

# International Times

News from the International Programs Office

Spring 2009  
Issue 7

International  
Programs  
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## Geosciences Department Receives 2nd Annual Internationalization Initiative Award

(From the BSU Update, 1/28/09)

The Geosciences Department has been awarded the second annual \$10,000 Internationalization Initiative Award by Boise State's Internationalization Advisory Board.

Last fall, departments from across campus were invited to submit proposals for the award that is designed to encourage academic departments to establish sustainable internationalization initiatives that fall in line with the university's internationalization plan.

The Geosciences Department's project focuses on humanitarian geophysics and the establishment of a new undergraduate sub-discipline that includes a field camp in Thailand for students from throughout Southeast Asia and Boise State. The field camp will be coordinated in cooperation with Boise State's partner university in Thailand, Chiang Mai University, and Geoscientists Without Borders.

The Geosciences Department was the first recipient of the newly created Geoscientists Without Borders program and was awarded a Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) Foundation Grant to develop the field camp. The Internationalization Initiative Award allows the project team to provide scholarships for Boise State students to participate in the field camp.

The project team includes professors Lee Liberty, Kasper van Wijk, Spencer Wood and C.J. Northrup.

Van Wijk and Liberty said the geophysics group is very grateful for the support by the SEG and Boise State for a new opportunity in undergraduate geophysics at Boise State, and we view this as recognition for our efforts to grow and strengthen the program.

This project was selected for its potential to significantly enhance the international dimension in the geophysics curriculum, the integrated intercultural and international academic experience in Thailand for Boise State students, and the overall scope of the project focusing on international development and capacity building, said Sabine Klahr, director of International Programs and chair of the Internationalization Advisory Board.

In 2008, the first time this funding was offered, the Boise State Nursing Department was selected for the award. Over the past year, the Nursing Department has implemented comprehensive internationalization of the curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, curriculum-integrated education abroad program development, and virtual interaction and cross-cultural communication between international students at partner universities abroad and Boise State nursing students.

“On behalf of the Internationalization Advisory Board, I would like to thank all departments and faculty members who submitted proposals,” Klahr said. “Altogether, four very strong proposals were submitted and all outlined projects that we hope to support. Additionally, I would like to thank the award selection committee for their review of the proposals.” The committee includes Sharon McGuire, Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies; Mark Plew, chair, Anthropology; and Dick McCloskey, professor emeritus, Biology.

## Faculty and Staff Take Action In Ecuador

(From the BSU Update, April 9, 2009)

Over the spring break holidays, Mikal Black and Molly Prengaman, both assistant professors of nursing, were joined by seven nursing students for a study abroad experience to Ecuador that focused on examining health care systems, comparing our own to those beyond the borders of the United States. While in Ecuador, students visited a variety of health care facilities, including both public and private hospitals and a psychiatric and addiction center. They also engaged in a service project, delivering cloth-



ing and shoes to children from a school in one of the poorest communities near the city of Cuenca.

## International Students are doing great things on and around campus

International Students have a powerful impact on our community. Check out what some of them have been up to this semester.

**Elena Kafourou**, from Greece, is majoring in Civil Engineering. She recently won the indoor national championship competition in the long jump. She is the first female athlete in Boise State history, from any sport, to win the NCAA tournament. CONGRATULATIONS, ELENA!

**Yuko Sato**, a Music Major, from Japan was chosen to play marimba concerto with the University Orchestra in the upcoming May 3rd concert.

**Jorge Kleiss**, a Culinary Arts student from Venezuela, spent the winter volunteering with the Nordic Ski Patrol.

**Denise Carines**, from Guatemala, a graduate student in Bilingual

Education created a committee to plan and implement a local event in honor of the internationally recognized Dia de los Niños Celebration (International Children’s Day, started by UNICEF). Denise is passionate about this special event which highlights her dedication to education, literacy, and a global community.

**Amrita Jashnani**, of India, who studies Electrical and Computer Engineering, was honored by the Idaho Society of Professional Engineers as an Outstanding Junior at their annual luncheon this semester.

**Hiwot Kassayebetre**, an Engineering major from Ethiopia who will graduate this semester, was honored as one of the extraordinary “Women Making Herstory” chosen by the Women’s Center.

**Sonia D’Angelo**, an IT major from Italy was chosen by The Information Technology and Supply Chain Management faculty to be honored in the Student Spotlight. The College of Business and Economics gives this special recognition to an elite group of eight business students to honor them for their academic and personal achievements while attending Boise State University. Congratulations, Sonia! (Sonia is also an Office Assistant for the IEP)



International Students enjoy a day trip to Sun Valley.

