UNK First Annual Global Education Survey

One-hundred seventy-five UNK faculty/staff and 754 students (domestic and international) participated in the 2012-13 survey on 'International Education at UNK', which was sponsored by the Office of International Education and Center for Teaching Excellence.

The survey results, which can be viewed via the links at the end of this article, provide potentially valuable factual, attitudinal, and opinion data related to international students and those who teach and serve them in various ways.

The Faculty/Staff section of the survey deals with issues such as English competency in the classroom, intercultural communication, domestic-international student relations, academic performance trouble spots (and how serious these are perceived to be), the types and range of overseas experience of UNK faculty/teachers/staff, the perceived importance on campus of study abroad and intercultural communication training, and departmental resource questions.

The student section surveys the opinions of domestic and international students on subjects such as:

- Having a roommate from a different country/language
- Obstacles to intercultural communication, and how to overcome them
- Classroom and social interaction with students and teachers of other nationalities/cultures
- Factors that are most valued when choosing a college
- Which student services are most important to them
- How they rank various student services in terms of student satisfaction
- Their experience with intercultural communication before attending UNK
- Desire to study abroad
- Satisfaction with degree of academic progress at UNK
- How international and domestic students perceive each other

And informational questions such as:

- Average age of each group at each stage of the college sequence (Freshman, sophomore, etc.)

International students make a vital contribution to UNK campus life (see page 4)
Global Education Survey (continued from p.1)

- Frequency and type of interactions between American and non-American students in a variety of settings
- How many in each group live on or off campus
and much more.

Although not necessarily representative of the views of all UNK students, faculty, and staff, we hope this information will serve as a useful planning tool and point of reference for the entire University community.

The links below will take you to the survey results, which can be viewed in your browser or downloaded.

The international student responses begin on page one of the following document, the domestic student responses on page 42: [http://www.unk.edu/international/Global_Education_Survey - UNK International and Domestic Students/]

Administrator/Staff responses begin on P. 2 of the following document, Faculty/Teacher responses on P. 31: [http://www.unk.edu/international/Global_Education_Surveys/]

We would like to administer a follow up survey in 2014, so if you have any ideas on how to improve the survey, please send your ideas to OIE Business Manager Barb Estes: estesba@unk.edu.

Shenyang International Teacher Training Program

The University of Nebraska at Kearney was honored to welcome eight visiting Chinese English teachers to campus in February for a one-month teacher training program. Seven of the eight are English teachers at the elementary, middle, or high school levels. The eighth trains English teachers in elementary schools in her district.

The group arrived in Kearney on Sunday, February 17, exhausted from the long trip, but feeling warmth from their welcome by Office of International Education Director, Dr. Dallas Kenny, Chinese Program Coordinator, Guijjie Zhang, and Graduate Assistant, Ramesh Neupane.

After a good night’s sleep, the teachers were immediately immersed in the first day of their itinerary with orientation activities, a campus tour and their first trip to WalMart!

The activities during the first week were interrupted by a blizzard. Because of the amount of snow, classes were cancelled for two days. However, it did not stop Dr. Matt Mims from presenting his seminar “How School Counselors Promote Academic Success” to the teachers, followed by lunch and a shopping excursion.

The group took part in a variety of academic and cultural activities during the month. Academically, they observed several UNK English Language Institute classes and received seminars presented by ELI instructors. They also participated in UNK Campus Conversation Table. At the undergraduate level, classes were observed in the English and Teacher Education Departments. Seminars were presented by English, Counseling and School Psychology, Teacher Education and Modern Language faculty members.

Another important piece of the academic puzzle was the opportunity to visit area schools. Public School visits included all grade levels of Kearney, Lexington and Sumner-Eddyville-Miller Public Schools. They also able to observe classes at Kearney Catholic High School.

Front: Piao Yunhua (Peggy), Gong Jianhua (Daisy), Lu Shan (Sue). Back: Wang Didi, Ma Ximei (Maggie), Li Hong (Silvia), Horizon Middle School Principal Kipp Petersen, Li Yan (Sarina), Li Xia (Lisa)
Cultural events included concerts on campus, the Red Cross Chili Cook Off, UNK Basketball, the International Food and Cultural Festival, and an evening of local talent at the Tru Café. Each teacher enjoyed dinner in two different Kearney families’ homes, as well as guided crane viewing on the Platte River.

