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International programs awarded more than $12 million in funding

Six of Ohio State’s international programs, including four of the Office of International Affairs’ Area Studies Centers, were recently awarded $12.4 million in U.S. Department of Education funding. These awards make Ohio State one of the few universities in the nation to receive federal funding to support multiple disciplines.

The Area Studies Centers have been awarded $9.5 million in Title VI National Resource Center funding and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship grants.

The Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Slavic and East European Studies, East Asian Studies Center and Middle East Studies Center all have received funding for the 2010-2014 award period. The grants will be used by the Area Studies Centers to sponsor a wide range of academic activities, provide resources that stimulate new research opportunities and expand instructional initiatives, and
Title VI National Resource Center grants are awarded to Area Studies Centers around the country to support foreign language, area, and international studies infrastructure. The support of these programs is an effort to ensure a steady supply of graduates with expertise in less commonly taught languages, world areas, and transnational trends.

FLAS fellowship awards are granted to institutions of higher education to provide academic year- and summer-long fellowships to undergraduate and graduate students undergoing training in modern foreign languages and related area or international studies. The Area Studies Centers were awarded Title VI grants, which will provide them with nearly $5 million in funding over the next four years.

The National East Asian Language Resource Center (NEALRC), part of Ohio State’s Foreign Language Center, also has been awarded $1.3 million to fund initiatives to increase learners’ abilities to master advanced levels of language and cultural competence. These awards come shortly after the Department of Education’s announcement in May that it had approved funding for $1.5 million for the Center for International Business and Research (CIBER), housed in the Fisher College of Business. CIBER provides a supportive framework for the development of international business teaching, outreach and research.

Annual Title VI grants were awarded as follows:

- Center for Latin American Studies, $288,753
- Center for Slavic & East European Studies, $322,851
- East Asian Studies Center, $276,527
- Middle East Studies Center, $267,079

Each of the Area Studies Centers was also awarded a FLAS fellowship grant, which will provide the centers with nearly $5 million in funding over the next four years.

Annual FLAS grants were awarded as follows:

- Center for Latin American Studies, $288,000
- Center for Slavic & East European Studies, $349,500
- East Asian Studies Center, $291,000
- Middle East Studies Center, $295,000
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Three Ohio State professors are teaching a class halfway around the world, without ever leaving campus. Dr. Venkat Gopalan, a professor of biochemistry, Dr. Amanda Simcox, a professor of molecular genetics, and Dr. Dan Farrell, a professor of philosophy, collectively teach Biochemistry/Molecular Genetics 694, “Global Learning by Videoconferencing: Frontiers in Life Sciences Research.” The first of its kind, the class is taught on Ohio State’s campus in the Learning Collaboration Studio at the Science and Engineering Library, using videoconferencing to engage students from more than 8,000 miles away. The video seminar is a collaboration among The Ohio State University, Anna University in Chennai, India, and the Institute of Life Sciences and Osmania University, both in Hyderabad, India.

During spring 2009, the class was taught over the course of five weekends, teaching cutting-edge curricular content to advanced undergraduate students. To accommodate the schedules of everyone involved, the class took place early on Saturday mornings in Columbus, which was evening in India. Fifty students participated, 14 from Ohio State, including biochemistry, molecular genetics, and some other science majors. To ensure that all participants had access to the same material, Indian students were given access to Carmen, where they could download PowerPoint presentations and other course materials.

For two hours, students listened and engaged in discussions as professors from both universities lectured on functional genomics, next-generation sequencing, genetic engineering, proteomics, and the promise of personalized medicine – topics not covered in other undergraduate courses. To further the comparative discussion between the students, Farrell discussed issues of ethics and morality, presenting real-life scenarios for debate, allowing students to see different perspectives. Throughout the five weeks there were opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue and presentations. Every week, Ohio State students were able to enjoy lunches, including one Indian lunch, after the cameras were off, which enabled them to decompress and discuss among themselves.

