Greetings Tiger Friends! It is my pleasure to bring our new issue of The International Tiger to you. Thank you for your interest in our newsletter; we can now proudly say that we have readers from 106 countries! In other news related to the internationalization of LSU, it is very exciting to report to you that our total international student enrollment was recently reported at 1,702; the highest international student enrollment in 10 years!

Meet Dr. Matt Lee, who recently became Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Support Services, Office of Academic Affairs. International Programs now reports to his office.

Included is a story from LSU industrial engineering alumnus and International Tiger reader, Mr. William Pui Martinez. His story tells us that LSU provides unique engagement opportunities, and those who take advantage of these opportunities will have life-changing experiences.

Recently, we hosted the French General Consul from New Orleans, and we also had a visit from our partners at Chandigarh University, Punjab, India. We are very excited about both partnerships, as these will bring collaboration for students, faculty and others in places where we can build upon our complementary strengths.

Each September, we hold our largest study abroad fair to promote study away educational programs. LSU students can go all over the world to take courses for credit while enhancing their global competencies. Read our inside story for student testimonials from the fair about study abroad!

Certainly, the world was watching Louisiana when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ripped through our region 10 years ago. Our article is written in collaboration with Scott Alexander, who, through LSU’s responsiveness to the educational needs of students impacted by Katrina, found himself on a plane to Germany on a study abroad program. We would like to thank all of the recipients of these scholarships who contributed their personal stories to this newsletter feature.

In closing, we want to thank you for your continued support of The International Tiger. We count on your support and ask that you spread the word to family and friends. Until next time! Geaux Tigers!

Hector O. Zapata, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Provost of International Programs

I am pleased to say hello to the readers of the International Tiger and to compliment the diligent efforts of the administration and staff in the Office of International Programs. International Programs offers the LSU campus a global perspective through its outbound study abroad programs and its inbound recruiting efforts. Through exposure to other cultures we enhance our understanding of the external world and, simultaneously, enhance our own personal self-understanding. Just as learning new techniques and theories in a subject area promotes newfound knowledge, learning through a global view promotes new understanding of ideas and new solutions to problems. It provides a mechanism to think outside the proverbial box. Global interdependence and the flow of people across international borders necessitates a sophisticated international and cross-cultural perspective in order to thrive in any discipline/profession. LSU is currently promoting the growth of international student enrollment on campus as well as the number of students participating in study abroad programs. These efforts culminate in the development of students who are more competitive in the workplace, sensitive to cross-cultural issues, open to new ideas, and able to prosper in this very interconnected world in which we live.

Matt Lee, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Support Services
Office of Academic Affairs
Originally from Panama, William Pui Martinez made a life-changing decision: to attend college at LSU. “It was almost a no-brainer for me to choose LSU,” Martinez said. Martinez majored in industrial engineering at LSU, and was drawn to the university because of two friends who were LSU alumni from Panama. One was former basketball player Jaime Lloreda, who set up a clinic at Martinez’s high school, and the other was family member Ricardo Ortega. “It was obvious from their experiences at LSU that it was the right choice,” Martinez recalled when he told them of his desire to attend college in the U.S. Martinez also said a partial scholarship from the university influenced his decision to attend LSU.

“My experience at LSU opened my eyes and made me develop skills I did not know I had,” he stated. He explained that his ability to engage in several on-campus organizations, such as the Institute of Industrial Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, helped him develop leadership skills. He even helped the LSU Tennis club win state and finish second at regionals during his time in college. Martinez also said that the educational benefits of LSU helped mold him into the person he is today. “LSU gave me the opportunity to meet great friends from all over the world that made the experience of studying abroad one I will never forget,” he said.

After graduating from LSU in 2010, Martinez began working for a Norwegian company call Aker Solutions. He is stationed in Oslo, Norway, and is working on the Asgard project, which recently produced the world’s first subsea compression station. Martinez said he found out about the job by making good connections in college and being proactive about his future. He said he believes his time spent on internships, involvement in organizations, and networking with others led to his success.

As for living in Norway, Martinez said it is, “safe and stable.” He said that compared to living in the U.S., Norway is very expensive and activities aren’t as vast. Martinez also said that Norway is below freezing for half of the year and gets little sunlight in the winter months. But Martinez said Norway has offered him so much in the way of professional opportunity and growth, as well as new friends.

Though Martinez fully admitted that not seeing his family more often is the most challenging part of living abroad, he firmly believes in its benefits. “Living abroad makes you grow as a person and exposes you to experiences that will transform you,” he said. “It will open up opportunities you would otherwise not have, and it makes you appreciate things from your own country while also valuing the new things of a foreign country.”

