Scholarships will enhance opportunities to study in China

More students in the Ohio State Chinese Flagship program will have the opportunity to study in China thanks to the help of a new program made possible by the Chinese Consulate General in New York.

The Chinese Consulate has established the three-year scholarship program for students in recognition of Ohio State’s participation and high achievements in a language and culture competition sponsored by the Chinese government.

Shawn Newcomer and Micah Wallin received the scholarships for the 2009-2010 school year and are currently studying in China.

The scholarships provide funding for two Ohio State students based on their educational qualifications to study for a year at any Chinese university and will cover the cost of tuition, fees, international student medical insurance and housing as well as provide the student with a spending allowance.

“Since the purpose of these scholarships is to recognize and reward superior performance, students with strong academic records who have demonstrated serious, sustained commitments to achieveing a high degree of proficiency in Chinese language and culture will be chosen to receive the scholarships,” said Huazhen Zhou, program director and curriculum specialist at Ohio State’s K&H Chinese Flagship program and Bridge Competition coordinator.

The Consulate learned of Ohio State’s success with its Chinese language program through the Chinese Bridge competition.

Since 2004, Ohio State Students have participated in the regional Chinese Bridge Competition sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Formerly called The Chinese Proficiency competition for Foreign College Students Worldwide, the purpose of the competition is to encourage non-Chinese speaking students to attain high levels of proficiency in the Chinese language and cultural arts. The regional competition is held annually in New York City and the finals of the competition are held in China.

Ohio State students have won more regional and international prizes at the Chinese Bridge Competition than any other university in the world, the participants said.

Soldiers learn about Afghan culture (continued from page 1)

The Marshes expressed much interest in knowing about how cultural norms and mores would affect interactions between Afghans and Americans serving in Afghanistan. The workshops helped them to understand how soldiers have to reconcile being sensitive and understanding of other cultures while maintaining their own culture; and as a result of increased interaction with and comfort level of Afghan women, female American soldiers were advised to modify how they are women either by removing their head coverings when safe to do so, or by displaying their hair or face.

The Middle East Studies Center has presented other workshops for members of the National Guard and military engineers and medics. Driver said the feedback after these workshops has always been positive and the groups are grateful to have information about the areas of the world where servicemen and women are working.

News from Study Abroad

Getting Started sessions

Students may be considering studying abroad but don’t know where to begin should attend a Getting Started session offered Monday—Thursday by the Office of International Affairs. Students will receive basic information about studying abroad including, how to select a program that meets their academic goals, along with other practical information about finances, the application process, and other available resources.

Scholarships

There are close to 30 scholarships listed at oia.osu.edu for students in need of additional funding for their study abroad program. The scholarships are available for a wide variety of majors and interests including, business, arts and humanities, African and African American Studies, French and Italian, East Asian studies and many more.

Supplemental study abroad health insurance

Ohio State students traveling to international locations for the purpose of undergraduate or graduate dissertation research, independent study which is part of their academic program, are required to enroll in the university’s supplemental study abroad health insurance which is provided through HTH Worldwide. The supplemental insurance includes coverage for emergency assistance, evacuation, and repatriation. The coverage is available through the Office of International Affairs.

William Brustein, PhD was appointed Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs on July 1, 2009. 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. Each quarter, Dr. Brustein will answer questions in this column as they relate to the topic of internationalization at Ohio State.

Global Strategies A Q&A with William Brustein

What does it mean to internationalize a university?

Internationalization means that the heart and soul of a university is committed to preparing and graduating globally competent students. There is a systematic and focused effort to include internationalization in the strategic plans of all academic units; adding international components to the curriculum; barriers to study abroad are eliminated; requiring foreign language proficiency; creating international internships; enhancing faculty incentives for international contributions; and encouraging faculty to serve as a seat at the decision-making table; barriers to international student recruitment and retention are eliminated; partnering with immigrant communities to draw upon their expertise; and global partnerships are a priority.

It is the infusion of all of these components combined that provide a foundation for building a global university that add value to existing goals and missions.

What are your top three priorities?

(1) Establish “Gateways” for Ohio State in other parts of the world. These are multi-faceted centers of excellence that will be the strengths of Ohio State. Gateways will provide us with a presence in other countries that can be used for continuing education, international student recruitment, alumni and donor relations, study abroad in-country orientations. They can serve as a base of operations for faculty, joint and dual degree programs as well as locations for Ohio-based corporations to provide executive education programs. The Gateways are an international engagement component that will enable us to broaden our relationships and deepen our investment in key parts of the world. Currently under consideration are Ohio State Gateways in India, Brazil, Turkey and the Horn of Africa. Europe is also high on the list and possibilities include Poland, Russia or the United Kingdom. It is important to note that decisions about locations will be driven by the strengths and interests of Ohio State.

