Calligraphy: Zhang Zhenzhong” on display at the museum.

Zhenzhong started practicing calligraphy at a very young age. The form of calligraphy he uses most frequently is from the North Wei Dynasty. Big character calligraphy is his favorite style, and he has expertise in running script as well as cursive script.

In his artist talk, Zhenzhong explained that Chinese characters come from two things; pictographic forms and nature. He demonstrated to the audience that Chinese calligraphy is easier to learn than one might expect.

“Chinese calligraphy is not only a form of art, but also very, very practical,” Zhenzhong said. “The rhythm of music can share characteristics with calligraphy emotionally and by going through the motions.” He went on to explain that as time passes, people will try to add emotion and spirit to symbols to create a new symbolic form and meaning.

Due to his professional expertise, Mr. Zhenzhong has been invited to be a member of the National Calligrapher’s Association of China. He is the Director of the Municipal Calligrapher’s Association and a member of the Authors’ Association.

Mr. Zhenzhong has six published works and has won the China Books Prize and the Five Number One Program award. His biography has been added to the List of Chinese Talents and Directory of Chinese Calligraphers.

“Chinese calligraphy is a good reflection of the Chinese attitude towards the world,” Zhenzhong said in his closing remarks.

Many thanks to Hanna Jorgensen, UNK Antelope staff, for use of photographs and material for the article. Hanna is a Journalism major from Waterloo, NE.

Governor and University President Greet UNK International Students

Once again affirming the importance of international students to the State of Nebraska’s strategy for economic development through global engagement, Governor Dave Heineman and University of Nebraska President J. B. Milliken will be visiting the University of Nebraska at Kearney on Wednesday, November 13 to greet our new international students. This year, UNK has 167 new international students who hail from over 30 countries, most coming from South Korea, China, Japan, Brazil and Colombia.

Photos from Fall 2012 Reception

The University of Nebraska Kearney is an affirmative action / equal opportunity institution. Individuals needing accommodation under ADA should contact the ADA coordinator at UNK, 308.865.8655.