The Office of International Education is pleased to welcome fourteen new students from Daejin University in South Korea. The students, part of a recently established 1+3 program, will arrive in January. This is the first agreement UNK has established in South Korea that involves degree-seeking students.

Jaekeun Cho, UNK Korean-Asian Recruitment and Support Specialist, began efforts to create this program in June of 2011. After numerous in-depth meetings and correspondence with representatives of Daejin University, the program was launched and they began the process of recruiting students.

Cho indicates that the most difficult task in coordinating a program such as this is selecting the appropriate courses and gathering the necessary documentation to assure that the courses will transfer to UNK without difficulty.

The students have completed their second semester at Daejin University. They have taken coursework to improve their English Language skills, and ten additional courses taught in English and Korean languages which will transfer to UNK. They will come to us as sophomores.

We look forward to the arrival of these new degree-seeking Korean students and doing all we can as a university and community to help them feel welcome.
New University of Nebraska Sponsored Study Abroad Programs

Two Study Abroad programs sponsored by University of Nebraska President J. B. Milliken with support from the NU Foundation were promoted to UNK students during the month of October.

**Brazil**—A group of students from all four University of Nebraska campuses will be traveling to and around Brazil from June 22 to July 17, 2013. Destinations include Sao Paulo, Brazil’s largest city, and Piracicaba, a hub of industry and agribusiness. Their experiences will be combined with prior online coursework which will focus on multiple critical issues including Urban and Rural Brazil, Education and Health, Food Security and Water Issues, and Energy and the Environment.

**India**—A group of students from all four University of Nebraska campuses will be traveling to and around India during three weeks in late June to mid-July. The student group will be immersing themselves in the culture of India, a country with 1.2 billion people and a rapidly developing economy. They will attend lectures at the HR College of Commerce and Economics in Mumbai and Jain Irrigation in Jalgaon, and participate in sponsored visits to important economic and cultural sites in the area. Their experiences will be combined with prior online coursework which will focus on multiple critical issues including Agriculture and Food Security, Water Management and Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, Environment and Natural Resources, Public Health and Medical Research, Education and Early Childhood, and Urbanization.

For both of these Study Abroad programs, housing, airfare, most meals, and local travel within the country will be paid by the University of Nebraska.

CTE and OIE Presents: Working With the International Student

The UNK Center for Teaching Excellence and Office of International Education presented a workshop for faculty entitled “Working With the International Student.” Held in September, the workshop featured English Language Institute Coordinator Diane Longo, ELI faculty members Lisa Terry, Linda Martin, Jayne Heimer and Tracy Falconer, and UNK international alumni and OIE staff members Jaekeun Cho and Camila Parra Diaz.

OIE Director, Dallas Kenny, opened the breakfast meeting by introducing the presenters and sharing international enrollment numbers. After Diane Longo expanded on the history of ELI and shared information on admissions and TOEFL scores, Camila Parra Diaz and Jaekeun Cho spoke about student life from their perspective as international alumni both in the English Language Institute and as undergraduate students.

Topics covered by the English Language Institute faculty members included teaching strategies, revisiting/teaching the syllabus, absenteeism, tutoring, group respect, language vs. cognition, silence, and personal space.

Some questions or challenges discussed were:

- Could we develop a PASS partnership between international students, their parents and a UNK faculty mentor?
- How do we deal with cultures that do not regard deadlines?
- Are their tactics that work better with international students than domestic students as it relates to encouraging them to approach faculty?
- How can we develop best practices for improving language skills for international students?
- How can we advise international students to wait on taking writing intensive classes until later in their four years?
- When I form groups for class, international students tend to ignore the group assignment intended to mix the class up and form their own group.
- How can I help international students become more comfortable with and proficient at class discussion?

Finally, Krista Forrest, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence spoke about her research on Strategies for Improving Group Work.

Feedback following the workshop was quite positive. Faculty appreciated gaining an understanding of the issues students face and the practical tips on how to be more sensitive to the students’ needs. One respondent said, “It was essential to hear both from international staff and alumni. Many faculty and staff are unaware of the issues international students face.”

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“Immigration and the Globalization of Labor” was the theme of the 2012 James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs, held on the UNK campus in September. Since 1964, The University of Nebraska at Kearney has hosted the conference, a two-day event that brings together scholars and experts on issues of worldwide importance in order to foster discussion on and raise interest in international affairs.

This year, there were more than 1,200 in attendance for the sessions dealing with a variety of topics ranging from immigration law, outsourcing, and working conditions, to crime, child labor, and human trafficking. The Keynote address, “Immigration in the Context of Globalization: Implications for the Next Generation,” was delivered by Dr. Carola Suárez-Orozco, Professor of Psychological Studies in Education at the University of California, Los Angeles. She publishes widely in the areas of immigrant families and youth, educational achievement among immigrant origin youth, immigrant family separations, the role of the "social mirror" in identity formation, the role of mentors in facilitating youth development, and gendered experiences of immigrant youth.

Kearney’s own Xpanxion LLC, a software development and consulting company, opened the conference by sharing their experience with globalization of labor. After acknowledging the efficiency of offshoring, Xpanxion analyzed flaws in the concept and shifted the paradigm through integration of a U.S. based workforce. By utilizing urban, rural, and global resources, they created an innovative cross-sourcing business model that has demonstrated how Americans can benefit from the globalization of labor.

