

**APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHANCELLOR, 2010-2011

I. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Education Abroad for Students:

- During the 2010/11 academic year, a total of 1,006 students studied abroad in various programs. This number is the largest ever at Appalachian and demonstrates the University's consistent and persistent efforts to send students abroad. This represents a 25.89% participation rate at Appalachian.¹ Appalachian continues to make steady progress in increasing the education abroad numbers. According to the Institute of International Education's (IIE) *2010 Open Doors Report*, Appalachian ranks 7th nationally among the comprehensive master's institutions for the number of total undergraduate and graduate students participating in education abroad experiences; and 4th among the same institution for the number of students who study abroad for short-term.
- Since 2006/07, OIED has embarked on an effort to diversify education abroad sites available to Appalachian students by developing new sites. Consequently, during the 2010/11 academic year, Appalachian signed new agreements with 10 institutions in Brazil (4); Chile (1); China (3); Thailand (1); and Vietnam (1). Current education abroad data indicate that an increasing number of Appalachian students have indeed selected to study in many of these the non-traditional locations. While the national data show that the largest number of U.S. students select to study in Europe (55% in 2009), at Appalachian, Europe accounts only for about 38% with most of the students selecting to study in countries in Latin America (41%), Asia (13%), and Africa (5%). OIED continued to explore other countries around the world, especially in Argentina and Russia, where Appalachian students could travel and receive positive experiences. The goal is to open up other parts of the world and to diversify students' educational abroad experiences.
- **Education Abroad Scholarships for Students:** During the 2010/11 academic year, OIED provided \$55,952 in scholarships to support 63 students to study abroad. We continue to receive an increasing number of applications for the small scholarships available through OIED. During the 2010/11 academic year, OIED's Scholarship Committee received 140 applications.

International Students at Appalachian:

- **International Students on Campus:** One hundred and fifty two (152) international students were enrolled at Appalachian during the 2010/11 academic year: 52 undergraduate degree-seeking students, 15 graduate degree-seeking students, and 84 exchange students. The international students on campus during the 2010/11 academic year represent a 32% increase from the 2009/10 academic year. This was the largest number of new international students at Appalachian. International students at Appalachian came from 62 different countries.

¹ This figure is calculated by comparing the number of study abroad participants (1006) in study abroad in 2010-2011 with the number of Appalachian degree recipients (3,886) in 2009-2010. Although this method produces only an approximate measure of study abroad participation, it is the method currently used in the Institute for international Education Open Doors annual survey. The Open Doors survey is the only national data collection reporting system for study abroad participation of U.S. students, and is endorsed by the Section on U.S. Students Abroad of NSFSA: Association of International Educators.

- **New International Students:** New international student (both degree-seeking and exchange) population for the 2010/11 academic year totaled 112, approximately a 30% increase from the previous year. In order to streamline the process for incoming exchange students, OIED created a new application that allows us to collect the information required to issue the SEVIS DS-2019 form in an efficient manner.
- **New International Student Orientation:** OIED hosted 81 new international students at orientation in Fall 2010 and 31 new international students in Spring 2011. In response to an international student need surveys conducted during the 2009/10 academic year, the international student orientation was reorganized. Sessions were spread further apart and held at various locations. This alleviated the student-fatigue experienced from being in the same one room all day. In the same survey, international students expressed other needs which OIED addressed in the redesigned orientation. These include assistance with opening bank and cell phone accounts, renting cars, navigating the public transportation system, and understanding and dealing with Culture Shock. We greatly expanded our Culture Shock session at orientation to emphasize the American laws and university policies regarding alcohol consumption and sexual harassment.

International Visiting Scholars and Visitors to Appalachian:

During the reporting period, OIED directly hosted 62 international scholars and visitors from the 12 countries. The countries from where these visitors came include: Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Seven of the 62 visitors came as scholars or researchers. The duration of stay at Appalachian for these visitors ranged from two days to four weeks. OIED spent \$32,855 to host international scholars/researchers and \$10,029 to host international visitors at Appalachian.

