THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2015

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTS A GLOBAL CAMPUS

The Office of International Programs is pleased to report that international activities on our campus are expanding significantly! We strive to provide services that benefit our students, scholars, and faculty, as well as the Tyler and East Texas communities. The Office of International Programs (OIP) leads, champions and serves UT Tyler’s mission through several cross-functional units:

- Study Abroad & Faculty-Led Travel Study Programs
- International Student, Scholar & Faculty Services (ISSFS) Center
- International Recruitment & Marketing
- International Research & Engagement
- Intensive English Language Institute (IELI)

Friends of UT Tyler Maya Research Program

The Friends of UT Tyler Maya Research Program New Year's Eve Tour was a success! Led by Dr. Thomas Guderjan, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Director of the Blue Creek Archaeological Project and President of the Maya Research Program, participants visited Mexico's stunning sites of Palenque and Tonina to the Guatemalan Highland's vibrant markets, and took a memorable 13-day journey through Mexico and Guatemala culminating in Colonial Antigua—one of Central America's most enchanting cities. “During this 13-day journey, we explored ancient Maya sites in the spectacular highlands of Mexico and Guatemala,” said Dr. Guderjan. “We also visited several World Heritage sites, explored the colonial cities of San Cristobal and Antigua, and met traditional Maya people who live our contemporary world.” UT Tyler students, staff and Tyler community members enjoyed this trip! Details about the annual New Year's Eve Tour for 2015-2016 to follow soon!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Friends of UT Tyler MRP
- International Statistics 2014-2015 Academic Year
- Recruitment Efforts Underway
- Tyler Sister Cities International
- Spring 2015 Passport Day
- UT Tyler Fulbright Scholar: Dr. Robert Sterken
- Create a Travel Study
- Fourth Annual Israel Travel Study
- Fulbright Visitors: South Korea
- Qujing Delegation Annual Visit
- International Engineering Research
- Hawkins Students visit White House
- J-Program Information Visitors

THE OIP HAS PREPARED SMALL, EASY TO CARRY, UT TYLER RECRUITMENT INFORMATIONAL BROCHURES. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OBTAINING MATERIALS FOR YOUR INTERNATIONAL TRIPS & EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT OIP@UTTYLER.EDU

Current OIP recruitment efforts have focused on Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Japan, and most recently Kazakhstan! Also, see our growing list of partner universities!
INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT IN SHANGHAI

Mr. Daoming Chen, OIP Advisor at the International, Student, Scholar and Faculty Services (ISSFS) Center, recently visited Shanghai to discuss student recruitment and development opportunities. While there, he met with the Vice President for International Affairs of the Shanghai Lixin University of Commerce, Dr. Guoming Zhou. During his visit, Mr. Chen was able to promote UT Tyler by providing informational flyers about our undergraduate and graduate programs. “They were so glad to know that I am working for the OIP at UT Tyler, and were glad to assist in recruiting and promoting awareness of our programs to their relatives and friends, and especially sharing information about our growing Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) program offerings,” Mr. Chen said.

TYLER SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

Tyler Sister Cities are located in Liberia, Costa Rica; Yachiyo, Japan; Jelenia Gora, Poland; and San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. This summer, Tyler Sister Cities will be traveling to Jelenia Gora, Poland.

For more information contact: mickey.slimp@netnet.org.

Current opportunities for UT Tyler graduates: Please let your female graduates know that our Sister City in Yachiyo, Japan, has openings in their middle schools for teachers to become part of their Assistant Language Teacher Program, participate in delivering quality English lessons, learn Japanese culture, and work with students in grades ranging from Pre-K to High School. The graduates do not have to be certified teachers and only require a Bachelors degree in any subject. Sister Cities International advances peace and prosperity through cultural, educational, humanitarian and economic development exchanges, serving as a liaison for institutional knowledge and citizenship of diplomacy.

