

International Times

News from the International Programs Office

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Boise State Adopts Internationalization Plan

Boise State has adopted a roadmap for advancing an international dimension throughout the university. The plan is the result of two years of work by the Task Force on Internationalization, formed in December 2004, and a number of subcommittees that helped identify and address specific needs across campus. The work culminated in a final report titled "Making the Global Connection: Recommended Pathways to Internationalizing the Campus."

Internationalization of higher education describes the process of integrating an international and intercultural dimension into the teaching, research, and service functions of an institution, said Sabine Klahr, director of International Programs. Ideally, it is an integrative process with multiple approaches to improve student learning and the institution's global connections to enhance research and outreach.

The Task Force report explains that institutions that are able to prepare globally competent students will be the colleges and universities of the next century. Internationalization is the critical means whereby the quality of academic learning, discovery and engagement can be enhanced, broadened and enlivened. When we integrate international perspectives, experience and discovery into our institution, it expands our capacity to address the challenges of the new century and the needs of the world.

The plan lays out six overriding goals and makes recommendations for the current year, as well as the next three to five years. Many action items recommend planning and implementation by relevant parties without the need for additional resources. Others will require more careful consideration as to if and how we move forward, and detailed planning as well as additional resources. The full plan is available online at <http://www2.boisestate.edu/vpaa/internationalization/>.

[edu/vpaa/internationalization/](http://www2.boisestate.edu/vpaa/internationalization/).

"The report and recommended actions directly support the goals and strategies in Boise State University's strategic plan, Charting the Course"--in particular the strategy to develop and promote programs to internationalize the campus," states Provost Sona K. Andrews.

"With this blueprint for internationalization, Boise State has made a significant advance as a metropolitan research university of distinction," Klahr said. "The implementation of this plan will give national and global recognition to Boise State for preparing our students to meet the challenges of, and contribute as, globally competent citizens in an increasingly interconnected world."

The major goals of the plan include:

- Advance academic excellence through internationalization of the curriculum and development of faculty international expertise to facilitate students' development of global competence
- Advance exceptional research through an international dimension in scholarship, creative activity and graduate programs
- Foster a vibrant culture at Boise State by promoting international learning beyond the classroom
- Enhance diversity on campus by increasing the enrollment of international students and improving their retention by providing a welcoming and inclusive campus environment that addresses the needs of international students
- Foster public engagement through community outreach on international topics, enhancing internationalization of community resources and utilizing international expertise in the community to enhance internationalization on campus
- Develop public support and endorsement

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by the university administration for internationalization as being central to transforming Boise State into a metropolitan research university of distinction.

As the Task Force on Internationalization has completed the planning process for internationalization, the Internationalization Advisory Board is now responsible for coordinating the implementation of the recommended action items. Members of the Internationalization Advisory Board include Jason Herbeck, Modern Languages and Literatures; Sabine Klahr, director of International Programs and ex-officio chair of the board; Michael Laliberte, vice president for Student Affairs, Sharon McGuire, associate vice president for Undergraduate Studies; Mark Plew, anthropology; Leming Qu, math; Tiam Rastegar, community member and

former international student; Calin Toma, international student; and Frank Zang, director of Communications and Marketing.

The Task Force on Internationalization membership included co-chairs Klahr and Michael Blankenship, former dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs; Elisa Barney Smith, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Kelley Brandt, Admissions; James Cook, Music; Texie Evans, student; James Ferguson, Mechanical Engineering; Neil Gu, community member; Jason Herbeck, Modern Languages and Literatures; Xabier Irujo, Modern Languages and Literatures; Ellie McKinnon, Extended Studies; Rob Meyer, Student Activities; Kent Neupert, International Business; Mark Plew, Anthropology; Rachel Pusch, community member; Nina Ray, Marketing; Uwe Reischl, Center for Health Policy; and Bill Whitaker, Social Work. ☯

Interns From Taiwan Need Your Assistance This Semester



Taiwanese Interns from 2005

Here is a great opportunity to “*Think Beyond The Blue*” and build an international bridge of friendship by providing a short-term home stay for incoming interns. A \$100/week stipend will be provided to cover room and board expenses for the duration of the stay.

