

Office of International Programs Annual Report

Michael Johansson, Director

2001- 2002

MISSION

The Office of International Programs (OIP) is dedicated to furthering the internationalization of the University of Mississippi. With the well-being of the University's international community as its central focus, the Office of International Programs is engaged in the enhancement of diversity, international cooperation, and understanding among the peoples of the world.

GOALS

- 1 To build a strong level of support for student and scholars by providing adequate training for OIP student and scholar advisers
- 2 To continue to expand U.S. and international student interaction and understanding through creative and innovative campus-wide programming and events
- 3 To increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of the international student and scholar population through a variety of recruitment techniques
- 4 To increase the number of international student scholarships (*under consideration*)
- 5 To obtain funding for a residence hall for US and international undergraduate students (*not yet feasible*)
- 6 To develop a host family program in the Oxford community for alternative short-term and long-term housing and furnishings for international students and scholars (*in development*)
- 7 To seek the development of a reliable, scheduled, daily mass transit system for the Oxford-University communities (*not yet feasible*)

GOALS ATTAINED BY THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

***International Scholar Furniture Exchange** becomes fully operational for visiting scholars and their families (with thanks to housing for their donations and other private donations).

***Planet Partners**, a friendship program between US and International students, grows large enough for the first time to have more U.S. students signed up to help than international students. Bowling and Roller Skating Parties were a big hit.

***WorldFest**, a festival of sports, games and entertainment, and, **WhereFair**, a celebration of international education week highlighted by a campus-wide GeoQuiz, testing the geographical and cultural knowledge, continue to grow with increased involvement, especially in the area of Greek life.

***Religions of the World Series** inaugurated in Paris-Yates Chapel to provide the University community with information about Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam.

***Student exchange program** developed at Diego Portales University in Santiago, Chile where **three Ole Miss students** will be studying this fall.

***Agreement** signed this April with Konkuk University in Seoul, Korea, that will be bringing **13 fully paid non-resident undergraduate students** to our campus this fall. **6 fully paid students** were enrolled for the 2001-2002 academic year.

***12 students** enrolled for the summer intensive English (ESL) program from **Hanbat University**, Korea as a result of OIP recruitment efforts.

*Succeeded in obtaining space for a Muslim prayer room on campus to provide the **Muslim community** to have a convenient space to pray.

*Hosted a visit by the **Cultural Attache of Oman** to our campus who later gave a very favorable report about our campus in Washington DC to the Council of Gulf States.

*Trips devoted to international educational exchange and recruitment included:

Department of State education European and NIS recruitment fair in Cyprus a **Turkish sponsored** recruitment trip to **Istanbul July 2001**

Latin America recruitment trip (*Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil Dec 2001*)

Asia/Europe recruitment trip (*Korea, Singapore, Egypt, Germany May 2002*)

MODIFICATION IN DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE/SPACE AND FACILITIES

The OIP underwent major changes this past year. In the summer of 2001, the OIP changed its location from the 1st floor of Barnard Hall to the 3rd floor (331) of the Martindale Student Services Center. Attractive furnishings were contributed by the **Office of the Chancellor** and the **Vice Chancellor for Student Life**. In addition, the **Office of the Provost** donated attractive cabinetry to supplement our storage needs. This appealing office space has been welcomed and appreciated by staff and students alike, and has integrated the international student population into the mainstream of student services.

In addition, **a major office restructuring** was completed in the 2001-2002 academic year. The focus of this staff realignment was to focus on **providing expanded service for the student and scholar community**. With no increase in funding, this task was accomplished by eliminating the **assistant director** position (after the person occupying this position chose to begin half-time employment). From the elimination of the assistant director position, and replacing it with an **administrative coordinator** position, and eliminating the **senior admissions clerk** and the **coordinator of international admissions and recruitment** position replacing it with a **coordinator of international admissions**.