SPRING 2015 PASSPORT DAY

The OIP and U.S. Postal Service hosted the Spring 2015 Passport Day on Saturday, 7 March 2015, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. This event, held twice a year, provides the East Texas community the opportunity to ask questions and complete documents needed to obtain a passport to travel abroad. There were 84 attendees, including UT Tyler faculty, staff and students, neighboring school districts, and local businesses, who participated in the event, making this the largest attended Passport Day event yet!
Dr. Martin Slann, assisted by Dr. Susan Doty, led the Fourth Annual Travel Study Tour to Israel during Spring Break, 7-18 March 2015. Eleven students were involved in weekly class meetings that began in January to prepare them for an intense schedule that included meetings with Israeli journalists, academics, city mayors, and briefings from military and intelligence officers. The program also included a tour of Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv, and the Dead Sea. The students conducted exit polls during Israel’s Election Day, explored the culture and the cuisine with enthusiasm, and worked diligently to complete their research projects on site.

“Our students comported themselves as very worthy representatives of our campus,” said Dr. Slann.

As a result of this experience, Ms. Caitlyn Lammes, Senior Sociology Major, International Relations Minor, is planning to return to Israel in order to teach. Before the group left, Caitlyn’s thoughts were that she would earn credits needed to graduate, meet core criteria for her minor, and see historical sites. She quickly realized how much this trip would impact her. Her favorite activities included visiting Jerusalem, climbing Mount Masada, speaking with the politicians about their views and insights, and the food. She said that the people were straight-forward, nice, and focused on technology and recycling.

Caitlyn encourages students to study abroad. She says that “everywhere you go there are stereotypes. Actually visiting the country is a real eye-opener. When you get there you will be able to understand the people from a different viewpoint.” She learned much more than she originally thought she would. Her advice is to take a trip abroad as soon as you can and to “always keep your mind open to other cultures.”
Since 2002, UT Tyler has partnered with Green Acres Baptist Church and the Tyler community to host students from Qujing Normal University in the Yunnan Province of China. This semester’s delegation arrived at the UT Tyler OIP Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) on 6 April 2015. The students are attending IELI classes through 1 May. In addition, the delegation will attend several English and Communications classes on the Main Campus as well as American Culture classes at the OIP, and will attend the TJC International Day Event. They will also visit the TJC planetarium, Discovery Science Place, Kilgore College, and Innovation Academy. Special thanks to Dr. Menkina-Snider, Dr. Tilghman, Dr. Eidenmuller, and Mr. Chris Rasure. The OIP would also like to thank Hawkins ISD teacher Ms. Audra Edwards, and her students Ms. Allyson Edwards and Ms. Madison Jaco, for presenting their short film “Generation Change.2” that was recognized by the White House at the 2015 White House Student Film Festival called “THE IMPACT OF GIVING BACK”. See www.uttyler.edu/globe/ for more information.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR VISITORS: SOUTH KOREA

From 4-17 February 2015, the OIP and the TIEC (Texas International Education Consortium) collaborated once again to host Fulbright Scholars from South Korea. During their stay, the four Fulbright teachers participated in Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) activities, worked with four teachers at the Innovation Academy (IA), and taught IA students. In addition, Dr. Michael Odell, UT Tyler Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer and Co-Founder/Board Member for the UT Tyler IA Charter School, spoke with the scholars regarding the original concept involved in creating the IA and implementation methods used, how its successful K-12 STEM model is expanding across Texas, as well as international groups in China and New Zealand are currently structuring their university affiliated school programs according to the IA model.

Special thanks to Mr. Chris Rasure for leading the scholars on a tour of the Discover Science Place; UT Tyler professors Dr. Colleen Swain and Dr. Kathleen Everling for discussing the U.S. education system with the scholars; Ms. Suzanne Brians and Dr. Robert Stevens for opening their classrooms to the scholars, and to all our wonderful homestay families serving as hosts.

The scholars also participated in a tour of Camp Tyler’s Outdoor School and interacted with Tyler ISD middle school students. They also traveled to Dallas and visited the 6th Floor Museum and Reunion Tower. Their journey to Tyler resulted in a wonderful collaboration between the cultures and educational priorities that we share.

QUJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY, CHINA, DELEGATION ANNUAL VISIT TO UT TYLER

Since 2002, UT Tyler has partnered with Green Acres Baptist Church and the Tyler community to host students from Qujing Normal University in the Yunnan Province of China. This semester’s delegation arrived at the UT Tyler OIP Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) on 6 April 2015. The students are attending IELI classes through 1 May. In addition, the delegation will attend several English and Communications classes on the Main Campus as well as American Culture classes at the OIP, and will attend the TJC International Day Event. They will also visit the TJC planetarium, Discovery Science Place, Kilgore College, and Innovation Academy. Special thanks to Dr. Menkina-Snider, Dr. Tilghman, Dr. Eidenmuller, and Mr. Chris Rasure. The OIP would also like to thank Hawkins ISD teacher Ms. Audra Edwards, and her students Ms. Allyson Edwards and Ms. Madison Jaco, for presenting their short film “Generation Change.2” that was recognized by the White House at the 2015 White House Student Film Festival called “THE IMPACT OF GIVING BACK”. See www.uttyler.edu/globe/ for more information.
After receiving training in GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) hydrology measurements from UT Tyler’s OIP and Ingenuity Center, Hawkins students expanded their research and participated in a second trip to New Delhi, India, to share their findings with students around the world at the 2014 GLOBE Learning Expedition (GLE). One highlight of this adventure included a collaborative effort between Hawkins High School and GLOBE students from India, Croatia, Argentina, France, Nigeria, and Benin to implement a local effort associated with the ‘Adopt-a-Highway’ program. The result of this collaboration was a short film featured at the 2015 White House Student Film Festival in Washington, D.C called "THE IMPACT OF GIVING BACK". President Obama applauded their work in the opening of the event! UT Tyler congratulates Hawkins students and their colleagues from around the world on their outstanding accomplishments!

UT Tyler is a GLOBE U.S. partner, responsible to recruit, train and mentor teachers in GLOBE Program activities and facilitate student research in schools across East Texas. UT Tyler International Students gather GLOBE data every day at the OIP. In addition, East Texas K-12 students take GLOBE measurements at their schools, on the UT Tyler campus, and at our university training facility located at Camp Tyler, just minutes from campus. See how GLOBE works.

GLOBE is a hands-on international science and education program that brings together students, teachers, scientists and community members in over 100 countries to develop environmental awareness, understanding of other cultures and a sense of global community. GLOBE offers a cross-curricular approach to the study of science, mathematics and technology in conjunction with geography, social studies, languages and the arts.

See the UT Tyler GLOBE page at www.utttyler.edu/globe for more information about how you can become involved.
EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM (J-PROGRAM) AT UT TYLER

UT Tyler welcomes Visiting Faculty! Invite your colleagues from outside the United States to participate in the UT Tyler Exchange Visitor Program (also known as the J Program). To assist your efforts, The Office of International Programs provides instructions/procedures packets and will process all required paperwork for J visa applications. The sponsor of an Exchange Visitor Program contributes to educational and cultural exchange as authorized by the Fulbright-Hays Act, the objective of which is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries and to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and other nations. This objective is best met by ensuring that participants in the exchange program return abroad to exercise the skills and knowledge acquired in the United States thereby strengthening the ties and communications that unite us with the other nations of the world. For more information, please visit www.uttyler.edu/oip and select International Student, Scholar & Faculty Services (ISSFS) on the left-hand navigation bar or contact OIP’s ISSFS Center, located in UC 2160 (or call 903.566.7479).

THOUGHTS FROM INTERNATIONAL FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Judy Sun. Assistant Professor of Human Resource Development

“This campus is a friendly environment and I appreciate the respect of cultural diversity.”

Dr. Rauf Arif. Assistant Professor of Mass Communication

“UT Tyler professors work hard to help our students to become diversified by making their courses more vibrant and simulating,” Dr. Arif was recently featured in the Dawn Media Group Blog discussing his life as a Pakistani-American and the importance of education.

Dr. Wycliffe Njororai. Associate Professor of Health and Kinesiology

“Education is the passport out of poverty and UT Tyler provides a wide variety of disciplines to study.”

SHARE YOUR COMMENTS IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!

OIP fosters a welcoming and inclusive environment for our international students, scholars and visiting faculty from around the world who enrich the diversity of our campus and engage in interactive learning opportunities with our entire community.

The University of Texas at Tyler

Phone: 903-565-6155
Email: oip@uttyler.edu
Office of International Programs

OIP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

View the OIP Calendar of Events at http://www.uttyler.edu/oip/calendar.php

Follow Us!

www.uttyler.edu/oip

Providing services that benefit our students, scholars, and faculty, as well as the Tyler and East Texas communities.