

International Times

News from the International Programs Office

Spring 2004
Issue 1

International Programs at Boise State University


The International Programs Office (IPO) offers a comprehensive range of international programs and services to Boise State University. The IPO seeks to integrate international education and perspectives into the university's academic and cultural community, in response to the ever-increasing globalization of both the marketplace in which our graduates will work and the daily lives they will experience.

Every student will need knowledge of other cultures and languages in order to succeed, regardless of field or future career; every academic discipline will benefit from international collaboration and communication in furthering the university's cutting-edge research and scholarship. To provide opportunities for internationalization, the IPO offers educational opportunities abroad for university faculty and students, and brings outstanding students from around the

Every student will need knowledge of other cultures and languages in order to succeed...

world to Boise State's academic community. The IPO is an academic unit providing centralized support with respect to all aspects of international education to the University. Included in the IPO are: Study Abroad/ National Student Exchange, international student services and recruitment, and the Intensive English Program. The IPO

coordinates opportunities for faculty and staff to engage in international professional development, and for faculty to teach abroad or participate in a faculty exchange. Additionally, the Director of International Programs promotes the Fulbright Scholar Program to faculty,

manages linkage agreements with universities in other countries, collaborates with academic departments to develop grants and other international opportunities, and coordinates the nationally designated International Education Week at Boise State University. 

International Programs
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(208) 426-5410 (fax)

Meet the Staff

Dr. Sabine C. Klahr, Director, International Programs: Sabine grew up in Germany, came to the U.S. as an exchange student and never returned home (except to visit). She completed a BS and MS in botany, worked at a bookstore in Boulder, Colorado, and climbed Colorado's 14 thousand foot peaks. As a grad student, she fell in love with her future husband and avoided the conundrum of

what to do back in Germany after her student visa expired by getting married. She became a science teacher and taught chemistry, biology, math, environmental science, physics, and German (yes, small schools need versatile teachers!) in Vail, and a small bean farming community in southwestern Colorado. There she enjoyed skiing, mountain climbing, and exploring the canyon country of the Southwest. After a short teaching stint in Hawaii and an attempt to start an outdoor science school in Bozeman, Montana, she finally began to understand that international education was her calling and she completed a



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doctorate in higher education administration with an emphasis on international education at Montana State University-Bozeman. Since then she has worked in international education at Colorado State University and Western Michigan University. Baby Annika was born in 2002 and Sabine spends all her “free” time with her. Sabine has been at Boise State since July 2002. Since moving to Boise, Sabine and family have enjoyed exploring the mountains and deserts of Idaho and Oregon. As a doctoral student, Sabine completed an internship at the University of Waikato in New

Zealand. She has traveled in New Zealand, throughout Europe, in parts of Central America and Mexico, and in Syria and Jordan. Recent business trips have taken her to Chile, France and Australia. Her favorite mode of travel is with one bag, via public transportation, without a specific destination, and on roads less traveled. She likes to explore the local cultures and how people in those cultures live their lives. Besides German and English, she knows some French and would like to learn Spanish beyond “tourist speak”. 🇩🇪

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Corrine M. Henke, is the Coordinator for Studies Abroad and the National Student Exchange. Corrine is a Boise and Idaho native, born at St. Luke’s no less. Corrine is the oldest of five children. One brother, Glenn, lives in Germany with his wife; her brother Philip lives in Kansas. There is quite the university rivalry between the sisters. Annette just graduated from the University of Idaho, Nancy attends Boise State and works in the Gateway Center on campus. Fortunately, Annette did study abroad in Spain, so we forgive her Vandalness.

Vermont. She has been working at Boise State as the full time coordinator since December 2000. Prior to working at Boise State University she was the Study Abroad Advising Center Coordinator and Ireland Program Assistant at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She studied abroad in Mexico and Costa Rica.

She has visited a number of countries, and her favorite country is Kenya; going on safari and snorkeling in the Indian Ocean were amazing experiences. Her most recent fun adventures were hiking in Zion, Bryce Canyon and Arches National Parks, spending her birthday week in New Orleans, Louisiana and touring the wine country of Oregon. Corrine also enjoys hiking, biking, snowshoeing and hanging out speaking Spanish with Christy Babcock Quintero.