In February 2008, Gopalan and Simcox participated in Anna University’s three-day symposium called Biotechcellence 2008. Gopalan’s long-standing ties with Anna University led to an invitation for the two to speak about reverse genetic technologies. Via videoconferencing from Ohio State, the professors spoke to an estimated 300 students at Anna University, with 12 Ohio State students present on their end of the feed. Positive feedback from students at both universities ultimately led to the development of the course, which was funded by a $15,000 grant from the Office of Continuing Education. The grant was renewed in 2010, and the course is likely to be offered in the fall.
This year, Gopalan and Simcox were recognized by the American Council on Education for their innovative use of technology to promote internationalization. The two plan to teach the course again during fall quarter.

Gopalan and Simcox hope that the class will act as a recruitment tool for bringing Indian students to Ohio State. Through the video seminar, Indian students are able to get a glimpse of the state-of-the-art facilities and technology that Ohio State has to offer, as well as a taste of what it’s like to be a student here. Ohio State students also benefit from exposure to the idea of potentially working or researching in India. The professors hope the course will eventually turn into an undergraduate study-research exchange, with students from Ohio State going to study in India while Indian students come to study in Columbus. Simcox is currently exploring this possibility for summer 2011 as part of a Pelotonia-funded undergraduate research program that could contribute to cancer research.

Global Strategies – A Q&A with William Brustein

How will the summer 2010 visit to China with President Gee impact Ohio State?

Enormously. Having President Gee visit with his peers at universities in China solidifies Ohio State’s commitment to growing our research collaborations in the areas of food safety, age-related diseases, such as Parkinson’s, electrical and computer engineering, and workforce development. During our time in China, he met with corporate leadership to build a foundation of shared interests, visited with new international students and their families, engaged with Ohio State
students studying abroad, and spoke to hundreds of alumni and friends of the university – strengthening long lasting relationships in Greater China.

President Gee’s visit coupled with our continuing efforts both on this campus and through the China Gateway, is leading to new partnerships with top Chinese universities including Shanghai Jiao-Tong and Nanjing. We are also laying the groundwork for mutually advantageous agreements with such prestigious Chinese universities as Fudan, Peking and Tsinghua.

We are now well prepared to take the next step with our China Gateway.

How is the China Gateway progressing?

We are ready to begin the application process to obtain a Wholly Owned Foreign Enterprise business license, which will enable the China Gateway to generate revenue and become self sustaining. We would like to offer executive training programs to Ohio-based businesses and others in the Greater China area, which includes mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. As we move toward this goal, our faculty has begun developing programs based on their expertise in the areas of food safety, supply chain management intellectual property, and others, so they can be marketed to companies in 2011 once we obtain our new business license.

What types of resources are involved in moving the China Gateway forward?

We also have a number of resources in addition to our faculty advisory committee, including leadership from the colleges as well special interest areas such as alumni, development and communications – all working together toward a common goal. Phoebe You, our acting director, runs the office in Shanghai and is connecting with businesses, universities, local governments and our alumni.

The newest member of our team is Christopher Carey, who we recently appointed as Director of Global Gateway Initiatives. Chris will help lead our efforts in the development, marketing, delivery, and evaluation of revenue-generating programs. His international experience and strong business background will take us into the next phase of developing a multi-faceted center in our China Gateway, and he will move us closer to reaching our ultimate goal of opening additional offices in other key locations around the world.

William Brustein, PhD is vice provost for global strategies and international affairs. His work at Ohio State is dedicated to fully
integrating international and multicultural experiences to the academic units within the university and expanding and enhancing our global reach.

Global Gateway director named

William Brustein, Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs, has named Christopher Carey, Director of Global Gateway Initiatives. As part of the newly created position, he will be tasked with developing self-sustaining Gateway offices in key locations around the world to expand Ohio State’s global reach.

“Christopher’s extensive international experience and business savvy will enable Ohio State to develop and implement a portfolio of executive education and corporate training programs that we will be able to offer through our Gateway offices once they are fully established,” Brustein said. “We envision sharing Ohio State’s expertise with business executives and community leaders in other parts of the world as part of the university’s land grant mission.”