(2) Internationalize the curriculum. We want to develop a method to provide international learning experiences, and that will be based on global competency skills. Students need to have a global awareness that allows them to work effectively in international settings; be aware of and possess the ability to adapt to diverse cultures; be familiar with global change; be able to communicate across cultural boundaries; and comprehend the international dimension of one’s field of study.

(3) Increase student mobility — inbound and outbound. We need to eliminate the financial and curricular barriers for our students — for study abroad programs and for international students coming here to our campus. These experiences — for both inbound and outbound students — play a significant role in the value of their education in terms of diversity, cultural awareness and academically.

For more information about Dr. Brustein’s viewpoints on internationalization, readers may view It Takes an Entire Institution — A Blueprint for the Global University, and the Report of the President and Provost’s Council on Strategic Internationalization, at oia.osu.edu.

Global Perspectives

Global Perspectives is published quarterly by the Office of International Affairs. Dieter Wanner, Associate Director of News and Education Outreach, has editorial control over this newsletter. Should you have comments or questions, please contact Frances Miller, Director of Communications, at oia.osu.edu.

Soldiers learn about Afghan culture

One hundred and fifty marines from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Lima Company, based at Bickenbacker Airport, are now more familiar with Afghan history and culture as well as Islam. Ohio State’s Middle East Studies Center conducted the workshop to give the Marines an insider’s perspective about the Afghan lifestyle and culture that they should be deployed to.

Alam Payind, director of the Middle East Studies Center, and faculty-in-residence from Kabul University, spoke about Afghan history and the history of conflicts in Afghanistan over the past 2,500 years. There were also sessions on cultural theory; how to negotiate terms of cultural differences; and information about the Pashtun culture, the dominant ethnic group in Afghanistan.

“The soldiers asked a lot of good questions and they were hungry for details about how the culture governs their way of life,” said Cory Driver, outreach coordinator for the Middle East Studies Center.

(continued on page 4)

Ohio State professor awarded third Fulbright

Tim Berra, an Ohio State Professor Emeritus in the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialist. As part of the award, Berra traveled to Darwin, Australia in September to deliver the keynote address at the Charles Darwin Symposium commemorating the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin’s famous book On the Origin of Species.

Berra has specialized in research on the unique evolutionary traits of Australian fish, such as the nursery fish, for most of his career.

Berra was selected by Charles Darwin University, Berra will present a series of lectures on the diversity of Australian fish life and also lecture at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia. This is Berra’s third Fulbright grant. “I owe my career to the Fulbright program,” Berra said.

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Alam Payind discusses Afghan history with the soldiers

The Office of International Affairs cultivates and nurtures the growth of global perspectives at Ohio State. The Office of International Affairs provides education, outreach activities and special events. The Office of International Affairs is published quarterly by the Office of International Affairs. Dieter Wanner, Associate Director of News and Education Outreach, has editorial control over this newsletter. Should you have comments or questions, please contact Frances Miller, Director of Communications, at oia.osu.edu.

soldiers learn about afghan culture
From the city of Maroua to the Logone Floodplain

For three months during winter quarter, Kristen Ritchey took daily trips from the city of Maroua to the Logone Floodplain, conducting research—under the guidance of Professor Mark Moritz—on labor relations between the independent (absent) owners and the hired herders of cattle.

A senior majoring in anthropology with a minor in dance, Ritchey followed up immediately on Moritz’s plea for students to join him in the field of Cameroon. During her stay, she conducted 80 interviews, delving into the lives of the owners and the herders trying to determine how economically sustainable their lives are, and if there is a chance to move from one socioeconomic level to another.

Since Moritz had been conducting research on open access management in Cameroon for the past 16 years, Ritchey stayed with a friend and his family, much of the time spent sleeping in a tent in the middle of a flood plain. “I learned a lot about the culture,” she said. “Everything is done on African time. It’s not a fast-paced society—things just take a little longer. And families seem to enjoy each other more. All their meals are taken together as a family.”

Moritz’s work led Ritchey to develop her own research theme that concentrated on labor contracts and money, and asking tough questions about income and expenses, whether there was enough money to buy food and clothing and medical care should the need arise. “The independent herders could just sell one of their cows, but the hired herders had to rely on their income, or market goods given to them from the absent herd owners like clothing or millet,” she explained. “But if there was an extra need—like sickness in the family—they then had nothing to sell to acquire money to care for the sick. They had no economic security net. And the question became, ‘Could the hired herders become independent owners?’ The hired herders remained optimistic, but it didn’t happen very often.”

Each of the interviews she conducted took at least an hour and were facilitated by an interpreter. Ritchey learned that more often than not the expenses of the herders far outweighed their income of 80 cents per day.