- Her favorite foods are: pesto, sun-dried tomatoes, portobello mushrooms and sushi.
- Her favorite colors are: navy blue and burgundy. 🇩🇪

Corrine has a Master’s degree in International and Intercultural Management from the School for International Training in Brattleboro,

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Erich White is the Coordinator of the Intensive English Program. He did most of his growing up in Wyoming, where he managed (between blizzards and summer firefighting seasons) to complete a Bachelor’s degree in Social Sciences. After a couple years spent doing graphic design in a print shop, he decided that university life was much more fun than actual work. As a result of this revelation, Erich also has a Master’s degree in English Linguistics from the University of Montana. He has lived and taught English as a foreign language in Bulgaria and Japan, and has visited lots of other entertaining places around

the world. After returning from Japan about four years ago, he stopped in Boise to visit some friends and liked it so much he never got around to leaving again (except for more traveling, of course, most recently to China, Japan, Washington, Wyoming, and of course the occasional off-the-beaten-track spots up in the mountains here in Idaho).

Erich tries to spend lots of time outdoors, eats pretty much any food that is immobile (or only escaping very slowly) and can occasionally be spotted playing racquetball, kicking around a soccer ball, or wandering aimlessly about the foothills. This winter he is hoping to remember how to snowshoe and cross-country ski, and perhaps take a run or three at snowboarding. 🇩🇪

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Christy Babcock Quintero is Boise State's International Student Advisor. Her job (which she absolutely loves!!) entails providing immigration and cross-cultural advising and support services to international students, along with planning social activities and coordinating the annual International Food, Song and Dance Festival. She also serves as the International Student Association's advisor. Christy considers herself a native Idahoan having lived here for 25+ years, since the tender age of 7. Christy studied as an exchange student in Sweden for one year after high school (Yah, Sure, You Betcha!) and spent 2 years in Costa Rica as a US Peace Corps Volunteer



(where she happily ate black beans and white rice 3 times daily for 27 months) after graduating from Western Washington University with a degree in Anthropology. Christy loves exploring foreign languages and cultures. Her favorite area of the world at this moment is Latin America. She loves to speak Spanish (and until recently was teaching 100 level Spanish courses). She also dabbles in Swedish, French, Italian, and Russian. Christy feels like her life has been enriched immeasurably by the interactions she has had with the international students here at Boise

State. The students have opened her eyes to parts of the world she had not previously considered. She hopes to visit India sometime in the not too far future.

Christy loves toucans, mangoes, rain, heat, and all things tropical. Sometimes she wonders what the heck she is doing here in the desert! But she manages to escape the dry weather as many times as possible each year to travel to the Pacific NW, Costa Rica, and other exotic places. Last year Christy made it to the Costa del Sol in Spain, Ottertail County, Minnesota, New Orleans, and Victoria, BC. This fall she hopes to return to the rainforest once more before pursuing adventures of the family kind.

Christy has been a full-time employee at Boise State since 1995. Before becoming the International Student Advisor in July of 2001, Christy was the Residential Life Counselor for the High School Equivalency Program (HEP), a grant program under the Center for Multicultural Opportunities. She is shocked to realize that in 1 1/2 years the Professional Staff Association will be presenting her with another pretty plaque to hang on her office wall, this time for 10 years of distinguished service at Boise State. Wow, how time flies when you are having fun!

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Susan Kae Hopkins, is the Administrative Assistant for the International Programs Office. Susan is working on her Masters Degree in Instructional and Performance Technology here at Boise State. Susan started working at Boise State in June of this year, and is really enjoying all the new challenges! Prior to Boise State she spent eight years with Healthwise Incorporated as an Administrative Assistant, Trainer and Computer Support Specialist. Susan was born and raised right here in Boise. She has travel extensively here in the United States, spending time on both coasts. She has also spent 1.5 years in England getting to

know the people and being immersed in the culture there. She came home hooked on the true English Fish and Chips, Yorkshire Pudding, and sausage rolls. She also has been to Canada, once with two nieces and two nephews showing them the beauty of the country. Susan's fondest dream is to one day create the opportunity to visit Australia.