Carey came to Ohio State from Battelle Memorial Institute, where he had been working as a Deputy Program Manager in Battelle’s National Security Global Business Unit. He possesses a bachelor’s degree in environmental science and engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and served as a Captain in the U.S. Army in Germany and Washington state, as well as an assignment with NATO in Bosnia. During his service he was responsible for a variety of tasks, including supply logistics, operations management, strategic planning, and financial analysis. Following his military tenure, he worked as a Financial Advisor for Morgan Stanley and a Production Supervisor for
Nestlé.

Carey recently earned a Master of Business Administration from Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School in Belgium, for which he completed a thesis project in South Africa. His military service and extensive international management experience have taken him around the world.

**Global Institute workshop hosts more than 100 Ohio K-12 teachers**

More than 100 teachers from around the state of Ohio went back to school this fall, ready to provide their students with information to connect them to international resources around the world. From August 3-5, The Office of International Affairs and Area Studies Centers hosted the 2010 Ohio Global Institute for K-12 teachers. As part of the university’s international education outreach efforts, 102 educators attended the three-day workshop, which was designed to provide them with a broader view of how they can connect their students with classrooms and experts around the world.

Primarily funded by a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation and contributions from partner organizations, the Global Institute takes place annually at different locations around the state. Teachers specializing in various content areas across the curriculum share their best practices in international education, obtain new resources and tools for internationalizing across the curriculum, and develop an action plan for implementation in their classroom and school. Nearly 200 teachers applied for this year’s workshop, with preference given to teams of teachers from the same school district that could provide support for each other when implementing the knowledge they gained from the Global Institute. The 2011 Global Institute will take place next summer at Ohio University.
The Global Institute is a partnership among The Ohio State University, Ohio Department of Education, the Office of International Affairs, the Wexner Center for the Arts, Area Studies Centers at The Ohio State University, the Gerald H. Read Center at Kent State University, Ohio University and the Ohio Geographic Alliance.

**Students learning across the globe**

Katherine Newman

"The FAES Program in International Development in the Dominican Republic was unlike any other experience that I have ever had. Staying at Universidad ISA for 6 weeks allowed me to really soak in the culture of the country. Every week we went on several field trips to places like banana and coffee plantations, waterfalls, farms, and various factories and plants. We had the opportunity to visit many cities within the country and really get a sense of the development taking place in the Dominican Republic. The field trips provided a connection between the things that I learned in class and real interactions and situations. My study abroad program was an important experience that will help me in my future career in education because it allowed me to see an example of an educational system that is different from the one in the United States."

Katherine is a senior majoring in human development and family science
"In Spring 2010, I took a course titled "Rebuilding Failed and Weak States." We learned about democratization efforts through several different mechanisms by focusing on the countries of Ukraine, Rwanda, and Iraq. Then, in early June, 10 of us left for Ukraine to spend 12 days participating in a number of activities, such as visiting the capital, Kyiv; taking a day-trip to the beach; visiting Parliament; taking an overnight train to Crimea; and meeting with experts and university students to talk about democratization efforts, security interests, and the economy of Ukraine. We worked in teams to produce a report outlining these three topics, then traveled to Washington D.C. to present our findings to government agencies. The best experience for me was simultaneously being a student and researching and seeing the sights and taking in Ukraine, while also being a professional and having to produce reports and presentations to organizations in a position to influence policy."

Natalie is a graduate student majoring in public policy

International Student Profile: Melanie Dreser
Home city and country: Sachsenkam, Germany

Year in school: Second year MFA student

Major: Design Development

What are your career plans after college?

Both to teach at the university level and work for an innovative, sustainable design company

How long have you been in the United States/Columbus?

Since September 2009

Why did you choose Ohio State?

In autumn 2008 I spent a quarter at OSU through the design exchange program. My experience as an exchange student is a major factor in my decision to pursue my master’s degree at OSU. My familiarity with the program and its core philosophies enhanced my belief that I will be successful in the graduate program. An important factor for applying to the graduate program at OSU is the numerous interdisciplinary and collaborative opportunities to work with, and gain knowledge from, other departments.
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What most surprised you about your experience in Columbus and the United States?

