Shenyang International Teacher Training Program

Seventeen English teachers from Shenyang, China graduated from the second Shenyang International Teacher Training Program, held on the UNK campus in March. This year’s program had twice as many teachers and was two weeks longer than the inaugural program in 2013.

The teachers had the opportunity to observe English, ESL, Speech and Reading classes at the grade school, middle school and high school levels. They visited a variety of area public and private schools, including Kearney Public, Kearney Catholic, Sumner-Eddyville-Miller, Elm Creek, Lexington, and Grand Island Public and Northwest Schools. Additionally, they observed similar classes as well as Teacher Education classes on the UNK campus. They also received numerous seminars led by UNK faculty members.

The teachers lived among UNK students in the residence halls on campus giving them the opportunity to experience campus life. They ate their meals in the dining hall, had the opportunity to enjoy athletic and music department events, a glass-blowing demonstration and seminars on different aspects of campus life, such as recreation and student support services.

Several excursions showed a variety of other unique educational opportunities for children in Nebraska. These included the UNK and Kearney Public Libraries, The Museum of Nebraska Art, The Kearney Area Children’s Museum, Nebraska Educational Television, and the Egeron Explorit Center. They received seminars or demonstrations on educational programming that takes place at each of these locations.

The training program itinerary was rounded out with several excursions designed to give the teachers an understanding of the history, culture, and beauty of this part of the country. Given the fact that agriculture is so important to the state of Nebraska, the teachers visited the Wolford farm near Kearney and the Jenkins Ranch in the Sandhills. Other excursions included a tour of The Archway, Rowe Sanctuary, other wildlife viewing opportunities and weekly dinners in the homes of Kearney area families.

The graduation ceremony was a heartwarming time of sharing what the experience meant to the Shenyang teachers, as well as the UNK personnel who were fortunate enough to interact with this wonderful group. The Shenyang delegation noted that as important as the class observations and seminars were, the interaction with such a large and varied group of Americans was equally important for them to gain an understanding of American culture and characteristics of the people.
James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs

The Executive Planning Council for the James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs is pleased to announce the theme for the 2014 conference: Positive Engagement in the Global Community. The conference will be held Monday, September 29, 2014, in the Nebraskan Student Union Ponderosa Room.

The keynote address, Can One Person Really Change the World? will be given by author and photojournalist, Mr. Tom Clynes. Clynes covers environmental issues, science, and extraordinary personalities for magazines such as National Geographic, Popular Science, Men’s Journal and GQ, and is the author of the book “Wild Planet.” Tom’s magazine stories often appear in Houghton-Mifflin’s “Best American” series of magazine-writing anthologies.

Tom’s authentic style and his ability to connect with audiences make his stunningly visual presentations both memorable and effective. He brings audiences along on assignment to the ends of the Earth, combining extraordinary stories and photographs to inspire and challenge audiences, open up thinking, and stimulate action. Through his presentation, the audience will be able to meet the astonishing people - explorers, virus hunters, Ebola doctors and more - whose stories embody the spirit of adventure. They will also learn how these individuals shaped once-ordinary lives into extraordinary, world-changing adventures, why they did it and why the world needs us to pursue the goals we really care about. Finally, the audience will discover what these experiences can tell us about how to spark our own dreams into action.

Save the date, and go to www.unk.edu/worldaffairs for additional information as planning progresses.

Blue Gold Welcome Week Activities

UNK International Student Services is partnering with the UNK First Year Program for the coordination of International Student Orientation and Blue Gold Welcome Week Activities which will take place the week of August 18, 2014. The three shared goals of these two organizations include:

- Student ownership of their education
- Loper identity
- Belongingness on campus

During the International Student Orientation Week, several new activities and events are planned in an effort to work toward the above goals. First, new international students will be grouped according to the residence hall in which they will reside, and will stay with this group throughout the week. Each group will be led by a current international student leader, with the goal of developing a mentoring relationship between the new student and their student leader. Additionally:

- Residence Hall Assistants will walk new students through the residence halls to introduce and acclimate them to life in the halls.
- New students will receive a presentation on campus organizations and activities they can participate in to become integrated into campus life.
- New students will receive a presentation on U.S. classroom expectations and will also have a tour of the Calvin T. Ryan Library.