Ellie McKinnon, who is assisting with the development of faculty-led short-term study abroad programs and international internships, doesn't claim to have traveled the world, only that she would love to do so. During the past few years she has been lucky. Last summer she studied Spanish on a FIDA scholarship with the University Studies Abroad Consortium in San Sebastian, Spain. Prior to that she spent two weeks in New Zealand, and she has explored villages and cities in Mexico and Canada.

Ellie has been associated with Boise State for over 15 years. She has served as an adjunct instructor for several departments, led Boise State's Tutorial Program for several years, and at one time served as Assistant Director of the University's Studies Abroad Program. Most recently, she has coordinated the Jump Start Program and Renaissance Institute for the Division of Extended Studies. She holds degrees in Theater Arts and English. Ellie writes a regular feature for Idaho Home and Garden magazine and contributes to other periodicals including Focus Magazine, and Boise Journal. She has scripted and performed numerous one-woman plays for school audiences and conference groups.

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International Programs & Exchange Committee (IPEC)

The International Programs and Exchange Committee serves as an advisory committee to the International Programs Office. It is composed of faculty members from each College, representatives from International Programs and Extended Studies, and a representative from Enrollment Services. The committee was established with the following objectives in mind:

- To review proposals for international exchange and study abroad programs and make recommendations for the University
- To advise on programming decisions
- To provide within each College a knowledgeable resource about international programs at Boise State University

- To enhance advocacy regarding international education in each College.
- Current members include:
- Sabine Klahr, Chair, Director of International Programs
 - Corrine Henke, International Programs
 - Mike Stockstill, Dean, Extended Studies
 - Linda Urquidi, Extended Studies
 - James Ferguson, Engineering
 - Stan Steiner, Education
 - Helen Lojek, Arts and Sciences
 - Greg Raymond, Social Sciences and Public Policy
 - Sandy Gough, Business
 - Uwe Reischl, Health Sciences
 - Enric Figueras, Modern Languages
 - Barbara Fortin, Director of Admissions
 - Ellie McKinnon, Extended Studies



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE UPCOMING
INTERNATIONAL FOOD, SONG
AND DANCE FESTIVAL**
Saturday, February, 21, 2004
6 pm in the Jordan Ballroom

Study Abroad News

Sign Up Now for Summer 2004 in Puebla, Mexico!

Do you want to improve your Spanish in the heart of Mexico? Boise State University is offering a new six-week summer program in Puebla, Mexico. The program will run from approximately May 23 – July 3, 2004. Students have the option of living in dorms or with Mexican families. The host institution is the University of the Americas located in Puebla, Mexico (in the heart of Mexico's volcanic highlands). This summer program offers a number of educational

excursions that are included in the program price. The excursions for the Summer 2004 program will be: downtown Puebla, "El

Parian" crafts market, Cholula Pyramid, Amparo Museum, Talavera Uriarte (world famous talavera ceramics), and Tonanzintla Chapel. The cost of the summer program is \$2,400 (price subject to change). The faculty advisor

is Dr. Alicia Garza at 426-3956. She will be accompanying the group. ☺

Please contact the International Programs Office at 426-3652 for more information.

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FAQ about International Students at Boise State

Q. What do you mean by "international student"?

A. Most of the international students at Boise State have either an F-1 student visa or a J-1 student visa. These individuals have been given permission to enter the US for the primary purpose of studying at a university. There are strict immigration rules and regulations that visa holders of this kind must adhere to. Other international students on campus may be permanent residents, refugees, spouses of visiting scholars, and other non-U.S. citizens holding visas of other kinds.

Q. How many international students are there at Boise State?

A. There are approximately 300 international students at Boise State. They come from all over the world. Our largest groups are from India, China, Japan, and Canada.