Tours included MONA, Kearney Public Library, Kearney Children’s Museum, Great Platte River Road Archway, Nebraska Educational Television and the Nebraska State Capital. While at the State Capital, they met briefly with Senator Galen Hadley.

A ceremony and reception was held at the conclusion of the Teacher Training Program. At this event, group leader Ximei (Maggie) Ma summed up their experience as the inaugural group for this program.

“I still can’t believe that it’s the final day. It was just like yesterday when we first arrived here, tired, curious, confused and even a little disappointed because it seemed not easy to go to more places. But Dallas, Guijie and Ramesh were waiting there, warmly showing us smiling faces and arranging everything so well for us.

Day by day, the experience here is far beyond our expectations. We observed classes, had seminars with instructors, visited schools, had dinner with host families. We took different tours, went for crane viewing, went shopping. So many rich and colorful activities and we really learned a lot. We learned teaching theories, strategies and methods which are very helpful. We also learned a lot from all the instructors here, from yourselves. We are deeply impressed by your passion and devotion to teaching, by your energy in classes. These things engage us to be good teachers when we go back to China.

We want to say thank you to Dallas. You said we are the first in this program and how lucky we are to be the first. The experience here is so valuable in our whole life. We can’t forget the dumplings in Zoe's home on the Lantern Festival. We can’t forget the snow storm when Matt appeared like a hero to take us to WalMart and downtown. We can’t forget Pat. We can’t forget your afternoon tea and the lovely gifts. We can’t forget how warmly we were treated in Matt’s home and Tom’s home. We can’t forget how crazy we were on the farm and how we were shocked by the amazing crane viewing. At that time we were just like children. We can’t forget so many valuable memories and it’s really a pity that we missed some classes because of the snow storm. And we want to show our special thanks to Bonnie. Sometimes she is our organizer, sometimes she is our tour guide, and most time she is our driver. I know it’s not easy to make a schedule, especially such wonderful ones. Thank you so much.

All the teachers and instructors here are so kind and helpful to us. We are good friends now, so welcome to China. We'll wait for you in China, in Shenyang. Thank you so much.”
On Saturday, February 9th, the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) hosted their annual event, the Chinese New Year in the Ponderosa Room of the Nebraskan Student Union. This is the 6th annual Chinese New Year Celebration the group has organized, with the first being introduced to the UNK and Kearney communities in 2008. The Chinese students want to introduce their culture to Americans and other international students, and the Chinese New Year celebration is a perfect event to share with people from different cultures.

One of the highlights of the evening for the nearly 600 guests in attendance was a performance presented by two Chinese students, Bonnie Yao and Xiaohan Yang. Together they played unique traditional Chinese stringed instruments, the Pi Pa and Gu Zheng. This dual performance is considered one of the classic matches in the world of Chinese music and it was such a pleasure having everybody enjoy the rhythm of Chinese classical music, a rare opportunity to experience in the U.S.

Guests enjoyed wonderful Chinese cuisine while seeing additional performances including traditional and modern dance, music, comedy and fashion. Our thanks to the CSSA for all of their hard work in making this annual festival such a popular event on campus!

One of central Nebraska’s largest annual cultural events, The Scott D. Morris International Food and Cultural Festival, was held Sunday, March 10th in the University of Nebraska at Kearney Health and Sports Center. Students from eleven countries representing Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Latin America were involved. It was a tremendous success, though the weather was challenging, even going so far as closing Interstate 80!

This festival was organized by the International Students Association. There are currently more than 500 general members and 10 board members in the Association. All of the international students worked hard to create an atmosphere that was a colorful blend of cultures, traditions, values and especially foods. Students prepared three different dishes from each country for a total of 33 varieties of food from around the world. Many wore apparel representing their country; many more shared a traditional song or dance. The performers practiced for more than three months to prepare for the festival.

The Board members of ISA started planning the festival during the Fall semester because it takes lot of time to coordinate such a large event. However, all of their hard work was rewarded by the success of the event. Typically, there are more than 2,800 people in attendance. This year there were fewer than 1,300 people because of the weather. None-the-less, the students felt the event was a big success because in spite of the weather, there were more than 1,000 people and there was plenty of food for everyone. As ISA members interacted with the guests, they asked, “How do you feel about the festival this year?” The response they heard consistently was, “This is one of the best festivals in many years!” This response is motivating the group to do even better next year!

