

RINKER CENTER for INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Global Connect Newsletter

FALL 2011



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Need assistance?

The Rinker Center for International Programs offers a wide variety of services for the Ball State community. Some of the services which you may wish to take advantage of include:

- *Assisting you with creating field studies and other study abroad programs*
- *Working with you to create department brochures catered to an international audience*
- *Center for International Development can assist you with your needs concerning international grants*
- *We conveniently take passport and visa photos for a fee of \$10*

Letter from the Dean



The fall semester has witnessed the Rinker Center for International Programs cooperating with ever more colleges and departments across campus. A review of our international Student Exchange Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding found that Ball State exchanged students with 33 universities in 15 countries in 2010-11. These exchanges were coordinated with a variety of departments, including Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Modern Languages and Classics, Computer Science, Music, History, and Theatre and Dance. Faculty were responsible for managing MOUs with 19 universities in 13 countries. The MOUs facilitate faculty exchange and research collaboration as well as externally funded joint projects. RCIP stands ready to assist any faculty member who has an interest in forming relationships with a foreign institution to promote exchange of students and faculty or collaborative research.

The fall of the regime of Muammar el-Qaddafi in Libya led to the establishment of a transitional government and a visit from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to Tripoli. At the University of Tripoli, Secretary Clinton met with higher

education leaders and urged them to form relationships with American institutions. Immediately, the Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Abdulatif Shaban, contacted Ball State to explore the possibility of forming a partnership. In December Dr. Abdulatif completed a two-week visit to our campus and worked closely with Teachers College to develop a proposal for external funding to strengthen teacher education in Libya. Ball State continues to assist the U. S. State Department in rebuilding educational institutions in post-conflict, newly democratizing countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya.

In the first week of December, RCIP received two distinguished visitors, David and Leighan Rinker. David is the son of Marshall Rinker, Sr., after whom the Rinker Center for International Programs is named. Mr. and Mrs. Rinker are interested in supporting the expansion of our study abroad program.

The staff of the Rinker Center wish all students, faculty and staff warm wishes for the holiday season.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kenneth M. Holland".

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International Admissions & Recruitment Update

- Actively working to meet Ball State's strategic plan of enrolling 1000 international students by Academic Year 2012
- Ball State University is currently represented by recruiters in strategic countries of China, India, Saudi Arabia and Turkey
- International Admissions Office continues to train on the new Ball State database that will replace all current systems used by admissions
- Kamala Dontamsetti completed a three week recruitment trip to India where she met with high school students to spread the message of Ball State University

FACULTY DIRECTED FIELD STUDIES

Ball State and its Rinker Center for International Programs encourage faculty members to involve themselves in creating and conducting short-term field trips to overseas destinations in the summer and during either semesters. The latter are known as “embedded” programs. This is a wonderful way to share your interest and knowledge of a particular country or region of the world with our students by giving them the opportunity for experiential, immersive-style learning in another culture.

The globalization of our campus culture is a primary goal of the university's strategic plan, and, there is no better way to achieve that goal than by involving yourself and your students in first-hand contact with people and places around the world.

Such involvement gives the trip leader an added opportunity for summer employment as you can earn either 7.5% or 15% of your base salary by leading an overseas trip. The embedded type trip does not provide extra salary. However, trip expenses are provided for the faculty leader. Trip expenses are provided for summer leaders also.

Currently, between 25 and 30 faculty members conduct summer field trips that usually last between three and four weeks. Embedded trips usually last ten (10) days and reflect the pedagogical aims of the overall semester course. Both types of programs are very popular with students and there is much room for growth in these field studies.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a summer field course leader or one who conducts an embedded field course, please contact Dr. Jim Coffin, Director of Study Abroad. He will meet with you and provide you with information regarding step-by-step procedures on designing and conducting a field program. His contact information is 285-5422 or jcoffin@bsu.edu.