## \$100,000 Grant for Education Abroad Scholarships

(From the BSU Update, 1/22/09)

Corrine M. Henke, in the International Programs Office has received a \$100,000 grant from the Institute for Study Abroad Foundation (IFSA). The grant will be disbursed as scholarships to Boise State students over a two year period with \$50,000 in funding available each year. Preference will be given to students studying on Boise State's bilateral exchanges for a semester or an academic year. Boise State has bilateral exchange agreements in Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, Mexico, Japan, Taiwan and Wales. Additional priority will be given to Nursing and Engineering students to increase study abroad participation from these majors. Award recipients will be required to fulfill a service requirement upon their return to campus specifically highlighting their experiences overseas and promoting education abroad to the university community. Approximately, 200 students at Boise State participate annually in education abroad programs. Participation has continually increased since 2000, when 20 students studied abroad. The most popular destinations are Spain, Costa Rica, Italy, and Australia.

"This grant will contribute significantly to the funding sources available to Boise State students for education abroad. It will allow more students to access this opportunity and it is unique in that students will be required to share their experiences with other students and the campus as a whole upon their return to Boise State." said Corrine M. Henke. "This grant award clearly demonstrates the progress Boise State has made towards internationalization of the curriculum and support for education abroad." Henke added. "The selection committee was impressed with the strong administrative support for internationalization at Boise State and this support was critical in receiving the grant," Henke also added.

Students should apply by April 15, 2009 for study abroad for Fall 2009 or Academic year 2009-10. There will be another application round in October for Spring 2010.

The IFSA Foundation seeks to provide financial assistance to U.S. colleges and universities, governmental organizations, and other not for profit organizations with the goal to further the international study abroad of undergraduate students.

## Spotlight on a Student

### Jordan Park

**What is your major?**

Philosophy

**Where did you study abroad?**

Hosei University in Tokyo, Japan

**When did you go abroad?**

September 2007 - August 2008

**How did you pick that location?**

Hosei University is partnered with Boise State in a direct exchange agreement. I was particularly interested in this site because of the location in central Tokyo and because the exchange agreement meant I only had to pay Boise State in-state tuition to attend!

**How long did you study overseas?**

One year

**What was your housing like?**

I lived in an international student male dormitory. Most of the students there were from neighboring Asian countries like China, S. Korea, and Taiwan. Because of a housing subsidy provided by the host university, the rent was about \$290 per month! This included utilities, internet, and even two meals per day. There was a dorm mother that prepared all of our meals - she was very nice and the food was great! The only down side was that the dorm was about a one hour commute from campus and about a 15 minute walk from the nearest train station.

## Mark your calendars!!

The dates have been set for the Fall Series of International Connections Brown Bag Seminars:

September 17, 2009, in Jordan Ballroom A

October 15, 2009, in Jordan Ballroom A

November 19, 2009, in the Grand Ballroom B

Great speakers are in the works, so please plan to join us from 12:30 - 1:30pm, on any or ALL of these dates.

## Research Grants Announcement from the German Academic Exchange Service

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers grants for one to three months in all academic disciplines to scholars at US and Canadian institutions of higher education to pursue research at universities, libraries, archives, institutes or laboratories in Germany. Faculty Research Visit Grants are awarded for specific research projects and cannot be used for travel only, attendance at conferences or conventions, editorial meetings, lecture tours or extended guest professorships. For more information, please visit: [www.daad.org/?p=researchvisit](http://www.daad.org/?p=researchvisit)

## Boise State's Internationalization Plan Under Revision

By Dr. Sabine C. Klahr, Director, International Programs

The Internationalization Advisory Board has been at work this semester revising the university's blue print for internationalization. The original plan was completed in 2006 and outlines an ambitious list of goals and action items. The original plan can be accessed at: <http://academics.boisestate.edu/provost/internationalization/>

The revision is necessary at this time as many action items have been implemented or are in progress, some have become obsolete, and a number of items need more specificity. The new plan will be more focused and outcomes-oriented. It will include three primary objectives serving as a Call to Action for the University to become: 1. A Gateway to World Connections; 2. A Thriving and Welcoming Global Campus; and 3. International to the Core.

For each action item in the plan, "implementation spearheaders" will be indicated. Sub-committees of the Internationalization Advisory Board will work with the spearheaders to coordinate implementation.

