

IN THE OFFICE:

Sue Songer -
Director of International Admissions

Marilyn Holmes -
International Student Coordinator

Marilyn Thomas -
Admissions Coordinator

Marcus Ricci -
Office Manager

Evan McWhirter -
Graduate Assistant

Bria Phillips -
Graduate Assistant

Payge Schagemann -
Student Worker

Katie Schwartzlose -
Student Worker

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

EIU Global
Ambassadors 2

EIU Homecoming
Parade and AIS 3

Halloween Around
the World Quiz 3

Departments of
Students 4

Countries of Students 4

Family Friends Mak-
ing a Difference 5

International Students and Scholars

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2009

Fall 2009 Brings New Changes — Sue Songer

We have a new name.

Our office (formerly known as International Programs) is now the Office of International Students and Scholars. After considerable discussion, we chose a name that more specifically describes our office. Bringing international students to our campus is the principal task of OISS, and an equally important goal is the promotion of visiting scholars as guests on our campus.

We have some new roles.

During the summer of 2009, our former director Bill Elliott became the Assistant Dean of Graduate and International Admission at EIU. Although Bill has moved to the Graduate School, our work together will continue on through many joint efforts on and off campus including NAFSA and Study Illinois projects. We congratulate Bill on his new position.

As a result of this transition, I became the Director of the Office of International Students and Scholars. My new role is filled with excitement and challenges as we further the mission of internationalizing the EIU campus. Our work here in OISS has been and will continue to be a team effort. Similarly, our partnership with many academic departments and support staff areas on campus is also a team effort crucial for the realization of our goals.



We have some new staff.

Marilyn Holmes is the new Coordinator of the Office of International Students and Scholars. She previously worked successfully in the office as a graduate assistant. Following a lengthy search, Marilyn was hired in August 2009 to begin her new role which includes international advisor and recruitment responsibilities. We are pleased to welcome Marilyn once again to our staff.



Marcus Ricci, our Office Manager, has recently moved from temporary to permanent staff. Since his arrival in April, Marcus has shown great initiative. His commitment to the international students and his pleasant helpfulness are valued traits in OISS. Therefore, he's the first friendly face you see in the office.



We have continuing expertise.

Marilyn Thomas is continuing her work in international admission. For twenty-seven years, she has provided oversight during the admission process and guidance on immigration issues here at EIU. Her long career has witnessed many changes in federal regulations particularly those initiated following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, DC. Marilyn's work is appreciated not only by our current students, but by the many international alumni of past years.



While change surrounds us, one thing remains the same—our commitment to international education. The pleasure of working with students from around the world and seeing the impact of their presence on our campus continues to fuel the commitment.

Upcoming Events

November 6, 2009:

AIS Dance 9 p.m. EIU Union

December 2, 2009:

OISS Holiday Banquet EIU Union

EIU Global Ambassadors



**“One must
care about a
world one
will never
see.”**

For more than 50 years, Eastern has hosted international students on its campus with the assistance of dedicated staff and the vision of its leaders. On September 18-19 of 2009, Eastern welcomed back eight former international students as Global Ambassadors. Sue Songer, director of the Office of International Students and Scholars, said, “We will honor these alumni who exemplify Eastern Illinois University’s definition

of global citizens. We once applauded them, as students, for their courage in leaving home to live and study in a new land and culture. They now share a common history and enjoy excellent reputations in their careers and lives.” Eastern Illinois was proud and honored to name these former students as EIU Global Ambassadors, who now project bright futures as EIU alumni.

The 2009 Global Ambassadors



Front Row

- **Vicente Dibella Jr., M.D.,**
'81 Zoology, Brazil
- **Peter Gitau, Ph.D.,**
'95 Ed. Admin., Kenya
- **Brenda Gonzales Tanner,**
'80 Math, Philippines
- **Karl H. Hecker, Ph.D.,**
'86 Chemistry, Germany

Back Row

- **Tian Li,**
'98 Political Science, China
- **Paramjit Sidhu,**
'91 MBA, India
- **Dean Robert Augustine, Grad. School**
- **Wen-Jyh Daniel Wang, Ph.D.,**
'89 Technology, Taiwan
- **Ray Wallace, Ph.D.,**
'82 English, Northern Ireland

EIU Homecoming Parade and AIS



EIU Homecoming 2009 theme was Back to Blue. The weekend's festivities were kicked off with the traditional homecoming parade on Saturday morning.

