Greetings and welcome to the Spring 2015 edition of UNK Global News. I hope you enjoy the opportunity to read about the great things happening at UNK and around our global UNK community. Being new to the campus, it has been particularly rewarding for me to learn of the successes our international students are having in the classroom and in research collaborations with their peers and professors. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the cultural festivals these fine ambassadors have shared with the campus and community, even in the midst of their busy schedules. Additionally, it has been good to meet and interact with the Office of International Education team and learn of their dedication to the success of each of our international students.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible as I get to know the university and our community. In my first few months here I have been engaged in a range of initiatives for us overseas: shortly after my arrival at UNK, I was asked to travel to Tokyo, Japan, where the U.S. Embassy there hosted “Team-Up”, an invitation-only conference intended to discuss the obstacles to exchange opportunities for students in recent years and the opportunities to renew and reinvigorate exchange relationships with U.S. and Japanese universities. Twelve U.S. universities were invited to participate, ranging from large public universities to larger and smaller private schools. The fact that UNK was selected to join this group – from the hundreds of colleges and universities across the U.S. – and meet with top Japanese institutions – says a lot about our international reputation. Then I was in Milan, Italy, where we have just arranged a partnership with one of the best universities in the country – IULM – with whom we will launch our first Italian Study Abroad next year. Milan is the host of this year’s International Expo and the place to be in Europe right now! Additionally, I participated in the International Exhibition and Conference on Higher Education in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Joined by UNK Alums Yousef Al-Ghamedi and his sister Maha, as well as current online student, Ehab Al-Ghamedi, this four day exhibition and conference, one of the largest in the world, afforded us the opportunity to visit with perspective students from Saudi Arabia. We were also able to visit some great KSA campuses and discuss the opportunities for partnerships between our institutions. Finally, I was able to visit and have similar conversations with universities in Belgium, including KU Leuven which is one of the oldest and finest universities in Europe.

So let’s hope that many of these international initiatives bear fruit and add to the academic and social diversity and opportunity available at UNK – and add to your enjoyment of our campus and the varied experiences it offers.

Again, enjoy this newsletter, and I look forward to the chance to get to know more of the faculty, staff and community members who all contribute to the success of our international students and global initiatives.
**Student Research Day**

Five UNK international students participated in the 17th Annual Student Research Day, taking place in the Nebraskan Student Union on Wednesday, April 15. Student Research Day gives UNK students in all disciplines an opportunity to present their scholarly work. Students’ research accomplishments and the important role faculty play as mentors are both highlighted. Any undergraduate UNK student engaged in collaborative or independent research is eligible and encouraged to participate. Presentations include poster sessions, oral presentations, musical performances, and art exhibitions.

Hajeong Lee, a Vocal Music Performance Major from South Korea presented her research on Korean diction for foreign singers. Lee noted the difficulty in pronunciation when the standard Korean International Phonetic Alphabet is used. She therefore modified the original IPA in order to correct pronunciation, and provided additional explanation of exceptions in order to teach singers to pronounce Korean like native speakers. Following her presentation, examples of her work were demonstrated by Drs. Sharon Campbell and Andrew White, who performed art songs in Korean language.

So-Young Chun, Music Theatre Major from South Korea, gave an oral presentation on her research dealing with the influence of English musical theatre on Korean musical theatre. The presentation included historical background on the progression of music from opera and operetta to musical theatre. She then turned her focus to the evolution of Korean musical theatre after the introduction of English musicals to Korea.

Poster abstracts were presented by:
- Shava Parkinson, Jamaica, Department of Chemistry, *g*-Cyclodextrin Mediated Heterodimerization
- Kim Gunwoo (left), South Korea, Department of Chemistry, Development of Fluorescent Approaches for Detecting Fluoride Ion
- Ru Meng (right), China, Department of Marketing/MIS, The Comparison of Business Laws Between China and the U.S.

**Yao Named Blue Gold BriGade Outstanding Senior**

Five students have been chosen to receive the Blue Gold BriGade Outstanding Senior Award, including Hongyue Yao, from Lanzhou, China. The honor recognizes excellence in scholarship and leadership, and involvement in and dedication to UNK and the Kearney community. Students were selected by members of the UNK Alumni Board and Foundation staff. Blue Gold BriGade, previously known as Student Alumni Foundation, has been giving the awards since 1981.

Academically, in addition to maintaining a rigorous course of study, Yao completed and presented a Summer Student Research project which compared U.S. and Chinese banking systems, and also served as an Accounting and Economics tutor.