FALL 2011 INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENT

672 international students as of November, 2011

275 international students from China

164 international students from Saudi Arabia

58 different countries represented





Facebook

Please be sure to visit the Rinker Center for International Programs' Facebook page to stay current with all of our exciting news, activities, and events.

www.facebook.com/ballstateinternational



Flickr

We are now utilizing Flickr, a photo and video sharing network to post interesting photos of our journeys around the globe. Stop by to view some special photos from Afghanistan and Iraq!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rinkercenter/>



Skype

RCIP has helped to reduce the cost of long distance and international phone charges by using Skype, a web application which will allow you to make free telephone calls through the computer. Contact: RCIP_BSU

China Initiatives 2011

China Initiatives primarily focus on coordination of attracting, recruiting and providing assistance & resource for Chinese students attending Ball State University; directing special academic programs; developing partnerships with Chinese educational, governmental, and business institutions; coordinating and supporting faculty and research exchanges; creating study abroad and Chinese language learning opportunities for Ball State students & faculty in China; serving and advising Chinese students on Ball State campus, etc.

Chinese Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Financial Contribution

Since Fall 2008, we have seen dramatic growth in terms of increased numbers of Chinese students enrolled at Ball State University. The total number of Chinese students has been significantly increased from 79 (Fall 2008), to 175 (Fall 2009, 122% annual increase), to 229 (Fall 2010, 31% annual increase), to **275** (Fall 2011, 20% annual increase and **348%** increase from Fall 2008). The dramatic increase of Chinese students has largely contributed to **President's Strategic Plan** to increase international students. Chinese students have become No. 1 foreign student population on Ball State campus. It counts **1.54% of entire Ball State enrollment** (17,810 FTE in Fall 2011) and **41%** of entire international students enrolled at Ball State (672 in Fall 2011).

Special Chinese Academic Programs – Sino-American 1+2+1 Dual Degree Program

In addition to Chinese students who elect to enroll at BSU as regular students, a significant number of Chinese students at BSU are here in form of special Chinese academic programs (referred as **Chinese Program Students**) because of agreements we have signed with partner institutions in China. Those Chinese Program students are primarily enrolled at BSU on the basis of **1+2+1** (**89** students in Fall 2011) and **2+2** (**15** students in Fall 2011), together **104** counts **38.52%** of Chinese students.

The large number of overall growth of the international student population at BSU is mirrored in the increased enrollment of Chinese Program students who are directly recruited through efforts of China Initiatives. Just a few years ago, when BSU started its first cohort of Sino-American 1+2+1 Dual-Degree Program in 2006, there were only **2** students enrolled at BSU and BSU ranked No. 6 in a 6-American-University-Consortium. This Fall 2011, there are **46** new 1+2+1 students directly recruited through China Initiatives joined us, which makes a total number of **89** 1+2+1 students currently enrolled, and amounts to **104** total Chinese program students on BSU campus. Outperforming competitors like George Mason University in Washington DC area, University of Central Florida in Orlando area and many others in East and West coasts where traditionally institutions much easily attract large number of Chinese and international students; BSU has become a flagship and **No.1** institution in terms of students' yearly enrollment and graduation rate in an already expanded 19-American-University-Consortium.

Solid Financial Contribution of Sino-American 1+2+1 Dual-Degree Program to Ball State University

With the largely increased Chinese 1+2+1 students enrolled and increased tuition & fees, the yearly financial contribution (including prepaid tuition and fees) made by the 1+2+1 Program to BSU has been increased from **\$91,000** of 05-07 cohort (by end of **2008**) to **\$2,280,000** of 11-13 cohort (Fall **2011**). The total financial contribution made by the 1+2+1 Program to BSU has reached **\$8,058,325** with arrival of 46 new students in Fall 2011. The large number of increased Chinese 1+2+1 students and financial contribution brought by 1+2+1 program also benefit Ball State colleges and departments. For example, Miller College of Business and Department of Computer Science have successfully requested extra funding to add new faculty members in a direct connection to a large number of enrolled Chinese 1+2+1 students.

If you are interested in learning more about China Initiatives, please contact Mr. Po Hu, China Initiative Coordinator at 285-5422 or phu@bsu.edu.

Ball State Recruitment in India

Kamala Dontamsetti, Director of International Recruitment and Admissions, had an opportunity to travel on a recruitment trip to India in October 2011. She participated in the "Education Mission to India", organized by the US Department of Commerce. As part of this Education Mission, representatives from 21 Universities from the United States travelled to New Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai in India and participated in the US Consulate meetings, student recruitment fairs and visited large and well known Universities in India such as Amity University in New Delhi, SRM University in Chennai.