Martinez said he believed LSU played a major role in preparing him for the future. “LSU prepared me for the professional world in a fun way, because I was involved in campus organizations and was introduced to different people and cultures,” he said. The engineering curriculum at LSU also provided Martinez with the skills to perform successfully at future jobs. He also worked at the International Programs/International Cultural Center at LSU, meeting and greeting new international students. “This made it feel natural to work in a multicultural and diverse environment,” Martinez said.

When thinking about ways to reconnect with LSU alumni, Martinez suggested that there be opportunities at LSU events for alumni to speak with students and other alumni about their experiences. He also noted that any discounts for accommodations would be helpful, especially for alumni like him, who live and work abroad.

For engineering students considering careers abroad, Martinez said, “Get involved in campus and get to know other cultures.” He said it’s important to get good grades, but it’s equally important to learn people and leadership skills. “Be prepared to deal with challenges and be open to learning from others,” Martinez said. He also encouraged students to stand by their own beliefs and viewpoints. “Be humble and have fun in the process of learning,” he said. “Academically and socially, LSU completely opened my mind to new things that changed the way I see everything.”

To learn more about the Asgard project, visit the Aker Solutions website here: www.akersolutions.com
On July 15, 2015, Dr. Hector Zapata, Associate Vice Provost of International Programs at Louisiana State University (LSU), met with Dr. Rajinder Singh Bawa, Vice Chancellor of Chandigarh University, and Professor Rajan Sharma, Deputy Director of International Relations for Chandigarh University at the International Programs Office at LSU. A memorandum of understanding was signed between LSU and Chandigarh University regarding possible faculty and student exchanges, progression programs, internship opportunities, and research initiatives. The delegates from Chandigarh met with LSU’s Dr. Jane Cassidy, Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs; Dr. Kurt Keppler, Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment; Dr. Matt Lee, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Support Services; Dr. Kalliat Valsaraj, Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Representatives from the LSU Graduate School included Clovier Torry, Director of Graduate Recruitment, Retention & Diversity, and Madalina Robinson, Assistant Director of Graduate Student Services.

Chandigarh University is a private institution established in 1994 and located in Punjab, India. It is the fastest growing private university in Asia, and not only supports international globalization within its curriculum, but is also part of various international organizations such as the International Association of Universities and the Indo-U.S. Collaboration for Engineering Education. Chandigarh University has more than 15,000 students from across India and the world, and works to integrate global interactions culturally and professionally. This has resulted in several graduates landing jobs in high-profile companies like Microsoft, Google, and Hewlett-Packard. Chandigarh University is continuing its tradition of international collaboration by seeking to establish a partnership with LSU and providing students with even more opportunities for success. To learn more about Chandigarh University, visit their website:  http://www.cuchd.in/international/

Ella Taylor, a senior at LSU, is one of several international athletes at the university. She is from England and is majoring in kinesiology. Taylor has three varsity letters with LSU Women’s Tennis, and she finished her junior year with her career best records for dual and SEC matches. International Programs met with Taylor at the new tennis facility to discuss her experience as an international athlete and student at LSU. Watch the video below!

LSU Tennis Interview
Consul General of France in New Orleans, Grégor Trumel, and Attaché for Cultural, University, and Linguistic Cooperation, Raymond Hinz, visited LSU again on July 9, 2015, to rekindle talks about a possible partnership with the Université des Antilles (UA). During the visit, members of the LSU administration, faculty, and staff from a wide range of colleges/departments, attended to show enthusiasm for a cooperation with UA.

Attendance included Hector O. Zapata, Associate Vice Provost for International Programs and Past Presidents of the Alumni Association Alumni Professor; Matt Lee, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Support Services; Jill Fisse, Assistant Director of International Programs; Ines Johnson, Coordinator for International Programs; Meg Sonstroem, Coordinator for International Programs/Academic Programs Abroad; Damon Andrew, Dean of the College of Human Sciences & Education; Randy Duran, Director of the LSU Office of Undergraduate Research & Economic Development (ORED); Kenneth Rose, Associate Dean of Research at the Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences; Richard Shaw, Associate Dean of Academics at the School of the Coast & Environment, Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences; Kenya LeNoir, Associate Vice Provost at the Office of Diversity; Lake Douglas, Associate Dean of Research and Development/College of Art & Design; Neil Matthews, Interim Director at the School of Education at the College of Human Sciences & Education; Paula Summer Calderon, Assistant Director at the LSU School of Education/Foreign Language Education; Malcolm Richardson, Associate Dean at the College of Humanities & Social Sciences; John Protevi, Chair at the Department of French Studies; and Todd Jacob, Assistant to the Chair/French Studies.

A delegation of LSU staff and faculty visited UA in September, along with the Consulate General of France in New Orleans and with assistance from the Department of Tourism and Culture of the Region of Martinique and the City of Fort de France. Stay tuned for details of the visit in our next issue!