Her campus involvement includes volunteering with Loper Leadership, New International Student Orientation, the James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs, serving as an officer with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, and as a Homecoming international group leader. She is also a member of several student organizations for Business majors.

Finally, Yao has taken numerous opportunities to share her Chinese culture through music, on campus and in the community. An award-winning pipa player (ancient Chinese stringed instrument), Hongyue has shared her talents during campus cultural festivals, the Fame talent show, on NTV Good Life, and with Girl Scouts, shut-ins, and patients in Good Samaritan Hospital.

Other honors she has received include initiation into the Phi Beta Delta Honorary, as well as the Financial Management Association National Honor Society. Yao, majoring in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance, will return to China after this semester to finish her coursework at her Chinese university.
Phi Beta Delta Initiation Ceremony

Seven UNK students were initiated into Phi Beta Delta, the first honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education. The ceremony took place Tuesday, April 21.

New members include:
- Victor Chacon, Industrial Distribution, Cozad, NE (May 2015 graduate)
- Alicia Goodner, Organizational Communication, Kearney, NE (May 2015 graduate)
- Hongyue Yao, Business Administration with emphasis in Finance, China
- Lisa Klingelhoefer, Education, Grant, NE (Graduate Student)
- Sabina Shrestha, Medical Technology, Nepal
- Sujan Shrestha, Computer Science and Information Systems, Nepal
- Ana Tejada, Spanish Language and Literature, Colombia (May 2015 graduate, Master’s program)

The Epsilon Omega Chapter of Phi Beta Delta was started at UNK in 2004 by Corliss Süllwold. The founding class consisted of 16 faculty and staff members, 7 domestic students and 28 international students.

The objectives of the organization are:
- to recognize the scholarly achievement of international students and scholars, U.S. students who have studied abroad, and staff who are involved in international activities;
- To serve as a vehicle for the development of academic-based international programming;
- To provide a network on each campus of faculty, staff, and students involved in international endeavors; and
- To extend this network worldwide.

International Student Services Council

Eight international students received recognition for their service to the International Student Services Council—made up of officers from various international student organizations. This council was newly formed during the 2014-15 Academic year. The primary purpose of the council is to have input in the distribution of funds from the Office of International Student Services in order to support global enrichment, diversity, and involvement on the UNK campus. Additionally, the Council serves to enhance communication among all the international student organizations and provide opportunities for those organizations to collaborate and expand their reach at UNK.

Students who served on the International Student Services Council this academic year include:
- ASA President: Taitee Nmah, Liberia
- ASA Vice President: Daniele Kouassi, Ivory Coast
- CSSA President: Wei Zhou, China
- CSSA Vice President: Xile Wang, China
- ISA Treasurer: Erika Mori, Japan
- ISA Fresher: Yurina Kawai, Japan
- KSAK President: Sadong Moon, South Korea
- KSAK Vice President: Yoongu Kang, South Korea
Spring 2015 Cultural Festivals

Chinese

Japanese

African

Scott D. Morris International Food and Cultural Festival

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KERNEY
International Peer Mentor Program

The Office of International Student Services is launching a new International Peer Mentor program, beginning with the Fall 2015 semester. ISS began advertising the program to current students in March. Ten current international students, ranging from freshman through graduate students were selected as Peer Mentors for the upcoming academic year. They are currently participating in a training program designed by Tenille Stoeger, Graduate Assistant for the Women’s Center and Office of Multicultural Affairs. The training is being delivered by Stoeger, and Yao Zheng, Academic Advisor for the Thompson Scholars Learning Community. Through the training, the future mentors are learning about active listening, assertive communication, and team building.

The mentors will meet the new international students during New International Student Orientation in August. Then, during the fall semester mentors and their new students will meet regularly for social and educational purposes. Some of the activities planned are: attending on-campus sporting events, helping with Campus Kitchen, eating at a local restaurant, and meeting in small groups to discuss academic, cultural and immigration topics.

The Peer Mentor program offers benefits to both new and returning students who choose to participate. Benefits to new students include:

- Improved grades
- Decreased probability of academic probation
- Reduced attrition
- Making a connection on campus
- Bridging from parents to independence
- Benefitting from peer advice
- Gaining a role model

Benefits to the students serving as mentors:

- Leadership skills
- Communication skills
- Crisis intervention skills
- Resume building
- Intrinsic benefits that come from helping others

Taking Peer Mentoring for College Freshmen to the Next Level; Using the Mutual Force Mentoring Communication Portal. May 2013

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 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.

The University of Nebraska Kearney is an affirmative action / equal opportunity institution. Individuals needing accommodation under ADA should contact the ADA coordinator at UNK, 308.865.8655.