Anyone interested in serving on the Internationalization Advisory Board in the 2009-10 academic year, please contact Sabine at 426-3652 or [sklahr@boisestate.edu](mailto:sklahr@boisestate.edu)

## What stands out in your mind about Japan?

It is difficult to pin-point one thing that stands out in my mind about Japan. I love everything about it; the food, culture, music, fashion, and the people are just a few examples of the unique Japan experience. In such a small country, one can experience so much. One thing I did find admirable was that even in a big city like Tokyo, there were ancient temples/shrines among the sky-scrappers and massive parks. Also, a short express train ride can take one from the heart of a city home to 12 million people to a small peaceful town in a valley surrounded by deep-green mountains.

## Did you travel while you were abroad?

Yes, I had many opportunities during school breaks to travel all over Japan. I went to famous places like Okinawa, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Osaka, Yokohama, and many others. Some of my experiences include seeing the famous 'floating' torii gate in the ocean off the island Miyajima, walking through the Zen gardens in Kyoto, visiting the ASIMO robot in the Honda Headquarters, and seeing the cherry blossom trees in bloom next to the river by my dorm.



Jordan Park interview continues on pg 6

## More Great Things from our International Students

**Tayana Arakchaa**, a Russian student who will graduate in May with a Masters degree in Anthropology, was selected to participate in the National Museum of the American Indian summer internship program. Additionally, Tayana won the 2009 Del Jones Travel Award for the Society of Applied Anthropology's annual meeting in Santa Fe.

**Don Amal Subasinghe and Prasanga Hemachandra**, both of Sri Lanka: The 3rd annual CSI Cricket tournament organized by the Sri Lankan Student Association of the College of Staten Island will be held on the 9th of May at the CSI Baseball complex. The event is going to be a day and night event including 12 teams representing India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lankan and United States. The tournament is known as the only college-wide cricket tournament in NY City. Two students from Boise State University have been selected to participate at this event. Don Amal Subasinghe will be representing the team as a fast bowler, batsmen, and he will be acting as the vice captain of the team. Prasanga Hemachandra will be representing the team as an off spinner.

**Anita Poudel** is majoring in Electrical Engineering. Anita, Rachana Acharya and Sitasma Khaatri spent Spring Break in Spanish Hills, Utah, taking part in the Hindu community's celebration of Holi, the Festival of

Colors, where the highlight for many of the participants was the "throwing of the colors." One-hundred-gram bags of brightly colored, aromatic powder were opened and thrust into the air, blanketing the crowd with the amplified colors of spring. Another highlight was the beautiful Nepali dance performance given by Anita and friends.

**Wijnand Rijkenberg**, a Communications major from The Netherlands, recently founded the Bronco Track & Running Club which is now an officially recognized BSU Club Sport. He currently serves as both coach and president of the quickly growing club, which consists of 12+ members practicing and competing at all levels. For more info check out [www.broncotrackclub.com](http://www.broncotrackclub.com)

### Congratulations!!!

Three of our very own student employees were nominated for the Career Center's Student Employee of the Year Award. Sonia D'Angelo, Sharon Kahuha and David Liddell were honored along with nominees from other BSU Departments at a reception at the Career Center on April 22nd. Great work!

Who are the happiest people in the world? According to statistics from NationMaster.com, Venezuela comes in first, with 55% of those surveyed saying they are very happy. #2 was Nigeria. Ireland & Iceland tied for 3rd, Netherlands & Philippines

### How is your Japanese now?

I can get along alright in a casual conversation with friends, but I would not consider myself fluent yet. All the intricate kanji symbols and honorific ways of speaking are still very difficult for me.

### What would you tell other students thinking about studying abroad?

Everyone who studied abroad will tell you that it was a once-in-a-life-time opportunity that truly is life-altering. I really believe that this is an experience that one should take advantage of during their undergraduate studies. Being able to live and study in another country for a semester or year is an opportunity that not many get to do. The programs available through Boise State really surprised me when I first heard about them. I encourage everyone who is interested to seriously investigate the options they have as an undergraduate student. You will be surprised and excited to hear that financial aid can be easily accessible. I always like to tell people that because of the financial aid I received, the full out-of-pocket cost for my year of living, studying, and traveling in Japan was cheaper than staying in Boise!

### What in the World!?

tied for 5th and the US, Turkey & Australia tied for 7th.

**Brunei** has the most roller coasters per capita of any country in the world with 80.57 per 10 million people. The US is #11 at 21.106. Be prepared to stand in line!!