Both LSU and UA can find great benefits in this new partnership. From hurricane awareness and preparation to unique opportunities for French majors at LSU studying at UA’s linguistic department, to the enhancement of the English language at UA, the benefits are endless. Given the strong ties of Louisiana and France, the partnership would be vital one for LSU and France. For more about Université des Antilles, visit their website here: http://www.univ-ag.fr/fr/index.html
On September 22 and 23, students attended the Study Abroad Fair, hosted by International Programs/Academic Programs Abroad at the Student Union. Faculty showcased numerous study abroad summer programs that are offered to students. We chatted with some students who have participated in different types of study abroad programs to learn about their favorite experiences.

**Name:** Emily Grefer  
**Type of Study Abroad:** LSU in Paris Summer Program  
**Story/Favorite thing:** “As a French major, I found it important to take at least one trip to Paris. I loved the autonomy I got from the five-week excursion; the ability to walk around the Parisian streets and experience Paris like a local. I was also intrigued by the history classes that were taught during the trip, because after the class, we went to visit the location that was referred to in class.”

**Name:** Declan McGinley  
**Type of Study Abroad:** Exchange student from Scotland  
**Home Institution:** University of Strathclyde  
**Story/Favorite thing:** “My favorite thing about studying at LSU is the school spirit. Unlike home, everyone at LSU wears the school’s colors and backs LSU’s teams. Whether it be the marching band, soccer, basketball or football, I’ve not met a student yet that isn’t enthusiastic about LSU doing well on the field. This extends beyond current students as again, unlike UK universities, families and friends of current students or alumni still share that enthusiasm and return on game day to support the Tigers.”

**Name:** Jon Dunstan  
**Type of Study Abroad:** National Student Exchange (NSE) to LSU  
**Home Institution:** Worcester State University, MA  
**Story/Favorite Thing:** “LSU had always been on my radar and I wanted to go there after high school, but I never did anything about it. I attended Worcester State University, and I wasn't happy there and I was OVER winter. I was told about NSE and I attended a study abroad fair and saw that LSU was on the list, so I signed up. After doing a semester at LSU, I transferred for good. What I love about LSU is the professors; there is more to offer in the classroom and more of what I wanted. As well, the cost is a lot less than at my former institution. I love all Louisiana things: Mardi Gras, LSU football and the weather. I had such a blast during my exchange that I ended up staying for good.”

The benefits of participating in a study abroad program are endless. Students get to experience new cultures and new languages, and to become aware of the world outside LSU. There is no question that the benefits of studying abroad last a lifetime.

If you are interested in more information regarding Academic Programs Abroad, please visit: [international.lsu.edu/apa/](international.lsu.edu/apa/)

Please click [here](#) for a business perspective on the benefits of study abroad!
Ten years ago, Hurricane Katrina devastated the U.S. Gulf Coast, and assistance for those impacted by the storm came in different forms from around the world. Within a few days of Katrina's landfall, plans were being put into place that would provide scholarships for a group of students affected by Katrina to study in Germany for a year. These scholarships were sponsored by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and the Arts of the state of Hessen, with private donors, the universities in Hessen, and the German Academic Exchange Service contributing to the cause. Mr. Thomas Komm, director of the International Office at the University of Marburg contacted Dr. Harald Leder of LSU International Programs to inquire if LSU would be willing and able to accept help for students affected by the storm in the form of scholarships for study in Germany. LSU International Programs helped facilitate the program, which eventually provided 20 scholarships for students impacted by both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The recipients came primarily from LSU, with some coming from UNO, Loyola, and Southeastern.

Certainly, the recipients of these scholarships had the experience of a lifetime, and the generosity of those responsible for providing this opportunity helped shape the lives of the students involved. Now, ten years later, three of the recipients reflect upon their experiences, and how the scholarship opportunity has shaped who they are today.

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SCOTT ALEXANDER

“I think that I thought Hurricane Katrina was going to be like previous storms, and just pass us by without any consequences for myself, besides a few days off of school. However, things quickly transpired to put that notion to rest, as the world collectively watched the fallout on TV. LSU took in a lot of students from the various universities in New Orleans, so when classes resumed, each of my classes had a significant influx of new students. This was just one of many daily reminders of the impact of Katrina on southeastern Louisiana.

During this very fluid period, I received an e-mail about an opportunity to study abroad in Germany. I just remember seeing the e-mail one week, finding out I had been chosen the next, and on a plane the following week. In the space of three weeks I found myself on a different continent, in totally different circumstances, with about eight other LSU students (including some future best friends). Entering my final year at LSU, and having recently graduated from boot camp for the U.S. Army, I had planned on enjoying my final year as student with my friends tailgating, complaining about the heat and humidity, and all other things unique to LSU. I honestly did not know what I wanted to do after graduation. And suddenly, my life was on a different trajectory that started as a student at Philipps-Universität in Marburg.