The session that attracted the largest audience was Mr. Jeffrey Blom’s "The Human Trafficking Investigator: Behind the Scenes Look into Operations." Blom, a former law enforcement professional, internationally published author and speaker on human trafficking, has conducted over 300 anti-human trafficking operations in 19 countries. Other sessions included:

- Cultural and Economic Consequences of Immigration
- Globalization and the Healthcare Workforce
- Immigrants in Nebraska: The Fremont Case
- Integration through Education: Policy and its Impact on Immigration
- Fighting Goliath: Chilean Workers Take on the World’s Largest Corporation
- The Airline Industry in the Fight Against Human Trafficking
- Making Immigration Work for Britain, and Lessons Learned from History
- Nepalese Migration and Labor Trafficking to Middle East: Demand and Supply
- Globalization of Healthcare in Nebraska
- Crime and the Politics of Immigration Reform
- Impact of Immigration on Native Workers’ Wages
- The Value of Dust: The Politics of Citizenship and Vietnam’s Amerasian Children

Two documentary films were shown, Sentenced Home, dealing with Cambodian refugees from the 80s who were deported after 9/11 if they had a criminal record, and Stolen Childhoods, which deals with child labor.

Surveys were distributed prior to each session. Of the 416 respondents, 92% were students, many of whom had very positive feedback related to the information they received during the event:

“I have international friends and am interested in solutions to make immigration easier.”

“Very insightful information about the migration within the European Union.”

“This has been a topic of vital interest to the U.S. and the world!”

“The world is shrinking and as our various systems expand into the rest of the world, we need to be informed on the impact.”

“I am excited to attend a session that can inspire college students to use their knowledge to help rescue the helpless and change the world.”

Planning is already under way for the 2013 James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs, being held in the Nebraskan Student Union Ponderosa Rooms, September 24-25, 2013.
Language and Culture Programs Experience Explosive Growth

Three programs designed to give UNK international students opportunities to practice their English conversation skills while interacting with Americans are experiencing explosive growth.

**UNK Campus Conversation Tables** meets six times each semester. The weekly goal is to have more than 100 people from all over the world sitting down for an hour and conversing in English. This goal was surpassed every meeting this semester with the smallest gathering being 174 and the largest 202!

Greg Swinney recently returned from a trip to Colombia where he visited friends he might never had met if not for **UNK Campus Conversation Tables**.

Greg Swinney, UNK Adjunct Instructor and long time supporter of this program, firmly believes in the impact it can make on the lives of the participants. Swinney recently returned from a trip to Colombia where he visited friends he might never had met if not for this program. He has since volunteered to “continue the conversation,” facilitating meetings for all who wish to participate.

**UNK International Friendship Program** connects international students with individuals or families for the purpose of sharing conversation, culture and enjoying activities together.

It is hoped that students and their Kearney friends will get together two times a month to give students the chance to experience American family life and holiday traditions, share their culture, and participate in campus and community events.

In the Fall of 2010, approximately 25% of international students were involved in this program. Fall of 2011 showed an increase to 30%, and this current semester, an astounding 50% of UNK international students have a Kearney area family they spend time with!

**Conversation Partners.** thanks to the support of faculty from across campus, continues to offer one on one partnerships for conversation with international students in the English Language Institute, as well as some exchange students at UNK. This semester, 86 ELI students had their own partner and 4 of them had two partners.

Many Koreans here as exchange students also requested partners and 34 of them received one. Additionally, four students in Dr. Glenn Tracy’s “Content Methods in ESL class wanted more conversation with an American.

American partners volunteered from classes with assignments dealing with second language learners, taught by Jo Miller, UNMC College of Nursing; Dr. Toni Hill, Family Studies; and Dr. Tommy Hansen, Ms. Martonia Gaskill and Dr. Glenn Tracy, Teacher Education.

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Korean University Summer Abroad Program

Thirty UNK students were accepted into the 2012 Hanyang University International Summer Program in South Korea. Dr. Ross Taylor, Associate Professor of Management Information Systems, and Ms. Anita Lorentzen, Lecturer in the Department of English were the UNK faculty leaders for the program, teaching courses and participating in extra curricular educational and cultural activities.

HUISP not only gives an opportunity for UNK students to gain valuable cross-cultural experiences and build a global network with other international participants from all over the world, but they also benefit by taking academic and cultural courses, all taught in English. With Hanyang’s location in the capital city of Seoul, the students gain further understanding into historical and cultural aspects of South Korea, as well as an urban setting unlike anything they could experience in the U.S.

Jaekeun Cho, UNK Korean-Asian Recruitment and Support Specialist attended the July commencement ceremony for the program. Cho asked a representative of the Hanyang summer program what he expects for 2013 enrollment. He stated, “There were more than 1,000 participants this year. I expect that number will increase by approximately 10% in 2013.”

Diverse global experiences are becoming increasingly important in setting new graduates apart when seeking employment opportunities. With the length of this program being one month, it is ideal for students seeking this kind of opportunity before graduation.