Q. What are the most common degree programs that international students at Boise State choose?

A. We have a large number of international students studying Engineering, Computer Science and Information Systems, and Business.

Q. Are international students allowed to work on-campus or off-campus?

A. International students can work on-campus for a maximum of 20 hours per week during Fall and Spring semester. They can work more than 20 hours during semester breaks.

International students are not allowed to work off campus. They are allowed to perform paid internships off campus with prior approval from BCIS, the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly INS).

Q. What happens if a student's visa expires?

A. Nothing. International students can be in the U.S. with an expired visa. Visas cannot be renewed in the U.S.

A student must return to their home country in order to renew it. There are other very important documents called the I-20 or the DS-2019 that cannot expire while the student is studying in the US.

Q. Are international students allowed to study part-time?

A. No. International students are required





In loving memory of
Trang Doan
4/6/1980 - 1/24/2004

Trang was a well-known, beloved, and very involved international student at Boise State. Always positive and smiling, Trang was a friend to everyone she interacted with. She will be missed dearly.

to study full-time every Fall and Spring semester. BCIS defines full-time as 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate students. International students are not required to take summer classes.

Under certain BCIS approved circumstances, students can drop below a full course load, but they must get BCIS approval prior to dropping below the minimum requirement.

Q. If I have a question about the regulations for international students, whom can I contact?

A. The International Student Advisor, Christy Babcock Quintero, at 426-2660 or cbabcoc@boisestate.edu.

Q. How can I get involved with the International Students here at Boise State?

A. We have a very active International Student Association at Boise State. The club is not just for international students. It is for anyone interested in interacting with International Students. We have social events on a regular basis, perform community service projects, and participate in Boise State activities. To be included in our

email list, please write to cbabcoc@boisestate.edu.

Q. What should I keep in mind when interacting with an international student?

A. Because of cultural, language, and communication styles, there is always the potential for confusion when international students interact with Americans. Confusion can lead to frustration for both parties. You may need to explain yourself in a variety of ways before you are understood. You may want the student to clarify for you what they think you have said. Do not speak more loudly to the student. A lack of English is not the same as a lack of hearing. Ask questions, be patient, express an interest, and be compassionate. It takes a lot of courage for a student to leave his/her home country and culture to experience some place new. And have fun! International students have so many interesting things to share with us. It's always an enriching experience when you befriend an international student. ☺



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Don't Forget!!!
INTERNATIONAL FOOD, SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL
Saturday, February, 21, 2004 at 6 pm in the Jordan Ballroom.
Tickets will be available through Select-a-Seat on 2/11/04.
Tables can be purchased through IPO.
For more information call 426-3652.

Spotlight on the Students

Study Abroad

Natasha Hester is a junior who recently studied abroad in the Basque country with the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC).

Where did you study abroad?

I studied in Bilbao and Donostia, Spain. These cities are located in the Basque region of Spain.

When did you go abroad?

I went abroad twice. The first time was in the summer of 2002 and then I went abroad again for the spring of 2003.

How did you pick that location?

I wanted to be close to the ocean and Basque country. It is a gorgeous place. Also, that site has strong Business and Spanish classes. I was able to work on both my majors and study in a beautiful place.

What was your housing like?

I lived in an apartment close to the beach with four female students. We shared a kitchen, bathroom and common area.

What stands out in your mind about Spain?

The way they enjoy life really stands out to me. They enjoy life and their daily lives are not as fast paced as life is here in the States. Also, their culture is so friendly and they have great pride in being Basque.

How is your Spanish now?

Excelente! My Spanish has improved from studying abroad. Because I was surrounded by the culture in Spain I learned more than I ever could in a classroom at BSU.

Did you travel while you were abroad?

Yes, for spring break, which was two weeks, my friend and I went to Greece-which was amazing. I also went to Portugal and France.

What was it like going abroad with a friend?

For me, it was easier to go abroad with a friend, even though I had been abroad before. Sometimes it is helpful when you are away from home for a long period of time to have a friend close to you.

What would you tell other students thinking about studying abroad?