# International Programs and Student Housing Collaborate to Create the Global Village Living-Learning Community

The **Global Village Community (GVC)** is a vibrant and dynamic community where both U.S. and international students live and learn together for a rich intercultural experience. It is a dream come true for the International Programs (IPO) and Housing staff who worked for more than three years to make this community a reality. The seed for the GVC was planted 5 years ago when members of the IPO and Housing staffs along with a variety of colleagues campus-wide began meeting to discuss a potential internationally-themed residence hall/floor. The idea continued to grow and flourish as Christy Babcock, Corrine Henke, Chalimar Swain and Melissa Wintrow spent much of 2007 and 2008 ironing out the details to launch this unique living-learning community.



The GVC houses 24 residents and ideally includes an equal amount of international students and domestic students. Although the GVC does not include a faculty-in-residence, students do participate in a one-credit class. The GVC focuses on intercultural communication, awareness, and understanding, preparing students to become internationally competent and culturally sensitive members of a global community. The curriculum includes discussions about the cultural backgrounds of the current GVC students, human rights issues, culture shock and stereotypes, volunteerism, cultural field trips, international films, and everyone's favorite, international potluck meals! The weekly class is co-facilitated by Melissa Wintrow and Christy Babcock. A live-in Program Assistant plans relevant evening and weekend activities for the community.

This year's GVC includes international students from France, Japan, Malaysia, Korea, Norway, among others. Domestic students come from as far as New York and Hawaii and as close as our own back yard. This inaugural group of GVC students has been instrumental in assisting us in evaluating the new program, making adjustments, and planning for the future. We look forward to the continual growth of the GVC.

If you wish to be involved with the GVC, please feel free to contact Christy Babcock for more information.

## A Visit with an International Student

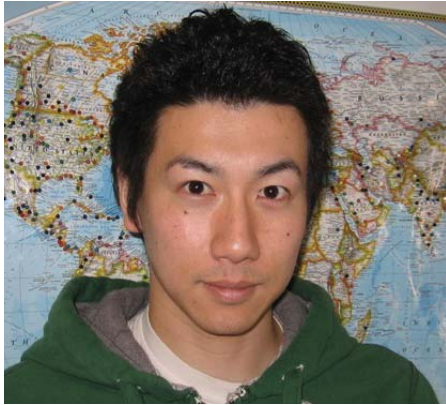
Yukiharu (Yuki) Hagiwara is an office assistant in the International Programs Office this year

**How did you decide to come to Boise State University?** I was studying Shorinji Kempo at a Martial Arts training center in Japan. The Master there recommended me to come to Boise to teach in the center here. To do this, I needed to be a student, so . . .

**What do you like most about BSU and Boise?** That it is not huge, like UCLA. I feel there is the possibility to do something here. I am learning leadership skills through starting a Martial Arts Club. I have been selected as president of the Japan Club for next year. I don't think I would get this opportunity in other places.

**What surprised you the most about the US?** People are very direct here. In Japan we don't say "Yes" or "No" right away. If someone asks if we are hungry, we might say, "Well, maybe a little." "Then a little later we would say, 'Yes, I am hungry.'" It is polite. At first I thought Americans were arrogant, but it is just that they are direct. The other thing that surprised me is hugging. Everyone hugs. It is not that way in Japan.

**What kind of goals do you have for the future?** I would like to open a business in Boise after working in Japan for 10 years. I would like to have a business that is particularly Japanese and bring it to Boise. I feel a kind of connection here.



Yuki

**Tell us a little bit about your country.** I am from the town Yokohama, near Tokyo. Motorcycle gangs are a symbol of Yokohama . . . not good. The country of Japan is very humid, very green. We have four real seasons. Japan is very organized and people are very polite, so it is sometimes difficult to make close friends. But once friendship is established, it is very strong. Very rare to be betrayed by a friend.

**What do you miss most about your country?** Real Japanese food!! Also, I would like to get back to the training of my Martial Arts Masters, to relearn the basics of Shorinji Kempo . . . to keep the discipline pure.

**Which languages do you speak?** Japanese, English and a very tiny of French.

**What is a major difference between your country and the US?** In Japan differences are pointed out and recognized. Social differences are very wide. The people are bound by history and tradition. In US differences are not so noticeable, there are many Asians, people of all social levels. The differences don't seem to matter so much.

**Where have you traveled?** New Zealand for a two week program when I was in Jr. High. Later I studied in Ireland for eight months. After that I travelled in Europe for three months. Germany, Spain, France, England, Scotland, Denmark, Austria, Belgium, Italy, Vatican City, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Monaco. I think that's all. I travelled simply, backpacking, hostels. I learned that it is very important to study cultural differences before travelling to a new country. You can get into trouble if you don't understand the culture.