“The success of the event was made possible through the help of all the international and domestic students of UNK, and also the faculty and staff,” indicates Ramesh Neupane, Graduate Assistant to the Office of International Education. “The students in ISA are so appreciative of the Office of International Education staff for their help and support in each and every step, each and every year in order to make this event successful. With this kind of support from UNK and the Kearney community, we can make this one of the biggest and best events around.”
Plans are under way for the **September 24-25, 2013**
James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs. Given the important role played by technology, the internet and social media in globalization and democratization, the Executive Planning Council has entitled this year’s conference **Technology and Power: The Global Outcomes of New Media**. Human Rights Activist, Mr. Harry Wu will present the keynote address, *The Involvement of U.S. Companies in Internet Repression in China*, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in the Nebraskan Student Union Ponderosa Room.

In addition to the keynote speaker, it is typical that a number of renowned scholars and experts and a wide variety of diplomats from around the world participate. One such expert is Dr. Mahabir Pun, the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award Recipient for Community Leadership, and UNK alumnus from Nepal. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is described as the “Asian equivalent of a Nobel Peace Prize.” Pun is only the fourth Nepali to win the award. He will tell the audience how his innovative application of wireless computer technology in Nepal has brought progress to remote mountain areas.

Since 1964, UNK has sponsored this international conference to discuss issues of global importance. The goal is to introduce faculty, students and the Kearney community to a wide variety of topics of international significance. It is our hope that the conference will inspire some members of the audience to pursue further information about the issues addressed, and that some students may consider studying abroad. Ultimately, we seek to instill in our students a lifelong interest in international affairs.

---

**International Alumni, we have web pages for you!**

[unk.edu/international](https://unk.edu/international)

- Update your contact information with us and tell us what has been going on in your life.
- Read about other UNK international alums.
- Catch up on news and happenings by reading the Global Newsletters.
- See the campus activity calendar or access the UNK Alumni Association website.

If you are interested in being a person prospective students could email about life at UNK, contact Bonnie Payne at: payneb@unk.edu
Delegation Represents UNK in November South Korea Trip

Jaekeun Cho, UNK Korean-Asian Recruitment and Support Specialist, traveled to South Korea in November with a delegation including Dr. Kenneth Trantham, Chair of the Department of Physics & Physical Science and Dr. Sri Seshadri, Director of the MBA Program for the College of Business and Technology. This was their first visit to South Korea.

And more. They met with several representatives of our partner universities and discussed plans for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Dr. Trantham especially enjoyed visiting the physics labs and dialoguing with the physics professors at Dongguk University. Moreover, Dr. Seshadri had the opportunity to meet the dean and chair of College of Business School of Dongguk University and began discussions related to the possibility of a Dual MBA Program.

After four days, Dr. Trantham departed for Nebraska due to prior obligations. After his departure, Mr. Cho and Dr. Seshadri had the opportunity to tour the Samsung and LG factories located in Gumi, South Korea. Dr. Seshadri was impressed by the showrooms and cutting-edge technology of both factories and was anxious to get home and share the experience with his students.

Following these tours, it was time for Cho to say goodbye to Dr. Seshadri as he prepared for his departure from South Korea. In reflecting back on the November trip, Cho said, “Even though Dr. Trantham and Dr. Seshadri visited South Korea for the first time, they quickly adjusted to the South Korean culture. Furthermore, they both hope for future opportunities to visit South Korea because of the friendly people and delicious food.”

UNK Korea Abroad Summer Program

A record number of UNK students will participate in the Hanyang University International Summer Program taking place July 2-26, 2013, in Seoul, South Korea. Forty students will join five UNK faculty members for this faculty-led short term study abroad program. The students will earn credit hours while there, taking courses taught by the UNK faculty. Additionally, they have the opportunity to interact with other students from all over the world and to enjoy a wide variety of extracurricular educational and cultural activities. The five faculty members include:

- Kyung Yon Jhi, Department of Criminal Justice
- Greg Swinney, Department of Industrial Technology
- Anita Lorentzen, Department of English
- Ross Taylor, Department of Marketing and Management Information Systems
- Ken Trantham, Department of Physics and Physical Science