Members of AIS with Dean Augustine

Many of the international students carried their countries' flags in support of the Association of International Students (AIS). It was a chilly morning, but was soon warmed by the enthusiasm of all the participants walking in the parade in addition to those who came to support by cheering from the sides of the streets. The parade this year had a little bit of an extended route for the first time as the popularity of it

has grown. It started on 7th street and ended up by the O'Brien Stadium after detouring through the city square and a few other streets. The fun continued on after the parade with a free lunch at Tent City right outside the Stadium which was then followed by the home football game. It was a great time for all students to get involved, mingle with new friends, all while having fun supporting EIU by going Back to Blue!

Halloween Around the World : International Quiz

1. What do the people from Germany put away on Halloween night so that they do not risk harm to (or from) returning spirits?

A. Knives

B. Hats

C. Pots

2. In France, trick-or-treating is normally not done, but when it is, it is done from store-to-store not house-to-house.

True or False

3. What is the festival that Japanese celebrate that is similar to the Halloween festivities?

A. Orion Festival

B. Obon Festival

C. Scare Festival

4. Halloween is one of the oldest holidays, dating back to the pagan times.

True or False

5. In Ireland a traditional food is eaten on Halloween that has a muslin-wrapped treat baked on the inside that is said to foretell the person's future. What is the name of this food?

A. Fortune Pie

B. Fruitcake

C. Barnbrack

Answers on Page 5

“Halloween is one of the world’s oldest holidays and is still celebrated in several countries around the globe.”



Fall 2009 International Students at a Glance:

Departments and Number of Students



Undergraduate		Marketing	1	Economics	6
Accounting	1	Mathematics Comp. Science	2	English	1
Biological Sciences	4	Physical Education	3	Family Consumer Science	1
Business Admin,	1	Political Science	4	Gerontology	1
Chemistry	1	Pre-Business	8	History	1
Communication Studies	1	Pre-Engineering	2	Mathematics	1
Economics	6	Psychology	6	Music	1
Finance	2	Sociology	1	Physical Education	2
Family Consumer Science	1	Total	52	Technology	41
Foreign Language	1	Graduate		Total	83
History	1	Biological Science	1		
Health Studies	1	Business Administration	15		
Industrial Technology	2	Chemistry	7		
Journalism	1	Clinical Psychology	2		
Management	2	Communication Studies	2		
		Educational Admin.	1		

*“You must be
the change
you wish to
see in the
world.”
-Gandhi*

Country and Number of Students

Australia	2	Ghana	1	Saudi Arabia	3
Azerbaijan	1	Honduras	1	South Africa	1
Bangladesh	1	India	48	Sri Lanka	3
Belarus	1	Jamaica	1	Taiwan	2
Brazil	1	Japan	4	Turkey	1
Canada	4	Kenya	1	Turkmenistan	1
China	6	Korea	8	Ukraine	1
Cote D'Ivoire	2	Kuwait	1	United Kingdom	1
Croatia	1	Mexico	2	Venezuela	1
Czech Republic	1	Nepal	11	Vietnam	2
El Salvador	1	Nigeria	4	Zambia	2
England	4	Pakistan	2	Total	135
Ethiopia	2	Philippines	1		
Germany	4	Romania	1		



Family Friends Making a Difference

Bria Phillips



Waseem and Ateka with Carol and Reggie Galey

The Office of International Students and Scholars is proud of the positive impact that the Conversation Partners and Family Friends Programs has on the international students studying at EIU. It has shown to be a tremendous experience for both the American students/families and the international students who have participated over the years. This opportunity gives the international students a hands-on look into the American culture. In addition, the programs provide the chance for American students/families to learn about a culture different than their own. A good example of the effect of these

programs is the wedding of Waseem and his bride, Ateka, both international alumni. During his studies at EIU, Waseem participated in the Family Friends Program with Mr. and Mrs. Galey of Charleston. Over their time spent together, the Galey's and Waseem formed a close relationship. The Galey's thought of Waseem as one of their children. Waseem also thought very highly of the Galey's as he asked them a personal favor. When he decided to get married, his biological parents were not able to get a visa to attend the wedding. In light of this, Waseem asked Mr. and Mrs. Galey if they would stand up in place of his parents during the wedding ceremony. The

Galey's were honored to witness the marriage for Waseem. To this day, the Galeys and Waseem maintain their relationship. This is a direct representation of the profound effect that many of our international students experience while in these programs. Carol and Reggie Galey are both employees of EIU. If you would be interested in volunteering for the family friends program, please feel free to contact me at bmphillips@eiu.edu.

“This opportunity gives the international students a hands-on look into the American culture.”



Answers to International Quiz:

- 1.A 2.True 3.B 4.True 5.C