It's an experience of a lifetime! You not only learn to know yourself better and what you are capable of, but also you learn about a culture, have a lifetime full of memories and you receive university credit.

Note from IPO: Hester did something a little different. She chose to study abroad with her good friend, Shanna Jensen. Shanna was hesitant to study abroad, but Hester encouraged Shanna to study with her for a semester. The experience benefited both of them, they felt more confident and felt it was easier for them to meet Spanish people, because they had a friend to rely on in tough linguistic situations. The International Programs Office encourages students to spend as much time as possible with host country natives and to break away from American students whenever they can. This "separation" helps students improve their language skills, to understand the culture and to have a more fully immersed experience.



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International Students

Ashwini Vittal is an international student from India. She is working on a Masters degree in Computer Engineering. This is her second semester at Boise State.

How did you decide to come to Boise State University?

I had relatives who worked for Micron and came to know of Boise State University through them. The Gem Scholarship played an important role in my decision to come to Boise State University.

What do you like most about BSU and Boise?

BSU – the opportunity to travel with people from different parts of the world at an

affordable price, thanks to International Programs.

Boise – the green belt.

What surprised you the most about the US?

The day to day courtesies of the people.

What kind of goals do you have for the future?



Ashwini continued from Page 7

I plan to finish my M.S. within the next year. I plan to work after that, but am undecided whether I will work in U.S. or in India.

Tell us a little bit about your country.

India is 1/3 the size of U.S. and has 3 times the population. It has 28 states and each state has a unique cuisine and folk art, in most cases each state has its own language. The current favorites yoga and henna are from India.

Jude Apuri Sawine is an international student from Ghana. Jude is a sophomore studying Chemistry with an emphasis on Biochemistry. He plans to start working on a nursing degree next year. You may have seen Jude and his famous smile at the BSU Bookstore where he works as a cashier.

How did you decide to come to Boise State University?

I wanted so much to continue my education in the United States. My uncle who resides here told me all about Boise and I knew right away that this was the place I wanted to study. I also did my own research on the internet and found out that Boise was the best place to raise a family or pursue an education.

What do you like most about BSU and Boise?

I like the way people CARE at BSU. I feel so comfortable talking to the professors anytime and everyone is always putting in their best. It is very rare to find colleges where instructors relate to students like friends and bring themselves to the level of the student in order to understand and help him/her. What I like about Boise is the PEOPLE, they ROCK!!

Really nice people. I also like the hamburgers.

What surprised you the most about the US?

The size. It is much smaller and spacious than I ever imagined.

What kind of goals do you have for the future?

What is a major difference between your country and the US?

The climate, I had seen snow only once in the Himalayas before I came here!!

What do you miss most about your country?

Food

Which languages do you speak?

Kannada (my mother tongue), Hindi (national language of India) and English

I look forward to getting my degree at BSU and moving on to a medical school where I aspire to be a cardiac surgeon. My overall aim is to have a positive impact on the lives of people all over the world. I look forward to making life more bearable for someone in the future.

Tell us a little bit about your country.

Well, Ghana is in Africa. It has a population of about 21 million. More than one hundred languages are spoken due to the many tribes and ethnic groups. It is very peaceful and has had a stable democracy for more than 22 years. The people there are very hospitable and are always excited about visitors. Ghana has the largest man-made lake in the world called the Volta Lake, a major source of electricity for the people.

There are also several acres

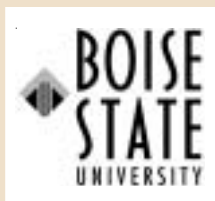
of wildlife and game reserves. The Kakum Natural Park in Ghana has the third longest canopy walkway in the world. We also have the second largest crocodile pond in the world. These crocodiles are tame and considered sacred. You can pet them and play with them. There are so many attractive things and nice people in my country. You will understand when you see it for yourself.

What is a major difference between your country and the US?

Money. The poorest person in the US can easily be the richest person in Ghana. It is really difficult for some of us to appreciate what we've got until we see what other people are going through.

What do you miss most about your country?

I miss the food and my family



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