We have 11 individuals coming from

Taiwan for an 8-week business internship, March 24-May 18, 2007. They speak English and will be going to area businesses each day as they fulfill their internships.

Host families will need to provide: a private furnished bedroom, three meals a day and internet access. Transportation will be the responsibility of the intern.

To participate in the fun and expand your horizons, contact Jenny Hannaford, Volunteer Coordinator at the International Programs Office. Call 426-2630 or email jenniferhannaford@boisestate.edu ☯

Come join us and discover the “Treasures of the World”

The International Food, Dance and Song Festival is the time of the year when Boise State University celebrates its diversity. International students on campus come together and organize a breathtaking event that features cultures, customs and cuisine from around the world.

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2007, at 6:00 P.M.

Jordan Ballroom, Boise State

On sale at Select-a-Seat, February 1, 2007
General admission \$18
BSU Students with I.D. & children \$12
Children under 6 year of age Free

Tables for eight can be purchased from the International Programs Office for \$125. Call (208) 426-3652 for further information. These tables will not be sold through Select-a-Seat.



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Ghana 2006: Across the World in 36 hours

by Corrine Henke

“Are you Ms. Henke?” the uniformed woman with the walkie-talkie asks. I said, “Yes!” Then, she speaks into her radio and said, “Yes, she’s here”. She looks at me and yells, “RUN! Go now, hurry, hurry, and hurry! RUN!!” So, I continue my sprint through the San Francisco



airport. I run down the escalator and on to my flight. I hear the pilot say, “There’s our last passenger,” and I collapse into my seat. I assess my condition: I am sweating profusely, I am not wearing any shoes, my scarf has worked its way around to the back of my neck, my passport is in my mouth, and my shoes and bags are in my hands. I passed through security so quickly, that I didn’t have time to put my shoes back on. I am a mess. My colleague from UNLV comes up to me on the plane and says, “I am so glad you made it!” “Me too.” I croak.

I HAD to make this flight. It is Friday at 3 pm, and I am starting a 36-hour journey to Africa. Due to a one and half hour flight delay, I had to run for this flight. But, the sprint was far better than missing my London flight. I then in turn would have missed the once-per-day flight from London to Ghana.

Thirty-six hours later, I am standing in the Accra airport. Once again I am sweating profusely, but this time it’s due to the 87-degree heat and 87% humidity. Behind the immigration agent, I see a sign that says, “Welcome to Ghana. We are glad you are here. Unless you are a sexual predator or a pedophile, then go home”. I have just entered a different world.

How did I end up on this journey? I am a member of the Board of Directors for the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC). Boise State is a founding member of USAC, through which many Boise State students choose to study abroad. I was asked to serve on the search committee to select a new resident director (RD) for our Ghana program. Some USAC programs don’t have

RDs, but Ghana is a different place, and we prefer to have an RD assisting our students on-site. It’s a challenging job, and we have to find the right mix of characteristics to help the students thrive. My travel companions are Susie Askew, from the University of Nevada, Reno, and Ryan Larsen, from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

We finally make it to our hotel. It’s now midnight on Sunday. As we walk towards our rooms, Ryan mumbles, “Don’t forget about your malaria pills. Don’t forget your repellent”. Suddenly, as if we have drunk espressos, Susie and I are instantly awake. *Malaria*. One of our biggest challenges during this trip will be to remember to take our daily malaria pills and not getting bitten by mosquitoes. USAC students are required to agree in writing that they will do the same. I enter my room. It’s nice and comfortable, luxurious by Ghanaian standards. I get ready for bed and cover myself in mosquito repellent. I notice a mosquito dancing by a light on the ceiling; I try to kill it without success. I put on more repellent, crawl into bed, and try to ensure that none of my skin is sticking out of the covers.

Eight hours later, I am awake, dressed, showered, covered in DEET, and sitting in the air-conditioned hotel restaurant with Susie and Ryan. Today, we are having our Accra city tour. We leave the cool sanctuary of our hotel and sink into the heat and humidity.