### **Intensive English Program Welcomes International Trade Institute Students from Taiwan**

The Intensive English Program is hosting the 5th annual Boise State University-Taiwan International Trade Institute (ITI) Overseas Internship Program. Each spring, Boise State's Intensive English Program welcomes students from ITI for a two month internship experience in the Boise area. The students work with local businesses and participate in cultural activities to learn about the US. The ITI interns lend an international perspective to the participating companies, providing them with resources and information about business abroad. In turn, the interns gain valuable work experience and are given the opportunity to practice their international business skills. They also have a chance to enjoy cultural activities in Boise and surrounding areas, including a ski trip to Bogus Basin, a trip to McCall and a visit to Yellowstone National Park.

This year, a wide variety of companies are participating in the program. Each company is carefully matched with an intern with skills and experience appropriate to the company's needs. The 2009 program includes two companies returning from prior years, PCS Edventures and Sloan Security Group, and 6 new companies: Atlas Frontiers Incorporated, JST Manufacturing, Inc., Caring Technologies, Inc., Children's Therapy Place, Inc., MarkMonitor, Inc., and Edwards Greenhouse.

This program would not be possible without the help of several important partners. Rick Vycital, Region III Director of the Idaho Small Business Development Center located on Boise State's campus, leads a team of expert business consultants: Barb Bolin, Larry Lim, and Ed Pack. The team meets weekly with the interns to review projects and provide advice on business strategies.



During their time in Boise, interns live with local families. These home stay families are a vital part of the cultural experience and they graciously share their lives with the interns. The Intensive English Program offers a heartfelt thank you to the following families for hosting this year: Cynthia Amstutz, Rob Freedman and Anne Cirillo, Eric and Anne Allen, Karen and Marc Aiello, Christina Close, Rick and Janey Schell, Tami and Steve Reames, the Hsu family, Cynthia and JT Hadlock and Jonathon & Kimiko Krutz.

If you would like to participate by either hosting an intern at your company, or as a host family for the program next spring (March-May 2010), please contact [chalimarswain@boisestate.edu](mailto:chalimarswain@boisestate.edu) or call 208.426.3652.

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS VOLUNTEER FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Boise State University can feel proud of the many international students who displayed their spirit for volunteerism by offering their time and skills to assist Idaho with the Special Olympics. Please see the list of these helpful students below.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COUNTRY REPRESENTED</u>	<u>TITLE / DUTIES</u>
Wendy Chard	Great Britain	Video Production/ Filming
Wenyi Dai	China	DAL*
Robbie Richards	Australia	Assistant to Athletes, Guide
Macros Preciado	Mexico	Guide, Organizer, Distributor
Denis Parshin	Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine	DAL*
Tomoko Ono	Japan	Filming
Marianna Budnikova	Russia	DAL*
Nilesh D. Pawar	India(Bharat)	DAL*
Dilshod Mamatov	Uzbekistan	DAL/Assist Coaches & Athletes
David Gonzalez	Venezuela	DAL*
Jorge Kleiss	Venezuela	Ski Patrol
Zhenhao Qian	China	DAL*
Cristina Georgescu	Romania	DAL*/ Translator
Hitomi Kiyota	Japan	Family & Language Services
So Oguri	Japan	DAL*
Ryosuke Asano	Japan	Translator

\*Delegation Assistant Liaison

## **New International Partnership Agreements**

Boise State University has signed the following new agreements with international partner universities since our last newsletter was published:

**University of the Basque Country** - bilateral student exchange; initiated by Materials Science & Engineering

**University of Canberra, Australia** - bilateral student exchange (in progress)

**Universidad Catolica de Cuenca, Ecuador** – general cooperation; initiated by Nursing

**Chiang Mai University, Thailand** - renewal of general cooperation; initiated by Geosciences and Nursing (in progress)

**Chonbuk National University, S. Korea** - bilateral student exchange; initiated by the College of Education

**University of Guyana, Georgetown, Guyana** - general cooperation; initiated by Anthropology

**Karlsruhe University of Education, Germany** - general cooperation; initiated by Mathematics

**Nagoya Zokei University, Japan** - general cooperation; initiated by the Art Department

**Shanghai University, Shanghai, China** - general cooperation (in progress)

**Tuvan State University, Kyzyl, Russia** - general cooperation; initiated by Anthropology (in progress)

**Walter Roth Museum, Georgetown, Guyana**- general cooperation; initiated by Anthropology

**University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia** - general cooperation; initiated by Geosciences