As a result of this participation, Ms. Dontamsetti was able to build the brand name and identity for Ball State University in India. This participation also resulted in collaborative efforts to build partnerships between Ball State University and the Indian Universities, and increase the number of undergraduate and graduate applicants for academic programs at Ball State University.



BALL STATE RECEIVES ANOTHER \$1 MILLION GRANT TO INCREASE NUMBER OF IRAQI STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES

The United States Department of State has awarded a \$1 million grant to Ball State University to assist the government of Iraq establish an English Language Institute (ELI) in Baghdad. ELI's purpose is to prepare Iraqi students who have received a scholarship from their government to study in U.S. colleges and universities. The project is expected to increase by threefold the number of Iraqis earning American degrees. In academic year 2009-10, there were 423 Iraqi students enrolled in U.S. institutions of higher education, an 18% increase over the previous year. Most students are expected to spend a year in the ELI before traveling to the United States to begin their academic program.

The ELI will be housed in a former palace of Saddam Hussein. Ball State will redesign the facility to resemble an American community college campus. The Center for International Development will also assist the ELI to establish a Student Information System (SIS) and a Learning Management System (LMS) using low cost open-source technologies [Centre/SIS](#) and [Moodle](#).

The ELI initially will be staffed by 20 Iraqi teachers, five American teachers and an American director and assistant director. The ELI will offer English instruction both to students on-site in Baghdad and to students in Iraq's provincial centers, including Basrah, Najaf, Tikrit and Erbil, by videoconference. Ball State will develop the English curriculum, train the Iraqi teachers, and select and train the American teachers and administrators.

The U.S. embassy in Baghdad and the Iraqi government selected Ball State because of its partnership with Tikrit University, funded by another \$1 million State Department grant, especially Ball State's success in teaching Iraqi students in English, Accounting and Computer Science via videoconferencing.

The project directors are Dr. Kenneth Holland, Dean of the Rinker Center for International Programs and Director of the Center for International Development, and Dr. Mary Theresa Seig, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Intensive English Institute.



Center for International Development

The Afghan Ministry of Education has expressed an interest in Ball State performing consulting services for the National Institute of Management and Administration with funds supplied by the World Bank. NIMA offers a two-year training program for high school graduates from all 34 of Afghanistan's provinces in English, management and computer skills. CID Director Ken Holland will travel to Kabul next week and will explore the potential contract with Deputy Minister for Technical and Vocational Education Nang. Funding level is estimated at \$5 million.

The Ministry of Higher Education of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq is also showing interest in Ball State helping them establish an English Language Institute in Erbil. A U.S. State Department contractor, IREX, is arranging discussions between CID and the Ministry. Funding level is estimated at \$1 million.

iFEST: a BSU Tradition Receives a Tasty Addition

Ball State University's International Festival has had a rich tradition of celebrating the university's diverse and vibrant international community. Held annually by international students since the 1950s, in 2010 iFEST expanded as BSU Dining, Rinker Center for International Programs, the Multicultural Center and University Program Board worked together with international students to transform iFEST into *The Amazing Taste: Global Food Fair and iFEST*. The Amazing Taste greatly expanded the scope of traditional iFESTs by providing visitors with an exciting opportunity to experience international culture through delicious cuisine from many different countries in addition to live entertainment and cultural activities. Visitors at The Amazing Taste also receive valuable information about the extensive international opportunities available to BSU students.

The 2010 Amazing Taste earned Ball State University a 2011 Silver L.E. Horton Dining Award from the National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS).

On November 10, 2011, over 2,000 attendees visited the Student Center for the 2nd Amazing Taste, embracing and celebrating Ball State as a global campus and community. This year's Amazing Taste featured culture booths and activities, a resource fair, extensive student and professional performances on two stages, and international cuisine from over 20 countries.

The Rinker Center for International Programs warmly thanks everyone who helped coordinate and/or attended this event celebrating Ball State's global community. For additional information, or to get involved with The Amazing Taste, please contact: trevorfoley@bsu.edu, or 765-285-5422.