Immigration Issues for International Tenure Track Faculty:

- During the reporting period, Labor Certification applications filed by Appalachian to sponsor faculty/staff members for U.S. permanent residency for nine international faculty members and one staff person were denied. These denials were due to lack of proper documentation to file such applications. These denials put the University and the faculty/staff members in very difficult situation and cause a significant level of stress to the faculty/staff members and University administrators who had work to resolve the matters.
 - OIED has worked closely with the faculty members' departments to redo the recruitment process necessary to resubmit the applications.
 - OIED also assisted the sponsoring departments in initiating this new recruitment process for five faculty members during the 2010/11 academic year.
 - Moreover, both a new labor certification application and the subsequent second application in the permanent residency process were approved for one of the individuals who was previously denied.
 - Two other denials were also resolved as the faculty members are marrying U.S. citizens and will be obtaining permanent residency based on their marriages.
 - The U.S. government also approved the second step in the permanent residency process for two additional faculty members.

- As of to-date, OIED has addressed the denials and past errors, and the issues have all either been resolved or the processes are in motion to rectify the situation. By the next academic year, we forecast that all past errors will have been 100% corrected and we will have a clean slate to build upon.

Outreach to the Community:

- OIED conducted five World Culture Days at area K-12 schools during the 2010/11 academic year (three in the fall and two in the spring). Through World Culture Days, 1,425 K-12 students and 293 teachers and staff were impacted by OIED efforts.
- Fifty five (55) Appalachian faculty and students participated in various AS•U•GO training workshops and 38 Appalachian students actively visited area K-12 schools to make cultural presentations about their countries or countries where they studied abroad. A total of 1,344 K-12 students, teachers, and staff were impacted by these activities. The efforts of the students who participate in AS•U•GO as speakers will now be recognized on their transcript as co-curricular student leadership activities.

Faculty and Staff Support for International Travel:

- During the 2010/11 academic year, OIED supported 55 faculty/staff members to travel abroad to attend conferences, conduct research, teach for short-term, and/or visit partner institutions. The OIED's financial support totaled \$58,443 for the 2010/11 academic year (an average of \$1,063 per faculty/staff member). The deans' offices and department chairs also provided substantial financial support for these international travels. These faculty/staff members traveled to diverse countries in Africa (4), Asia (10), Europe (26), Latin America (10), North America (4); and Oceania (1).
- OIED financially supported six faculty members to participate in semester or year-long International Scholarly Assignments in Britain (3), France (1), Germany (1), and South Africa (1). The faculty members represented the following departments: Geology, Global Studies, Government and Justice Studies, Foreign Language and Literatures, Psychology, and Technology/Energy Center. These faculty members continued to receive full salary and benefits from Appalachian while abroad. OIED provided backfill salary money to the academic departments of the faculty participating in the exchanges as well as paid for travel to and from the exchange countries. The total University's investment for the six faculty member was \$215,326 in salaries, backfill salary money, international travel, and health insurance costs (an average of \$35,888 per faculty member).

Grants and Contracts:

- During the 2010/11 academic year, OIED submitted two project proposals for funding worth \$434,000 and both were funded: (1) FIPSE/CAPES U.S.-Brazil Sustainability Education (\$250,000) funded by the U.S. Department of Education and (2) Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) for 22 teachers from Argentina, Cambodia, Estonia, Guatemala, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russia, Thailand, and Turkmenistan (\$184,000) funded by the U.S. Department of State through IREX.
- OIED continued the implementation of the following four international projects: (1) Capacity Building for Appalachian Partners in Egypt, India, South Africa and Taiwan; (2) Legislative

Fellows Program for South Africans; (3) Mexico-TIES; and (4) U.S.-Brazil Sustainability Education. Through these projects, OIED provided \$107,146 to 41 faculty/staff members and \$16,000 to students to travel abroad. These projects helped to supplement OIED operating funds in advancing the internationalization mission of the University.