Most importantly, for services relating to students and scholars, an **international scholar adviser** position was created, the first position at the university to exclusively serve the needs of the nearly 100 **international scholars, researchers, and faculty** on the university campus. As a result, the **international scholar adviser** is freed up to serve the needs of the more than 400 international students on campus. **For the first time in more than five years, the OIP is fully staffed with permanent position holders.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DEPARTMENT, FACULTY AND STUDENTS

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GRADUATES IN 2001-2002: 105

*Taylor Memorial Medal Designee: PAVEL LAZARIDI

*Four language award winners

*One engineering award winner

*Five engineering award winners

*One information technology winner

*Nine Phi Kappa Phi Initiates

*One Phi Beta Kappa Initiate

*The University of Mississippi Office of International Programs was **the recipient of a grant** given to three universities in the nation (and the only university in the South) to train Overseas Educational Advisors from The Philippines, Lebanon, Turkey, Venezuela, and Mexico in college admission, international student advising, campus services, curriculum, technology, ESL, financial aid, career planning, etc. The annual program is administered by the **College Board** and is sponsored by the **U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs**.

*The director was invited to be the sole foreign **keynote speaker** at the annual meeting of the **Korean Association of International Educators** and was invited to speak as the sole foreign keynote speaker.

*The University of Mississippi is the **only university in Mississippi** and one of less than 50 universities in the country invited to participate in the Association of International Educators **Washington Symposium**, a roundtable of university presidents, provosts, international directors, and government officials meeting to **discuss issues affecting international education and exchange**.

*Working with the office of the chancellor, state representatives and the office of the governor, the OIP succeeded in helping to write and pass **new Mississippi state driver license legislation** allowing international citizens to use their passport as their main means of identification, replacing birth certificates as the former required (and often unavailable) standard of identification.

Sara Osadov, International Student Advisor, attended workshops training attendees in **Scholar and Faculty Advising** and **Permanent Residency** at the **Association of International Educators** regional and national conferences.

A minimum of **30 international students** enrolled in University of Mississippi programs as a result of the director's **international recruitment trips**.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Jean Robinson moves from full-time position of **assistant director** to half-time position of **international scholar specialist** (*August 2001 as a result of office restructuring and birth of second child*)

Kay Tyler moves from position of senior admissions clerk to **coordinator of international admissions** (*September 2001 as a result of office restructuring*)

Sara Schreiber Osadov is hired as first OIP **international scholar adviser** (*October 2001 as a result of office restructuring*)

Charter Morris is hired as first OIP **administrative coordinator** (*November 2001 as a result of office restructuring*)

Susanne Young resigns position as **international student adviser** (*December 2001 as a result of relocation to Pennsylvania*)

Aubrey Bolen resigns position as **Senior Secretary** (*December 2001 to assume a position at Oxford Elementary School*)

Jennifer Morgan is hired to assume position as **international student adviser** (*January 2002*)

JoElla Brown is hired to assume position of senior secretary as **international services assistant** (*March 2002*)

**PROSPECTS FOR INTERNATIONALIZING
THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE 2002-2003 ACADEMIC YEAR**

The tragic events of 9/11/2001 have disproportionately affected the international student population residing in the United States. I state disproportionately because **not one of the 20 terrorists (including the one individual currently incarcerated) involved in the events of that day entered the U.S. on a university issued I-20.** Services necessary for so many and once routinely available to international students and scholars (i.e, drivers licenses and social security numbers) have become difficult to obtain with ever changing government regulations.

The government mandated international student tracking system (SEVIS) which all universities are required to participate in by January 30, 2003, involves time-consuming **tracking of a wide variety of student data that will be onerous and highly problematic for international services staff to collect and keep updated.**

As of this writing, concerted efforts aimed at recruiting international students to enroll in the University of Mississippi 2002-2003 academic year remain unknown. The **increasingly hostile and unwelcoming stance by the U.S. government** toward international students and scholars will surely have a negative impact on international education inflows to colleges and universities. **Universities involved in research will lose talented candidates to institutions** in other countries. As international admissions slow, so will **incomes universities generate from international out-of-state tuition** and fee payments. Perhaps most importantly, the quality of **the cultural life of the university will suffer** as the milieu generated by a broad array of world cultures to inform the local and regional student population will dissipate.

It is more important than ever for universities to remain engaged in international education and exchange by vigorously pursuing relationships with universities and institutions of higher learning throughout the world. One thing has not changed since 9/11: **U.S. universities remain the gold standard** of higher education throughout the world. **Now is not the time to retreat** from what the United States universities and colleges have to offer, but to continue to advocate for the dynamism of U.S. higher education to our colleagues both here and abroad.

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