It’s 8:30 am, and it’s already 85 degrees. As we drive through the streets of Accra, we see women carrying babies on their backs and carrying food, buckets, and baskets on their heads. There are people everywhere. Everyone and everything is moving, walking, driving; many people are smiling. Ghanaians have the best smiles I have ever seen. As we drive, we see a small group of American students walking and Ryan asks, “Are those our students?” Theresa Kwakye, the RD we are replacing, chuckles and says, “No, they aren’t ours. I think they are new.” Ryan asks, “How can you tell?” Theresa chuckles, “They are too clean. Once the students have been here a while, they look much dirtier”. “Oh,” Ryan says. “Our students are dirty?” I think to myself.



International Students Receive Scholarships

by Christy Babcock Quintero

Each year the International Programs Office administers 12 scholarships to students displaying strong academic abilities and campus involvement. The scholarship waives the out-of-state tuition for these students. Students are required to perform 20 hours of volunteer service in exchange for the scholarship. If you have a need for volunteers, please contact the International Student Advisor at cbabcoc@boisestate.edu to request assistance from our scholarship recipients.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following international student scholarship recipients:

Natalia Barros
Tram Bui
Mariel Donoso
Yumi Inomata
Amrita Jashnani
Ayaka Nukui

Jude Sawine
Chisano Takeuchi
Ana Valverde
Liwen Yang
Sharon Kahuha
Nam Wong

Interview with Tram Bui, International Student

Office Assistant in the International Programs Office & International student from Vietnam
by Tram Bui

How did you decide to come to Boise State University? When I decided to go abroad for my studying, I wanted to study in the US because besides the purpose of getting a worldwide degree, I have opportunities to

be friends with more people from all around the world. I can learn about other cultures, which enhances my learning and ability to grow as a whole person. All in all, I believe that Boise State is a very suitable place for me to study.

What do you like most about BSU and Boise? The living and learning environment in Boise in general, and BSU specifically, give me a very comfortable feeling; I enjoy myself in every activity. This is what I like most about living here.

What surprised you the most about the US? The very smart and convenient traffic

system surprised me the most when I came here (if I compare to my own country!). Actually, the thing that surprised me the most is there are so many opportunities for the American students to go to school.

What kind of goals do you have for the future? The most important reason why I came here is to get a degree in Materials Science and Engineering. So for right now, my

biggest goal is to graduate with a bachelors and then maybe continue with a Masters Degree.

Tell us a little bit about your country?

Vietnam is a small country in South-West Asia. Some popular foods are “pho” and “cha gio”. AO DAI is the traditional dress of Vietnamese. If you travel to Vietnam one day, don’t forget to come to NHA TRANG beach, HA LONG Bay in North Vietnam, or DALAT. Those are very great places that attract a lot of tourists from all over the world.

What are the major differences between your country and the US? Culturally the two countries are very different, including the education system. Currently in Vietnam the main focus is dealing with foreign companies so the main focus in education is to study business and foreign languages. Here it is so diverse that one can pursue their dream in any area of study.

What do you miss most about your country? I miss my family and my friends. I miss the way that I express myself in my country.

Which languages do you speak?

Vietnamese is my own language. Besides that I can speak a little bit, just a little bit of Japanese and English.

Where have you traveled? (In the US or abroad) In summer 2006, I went to San Jose, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Las Vegas during a 2-week vacation with my sister’s family.

We drove so it was easy to go wherever we wanted. It was great! 🌀



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Our next stop is the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park. Ghana became an independent country in 1957 and Kwame Nkrumah was Ghana's first president and instrumental in the Pan-African movement. I realize how little I know about African history. The museum is a bit sad. The outside monuments are beautiful, but inside there are very few artifacts. Most



of the photos are photocopies, the museum has Nkrumah's mirror from college, and a rubber stamp and a pen he used are lovingly placed in shiny cases. Nkrumah was exiled in 1966 and never returned to Ghana until his death in 1972. Few of his possessions returned to Ghana with him, leaving this museum with little to show residents and tourists.

We visit one of the larger hotels for lunch. It's our chance for our first taste of Ghanaian food. New words roll off our tongues: fufu, red-red, wakye, kenkey, jollof rice, and more familiar words such as fried plantains and black-eyed peas. We dig in with gusto and are surprised to learn that Ghanaian food is spicy! We drink bottled water to re-hydrate ourselves and extinguish the heat of the food.