The size and the complexity of OSU as well as the diversity. Additionally, I met a lot of friendly and helpful people from all over the world. This experience can broaden one’s horizon extremely. O-H-I-O football. I have never experienced a sport, besides soccer in Europe, that unifies so many people from different cultures, ages and backgrounds.

What has been the hardest thing to adapt to since you’ve come to Columbus?

Even if Germany and the USA both have a western culture, there are major differences in the culture. On the one hand, the throw-away culture compared to the German sustainable culture was a shock for me at first. On the other hand, I was used to less crime and very safe cities. I never had to worry to go outside on my own in German cities during the night. Now I have to be way more conscious and careful, at least in certain areas of Columbus.

What have you done to keep yourself busy?

I met a lot of people and made new friends. I joined sports clubs and I worked on my thesis. Actually, I do the same things I used to do at home. Meet and hang out with friends, play soccer and do judo as well as work and study.

What is the most fun/exciting thing you’ve done since you’ve arrived at Ohio State?

On the professional side, I am part of the student organizations Innovation Fisher and AIGA Columbus. Besides that I played intramural soccer, went to football games and so on. There is always something exciting and fun going on.

How has the Office of International Affairs helped you adapt to campus life?

I had the opportunity to get to know many of the staff members at OIA and participated in several of their sponsored events. Through these events I met many students from all over the world and experienced different cultures. I appreciate OIA's help throughout the last year and recommend everyone to take the opportunities OIA offers and to participate in their events.
Student receives Dept. of State scholarship to study in Japan

When Peshan Ngo arrives at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology this fall, her focus will be on her classes, and adapting to the local way of life. Ngo, an Ohio State junior majoring in pharmaceutical sciences, will be taking mostly humanities classes at the university, which she hopes will help to expand her knowledge of Hong Kong’s history and culture. But for the duration of her four-month study abroad program, Ngo won’t have to worry about her finances, thanks in large part to the U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

In June, Ngo received a $3,500 Gilman Scholarship to apply to her study abroad experience. Awarded bi-annually to students around the country, the scholarship encourages students to choose non-traditional study abroad destinations, go abroad for longer periods of time, and to study in non-traditional fields. The competitive scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students who are already receiving Federal Pell Grants, to better prepare them to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.

“Because I am studying in Hong Kong for four months, this award helps make up the difference between attending college for a semester and going to Ohio State for a quarter,” says Ngo. “Along with that extra month of expenses of food, of rooming and daily necessities, it also helps cover traveling costs, like buying airfare, and getting a visa and a passport.”
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Exchange Program will allow Ngo to study abroad for a 15-week semester, rather than just a 10-week quarter. Ngo’s Ohio State-awarded scholarships – Maximus, Excellence and Land Grant – will also be applied toward her study abroad experience. The Gilman Scholarship is just one of many federally funded study abroad scholarships that is available to Ohio State students every year.

**Fulbright Scholar: Magda El-Sherbini conducts research in Egypt**

Magda El-Sherbini, Associate Professor, and Head of the Cataloging Department at The Ohio State University Libraries, has been selected a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright fellowship. Recipients are selected by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, which administers the program for the U.S. Department of State. The Office of International Affairs serves as the campus representative for the Fulbright Scholars program.

For her first research project abroad, Magda El-Sherbini will travel to Alexandria, Egypt for a nine-month stay as a Fulbright Scholar, exploring the structure of international authority database files at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Alexandria Library). Egypt seemed the logical choice as El-Sherbini has a particular interest in Arabic language files and she is interested in the work they are doing at the Bibliotheca in creating databases of Arabic individual and corporate authors.
El-Sherbini’s research involves the process of creating the Arabic name authority file, which establishes a standard and universally accepted form for names of individual and corporate authors. This research topic has long been of interest to El-Sherbini.

“A Fulbright gives me the opportunity to work at establishing ties between American and Egyptian institutions working on similar projects, but separated by language, technology and resources,” El-Sherbini said. “This grant will enable me to conduct research and exchange experiences with my colleagues at the location that is important to my research topic.”

This is an important initiative that closely parallels similar efforts taking place in the United States and the West, she explained. The topic of authority control in cataloging is important because it enables effective searching of databases and the Internet for authors and their works in all formats and language versions.