Global Learning QEP:

OIED was successful in developing and submitting a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic proposal. OIED's proposal, "Global Learning: Mountain of Opportunities for Appalachian Students," was selected as Appalachian's QEP topic for reaccreditation process. Global Learning will now become a major University-wide initiative for the next several years.

II. MAJOR CHALLENGES

- **Major Incidences Abroad:** During the 2010/11 academic year, the world experienced various types of incidences that had great impact on Appalachian students studying abroad. Egypt experience the revolution that overthrew President Hosin Mubarak out of power in January/February 2011; Christchurch in New Zealand experienced a major earthquake in February 2011; and Japan was hit by a major earthquake that resulted in a massive tsunami and major damages to nuclear power plants in April 2011. Appalachian had students in all of these locations. In dealing with these challenging incidences, the health and safety our students were paramount. The Appalachian International Emergency Management Protocols were put to test and served the University well.
- **Immigration Issues for International Tenure Track Faculty:** During the reporting period, Labor Certification applications filed by Appalachian to sponsor faculty/staff members for U.S. permanent residency for nine international faculty members and one staff person were denied. These denials were due to lack of proper documentation to file such applications. These denials put the University and the faculty/staff members in very difficult situation and cause a significant level of stress to the faculty/staff members and University administrators who had work to resolve the matters.
- **Scholarships for Students to Study Abroad:** Even though a small scholarship program has been created to support students who are interested in studying abroad, the needs far outweigh current resources available to OIED. For example, during the 2010/11 academic year, we received 140 applications while we could only provide funding to only 63 students. Availability of scholarships to support students to study abroad is critical for the efforts to increasing the number of Appalachian students who are studying abroad. OIED will continue to work with various units at the University, including the Office of Advancement and individual colleges/schools to raise funds to provide scholarships for students interested in studying abroad.
- **Scholarships for International Students to Study at Appalachian:** Appalachian's ability to attract and retain high quality international students is limited by the fact that there are no scholarships available to support their studies at the University. OIED will continue to work with various units at the University, including the Office of Advancement to raise funds to provide scholarships for degree-seeking international students.

III. PERSONNEL

- During the reporting period, OIED went through some staff changes and reorganization. Mr. Robert White, Executive Director and Director of International Student and Scholar Services returned to teach in the classroom in August 2010 and then later retired in June 2011 from the University Service. Also, Ms. Nancy Wells, Director of International Student Exchange and Study Abroad resigned in September 2010 to pursue other career opportunities.

These staff changes provided an opportunity to make some reorganization in OIED. The executive Director position was moved from the Department of International Student and Scholar Service to the Department of International Student Exchange and Study Abroad. We have since recruited and successfully filled these two important positions in OIED. Mr. Ken Lewandoski is the new Executive Director and Director of International Student Exchange and Study Abroad and Ms. Diana Salazar is the new Director of International Student and Scholar Services. They are both very energetic, forward looking and have brought some new ideas to the operations of OIED.

- Additionally, during the reporting period, Ms. Kelley Wolcott, Office Manager, resigned in September 2010 as a result of her husband's new job in California. This position has been filled by hiring Ms. Shannon Pitts as the new OIED Office Manager. Ms. Pitts previously worked in the University Counseling Center.

IV. OTHER COMMENTS

OIED in collaboration with the Admissions Office and University Communications initiated joint projects to recruit international students:

- The project involves developing new marketing materials specifically targeted at international students. A new one-page brochure was printed in April 2011 and is already being used effectively.
- Additionally, certain portions of the University websites (Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions and International Student and Scholar Services) are being translated into four languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, and Spanish. These pages will go live in the fall of 2011. It is expected that translation of the University's pages into different languages, will help to increase the number of international students applying and enrolling at Appalachian.