The next three days are spent interviewing candidates, meeting staff at the University of Ghana, touring the campus, and trying to decide which person we should hire for the job. Our decision is difficult, but we chose a Ghanaian woman who has been working

for the University of California's study abroad program. Abigail Thompson is selected. She is a



program assistant for the California program, but she has a fire inside her and is ready for the challenge of building our program and helping students adjust to Ghana. She is prepared to be a resident director. She and the wonderful assistant Claudia will be great sources of support for our students studying in Ghana.

The following day, we participate in a typical student educational tour. We drive three hours on very bumpy roads to Cape Coast. We start by walking on rope bridges through the canopy of a rainforest. It was beautiful. Our adventure took a more sobering turn once we traveled to the Dutch built slave castle on the coast. Most of the slaves who came to the United States came from West Africa. The location is beautiful for such a dreadful place with a terrible past. As we tour the ancient



castle, we think about how devastating it is to a country to have millions of healthy people forcefully extracted. Africa is still experiencing the impact of this horrible past. It has struggled to deal with the shadow of the slave trade. I wonder what those people could have done in Ghana? What could they have contributed? How would Africa have been different? We will never know. As an educator, having our Boise State students studying abroad in Africa and learning about the atrocities of the world's past encourage me. By learning from the relics history has left us, they can keep such atrocities from occurring again.

Our final day brings us back to the University of Ghana campus. We drop off resource materials for the new resident director, have one last meeting with the Dean of International Programs, and say goodbye to the campus. We then travel to Theresa's house for Thanksgiving dinner. The house is amazing!

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It's huge, has large pieces of African art on the walls, and a beautiful garden. We relax in the garden with one of the USAC students. He regales us with a story about eating cat; it's a favorite food of the Ewe people in Northern Ghana. We feast on typical American Thanksgiving food: turkey, mashed potatoes,

and stuffing. Then, we head off to the airport to travel to London, where we will visit another USAC site. It's a night flight. We are beckoned to a waiting room, where we sit for two hours. Yet again, I am sweating profusely. It's 87 degrees in the room according to the thermometer. Sometimes, you just go full circle.



Intensive English Program Participates in Pilot Project

by Jarie Jackson Castelin

Stephanie Marlow, Modern Languages and Intensive English Instructor created a new opportunity for BSU students in the Modern Languages Department and for international students taking Intensive English at BSU to come together to teach each other about language and culture. Through a pilot project in cooperation with the Intensive English Program (IEP) at the International Programs Office, with Chalimar Swain, IEP Student Services Coordinator and Jarie Jackson Castelin, IEP Academic Coordinator, Stephanie's students mentored the international students in a new class entitled: *Foreign Language 197 International and Multicultural Peers: Service Learning*. This experience helped to integrate the international students socially and culturally into the American college experience. Additionally, the American students provided English conversation opportunities. Both groups gained interpersonal and global communication experience while enhancing their cultural

awareness. Through this process they each had the opportunity to identify and to break down stereotypes and to establish more "real" types.

To be involved in this one-credit class BSU students needed to be currently or previously enrolled in a Modern Language course. Students spent 30 hours outside of class meeting with their international peers. Some students met weekly at the SUB, others went to movies, while some went shopping, or cooked and baked together. Woven in this partnering experience were various whole-group experiences giving the entire group an opportunity to come together to learn how to carve a pumpkin, play games at Pojo's, talk and eat at a pizza party, and spend an evening together at a Steelhead's hockey game with lots of questions and answers!

The international Intensive English students come from Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan, Romania, the Ukraine, Taiwan, Greece, Chile, China, Columbia, Thailand, and Mexico. This diversity gave the American students

an opportunity to be exposed to these different cultures while at the same time providing a campus-based support for the international students. It gave both groups a chance to learn more about individual lifestyles. People can read about other cultures, but there is nothing like actually meeting and getting to know someone from that culture!

This class changed the way these American students now interact with the international students. The international students are happy that the American students learned more about their countries, their families and their lives in their home countries. This experience gave an opportunity to bring the world a little closer together with one-to-one interactions. This class will be offered again spring 2007. 