Currently, we have twenty international student leaders. On Friday, August 22, those leaders will become official Loper Leaders, working along side the domestic Loper Leaders in order to fully integrate their international and domestic new student groups as they take part in all the activities throughout the remainder of the weekend.
The Epsilon Omega Chapter of Phi Beta Delta has re-energized and reorganized after a five year hiatus. The UNK Chapter was organized in 2004 when 51 founding members, consisting of UNK faculty, staff, international and domestic students were inducted.

Phi Beta Delta is the first honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education. The Society was founded at California State University—Long Beach in 1987.

The goals of the Honor Society are to:

- Recognize the scholarly achievement of international students and scholars, U.S. students who have studied abroad, and faculty and staff who are involved in international activities
- Advance the development of academic-based international programming
- Provide a network on each campus for faculty, staff, and international students involved in international endeavors
- Extend this network worldwide

The goal of the Epsilon Omega chapter is to serve as a catalyst for recognizing and promoting international endeavors at UNK and to encourage successful academic, cross-cultural, and social programs.

Membership is open to:

- International students who have demonstrated high scholastic achievement at UNK
- Domestic students who have demonstrated high scholastic achievement in the pursuit of academic studies abroad
- Distinguished faculty, staff, and visiting scholars involved in international endeavors such as teaching, administering exchange programs, conducting research, or providing services and programs to international students and scholars

This year’s induction ceremony took place Wednesday, April 23. There were 30 new members inducted and five renewals.

Korea, Singapore, Vietnam

Jaekeun Cho, Korean-Asian Recruitment Support Specialist, and Tim Burkink, Dean of College of Business and Technology (CBT), visited South Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam from April 2nd to 14th, 2014. The main purpose of this trip was to visit the AACSB accredited Korean business schools, such as Korea University, Hanyang University, Ewha Woman’s University, and Dongguk University and meet with prospective recruitment agencies. Additionally, they met with UNK Vietnamese students’ parents, and the UNK/CBT alumnus, Hoa Nguyen, who graduated with a Finance degree in 2009 and has recently accepted an offer to work for the Vietnam Ministry of Finance.

During this trip, Mr. Cho and Dr. Burkink met with partnership representatives to discuss ways to increase the number of international students on the UNK campus. Some discussions centered around the fact that approximately 14% of the students in CBT come from outside the United States. Dr. Burkink recognizes that it is vitally important that CBT welcome and guide UNK international students to find a successful career path by working closely with CBT faculty members. Moreover, Dr. Burkink announced that he is going to invite Mr. Nguyen to return to UNK through the Landstrom Executive in Residence Program in the near future because of his contributions to his country, Vietnam.

It was the first time for Dr. Burkink to visit South Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam, and Mr. Cho felt strongly that Dr. Burkink had invaluable experiences, learned various cultural differences, and brought unforgettable memories back to Kearney, Nebraska. Because of his own memorable overseas experience, he will encourage more UNK students to choose a study abroad opportunity in South Korea before they graduate from UNK.
During the Spring 2014 semester, international students from the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, the Japanese Association of Kearney, the African Student Association, and the International Student Association hosted cultural festivals on the UNK campus. Please enjoy photos courtesy of Tinker Yan, UNK international student from China, Ramesh Neupane, UNK graduate student from Nepal, and Todd Gottula, Director of News and Internal Communication.

International Alumni, we have web pages for you: 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 alumni.
- 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.
The newly founded Young Arab Leaders Association hosted the first ever Arabic Cultural Festival on campus on April 30, 2014. The festival, which was held in the Nebraskan Student Union Ponderosa Room, featured a fashion show of traditional Arabic apparel, belly dancing, other traditional dance, trivia questions, Henna and delicious Arabic food.

According to Public Relations Officer, Cleo Rogers, a freshman domestic student from Omaha, YALA was founded by UNK student Humam Salih, originally from Iraq. Salih also serves as the president for the organization. Rogers got involved with the group when she was working in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Having studied abroad in high school, she thoroughly enjoys her friendships with international students.

The mission of the YALA organization is to create cultural awareness and give the UNK community the opportunity to interact with students from the Arabic culture. The members of the organization feel it is important for people in this area to realize that there is so much more depth to the Arabic culture than what has been portrayed in the media.

