

**OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS  
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2008-2009**

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**The Office of International Programs (OIP) is Florida Atlantic University's "Global Gateway" to the world, serving the students and faculty of all FAU colleges and campuses through a robust set of international learning activities – study abroad, student research and academic internships, reciprocal student exchange, faculty teaching opportunities abroad, and international research exchange. Global understanding and international experiences are now an imperative in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. International borders are porous and global connections are intensifying. Every individual needs to develop global competencies – in language skills, knowledge about the world and its peoples, and cultural understanding to help inform one's work and life after college. OIP helps design and advance FAU college and university efforts to increase internationalization efforts, graduate students ready to participate in the global workforce and civil society, and to build international partnerships and collaborations around the world.**

**Study Abroad Highlights**

- OIP helped create seventeen study abroad programs for 2008-2009, including new programs in Venice, Italy; Barcelona, Spain; London, England; Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Istanbul, Turkey; and Beijing, China
- One program had to be canceled due to the disruption and closing of the Bangkok and nearby airports in December 2008; several others were canceled due to low enrollments, but overall study abroad numbers have remained stable from last year (est. 270+) in spite of the recession and economic turmoil of the U.S. and Florida
- OIP has seen an increase in the numbers of students choosing to study abroad for an entire semester, up from 36 to 43 (19% increase) and for an academic year, from 6 to 14 (a 133% increase)
- OIP compiled a data report using student on-line inquiry forms to ascertain areas of student interest (country, fields, majors, time of year to be abroad); this data will help us plan for study abroad programs and exchange program locations
- OIP awarded 10 OIP study abroad scholarships in Summer 2008, 2 in Fall 2008 and 3 in Spring 2009 totaling \$15,000

- OIP maintained regular office hours at the MacArthur Campus to reach FAU Honors College and other students in Jupiter and Port St. Lucie
- OIP managed logistics for the NSF PIRE project in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, in partnership with Florida International University; several FAU students studied overseas in research labs in Spain and China; a second cohort of PIRE students is being prepared now to study abroad in fall 2009
- OIP worked with the Controller's Office to create individual program auxiliary accounts for all faculty led study abroad programs, to increase transparency in program billing and accounting
- OIP created new web based fillable forms for student applications and faculty led SAPs, and created an on-line student program evaluation form as well
- OIP sponsored the Annual Study Abroad Photo Exhibit in November 2009 in the Barry and Carole Kaye Auditorium Galleries, in conjunction with International Education Week
- OIP developed a new mandatory orientation for incoming exchange students to ease their transition to studies at FAU
- OIP helped the Office of International Student and Scholar Services as ISSS developed a new J-1 visa research internship category for J-1 scholars at the masters level; this format may now be used by many departments who wish to offer master level students a research experience at FAU
- OIP reviewed the pilot financial reconciliation process with program leaders from summer 2008, and implemented system improvements for summer 2009
- FAU Study Abroad Safety and Security Committee met several times to advise OIP and the campus on health, safety, and security while abroad; OIP now uses a new incident report form, redesigned safety and emergency plan for all programs, and a new family/friend disclosure form for program leaders based on the advice from the committee

## **Expanding International Agreements and Partnerships**

*\* renewal of an older agreement*

*\*\*creation of a “co-op” where students pay full FAU tuition*

- Newly executed Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) and Agreements
  - Athens TEI (Greece)
  - Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (India)
  - University of Anhalt (Germany)\*
  - University of Applied Sciences in Cologne (Germany)\*
  - Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya (KSV) (India)
- Agreements pending
  - University of the Sunshine Coast (Australia)
  - Universitat Jaume I (Spain)
  - Blue Hill College (Ecuador) \*\*
  - Bad Homburg, (Germany)\*\*
  - Escuela Superior de Gestion Comercial y Marketing (ESIC, Spain) \*\*
  - Federation of German-American Clubs (Germany)\*
  - University of Tokushima (Japan)\*
  - Vienna University of Technology (Austria)
  - Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina (UNISUL) (Brazil)\*
  - Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) (Brazil)\*
  - University of Stockholm (Sweden)\*
- New agreements under exploration and development
  - Anglo-American University (The Czech Republic)
  - Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador)
  - London Southbank University (England)
  - St. Antony’s College, Oxford University (England)
  - Coventry University (England)
  - University College Dublin (Ireland)
- The office hosted numerous international visitors from several overseas universities and partners, largely from the universities listed above
- OIP Director Meschievitz and selected faculty visited partners and prospective partners in Spain, Italy, Ecuador, England, Ireland and Germany