V. STAFF AND EPA NON-FACULTY ACTIVITY

During the 2010/11 academic year, OIED staff actively participated in various service activities to Appalachian, the University of North Carolina System, local community, and their professional organizations.

- Ms. Jeanne d'Arc Gomis served on the Baden-Württemberg (BW) selection committee for the 2011 BW seminar. The BW seminar is sponsored by the state of Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art in Germany in collaboration with the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACROA) and NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The purpose of the seminar is to educate participants about the German educational system, German-American academic equivalencies, and student exchange between Germany and the United States. Ms. Gomis is a former Baden Württemberg seminar participant.

- Ms. Gomis and Ms. Diana Dalazar joined a team of Appalachian faculty, staff and students in the summer of 2011 for the “Don’t Throw it Away” collections event. The "Don't Throw It Away" is an initiative of the Appalachian and the Community Together (ACT) Office to gather items that are left behind by students in the residence halls at semester end which are sold at the beginning of the following semester. This event helps raise funds that go towards local non-profit organizations.
- Ms. Gomis advised in the writing of the Senegal Fulbright-Hays Group Project proposal was later awarded. The grant was coordinated by faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Appalachian. Ms. Gomis served as a liaison between the Appalachian, the West African Research Center and the host family coordinator in Senegal.
- Dr. Sarah Bergstedt completed her three-year term on the NAFSA: Association of International Educator/Region VII Leadership Team where she served as chair of as Campus and Community Programs. She also facilitated and chaired sessions on, “Building Collaboration/Moving Toward Innovation: Teacher Education and Internationalization” and “Global Certificate Programs.”
- Dr. Sarah Bergstedt and Ms. Natalie Best serve on the Advisory Board of the Appalachian’s Chapter of the Association Internationale des Étudiants en Sciences Économiques et Commerciales (AIESEC). Present in over 110 countries and territories and with over 60,000 members, AIESEC is the world’s largest student-run organization.
- Ms. Natalie Best is a member of the following on-campus committees: The Living Learning Center Directors, The Diversity Celebration, and the International Student Recruitment Committee.
- Ms. Nathalie Turner completed her three-year term on the Early Intervention Team (EIT) where she served as a team member. The EIT is a faculty and staff-led entity whose main function is to meet with students who are showing signs of difficulty with university life to offer support and connect the students with resources that can help them become healthier and more productive members of the community.
- Ms. Nathalie Turner and Ms. Dawn Arnold volunteered for a day as shopper for the Appalachian Kindness in Donations and Service (AppKIDS) in November 2010. The mission of AppKIDS is to provide less fortunate children from the local community with winter clothing, shoes, school supplies, and other necessities.
- Ms. Salazar serves on the Diversity Subcommittee of Undergraduate Recruitment and Transition Team at Appalachian.
- Ms. Mechthild Marck-Kennedy co-presented at the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ annual conference on “Global Positioning: Essential Learning, Student Success, and the Currency of U.S. Degrees” in San Francisco. The topic of the presentation was: “General Education Global to Local Perspectives with Study Abroad in Costa Rica.”
- Ms. Kennedy chairs the OIED’s Study Abroad and International Student Scholarship Committee. The committee reviews student scholarship applications bi-annually. During the past fiscal year, the committee awarded 51 scholarships to incoming international students and students studying abroad on short, mid-term, and long-term study abroad programs.

- Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa chairs the University of North Carolina system-wide committee on International Student Recruitment and Economic Development of the University Council on International Programs (UCIP). One of his major initiatives through the committee is the development of the *StudyNorthCarolina* website aimed at marketing North Carolina and its higher education institutions to international students. This project is supported financially by the General Administration with a start-up cost of \$10,000.
- Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa started serving a three-year term on the NAFSA: Association of International Educator's national leadership team where she served on the International Education Leadership Knowledge Community (IEL KC). He will serve as the IEL KC NAFSA Annual Conference Coordinator for 2013.