

International Education Committee Annual Report 2007-2008

Highlights in International Education 2007-2008

- Sub-committees of the International Education Committee reviewed applications for the Weinstein Summer projects abroad and the Curriculum Internationalization grants; the awards made by the dean of International Education followed the subcommittee's recommendations. They are posted on the international education website.
- The Committee participated in the celebration of 20 years of internationalization of the University (Nov. 1-3, 2007).
- UR was named the Hottest School for International Studies by Newsweek
- A generous \$9 million gift was announced from the Weinstein family for the creation of an international center. Planning for the center is moving forward, with architectural plans being finalized.
- The committee discussed IRB regulations as they apply to UR students conducting human subject research while abroad. The result of the discussion is that all UR students conducting research abroad need to be approved by UR's IRB, even if they have already been approved by another university/program's IRB.
- The committee discussed bringing in visiting faculty from partner institutions abroad to teach at UR during our summer term. SCS is committed to providing funds for housing and travel.
- The committee discussed the issue of allowing students and faculty to travel to countries with State Department travel warnings. After a meeting with John Sheffield and Herb Peterson, it was agreed that these proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis and, if approved, will require a special waiver form signed by both students and parents.
- Synchronized Swimming spring break travel in the Dominican Republic was reviewed by the Committee with no objections.
- The committee heard a report on the summer program in China and discussed issues such as cost for summer 2008 when the Olympics are in Beijing, air pollution, and the possibility of an exchange relationship.
- The Committee approved a new faculty-led summer study abroad program in Jordan, as well as four new exchange agreements with the University of Verona (Italy), Tsinghua University (China), Universite Catholique de Lille (France), and the International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP- worldwide).

For more information visit:

<http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/international/>

Some data on International Education during 2007-2008

Faculty Seminar Abroad:

- 11 faculty members spent three weeks abroad in China, Tibet, and Taiwan for The Seminar was led by Vincent Wang. For more information see http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/international/faculty_seminar

Study Abroad:

- Summer 2007 – 170, including law students
- Fall 2007 – 250; Fall 2008 - 275, 10% increase over Fall 07 and the highest number of UR students abroad to date
- Spring 2007 – 108; Spring 2008 – 79, 27% decrease from Spring 07
- Short-term academic year 07/08 - 94 abroad for credit (25 were MBA students) and 14 on a service-learning program to Guatemala during spring break)

International Students

- Spring 2007 – 125 degree-seeking, 33 exchange
- Fall 2007 - 135 degree-seeking, 65 exchange
- Spring 2008 – 133 degree-seeking, 46 exchange
- Fall 2008 – number of degree-seeking is unknown, 97 exchange

International Scholars

- Spring 2007 – 6 International visiting scholars
- Fall 2007 – 11 International visiting scholars
- Spring 2008 – 13 International visiting scholars
- Fall 2008 – 4 International visiting scholars

International Film Series

- Films: 21
- Attendance: 4536

Programs

Among the programs sponsored and co-sponsored by the OIE were:

- Richmond Area International Student Welcome Luncheon-hosted by UR and co-sponsored by UR, VCU, VSU, Randolph Macon, Friendship Force, Alpha Kappa Alpha and General Services Cooperation.
- Marketing Your International Experience (collaborated with CDC).
- Staff Internationalization Luncheon
- President's Reception (co-hosted by President's office)
- International Trivia Competition (added collaboration with MSU student group)
- Farewell Reception for Exchange Students
- Bilkent/UR print exchange, exhibit opening.
- 20th Anniversary Celebration

Visiting faculty from partner institutions, visiting international scholars, international and exchange students and UR faculty were featured speakers on such topics as:

- Pedagogical tool box-STINT scholar Claes Martinson from Göteborg University in Sweden

- Human rights and Ethiopia-Professor Taye Woldesmiate through the Scholars at Risk Network
- Academic rights, human rights, and Sri Lanka- Professor Ratnajeevan Hoole, through the Scholars at Risk Network
- Constructing citizens-Dr. Meenakshi Thapan, visiting international scholar from the Delhi School of Economics in India;
- Tibetan Buddhism-freshman Tenzin Tsayang
- Ramadan in the Arab World-Fulbright teaching assistant, Nohayer Lotfy

International, exchange and study abroad students spoke at various events on:

- gender and leadership
- the global impact of environmental awareness
- ethnicity and national identity
- politics of religion as part of the Culture Klatsch series

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