The result of the research Ritchey conducted determined that socioeconomic mobility does exist, but it is rare and certain criteria almost always exists: “For a herder to become independent, he must be likely to be given cattle by a family member, or he was paid in cattle, rather than cash,” she said. “Her experience in Cameroon was ‘the best thing I ever could have done,’” she said. “Living and working with the people, gives you way more experience than you can get in a classroom.”

Ohio's teachers learn how to go global in the classroom

As the new school year begins, more than 100 K-12 teachers in Ohio are ready to incorporate new ideas, themes, and materials into the classroom to help internationalize their lesson plans.

The Office of International Affairs and Ohio State’s five Area Studies Centers collaborated with educators around the state to present the 2009 Global Institute, a three-day workshop for teachers in grades K-12 held on Aug. 3-5 on the campus of Kent State University. The Global Institute is a partnership among Ohio State, Kent State University, the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Geographic Alliance.

The Center for African Studies, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Asian and East European Studies, East Asian Studies Center and the Middle East Studies Center provide outreach programs, teacher training and informational resources to K-12 teachers across the state to help integrate and increase knowledge of world regions across curricula and subjects.

Approximately 100 teachers were selected from more than 200 applicants to attend the Institute. Teachers from 26 different school districts and specializing in all subject areas learned about international resources they could bring to the classroom, shared ideas and methods and materials, and networked with other teachers to receive tips about internationalizing lessons.

“It was a very diverse group of teachers who were interested in learning more about different regions of the world,” said Lance Erickson, assistant director of the Center for Resources on the European Studies. “It was a great opportunity for us to share our insight and let them know about all the international resources they have at their disposal,” Erickson said.

The five Area Studies Centers at Ohio State offer supplemental material and resources such as books in other languages, foreign films, and they can even call upon international students and scholars to make presentations in the classroom. In day of the conference focused on different themes, exploring global issues, international instruction and integrating technology. Teachers participated in group and discussion-based, break-out sessions on world issues and regions, and subject-specific instruction. Teachers also attended workshops on incorporating new media, such as video, and learning more about international students and schools into lesson plans.

Some of the highlights from the conference included:

- Kechi Kalu, a professor in the Department of African American and African Studies and director of the Center for African Studies at Ohio State, discussed the demographic characteristics of today’s world populations, and the disparities among them.
- Department of World regions were led by representatives of Ohio State’s Area Studies Centers.
- Ohio State visiting artist, Jiegot Li, described and demonstrated the art of Chinese kite making to Institute attendees through video conferencing. Teachers also had the opportunity to speak with teachers from Brazil over the Internet.
- A panel discussion explored the future of citizenship and identity in the middle east and their impact on the United States.
- Teachers also attended lectures at Ohio State on American culture such as the importance of sports, tips on applying for graduate school and they participated in English-building activities including striking up conversations and asking questions about Ohio State to students and faculty.

Students from China learn about college life at OSU

Thirty-four Chinese students from Wuhan University visited Ohio State to develop their English speaking skills in an American setting and to learn more about college life in the United States.

“We believe that to learn English as a second language, the learner has to learn how to use English in the target cultural environment and to communicate with native speakers to reach that goal,” said Minru Li, program specialist for the Foreign Language Center and coordinator for the program.

The students visited different schools and social points of interest at OH State and in Columbus including the RPAC, Ohio Stadium, the Columbus Zoo and an Ohio courthouse. Students also traveled to Cincinnati to tour the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center to learn more about the racial history and diversity makeup in the United States.

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Ohio State and Wuhan University have been sister universities for more than 27 years. This is the second year that Ohio State has hosted students from Wuhan for this program.

International Scholar Profile: Stelios Kantzidis

What is your home city and country? Athens, Greece

What is your degree in and where did you earn it? I have a PhD in Physics from the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

What have you been doing at Ohio State as part of your exchange visit? I have been conducting astronomical research in computational astrophysics, cosmology, and galaxy formation.

What has most surprised you about your experience in Columbus? I was impressed by the vibrant and friendly Midwestern atmosphere of Columbus.

What department are you in at Ohio State? I am an astronomer at the Center for Cosmology & Astro-Particle Physics (CCAPP). CCAPP is an NSF-funded particle physics and cosmology research center that is a partnership among Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, and Kent State University. Our mission is to discover new fundamental laws of the universe by pushing the limits of observation and computation. I am also on faculty at the Department of Astronomy and Physics.

What is the most fun/exciting thing you’ve done since you’ve arrived at Ohio State? Visiting the museums and the arts district.

What area of physics are you interested in? My research interests span a wide range of topics in theoretical astrophysics and cosmology, from structure and galaxy formation to supermassive black holes and the nature of dark matter.

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