During our time there we had amazing support, and it is only with hindsight and personal experience that the amount of logistical, financial, and administrative support that we received from the state of Hessen, LSU, and Philipps-Universität in Marburg become apparent.

I was only able to stay in Marburg for one semester instead of two. However, that one semester for me was transformative. I came back to LSU for one last semester to graduate, and after a summer of training with the military I returned to Germany for graduate school to get my master’s in international development.

Currently, I work for a government contractor for the United States Agency for International Development. I have visited 30 countries and counting. Without this opportunity that came along during the chaos and uncertainty in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, I wouldn’t have traveled, enjoyed the experiences of an uncommon life, been blessed with unique friendships, or be on my current path of working in the field of International Development.”
“When Hurricane Katrina made landfall, I was working on my bachelor’s in business administration at Southeastern Louisiana University. Like everyone else in south Louisiana, my family and I were forced to evacuate. Once the storm passed, we returned to our home to find a large tree had fallen and destroyed our roof. We were left without electricity and running water for two weeks. Despite this adversity, we considered ourselves lucky considering the massive flooding experienced just a short distance from our home.

In the immediate aftermath many people were trying to connect with friends and family to see how they fared. During one such call, a friend of mine from the German club at SLU, Ed Larson, mentioned a scholarship he heard about that was being administered by (International Programs/Academic Programs Abroad Director) Dr. Harald Leder at Louisiana State University. I applied and was chosen by the Hessen Ministry of Science and the Arts to study for two semesters at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt, Germany.

Studying abroad was such a transformative experience, it’s difficult to sum it up in a few words. Being exposed to new cultures, languages and perspectives forces you to expand your mind and question your previously held assumptions. There was certainly a bit of culture shock but engaging with locals and showing a genuine interest in their language and culture allowed me to make friends and learn so much. When I arrived in Germany, I could only speak very basic German but by the end of the second semester I was able to navigate daily life with relative ease.

In 2011, I was back in Frankfurt visiting friends when I met my future wife, Kathrin. I moved to Frankfurt three months later and have been there ever since. Now I feel as comfortable in Germany as I do in America. This experience simply would not have been possible without the generosity of Hessen government. I am so incredibly thankful for the opportunity to study abroad. It quite literally changed my life”.

To learn more about the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt, please visit their website: https://www.frankfurt-university.de/

LSU International Programs/Academic Programs Abroad offers LSU students many options for study in Germany. Students can study in fields such as engineering, history, German, business, communication, and management, just to name a few! To explore some of these options, you may visit the Academic Programs Abroad web page at the link here: abroad.lsu.edu

Do you have an LSU international story to share? Please contact editors Jill Fisse atjfisse@lsu.edu or Ashley Hermes at ahermes@lsu.edu

International Programs
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On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall. A month later, Rita hit. Three trees fell on my family’s house, and we were the lucky ones. Meanwhile, 5,031 miles away, in a country the size of Montana, complete strangers saw the news and decided to help. In an effort to take the pressure off the LSU System, the German state of Hessen, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Commerzbank, and Lufthansa pooled their resources to offer 15 scholarships to students from LSU. Two weeks later, I arrived at the University of Kassel in Germany.

During orientation week, I met over 100 students from more than 30 countries. Everything was foreign, but somehow welcoming. To cope, I adopted a strategy: say yes to everything. Play soccer? Yes. Hike in the mountains? Absolutely. Potluck dinner? I’ll cook jambalaya.

That year was a constant stream of new adventures with lessons that aren’t taught in school. Intercultural skills were honed by conversations that relied on body language, context, and a mutual will to understand. Global awareness hits a personal chord when a friend lives in the country on the nine o’clock news. Even grocery shopping is more interesting when you can’t yet read the packages.

When I returned to LSU, a bit of Germany came back with me. To keep the experience alive, I switched majors to international studies. Impressed with Germany’s environmental ethic, I joined ECO at LSU to work on campus sustainability initiatives. I rode my bike everywhere, and started a garden at Hill Farm.

Ten years later, that year abroad has influenced my life in many ways. For one, being fluent in German helped me get into grad school. I still keep in touch with friends made in Germany, and have visited many of them in their home countries. Perhaps most importantly, I know that no country, state, city, or person stands alone. Events like Katrina, Fukushima, and the recent Ebola outbreak in Africa unite us as a global community, helping us to realize that our diversity is strength.

LSU International Programs is in the process of developing scholarship funding for students to study abroad. Certainly, our goal is to afford students this transformative academic opportunity, and to help them overcome the financial barriers that may prevent them from doing so. We hope that others will be inspired by the generosity of the benefactors 10 years ago from Germany. If you would like to donate to the International Programs Development Fund to help establish scholarships for study abroad, please visit our LSU Foundation donations page:

[LSU FOUNDATION DONATION]

Become part of a better future by contributing to LSU International Programs!