In spite of the festival being held right before semester finals, they had a great turnout. The room was filled with UNK domestic and international students, faculty and staff, as well as community members. After having hosted a very successful Arabic Festival this year, the UNK community can look forward to many more YALA events in future years.
Study Abroad Experiences in Bergen, Norway

Each semester this year, a UNK student studied abroad at University of Bergen, Norway. Here is what they have to say about their experiences.

Kory Reeder, Junior Music Performance-Composition Major from Kearney, NE

I was really excited when I got to Bergen, but my very first day was rough. I had no idea how to get to my dorm as I was given wrong directions. I did, however find my way due to the kind nature of the Norwegian people.

One thing that surprised me was the freedom at UiB. I had two courses (a full load) and each had lectures for two hours on Monday. Needless to say, I had a lot of free time. Another first impression was the feeling of being on my own. No one picks you up. No one takes you anywhere. You’re not given much information. You really get thrown to the wolves, but that’s what made it so exciting.

What surprised me the most was the expense of everything. It takes a bit of adjusting to get used to. For example, as a former smoker (Norway made me quit!) I saw prices for cigarettes go up 4 times. Food prices are also much higher, but after some exploring you find the right places to go (or just don’t eat out!).

The best part by far was all the new people I’ve met and all the great experiences we’ve had. I’ve been fortunate to be able to travel with them as well. This semester, a friend from Australia and I were able to see London, Tromsø, Oslo, Vienna, Prague, Krakow, Łódź, Warsaw, Berlin, and Leipzig, in addition to exploring the Bergen area. Another great experience has been the booming music scene and the symphony I play in, as well as meeting tons of musicians, composers, artists, and writers.

I mostly missed my family and friends, and the occasional Runza. But other than my first day, I have never been lonely and I don’t think I ever got homesick. There’s too much to see and do and not enough time to worry about that sort of thing.

I think I’ve left my mark with the music scene more than anything. Getting to perform and bounce ideas off locals and international students has kept me busy.

If you’re considering studying abroad, do it. Don’t worry about the challenge, don’t hesitate, and do it. Life is far too short to go through it without ever having an adventure, and this is truly a great adventure to be had. The amount you will learn about yourself, people, and the world can never be measured. It’s something you only truly know once you do it.

Jordan Pick is a Senior Early Childhood Education Major from McCook, NE.

My first impression of Bergen is that it was definitely stereotypical “European,” and by that I mean amazing! I was confused by the organization of the addresses, and most of the university buildings are spread out through the city so I had some difficulty finding my classes at first.

The culture and the egalitarian government system were the most shocking part of being in Norway. I am so glad I went, because experiencing something so different has helped me to be more open minded and accepting. Once you realize there are other ways to do things and that those ways work for other people and cultures, you become a more well-rounded individual.

The best part of my experience was the friends I met. My roommate was from France. I never knew I could be best friends with someone who was completely opposite of me in every way possible and speaks a different language. We were randomly paired together and hit it off right away. We had many nights where we stayed up late and told stories of our lives back home. Turns out people in France are just like people in America. I also made a Norwegian friend named Gunnhild. She is one of the most graceful and accepting persons I’ve met. She had a huge impact on my faith and showed me around Bergen.

The things I missed the most were corn fields and my car. The country of Norway is a vast expanse of natural beauty. Bergen was a big city but there were 7 mountains surrounding it and trees and fjords throughout the city. It was beautiful and had a small town feel. The public transportation was amazing. It’s easily accessible but also required me to rely on someone else, which was difficult at first because I am very self-sufficient.

I wasn’t ever homesick because of technology. It practically felt like I didn’t leave because everyone was so accessible on Skype and Facebook. It also helped that I lived in the international student housing so I was surrounded by 600+ people in the exact same situation, so everyone understood how it felt.

I was never lonely, although I had a lot of free time. As an international student, I had no job and only two classes which freed up my schedule. I was able to travel to Sweden and other places in Norway and wander around the city. Camille, (my roommate) and I always came up with something to do.

I had close friends from France, Belgium, Hong Kong, Germany, and Italy. I feel like the mark I left on campus is that I helped to portray America in a good light. The stereotypical idea of Americans is that we are rude, lazy and impatient. I’d like to think I helped alleviate that and create a warm and welcoming feeling instead.

For students who are considering studying abroad, I would say do it! Don’t hesitate. There will be some hiccups and it will be nothing like you imagine it to be, but be open minded and embrace the opportunity. You will never get an opportunity to travel so cheaply and for such an extended amount of time again in your life!