## On Campus Internationalization Activities

- OIP launched the “Go Global – Give Local” initiative with a SLS course in Fall 2008 and a zero credit SLS class in Spring 2009; Dawn Wooten was the GGGL Coordinator for the year and organized several GGGL program activities for the first cohort of 20 students; this included seminars with the FAU Distinguished International Visitor Sir Tipene O’Regan in October 2008 (well known Maori tribal leader) and with Ambassador A. Peter Burleigh in February 2009 (former US Ambassador to Sri Lanka and current Charge d’ Affaires a.i. in New Delhi, India)
- Celebrated International Education Week with multiple activities in Boca Raton and Jupiter November 17 to 21, 2008
- Facilitated FAU joining the Florida Network of the European Union Center based at the University of Miami and Florida International University
  - OIP circulated calls for proposals for curriculum and research grants that FAU faculty could apply for (Prof. Evelyn Trotter received the only grant awarded for curriculum development)
  - OIP convened a workshop for high school educators on the EU at FAU May 30, 2009
- OIP helped the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature (LLCL) apply for a Fulbright Language TA in Chinese for 2009-2010 (FAU was wait listed and did not receive an allocation for the coming year)
- Collaborated with various FAU departments and programs to host several campus talks and lectures on international topics:
  - Co-sponsored the Oswaldo Guayasamin Art Exhibit for Fall 2008 (sponsors include the Art Galleries, the President’s Office, Latin American Studies, Andean Studies, and several Arts & Letters departments)
  - Sir Tipene O’Regan was the FAU Distinguished International Visitor for Fall 2008, co-sponsored by the Department of History and the A&L Deans Office; he was in residence October 27-31, 2008 where he gave a major public lecture on the topic “ Re-carving the House of the People: the reinvention of the tribe in a new century,” and was the guest speaker for two courses on cultural anthropology and American Indian culture; he also participated in a special workshop on Maori and Seminole Indian sovereignty issues held at the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation on November 8, 2008; the latter event was supported with a grant to OIP from the Florida Humanities Council

--Professor Riin Magnus of Tartu University Estonia, spoke on "Organicism and Biosemiotics" on February 23, 2009; the event was co-sponsored with the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature

--The Honorable Klaus Ranner, Consul General for the Federal Republic of Germany, Miami, was the FAU Distinguished International Visitor for Spring 2009; Mr. Ranner gave a public lecture April 15, 2009 on the topic "Germany's Role in the European Union in Times of Crisis" and visited a graduate seminar on US-Europe relations

- Advised the Arts & Letters Dean's Office to secure the appointment of Ambassador Alfred Defago, former Swiss Ambassador to the US, as FAU's Morrow Distinguished Visiting Scholar and Professor for 2009 where he taught a course on US-Europe Relations in relation to the rise of other global powers; OIP also currently sponsors Dr. Defago as a Visiting Professor (courtesy appointment)
- Dr. Meschievitz participated in the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) "Germany Today" Program June 7-13, 2009 in Germany; this year's program focused on inbound and outbound student mobility between Germany and North America, and Dr. Meschievitz represented Florida Atlantic University (one of twenty-one universities invited) in visits at various educational institutions and agencies in Bonn, Brussels and Berlin

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*To join the FAU "international community" of faculty, staff and students interested in expanding international opportunities and advancing internationalization efforts at FAU, please contact:*

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