“I am currently involved in this work through my home institution and the Library of Congress. My visit to Alexandria will allow me to learn from the Egyptian experience, share what I have learned in the U.S., and explore the possibility of future joint projects in this area, El-Sherbini said.

During her stay in Alexandria from November 2010 – August 2011, she plans to present a series of workshops, lectures and a seminar series on library related topics ranging from library management and operations to technology and new cataloging codes, to more specific issues related to authority work.

Magda El-Sherbini earned a Master’s of Library Science at the Catholic University of America, School of Library and Information Science. She has worked at Ohio State since 1987 and she is Adjunct Professor at the Kent State School of Library and Information Science.

International student enrollment on the rise
More international students are selecting Ohio State as their university of choice than ever before. This autumn quarter, Ohio State enrolled approximately 1,700 new international students compared to 1,200 last year.

Ohio State has experienced a 70.4 percent increase in the number of paid acceptance fees by international freshman over autumn quarter 2009, and the number of international transfer students who have paid an acceptance fee has doubled. The number of new international graduate students expected on campus also is on the rise with an increase of 14.7 percent paid acceptances over last year, or 734 students compared to 640 students.

The Office of International Affairs is responsible for working with international students during their enrollment at Ohio State. New international students are provided with check-in and orientation services to help familiarize them with immigration rules and regulations and introduce them to the resources available at the university. International students attend an orientation program that includes information about health, safety, tuition, academic conduct and how to get involved in student organizations and adjust to campus life. Special activities include tours of campus, a resource fair and a welcome event, including a calendar of activities that occur during the university’s Welcome Week.

Ohio State expected approximately 400 new international freshmen to have enrolled autumn quarter compared to 271 last year, with about 70 percent of the international freshmen from China - a nearly 90 percent increase over last year. Much of the increase in international freshman can be attributed to a concerted effort by university admissions to visit other countries and actively recruit students from abroad to attend Ohio State.
Additionally, the university continues to see increases in the number of international freshmen from South Korea, India, Taiwan and Canada, as well as the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Japan and Nigeria. New international graduate students primarily hail from China, India and Korea.

Gateway study abroad programs announced

One of the first opportunities resulting from the Global Gateways is study abroad programs, designed for first and second year undergraduate students of any major. Through coursework taught in English and field activities related to the history, culture, society, contemporary issues and geo-political realities of the Gateway country, program participants will develop the knowledge and skills to comprehend and analyze the major global currents and themes of today’s world.

China
The Global Gateway Study Abroad program in China will enable students to experience a diverse and dynamic mix of ethnic, rural, and urban cultures in the historic and geographically varied region of southwest China. Students will gain first-hand insight into the diversity of China and how specific local cultures are affected by rapid social and environmental change. Lectures, discussions, and field experience will enrich the program as students gain practical experience and awareness of the multi-cultural nature of China and the many issues surrounding its diversity.

“Sichuan province is one of China’s most fascinating destinations, with a diverse and lively cultural mix, amazing natural wonders, and important historical sites,” said Mark Bender, the program’s faculty director and professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures. “Our program is based in Chengdu, an ancient capital noted for its causal pace of life, friendly citizens, and tasty cuisine.”

Brazil
The Global Gateway Study Abroad program in Brazil will offer a unique cultural experience for students who wish to gain an experience with global diversity by living and learning in a foreign country. This program will introduce students to Brazilian history, culture, society, and contemporary issues. Through coursework in the classroom as well as experiential learning, students will gain a unique perspective of this emerging world power. Lúcia Costigan, associate professor in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese and Katherine
Borland, associate professor in the Department of Comparative Studies at Ohio State Newark, will be the faculty directors for the Brazil experience.

“The month-long Brazil Gateway program is designed to provide students from any discipline an intensive cultural immersion experience,” Borland said. “Students will learn about Brazilian history and culture as well as the regional and ethnic dimensions of Brazil’s social inequality in courses taught by Brazilian educators in English. Carefully designed field trips and home stay experiences will enhance students’ cross-cultural experience.”

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